

**DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE**  
**44 East Cordova Street, Vancouver**  
**DECEMBER 1996**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
1 2:00 Video	2 2:00 AIDS Vancouver 2:00 Card Making and Writing 3:00 Grief Group 5:00 Learning Group - Radio Training	3 2:00 Skating and Hot Chocolate 5:00 BWSS	4 11:00 Banner Project 1:00 Kathy the Nurse 1:30 Law Student 1:30 Beading 5:00 Alcohol and Drug Support Group	5 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Ornament Making Workshop 5:00 Women Surviving Together	6 Dec. 6 Massacre Memorial 2:30 Video 5:00 VIGIL	7
8 Clothing room Closed until December 24th 2:00 Video	9 11:00 Social Action Group 2:00 AIDS Vancouver 2:00 Ceramics Painting 3:00 Grief Group 5:00 Learning Group - Radio Training	10 11:30 - 4:00 Collection day for Native Sisterhood 3:00 Christmas Lights at VanDusen Park 5:00 BWSS	11 11:00 Banner Project 1:00 Kathy the Nurse 1:30 Law Student 1:30 Beading 5:00 Alcohol and Drug Support Group	12 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Dreamcatcher Workshop 5:00 Women Surviving Together	13 11:00 Dealing with Christmas Blues 2:30 Video 5:00 Volunteer Christmas Dinner	14 10:00 Centre Clean
15 2:00 Video	16 2:00 AIDS Vancouver 2:00 Wooden Ornament Workshop 3:00 Grief Group 5:00 Learning Group - Radio Training	17 2:00 TREE TRIMMING 6:30 Theater Outing to ALICE	18 CHEQUE DAY 5:00 Alcohol and Drug Support Group	19 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Ornament Making Workshop 5:00 Women Surviving Together	20 11:00 Dealing with Christmas Blues 2:30 Video 5:00 Vol. Nite	21
22 CENTRE CLOSED ELVES AT WORK	23 CHRISTMAS DINNER 12 - 4	24 2:00 Horse Carriage Ride 2:00 Alcohol and Drug Group	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS OPEN 12 - 4:30 Caroling all day Present exchange 12:30 Pancake Breakfast	26 10:30 Clothing room open 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Dreamcatchers Workshop 2:00 Women Surviving Together	27 2:30 Video 5:00 Vol. Nite	28
29 2:00 Video	30 2:00 AIDS Vancouver 2:00 Ceramics Painting 3:00 Grief Group 5:00 Learning Group	31 1:00 Tobogganing and Hot Chocolate 2:00 Alcohol and Drug Group	JANUARY 1 1997 NEW YEAR DAY CENTRE OPEN 12:00 - 4:30 12:30 Pancake Breakfast 1:00 KARAOKE Sing Along	Monday 10:30-5 Tues. 11:30-5 Weds. 10:30-5 Thurs. 10:30-5 Fri. 10:30-5 Sun. 12:00-5	LUNCH SERVED DAILY AT 12:30	

note\*\*\* - sometimes things get canceled or set up on another day make sure to check "Update sheet" on the front chalk board and Activities Board\*\*\*

## ***CHRISTMAS IS HERE***

Join in all the festivities we will be having seasonal workshops, outings and other entertainment. Get into the spirit by making Christmas ornaments and decorating the tree. The Centre will be open on Christmas Day and New Year Day, there will be no services on those days just wholesome, family fun and a pancake breakfast.

**Monday, Dec. 23 12:00 - 3:00** - Annual Centre Christmas Dinner. All women and children welcome, boys under 16 too. Everyone will get a present and a food basket.

### **REGULAR PROGRAMMING**

**AIDS** - Margareth from AIDS Vancouver will be here every Mon. At 2:00. To answer your questions or for support.

**Grief Group** - on Mon. 3:00 - 5:00, dealing with issues facing women living in the Downtown Eastside.

Share experiences and find creative ways to solve problems. Different topics each week. See Kathleen.

**Learning Group** - On Monday from 5:00 - 8:00 meal is served, to help with the different issues associated with learning. The focus this month is on learning about producing a radio show and Women's History.

**Kathy the Nurse** - is in every Wednesday from 1:00 - 2:00.

**Law Student** - Check the schedule. They are here to help with all your legal needs if they can't help you they will know who can. This includes help with Welfare, MSS, Handicapped etc.

**Alcohol and Drug Support Group** - On Wednesday from 5:00 - 8:00, do you have or had a drug and/or alcohol problem? Are you trying to clean up? This may be the place to get some support, no preaching on guilt trips just sharing.

**Women's Voice** - Thurs. 1:30. Let us know what you think about the Centre. Your opinions and ideas are needed to make the Centre better.

**Women Surviving Together** - Thurs. 5:00 - 8:00 Healing Circle and support group for women.

**Raffles** - NO RAFFLES IN DECEMBER SO THAT WE HAVE SPACE FOR CHRISTMAS STUFF.

**Volunteer Nights** - Every Friday from 5:00 - 9:00 just for volunteers to hang out and do activities.

**CRAFTY WORKSHOPS** - At least twice a week including Beading every Wed. At 1:30. Materials provided.

**CARD MAKING AND LETTER WRITING** - Monday, Dec. 2 at 2:00. Make your own card and send it to your loved one. There will be ready made cards available as well. The Centre will provide postage.

**JULIE'S CRAFT CORNER** - Every other Thursdays. December 5 and 19. We will be making ornaments for you to take home for your friends and family and for use on the Centre tree.

**DREAMCATCHERS** - Thurs. December 12 and 26 at 2:00. Make a dreamcatcher to trap those bad dreams. Learn different styles.

**MONDAY CRAFT DAY** - Mondays at 2:00. Dec. 9 is Ceramic Painting. Make a lovely gift that will last forever. Dec. 16 make and paint wooden ornaments for Christmas Decorations. Dec. 30, Tile Painting

**OUTINGS** - Usually on Tuesdays. Also stay tuned to the Activities Board for RUSH tickets to events.

**Dec. 3 at 2:00** - We're going skating at Britannia Community Centre. Even if you are not interested you are welcome to join the group. There'll be Hot Chocolate to keep you warm.

**Dec. 10 at 3:00** - A magical trip to VanDusen Gardens to see the annual Christmas Light Show.

**Dec. 17 at 6:30** - Theater outing to the Arts Club on Granville Island for the Musical, Fantasy, production of Alice in Wonderland.

**Dec. 24 from 2:00 - 4:00** - There will be horse carriage rides, 6 women at a time, from the Centre around town to see the Christmas lights. Dress warmly and prepare for wet weather.

**Dec. 31 at 1:00** - We're headed up Mt. Seymour to go tobogganing!! Dress very warmly and be prepared for FUN. Transportation, sleds and garbage bags will be supplied. There will be refreshments.

# **VOLUNTEER NEWS**

**DECEMBER 1996**

**vol. 2 no. 9**

## **VOLUNTEER CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE PACIFIC ROYAL BUFFET FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13**

**195 WEST BROADWAY**

**MEET AT THE CENTRE AT 5:00**

**OR GO DIRECTLY TO THE RESTAURANT**

**PLEASE INFORM CYNTHIA IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND.**

**THERE WILL BE GAMES AND GIFTS!!**

Are you ready for the busiest month of the year? I'm NOT! I am very excited about Christmas. There are lots of activities schedule and everyone should make an effort to get in the Spirit. At least attend the Volunteer Christmas Dinner, it will be a blast. We will be going to the Pacific Royal Buffet that offers a huge selection of Chinese and Western Food, lots of seafood. The quality is excellent. We will have our own party room where we will be playing games. I promise no speeches!! Please let me know if you are planning to attend so that there's an idea of how many people will be present.

*IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT THAT ALL VOLUNTEERS UNDERSTAND THAT THE CENTRE IS OPEN TO ALL WOMEN AND THAT WE SHOULD RESPECT ALL WOMEN WHO COME TO THE CENTRE. THERE ARE WOMEN THAT ONLY COME TO THE CENTRE FOR CHRISTMAS, THEY SHOULD BE WELCOMED AS WELL. IT IS CHRISTMAS! BE GENEROUS AND WELCOMING.*

There are going to be lots of activities at the Centre this month, that translates to lots of need for volunteers these are the jobs;

**SATURDAY DEC. 14 - CLEAN UP 10:00 - 2:00**

**WE WILL NEED AT LEAST 10 PEOPLE TO HELP WITH THE CLEAN UP. MOVE ALL THE FURNITURE CLEAN AND DUST. WASH THE WALLS, DO MINOR REPAIRS, CLEAN THE VENTS AND LIGHTING FIXTURES. THERE WILL BE FOOD AND SOME ENTERTAINMENT.**

**CHRISTMAS PREP - WRAPPING AND SETUP**

**SUNDAY DEC. 22 12:00 - 4:00**

PROBABLY THE BUSIEST DAY FOR VOLUNTEERS. WE WILL BE WRAPPING OVER 300 GIFTS, ALL IRREGULAR SHAPES! PREPARING OVER 150 FOOD HAMPERS. SETTING UP THE CENTRE FOR THE CHRISTMAS MEAL AND OTHER STUFF, LOTS OF OTHER STUFF!

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 22 XMAS DINNER 11AM - 5PM**

THE BEST DAY OF THE YEAR!! WE WILL NEED HELP ALL DAY TO SERVE MEALS, DO THE DOOR, GIVE OUT PRESENTS, CLEAN UP, HELPING WOMEN ETC. ETC.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS 11AM - 2PM**

TODAY WILL BE A RELAXING DAY, THERE WILL BE SOME ENTERTAINMENT AND GOODIES. WOMEN WILL BE TRADING THE PRESENTS THEY GOT FOR SOMETHING 'BETTER'. THERE WILL BE 2 STAFF SO WE'LL NEED WOMEN TO HELP US OUT WITH THE PANCAKE BREAKY.

If you are interested in Volunteering please speak to Cynthia ASAP.

I WILL BE UPDATING THE VOLUNTEER LIST IF YOUR NAME DOES NOT APPEAR BELOW AND YOU ARE A VOLUNTEER - **SORRY** - SPEAK TO ME AND **GET ON THE LIST - THE A LIST** OR YOU WILL NOT GET RECOGNITION FOR THE EXCELLENT WORK THAT YOU DO.

Anne Bisson - Anne Marie Clarke - Arlena Jones - Barb Grey - Barb McMullen - Bev Nelson - Carol Burton - Charlotte Prince - Debbie Pigeau - Gail C. - Gail Wilson - Gloria N. - Helen Gordon - Ilona Ferenczi - Judy Wilson - Julie Cyr - Julie George - Karen Addison - Lorenda Moses - Laurie Peltier - Louise Lagimodere - Mable Crnec - Margaret Shea - Mary P. - Mary-Anne Bergen - Nancy McDonald - Pat Biddau - Peggy Jandrew - Rosa Maltipi - Rose - Sandra Kerr - Sheila Bell - Sheila Thomas - Tanis Castillo - Terri Firstcharger - Wendy Chu - Yin Hou

Other volunteer news, volunteers who are waiting to go on the Incentive Programs to come in and speak to me so that I can call your worker to check on the status of your application. There have been some confusion about the Incentive Programs being transferred to the Ministry of Education, Skills and Training. Fact is the transfer isn't happening and the workers who try to tell you that the system has changed need to be reeducated. If you are having problems with your worker around applying for CVP or any other incentives please speak to Cynthia about it. Thanks.

There was a drum making workshop at the Centre last month. It was a great success. Volunteers asked if it would be possible to have a drum making workshop just for volunteers. Well, there are funds set aside for educational workshops and for volunteers to take courses. There have been attempts to organize courses unfortunate there are hardly any facilitators available on Friday nights. the suggestion is to have Saturday workshops which means that there will be no Friday night Volunteer night. Instead there will be an all day Saturday Workshop.

**VOLUNTEER NIGHT FRIDAY DEC. 6 CANCELED!!  
MONTREAL MASSACRE VIGIL AT THE ART GALLERY INSTEAD  
WOMEN WILL BE MEETING HERE AT THE CENTRE  
FOR A HOT-DOG FEAST THEN ONTO THE VIGIL  
SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE**

# Dec. 6th 1996

## MEMORIAL FOR WOMEN

### Gathering Place 4-6pm.

The Gathering is having a memorial for all women who have died in the Granville south area as well as all women who have died in the Downtown Eastside. The Gathering Place is at 609 Helmcken St. Marion Dubick will be one of the speakers at this function.

PLEASE SEE MARION IF YOU ARE INTERESTED

### Candle light vigil:

This is a vigil for the 14 women who were massacred in Montreal. This is for violence against all women. Come with us and hear speakers and be part of a protest against violence.

WE WILL BE MEETING AT THE  
WOMEN'S CENTRE TO HAVE A MEAL  
BEFORE THE VIGIL

# ARE ANY WOMEN INTERESTED IN STARTING SOCIAL ACTION GROUP AT THE CENTRE?

*In this Right Wing climate it is more important than ever for women to speak out on the injustices that are being institutionalized in our society. Women are strong, powerful and amazing. We can accomplish great things as individuals and even more as a group. There are many organizations fighting against the oppression of the poor people everywhere. In the past few months there have been Rallies, Meetings and Marches to show our strength. The Women's Centre has tried to facilitate women's attendance in these events. Most of the events happen during busy Centre hours it has been difficult choice. If a staff member leaves the Centre to go to a Rally it means that she is not available at the Centre to help women in Crisis situations. There haven't always been staff available to attend the events.*

*A Social Action Group at the Centre means that we can work together to make our voices heard strong and loud. We will provide leadership and encouragement to all women to speak up and fight back. This means meeting regularly to share information about the different issues and events active in our communities. Getting together to organize a Women's Centre PRESENCE at these events. Making signs, coordinating transportation, accompanying women etc. This will be done with the support of staff and the Women's Centre Steering Committee. If you concerned that those with power and money are controlling our lives, tired of the excuses,*

IT'S TIME TO DO  
SOMETHING ABOUT IT

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
MONDAY, DEC. 9TH AT 11:00

**ITS A MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS.**

**THE WOMENS CENTRE CHRISTMAS DINNER IS ON  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 23  
STARTING AT NOON.**

**WE WILL BE GIVING OUT TICKETS, STARTING  
MONDAY, DEC. 9, FOR RESERVED SEATING.**

**THERE WILL BE 4 SEATINGS, NOON, 1PM, 2PM AND 3PM.  
THOSE WITHOUT TICKETS WILL SERVED BUT THEY WILL  
HAVE TO WAIT FOR AVAILABLE SEATING.**

**ALL WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN ( BOYS UNDER 16 ) ARE WELCOME.**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME REGARDLESS  
OF THEIR AGE, RACE, RELIGION,  
SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND ABILITIES.  
THIS IS WHAT CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT.**

# in centre christmas activities:

<b>tree trimming</b> Tues. Dec. 17 at 2:00	we will be raising the tree and decorating it with our hand made ornaments. Toast with hot apple cider.
<b>pancake breakfast and present exchange</b> Christmas Day, Wed. Dec. 25	all day, festivities, including caroling. If you got a gift that is not 'suitable' exchange them with other women.

## CRAFTS

<b>card making and writing</b> Mon. Dec. 2 at 2:00	we have tons of supplies available for you to make cards to send to your friends and family. If you are not into making them there will be ready made cards available. The Centre will pay for all postage.
<b>ornament making</b> Thurs. Dec. 12, Mon. Dec. 16 and Thurs. Dec. 19 at 2:00.	Make ornaments for yourself or for the Centre.
<b>presents a variety of workshops</b>	All kinds of workshops to make presents for your friends and family. Beading on Wednesdays. Dreamcatchers on Thurs. Dec. 12 and 26. Ceramics on Mon. Dec. 9.

## OUTINGS

<b>skating and hot chocolate</b> Tues. Dec. 3 at 2:00	We're going to Britannia Ice Rink for some spins around. You do not have to skate you can go and enjoy the company. There will be hot chocolate too!
<b>christmas lights</b> Tues. Dec. 10 at 3:00	We're going to Van Dusen Park to view the annual Light Show that they have. It is a magical sight.
<b>theater</b> Tues. Dec. 17 at 6:30	Alice at the Arts Club. Join in a magical journey to Wonderland. A festive, fantasy presentation sure to enchant all.
<b>carriage ride</b> Tues. Dec. 24 at 2:00	Fancy being driven around the city to see the sights in a horse carriage. Feel like a Queen. There will be a hot beverage available to keep you warm and toasty.
<b>tobogganing</b> Tues. Dec. 31 at 1:00	We're going up to Mt. Seymour for an expedition. They have a toboggan run there which is a blast. Join the gang even just to watch.



## NEWS FROM KATHLEEN

Happy Ho Ho everybody, here's a bit of **info on Alcohol & Drug support** that is available **through the festive season.**

The plan for the weekly **ALCOHOL & DRUG SUPPORT GROUP** held at the centre will be as follows for the month of December:

**December 4th, 11th, & 18th will be held as usual - Wednesday evenings at 5pm here at the centre.**

**December 25th/Christmas Day & January 1st/New Years Day - the meetings will not be held. INSTEAD they will be on Christmas Eve, Tuesday December 24th and New Year's Eve, Tuesday December 31st. Both days the group will meet at 2pm at the centre & go next door to Central Residence where the meetings will take place.**

There will be many A.A & N.A meetings held all through the holiday season - some places will be having meetings running all through the night; for more information call:

Alcoholics Anonymous	434-3933
Narcotics Anonymous	873-1018
Marijuana Anonymous	526-9011
Avalon Women's Centre	263-7177
Alano Club of Vancouver	736-5110
Vancouver Recovery Club	708-9955

There will also be some "CLEAN & SOBER" places to go for support, dancing, fun &/or food during the month of December and through to New Years. For more info on this phone the above numbers or check the new clipboard that's been put up near the front desk.

**On Monday December 23rd there won't be a GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP, because this is the day of our big Christmas Dinner. However, I will be facilitating "Dealing With Christmas Blues" Meetings at the centre on the mornings of Friday December 13th and 20th at 11am.**

# CHRISTMAS DINNERS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 876-3601

<b>DECEMBER 8</b> Starting at 1:00	<b>Burnaby Gospel Mission</b>	<b>140 Esmond</b>
<b>DECEMBER 14</b> 11:00 am - 6:00 pm	<b>Union Gospel Mission</b>	<b>616 East Cordova St.</b>
<b>DECEMBER 15</b> Starting at noon	<b>Franciscan Sisters</b>	<b>385 East Cordova</b>
<b>DECEMBER 16</b> 3:00	<b>St. Andrew's Westly Church - Quest</b>	<b>Burrard and Nelson</b>
<b>DECEMBER 17</b> 3:00	<b>St. James Church - Quest</b>	<b>303 East Cordova</b>
<b>DECEMBER 22</b> Starting at 1:00	<b>Reel Appetites - Oppenheimer Park</b>	<b>Cordova and Dunlevy</b>
<b>DECEMBER 23</b> 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm	<b>Downtown Eastside Women's Centre Women and children</b>	<b>44 E. Cordova</b>
<b>8:30 pm - 9:00 pm</b>	<b>Lifeline Bus</b>	<b>between the Vogue and Regal Theater</b>
<b>DECEMBER 24</b> 9:00 pm	<b>Dusk to Dawn Youth Resources Youth under 25</b>	<b>1056 Comox St.</b>
<b>DECEMBER 24 - 27</b> Dec. 24 - 8:30 am to Dec. 25 4:00 am	<b>The Dugout</b>	<b>59 Powell St.</b>
<b>DECEMBER 25</b> 11:00 am - 3:00 pm	<b>Salvation Army Harbour Light</b>	<b>119 East Cordova</b>
<b>4:00 pm - 6:00pm</b>	<b>Woodlands Natural Foods (Vegetarian Meal)</b>	<b>2582 Broadway</b>

## NEWS FROM THE LEGAL ADVOCATE

Bill 15 - 1996, Disability Benefits Program Act was certified correct as passed Third Reading on the 29th of July, 1996 describes in its definition that a "person with disabilities" means a person who at the time this section comes into force was a handicapped person under the GUARANTEED AVAILABLE INCOME FOR NEED ACT or a person

(a) who is 18 years or age or older,

(b) who, as a direct result of a severe mental or physical impairment,

(I) requires EXTENSIVE ASSISTANCE OR SUPERVISION in order to perform daily living tasks within a reasonable time, or

(ii) requires UNUSUAL AND CONTINUOUS monthly expenditures for transportation or for special diets or for other UNUSUAL but essential and continuous needs, and

(c) who has confirmation from a medical practitioner that the impairment referred to in paragraph (b) exists and

(I) is likely to continue for at least 2 years, or

(ii) is likely to continue for at least one year and is likely to recur.

Persons with disabilities will face restrictions in the following areas:

## HEALTH BENEFITS

The regulations that govern what the Ministry of Human Resources will pay for in regard to health benefits has been restricted. Welfare will only pay for things they consider "essential to the sustenance of life for which no alternative sources of funding are available". This means that it will now be almost impossible to obtain funding for counselling services, and many medical supplies and assistance devices will be denied because they are not deemed to be "essential".

There is a little good news. In the new year, the eligibility for Handicapped Benefits will be broadened and a new application process will be in place. Some people with "handicapped" status can now qualify for a diet allowance of between \$10 and \$50.

CLOTHING ROOM CLOSED FROM  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6TH UNTIL  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

THERE WILL BE NO RAFFLES IN  
THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

*WHY WHY WHY*

WE ARE ONLY ACCEPTING NEW  
DONATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS  
IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER  
*NO USED DONATIONS IN DECEMBER.*

WE WILL NEED ALL THE SPACE  
FOR NEW DONATIONS COMING  
IN FOR THE CHRISTMAS DINNER -  
PRESENTS AND FOOD HAMPERS

# WOMEN SURVIVING TOGETHER

## **STARTING IN JAN. THERE WILL BE TWO SEPARATE GROUPS**

THERE WILL BE THE REGULAR OPEN GROUP IN ADDITION  
THERE WILL BE A SMALLER CLOSED GROUP THAT WILL  
RUN IN JAN. AND FEB. EVERYONE WILL HAVE MEALS  
TOGETHER, THE CLOSED GROUP WILL MEET DOWNSTAIRS

THE GROUP HAS GROWN TOO BIG. THE SMALLER GROUP  
IS FOR WOMEN WHO HAVE ATTENDED THE GROUP FOR  
THE PAST FEW YEARS. THEY CAN BEGIN TO WORK ON  
OTHER ISSUES IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS  
PLEASE SPEAK TO RETA