

## A Place Called Home

One of the most basic human needs is for a home. A home is the place where you eat, drink, sleep, relate, socialize, and sleep. It is a place for relationship building and growth. A home satisfies our need for safety, security, belonging, and connectedness.

Women facing an unexpected pregnancy need a place called home.

As a community, we have seen the cost of housing rise exponentially and the availability of rental accommodation become scarce. Waitlists for subsidized housing are often years long. For many of our clients, finding stable housing is a challenge and a burden that is borne alone.

CPC Vancouver has served nine women this past year who were either homeless, in a shelter, or in unstable housing situations. Their primary need for bringing a baby into a safe and healthy environment is appropriate housing solutions. In May 2021 alone, five clients were facing homelessness, four of those in abuse situations.

While there are some options in our community for emergency housing, the majority are suited to women with addictions. There is a significant gap in meeting the housing needs of single, expectant mothers. For our charity, this raised the question of whether it is our role to provide maternity housing for the women who seek help at our Vancouver centre. A short community assessment conducted by CPC Vancouver Program Director, Celeste MacInnes, involving 8 agencies answered that question with resounding affirmation. This was not a surprise.

Our role in the community places us in a position to respond to the need. Our experience with Burnaby Safe House, a home birthed out of the recognized needs of abused and pregnant women in the Burnaby and New Westminster area, fuels our belief that yes, we have the potential to provide a solution.

While exploring this opportunity, a generous offer has come in. A foundation has caught the vision for a maternity home and offered to purchase a house in the Vancouver area for our charity, as an extension to the services that we provide to women facing an unexpected pregnancy.

We are inviting you to join us in providing a safe home for vulnerable pregnant women in Vancouver. We are envisioning a home that could house approximately 4 women as well as a house mother/caregiver. Our annual costs would increase by about \$65,000 (possibly more dependent on location and property taxes).



Would you like to get behind this growing opportunity?

At Christmas, we will open the opportunity for donors to financially sponsor the furnishings of individual rooms. A short campaign for covering renovations will follow upon purchase.

If you would like to donate now towards costs, please go to [christianadvocacy.ca/donate](https://christianadvocacy.ca/donate) and select [Vancouver Home](#).

It's all very exciting. The incredible possibility of opening a home for single, abused, and vulnerable pregnant women in Vancouver, hopefully close to CPC Vancouver, has the potential to be realized.

Please feel free to email [info@christianadvocacy.ca](mailto:info@christianadvocacy.ca) if you have further questions, ideas, or comments.