

# GENESIS HOUSE 31st ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015

## South Central Committee on Family Violence, Inc.

### Genesis House

### Board of Directors

Anne Finch -Chair  
 Kaye Lyng - Co-Treasurer  
 Cheryl Braun- Co-Treasurer  
 Candace Stobbe—Secretary  
 Carol Braun  
 Helen Penner  
 Irene Schmidt  
 Alvia Plett  
 Angela Braun  
 Executive Director

### In This Report

Domestic Violence - Community & Children	1
Program Highlights 2014/2015	2/3
Reports from the Chair, ED, & Manitoba Associa- tion of Women's Shelters	2/3
Special Events & Pro- jects—30th Anniversary	4/5
2014/2015 Financial Report	6/7
Cycle of Violence & Statistics	8
Staff & Volunteers	9
Community Support	10

## Community

The goal of Genesis House is that people in south central Manitoba will be able to live their lives free of domestic violence. We believe that all people should be safe with the people they love in their own homes.

Is violence against women still a serious problem in Canada?

On average every six days in Canada a woman is murdered by her intimate partner.

54% of girls between the ages of 15 -19 experience "sexual coercion" in a dating relationship.

67% of all Canadians say they personally know at least one woman who has been sexually or physically

assaulted.

83% of spousal assault victims are female

Across Canada 3000 women and 2900 children are living in emergency shelters to escape abuse

Violence against women is not a private family issue. It is a community and public health issue affecting not only the abuser and their victims but everyone around them. What can you and your community

do to help end violence?

As individuals be aware of the issue of violence against women and girls and support anti-violence movements. Volunteer and support the women's organizations in your community. Request and support violence prevention programs in high schools which will contribute to long term change.

As a society there is a responsibility to equality and justice for women within a framework to hold abusers accountable for their actions. Voice your concerns to local and national governments when the systems in place do not provide safety and justice for all. Silence hides violence. Speak up!



## Children

Genesis House recognizes that in order to eradicate domestic violence the children who are witness to abuse will need to receive education and support to be able to live their lives free of violence.

Shelters across the province continue to see more children than women come through the doors. Bed-nights for children accessing shelter for 2014/2015

are 790.

Programming for children in shelter has remained consistent with last year. Providing follow-up and out reach services continues to be a challenge. A goal of Genesis House programming is that children will be provided an opportunity to learn about healthy relationships.

Genesis House continues

to be a resource for the south central region by offering collaborative relationships with schools, churches, etc. to share educational material and workshops with youth.

Many schools received a presentation at school or in their youth group regarding family violence and healthy relationships in the past year.



In one day across Canada 231 shelters helped 3781 women and 2508 children.

Canadian Network of Shelters & Transition Houses.

“Progress is impossible without change, and those that cannot change their minds cannot change anything.”

George Bernard Shaw



25 Children from the Winkler area took part in the kids camp which is a partnership of the Winkler Recreation Department and Genesis House.

## Women

Genesis House is a voluntary program for women that are experiencing abuse by an intimate partner. There is no charge to access our programs, and women may access by calling the crisis line.

Staff will complete a risk assessment and safety planning with the client. If she chooses to access the shelter she will be given a bedroom to share with her children, as well as basic hygiene products. While the woman is in shelter all of her basic needs will be met. Women's bednights for 2014/2015 were 821.

Women can take part in Genesis House through non-residential programs as well. The staff's role is to listen and validate the woman's experience, ensure that she understands her rights and

her options and provide opportunities to make informed decisions about her future.

This year the data we have collected regarding the women that have used our services reflected the most frequent types of abuse:

- 17% emotional
- 16% verbal
- 14% physical
- 12% psychological
- 10% financial
- 7% sexual
- 7% stalking
- 7% neglect
- 10% other

The occupancy within shelter was reflected demographically the following way:

- 29% 18—25
- 38% 25-35
- 17% 35-45

- 16% 45 and over

-46% of the women have been with their abusive partner for more than 5 years

-77% had left their current relationship before

-7% were new immigrants to Canada

--52% of the children have been a witness to violence in the home.

-57% of women have not completed high school

-37% have requested police intervention the past 6 months

-27% of abusers have had charges laid against them in the past two years

-37% of women heard about the shelter from a friend or family

## Report from the Chair-Anne Finch

It was a good year for Genesis House. The return of Angela Braun brought stability to the programs being offered to women and children. This was reflected in the award Genesis House received as recognition for service to the community. We were also able to agree to a union contract with our workers. Genesis

House recognized its anniversary date with a community event and we had our celebration of International Women's Day at the P.W. Enns auditorium this year. We were able to offer some innovative programs in the community as well continue on-site work. The area we serve continues to support us financially

and emotionally and we are so grateful for this.



Chair - Anne Finch & Vice Chair - Cheryl Braun

## Children's Program Highlights

In the past year Genesis House has provided shelter to 70 children and non-residential services to 20 children.

Programming at the shelter includes individual counseling with children and their moms. The total number of sessions is 93 and total hours spent in counseling children for the 2014/2015 year is 91. Group counseling is also offered. This year we received a grant from Healthy

Child Manitoba in addition to our provincial and federal grants.

The Triple P program was hosted in Winkler. A children's one week summer program was also held in partnership with the Winkler Recreation Department. The total number of groups sessions offered is 128 for a total of 292 hours.

A Girls Group program has been facilitated over the past

3 years in local schools. The target group was junior high girls. Topics focused on self esteem, healthy relationships, goal setting and problem solving. A total of 5 groups were hosted.

Presentations are available for children on communication skills, healthy relationships, bullying, conflict resolution, and cyber safety.

## Women's Program Highlights

In 2014/2015 Genesis House provided shelter to 61 women, and services to 33 non-residential women., for a total of 94 women.

Counseling is available for residential and non-residential women. In the 2014/2015 year there were 1675 counseling sessions with women totaling 1313 hours.

A variety of group sessions were facilitated in the 2014/2015 year. They include; anger management, life skills, and understanding domestic violence. Groups are offered regularly in the

residential program based on the needs of the clients in shelter. The total number of groups sessions offered is 117 for a total of 111 hours.

A service that we are able to offer is assistance with protection orders. Three staff members have been trained as protection order designates. In 2014/2015 5 people were assisted with their application for a protection order, and we spoke with 30 women about them.

Genesis House continues to struggle with the difficulty in balancing residential and non-residential programming.

Our resources are stretched and we are as creative as possible to ensure that the needs of community can be met. Sometimes clients that are not in crisis may have to be placed on a wait list until staff is available to see them. Staff continue to provide outreach and public education throughout the service area. An area that will be explored in the new fiscal year will be how to provide more services to new comers.

We continue to work collaboratively with other service providers in the community to provide the support needed.



**On average every 6 days in Canada a woman is killed by her intimate partner.**

## Report from the Executive Director—Angela Braun

It has been an exciting year at Genesis House. We were fortunate to receive an Artist in the Community grant from the MB Community Arts Council which we used to promote healthy relationships with teens in the service area. It was really cool to have an inside look at how teens perceive healthy relationships. It also magnified the reality for young people today; the amount and intensity of communication coming at them. With technology there is hardly an escape from being "on" all the time. The constant barrage of messages from friends, acquaintances and the media is exhausting. The

teens did a great job of portraying what life and communication looks like for teens today. In one of the dramas the teens portrayed how we are more connected then ever but not really connected at all. It depicted how we can walk through life not aware of the turmoil or stresses in the people that are walking alongside us. Not really aware of them at all.

Interestingly enough the early development instrument that measure school readiness for children entering kindergarten shows a result that may be connected. One of the areas the instrument measures right across

the country is empathy. Findings across Canada show that young children are struggling to embrace the idea of empathy for another person. It seems that as they grow into young men and women that struggle continues.

In the work that Genesis House does, we request support from community, not only in resources but also in understanding and speaking out for the victims of violence that we serve. Standing together with empathy so that victims feel supported and believed, and no longer feel alone. Based on the findings regarding empathy, the call to empathetic reaction may be more challenging then ever before.

**"What is Success?  
Being able to go bed  
each night with your  
soul at peace."  
Paulo Coelho**

## Report from the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters (MAWS) - Deena

MAWS has been working with the Canadian Network on the development of the National Action Plan on Violence against women. A blueprint was created by over 20 organizations across Canada. It outlines the issues that need attention, how development could occur and be implemented. During the election in fall 2015 the federal parties will be asked about their commitment to the Blueprint. Another big project of the National Network has been

the development of the website [www.Sheltersafe.ca](http://www.Sheltersafe.ca). This site is a clickable map of Canada that will help women find a shelter.

Over the past two years MAWS has been working with the Family Violence Consortium to lobby the government for a funding review of the DV agencies. IN spring 2015 ADM Jennifer Rattray and acting director of FVPP Tracey Moore committed to develop-

ing a funding proposal by September 2015.

MAWS is pleased to welcome Willow Place as a new shelter member as of April 2015.

Willow Place is a large provincially funded shelter in Winnipeg. <http://willow-placeshelter.ca/>



# ARTIST IN THE COMMUNITY DRAMA CONTEST



Genesis House was fortunate to be chosen for a provincial Artist in the Community grant in the fall of 2014. This project allowed us to introduce the idea of healthy relationships as portrayed by teens through a dramatic play. The local high school drama clubs were invited to submit student written dramas that depicted healthy relationships. The kick off for the project took place in November 2014. Sarasvati came out to host an acting and writing workshop that was interactive with the students. Morden Collegiate and Northlands Parkway Collegiate in Winkler both attended the kickoff at the P.W. Enns Concert Hall. A presentation on healthy relationships was also included.

Students taking part in the project submitted their written dramas for selection by a committee of Genesis House representatives based on the healthy relationship criteria. Those chosen were then short listed and performed by the students in January. Another selection process took place at that time with only 3 dramas making it to the final competition to take place on International Womens day March 8, 2015.

Two dramas from Morden Collegiate made the short list; Testing Love & The Neighbors. Northlands Parkway Collegiate performed the drama Fake Friends. The prizes consisted of \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place and \$125 for third place.

The students did an excellent job of both writing and acting in their dramas. Many thanks to Morden Collegiate and teacher Phillip Duncan, and Northlands Parkway Collegiate and teacher Phyllis Furkalo for their assistance and support with this project!



Morden Collegiate Students



Northland Parkway Collegiate Students



Volunteer Judges  
Talia Pura & Peter Epp  
Missing: Hope McIntyre



Golfers from L to R Jeremy Hildebrand, John Hildebrand, Jorge Bernal & Jeff Thiessen

## Another Successful Golf Tournament July 4, 2014

The 11th Annual Swing for Safety Golf tournament took place on July 4, 2014. The lovely Miami Golf course has been host to the event every year. This event is fast becoming a favorite of participants who have a great time golfing in support of a good cause.

The event enjoys great success through its loyal sponsors, and the generosity of

local businesses. Special thanks to our sponsors in 2014: Access Credit Union, ALG Professional Centre, Big 106/Maverick 105, Borderview Electric, Choice Realty, City of Winkler, City of Morden, CKMW, Convey-All Ind., CW Medical Centre, Delmar Commodities, Dwight Suderman Accounting, Hometown, GTP, Jim Heinrichs, Jim Smith Accounting, JKW Construc-

tion, Meridian Ind, Parkside Home Building, Samantha Klassen Dental Group, Speedy Glass, Sunvalley Tire, Town of Carman/RM of Dufferin.

The event raised approximately \$4400 in 2014 for additional outreach and support programs offered by the shelter.

## International Women's Day 2015

March 8, 2015 there was excitement in the air as the 3 finalists for the drama contest were preparing for their performances in celebration of International Womens Day. They were joined by Sarasvati who performed 3 monologues. Our panel of judges included Talia Pura, Peter Epp and Hope McIntyre. They had a difficult task deciding between the 3 dramas. In the end there was a tie for first place between Fake Friends and The Neighbors, with Testing Love coming in second. Intermission allowed for the panel to make some tough decisions and the participants time to enjoy dessert and beverages.

Approximately 80 people attended the event. The raffle draws took place at the end of the event with some lucky individuals winning great prizes donated by community. Details of the raffle are on the following page.

# 30th Anniversary Celebration



Entertainment by the Drudge Family



**Approximately 40 people came out to celebrate the anniversary**



Maurice Butler, founding member



MP Candice Bergen & Director Ang Braun

The board of Genesis House sent invitations to the 30th anniversary celebration far and wide. Maurice Butler, a founding member of Genesis House, was the guest speaker and able to provide a glimpse into the early beginnings of Genesis House. Genesis House was founded by concerned citizens working in the fields of mental health, social work, immigration, and policing. This anniversary was a great opportunity to reflect on the progress and growth of Genesis House as well as the strides that have been made across Canada on the issue of family violence in the past 30 years.

We were fortunate to be joined by many past staff and board members, as well as the Honorable Member of Parliament Candice Bergen. The Drudge family provided wonderful entertainment and New Style catering offered many options for dessert and coffee or tea. It was a wonderful celebration of the 30 years of service provided by

## 2015 Raffle Awesome prizes & lucky Winners!

Winner of 1st prize— a Gift Certificate of \$500 from Co-op Fashions— Mary Anna Aaldyck-Doerksen

2nd Prize—No Ordinary Day donated by Charity Faye Spa & Hot Tub Rental donated by Tropical Hot Tubs — Rachel Plett

3rd Prize—Homemade quilt & Blu Ray disc Player donated by D. A. Loewen Electric —Steph Thingstad

We are very grateful for the continued support of the business community for their generous donation for the raffle.

## Grants—Healthy Child Manitoba & The Canadian Women's Foundation

Genesis House is grateful to Healthy Child Manitoba for their support again this year through a grant that allows us to facilitate parenting programs.

We are also grateful to the Canadian Women's Foundation for their annual support. This past year their donation was \$1733.



Anna Wieler & Darren Heide of Access Credit Union presented Executive Director Ang Braun with a generous donation from their weekly "Jean's Day" campaign.

## Girls Groups

Thanks to a grant from the Social Justice Committee of the Agriculture Union, Genesis House was able to pilot a girls group over the course of three years to junior high girls. Studies have shown that girls lose confidence in themselves during this stage of life. These groups were designed to reinforce and strengthen specific behaviors including: communication, goal setting, problem solving, self esteem, positive self talk, gender roles/ stereotypes and developing healthy relationships.

Groups were facilitated at Winkler, Greta, Parkside and Swan Lake Elementary Schools. 44 girls participated in the program which was 8 sessions in length.

Overall the feedback from the groups was fantastic. We noticed that the group dynamics changed and participation was down in schools that had only high risk students participate. There was more success with a more random mix of participants. The highlight of the sessions were the discussions on how we are to treat each other. Each girl was given a gift during the sessions. It was wonderful to see them appreciate the gifts that were selected for them and enjoy the notes written for them.

## New Counselling Space Created through Grants and Community Support

Thanks to the Small Capital grant from Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries and the generosity of Morningside Construction, a formerly dark space has been transformed into an inviting space for children to receive counselling at Genesis House. BSI came to the rescue with some new furnishings! Many thanks to everyone that made this possible!



## Thank-you!!

**The generous donations by individuals, organizations, and businesses of their time, materials, and funds have been crucial to the operations of Genesis House. We are grateful for these gifts from the community and from our many anonymous donors. All gifts are greatly appreciated. Donations in-kind include clothing, linens, household items, groceries, cleaning supplies, personal supplies, baby items, furniture.**

### CASH DONATIONS

<u>Donator</u>	<u>Amounts</u>
Individuals	\$26,217
Businesses	8,903
Churches	6,197
Women's Groups	1,100
Knights Clubs	100
Foundations	1,733
United Ways/Community Canvass	10,725
Fundraising (Golf, Fashion Show, Dance)	7,638
Events (Women's Day)	<u>980</u>
<b>Total Fundraising / Donations</b>	<b>\$63,593</b>
<b>Gifts-In-Kind</b>	<b>\$ 4,063</b>

The gifts-in-kind are essential to the shelter's operation and our client's daily use. It saves the clients and the shelter thousands of dollars each fiscal year.

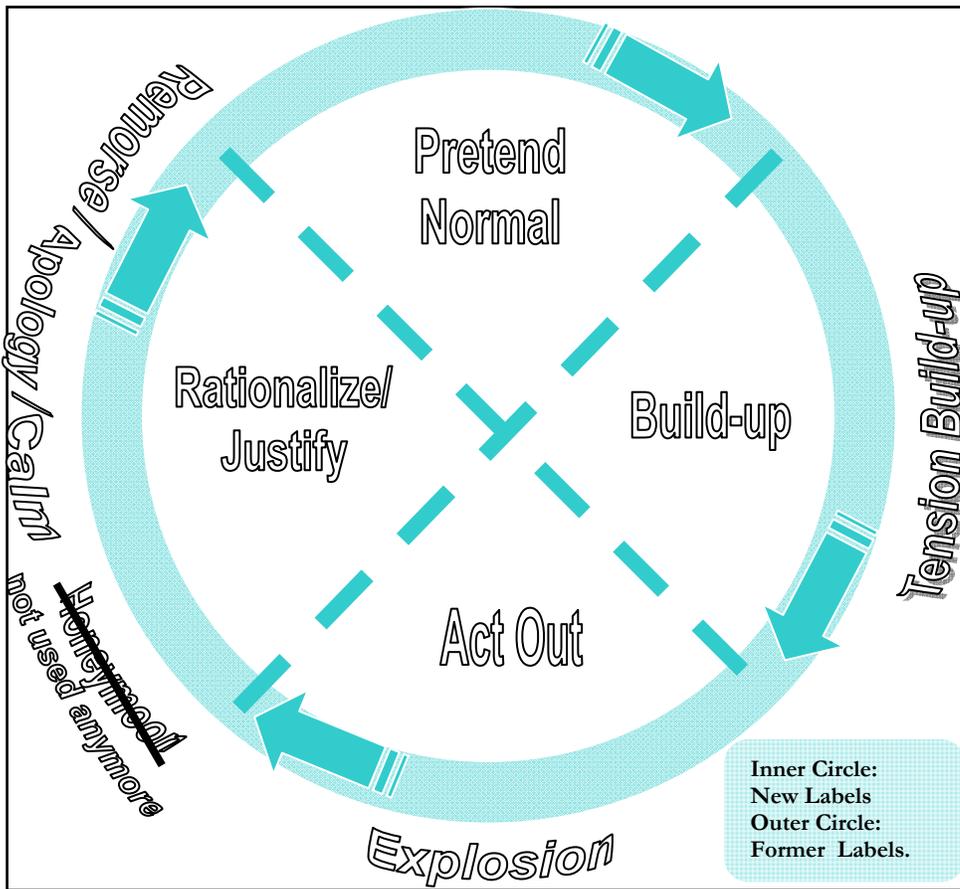
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>2013-2014</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>
Family Violence Prevention Grant	371,700	375,900	380,100
Employment & Income Assistance—Income Security	45,790	60,379	53,236
Fundraising / Donations	55,057	59,693	63,593
Canadian Action Program for Children—CAPC Grant & Resource	21,326	21,326	21,326
Other Grants—Healthy Child, MB Arts Council, MB Real Estate Assc, Morden Thrift Store	37,312	14,618	12,266
Other Revenue—GST, Int, SummerStudent	14,502	15,078	14,658
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$545,687</b>	<b>\$546,994</b>	<b>\$545,179</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>2013-2014</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>
Salaries & Benefits	465,425	430,975	424,470
Administrative / Staff Training	18,843	14,632	22,071
Board Expenses	3,756	2,566	4,220
Fundraising Expenses	10,275	7,495	7,526
Insurance	4,957	5,485	5,589
Maintenance Supplies / Janitorial	15,864	16,686	32,923
Professional Fees	8,302	17,054	13,489
Travel	14,002	8,399	6,557
Client Activities & Programs	15,311	20,737	25,230
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$556,735</b>	<b>\$524,029</b>	<b>\$542,075</b>

Copies of the 2014-2015 audit report are available at the Annual General Meeting or upon request.

Overall funding for Genesis House is derived from four main sources:

1. **Family Violence Prevention Grant** from the Manitoba Government provides for programming, facility and staffing, allocating specific amounts to each cost centre. The Branch also is responsible for ensuring standards and monitoring our progress. The Service Purchase Agreement with the Branch is one of the primary contractual obligations of the Corporation. With a few exceptions, no capital expenditures are allowed.
2. **Employment & Income Assistance** provides a per diem for every bednight (intended to cover staffing and food). Special needs specific to clients (transport, medications) is also financed through Employment and Income Assistance. This portion of our income is totally dependent upon utilization of the shelter.
3. **Fundraising / Donations & Other** constitute a wide range of revenue sources e.g. cookbooks, golf tournament, cash donations, United Way, etc.
4. **CAPC Grant** is part of the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters Project. This grant has been essential for the majority of the Child Counseling Program..

# Cycle of Violence



## CYCLE OF ABUSE (cont.)

If the abused partner leaves, the abuser may still attempt to harm the partner.

In cases where the explosions have happened before, the abused partner may try to trigger the violence to get it over with and end the tension build-up stage or to have the explosion not ruin a holiday or other special event. The abused partner does not want or like the abuse.

### RATIONALIZE/JUSTIFY REMOSE/APOLOGY STAGE

In this phase the abuser uses defence mechanisms such as blaming others or minimizing the violence. The abuser does this to turn blame away and to feel better. The abuser defines the abuse and interprets how things "really" are. The abused partner begins to believe the abuser's interpretation. She also minimizes and rationalizes his behaviour to cope with her pain.

### PRETEND NORMAL STAGE

The cycle is so hard to break because the remorse/apology period creates the illusion that everything is OKAY! Once the rationalize/justify stage is in place, both partners try to make the relationship continue in a normal way by pretending that everything is all right.

### A NEW CYCLE OF ABUSE/VIOLENCE BEGINS.

67% of Canadians have known a woman who has experienced physical or sexual abuse.

## CYCLE OF ABUSE

The diagram above shows a pattern of feelings and actions that tend to emerge in abusive/violent relationships. Not all of these stages apply to all situations. This pattern is progressive and usually cycles in shorter and shorter time frames.

### TENSION OR BUILD-UP STAGE

Some type of stress (job, money, bills, children, partner) begins this part of the cycle. If the family doesn't have good communication and problem solving skills, the tensions will increase. If police are called during this stage, the partner may be afraid of charges being laid since this will escalate the tension.

### ACT OUT/EXPLOSION STAGE

When the tension builds up to a certain point, there will be an explosion or fight. This is usually when physical violence occurs, accompanied with other types of abuse. The explosion can be triggered by anything and may have little or nothing to do with the partner's behaviour. It is usually triggered by internal or external stress. This violent reaction is not acceptable. It may happen repeatedly.

May last for minutes, hours or days. Nothing stops the abuser until the built up tension has been released.

Bednights	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Women	685	870	819
Children	816	1019	790
<b>Total</b>	<b>1501</b>	<b>1889</b>	<b>1609</b>

2014-2015 Type of Crisis Call	Number of Calls
Emergency Intervention	83
Abuse Counselling	91
Other Abuse Counselling	28
Abuse Information	20
Seeking Supports for own Abusive Behavior	1
Other Calls	74
Abuse Calls from Men	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>314</b>

## The Genesis House Team

Working with survivors of intimate partner abuse can be demanding and heart wrenching work. Staff is challenged everyday to listen with an open heart to difficult and often very sad stories. They demonstrate their compassion and commitment to quality client services everyday by listening non-judgmentally to each woman's story as if it were the first one they have heard. The staff provide options, advocacy and support for whatever choices the women choose to make. The staff believe that things can be different and that there can be a life without domestic violence. They come to work daily with that hope and it is evident in the rapport they build with clients. They are the strength of the organization! Thank You!

**Management**— Angela Braun, Executive Director, Karen H., Executive Assistant

**Client Support Counselors** —Karen T., Lori P., Cathy G., Jane S.,

June G., Anna N., Anita R-E., Marilyn T.

**Casual Support Workers** — Lianne F., Lindsay G., Regina B., Michelle V.,

Victoria K., Megan M., Sherry W., Kristin G.

### Volunteers

Genesis House relies on the support of many volunteers over the course of each year. We have people that assist with child care, lawn care, quilting, cleaning, and donating supplies. A heartfelt thank you to all of the people that have volunteered at Genesis House over the past year. Including a very dedicated board of directors.

**“We make a living by what we get,  
but we make a life by what we  
give.”**

**Winston Churchill**

**Thank You!**

### Family Violence Prevention Program

The specialized program of The Government of Manitoba's Department of Family Services and Housing promotes the elimination of intimate partner violence through the development and support of community based services. The Program provides policy and program direction as well as funding to specialized services for women, their children and men caught in the cycle of family violence. These services are delivered by 34 agencies in the community across the province.

We would like to express our gratitude to the staff of Family Violence Prevention Program, especially our External agency Coordinator Nadine Smith and Director Tracey Moore for their on going support.

### Genesis House Board of Directors



Back Row From left to right; Helen Penner, Kaye Lyng, Donna Jorgenson (retired), Candace Stobbe, Carol Braun, Cheryl Braun, Anne Finch, Alvierra Plett. Front Row left to right: Ang Braun (Executive Director) Darlene Hayward (retired), Sandra Dobson (retired)

Missing: Irene Schmidt

Genesis House is often seeking board members. The board provides a solid foundation in a policy governance style from which the agency operates.

If you have any interest in becoming a board member of Genesis House, contact the ED and she will forward an application form and an information package to you.

Applicant must complete: Application form, Criminal Record Check (CRC), Child Abuse Registry (CAR), and Adult Abuse Registry (AAR)

The Nominations Committee will review the application form and make a recommendation to the board to accept/reject the application.

If a vacancy on the board occurs during the year prior to the AGM, the board may appoint a replacement member to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term of his/her predecessor. The replacement member would have full voting privileges.

The replacement member would be presented as nominated to the full membership at the next AGM for acceptance.

The term of the replacement member would then be three years as with the appointed

**Genesis House has not received any disclosures under The Public Interest**

**"When you stand and share your story in an empowering way, your story will heal you and your story will heal somebody else."**

**Iyanya Vanzant**

**United Way Grants**

We are very grateful to the Altona, Morden and Winkler United Way for their ongoing support. As well as the Pilot Mound Community Canvas. Without community support we would be unable to offer the programs that we do.

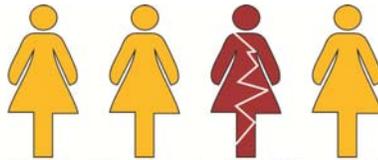


**South Central Committee on Family Violence, Inc.**

Box 389  
Winkler, MB  
R6W 4A6  
Crisis Line 1-877-977-0007  
Local Crisis Line 204-325-9800

Phone: 204-325-9957  
Fax: 204-325-5889  
E-mail: sccfv@genesis-house.ca  
Website: www.geneshouseshelter.ca

A crisis facility for abused women and their children



*Shelter For Women And Children In Crisis*

**Mark your calendars for the Genesis House 9th annual family dance November 20, 2015 So You Think you Can Dance!**

**How to YOU can Help**

**Volunteer**— assist with fund-raising events, become a board member, assist in shelter activities of daily living (child care, office support, baking, cleaning)

**Become a Member**—Your membership fee shows you care and entitles you to vote at the Annual General Meetings.

**Donate**—materials, service, cash. We always accept food, hygiene products, and linens.

**Listen and support the victims of abuse**—Encourage them to seek help.

**Teach Children**—Self Esteem is critical to healthy development. Teach communication, empathy, and non-violent methods of conflict resolution.

**Community Support**

Local churches have supported Genesis House for many years. We are so grateful for their ongoing donations. Pictured below is a donation from the St. Paul's United Church in Morden.



**Project Genesis**

Genesis House is very fortunate to have the strong support of a creative quilting community that provides a quilt to every woman and child that access shelter. Project Genesis which focused on children and was created by Margaret Dudgeon has grown to include everyone that comes through the doors of Genesis House. The quilts provide comfort and security and the knowledge that someone in the community is thinking and caring for them. Many thanks to all of the loving hands in the community that stitch love into every quilt that we receive.



**Shoe Boxes for Genesis House**

A local initiative has begun at Christmas time with community members creating and collecting Shoe Boxes filled with gifts and supplies for women and children at shelter. Thank you for thinking of our agency!



**"Above all the struggles and hardships, I have found hope and self worth."  
Former Client**