

JUNE 1, 2009

**VERMILION ENERGY TRUST MAKES THE A-LIST IN AVENUE MAGAZINE'S
SECOND ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF CALGARIANS MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

**VERMILION
ENERGY**



CALGARY, ALBERTA – The contribution of Vermilion Energy Trust (VET.UN – TSX) to the community in Calgary has been recognized in an influential city magazine. From among hundreds of nominations, Avenue Magazine chose Vermilion Energy Trust for its A-List — Calgarians Making A Difference — issue because of the Trust's vision and leadership around poverty and homelessness in Calgary.

The nomination, made by the YWCA of Calgary, highlights the Vermilion / YWCA Skills Training Centre, a 16-week carpentry training program for low-income women. The program aims to break the cycle of poverty by helping graduates attain long-term employment in the construction industry.

Vermilion Energy Trust is honoured by this mark of distinction. "We truly believe that if you equip the right people with the proper tools and support – as the Vermilion / YWCA Skills Training Centre does – the chances of breaking the cycle of poverty in Calgary are high," says Lorenzo Donadeo, President & CEO of Vermilion Energy Trust.

Vermilion and the Friends of Vermilion – the Trust's founders, board of directors, executive and staff – have made a combined \$4M commitment to the YWCA of Calgary because of a shared belief that the investment will help provide opportunities for low-income women to gain marketable skills and sustainable employment. "Providing these types of skills-training opportunities makes sense. It's good for families, it's good for communities, and it's good for the provincial economy," remarks Mr. Donadeo.

A project of this magnitude, however, cannot be sustained on Vermilion's funds alone. Vermilion, along with the YWCA of Calgary, welcomes support from other individuals and corporations looking to make a difference.

Vermilion / YWCA Skills Training Centre

The Vermilion / YWCA Skills Training Centre offers a 16-week pre-employment and pre-apprenticeship carpentry training program for low-income women ready to break the cycle of poverty and sustain long-term employment in construction. There are three sessions per year. The integrated program addresses many of the barriers that prevent women from accessing this type of training by also providing child care, housing, and a living wage to qualified applicants.

Since the pilot program was launched in September of 2007, 53 students have successfully graduated from the program.

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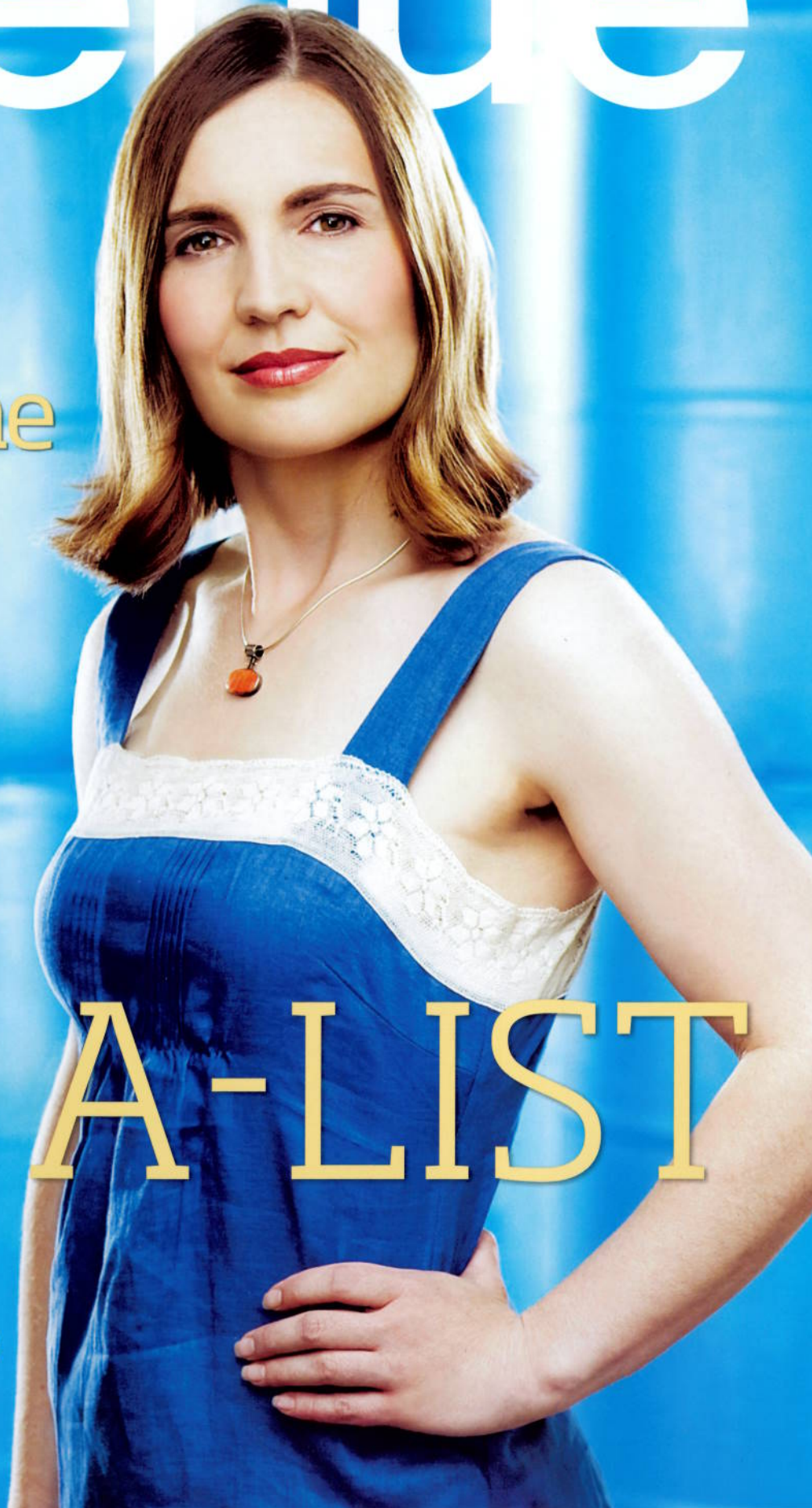
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THE A-LIST

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avenue's

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OUR SECOND ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF CALGARIANS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Even in a city that has been accused of being overly driven by commerce, there is an instrumental group of people motivated by something more powerful than money. These are the people and groups who volunteer, who donate, who pour hours of time and tons of dedication into making this city a better place to live.

The best among these people make up our A-List.

Our selection process begins with nominations from readers and those working within Calgary's non-profit sector. This year, we were overwhelmed by the flood of nominations from across the spectrum of groups in this city.

Fortunately, our partners at Volunteer Calgary, the Calgary Foundation and Calgary Arts Development Authority helped form our selection panel. Groups and individuals were selected based on their impact on the city, rather than on the number of nominations they had received. Our panel had to separate the wheat from the wheat, in this case — deciding from the many incredible nominees to highlight those who went far beyond expectations.

Here, then, is our second-annual Avenue A-List. Perhaps it will inspire you to make a difference yourself. >>

List

Lorenzo Donadeo, President and CEO



WHO: Vermilion Energy Trust

WHAT: Help women and their children escape poverty by funding the Vermilion/YWCA Skills Training Centre, which trains women in carpentry and provides the support they need to be successful in the construction industry

WHY THEY'RE ON THE A-LIST: Vermilion has donated more than \$4 million for the training centre's 16-week program

There's an old saying that goes, "Give a man a fish and he eats for a day; teach a man to fish and he eats for a lifetime." It's this philosophy that aptly describes the philanthropic style of the Friends of Vermilion, except the man is a woman and the fishing is carpentry and construction — but you know what we mean.

Friends of Vermilion is comprised of Lorenzo Donadeo, president and CEO of Vermilion Energy Trust, his friends and family, and Vermilion's board members, management and staff members. Together they share a commitment to investing in people, helping build their confidence and equipping them with the tools to escape poverty and abuse.

The carpentry program is the product of a relationship with the YWCA that began several years ago when Donadeo stepped in to provide emergency funding for the YWCA's Sheriff King Home, which was facing a crisis. After learning about the YWCA's programming around domestic violence, homelessness and poverty, Donadeo wanted to do more. So he committed to helping women break the cycle of poverty by donating \$2.5 million to kick-start a new program called the Vermilion/YWCA Skills Training Centre.

"We have focused on homelessness and poverty because there is a feeling that came largely from Lorenzo and the executive here, that we tend to be quite fortunate, as are many Calgarians," says Kia Pycrz, community investment and internal communications advisor at Vermilion. "He has said on more than one occasion that, 'To those who much is given, much is expected.'"

In 2008, Friends of Vermilion raised an additional \$1.5 million for the program, a 16-week carpentry program that teaches women everything they need to become successful in the construction industry, including shop instruction, communication skills and fitness training.

"We have focused on homelessness and poverty because there is a feeling that came largely from Lorenzo and the executive here, that we tend to be quite fortunate." —Kia Pycrz, Vermilion advisor

Friends of Vermilion funds the program, subsidizes tuitions, funds childcare if needed and even sends graduates off with tool belts and new tools for their first day on the job. The YWCA also provides an arts-and-recreation program for children whose mothers are at the Skills Training Centre.

"I would probably be living in a car with my two children trying to survive with a part-time job if it weren't for the YWCA and Vermilion Energy Trust," says a 26-year-old participant, who was living at YWCA of Calgary's transitional housing program with her two small children after fleeing an abusive marriage. She also recently graduated from the skills program. —J.H. 📷

What can you do?

Volunteer with the YWCA in any of a number of positions including fundraising and clerical support. Call 403-294-7343 or visit ywcaofcalgary.com, click on YWCA and then How to Help to find the volunteer application and to make donations.