



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Out of the Rain youth shelter celebrates 100 Women Who Care donation

VICTORIA, BC – A group of local women who work to positively affect their community today gave a big boost to the Out of the Rain shelter for homeless youth. The 100 Women Who Care group presented \$28,000 to Beacon Community Services, the local charity that leads and coordinates the shelter's services.

The money came from \$100 donations made by each of the group's members; members meet four times a year to select a not-for-profit recipient of their gift. At its last meeting, members chose the Out of the Rain shelter, which rotates among host sites each night from October- April. The shelter hosts as many as 30 young people a night.

Shelter services are provided by a coalition of community agencies, faith-based organizations, businesses, and individual volunteers. Two trained youth workers staff the shelter; volunteers serve as helpers or drop off a hot meal for the youth. Meals are typically donated by volunteer groups which commit to provide one meal per month.

"Over the years, hundreds of youth have relied on this program for a safe, dry, warm place to sleep during the cold, rainy season," said Beacon CEO Bob Boulter, accepting a giant cheque from 100 Women Who Care representatives. "A group of partners and dedicated volunteers make the program possible -- and we're all extremely grateful for the community's generous support."

"These contributions will help us to improve life for some of our community's most vulnerable kids," he added, noting that Out of the Rain is also assisted with funding from the United Way and BC Housing.

Out of the Rain opened in the winter of 1998; it's been run by a coalition of community and faith groups every winter since, with Beacon becoming the Coalition lead and coordinator seven years ago. Last year, the shelter served about 250 youth.

Established on the Saanich Peninsula in 1974, Beacon Community Services has evolved to become one of BC's largest non-profit social services organizations. It serves more than 6,000 clients across the CRD, including through programs and services in: Child, Youth and Family Services; Counselling and Mental Health Services; Employment and Training Programs; Housing, Assisted Living and Licenced Dementia Housing; Adult/Senior's Recreation Services; Volunteer Services; and Home Support Care. Many community programs – including Out of the Rain -- are supported by funds from Beacon's seven thrift store operations.

For more information about Beacon Community Services, please see www.beaconcs.ca. For more information about Out of the Rain, see www.outoftherainvictoria.ca/. Information about 100 Women Who Care is at www.100womenvictoria.com/

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