

Working to Solve Homelessness:

Helping Spirit Lodge Society



Helping Spirit Lodge Society's mission is to assist in alleviating of family violence in Aboriginal communities in Metro Vancouver. Since opening the doors of Helping Spirit Lodge in East Vancouver in 1991, the Society has provided a safe haven and reintegration resources for more than 10,000 Aboriginal women and children.

Through numerous programs, Helping Spirit Lodge Society pursues its goals of providing safe, protective shelter, stopping the cycle of violence, supporting healthy families, delivering quality services, returning Aboriginal women to their traditional respected position in the family, community and society, and restoring a positive self-image through Aboriginal healing methods.

Programs include:

- Spirit Lodge – a 33 bed transition house providing up to 30 days emergency shelter.
- Spirit Way – a holistic and long-term residential program for Aboriginal women and children providing up to 18 months accommodation.
- Choices – a 24-week employment bridging program providing educational guidance, employment and skills training, and Aboriginal-based life skills.
- Reclaiming Our Spirits – a drop-in centre offering culturally-based wellness programs, a computer learning centre and numerous community activities.
- E.A.G.L.E. Spirits (Early Aboriginal Guidance in a Loving Environment of Spirits) – a six week parenting program for Aboriginal parents and children.
- Aboriginal Women's Collective – fosters communication and dialogue among Aboriginal women and organizations.
- Follow-up Support and Outreach - includes advocacy, referrals, and connections to community resources, assistance with transportation and medical, legal, financial and cultural matters.

The Society will soon be expanding and renovating its facilities in order to increase capacity and be able to offer programs to a broader segment of Aboriginal communities in Metro Vancouver. The expanded facility will honour the memory Bernie Whiteford, the Society's influential crusader and former Executive Director, whose dream it was to establish a centre integrating Aboriginal culture, art, traditions, values and healing.

For more information visit: www.helpingspiritlodge.org

Homelessness, together we can solve it.

Visit: stophomelessness.ca

