

# **Renfrew-Collingwood Homeless Committee**

***One community's response  
to housing and  
homelessness in East  
Vancouver***

***Presented by Peter Greenwell  
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**Homeless Action Week 2011**

# Agenda

- Background
- Partnerships
- Current Activities
- Past Projects and resources
- Challenges and Next steps
- Q & A

# Background

- 2003 Collingwood Neighbourhood House Morning Start breakfast program started
- 2005 Showers and clothing added
- Community partners joined with CNH in forming the RCHC
- 2006 Morning Star moved to Saturdays only
- 2008 added outreach, rent supplements

# Local actions support

## *3 Ways to Home: Regional Homeless Plan*

Prepared by SPARC, Deborah Kraus, Margaret Eberle, and Jim Woodward

### **1 Affordable Housing**

- emergency housing
- transitional housing
- supportive housing
- independent housing



### **3 Adequate Income**

- legislative reforms
- employment programs

## **3 Ways To Home**

### **2 Support Services**

- prevention services
- outreach services
- drop-in centres
- health services
- mental health services
- substance misuse services

# Community Partnerships

- Collingwood Neighbourhood House
- Collingwood Community Policing Centre
- Renfrew Park Community Association
- Evergreen Community Health Centre
- St. Mary's Church
- Windermere Family of Schools
- UBC Nursing Program
- Individual residents

# Funding Partnerships

- United Way (CNH)
- BC Housing (Outreach and rent supps)
- City of Vancouver (HAW)

# Current Activities

- Morning Star Breakfast and Shower Program
- Outreach/Rent Supplements
- Community Advocacy

# Morning Star Program

- Breakfast - 70 individuals
- Bag lunches for 20 if additional people arrive
- Showers – range from 6 - 16
- Clothing and toiletries – mostly for men

# Outreach Services

Homelessness is a significant social issue and it's also an individual challenge

Person #1

Worked with a 49 year old man, to coordinate health, income and shelter supports to assist in housing stabilization

# Rent Supplements

- An important part of prevention getting people housed
- Then work on other issues of income and support etc.

## Person #2

Provide a 57 year old woman, with a rent supplement of \$150 per month to maintain her housing situation

# Community Advocacy

## Agency service issues

- Within our own multi-use agencies
- With other service providers
- With broader Renfrew-Collingwood neighbourhood
- With government and funders

# Previous Projects

*Table Top Discussion Guide on Homelessness*

[www.cnh.bc.ca/homelesscount.htm](http://www.cnh.bc.ca/homelesscount.htm)

Created in conjunction with SPARC

# Previous Projects

## ***You Count Renfrew-Collingwood***

A community homeless count

- 140 community volunteers
- 8 people on the street
- 57 “hidden homeless”
- Led to future actions by RCHC

[www.cnh.bc.ca/homelesscount.htm](http://www.cnh.bc.ca/homelesscount.htm)

# Previous Projects

## Inter-Schools Competition

- Friendly competition amongst elementary and secondary schools on ideas to address homelessness

# Prevention – what we do

- Community connection with direct services such as meals
- Coordinating services among agencies
- Rent supplements
- Open to other ideas:

City's Housing and Homeless Strategy mentions rent banks

# Our Community Partners

- St. Mary's Church
- Collingwood Community Policing Centre
- Evergreen Community Health Centre
- St Nicholas and Dimitrios Greek Orthodox
- Collingwood Neighbourhood House
- Windermere Student Council and Family of Schools

# Challenges and Next Steps

- Rent supplements – temporary supplements for more than temporary situations
- Hidden homeless – how to acknowledge and address

# Thank You

Q & A