



# REMARKABLE WOMEN

## 2014: YEAR OF RECONCILIATION

Honouring women who build understanding & empathy between people



Photo by Luiselipa Barrera

# ANNTUANETH FIGUEROA

Anntuaneth Figueroa is the Latin American Youth Worker at Britannia Community Services Centre.

She left her homeland, El Salvador, when she was only four years old and in terrifying circumstances. Her father, Luis, took her across the United States border to escape the civil war and reunite with her mother, who was living there. They were caught and taken into separate custody. Anntuaneth will never forget the two endless weeks before her mother was able to post bail.

The reunited family settled in Dallas, where they found an organization that helps illegal families find permanent residence. They applied for refugee status in Canada, and in 1987, Vancouver became their new home and their dream of a better life in North America was finally realized.

Years later, Anntuaneth's father began volunteering at the Latin American Youth Program (LAYP) at Britannia. Anntuaneth spent many hours hanging out there while her father coached soccer, and thus her own volunteerism began. She volunteered at Killarney Community Centre and showed such outstanding aptitude and enthusiasm for the work that her colleagues encouraged her to train as a Youth Worker. She set her heart on becoming the Latin American Youth Worker at Britannia, and through hard work and schooling, she achieved her goal.

Today, Anntuaneth's program offers a safe, welcoming environment, especially for young newcomers struggling with living in a new country. Her weekly cooking program, Cocina Latina, provides great Latin American food, it's true, but conversation, music, and dancing are just as important! Anntuaneth also leads Spanish Clubs in four Vancouver high schools.

Anntuaneth's passion and work for her community is truly Remarkable!