

2012

NORTH SHORE HOMELESSNESS ACTION WEEK REPORT

HOME
LESS
NESS
ACTION
WEEK
2012
Oct 7-13

The seventh annual Homelessness Action Week took place across Metro Vancouver, BC and the Yukon from October 7-13th. Hundreds of organizers and volunteers carried out events for people who are homeless and raised awareness about the solutions for homelessness. The week was officially proclaimed Homelessness Action Week by the provincial government and many municipal governments. On October 4, the Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness released Community Values: A Public Opinion Survey about Homelessness in Metro Vancouver, setting out the results of its first ever public opinion survey on homelessness conducted in September. Homelessness Action Week is an important opportunity for us to reach out to the community and raise awareness about homelessness and support for initiatives to address it.

The North Shore Homelessness Task Force (NSHTF) pulled together an exciting program designed to build partnerships with the business community and provide opportunities for people to make a meaningful difference within their community. Many community organizations and churches cooperated to host a variety of events during Homelessness Action Week including community meals and movie & discussion night. We also held direct service events for individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness such as the North Shore Connect Event, the Mom and Kid's Lunch and Thanksgiving Dinner. This report presents the highlights and outcomes of Homelessness Action Week 2012 on the North Shore.



North Shore
Homelessness
Task Force

Homelesstaskforce@telus.net

EVENTS

Monday October 8, Thanksgiving Dinner

The Thanksgiving Dinner at Lookout Shelter was a success. Over 100 homeless or at risk members of the North Shore community enjoyed a delicious meal and warm atmosphere.

Tuesday October 9, Dinner and Music

The community dinner was served in cooperation with Sharing Abundance, at the North Lonsdale United Church. A total of 99 meals were served to music, provided by members of the church community and dinner attendees. HAW has had a rippling effect, as the United Church has noticed a continued increase in meals served with HAW exposure.

Wednesday October 10, North Shore Connect

This year, NS Connect took place at the North Vancouver Salvation Army. This provided an open atmosphere for community attendees and resource providers to connect in a comfortable and welcoming setting. There were 253 recorded contacts between community members and resource providers! Both breakfast and lunch were served for the community. Community members found the event to be effective and helpful in accessing hard to reach services.

Thursday October 11, Mom & Kids Lunch

The Mom and Kids Lunch was held in an intimate setting where women were able to connect with one another and community resource providers over a delicious meal. The lunch was attended by 40 + women, from 18 to 80 years of age, some with small children. Similar to NS Connect Day, a substantial number of attendees, approximately 15%, were from the Iranian community. It may be beneficial to have Farsi speaking service providers or interpreters at 2013 HAW events.

Friday October 12, Film and Discussion Night

Roughly 50 West Vancouver youth between the ages of 13 and 18 came together for a film and discussion on homelessness in the NS community. The audience was challenged to consider 2 questions throughout the evening: (1) Why is there such an inequitable distribution of wealth in Canada? (2) Why do we not have a National housing policy in Canada? Our Keynote speaker, Terry Carmichael, opened the event by sharing his story of homelessness and hardship. Youth were riveted as Terry spoke, and sought him out after the film to speak one-on-one. The local Documentary *Something to Eat, A Place to Sleep, & Someone Who Gives a Damn*, offered a poignant account of the challenges facing homeless people in Greater Vancouver. An active and engaging discussion followed. The audience addressed affordable housing initiatives, public-private development partnerships, government incentives for multifaceted housing projects, and thoughts on the collective will for change.

Saturday October 13, Street Soccer Exhibition Game

Unfortunately the HAW Soccer Tournament had to be canceled due to the weather.

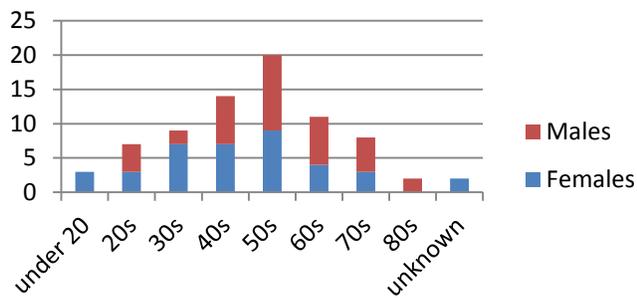
Stats

A total of 76 community members registered at the North Shore Connect event, with approximately 100 counted at Breakfast. There was an unprecedented attendance from the Iranian community, which made up approximately 25% of attendees. An equal number men and women attended, ranging from 19 to 88 years young.

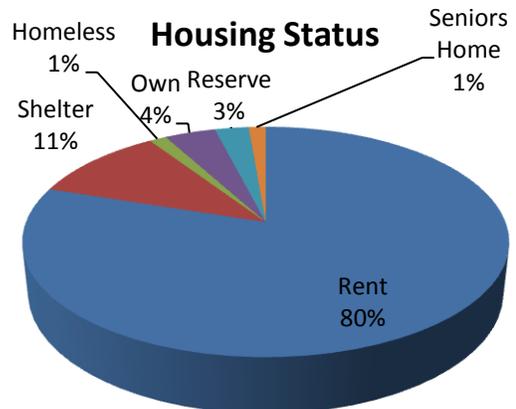
80% of attendees identified as renters, 11 % identified as living in the shelter, and only 1% identified as homeless. It is important to note that some people may not report being homeless due to the stigma attached to it or because there may be funding implications. This speaks to the stigma associated with homelessness and the essential part that HAW plays in raising awareness about homelessness in our north shore community.

North Shore Connect Statistics

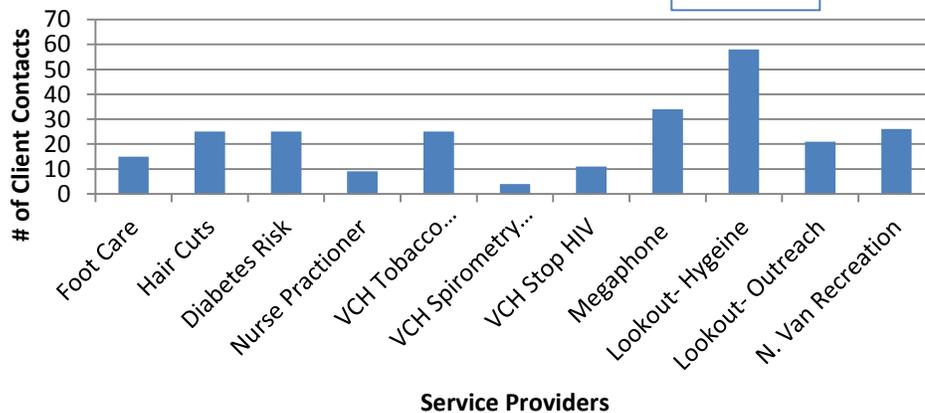
Age Distribution



Housing Status



Services Utilized



EVENT CONTRIBUTORS

Our Community Partners

Vancouver Coastal Health
Lookout Emergency Aid Society
Rotary Clubs of the North Shore
Tiddly Cove Lions Club
Canadian Mental Health Association
Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness
District of North Vancouver
City of North Vancouver
Hollyburn Family Services Society
Harvest Project
North Shore Crisis Services Society
North Vancouver Recreation Commission
North Shore Neighbourhood House
North Shore Salvation Army
YWCA One Stop Career Shop
Soroptimist International of North & West Vancouver
Cove Community Church
North Shore Unitarian Church
Mt. Seymour United Church

Our Sponsors

