

STREET HEALTH RECEIVES PAUL CROUCH AWARD



On August 25th Good Neighbours' Club (GNC) celebrated the first annual Day of the Homeless. It was a prominent event, featuring our local MPP Glenn Murray, as well as local media and educational dignitaries. During this event, Street Health, specifically Laura Cowan, Executive Director, was awarded the Paul Crouch Memorial Award. This award was given to recognize the contribution that Street Health has done to support the health and wellbeing of marginalized older men. Street Health was chosen by the members themselves of the GNC to receive this award.

The award was accepted by Michael Truman (Board Member) and Joyce Rankin (Clinical Manager).

Street Health and GNC have been partners since 2004. Street Health Nursing staff conduct nursing clinics for members each week for two hours per week. Nurses see a variety of concerns, ranging from blood sugar and blood pressure checks, and in turn refer members to more in depth health care. Our community health team also provides an on-site staff member once per week for three hours as part of our outreach in the community. Supportive relationships have developed between staff and GNC clients, and we are excited to be a partner in the expanding services offered at GNC. Laura Cowan, our Executive Director, has shown exemplary leadership and willingness to partner with other agencies to ensure that the needs of marginalized adults are met.

The work that Laura and the team at Street Health do has culminated in this award, and gives a small indication of the commitment at all levels to those who are most vulnerable.

PARTNER FOCUS—TZU CHI FOUNDATION SUPPORTS STREET HEALTH WITH LUNCH PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS

Tzu Chi Foundation was established in 1966 by the Venerable Dharma Master Cheng Yen on the then impoverished east coast of Taiwan. Beginning with 30 housewives who saved two cents from their grocery money each day to help the poor, the foundation has grown to have volunteers in 47 different countries, with 372 offices worldwide.

Tzu Chi's missions focus on giving material aid to the needy and inspiring love and humanity to both givers and receivers. In addition to charity, the foundation dedicates itself in the fields of medicine, education, environmental protection, international relief work and the establishment of a marrow donor registry. Tzu Chi also actively promotes humanistic values and community volunteerism.



TZU CHI FOUNDATION LUNCH FOR THE HOMELESS AT STREET HEALTH July 2011.

- Board of Directors**
- Eleanor Lester
 - Michael Treuman
 - Adam Borovilos
 - Samuel Awe
 - Jill Evans
 - Scott Goodman
 - Tara McCarville
 - Mel Starkman
 - Oriel Varga
 - Diane Walters



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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR—LAURA COWAN GIVING BACK

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Over the course of its 25 year history, Street Health, as a not-for-profit organization, has been the recipient of the financial support of many hundreds of individuals. Donations from these generous group have ranged from \$5 to \$5000 – essentially people giving what they are able. For that we are extremely grateful.

As well as donations from individuals, Street Health has had the good fortune of being the beneficiary of donations

through what is commonly referred to as “corporate giving” – a major feature of broader corporate social responsibility. Companies often describe their philanthropy as a strong desire “to make positive, meaningful differences in the communities where we do business”, or to “share our success with society”. In practice companies may donate cash, as well as the use of their facilities, property, services, or advertising support. They may also set up employee volunteer groups that then donate their time.

Corporate giving directed to Street Health has been steadily building over the last number of years. It seems once a company or business becomes familiar with our work, they develop into loyal supporters, often increasing their donation on an annual basis. The resources provided through corporate giving constitute a major contribution to assisting us to deliver

essential programs and services to those who are experiencing homelessness in downtown Toronto.

Street Health truly appreciates and acknowledges those businesses who have made significant contributions to the organization us such as, Green Shield Canada, Enbridge, and Jewell Catering, among many others. Alleviating the suffering of those who are homeless, takes a collaborative effort and we will continue to seek out the support and sponsorship of businesses who wish to “share their success

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Nursing Outreach
- Mental Health Support
- I.D. Replacement and Storage
- Harm Reduction
- Advocacy
- Research
- Education

HELEN'S STORY BY ANN MAIRE BATTAN



While on outreach two years ago, I noticed Helen sitting in a lawn chair in front of her apartment building accompanied by a special friend. Although she seemed quite shy and withdrawn, when I introduced myself as a nurse, she smiled and shared her name. “And this is Mary,” she said as she introduced me to her baby. Mary is a much loved and well worn doll. I have been very fortunate to learn more about Helen and Mary and will share this story with you.....

Look for Helen's story in our Spring newsletter.

STREET HEALTH AT 25 – BY TERRY PETERS

From its very inception 25 years ago, Street Health has been a front-line defence against the threats to health facing the most marginalized and under-served segments of our population, by assessing and responding to their most pressing health priorities.

Homeless people do not have unfamiliar health issues, but they do have a higher prevalence of them. They face more barriers to accessing health care, and increased difficulty following medically prescribed treatment plans. The occurrence of serious yet untreated health conditions, mental health issues, physical and sexual assault, food insecurity, and unsafe or insecure housing is many times that of the general population. Poverty and homelessness are direct barriers to achieving and maintaining good health. Roughly one-third of homeless people, with serious health conditions, have no stable health care provider.

Street Health has preserved an evolving, committed, stable relationship with this marginalized community, which has suffered a worsening of health concerns, decreases in income, reduction in government funding for affordable housing, more vigilant policing, and greater barriers to the types of care and support that the general population takes for granted. Our programs and services have kept pace with these changes. Access to health care, the replacement of ID, mental health support, addiction services, community outreach, advocacy, and ongoing research are all core services that we provide, and that homeless people rely upon for their very survival.

New priorities such as the proposed city service cuts, the increasing number of women and children affected by poverty, and the lack of services for an aging population have to be tackled along with the enduring problems that already exist.

The ongoing economic downturn is having an adverse effect on many segments of society -poor and homeless people worst of all.

Street Health, after 25 years, remains a front-line defence for this vulnerable community.



Did you know Street Health has over 7,200 unique visits for services each year?

Mission Statement:
Street Health works to improve the health and well being of homeless and under housed individuals in southeast Toronto by addressing the social determinants of health through program and services, education and advocacy

STREET HEALTH REACHES OUT THROUGH RIDING PROGRAM BY MYRA PIERCEY

As we boarded the bus at Regent Park Community Health Centre there was an air of excitement. Our "seasoned" pro's were ready to ride again, while the "newbies" were ready to take on a new adventure. Once we arrived at Wild Wood Manor the women took an opportunity to walk around and familiarized themselves with some of the horses in the fence in areas. After unpacking the bus, one of the staff pulled up in a tractor and off we went touring the grounds in a hay ride. After that we headed to the stables and we were all matched with horses; the braver of the bunch headed to the front, while the rest of us stayed in the back. After walking through the trail some of the women in the lead took off to gallop around the field. I overheard a conversation between two of the women, she asked her if she was enjoying herself, she replied, "we are all the same here". It was a perfect description of the day. Here on the trails the hardship of everyday life for those who have so little melted away and everyone was just enjoying the day.



STREET HEALTH FORGES RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP WITH U OF T DOCH PROGRAM – BY VICKY NGUYEN

"DOCH" stands for Determinants of Community Health, and is a course that spans all four years of the medical school curriculum at the University of Toronto. The goal of DOCH is to foster the development of physicians who are sensitive and responsive to the changing needs and concerns of the community. The DOCH Mission Statement reads as follows: "These physicians will have the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to form appropriate therapeutic alliances with patients, other healthcare professionals and community agencies to the benefit of the individual patient and community as a whole. Their practice will be population-health oriented and evidence-based. They will be aware of factors and resources needed to promote health and wellness and be able to integrate this knowledge effectively into clinical practice." (U of T pre-clerkship medical curriculum guidelines) No wonder the course takes 4 years to complete!

In the first year of DOCH, medical students attend lectures, tutorial sessions, and field visits to form foundations of knowledge in population health, public health, the healthcare system, health promotion, and epidemiology. In the second year of DOCH, medical students attend fewer lectures and tutorial sessions on research methodology and theory. Instead, they spend more time with collaborators at select pivotal community health agencies learning and practicing core research skills. Students are required to conduct a study of a determinant of health and its relationship to a health issue in a defined population. The first and second year of DOCH prepares medical students for clerkship in years 3 and 4 and for future practice as physicians who are also experts in community health.

This year the lucky second year medical student matched with Street Health is me, Vicky Nguyen. Street Health designed a research project for the DOCH course to assess the health needs and challenges faced by marginalized seniors (65 years of age and older) living in the downtown core of East Toronto. This DOCH project suits my interests and professional goals in geriatric medicine. I will design a questionnaire and conduct interviews with a small representative number of seniors who are inadequately housed and face challenges assessing social and health services that address their unique needs. The collaboration between Street Health and the DOCH program at U of T promises to be a mutually beneficial relationship. The results of my survey may be used to improve Street Health's services to one of Toronto's most vulnerable populations. Simultaneously, Street Health's participation in DOCH is a unique and valuable contribution to the training of future physicians. I am happy to be a temporary member of Street Health's team and looks forward to my work.



Did you know Street Health Serves over 750 Unique Clients each year



Walking by someone who is suffering, whether it be at your workplace, on the street, in the playground, anywhere, will not make this world a better place. If you and I don't care enough to make a difference then making change is impossible. -Hannah-Lady Bug Foundation
<http://www.ladybugfoundation.ca/who-we-help/people-who-are-homeless/>

STREET HEALTH BIDS FAREWELL TO SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCATE – By Jessica Hales



Beric German has recently retired from Street Health after working for 22 years as an advocate and health promoter. Beric was present during Street Health's formative years and was part of the coalition that completed an inquiry entitled "Homelessness and Health". The inquiry took place in 1986 and led to Street Health obtaining city funding for the first time.

Beric has collaborated to bring many innovative and progressive services to the community including: the expansion of needle exchange programs, the opening of drop-in centers and out of the cold programs, improvements to programs for clients with tuberculosis, and the establishment of affordable housing and rent subsidies for single adults. Beric founded several committees and coalitions including the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee, which worked to secure housing for residents of Tent City and successfully lobbied to have homelessness declared a national disaster.

Beric demonstrates an uncommon amount of tenacity and dedication. He plans to continue his community involvement during retirement and has been a great mentor to new staff at Street Health. His legacy is an example of the achievements that can be obtained through community organizing and has inspired other staff members to carry on the struggle for a more equitable world.

SEND A DONATION TO STREET HEALTH

Your donation will help us maintain and expand our programs

ORGANIZE A FUNDRAISER

Street Health would love to help you plan a fundraising event through your school, club, church or office. Please call for more details

ADVOCATE FOR THE HOMELESS

Express your concerns to your Municipal, Provincial or Federal Politician

GIVE STREET HEALTH A VOICE

Our Staff would be happy to speak to your organization, about our programs and services