

2010

# NORTH SHORE HOMELESSNESS ACTION WEEK REPORT

HOME  
LESS  
NESS  
ACTION  
WEEK  
2010  
Oct 10-16

The fifth annual Homelessness Action Week took place across Metro Vancouver, BC and the Yukon from October 10-16th. 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 including the City and District of North Vancouver. 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. The province-wide awareness campaign was coordinated by the Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness, and included posters, radio ads, news media, and a direct flyer campaign. On the North Shore, community organizations, government offices and churches distributed Homelessness Action Week material, as well as a flyer campaign at Lonsdale Quay SeaBus Terminal. Our educational campaign included presentations at public and secondary schools throughout the North Shore. Many community organizations and churches cooperated to host a variety of events during homelessness Action Week including community meals, educational and awareness building events. 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 Youth Open House and the 2010 North Shore Street Soccer Tournament.

This report presents the highlights and outcomes of Homelessness Action Week 2010 on the North Shore.



North Shore  
Homelessness  
Task Force

[homelesstaskforce@telus.net](mailto:homelesstaskforce@telus.net)



# EVENTS

## Monday, October 4

### Proclamation of Homelessness Action Week and Presentation to District Council

The City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver and District of West Vancouver Municipal Halls proclaimed Homelessness Action Week at their council meetings. Paul Butler of Hollyburn Family Services, on behalf of the NSHTF, spoke to District of North Vancouver councillors about Homeless Action Week and the need for continued funding and outreach programs. The presentation was well received, and resulted in a North Shore Outlook article published on October 06, 2010.

## Sunday, October 10

### Thanksgiving Meal

The Thanksgiving Meal was held at the Lookout Shelter, and was attended by over 100 participants who appreciated the holiday spirit, a tasty turkey dinner and a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

## October 10 & 11

### Community Meals: Fiesta Mexican Night & Italian Night

A Mexican Themed community dinner was served on October 10th at the Lookout Shelter, hosted by the Cove Community Church. On the 11th, the North Shore United Church hosted an Italian night at the shelter. Both nights were attended by around 80 participants, who enjoyed the multicultural themes and interacting with friendly volunteers from the churches.



## Wednesday, October 13

### Youth Open House

The four youth centres combined their efforts to host an open house for past and present homeless youth at the Youth Safe House. Services offered included food, clothes, free haircuts, hygiene kits, health services. The event was well received by the participants and provided a safe space to socialize and get connected to services.

## Saturday, October 16

### Street Soccer Exhibition Game

The North Shore HAW tournament was the first exhibition tournament after the return of team Canada from this year's international Homeless World Cup of Soccer which took place in Brazil in September. 5 Teams from the North Shore & Vancouver played for the North Shore HAW cup, and many community members showed up to cheer on including the Mayor of the City of North Vancouver. Players and spectators enjoyed coffee and timbits courtesy of Tim Hortons, and a delicious post-game BBQ provided by the Ambleside Tiddlycove Lions Club.



Many community organizations hosted special events during Homelessness Action Week. These included an inspirational movie and community meal at Harvest Project as well as a community breakfast; a Homelessness Action Week Film Night co-presented by Cove Church and located at Mt. Seymour United Church, and blanket and clothing drives by community organizations, churches and the Realtor's organization. Every bit counts, and this year the community was engaged more than ever in getting actively involved to address an issue that touches everyone in some way.

# FOCUS: NORTH SHORE CONNECT

Thursday, October 14

The NSHTF task force hosted a North Shore Connect event which took place from 9am-3pm at the John Braithwaite Community Centre. Member agencies of the NSHTF joined forces with over 30 volunteers and businesses in the community to provide direct services and outreach to help some of our more vulnerable individuals in our community. This event provided services and supplies for over 100 homeless and at-risk individuals and families who live on the North Shore. Services provided included medical treatment, foot care, haircuts, housing outreach, mental health services, employment programs, income assistance advocacy, leisure access, family developer, seniors and women's outreach, pet care and drug & alcohol programs. The most popular services of the day were haircuts, eye care and eye-glasses, and foot care and a shoe fitting by an occupational therapist.

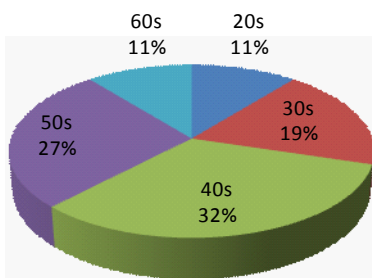


Community and organizations came together to provide clothing, shoes, socks, blankets, hygiene kits, coffee and healthy snacks. The Rotary clubs of the North Shore generously donated and served a lasagne and salad lunch for this event. In the afternoon, participants, volunteers and community members gathered into one large drum circle and celebrated our community spirit. Participants also enjoyed sports activities and joining in with a music jamming group. The event was attended by around 100 men, women and children of all ages. Many individuals made connections with services they were previously unaware of. In addition, some individuals with significant health issues received medical attention and referrals. Every effort was made to make the event safe and comfortable for all participants, and feedback indicated that participants enjoyed the event and found it helpful.

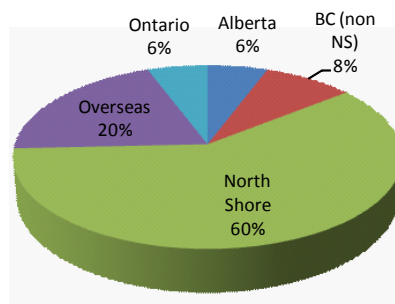
## Event Statistics

We were able to collect demographic information from 40 of the individuals that participated in the connect event. The average age was 45. 80% of the participants were male, and 18% were female. Over 95% of participants currently live in North Vancouver, and as shown in the *Home Town* graph, 60% grew up on the North Shore. The *Housing Status* graph indicates that over 60% of participants are homeless, with about half staying in shelters, and the other half sleeping outdoors or couchsurfing. About one in four participants owned a pet.

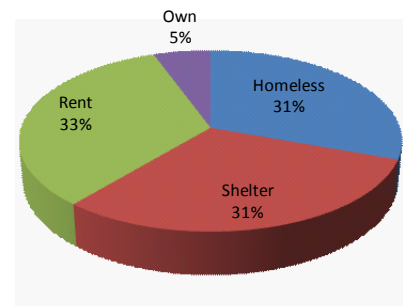
**Age Group**



**Home Town**



**Housing Status**



# EVENT CONTRIBUTORS

## Community Partners

John Braithwaite Community Centre  
Vancouver Coastal Health  
Lookout Emergency Aid Society  
Rotary Clubs of the North Shore  
Tidily 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 United Church  
Mt. Seymour United Church

## Sponsors

Thank you for your generous support and community spirit!



## Community Feedback

"I appreciated the hair cut and new clothing – I felt comfortable there and knew now where to get help to find affordable housing."

"The foot care and new shoes were great, as well as access to dental information and skin care. Lunch was great, and the drums were fun."

"The haircuts, eye exams and foot care clinic had booming business. There were a few people with very compromised health that received attention too. The Rotary did an amazing job feeding everyone and the drumming was such fun even for those of us with no rhythm."

"I would definitely do this event again, it's lovely having the opportunity to touch people's lives."

"I liked the energy of a community engagement event such as the drumming circle."

The venue for the connect event was "a nice large open room. The event was well organized and had lots of volunteers."

"It was an excellent opportunity to help the poor and to make them aware of the help available."