



Homeowners and visitors
coming together for home
stays, celebration and a
good cause.

Olympic visitors

VANCOUVER, BC – Home For The Games (HFG), the innovative 2010 Olympic Games accommodation website that set out to raise money and awareness of homeless issues in Vancouver is ready to pass on the proceeds and lessons learned.

The Home For The Games unique non-profit web-based system matched 2010 Winter Games visitors with Metro Vancouver hosts for short-term home stays, with half of the nightly fee directed to charitable organizations. Vancouver visitors who choose this more affordable and socially conscious accommodation experience, helped to raise \$50,000 for charity beneficiaries – [Streethome Foundation](#) and [Covenant House Vancouver](#).

“This was an entirely new way to find and secure accommodations.” said Charles Montgomery, founder of Home For The Games. “We wanted to provide visitors with an affordable and memorable Olympic experience and harness the energy of the Olympics to create a community response to a top of mind concern in the region – ending homelessness. Unfortunately the solution isn’t just needed in Vancouver which is why we’re so pleased to see Home For The Games become an Olympic Legacy.”

“It was put to me to see if there was an organization that would benefit from our design, code, ideas and experience – to form an Olympic Legacy – and we couldn’t be happier with Centrepoint as that organization,” said Tracey Axelsson, project manager. “We’re sharing more than just the technology and text. We’re gifting the opportunity to re-create the great experiences had by our Games visitors and hosts while they help to make change at a fundamental level.”

“We heard back from lots of hosts – and guests – thanking us and telling us of their experiences.” said Tracey. Stories came to Home For The Games of one host helping to write her guests wedding vows. Another of the hosts opened her basement suite – and the back deck’s jacuzzi to a small media team. She even baked them a cake! The money made really of little consequence. Both of these hosts were looking for a way to be part of the Olympic experience.

Part of their contribution will form the \$52,000 donation (\$26,000 each) for Covenant House and Streethome Foundation. And the hosts will get a tax receipt for this contribution from them soon!

Covenant House’s Corporate & Foundation Giving Development Officer, Scott Macdonald was honoured to work with Home For The Games and glad to have been chosen as one of the two charities to receive the proceeds. “This \$26,000 donation is one of the largest gifts Covenant House Vancouver will receive this year. In fact, with this gift Home For The Games is one of our top 20 donors who together provide 20% of all of our private fundraising. On behalf of the 2,000 homeless young people that this gift will touch; we would like to say thank you everyone who took part in Home For The Games for their generous support.”

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of some really incredible volunteers, amazing and kind sponsors like BCAA, Vancity, a couple of anonymous donors and Seven 25 Design. Ryan Ilg did a great job of actually building a work-able online system with incredibly tight timelines and the TYEE was instrumental helping us reach out to the people of Vancouver. “It really was a marvel how many people gave and gave to make this project a reality.” says Montgomery. “It’s an example why Vancouver is such a great city.”

To learn more – visit www.homeforthegames.com

About Home For The Games

Home For The Games was launched as a non-profit web-based system to match 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games visitors with Metro Vancouver hosts for short-term home stays. Now it is set to launch in the second Olympic Venue City – London. Along with this legacy, Home For The Games creates opportunities for people to share an unforgettable Olympic experience with guests from around the world while earning modest rental income. At the same time, we ensure that half of home-stay “rent” will go directly to registered charities helping Metro Vancouver’s most vulnerable citizens. For more information, visit www.homeforthegames.com

About Streetohome Foundation

Streetohome is a community-based foundation dedicated to reducing homelessness through housing and support services in the City of Vancouver. Streetohome brings together partners across the community to pool their energy and resources to provide supportive, safe, affordable, clean housing. Through Streetohome, corporate leaders, non-profits and government are working together to develop real, sustainable change. Current initiatives include funding and facilitating the creation of housing for people who are homeless, including supportive housing for homeless mothers and babies. Funds raised through Home For The Games will support an innovative project to help address homelessness among people with mental illness spearheaded by the Mental Health Commission of Canada. The four-year pilot project will help them secure housing while ensuring they receive access to integrated treatment and services. For more information, please visit www.streetohome.org

About Covenant House

Covenant House Vancouver exists for young people who often have no one else – people between the ages of 16 and 24 who have fled physical, emotional or sexual abuse or have been forced from their homes. Primarily privately funded, Covenant House relies on the generosity of over 50,000 individuals and organizations to provide shelter, food, clothing and counselling to over 2,000 young people each year. Funds raised through Home For The Games will directly support the shelter housing these street-engaged youth. For more information visit www.covenanthousebc.org

About Centrepoint

Centrepoint is the UK’s leading youth homelessness organisation. Every day they house and support more than 830 of Britain’s most vulnerable Young People between the ages of 16 and 25. That is, those Young People who may not have had a stable home environment, who could ‘fall into’ gang culture, and who often have had little meaningful education. Centrepoint has been housing and supporting homeless young people in London since 1969. In that time they have developed from an ad hoc hostel in the crypt of St Anne’s Church, Soho, to a become a Registered Social Landlord that has pioneered new models for working with homeless young people and provides specialist services for refugees, substance abusers, young mothers and those with mental health problems.

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Professional photos of donation exchange at Covenant House are available upon request.