

IMOUTO HOUSING FOR YOUNG WOMEN

A Glimpse at the First Three Months



Imouto Housing for Young Women is a housing resource for women ages 16 to 24 owned by Atira Women's Resource Society. Run in collaboration with a group of Program Partners, Imouto provides housing and in-reach services for young women who have been living in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver and who are homeless.

Imouto opened in September 2011 and the first resident moved in on September 9, 2011. **As of November 23, 2011, 10 young women were living at Imouto with 2 "house moms."** This info sheet describes some of the successes of the program in its first three months of operation.



HOUSING

Sleep: Eight women are sleeping nightly at Imouto

Exploring Housing: One woman is actively looking for market housing outside the DTES and one woman has made arrangements to transition to another Atira housing program that meets her unique needs. Two women have spoken openly about wanting to leave the DTES.

Moving Out: The first resident (a 16 year old woman) to leave Imouto returned home to her family in Alberta at the end of November.

Three mothers now know where their daughters are.

Report from Imouto House Coordinator, October 2011

EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

Income: All ten women currently receive income assistance.

Employment: One woman is currently employed part-time. One woman is trying to access an employment program (such as Atira's Painter Sisters) and to find part-time work.

RELATIONSHIPS & SUPPORT

Family: Three women have re-connected with their families since moving in. One woman is interested in attending a substance use program so she can re-connect with her baby (taken into care in July 2011)

Professional Supports: Eight women are regularly accessing programs and services through Atira and other program partners

Information and Access to Resources: Several women have requested or used information about services available at Imouto and in the community
Collaborations/Case Management: Program partners report feeling supported in their work with Imouto residents. In-reach services, including a community kitchen, have started.

Volunteers: Since November, an intern has been volunteering at Imouto twice a week.

HARM REDUCTION & HEALTH

Substance Use Treatment: One woman is attempting to access a residential treatment program and another has indicated she would like to begin using methadone.

Needles and Condoms: These items are available at Imouto and have required regular replenishing.

LIFE SKILLS

Money: One woman has started saving money in a piggybank

Grocery shopping: After two months, one woman went grocery shopping on her own for the first time.

Mentorship: Residents are taking care of each other by providing encouragement and problem-solving strategies