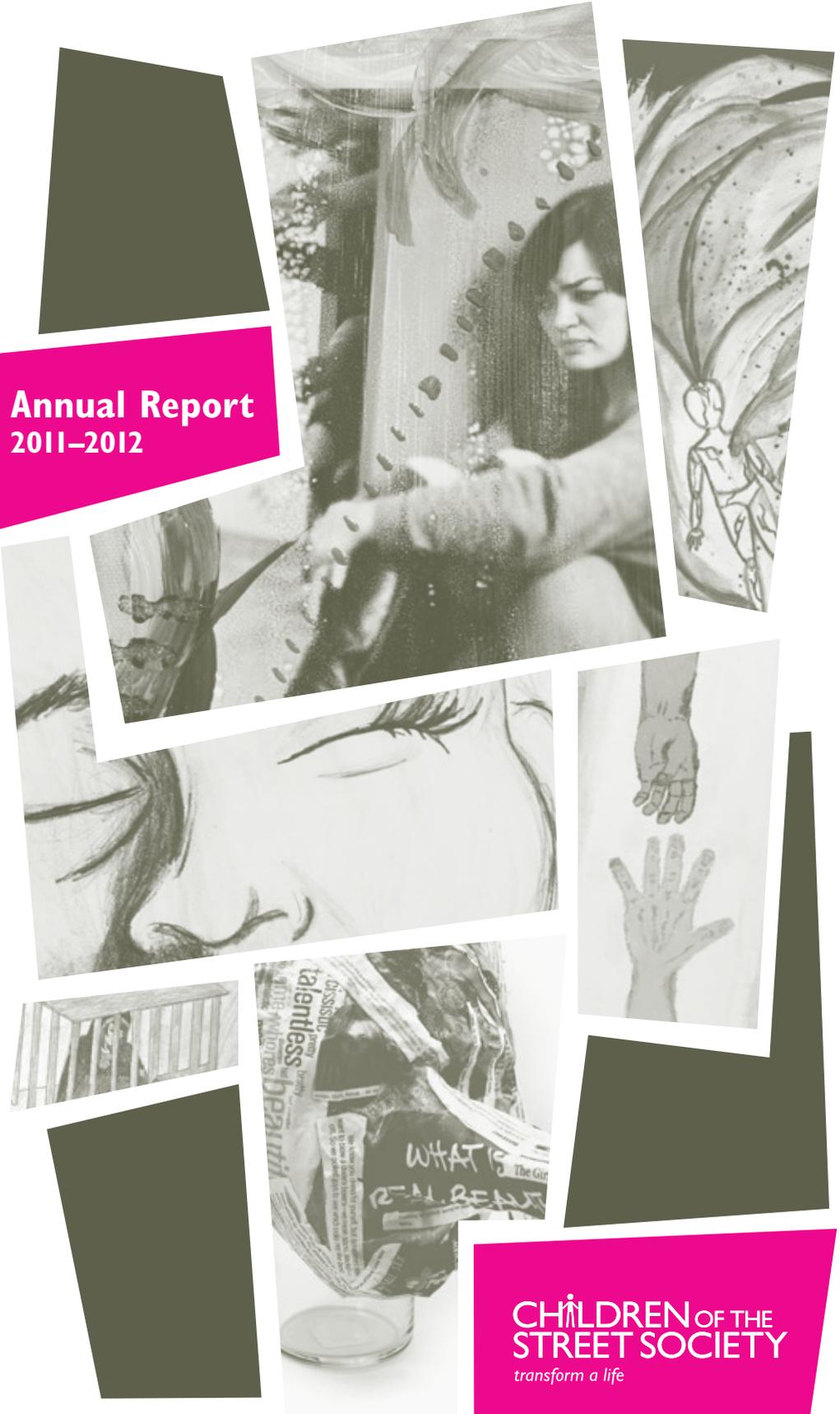


**Annual Report
2011-2012**



**CHILDREN OF THE
STREET SOCIETY**
transform a life

Mission

To take a proactive approach through public awareness, education and early intervention strategies to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and youth, while offering support to families.

Vision

A world where children and youth are safe and free from all forms of sexual exploitation.



Message from the President

In 2012, Children of the Street Society celebrated its 17th Anniversary. Throughout the year, we continued to witness an increased demand for our services throughout the province as well as develop our programming and cultivate new partnerships.

Our vibrant team of Workshop Facilitators continued to show innovation through our flagship program, Taking Care of Ourselves, Taking Care of Others (TCO²) by delivering workshops for participants throughout British Columbia. These workshops, which are created every year by our team to ensure they stay fresh and connected to current trends, contained new video elements and were extremely well received. We also continued to offer community education sessions for a variety of adult audiences, including service providers, law enforcement and parent, caregiver and community groups.

As a result of our wide-spread education and awareness, we were able to connect with and respond to requests for support from individual youth. We also continued to receive an increase in requests from parents and caregivers who were seeking support for a young person at high risk of sexual exploitation, or who were sexually exploited. Together with law enforcement and social service agencies we have aided in connecting young people to resources and support in order to remove them from dangerous or potentially dangerous situations.

This past year was also the second year of our Youth Art Engagement Project, which was an outstanding success! Through the dedicated effort of Executive Director Diane Sowden and our capable staff we were able to expand the Youth Art Engagement Project to involve four groups of alternate youth in creating social justice artwork that resulted in both a gallery opening event with visual and performance art, as well as a 2013 calendar that we are selling as a fundraiser and awareness tool.

2012 also saw our inaugural Celebration of Success event at Hycroft Manor. The event was hosted

by Bill Good from CKNW's The Bill Good Show, and featured a compelling keynote presentation by Sergeant Beverly Csikos from the Internet Child Exploitation Unit. This event was attended by many of our community partners, funders, friends and members of the law enforcement community and served a dual purpose of continuing to raise awareness around the issue of sexual exploitation and celebrate the success that Children of the Street has enjoyed over the past 17 years.

After 17 years of dedicated service on our Board, three of the Society's founding Directors have stepped down to make room for personal and family matters. I would like to sincerely thank Rebecca, Megan and Barry for the contributions they have made to Children of the Street over their long tenure. I am also pleased that we have brought on a number of new board members who I am confident will help us continue to drive Children of the Street Society forward, and I would like to thank all of the board members for their generous donation of time as they volunteer for such an important cause.

All of the fantastic work driven by our outstanding staff would not be possible without our funders, community partners, volunteers and local businesses who continue to support our work. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has helped us pursue our vision of creating a world where children and youth are safe and free from all forms of sexual exploitation.

Daryl Spencer, President
November, 2012



Message from the Executive Director

This year, I would like to dedicate this message to Children of the Street Society's Co-Founders, Board of Directors and Staff.

In 2012, Children of the Street Society completed another very exciting, productive and at times trying year during our continued fight against the sexual exploitation of children and youth, through our education, early intervention and support programs. Our success would not be possible without our dedicated Staff and Board of Directors. We were fortunate to have several new individuals join our team this past year. Our Board of Directors is also led by a new President, Daryl Spencer, who with his experience has supported us through our strategic planning.

One of my favourite milestones this year was the introduction of our first Transform a Life calendar, which was a great success. Thank you to the talented youth that produced the artwork which is showcased in the calendar.

Over the years Children of the Street Society has become well-regarded by the public, school districts, service providers and government, but this did not happen without controversy at times. The Society was formed in 1995 by a group of driven, committed, loving and frightened parents whose families were affected directly or indirectly by the sexual exploitation of a child or youth. It is with high praise and a lot of emotion that our family said 'good-bye' to three of our co-founders, Barry, Megan and Rebecca, after serving on the Board for the past 17 years since our inception. These individuals have inspired me and have made all of the challenges we have collectively faced over the years worthwhile. Since the beginning, these individuals were out in the community, contacting politicians, supporting other parents

and organizing public awareness events about the issue of sexual exploitation, and many times, at a great expense to themselves. It is due to their passion, commitment, personal sacrifices and inspiring vision that allowed Children of the Street Society to grow and flourish.

Our incredible staff, past and present have been key figures in the growth and development of our organization, all the while ensuring that our Co-Founders' vision was being achieved in creative ways. Even though we have encountered many downturns over the years due to the economy, major political transitions and social changes, our organization has become stronger due to great people doing great work.

Barry, Megan and Rebecca, the greatest legacy non-profit founders can leave is to create an organization that is able to continue past the tenure of any individual well into the future. This is possible due to the strong vision that you took part in putting into place. I would like to recognize each one of you for your contributions which made Children of the Street Society possible, which now serves as your legacy.

Saying "Thank You" may seem too simple, but it is truly heartfelt.

Diane Sowden, Executive Director
November 2012

Programs



TCO²: TAKING CARE OF OURSELVES, TAKING CARE OF OTHERS

We are exhilarated by the continued support for our cornerstone school based prevention, education and early intervention program, *TCO²: Taking Care of Ourselves, Taking Care of Others*. The 2011/2012 school year proved to be an incredibly busy year, as demand for the program from schools and communities throughout the province far exceeded our ability to meet it. During the past school year, our Workshop Facilitators completed 542 workshops for 22,546 participants ages 11–18 in 26 communities across British Columbia.

As our workshops continued to be in high demand in mainstream classrooms, we continued to witness a steady increase in requests from alternate education programs, new immigrant youth programs, youth centres, girls' groups, ESL programs, and custody centres. This year, 20% of our workshops were delivered to high risk groups of youth, including youth who were displaying warning signs of sexual exploitation or who were sexually exploited.

Each year, we are energized by new partnerships formed as a result of delivering our workshops throughout the province. In addition to delivering workshops throughout the Lower Mainland, our Facilitators also visited Abbotsford, Agassiz, Bella Coola, Chilliwack, Hope, Victoria, Midway, Grand Forks, Nanaimo and the Sunshine Coast.

TCO² HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR INCLUDED:

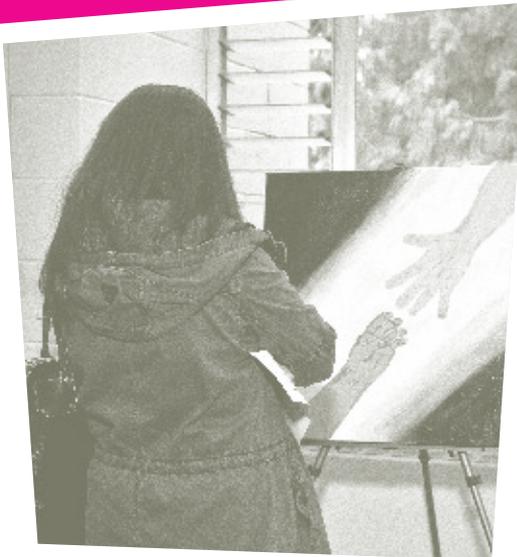
- In partnership with PLEA Onyx, a voluntary support service for sexually exploited youth, a series of 12 workshops were provided within the Vancouver Coastal Region, including Bella Coola.
- In partnership with the BC Office To Combat Trafficking In Persons (OCTIP) 3 workshops were delivered during the Gathering Our Voices Conference for 450 Aboriginal youth in Nanaimo hosted by The BC Aboriginal Friendship Centre. Our journey to Nanaimo also included delivering 2 workshops to 70 youth in an alternate school.
- In partnership with the Victoria Capital Region Action Team, workshops were presented at a Human Trafficking Conference for 175 government, law enforcement, and service providers. Meantime, 12 workshops were also delivered to 955 youth participants in Victoria.
- We were inspired by the passion of a young woman, Charlene Smith from the community of Sechelt, as she set out to raise awareness about the issue of sexual exploitation for local youth in her community. In partnership with Charlene, our Workshop Facilitators delivered 9 workshops to 457 youth participants.

Programs



IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE

Once again, we witnessed an increase in demand for adult education workshops across the province, ranging from high risk youth audiences, to parents and caregivers, law enforcement, government agencies and service providers. In the past year, 64 workshops totaling over 100 hours of education were delivered for 2,293 participants throughout the province.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR INCLUDED:

- Presenting for the Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents in partnership with the PLEA ONYX Program, at Hollyburn Family Services;
- In partnership with the PLEA ONYX Program, a half day workshop was provided for service providers and youth workers in Whistler, Pemberton, and Mt. Currie;
- In partnership with RCMP Victim Services in the Boundary Region, workshops were provided for over 225 community members in Greenwood and Grand Forks as part of a wraparound community engagement plan;
- In partnership with PLEA ONYX, a presentation was delivered for the Downtown Ambassadors in Vancouver to recognize and prevent sexual exploitation;
- Other provincial highlights included delivering community based workshops in Bella Coola, Courtenay, Powell River, and the Sunshine Coast.

Youth participant performs his
“Positive Rap” at art gallery celebration.



SUPPORTING FAMILIES DEALING WITH SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

As a result of increased education and awareness on the issue of sexual exploitation, Children of the Street Society continues to receive an increase in requests for support from parents and caregivers who have a child or youth that is at high risk of sexual exploitation or is sexually exploited. Each year, Children of the Street Society provides direct support to approximately 70 families and/or service providers with concerns about a young person. Through our long-standing partnerships, we continue to work with law enforcement, child protection, educators and service providers as well as a variety of social programs in order to support young people and their families.

“THAT ‘GANGSTA’ IMAGE THEY PORTRAYING IS FAKE.”

YOUTH ART ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

A key highlight of 2012, was our ability to expand our second year of the Youth Art Engagement Project into Vancouver. With funding from the Province of BC; The Amir & Yasmin Virani Family Foundation; Starbucks Foundation and Vancouver Foundation Youth Philanthropy Council, our Workshop Facilitators engaged four groups of alternate youth in Vancouver: Sir Charles Tupper Genesis Broadway Program, South Vancouver Learning Centre Day and Night Programs and Renfrew Park Community Centre.

Over nine weeks, the project engaged 34 youth who participated in education sessions consisting of one hour of interactive education, and one hour of social justice art creation. Learning sessions included an in-depth exploration of the issue of sexual exploitation including media influence, drugs and alcohol, gangs, online sexual exploitation, and peer to peer empowerment. Students created 41 works of art including masks, drawings, paintings, spoken word, typography, photography, collage, sculpture, drama, and street art. The project culminated with a youth art gallery which was open to the community and provided an opportunity to raise public awareness about the issue of sexual exploitation, while celebrating the artistic accomplishments of the youth.

A milestone of the year and of the project was the launch of our first Transform a Life 2013 Calendar. Designed by Porcaro Communications, the 16 month calendar featured the artwork from the project, including artist statements and key dates such as the Provincial Stop the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth Awareness Week.

CAGED (Detail) BY DAVID ZHONG

“When it comes to sexual exploitation, I feel that many people are trapped and held back by various barriers. These barriers can include drug addiction, fear or shame; they are represented by the cage. In many cases, people who are sexually exploited have a feeling of hopelessness, that things are never going to get better, this loss of hope is represented by how the girl is starting to fade away.”



GIVE ME A HAND (Detail) BY MATTHEW PAKKALA

“This piece is about darkness and light. When a person is in a sexually exploited situation, they may feel lost, alone in the dark. Sometimes they need someone to reach out and offer a helping hand to help them achieve clarity and light.”

TOO MUCH (Detail) BY WINNIE NGUYEN

“I took watercolours to blend the colourful mix around the mannequin to represent the good things we feel while on drugs. Although it’s beautiful, the drugs break the mannequin because that’s what happens when we take too much. The huge mask in the corner is the drug dealer whom spreads darkness that will eventually consume the mannequin, however, the mannequin is too engulfed by the good to get away. I wanted to display how blind we may be when we encounter addiction.”



ILLUMINATE OUR DARKNESS (Detail) BY EMILY HUYNH

“This drawing represents a woman's face split in half by light. The left side of her face is colourful and illuminated. Her features exude classic beauty and sex appeal with full, red lips, long lashes, and golden hair. Her expression is ambiguous, as she could be laughing in delight, or screaming with terror. The right side of her face, however, is clearly worn, battered, and defeated. It is hidden in shadows, but it is clear that she is hurting, both inside and out.”

Programs



PREDATOR WATCH.CA

PREDATOR WATCH

Predator Watch, an initiative aimed at stopping child predators from soliciting children and youth online, launched a second phase of advertisements which creatively lured potential perpetrators via camera and web cam activations.

Created by Children of the Street Society, in conjunction with advertising agency partner Cossette Vancouver, the campaign featured two signature creative executions which generated awareness, and also sent an important warning message to would-be criminals.

The first was a male washroom installation located in a downtown Vancouver bar, The Bourbon, which depicted what appeared to be an active 3D camera lens, tagged with *'Feeling violated? This is how thousands of kids feel every day.'* The advertisement was directed at potential offenders themselves, but also the general public in order to place the issue front of mind.

The second was an online banner, featuring what appeared to be a 16 year old girl in a bedroom setting, with an invitation to 'connect' online. Anyone who accepted this webcam invitation then had the camera

turned into their face, alarmingly featuring them on the screen rather than the girl. The execution was summarized with, *'If you're thinking of hooking up with children, don't. Undercover officers are online.'*

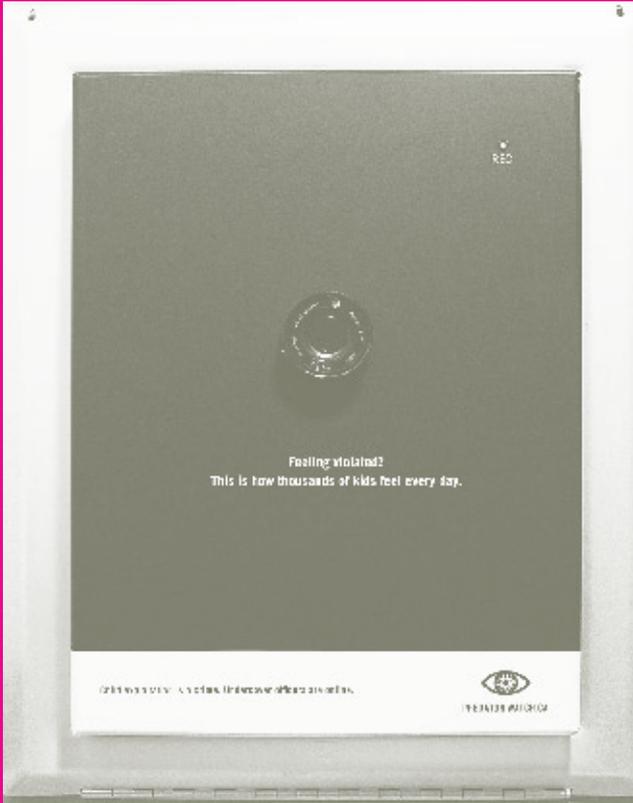
The campaign is supported by The Vancouver Police Department Special Investigation Section – Vice Unit. Sergeant Richard Akin of the VPD Vice Unit stated in a press release, "We endorse this partnership promoting on-line safety measures assisting youth and their families. Predators who believe their anonymity protects them will quickly discover that it doesn't! We will use every measure to investigate, identify, and arrest anyone who preys on children."

Corporal Mat Van Laer of the BC Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Unit further added, "The BC ICE unit was created for the sole purpose of assisting every Police agency in British Columbia in their fight against online predators. We are on the Internet, we are in chat rooms, we are on Social Media sites, we know where these offenders are hiding and we are looking for them."

YOUTH ART ENGAGEMENT PROJECT TRAIN-THE-TRAINER

In partnership with RCMP Victim Services in the Boundary Region, Children of the Street Society travelled to Grand Forks to provide a two day Train-the-Trainer Workshop for over 30 service providers, on how to implement a Youth Art Engagement Project. Following the training, service providers in the Region completed their

own Youth Art Engagement Project with three alternate youth groups. Following the project, two community art galleries were held to showcase the artwork, while Children of the Street Society delivered community education workshops for over 225 community members from across the Region.



To raise awareness of child exploitation, ads with an actual camera lens and a motion activated 'record' light were placed in high traffic washroom locations. By simulating recording in a very private space, these ads put viewers in a position that exploited youth face everyday.



Programs

PROVINCIAL AWARENESS WEEK

2012 marked the 14th Annual Stop the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth Awareness Week. Held annually in the month of March, Awareness Week recognizes the importance of supporting communities to develop prevention, education, enforcement and intervention strategies to address the sexual exploitation of children and youth.

Children of the Street Society hosted its inaugural Celebration of Success at Hycroft Manor in Vancouver. Over 70 individuals were in attendance, ranging from government, law enforcement, service providers, corporate and private funders and community agencies who work in partnership to address the sexual exploitation of children and youth in B.C. The event was emceed by Mr. Bill Good of CKNW and featured a keynote presentation by Sgt. Bev Csikos from the Internet Child Exploitation Unit. Grade 12 students from Dr. Charles Best Secondary in Coquitlam presented an initiative they have been working on as part of their Social Justice class to fight sexual exploitation. The event also highlighted special presentations from The Body Shop, BC Social Venture Partners and SpencerCreo Foundation about their unique and ongoing partnerships with Children of the Street Society aimed at stopping sexual exploitation.

Children of the Street Society also celebrated Awareness Week through supporting and participating in a variety of initiatives throughout the week of March 7th to 13th, 2012.

- A candlelight awareness walk for community members at Memorial Peace Park, hosted by the Ridge Meadows Community Action Team;
- *What's Up Online*, a workshop for 75 parents featuring a presentation by Merlyn Horton of Safe Online Outreach Society, hosted by the Vancouver Community Action Team;
- A display window and awareness booth was held at Brighthouse Public Library, hosted by the Richmond Community Action Team;
- Children of the Street Society presented a workshop for UBC law students at the Human Trafficking in Children Conference, hosted by the Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons.



Bill Good, Diane Sowden and Mayor Richard Stewart celebrate the 14th Annual Awareness Week at Hycroft Manor.

Testimonials

“A few members of the loss prevention team were invited to participate in a presentation from Children of the Street Society, to educate the team on the conditions faced by street youth. A few hours later, the team spotted a known child molester in the downtown core. The team had been previously made aware that the man had many conditions and recognised the fact that he was currently breaching them. The team contacted the Vancouver Police and the suspect was arrested. The attending officers informed the team he will likely be going back to jail for an extended period as a result of the team’s observations.”

—Dave Jones, Downtown Ambassadors Program,
Downtown Business Improvement Association

“The topics presented were extremely relevant to several of our students, some of whom have been directly or indirectly involved in the sex trade and are victims of sexual exploitation. During the sessions, youth were given the opportunity to try a variety of artistic mediums, and it was amazing to see the students come out of their comfort zone and try new art forms. Having participated in this project, students were able to demonstrate honesty, intelligence, creativity, empathy, respect, leadership, and confidence.”

—Jeff Markusoff, Youth Worker,
South Vancouver Learning Centre

“Through experiencing the workshop, students are much better informed and aware of the risks of social networking and ways to protect their online identity. They are better equipped to approach social interactions with caution and reflection, and to consult with families, friends, or professional resources if a situation is uncomfortable or unreasonable.”

—Donna Papproski, Area Counselor,
Vancouver Board of Education

“I was amazed by how attentive the kids were. You could hear a pin drop and so many students stayed after the bell to ask questions.”

—Teacher, Glenbrook Middle School,
New Westminster

My daughter and I talked at length about how easy it was to speak with Diane Sowden and ask her questions. What I believe we got as a family is an experience to discuss something of risk in a comfortable environment. My daughter felt Diane really ‘got’ her and so was comfortable to ask questions and share information. Probably most important for me was to hear her say that everything that I tell her about this kind of safety made sense after this conversation; I think it went from ‘nag’ to real life. I am grateful for this insight.

—Parent

Supporters

**WITH SINCERE APPRECIATION,
OUR SUCCESSES ARE DUE IN
LARGE PART TO OUR SUPPORTERS.
THANK YOU.**

Austin Properties
BC Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch
Canadian Tire, Coquitlam
Chris Spencer Foundation
CIBC
City of Coquitlam
City of Port Coquitlam
City of Vancouver
CKNW Orphans' Fund
Cossette Vancouver
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Porcaro Communications
Richmond Community Foundation
Soroptimists International of the Langleys
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SpencerCreo Foundation
Starbucks Foundation
TELUS
The Amir & Yasmin Virani Family Foundation
The Body Shop, Coquitlam Centre
The Body Shop Foundation
The Evening Optimist Club of Coquitlam
The Hamber Foundation
The McLean Foundation
United Way Donor Directed Gifts
Vancouver Foundation Youth Philanthropy Council
West Vancouver Community Foundation

INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES & GROUPS

Thank you to all of our committed Members and Donors as well as the various groups who have contributed workshop honoraria over the past year. We are also grateful to the many local businesses that have supported our fundraising events and initiatives in order to make them a success. We are grateful for your support!

2011/2012 Board of Directors & Staff

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THANK YOU TO OUR 2011/2012 WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

Emily Huynh
Ian Jung
Andrea Krakan
Jaedyn Starr

WELCOME TO OUR 2012/2013 WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

Amanda Barnes
Jenny Kuecks
Kevin Lescisin
Tim Lu



Fuchsia-coloured ribbons

symbolize efforts to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and youth; fuchsia is a combination of red, for red light districts, and purple, the provincial colour for violence prevention. Please wear a fuchsia ribbon to help raise awareness.

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