



2025



Dear friends,

Greetings from the **Coming Home Society**! In this, our **25th year**, we are especially grateful to each and every one whose support has touched so many lives and meant so much.

We work as partners with **Warriors Against Violence** in healing family violence that has its roots in the Residential School system. We are also partners with **Urban Native Youth Association**, which runs over 20 programs to help youth aged 11—30 build safe and healthy lives.

We can all be allies in helping hurting people seek peace, and in helping youth learn and grow and fulfill their potential within their culture and in the community. The future of little folks like these is in their hands!



Being dressed in her first regalia by her great-grandmother, a Residential School survivor

No matter how young—the drum, the heartbeat of Mother Earth, and an invitation to join the circle



Reconciliation in action....



The **Coming Home Society** was founded as an outreach of the **Anglican Diocese of New Westminster** to the Aboriginal people of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. **With your support it continues the work of Reconciliation.** Rikki Kooy, Diocesan Elder-in-Residence, is strong in her belief that "we can come together and build relationship and trust, like family. Then we can all work together."

(here with Joyce Fossella, 'Warriors' C.E.O.)

Warriors Against Violence is—

A unique program that brings men and women together to deal with violence in their families or other relationships, or in the community. It is open to all cultures and spiritual beliefs, and is based on the model of the Aboriginal Healing Circle.

Healing takes a lot of talking and a lot of listening. At 'Warriors' people come and share as often as it takes for as long as it takes. In the circle they are safe to tell their stories of pain and trauma without judgement. They learn about anger and what to do with it. They find comfort in cultural ceremonies. Couples with children can bring them, and they are looked after during the group sessions. And always before anything a meal is shared together.

Richard Wagamese, who wrote "Embers—One Ojibway's Meditations" puts it best:

"Sometimes people just need to talk. They need to be heard. They need the validation of my time, my silence, my unspoken compassion. They don't need advice, sympathy or counselling. They need to hear the sound of their own voices speaking their own truths, articulating their own feelings, as those may be at a particular moment. Then, when they're finished, they simply need a nod of the head, a pat on the shoulder, or a hug. I'm learning that sometimes silence really is golden, and that sometimes "_____, eh?" is as spiritual a thing as needs to be said."



Urban Native Youth Association— empowering youth

Your donations support Urban Native Youth Association's holistic 20+ programs for Indigenous youth age 11 to 30. Youth get their immediate needs met for safety, health care, and housing. They can get counseling, and help with substance use concerns. They can connect to educational programs. They can explore their identities through art, culture, sports and recreation.

UNYA also helps youth put food on the table for themselves and their families. With the rising cost of food it is harder than ever for them to make ends meet. On a set day youth are able to come and choose groceries to help them and their families make it through the month. The January **Food Pantry Day** will be especially busy, as there's not much left after Christmas.



You can help fund the UNYA
Food Pantry.

With your help we can stock the
shelves!

Everything begins with prayer.

These children are being taught how to smudge (purify themselves in the smoke of burning sage, cedar, sweetgrass or tobacco) and how to bless the food before a feast.



Building bridges....



UNYA youth preparing for the annual **"Pulling Together"** canoe journey—a 10-day trip where youth and members of the Vancouver Police Dept. share a cultural and spiritual adventure, building bonds of mutual respect and positive relationships.

"The best thing I've ever done"

Participants at **Warriors Against Violence** often express their gratitude for the program. One young man said he always kept his head down, not wanting to talk to anyone about his life. But he said that coming to the program was the best thing he's ever done. He has learned to share his feelings with the group. He has become clean and sober. And he is looking for a place to live. He can hold his head high!



The future....

HOW TO DONATE

(All donations will receive a charitable tax receipt)

- Google Canada Helps and donate to the Coming Home Society
- Make a cheque payable to the Coming Home Society.
Mail it to 303 East Cordova Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6A 1L4

For more information please contact ladams99@shaw.ca
or call Linda Adams at 604-290-4117