



URBAN NATIVE  
YOUTH ASSOCIATION

The  
**COMING HOME**  
Society



2020

**Dear friends,**

Connection. It's what we are all missing, and what we crave desperately during this year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Coming Home Society** photographs from former years' events held at **Urban Native Youth Association** and **Warriors Against Violence Society** paint a heart-warming picture of the dinners, celebrations, out-trips, and shared work of healing that binds people together. This year, staff are working very hard and creatively to maintain those bonds while challenged by physical distancing.

Community, and communal activities, are especially important to Aboriginal people. It is always appropriate to ask an Aboriginal person "Where are you from?" Even if they have lived in Vancouver most, or all, of their life, they are proud to talk about their family's enduring emotional tie to their 'homelands.' From it comes their identity and their strength.

**The Coming Home Society** helps provide supportive 'urban communities' for Aboriginal people living far from their homelands, especially those who are struggling. During this pandemic, it is more vital than ever to keep youth engaged and away from the streets; to provide counseling for stressed families to avoid domestic violence; and to meet the basic health and safety needs of those living in poverty.

With your help, we can continue to offer the support, caring and prayer that makes us family and community to our Aboriginal neighbours.

*Linda Adams, President, Coming Home Society*



## Domestic violence prevention



*Warriors Against  
Violence  
counsellors  
Joe and Blair*

Warriors Against Violence Society has received a huge increase in calls around domestic violence during the pandemic. Staff continues to provide counseling, following all the Department of Health safety rules—either outdoors; in small groups when permitted; or one-to-one in a coffee shop that has safety measures in place. Your donations provide cell phones so that staff can respond to crisis calls and do most counseling by phone. They also cover clients' additional costs when counseling time exceeds their plan limits.

## Warriors Against Violence—caring for families

COVID-19 has stressed vulnerable families to the maximum. Your donations provide -

- **Emergency food.** Children are home more, and not being fed by school lunch programs.
- **Masks and hand sanitizer.** Families can't afford these extra costs for everyone.
- **Children's clothing.**
- **Dignity.** When we heard a child exclaim "Wow—chicken nuggets!" at the sight of a McDonald's gift card, we realized how important it is for parents to have the means to treat their children, especially in these times.



*Home-made bread, a gift card,  
and goodie bag—treats to lift the  
spirit.*

## Elders support



On Tuesday nights, Elders gather at Warriors Against Violence. Women share while sewing or doing crafts, while men play cards in another room. Small group gatherings are continuing when COVID-19 regulations permit. This program has no funding so your donations provide a staff member and supplies to keep our lonely and isolated Elders connected. *(photo from December 2019)*

## Urban Native Youth Association—keeping youth connected

### UNYA2GO

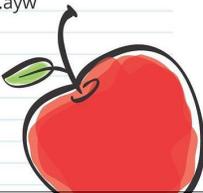
UNYA's new, socially distanced program for Indigenous youth ages 11-30! Drop by UNYA quickly and we can provide:

**Bus tickets, snacks, printing, school & art supplies, toiletries, harm reduction supplies & more...**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1-4 PM	1-4 PM	1-4 PM	12-4 PM	1-4 PM
OCM	AYF JAMES	AYW MALIA	FOOD	NYLC & 2
KEILAH	236-335-5933	604-841-3481	PANTRY	SPIRIT OWEN
604-353-3570	FB: Unya-ayf	FB: unya		604-379-5133
CATHERINE	Sportsrec	aboriginal		FB: UNYA NYLC
604-379-5068	Insta: unya.ayf	youth worker		& 2 Spirit
FB: unya ocm		Insta: unya.ayw		Collective
catherine unya				- UNYA
Insta: unyaocm				Insta: unyanylc

**\*Please call, text, or message to set up a time to drop by\***

 Urban Native Youth Association (1618 E. Hastings)



*Your donations will help Urban Native Youth Association continue to offer this new, physically distanced program that will meet young people's needs and keep them connected to their UNYA community.*

*From UNYA Acting Executive Director Cheryl Robinson: "UNYA has adapted several of their drop in programs during the COVID-19 pandemic to adjust to the immediate needs that our Indigenous youth had brought forth to us. The youth wanted activities and things to do during the pandemic, so we created a drop by program 5 days a week where Self-identifying Indigenous youth can come by and pick up activity kits, snacks, bus tickets, traditional medicines, and access to a printer for homework or applications. This UNYA2Go program is operated by staff from the drop-in programs. This way youth are able to still engage with our staff and be able to take home active, healthy and fun things to do. Sometimes the activity kits will be followed up with a zoom session where the youth would learn a new skill together such as beading earrings or making moccasins."*

## UNYA— feeding youth and their families



**We're excited to announce  
UNYA is re-opening the  
FOOD PANTRY!**

**For self-identified Indigenous  
folks ages 11- 30**

**EVERY  
THURSDAY  
12 - 4 PM**

**(line up out by the back  
entrance in the alley)**

Masks, sanitizer & bus  
tickets will be provided



“The UNYA Food Pantry program was expanded during the pandemic to include more basic essential food that our youth and families were needing. We also added Personal Protection Equipment –Masks, and hand sanitizer. The Food Pantry program operates weekly and sees on average 75 youth a week. With the added family members that each youth is bringing their food home to, we have calculated that we have fed over 1200 persons per month with the food pantry program.”

*Your donations will help ensure that the Food Pantry program continues for youth*

**With gratitude, all your donations in response to this newsletter  
will be donated to  
Warriors Against Violence and Urban Native Youth Association.**

In 2019 the Coming Home Society was also able to add protein-rich foods to the lunches of street youth participating in the ‘Street Youth Job Action Program.’ through Directions Youth Services.

During the coming year, if you would like to hear in advance about any needs arising in the Aboriginal community, that fit our mandate and that we are considering supporting (if funds permit), we would be happy to be in touch. Just send your email address to [ladams99@shaw.ca](mailto:ladams99@shaw.ca)

### **THREE WAYS TO DONATE: (All will issue a charitable tax receipt)**

Mail a cheque payable to the Coming Home Society, to  
303 East Cordova Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6A 1L4

Google Canada Helps and donate to the Coming Home Society

Go to [www.stjames.bc.ca](http://www.stjames.bc.ca) Click on the ‘Giving’ tab. Scroll down to the ‘Donate now’ button. On the ‘Fund’ line choose ‘Other’. In the ‘Message’ line underneath, enter ‘Coming Home Society’ Thank you all!

For more information please contact [ladams99@shaw.ca](mailto:ladams99@shaw.ca) or call Linda Adams at 604-290-4117