



MILLENNIUM CAMPAIGN

VOICES AGAINST POVERTY



International - United Nations Millennium Campaign

www.millenniumcampaign.org

Canadian – Make Poverty History

www.millenniumpromise.org

Calgary –Children without Poverty

www.makepovertyhistory.ca

childrenwithoutpoverty@yahoo.ca

Children without poverty monthly newsletter: October 2007

Please do your part.

The millennium campaign was created in 2000 by the United Nations to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. Please help. Read on to help and wear a white band to show your support. White bands are available for \$1 from www.millenniumcampaign.org.

“We seek victory – not over any nation or people – but over the ancient enemies of us all; victory over ignorance, poverty, disease and human degradation wherever they may be found.”
Dwight Eisenhower, State of the Union Address, 1959

Did You Know?

“Lack of care in pregnancy and childbirth: Many women still lack access to prenatal and postnatal care; world wide, only slightly over half of all births are attended by a trained health worker. Because of early and frequent childbearing and poor access to health care and contraception, a woman in the developing world has a lifetime risk of dying in pregnancy or childbirth of roughly 1 in 50, over 80 times greater than the risk for women in the wealthiest countries. Each year, more than 585,000 women die from pregnancy-related causes, including over 75,000 deaths from complications of unsafe abortions.”

Paying their Fare Share? Donor Countries and International Population Assistance by Shanti R. Conly and Shyami de Silva.

YWCA – Calgary - The Sheriff King Home

In April of this year, I spoke with Carolyn Goard, director of the YWCA Family Violence Prevention Centre and the Sheriff King Home.

The YWCA is one of the longest lived social agencies in the city of Calgary, having opened in 1912. They are associated with the national YWCA; however, they are an independent entity with their own board of directors. They are funded through all levels of government, private donations, the United Way and have some fees revenue from some of their programs.

CHILDREN WITHOUT POVERTY is not a registered charity. Please donate to the charity of your choice. We recommend: www.millenniumpromise.org (not a registered Canadian charity), www.tear.org (not a registered Canadian charity), www.calgaryfoodbank.com.

Their mission: Building Healthy Communities by Building Strength in Women

Their vision: The YWCA's Mission is to offer programs and services for women and their families providing them with the skills, abilities and opportunities to contribute to and benefit from healthy communities.

Their programs have changed over the years, based on need:

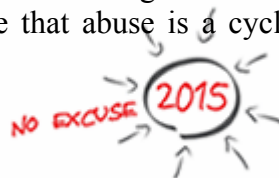
- The YWCA opened in Calgary.
- Men went to war and women went to work.
- Safe housing for women was created to meet the needs of young women coming to work in the city - it wasn't safe for them.
- Men came back from war – the YWCA offered homemaking courses to teach women to be good wives (Carolyn laughs and laments).
- 1950s showed the start of their recreational facility.
- 1950s - English as a Second Language (ESL) became a focus program.
- 1972 - The Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter opened.
- 1980s saw the emergence of family violence programming.
- 1983 - YWCA Sheriff King Home started working in the community around violence assistance and prevention.
- 1986 - Outreach counseling was added.
- 1990 - Counseling for children.
- 1991 - Counseling for men.
- 2001 - The Sheriff King home consolidated into one location.

The YWCA is the first site in Western Canada to offer integrated services for all family members at a single shelter.

Today, the YWCA has four areas of focus: Family Violence; Health and Wellness; Child and Family Services; and Homelessness. They shelter 1000 women and children in a year, 4000 women and children per year go through their programs, and 700 men per year through the family violence services. The focus areas have a multitude of programs and services under them including 3 child care centers. For more details on all of their services see their website at www.ywcaofcalgary.com (their new website is informative and impactful to say the least – if nothing else check out the main page).

“All of the programs are viewed through the lens or viewpoint of women's equality”, Carolyn explains. “We do provide services for men, but with the awareness that women need the support of men in the community to make a difference.”

Carolyn notes, “In 1973 family violence was a great secret. It wasn't acceptable to acknowledge it and talk about it.” She went on to note that abuse is a cycle that continues, it gets passed on, and it is



learned. Statistics show this continuum. The important thing to understand about violence is that it is an issue of equality + power. By increasing equality for women, we reduce violence.

When I commented about the large number of organizations in society, we discussed partnering and amalgamations. It seems that amalgamations are not as popular as partnering is. The YWCA did purchase a non-profit called Interfaith that has really solidified their children's services programs and taken their annual operating budget from \$8 million to \$12 million. For the most part, they have a number of partners, listed below:

- Children's legal & education resource centre (FCSS funded) providing legal assistance to children in civil cases re: custody and access. They are just completing a 3 year pilot and creating a business plan to move forward to continue to provide children with a safe voice.
- Enmax – a corporate partnership for child care.
- Bow Valley College – child care service partnership.
- Parent Link Centre – providing early intervention and educational programs, the integration allows them to provide drop in child care with 5 sites between agencies including CUPS & Calgary Family Service.
- ADAC – partnering to address alcohol as an exacerbating factor to violence.

If you are interested in helping the Sheriff King Home or the YWCA, volunteering opportunities are available through these programs: English as a Second Language (ESL), Sheriff King Site, downtown housing site, safe visitation program, sorting donations, making cookies, reading books to kids, etc. The volunteer coordinator for the Sheriff King Home can be reached at (403) 266-4111. To donate - call (403) 294-7363. Dollars are always welcome, as the funds can be directed where they need them, and in kind donations of diapers are always needed.

Other Stats.....

- Lack of affordable housing can dramatically reduce options for women fleeing domestic violence, trapping them in a cycle of abuse or forcing them to become homeless if they leave.
- 1 in 5 Canadian women LIVE IN POVERTY.
- 50% of single, divorced or widowed women over 65 years of age are considered low-income.
- The 2006 homeless snapshot of the City of Calgary revealed in a one-day count - 766 homeless women, 125 homeless preschoolers, 78 homeless school-aged children and 101 homeless youth. These numbers are EXTREMELY UNDERESTIMATED.
- In 2001, 60% of single mothers relied on welfare at some point; all welfare rates are below the poverty line.
- 89% of abused women do not report the violence or enter a shelter.
- Half (50%) of Canadian women have survived at least one incidence of sexual or physical violence.

For more information on Carolyn Goard, search the World Wide Web, or pick up a copy of her book: Reclaiming Self: Issues and Resources for Women Abused by Intimate Partners - edited by Leslie M. Tutty and Carolyn Goard.



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