



## Behind the Scenes: Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness

### in this issue

- > Behind the Scenes: Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness
- > One-to-One with the Board: Lloyd Craig
- > Making Progress: City Sites Construction
- > A Message from Rob Turnbull
- > Judy Graves Retiring
- > Coast Capital Savings Helps Prevent Youth Homelessness



Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson films a segment for Streetohome's video Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness

On January 24th, 2013, Streetohome Foundation announced the completion of our \$26.5M Capital Campaign in the company of our donors and community partners. At the celebratory lunch, sponsored by the Rosewood Hotel Georgia, Streetohome unveiled our new video - **Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness**. The five minute film showcases the progress being made in Vancouver, people Streetohome has touched, and the work that still needs to be done. The video features insight and stories from our partners, members of our Board of Directors, our community partners and individuals who have lived through the successes of receiving housing.

On August 28th, 2012, we began the journey of creating our video Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness at the newly opened Sanford Apartments, at 2299 Fir Street. This building was not only a

great backdrop to our video, but now houses 62 previously homeless or at risk individuals living with mental health and addictions issues. Thank you to the team and residents at Sanford Apartments for opening your doors to us, and making us feel so welcome in your home!

From conception, to filming, to the final stages of editing, the project would not have been possible without the amazing work of Ballistic Arts! This Burnaby-based creative agency has been a long-time friend and supporter of Streetohome, and their generosity has been outstanding. Their donation of time and services is invaluable.

Throughout the five minute film we hear from many individuals, from varied backgrounds, sectors and experiences. With their stories, insight, work and anecdotes we were able to strongly portray our video's message, that

together as a community we can break the cycle of homelessness in Vancouver. Thank you for your time and commitment to this project, and ability to open your hearts on film.

A month before the release of the video, a team of six talented and insightful individuals gathered together to see the final stages of the project through. Thank you to our dedicated volunteer Community Advocacy Committee for your time and thoughtfulness.

Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness was a project with many supporters, all of whom created a video Streetohome Foundation will use for years to come. The film can be viewed on [our website](#), and hopefully it will inspire everyone to be a part of the solution!

# One-to-One with the Board:

## A conversation with Lloyd Craig, Streetohome Board Vice-Chair

**Q** How has your time been as a Board Member of Streetohome Foundation?

**A** I very much enjoy being a member of the Streetohome board. It is a pleasure and privilege to work with such accomplished people on such an important initiative.

**Q** What led you to join the Streetohome Board of Directors in 2010?

**A** I joined the board because I believe a country as rich as Canada should not have any citizens who are homeless.

**Q** Where do you see Streetohome going in 2013?

**A** I am anxious for the Board to determine what Phase 2 will consist of. I trust we will continue the impressive progress made to date.

**Q** Do you see an end to homelessness in Vancouver?

**A** Our goal of ending homelessness in Vancouver is definitely achievable. Homelessness is such a complicated and multifaceted issue. I am getting to the point where the pieces are beginning to fit together. It will take the BC government, the City, and the private sector all working together to solve the problem. It would be wonderful for Vancouver to be the model for Canada.



**Q** What does a day in the life of Lloyd Craig look like?

**A** My day consists of trying to stay in shape by going to the Y and riding my bike, keeping up with my board commitments, doing a little paid and unpaid consulting, and reading for pleasure.

**Q** What keeps you up at night?

**A** Watching the Charlie Rose show with [my wife] Heather.

## Making Progress: City Sites Construction



Early 2013 has been busy at Streetohome. We kicked off the New Year by announcing the close of our first capital campaign. To celebrate raising \$26.5 million, we hosted a thank you lunch for all our donor and partners.

Then in February we celebrated construction progress at two of our City Sites - Budzey Building at 220 Princess and the Broadway & Fraser site at 2465 Fraser. Both of these buildings are already under construction and will be finished in spring 2014. The Eight City Sites developments are making great headway. We have now broken ground on seven of eight buildings, in partnership with the City of Vancouver and Province of BC.

Two more City Site buildings are getting closer to completion, with occupancy permits nearly ready

for 215 West 2nd Ave and 1237 Howe St. By late spring 2013, over 250 new homes will open up for people living on the street and in shelters as well as those at risk of homelessness. Look for opening celebrations for these two buildings by the end of summer/early fall after they have been open for a few months and are fully tenanted.

Other Streetohome-funded projects are also making great strides – Atira Women's Resource Society's Container Housing will be opening by summer 2013 and Taylor Manor by summer 2014, plus September 2013 will be the one year anniversary of the Vancouver Rent Bank. Look forward to future newsletters for more information on all of these projects, and keep an eye out for what Streetohome will be up to next.

## A Message from Rob Turnbull



From L-R: Streetohome Chair John McLernon, Vice-Chair Lloyd Craig and CEO Rob Turnbull tour Streetohome building sites

Along with 300 volunteers, I participated in the 2013 Vancouver Homeless Count, which took place over a 24 hour period on March 13, 2013. Early indications show the number of people sleeping on the street has decreased this year, and this reflected my experience too. My count partner and I only spoke with six people who identified themselves as homeless in a two hour period. Judy Graves, City of Vancouver Advocate for the Homeless and Mayor Robertson were also out counting and only found five people in Davie Village, a major gathering place for the homeless not so long ago.

Preliminary numbers from the City of Vancouver found 273 people sleeping outside in Vancouver, a decrease of 11% from 2012 (which saw 306 street homeless) and 66% decrease since 2008 (which saw 811 street homeless) when Streetohome first started. This is great progress for all of us working towards the goal of solving homelessness in Vancouver, and excellent news for those who have been able to leave the streets and come inside.

At Streetohome, we are starting to make headway as more of our projects open. Two more of the eight City Sites will open this year and seven of eight sites will be open next year – creating over 850 new supportive homes by the end of 2014. There is still much work to be done, but with the count numbers going down and more supportive units opening up, there is strong momentum towards ensuring that Vancouver's most vulnerable citizens move from street to home.

The full Vancouver Homeless Count report is being presented to City Council in July and will include demographics, as well as the street and sheltered homeless numbers. If you would like more information, let us know and we will send you the full report when available.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Turnbull'.

**Rob Turnbull, President & CEO  
Streetohome Foundation**

## Judy Graves Retiring

As many of you know, Judy Graves is retiring from her role as Advocate for the Homeless at the City of Vancouver at the end of May 2013.

Streetohome would like to thank Judy for her tireless commitment to helping people who are homeless and vulnerable in our city. Judy has been a partner, supporter and friend of Streetohome from the very beginning. She has taken all of our CEOs and many of our Board Members, including John McLernon, Frank Giustra, Mike Harcourt, and Lloyd Craig, for overnight walks through the streets and alleys of Vancouver to better understand the issue of homelessness and the people experiencing it.

This city is far poorer without Judy on the street, but we will continue to uphold her legacy of working together to solve homelessness in Vancouver.



From L-R: Gregor Robertson, Vancouver Mayor; Rich Coleman, Housing Minister; Judy Graves, Homeless Advocate; John McLernon, Streetohome Chair

# Coast Capital Savings Helps Prevent Youth Homelessness in Vancouver



Yosef Spivak speaks at Broadway & Fraser Construction Celebration

Youth homelessness is on the rise in Vancouver. The 2011 and 2012 Homeless Counts found more youth on the street than ever before. The count also did not take into consideration youth staying with a friend or couch surfing - the hidden homeless. Prevention and housing for youth, a particularly vulnerable group, is key to solving homelessness in Vancouver.

Coast Capital Savings is committed to helping youth at risk, pledging \$375,000 to Streethome to help build 99 units of new supportive housing at 2465 Fraser Street, 30 units of which will be dedicated to youth between the ages of 16 and 24.

The building at Fraser and Broadway will also be the new home of Broadway Youth Resource Centre (BYRC), which will support the 30 youth who live in the building and at risk youth in the surrounding community. BYRC will provide counseling, support and medical services for youth facing mental health and addictions challenges, employment support and life skills training.

Housing combined with support services can be life altering. Yosef Spivak's experience is a testament to how the right support can change a person's path. He spent 10 years in and out of foster care and group homes until he turned 19 and was declared an adult. After sleeping on couches and spending a night on the street, he popped into BYRC to use a bathroom. That accidental visit resulted in Spivak accessing support services and housing that changed his life. He now volunteers at BYRC and is looking to a brighter future.

Alison Emond, Housing Support Worker at BYRC, works with Spivak. Youth housing has been her passion for 27 years and she sees the impact of supportive housing daily through her work with youth.

"The majority of the youth we see are at-risk. Our goal is to get them into housing or maintain the housing they have and prevent them from becoming homeless. The support we offer is tailored to the individual and his or her goals, but it can be anything from helping someone with life skills to maintain housing, navigating financial assistance, accessing mental health or substance abuse services, right down to providing an emergency food kit if needed."

Youth at risk are often hard to reach and many first access support by visiting the BYRC drop in. "At the drop in, we see a lot of youth in unstable situations - couch surfing or in and out of housing. Someone might come in to the health clinic or school, and we are able to connect them to a counsellor or housing worker and a community, including a health clinic, counselling, a community kitchen, food prep training and employment and education programs all through the centre."

The building at 2465 Fraser will make an enormous impact on the youth that will live there and access services - providing them with a home and the stability they need to start planning for their future. Coast Capital Savings is proud to support the development of supportive homes for youth. Look for further updates as the building gets ready to open in spring 2014.

## 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

[www.streethome.org](http://www.streethome.org)

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