

For Immediate Release



United Way
Central and Northern
Vancouver Island

United Way Funding Helps People Exiting Homelessness

Nanaimo, BC – December 4, 2015 – Thanks to the generosity of donors, United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island (UWCNVI) has provided a grant of \$6,000 to the Nanaimo Women’s Resources Society’s (NWRS) Homes to Homes Program in Nanaimo.

Homes to Homes is a new program that NWRS launched in August to help people exiting homelessness transition into supportive housing. The program provides household items, furniture (with the exception of couches or mattresses) and starter kits that include dish soap, towels, plates, glassware and other items. Clients of community non-profits that assist individuals and families with housing can request a starter kit or specific furniture items.

“The funding is determined through United Way’s Impact Council, a team of local professionals from non-funded agencies who are experts in homelessness, mental health and other social issues,” said Signy Madden, Executive Director of UWCNVI. “The Homes to Homes program fills a critical gap for people exiting homelessness that don’t own any household items.”

“Homes to Homes is working with 15 community organizations who are assisting vulnerable people exiting homelessness. We have helped nine families to date and have given out 22 starter kits,” says Vanessa Marquez, Homes to Homes Program Coordinator.

When new furniture items are donated, NWRS posts photos and descriptions of the items on a private Facebook group that care workers have access to. They can find household items that their clients need in order to help establish a comfortable home. Each client can request 3-4 larger items and a starter kit.

If you would like to donate items, please visit www.nanaimowomen.com for more information. Items needed are kitchenware, dish soap, toiletries and furniture. For more information on this program, please contact Keely Stott at coordinator@nanaimowomen.com or visit www.nanaimowomen.com.

United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island (UWCNVI) has been at work for more than 57 years in our community. With a mission to improve lives and to build community by engaging individuals and mobilizing collective action, UWCNVI invests in strengthening people and communities including Campbell River, Courtenay-Comox, Port Alberni, Parksville, Qualicum Beach, Nanaimo, Gabriola Island and Ladysmith. Funds donated annually by local businesses and individuals for United Way’s Community Fund provide an essential network of social services in your community.

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