



**Genesis House**  
Shelter for Abused Women and Their Children

# Genesis House

Check us out on Facebook @genesishousesouthernmanitoba and Instagram @genesishousesouthcentral!

## COVID 19 UPDATE

Genesis House residential support and crisis services for women who experience violence are still available. The shelter and our 24 Hour Support & Crisis Line remain open. We are only able to accept financial donations at this time. While our offices are closed to the public to help flatten the curve, our counsellors will continue to provide support by phone. All groups and events are currently suspended until the Medical Officer of Health assures us that it will be safe to gather in larger groups.

### Did You Know?

- UN Population Fund predicts domestic violence to rise by at least 20% due to the pandemic
- Researchers are predicting 15 million additional cases of domestic violence worldwide for every three months the lockdown is extended.
- Maryam Monsef—Minister for Women and Gender Equality says that the COVID-19 crisis has empowered perpetrators of domestic violence as consultations reveal that abuse rates are rising in parts of Canada.

## Resilience, Forgiveness & Love an Inspirational afternoon with Wilma & Odia, and Sarasvati

On March 8 Genesis House was excited to host an afternoon tea with special guests Wilma Derksen and her daughter Odia Reimer. They shared a message of resilience, love and forgiveness with a group of 70 women. It was a wonderful gift to be able to see the pair share their story together and even be surprised by each other at times.

Most Manitobans are familiar with the tragic story of Candace Derksen's disappearance in 1984 at the age of 13. She was found bound and frozen a few weeks after her disappearance. The Derksen family was thrust into the public eye for many years to deal with the aftermath of that difficult time.

Wilma has kept the story of Candace alive as well as been a model for surviving and thriving after such a terrible tragedy. For the past three decades Wilma has influenced victims, offenders and her local community by writing and speaking on the subject of forgiveness and the value of truth-seeking.

Odia dealt with the pain of losing an older sister through art. She received a Fine Arts Degree and was the founding curator of the Altona Gallery in the Park.

Sarasvati complimented the mother daughter presentation with powerful monologues delivered by WaNda Wilson and Sophie-Phoenix Lavoie.



### Contact us:

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Angela Braun—Executive Director

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**24 Hour Crisis Line**  
**1-877-977-0007**  
**Local: 204-325-9800**

## Towards Parity

The goal of the Towards Parity grant is to engage more women to find their voice and become active in politics. The group that our committee is trying to engage is new comer women, women with a disability and women under 30.

The first two lunch and learns were extremely successful with attendance around 55, but COVID 19 threatened to derail the remaining 3 events. The committee came together and redesigned the remaining events to be held as webinars instead of in person meetings. This will allow for a larger audience and more flexibility for participants.

The first virtual lunch and learn will take place **April 30** on the topic of **Overcoming Obstacles**. **May 21** we will tackle the topic of **Self Confidence**, and finally end the series with a session called **Adjust, Adapt and Thrive** on **June 18**. The first 60 participants to register will receive a conference care bag after the events in support of local women in business. Email [admin@winklerchamber.com](mailto:admin@winklerchamber.com) to register.



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Genesis House  
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Donate at  
CanadaHelps.org

We're on the Web!  
genesishouseshelter.ca

### Quiz Night 2020

About 150 people joined us March 12, 2020 for a fantastic night of trivia and many came out dressed in 80's themed outfits! Many thanks to the Stardust Drive In and Morden Co-op for supporting the snacks for the evening, Country 88 and the Eagle for making the night even more fun, and main event sponsor Décor Cabinets. The event would not be successful without our table sponsors including Morden Home Hardware, MacDonald's, Morden Realty, Morden Nurseries, Friesen Insurance, and Agassiz Medical Centre.

Photos below: Brooklyn Toews and Daemon Parent of Goldenwest Radio, and the nights big winners with a PERFECT score "We've got ALL the TP" The event raised approximately \$4300. Thanks for coming!

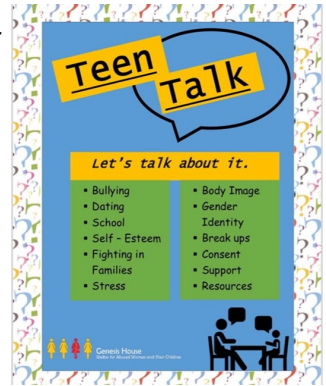


### Programming Updates

Due to COVID all in person programming has been cancelled except for our RESIDENTAIL program which is always open.

A Low German women's group had been meeting with the support of CFS and MCC. The Caring Dads program has successfully concluded. Thanks to the Morden Community Foundation/Power of the Purse for their support.

We are always OPEN. If you need help or information call 1-877-977-0007.



### Cancelled Events—Swing for Safety Golf Tournament & Art Auction

We are disappointed to announce that the golf tournament we had planned for July 3, 2020 has been cancelled due to COVID 19. The Art Auction which was to enjoy its second year is also cancelled for 2020. We hope to return both events in 2021 and hope to see you there!

### Morden Collegiate

Students at Morden Collegiate showed us the love on Valentines day 2020 by hosting a hotdog sale as well as collecting donations for Genesis House! Well done!



### Boston Pizza donation & BSI Donations

We were pleased to receive financial support from two local businesses in February 2020. The Boston Pizza Foundation donated \$1500 so that our agency can continue to provide 24 hour service. BSI, Because We Care grant, supported the agency to purchase new stand lamps for the living room. We needed sturdy and bright and that's what we got! Thanks!