



# Making a Difference

## Mission Transition

ACCOMPLISHED!

VICTORIA WOMEN'S  
*Transition House*  
SOCIETY

**ON OCTOBER 11, 2009**, more than 40 members of the Victorian Epicure Mission Transition Team laced up their runners and ran or walked 8K or more in the 30th Royal Victoria Marathon. Our largest team ever consisted of Victoria Women's Transition House Society staff, volunteers and board members; community members; and staff from Victorian Epicure Inc./Epicure Selections®.

As title sponsor of the team, which includes a \$5,000 sponsorship, Victorian Epicure Inc./Epicure Selections® has been supporting VVTHS since 2006. The family-owned, woman-led Canadian company has donated more than \$20,000 in cash and more than \$10,000 in in-kind donations—in the form of product packages for women leaving the Shelter and kitchen stocking (both food and cookware) for new residents of Harrison Place. In addition, company staff have put in more than 300 volunteer hours, assisting with building maintenance and cleanup and providing residents of the Shelter and Harrison Place with monthly cooking lessons.

"We are proud of the relationship that is unfolding with VVTHS," says Amelia Warren, Vice-President of Victorian Epicure Inc. "We hope that the combination of volunteerism, in-kind donations and financial donations serves as a model that other organizations will embrace, because it is tremendously meaningful for both the donor and the recipient."

"We are also honoured to be part of the work that VVTHS does in the community," Amelia adds. "The work is powerful and important, and it aligns with our own work in providing Canadian women with the opportunity to be business owners as Independent Epicure Consultants."

Amelia believes the Royal Victoria Marathon offers a great venue to publicly celebrate VVTHS's work. "It's about raising money, but even more than that, it's about raising awareness."

At press time, the money raised by the Victorian Epicure Mission Transition Team was still coming in—a record \$23,000 and counting! ■

### The healing journey

**HONORARY TEAM CAPTAIN** Jayde Farand didn't intend to watch the Royal Victoria Marathon from a wheelchair on the sidelines. Her intention was to run the half-marathon—but on August 7, she was hit by a pickup truck at a crosswalk, on her way back to work at the Shelter after a lunch break. Taking stock of her situation after major surgery and two weeks in hospital, Jayde decided to participate in the marathon in whatever way she could, to support the Mission Transition Team and to honour the women and children served by the Victoria Women's Transition House Society.

"Many women and children in our community endure much worse pain than I have, and the healing journey can be lonely and daunting," she says. "Our team does the Royal Victoria Marathon to support the clients of the Victoria Women's Transition House Society, so that no woman or child need walk alone or feel fear, but can stand up tall and claim their right to live a life free from violence."

As race day drew nearer, Jayde's recovery continued, but she was disappointed to learn that wheelchairs could not be used on the 8K course, which she hoped she could manage. Cheering from the sidelines, she still raised more than \$1,100, and is already looking forward to next year's race. ■



Jayde Farand, with partner Daniel Martins, on race day.

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AUTUMN 2009

# Rainbow Project

## GIVING WOMEN A FRESH START

**SUZANNE LeBLANC'S** favourite moment at Harrison Place was the day last July when she looked out her window and saw a double rainbow and beautiful light over Mount Tolmie.

Apart from its beauty, the image was strongly symbolic for Suzanne, who was one of the original residents of Harrison Place and a participant in its highly successful Rainbow Project. When the rainbow appeared, Suzanne was preparing to move to Ontario to look after her aging parents.

The Rainbow Project helps participants develop their financial assets through financial literacy education and support, with the ultimate goal of ensuring that they are self-sufficient and able to move into a safe, secure housing situation at the end of their tenancy at Harrison Place.

Participants make a maximum monthly deposit of \$50 in an Individual Development Account (IDA), and each dollar is matched 3:1. Participants also sign a contract specifying a set of goals and actions that they have identified for themselves that will move them towards self-sufficiency. They fulfill the terms of the contract by depositing their monthly savings in their IDA accounts and attending financial literacy workshops and individual financial consultations. If they meet all the terms of the contract, participants will have access to the matched funds on April 30, 2010.

Although Suzanne has now left Harrison Place, she will continue in the Rainbow Project, making her monthly matched deposits until the end of April 2010, when she will have access to her

“pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.” Her plans include possibly becoming a seniors companion, capitalizing on her background in home support, but she is also thinking of buying land to farm, maybe with one of her daughters.

Suzanne's grandfather had once bought 150 acres in Ontario, at her grandmother's urging. But he eventually had to sell the land that her grandmother had dreamed of farming. Now, as a result of the Rainbow Project, Suzanne dreams of having land to leave to her grandchildren. Perhaps more importantly, though, she is passing on her learning about money management to both her daughters and her grandchildren.

“I want to open accounts for my grandchildren, so they can learn to save,” she says. When they have 50 cents, she encourages them to think carefully about what they are going to do with it—and not just spend it because they have it.

The Rainbow Project has taught Suzanne what she didn't learn from her parents: how to handle money well. “I feel like I have been given a fresh start, even at my age,” she says. “I am regaining credit and financial and physical health. I feel empowered—and grateful.”

The project is guided by an Advisory Committee made up of representatives from the Victoria Women's Transition House Society, the Ministry of Housing and Social Development, the participants, and Vancity Credit Union (where the IDA funds are deposited). Coast Capital Savings Credit Union, the federal government (Status of Women Canada), and the Inter-Church Council of Canada,



*Suzanne LeBlanc, right, with Debi Dempsey, Manager, Community Relations, Coast Capital Savings.*

as well as individual donors, are providing the financial support for the project.

Maureen Young, Community Investment Specialist at Coast Capital Savings, one of the financial supporters of the project, says it has been interesting working with the participants and seeing them rebuilding their lives. “There are so many components to the program—not just the asset building, but solid money management training to support the participants as they move through the program,” she says. “Success for us in funding the program is seeing the participants gain confidence about their finances and build a stronger future.”

Suzanne is grateful to the funders of the Rainbow Project for taking a chance on people whom no one else is willing to take a chance on. “If more people were given this opportunity and really took it seriously,” she says, “they would be helped in more than just monetary ways.” ■

## Victoria Golf Club 14th Annual Ladies Charity Tournament



**WITH GREAT APPRECIATION,** we thank the Victoria Golf Club Ladies Charity Tournament Committee, the Board members and the staff of the club for outstanding and sustained support for the Victoria Women's Transition House Society. More than \$60,000 was raised this year, bringing the total for this event over the years to over \$400,000. ■

“One in every three women in B.C. are abused by someone they know! This statistic doesn't go unnoticed by the Victoria Golf Club Ladies' Annual Charity Tournament organizing committee, nor by the women

who come from around Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland to participate in this popular golf tournament. This is the ninth year that the committee has chosen the Victoria Women's Transition House Society as the beneficiary of our fundraising activities. We, along with the generous assistance of our Board of Directors and sponsors, are proud to help support the important emergency shelter, counselling and educational services that Transition House continues to provide for women and their children throughout the Capital Regional District.”

Sheena Robertson, 2010 Tournament Chair

# A rich history of philanthropy\*

**CANADA'S RICH HISTORY** of philanthropy dates back to the mid-1600s, when the earliest settlers in Quebec City established the first shelters for women and children, marking one of the first steps towards charitable giving. Our true philanthropic spirit continues to shine through daily acts of kindness and compassion towards those in need in each of our communities.

The federal government encourages increased giving to charities by individuals and corporations through legislation that allows Canadians to claim donations and other benefits in their taxes.

Statistics Canada reports that in 2006, 25% of Canadians filing tax returns claimed a charitable donation, for a total amount of \$8.5 billion. Federal beneficiary legislation also provides significant tax incentives to make gift planning even more attractive, particularly for those gifts left in a will.

Canadians give for many different reasons: for some it is a way to ensure that their memory lives on, for many it's a way to ensure that their favourite charity is able to continue its important work, and for others it represents a way to facilitate the tax implications that come with the transfer of an estate to surviving relatives.

A well-planned gift can be a smart way to take care of your family and your community. Here are just a few of the creative ways to make a charitable gift that will reduce income taxes and ensure that your family and your favourite charities are taken care of in the future:

- Gifts of **public securities** are exempt from capital gains inclusion.
- **Charitable bequests** reduce estate income taxes and leave a legacy for the future when you remember charities in your will.
- **RRSP and RRIF proceeds** avoid probate fees and offset estate income taxes.
- Gifts of **life insurance** provide significant income and estate tax benefits.
- **Charitable gifts plus annuity** provide you or your spouse with higher after-tax income.

\*Adapted from [www.leavealegacy.ca](http://www.leavealegacy.ca)

## Next steps

Please call Suzanne Dubé, Director of Development, at 250-592-2927 ext. 210, if you want to learn more about these smart ways to give and support the Victoria Women's Transition House Society. ■

PLAN TO MAKE YOUR WISHES COME TRUE –

## Leave A Legacy

**Free Public Information Sessions**

**THIS TIMELY SERIES** is brought to you by the LEAVE A LEGACY™ program of the Vancouver Island RoundTable of the Canadian Association of Gift Planners and the Greater Victoria Public Library:

### Tax Planning and Your Wishes: Make It Work for Everyone

Tuesday, January 26, 2010, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. – Presented by Dawn Tipton

### The Truth About Powers of Attorney and Representation Agreements: Ensuring Your Wishes Come True

Tuesday, February 23, 2010, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. – Presented by John Coupar

### Legacy Giving: The Joys of Giving and Receiving

Tuesday, March 30, 2010, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. – Presented by Norma Cameron

All sessions take place in the Meeting Room at the Nellie McClung Branch of the Greater Victoria Public Library, 3950 Cedar Hill Road. Please call (250) 477-7111 to reserve a space in the session(s) you wish to attend.

Find out more at [www.leavealegacy.ca](http://www.leavealegacy.ca) ■

# Creating a world free of violence:

WOMEN TAKE THE LEAD IN EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY ABOUT ABUSE PREVENTION

**ALL WOMEN HAVE** the right to live peacefully and with dignity. But today, one in three women in BC experience some form of abuse by someone they know.

As a society, we've come a long way in recognizing the extent to which women experience abuse in relationships. Over the years we've created many services for women in crisis and for those wanting to leave an abusive partner. Across Canada, 470 transition houses now provide shelter and services for women and children.

But it's not enough: women are looking for positive and lasting change in their relationships and in society as a whole. The Victoria Women's Transition House Society has been talking with

other service providers to discover how best to meet the complex needs of women. The factor that is key to change is preventing abuse in the first place and promoting a community that is free of violence toward women.

Public education is vital. That's why the Victoria Women's Transition House Society is developing the *Inspiring Women Project*. We are collaborating with local service agencies to develop a comprehensive community education plan aimed at both professionals and the general public. Women will be the catalyst for initiating change in the Greater Victoria area.

The *Inspiring Women Project* provides leadership opportunities, training,

mentoring and ongoing support for women who participate. All women are invited to contribute to this important work. By promoting awareness of women's experiences and society's role in perpetuating them, by building social intolerance to violence against women, and by communicating values of equality and respect, we can build a safe and just society.

Contact Dianne De Champlain at 250-592-2927 ext. 222 or [dianned@vwth.bc.ca](mailto:dianned@vwth.bc.ca) to find out more or get involved with the Community Education Project.

**At this time we are seeking grants and donations to implement this three-year project.** ■



## New website launched



**PLEASE** go to our redesigned website to learn more about us and to sign up for our electronic newsletter. ■

[www.transitionhouse.net](http://www.transitionhouse.net)

## Summer Celebration of the Arts

**THIS EVENT** to benefit the Victoria Women's Transition House Society—featuring theatre (*The Measure of Love* by Nicolas Billon), visual art (by five extraordinary local artists) and live music (performed by an eclectic range of gifted local musicians)—was a huge success in its first year. Thank you committee, performers, participants and sponsors! ■

*Spring Bling!*  
AT THE VICTORIA GOLF CLUB  
"BY THE SEA"

Second Annual Jewellery Show and Sale

IN SUPPORT OF:  
VICTORIA WOMEN'S  
Transition House SOCIETY Children's Programs

**ANOTHER YEAR** of this beautiful and charming event to raise money for the Victoria Women's Transition House Society—we could not be more thankful to all those involved who have made this event such a sensation! ■

## Kitchen renovation at the Shelter



**COUNTLESS VOLUNTEERS AND BUSINESSES** came together to help complete (in the most efficient and least disruptive way!) the seismic upgrade and complete refurbishment of the Shelter's kitchen. Old cabinets and countertops were removed and beautiful new cabinets, countertops and lighting were installed. Along the way, wonderful volunteers and donors helped pack up and reorganize the kitchen and provided meals during the renovation.

### Volunteers:

- Sarginson Decorating Inc.: Bill Sarginson, Shaun Sarginson, Bill Braun
- Griffey Electric: Bill Roberts
- Proctor Plumbing and Heating: Saul Proctor
- Lorraine Collette
- Betty Brown
- Justine Etzkurn
- Helen Dubas
- Dianne De Champlain

### Meals:

- The Little Thai Place Inc.
- Chef on the Run
- Villages Pizza
- Cook's Day Off
- The Noodle Box

- Bayanihan Cultural and Housing Society
- Carol Romig-Cherry
- Paulina Hakkarainen
- Fred Ruiz

### Kitchen renovation:

- Urbana
- Sarginson Decorating Inc.
- Griffey Electric
- Proctor Plumbing and Heating
- Cook Street Castle Building Centre
- Terry's Tile and Wallcoverings Ltd.

**Thank you** Greg Bondar of Pacific Link for your kindness—we greatly appreciate your 15 years of donating your services to maintain our phone system! ■