

Families Matter

SPRING 2004

Building a Strong Community

In the heart of a neighbourhood, tucked away in the corner of a North Vancouver schoolyard lives a special place for families – Westcoast Energy Children's Centre. It offers a broad range of programs for parents & their preschoolers, providing valuable resources to promote healthy development of children through the critical early years.

"We are so lucky to be able to participate in these programs... I have friends that live in other areas of the lower mainland that don't... and you can see the difference in the children and parents."

Westcoast Energy Children's Centre was brought to life by a generous multi-year contribution from Westcoast Energy (now Duke Energy). A \$65,000 per year contribution has nurtured the warm, bright, welcoming place staffed with professionals and volunteers. Open five days and one evening each week, families have access to resources they need, close to their homes.

"Having other mothers to talk to and ask questions about my joys, concerns and frustrations has been extremely valuable to me, as a new, 20 year old mom."

At the end of March 2004, Westcoast Energy's funding support will end and without sponsorship, the Centre cannot be sustained and will be unable to serve the community. Family Services of the North Shore is actively seeking a strong new financial commitment to fund this valuable place into the future.

Can You Help Keep Our Community Strong?

If you would like more information about joining our family of supporters, please call Doug Sabourin, Executive Director, Family Services of the North Shore at: 604-988-5281.

"When I first brought the children to the centre, they threw temper tantrums, were stressed and shy. But little by little... they began trusting and enjoying the centre."

What do we do here?

No one agency can be all things to all people. However, for more than 50 years Family Services of the North Shore has had a tremendous impact on the lives of thousands. Counselling families in crisis, working with abused and bullied children, providing emotional support for terminally ill patients, bringing joy to families at Christmas is just a sampling of our work.

Family Services of the North Shore serves all citizens, regardless of race, religion, socio-economic status, sexual orientation or physical ability, throughout North and West Vancouver. More than 80 full and part-time staff and 350 volunteers reach almost 14,000 individuals annually.

"Family Services gave us our lives back. They put us back together & allowed us to be who we are today which is a wonderful, loving, happy functioning family."

Dedicated to hope, help and healing, Family Services, a not-for-profit community-based agency, provides a broad range of family focused, community-based human service programs to individuals and families of the North Shore.



FAMILY
SERVICES
of the
NORTH
SHORE

Executive Director's Message

Family Services of the North Shore was overwhelmed and heartened by community and donor response to our activities, events and special services.

This kind of support encourages us to move forward in response to community needs, with the confidence to re-examine how we provide services and to explore the possibilities of offering more service choices and extended hours. Our staff is committed to continuously expanding their professional competencies, and it is this solid core of professionalism that we draw on to become more responsive to our community.

We know that with strong community support and trust, Family Services will continue to evolve, to the direct benefit of the individuals and families we serve.

Doug Sabourin, M.S.W., R.S.W.
Executive Director

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The Family Next Door

People come to us for help, often as the place of last resort. They have tried everything, turned to everyone they know and trust, and exhausted the resources of the wider community around them.

Carey, not her real name, came to Canada with her young son and her husband who struggled with alcoholism. Shortly after their arrival her husband died. Her son entered Grade 1 in a foreign country, started to have problems at school, withdrew, failed to participate, and acted sullen. Carey, trying to deal with her loss, was unable to cope with this confused and angry child. She turned to Family Services for help.

Given the chance to sit down and talk, Carey's son acted out his story with puppets. "I just want you to listen," he told the counsellor, as he began to recount tales of a small character up against incredible odds. Through counselling Carey's son began to settle down; both he and his mother were able to understand how difficult the transition had been for both of them. Clearly their worlds had been turned upside down. Far more secure, they now face their future with hope and confidence.

A Safe Place To Turn

"Everyday, small miracles unfold in the lives of those we serve as they work to gradually undo the legacies of fear, anger and loss that they carry with them," says Mark Morissette, Director of Clinical Programs. "The gift of a safe place to turn to, an outstretched hand, a listening ear is often all it takes to discover that new beginnings are possible. There is not a day goes by that I am not moved and made more deeply aware of the difference we are making in the lives of those who turn to us."

I Hope

On a cold rainy day in May more than 400 people attended our first annual I HOPE event to raise funds and create awareness of Family Services of the North Shore. We were gratified by the response. At the end of the day close to \$400,000 in cash and pledges was committed. Our objective of being able to expand our clinical services and reduce our wait-list was fulfilled.

Our second annual I HOPE fundraising breakfast takes place on May 12, 2004 at Hollyburn Country Club. We encourage you to attend for one hour to learn "What Do We Do Here".

For information please call Susan Evans, Manager Donor Relations, at 604-988-5281



A Fine Family Tradition

Thank you to the individuals, families, businesses and corporations who supported the 18th annual Winter Family Ball. Congratulations to Tina Rowntree, Chair, and the very hardworking committee for making the Ball an overwhelming success. All those who attended and sponsored this special family event committed to supporting our clinical programs and providing funds for services that support and nurture the residents of our unique community.

Please mark December 5, 2004 on your calendar, the date of the 2004 Winter Family Ball.

Making the Season Bright

Each year, the Christmas Bureau distributes toys and hampers to close to 600 families and 800 children. Our 125 volunteers serve seniors, disabled individuals, both single and two-parent families, some new to Canada, many facing extreme financial difficulty.

The Christmas Bureau works from Christmas to Christmas soliciting donations and supporting the work of Family Services of the North Shore.

Integral to the strength of our campaign are our many sponsors, including: North Shore News, Northshore Auto Mall, WestReal Realty, Outline Graphic Design, Ferguson's Moving and Storage, North Shore Credit Union, Innovative Fitness. and Paladin Security; Kerstin Loesch and Shafiq Nazerali, who hosted the annual Moustache Café dinner and raised \$60,000; volunteers from Grouse Mountain, Royal Bank, Capilano Rugby Club, Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation and Family Services of the North Shore who gave their personal time to collect toys and distribute hampers. More than 2,000 individuals, direct-mail donors, schools, corporations, hamper sponsors and toy donors contributed and made the Christmas Bureau a success this year.

At the Lucas Centre, Tzu Chi Foundation members Peter Huang, Teh Kwan, Karen Yen, Tanny Chu and Helen Liu help distribute some of the 25 hampers they created.



Winter Family Ball Chair, Tina Rowntree with husband David



Auction coordinator Kristy Brinkley with husband Kevin Layden



Family Services Board member Gulshan Mitha with husband Sadru & grandchildren Adam Mitha and Jasmine Somani



Ben Calitz, Head Coach Capilano Rugby Club, Ben Jr. & Diana Cowden, Coordinator, Family Services of the North Shore Christmas Bureau



Dick Lau, General Manager Cam Clark Ford Lincoln, Jack Irwin, President Northshore Auto Mall and Pacific Honda and Rick Morrey, General Manager Morrey Mazda



Volunteers spent 15,000 hours of service with palliative care patients at Lions Gate Hospital

More than 1,000 parents attended parenting workshops

Family counselling provided more than 5,000 sessions to individuals, couples and families

More than 300 children and their families affected by sexual abuse received treatment

In order to comply with new privacy legislation we will seek permission to publicly recognize our donors and volunteers.

News and Events

Check our website for:

Parent Education Courses

www.familyservices.bc.ca/education_parenting.html

The Westcoast Energy Children's Centre

www.familyservices.bc.ca/education_westcoast.html

Mark your calendars for:

APRIL 18 – 24 • National Volunteer Week

MAY 12 • "What Do We Do Here?" The second annual I HOPE fundraising breakfast, 7:30 am at Hollyburn Country Club.

JUNE 22 • Annual General Meeting of FSNS and FSNS Foundation, Hollyburn Country Club.

NOVEMBER • Together Against Violence Month – Check our website or the North Shore News for activities.

NOVEMBER 12 • FSNS Christmas Bureau opens its doors to the public

DECEMBER 5 • 19th Annual Winter Family Ball, Hyatt Regency Hotel.

DECEMBER 13 • 8th Annual Moustache Café Dinner supports the work of the Christmas Bureau.



Gifts from the Heart

You should know that while cash gifts are appreciated, you can make gifts other than cash to Family Services of the North Shore Foundation. You may have heard the term "planned gifts". These are gifts that are made with thought, given in the near or distant future, but planned today.

The Foundation is pleased to accept such gifts – they include gifts of stocks, bonds, RRSP or RRIF assets, real estate, life insurance, or bequest gifts made in your will. Some of these gifts will also help you save more tax than with a cash gift.

For information, please call Sue Bauman, Managing Director, Family Services of the North Shore Foundation at 604-988-5281.



For additional information please call 604-988-5281

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Design and layout donated by Outline Graphic Design Inc.

We recognized the continuing contribution of the City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver and District of West Vancouver.



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