



**ERIN BROCKOVICH TO SHARE HER STORY OF RESILIENCE AND TENACITY AT  
THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL YWCA WHYWHISPER FUNDRAISING GALA**

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**CALGARY, November 20, 2014** –The 4<sup>th</sup> annual **YWCA WHYWHISPER Fundraising Gala** will be held this evening with keynote speaker Erin Brockovich. Millions watched her story portrayed on the big screen, but few know the real Erin Brockovich. Her story is not unlike that of the vulnerable women the YWCA supports every day, and her instincts, spirit, and unwavering perseverance are an inspiration to many.

“Having Erin Brockovich as our guest speaker is an honour,” said Sue Tomney, Chief Executive Officer, YWCA of Calgary. “Her strong connection to the YWCA’s vision of seeing women thriving in a safe and equitable community makes her a natural fit for this event, and is a reminder of the resiliency we see every day in the women we support.”

The name Erin Brockovich was thrown into notoriety after the Oscar-winning film debuted in 2000, but the real-life Erin continues to spread positive messages of empowerment and giving a voice to those without one. For three seasons Erin hosted a television series celebrating everyday women who triumphed over their personal challenges; she released a New York Times Business best-seller, “Take It From me. Life’s A Struggle, But You Can Win”; and tours the world for personal speaking appearances.

“I support the YWCA because they are able to move women from a position of vulnerability to one of strength and opportunity,” said Erin Brockovich. “The YWCA provides programs and services to help women conquer adversity in their life, similar to the situation I was once in. There are so many women who do not know where to go for help, who can’t fight for themselves and who feel lost. The YWCA is a support system for women, and I want to demonstrate how a single mother, with no formal education – an absolute underdog – can accomplish great things.”

A live auction and raffle ticket sale will be held during the **YWCA WHYWHISPER Fundraising Gala**. The proceeds raised at the gala will support programs and services which help to empower women and their families to lead stronger, healthier lives in Calgary. The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual (2013) **YWCA WHYWHISPER Fundraising Gala** generated more than \$425,000, enabling the YWCA to continue its initiatives and support women, when and where needed most.

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**About the YWCA of Calgary:**

YWCA of Calgary is one of the largest and longest serving social service organizations in Calgary. During its 103 year history, the YWCA has touched tens of thousands of lives and adapted its programs and services to meet the changing needs of vulnerable women in the community. In 2013, through the provision of a continuum of services to more than **8,900** clients, including **2,400** children, the YWCA continued its focus on empowering women, who may be struggling with poverty, homelessness, family violence or isolation, to move from a position of vulnerability to one of sustainable strength and opportunity. For more information, visit [ywcaofcalgary.com](http://ywcaofcalgary.com)

**For information and interview inquiries please contact:**

**Angela Cabucos**  
NATIONAL Public Relations  
Phone: 403.531.0331 | Email: [acabucos@national.ca](mailto:acabucos@national.ca)