

## **Safe and Secure in the Downtown Eastside**

### **The Orange Hall provides refuge to those in need**



Orange Hall 341 Gore Ave, Vancouver

The Orange Hall built in 1907, operated by S.U.C.C.E.S.S., one of Canada's largest social service agencies, is a Single Room Occupancy hotel acquired by BC Housing as a result of the Provincial Homeless Initiative (PHI). It is located at 341 Gore Avenue on the corner of East Hastings also known as the Downtown Eastside. There are 27 newly renovated units each with a private bathroom and kitchenette where the homeless or those at risk of homelessness can feel a sense of personal security and dignity. Rent at the Orange Hall is based on a small percentage of the resident's earnings so they can afford necessities such as food and clothing. In return residents are provided with a safe and clean environment along with a newly renovated community room which includes a full kitchen, TV, chairs and a ping pong table.

Down the brightly lit corridors you hear children laughing and elders engaged in conversation through the buildings original parlor doors. As you pass by residents in the hallway you don't see the desperation in their eyes like many still living on the streets in the Downtown Eastside. Stepping down the stairwell of the Orange Hall you come across a large window letting streams of light in where one can view an enormous cherry tree with pink buds soon to bloom. Cody, a father of two with a shy smile and gentle demeanor is the tenant support worker at the Orange Hall who not only ensures the safety of its tenants but that each individual's needs are met with professionalism and compassion. He says "they seem to keep to themselves mostly, but seem happy and content here."



New Orange Hall resident  
with her grandson

Many of the Orange Hall residents are of Chinese decent and have lived in the four level heritage building for over 20 years. Most of the recent residents are at the risk of homelessness or persons having disabilities who live in Vancouver with no job and limited access to resources or those simply struggling to make ends meet. The Orange Hall is where they come to feel safe, secure and use support services such as: education; employment; health; life skills training as well as social and recreational programs all of which are provided by S.U.C.C.E.S.S.