



Recycled shipping containers repurposed into supported housing

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Imouto Housing for Young Women at 120 Jackson

Streetohome Foundation is funding an innovative new housing program in partnership with Atira Women's Resource Society. Imouto Housing for Young Women, a two phase housing program will support young women aged 16 to 24; who are who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Imouto House (Imouto means 'Little Sister' in Japanese) will be located at 120 Jackson. Streetohome has committed \$120,000 towards the modular housing portion of the project, designed with six re-purposed shipping containers, each of which will become a self-contained transitional housing unit in a three-storey complex.

"Streetohome Foundation is keenly

aware of the housing challenges facing young women who are on the streets and vulnerable," says Dick Vollet, CEO of Streetohome Foundation. **"Youth are a priority population for Streetohome support, and we're very pleased to be involved in a project with Atira, which has a strong history of success and experience in this area."**

During the most recent Homeless Count in March 2011, 194 youth were found to be homeless in Vancouver, and about half of these are young women. Youth need safe, secure housing to avoid being victimized on the streets. In the long term, housing allows them to focus on life goals and plans. But affordable, subsidized housing for marginalized youth is scarce

in Vancouver. Imouto House offers a safe place for young women to get off the street and get the support they need to stay housed.

The units will have a construction cost of approximately \$85,000 per unit where traditional, concrete buildings have a cost of around \$250,000 per unit. This is the first social housing project in Canada to re-use shipping containers, and could set a precedent for cost-effective supported or social housing models.

Imouto House is currently under development and is scheduled to open December 2011.

West 2nd Avenue breaks ground

147 new units will support people with mental health and addictions



From L-R: Lorna Howes, Vancouver Coastal Health; Jennifer Newman, RainCity Housing; Dick Vollet, Streetohome Foundation; Rich Coleman, Minister of Energy and Mines and Minister Responsible for Housing; Mayor Gregor Robertson; Dane Jansen, Katherine Sanford Society

Streetohome Board Members Mike Harcourt and Lloyd Craig speak with Squamish First Nations Councillor Dennis Joseph (xwetchtal) after the groundbreaking ceremony

The largest supported housing development to be built under a partnership between Streetohome Foundation, the Province and the City of Vancouver broke ground on June 27, 2011. It is the second of eight City of Vancouver sites Streetohome is funding through a \$20 million commitment.

The \$38-million development at 215 W. 2nd Ave. in Vancouver will offer 147 studio and one bedroom apartments with supports to help individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness stabilize, regain their independence and move into permanent housing.

“Streetohome Foundation is committed to solving homelessness in Vancouver. We believe that it takes an entire community to make real change around this issue,” said Dick Vollet, CEO Streetohome Foundation. **“Our**

partnership with the City and Province in creating over 950 new housing units will provide much-needed new housing for those who are most vulnerable.”

Residents will receive community medical and mental health services; referrals to community based resources and services; peer support programming that includes recreational activities; and skills to build relationships with other tenants and help them maintain their tenancy. In addition, 30 residents in the early stages of substance abuse recovery will receive enhanced support from Vancouver Coastal Health, and connection to community treatment services.

“Supportive housing addresses the challenges at the root of homelessness. In each of our supportive housing projects, people have a safe place to live, where they are understood - not

judged - and are connected to the services they need. When they are ready to leave, they have the ability to start a new life much different than the one they knew when they first arrived,” said Rich Coleman, Minister of Energy and Mines and Minister Responsible for Housing

Other partners in the project include Katherine Sanford Housing Society (KSHS), Vancouver Coastal Health and RainCity Housing and Support Society. KSHS will manage and operate the housing component and has partnered with RainCity Housing to provide support services for building residents.

Streetohome Foundation’s contribution to the eight supported housing developments is made possible through the generosity of our donors.

The building is expected to be complete in early 2013.

Thank you to our donors

Streetohome would like to thank our donors who have generously pledged their commitment to help break the cycle of homelessness in Vancouver. Their support will provide permanent, affordable housing combined with support services for chronically homeless adults, youth and families as well as individuals living with mental illness, addictions and HIV/AIDS.

Streetohome is able to support the development of over 950 units of new supported housing and other innovative projects because of the generosity of our donors.

To view a full list of donors, visit the **Streetohome website**.

If you or someone you know would like to make a gift to Streetohome, please visit **streetohome.org/donate** for more info.

A Message From Dick Vollet

Is a shelter considered a home?

In May, the preliminary Homeless Count numbers showed a decrease in “street homelessness” in Vancouver and more people staying in shelters. As we work towards solving homelessness this is great news. Recently there has been much discussion about the definition of homelessness versus street homelessness and whether getting people into shelters should be considered success. Shelters do play an important role in the housing continuum, and are an excellent first step for people to make first contact with those service providers that can assist them. Getting people off of the streets is good news as well, and definitely a positive step in the right direction, but there is much more to be done. At Streetohome, we firmly believe that shelters are not permanent housing and we should continue to focus on finding a home for every person living on the street. Supported housing is at one end of the spectrum, shelters are at the other, and both are required in order to assist people living on the streets to find a home.

The right number of shelter spaces and how to best operate a well-run shelter are questions we still need to answer. However, with more supported housing being built, the service providers will be able to focus their efforts, and fine tune best practices for managing shelters. We know that people need to begin to access services and make important connections with support workers in order to move towards more permanent housing. Shelters offer this first step towards housing by helping people transition from sleeping rough to a more stable environment. Shelters are, however, considered temporary, are very expensive to operate, and should only be considered transitional housing.

There is good news, with the recent closure of some of the HEAT shelters in April, every person that wanted to move into supported housing or remain in shelter had the opportunity to do so. This was made possible with an incredible amount of coordination and cooperation between service providers, the City of Vancouver and BC Housing. By early 2014, 14 new supported housing sites will be open across Vancouver, creating 1,570 new units, allowing even more people to leave the streets and shelters to move into more secure housing.



Even with new supported housing units opening, shelters will remain a necessary piece of the puzzle in solving homelessness. Looking at the work being done by the Calgary Homeless Foundation, there is much to be hopeful about. Calgary currently has a one month waiting period between a person entering a shelter and being able to find more supported housing. Calgary Homeless Foundation is aiming to reduce that transitional time to a week. If shelters in Vancouver can work in this way – and act as a stepping stone, a first place of contact along the way to housing, and not be considered a long term housing option - then we can say we are working together to “stop managing” homelessness and truly starting to “solve homelessness.”

**Dick Vollet, President & CEO
Streetohome Foundation**

Streetohome Annual Report

2011 marks one year since Streetohome launched its 10-Year Plan for Vancouver.

Our first Annual Report & Progress Report is fulfilling our promise to the community that we would measure and share our achievements each year.

> Read the report

Partner Spotlight

Motivation, Power & Achievement Society

MPA Society began in 1971 with the work of “a small group of people experiencing the debilitating effects of mental illness and their supporters,” who worked together to create a network of peer support, advocacy, self-help and empowerment. Their work and commitment began at a time when institutionalized care was the only option.

The Society’s goals were quickly realized when MPA opened a Supported Housing Program and Community Resource Centre in Kitsilano, Vancouver, which has successfully remained open for 36 years.

MPA’s mission is inspiring hope and supporting recovery for people with mental illness by establishing and operating social, vocational, recreation, advocacy and housing programs that support people in their own communities.

Today’s Work and Focus

Celebrating their 40th anniversary this year, MPA Society has become a multifaceted organization through the creation and support of the following programs and facilities:

- Community Resource Centre
- Advocacy through the Mental Health Empowerment Program (MHEP)
- Systemic advocacy at Riverview Hospital
- Supported and Licensed Housing options (Vancouver and Maple Ridge)
- Social Justice Services
- Cold weather shelters
- Single Room Occupancy Hotel Outreach



Governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and managed/operated by over 200 staff, MPA remains member-focused, and offers support through 31 housing and advocacy programs.

Streethome & MPA

Along with the Province of BC, the City of Vancouver, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority and MPA Society, Streethome is funding the building of a new 62 unit facility at 7th Avenue and Fir Street. This new building, which broke ground late 2010, will be supported by both MPA and Katherine Sanford Housing societies.

The facility will provide homes for individuals coping with mental illness, people who are or at risk of becoming homeless. Individuals who are currently living in Kitsilano and Fairview SROs and temporary shelters will be housed in this building, and will have on-site and outreach services to connect residents with mental health treatment services.

The Streethome Foundation is proud to partner with MPA Society in the fight to solve homelessness through the creation of safe, supportive and affordable housing for all in need in Vancouver.

For more information visit the MPA Society website.

about streethome

Streethome Foundation is a community organization working to ensure that all citizens of Vancouver have access to safe, decent, affordable housing.

We bring together business, government and community leaders to build resources and develop lasting solutions to homelessness.

Everyone has a role to play.

What can **you** do to help?
Be **part** of the solution.

Find out how you can be part of the solution at

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