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## FACTSHEET

February 1, 2010

Ministry of Children and Family Development  
Government of British Columbia

### *Covenant House – Vancouver*

#### *Important Services For Homeless and At-risk Youth*

Covenant House is a large social services agency located across North America and provides housing and services to homeless youth ages 16-24.

Covenant House Vancouver, in operation since 1997, is one of the city's largest non-profit providers of housing and other services to homeless and at-risk youth. It exists for youth forced from their homes, often with nowhere else to turn.

A warm bed, hot food, clothing and support services are there for people who need help the most. According to Covenant House, 65 per cent of their clients go on to live stable, independent lives.

During the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, Covenant House will benefit from the *Home for the Games* initiative. This web-based system matches Games visitors to Vancouver hosts for home stays, with part of the fee supporting organizations helping to fight homelessness – like Covenant House.

#### *Covenant House Facts*

- While numbers vary, on any given night there could be between 500 and 1,000 homeless and at-risk young people on Vancouver's streets.
- 70% of youth reported abusive family situations; 30% of youth reported what would be considered normal family situations.
- 37% are from the Greater Vancouver region; 25% are from elsewhere in British Columbia; 38% are from elsewhere in Canada.
- 58% of Vancouver's street youth are male and 42% female.
- 80% of the youth have no work experience – 75% have panhandled – 94% have made money through criminal activity.
- Covenant House Vancouver is almost 90 per cent privately funded; 80 per cent of their budget goes directly to program services.
- The Province of B.C. is a funding partner for Covenant House in supporting shelter for homeless and at-risk youth.

## CONTACTS

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## WEB RESOURCES

Covenant House Vancouver website:

<http://www.covenanthousebc.org/home>

Home for the Games:

<http://www.homeforthegames.com>

Missing Children Society of Canada:

<http://www.mcsc.ca>

Family Services of Greater Vancouver:

<http://fsgv.ca>

Pacific Youth & Family Service Society (PEAK House)

<http://peakhouse.ca>