

D.E.W. DROP IN

The Newsletter for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

Downtown Eastside Women Do Drop In
January 2007 **Free**



Centre Volunteers on Christmas Day!

INSIDE:

- Calendar of events/ workshops and outings
- Centre Contest!
- Photoalbum
- News from the Night Shift

Sunday, January 7, 14, 21 & 28, 5:00

**BIG Art workshops with various facilitators.
Create collaborative art for exhibition!**

Thursday January 11, 10:00 - 2:00

**Welfare applications
Facilitated by the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance**

Saturday January 13, 5:00

**Young Women and Girls Night Out
An evening just for women and girls under 20**

**Saturday & Sunday, January 20 & 21
12 - 5**



SHOPPING EVENT AT THE CENTRE

**Get a pair of new shoes and new clothing items.
Sign up for a designated shopping time on the day of the event.**

News from the Management Team

Everyday women are faced with so many situations that wear them down. Walking down the street women are harassed and intimidated with every step. Everywhere women go they have to line up, wait and justify their existence to social workers and other sorts of people. Women who are trying to make changes in their lives, kicking bad habits, getting education or building new friendships are faced with many who are waiting for them to fail. The stress is non stop, every second, every minute, every hour, every day. This includes living with pain because of poor physical health or physical disabilities. The persistent companion of self doubt and insecurities from a history of abuse and neglect. Hunger for food and nurturing of the body and spirit bears upon every women of the Centre.

It is no wonder that there is such frustration and anger among the women in the Centre. This is probably the only space where women can let down her guard and allow her fury out. When a woman gets angry because she cannot take a shower here, she may be angry for many reasons including the fact that she will have to go without yet again. She is also angry at all the people who ALWAYS say no to her. All the indecency she has to endure, not having a safe home, the dependence on others, the lack of empathy from those she depends on, the vulnerability to violence, addictions, companionship.

Although there are legitimate reasons for women to be angry and frustrated it is not acceptable to project that anger at other women in the Centre. It may not be easy to name that anger that rages in our bodies, spirits and minds, it may be easier to yell and attack someone who has just said something stupid or ignorant, or did something wrong.

We cannot accept that kind of anger and aggression that goes on in the Centre. We expect that women express their anger but not at each other.

This is a place of refuge for all women. Women-only space is rare and precious. We should treat the centre with respect and dignity. Women should have the space to be frustrated and express their anger however it is not OK to vent that anger and frustration on each other. We can support each other by looking past the initial reaction of anger and listening to each other. Really hearing the pain and misery that women are feeling.

When I am totally stressed out and someone is behaving in a manner that I think is WRONG I get angry at them and may even yell at them. The behaviour of the other person is usually minor and really does not warrant yelling or even a reaction. The fact is that I needed to be angry and I needed to express that anger, unfortunately I expressed that anger in a way that was harmful and hurtful to others. It becomes a chain of hurt that gets passed on and on and on.

The question is are we willing to stop it?

NEWS FROM THE NIGHT SHIFT

It has been quite a month since I started working on the the night shift and I have enjoyed every minute.

It did start pretty rocky with none of us, staff, volunteers and members, really knowing what we were doing. With help from everyone the night shift is now running on a pretty smooth routine.

Night hours are from 11pm to 8am, we lock the doors at 7:45am. There are no services at night just soup and blankets for sleeping. There is a breakfast served at 7:00am.



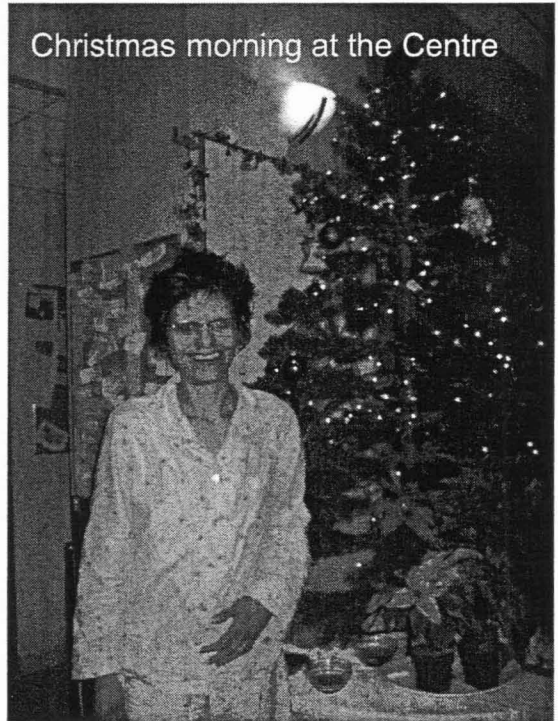
I take my hat off to all of you, you have been an inspiration to me.

With Appreciation,
Caren
PS

I miss everyone from the
daytime!

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Christmas morning at the Centre



would like to give my sincere thanks to all the women who use the Centre at night and help out as well. You are the women who make the shelter happen, this includes serving soup, cleaning bathrooms, picking up dirty dishes, bagging dirty blankets, serving breakfast, sweeping and mopping the floors. One of the women even donated her last \$3.00 to express her gratitude for the night shelter.

GOOD NEWS!

BC Housing has provided one time funding to keep the Centre open as an emergency shelter from January 1, 2007 until March 31, 2007. During this period the Centre will help women find appropriate housing and shelter and focus efforts to work with government to create appropriate housing solutions for women in the Downtown Eastside.

From a night member,

It is really great that the Women's Centre is open at night. It gives women a safe place to go at night time.

It also helps me to stay clean from crack and jib.

I had a place but because of the other tenants I had a really hard time getting away from two very painful drugs. It was always in my face. It is hard to stay clean when people around you are in the hallways and bathrooms doing drugs. So when I found out the Women's Centre was open at night, I left my bug and drug infested hotel and went to the Women's Centre.

Since the 3 weeks the Centre has stayed open I have been clean of drugs because I can come here to get away from dope.

The Women's Centre has helped me stay clean from dope for almost 2 months now. I would hate to see this service shut down. This place is helping so many women who don't have a safe place to sleep.



I want to thank the staff and volunteers for such a great thing they are doing for us women.

Thank you so much for helping me stay clean and healthy.

WELFARE APPLICATIONS

If you are not on welfare, Ministry workers will be at the Centre on Thursday to help fast track your application so that you can receive support for housing as quickly as possible.

Thursday January 11, 2007

What you need to know when you go to Court



This is information for you when you attend court. If you wish to speak to someone about your court date, police report, accompaniment to court, hospital, police station etc..... Please do not hesitate to contact me during the week or leave a message on my machine or in my mail box. I'm here Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. My direct line is 604 681 8480 ext 233. I also provide emotional support.

If you are going to court as a witness, keep these tips in mind.

Witness Tips

Before Court Tips

- Keep all your court documents in a safe place.
- Tell the police officer if you change your address or phone number.
- Talk to Victim/Witness staff to learn about being a witness.
- Tell the police officer, if someone is trying to stop you from testifying by making threats.

Day of Court Tips

- Eat a healthy breakfast
- Pack a snack and any medications you will need during the day.
- Dress comfortably in a neat and tidy manner.
- Bring a book to read or an activity that you can do while you wait.
- Bring your subpoena to court.
- Arrive at least 10 minutes early, or half an hour before.
- Use the washroom before you go into the courtroom.

On the witness stand tips.

- Tell the truth about what you know and remember.
- Speak in a clear, strong voice.
- Be a Polite witness.
- Ask for an explanation if you do not understand any of the questions you are asked.
- Answer only the question that is asked.
- Ask for a drink of water, a tissue or a break if you need one.

After Court tips

- Do something calming and relaxing for yourself.
- Congratulate yourself on a job well done.
- If you are a victim of crime you may want to complete a victim impact statement. Ask the victim/witness staff for help.

Court Words

Accused Person	A person charged with an offence.
Affirmation or Oath	A legally binding promise to tell the truth.
Appeal	A request for a higher court to consider changing a lower court's decision.
Arrest	An action made by a police officer when taking someone into custody to be charged with an offence.
Bail	Permission for an accused person to be released from custody until trial with conditions including a promise to come to court to face the charges at a later date.
Beyond a Reasonable Doubt	The legal level of proof that must be provided by the evidence at a trial for a judge or jury to find an accused person guilty.
Complainant	A person who reports that he or she has been the victim of crime.
Conviction	The official entering on the court's record that a person was found guilty of an offence.
Cross-examination	The turn taken by a crown attorney or a defence attorney to ask a witness questions about evidence that has already been presented to the court and to ask questions about other things.
Guilty Verdict	The finding by a judge or a jury that an accused committed the offence based upon the evidence presented in court. An accused can admit to the offence by pleading guilty.
Innocent Until Proven Guilty	In Canada, an accused person is considered innocent until proven guilty "beyond a reasonable doubt"
Plea	The answer given by an accused, when charged with a criminal offence: "guilty" or "not guilty."
Plea Bargain/Resolution	An agreement between a Crown attorney and the defence attorney about which charges will be part of a plea and a sentence recommendation to the judge.
Preliminary Hearing	A hearing in court to decide if there is enough evidence against an accused to hold a trial.
Sentencing Hearing	A hearing held after the accused is found guilty of an offence, when the judge will declare the punishment such as a fine, probation, or time in jail.
Subpoena	A legal paper sent to any person who is ordered to appear in court to testify as a witness. A subpoena must be obeyed. It is an order of the court.
Trial	A hearing before a judge or a judge and jury where the Crown attorney presents the evidence to the court that an accused person is guilty of an offence, while the defence attorney attempts to refute the evidence and show a reasonable doubt about the guilt of the accused.
Witness	A person who tells the court any information that he or she knows about the offence.

7. **Court interpreter** - The court interpreter will help a witness or an accused to communicate with the court in his or her own language.

8. **Accused** - The accused is the person who has been charged with committing a crime. The accused will be sitting somewhere in the courtroom.

9. **Witness Stand** - All evidence is presented through witnesses called to the stand by the Crown or defence attorney.

10. **Public Benches** - Courtrooms are open to the public.

11. **Prisoner Box** - The accused may sit in the prisoner box if she/he is in jail at the time of the court hearing.

12. **Investigating officer** - The investigating officer is the police officer that investigated the crime and collected the evidence.

13. **Flag** - The flag is an important symbol of the government and shows the importance of the law and courts to our community.

14. **Victim/Witness Assistance** - worker make sure that victims of crime are supported throughout the justice system.

15. **Native Courtworker** - The native court worker helps to make sure that Aboriginal People are treated fairly and in a way that is sensitive to their culture.

16. **People with disabilities** - Witnesses who have a disability or special medical problems should tell the lawyer, or the victim/witness staff before the court date.

17. **Coat of Arms** - The Canadian coat of arms is an important symbol of the role of the law and the courts in our community.

18. **The press** - A news reporter may be in the courtroom. In some cases, information about victims, accused and trial may not be published according to the law or a special ruling by the judge.

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE
302 Columbia Street, Vancouver
604.681.8480 ALL SPECIAL/NEW EVENTS ARE IN BOLD

LUNCH SERVED
DAILY AT 12:30-1:45

REGULAR PROGRAMMING

Chinese Women's Group (CWS) -Open to women whose first language is Chinese with a focus on cultural awareness, advocacy, and social events.

Massage - Every Tuesday from 10 - 12

Street Nurses, Christina or Liz, scheduled to be announced

Sweat Lodge - Every second Wednesday, Elder Reta will take women to the Lodge, meet at the Centre at 11:30.

ARTS & CRAFTS WORKSHOPS

Painting-Join Tara and the WEAVE project for all types of Art- materials supplied- every Thursday - 10:00 am. DEWC will host a Fall Art show of works so contribute your gifts.

Crochet with Anna & Freeda-Every Wednesday, 2:00pm.

Sewing Circle with Freeda- Every Tuesday morning, 10:00am.

Beading with Leona- We're Back! Every Friday at 2:00pm.

Ceramics- Every Monday from 2-4 OR 10-12

Fabric Arts with Diane - every Saturday from 2-4 p.m.

EVENING PROGRAMMING

Mondays - Grief and Loss Group - Support for women going through changes and loss of all kinds, relationships, community, family, children, etc.

Tuesdays - Battered Women Support Services - Support for women experiencing violence.

Wednesdays - Power of women2women - social justice group and other activities from 5-8:00

Thursdays - Healing Circle - except the day after Welfare.

Fridays - Taiko Drumming - For anyone who would like to learn taiko and perform.

Karaoke - Sing a tune from all the ages with Reta and Jem.

Every second Wednesday from 2-4:30

Community Kitchen - Once a month, come out to make a meal together and pack some for home. All ingredients provided

SUNDAY 12:00-5:00*	MONDAY 10:00-5:00*	TUESDAY 10:00-5:00*	WEDNESDAY 11:00-5:00*	THURSDAY 10:00-5:00*	FRIDAY 10:00-5:00*	SATURDAY 12:00-5:00*
	1 NEW YEAR'S BRUNCH Open at 12:00	2 2:00: Bingo	3 2:00 Crochet 2:00 Karaoke 5:00 POW2W	4 5:00 Healing Circle	5 2:00 Beading 5:00 Taiko	6 2:00 Video 2:00 Fabric Arts
7 2:00 Video 5:00 'BIG' Art Workshop	8 10:00 CWG 10:00 Ceramics 5:00 Grief and Loss Group	9 10:00 Sewing 10:00 Massage 12:00 Street Nurse 2:00: Bingo 5:00 BWSS	10 2:00 Crochet 2:00 Karaoke 5:00 POW2W	11 10:00 Welfare Applications 10:00 Painting 5:00 Healing Circle	12 2:00 Beading 5:00 Taiko	13 2:00 Video 2:00 Fabric Arts 5:00 Young Women and Girls Night Out
14 2:00 Video 5:00 'BIG' Art Workshop	15 10:00 CWS 10:00 Ceramics 5:00 Grief and Loss Group	16 10:00 Sewing 10:00 Massage 12:00 Street Nurse 2:00: Bingo 5:00 BWSS	17 2:00 Crochet 2:00 Karaoke 5:00 POW2W	18 10:00 Painting 5:00 Healing Circle	19 2:00 Beading 5:00 Taiko	20 12:00 SHOPPING EVENT 2:00 Video 2:00 Fabric Arts
21 12:00 SHOPPING EVENT 2:00 Video 5:00 'BIG' Art Workshop	22 10:00 CWG 10:00 Ceramic Painting 5:00 Grief and Loss Group	23 10:00 Sewing 10:00 Massage 12:00 Street Nurse 2:00: Bingo 5:00 BWSS	24 2:00 Crochet 2:00 Karaoke	25 CENTRE CLOSED	26 2:00 Beading 5:00 Taiko CLOSED	27 2:00 Video 2:00 Fabric Arts 5:00 POW2W
28 2:00 Video 5:00 'BIG' Art Workshop	29 10:00 CWG 10:00 Ceramic Painting 5:00 Grief and Loss Group	26 10:00 S & M 12:00 street Nurses 2:00 Bingo 5:00 BWSS	31 2:00 Crochet 2:00 Karaoke 5:00 POW2W			

• PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CENTRE IS OPEN UNTIL 5:00 PM BUT DOORS WILL BE LOCKED AT 4:45

My Court Team

Police Officer: _____ Phone: _____

Victim/Witness Assistance: _____ Phone: _____

Crown Attorney: _____ Phone: _____

Support Person: _____ Phone: _____

Important Dates and appointments: _____

When going to court , these are some people you will see in the courtroom.

1. **Crown Attorney** - The crown Attorney works for the government on behalf of the victim. It is the responsibility of the Crown to prove the guilt of the accused beyond a reasonable doubt.

2. **Defense Attorney** - The defence attorney is the lawyer for the person accused of a crime. In court, he/she will make sure that the rights of the accused are protected.

3. **Judge** - The judge is in charge of the courtroom and will decide if the law has been broken when there is no jury. The judge also decides what the sentence will be.

4. **Court Reporter** - The court reporter records everything that is said in the courtroom.

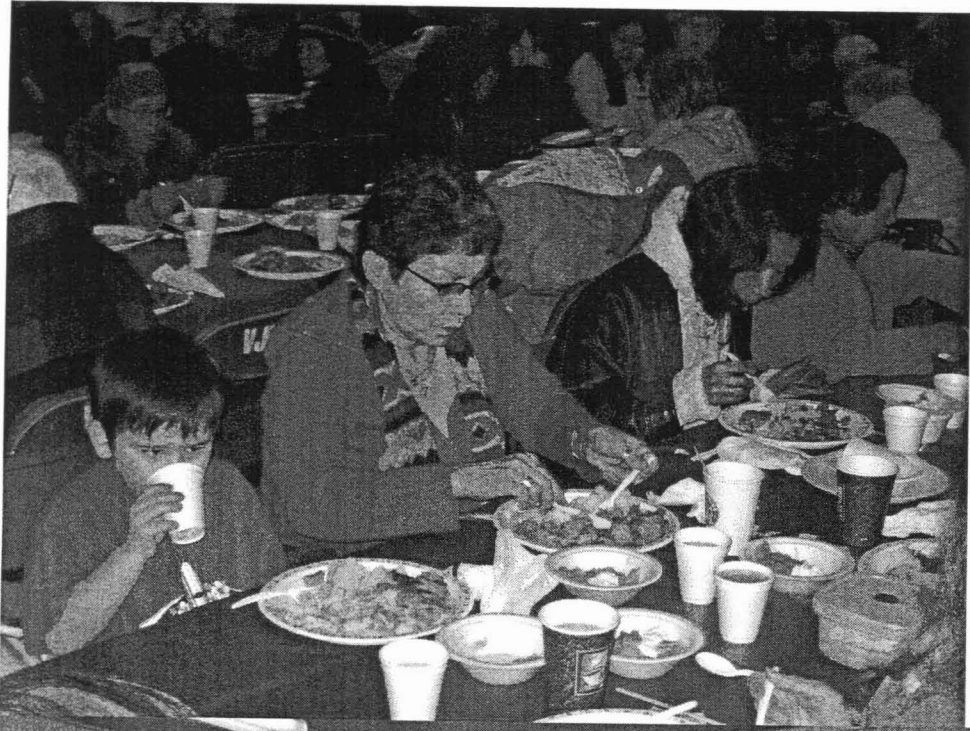
5. **Court Clerk** - The court clerk is the official assistant to the judge in the courtroom. The court clerk calls the court to order, reads the charges against the accused, and asks each witness to take the oath to tell the truth.

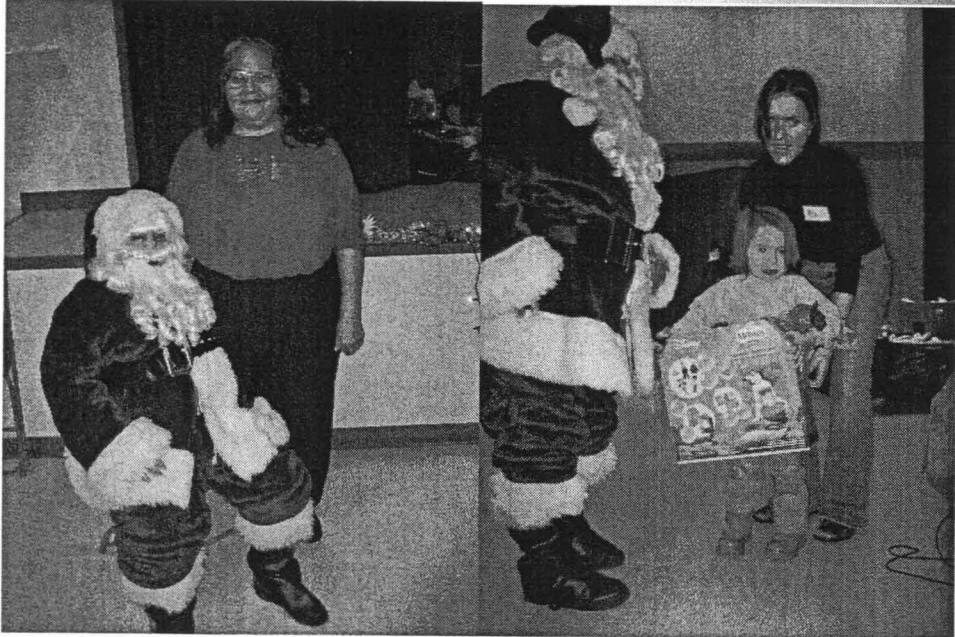
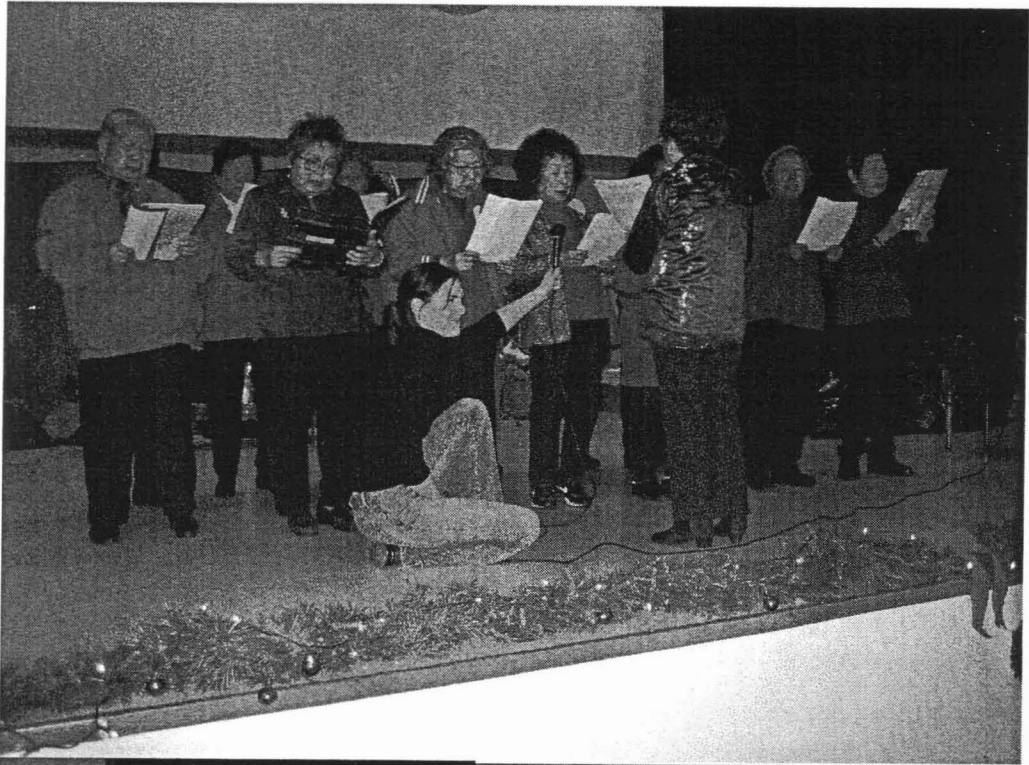
6. **Court Officer** - The court officer is responsible for keeping everyone safe in the courtroom.

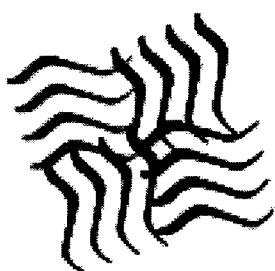












WEAVE

Women Engaged in the Arts
Vision and Empowerment

Opportunities for creative expression.
Opportunities for exhibition of women's work.
Opportunities for making some money.

'BIG' ART WORKSHOPS EVERY SUNDAY Jan. 7, 14, 21 & 28

With
Bernie Williams
Tara Carmichael and Cynthia Low

Get Ready for the Grrreat Street Exhibition in February, Rose Spahan and Tara Carmicheal will be facilitating the installation of collaborative art works by women from the Downtown Eastside that will be displayed in Yaletown. The show is called;

SEE BEYOND!

See beyond the headlines of grief and misery.
See beyond the glitz and glitter of the 2010 Olympics.
See beyond the clothes and the image...

See the beauty and hope of each one of us.
See how media manipulates the public to invent stories
See how women work together to create

YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS NIGHT OUT AT THE DEW

For women and girls under 21

**Make up, hair styling, music, crafts,
clothing and lots of freebies**

**Saturday January 13, 2007
5:00 pm**

Meal Served

In partnership with Justice for Girls

I love the Centre. I have had the most beautiful experiences right here. The women and children who come to the Centre are amazing and special. The staff are out of this world. It may not be the cleanest, best decorated, best smelling or even the friendliest but it is MY Centre and I love the Centre.

I love the Centre because...

- ♥ I have learnt so much here.
- ♥ The beautiful people here help me believe in goodness.
- ♥ Everyone has such a wacky sense of humour.
- ♥ It makes me realize how special each and every one is.

I started volunteering at the Centre 16 years ago. I organized summer BBQs because I love to eat and I love fire. At first I was a little nervous because everyone seemed so different from me. When I got to know people I began to see how much I could learn from everyone here. I feel like women in the Centre have made me into the person I am today – for good or bad!

A Challenge to YOU!

Tell me what you love about the Centre. Write it down with your name and put it in the suggestion box located next to the elevator in the Centre. Each month a winner will be selected from everyone who wrote in. In January you will receive a \$20 gift certificate.

Enter often but enter before January 22, 2007

The name of the winner will be posted on the suggestion box and featured in the newsletter.