



REMARKABLE WOMEN

2014: YEAR OF RECONCILIATION

Honouring women who build understanding & empathy between people



JUDY GRAVES

Judy Graves has spent over half her life working with Vancouver's homeless.

Overnight, she visited doorways, alleys, and parks in Vancouver, talking with people sleeping there. Daylight saw her at City Hall, advocating for their rights and telling their stories to anyone with the power to make a difference: politicians, bureaucrats, churches, community leaders, and service providers. Karen O'Shannacery, Executive Director of The Lookout Society, put it this way: "Judy was able to get buy-in, persuade the powers that be to do something. She made it personal, putting a face on people who were homeless."

As well as advocating for funding and shifts in policy, Judy worked with one homeless person at a time, guiding them toward services and income assistance and into secure housing. In 2005, she designed and piloted the Homeless Outreach Project. In the first two years, the project guided over 700 people from street homelessness to housing, and it continues today in over 50 BC communities. Since 2002, Judy has trained thousands of volunteers across the region to meet and interview their homeless neighbours for the MetroVancouver Homeless Count.

Judy's work to support thousands of homeless people in Vancouver and beyond is respected by school children, citizens, and experts across Canada. She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from UBC in 2009 and a Doctor of Divinity from the Vancouver School of Theology in 2013. She retired as the City's Advocate for the Homeless in the spring of 2013.

This Remarkable Woman has been "the conscience of our city," says Maxine Davis, executive director of the Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation, who defies anyone "to hear her speak and not be stirred to help make a difference."