

GENESIS HOUSE

South Central Committee on Family Violence Inc.

37th Annual Report 2020/2021

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Local Crisis Line: 204-325-9800

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Fax: 204-325-5889

E-mail: director@genesis-house.ca

Website: www.geneshouseshelter.ca



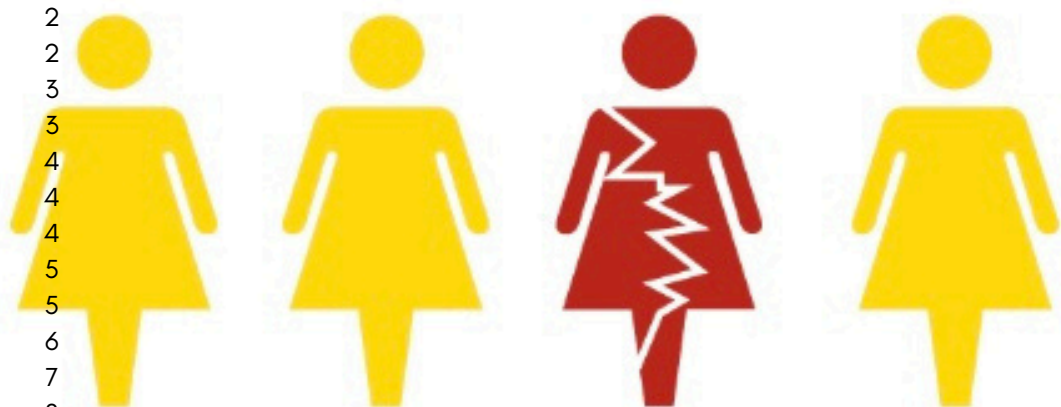
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GenesisHouseSouthernManitoba

In This Report

Report from the Chair	2
Report from the Director	2
Women's Program Highlights	3
Children's Program Highlights	3
Housing Outreach Program	4
Our Community	4
Volunteers	4
Report from MAWS	5
Professional Development	5
Financial Overview	6
In the Know	7
Board of Directors	8
Genesis House Team	8



REPORT FROM THE CHAIR - MARLIN FROESE

For many, this past year was another year to forget. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact nearly every facet of our lives in some way, shape or form. Yet, we strive for resilience. To continue to be optimistic. To continue to push onward and upward.

At Genesis House, through the pandemic, we continue to see incredible support from the community. We are extremely grateful for this incredible support, and I would ask for continued support.

A lot has happened this past year at Genesis House. We continued to secure an offsite space for various meetings and small groups. With professional help the team was able to craft a number of awareness videos in different languages to help reach new areas in our communities. Our talented staff continued to grow an awesome social media presence. The team was able to host a number of successful fundraisers and virtual events. With everything going on we also said goodbye to a few of our wonderful staff and welcome a whole bunch of new faces to the team as well.

On that note, I'd like to thank all of our dedicated staff for the hard work and resilience they have shown this past year. They have continued to go above and beyond for Genesis House and we are fortunate to have each one of them to support the organization journey.

I'd also like to thank Ang for her tremendous leadership. Her passion for Genesis House is clearly evident in her daily actions, and our communities are better for it.

Lastly, I'd like to thank my fellow board members for their excellence in governing this organization. Together, I'm extremely proud to be a part of Genesis House, and humbled to be able to work alongside such great individuals coming together for the betterment of our communities.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR - ANGELA BRAUN

I would sum up the 2020/2021 year as fluid. We have experienced a full year with the pandemic and what it looks like for women and children who are fleeing domestic abuse. There were times when our shelter was empty and we noticed that as restrictions eased our shelter then became full. Staff learned to be even more flexible in an ever-changing environment. While shelter stays were at times quieter, the crisis line became busier. There were a few things that we were able to implement to be able to adapt and move relatively quickly into a position where quality supports were still available.

As with many other businesses and organizations, ZOOM became a lifeline to other organizations. Staff also used it with clients when they needed to do follow up counselling or connecting. An offsite location for meeting non-residential clients funded by the Canadian Women's Foundation, was acquired to prevent COVID-19 from potentially affecting all staff so that we could remain open should staff members become sick. Investing time in social media became a priority as those that were isolated may not be able to access the supports that were available.

During this year we were also able to implement our Housing Outreach Program. That program was funded by the Canada's Reaching Home Strategy which works on the prevention and shelter diversion of individuals experiencing homelessness. This program has been successful and will continue for as long as we can acquire the funding.

I would like to acknowledge the board for their support in trusting me lead our team and their dedication to our community. This year has been challenging and ever-changing and thank you to our staff for trusting me as your leader. The staff of Genesis House worked tirelessly to provide support. They approach each new resident with care and they demonstrate their compassion and commitment to quality services every day by listening without judgement and supporting a woman's choice. They are the heartbeat of this organization. I am proud to be a part of this team.

WOMEN'S PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Genesis House is a voluntary program for women that are experiencing abuse by intimate partner or family member. There's no charge to access the 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. We have in the past had men that have used our support services however shelter accommodation is provided elsewhere.

When families walk through our doors, crisis workers listen and validate the woman's experiences. We want to ensure that she understands her rights and her options and provide opportunities to make informed decisions about her future. Supports that are available at Genesis House are support groups, long-term and short-term counseling, and child and teen counseling. 2020/2021 year looked different as we were navigating the unknown with the pandemic. Counselling sessions were available on zoom or through phone calls for non-residential. During this year it was important more than ever to stay connected as we know many were isolated who needed the supports. Each support that is offered to women and their children is based on the need of the individual.

Our women's programming can be summed up with our team statement. We exist so that there will be empowerment for women and children to connect to their personal power. We provide resources and assistance in reaching goals, safety for children and women which includes protection planning. We educate women and families along with the community, and ultimately we provide support for women and children 24 hours a day seven days a week.

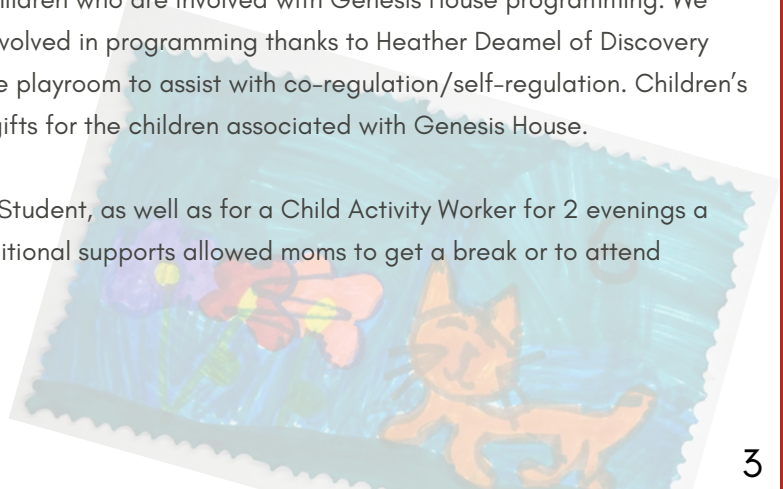
Women Counseling Client Type	2018-2019 #of sessions/# of hours		2019-2020 # of sessions/# of hours		2020-2021 # of sessions/# of hours	
Residential	2004	1311	1695	1295	960	854
Non-Residential	72	95	67	108	421	304
Follow-up	102	71	111	128	143	117
TOTAL	2178	1477	1873	1531	1524	1275

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

In the past year, Genesis House has provided shelter to 30 children and non-residential services to four children. We held three Kids Camp weeks (2 in July and 1 in August) with a total of 23 participants. We received a grant that allowed us to collaborate new relationships with agencies in the community to bring forth a Teen Talk program between the Winkler Teen Clinic and the Morden Collegiate Institute. The Follow-Up and Children's programs work together to facilitate programming for families.

The Children's Program handed out books as gifts to children who are involved with Genesis House programming. We were able to distribute 34 Easter Baskets to children involved in programming thanks to Heather Deamel of Discovery Toys. We created a Children's Calm Down Corner in the playroom to assist with co-regulation/self-regulation. Children's program also collaborated to put together Christmas gifts for the children associated with Genesis House.

The children's program received a grant for a Summer Student, as well as for a Child Activity Worker for 2 evenings a week from September 2020 to March 2021. These additional supports allowed moms to get a break or to attend meetings as needed.



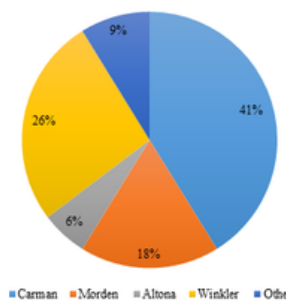
HOUSING OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Housing Outreach Program funded by Canada's Reaching Home Strategy works on the prevention and shelter diversion of individuals experiencing homelessness. The prevention activities include aiming to reduce homelessness by supporting women and their families who are currently housed but at risk of losing their housing and connecting individuals with the resources available to them in their communities to prevent homelessness. This program aims at social integration of the clientele in the program into their communities. This program has been shown to be much needed in our community. Over the past year the Housing Outreach Counsellor worked with 39 women and their children who were fleeing abuse and seeking safe affordable housing. These women and their children identify as at-risk of homelessness or imminent risk of homelessness.

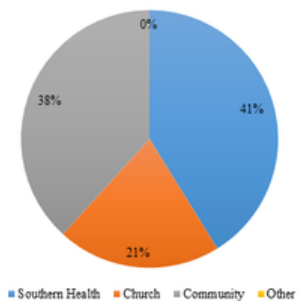
At this time the Housing Outreach Counselor maintains active relationships with 129 community stakeholders. These stakeholders include, but are not limited too, public health, food banks, Manitoba Housing, Winkler Affordable Housing, Eden Mental Health Services, Southern Health, church's, local immigration projects, schools, EIA, and local resource centres. Each of the aforementioned programs work together to address the issue of homelessness in rural Southern Manitoba. Between all entities there is open communication that allows for referrals to programming that the clientele require as well as support from community entities to ensure that each clientele is having their basic needs met.



Referrals Received 2020-2021 BNCR Project



Referral Designates 2020-2021



OUR COMMUNITY

The goal of Genesis House is that people in South Central Manitoba will be able to live their lives free of Domestic violence. 2020 has brought on many challenges to this invaluable service for children, women and families in our area. There are many unknowns but the one thing that remains consistent is the support from our community. While staff are working within the walls of our Shelter, the community has come alongside and supported through finances, through acts of kindness, volunteering, through donations and through sharing awareness of the supports that are available in our communities.

The challenge of Communal living with the addition of trauma, multiple family and cultural dynamics, was magnified by covid and the changing restrictions. The shelter was able to secure some funding during the pandemic to help our staff and families manage in an already stressful time. It is the community that provides our basic needs such as clothing, food, encouragement and support. Thank you for bringing a light to so many during a dark time.

VOLUNTEERS

THANK
YOU

Board Members

- Marlin Froese - Chair
- Janessa Unrau - Vice Chair
- Karen Tjaden - Secretary
- Mallory Penner - Treasurer
- Denise Thiessen
- Sherry Ford
- Cheryl Digby
- Angela Braun - Executive Director

A heartfelt thank you to all the people that have volunteered at Genesis House over the past year. Particularly the very dedicated board members. Their behind the scene tasks developing policy, creating a vision and a long term strategic plan for the organization are the foundation on which our agency rests.

REPORT FROM THE MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF WOMENS' SHELTERS (MAWS) - DEENA BROCK

This past year was a challenge but it was also rewarding to see the staff of MAWS and the family violence shelters and agencies doing what they do best, managing crises. MAWS involvement this year:

- produced a daily vacancy report at the beginning of the pandemic to help service providers quickly identify available bed space in shelters and agencies
- participated in other Community of Practice (CoP) and research projects, including both a regional and national CoP with the University of Manitoba (UM) Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse (RESOLVE) network. This initiative aims to improve coordination amongst family violence/family law practitioners, to share information on emerging issues and promising practices, as well as better support for those navigating these systems
- worked with Rogers Communications on the Manitoba phase of their Digital Lifeline program
- collaborated with organizations that support newcomers, immigrants and refugee families on a campaign called "You Are Not Alone," that raises awareness of Manitoban GBV prevention and support programs through multilingual videos

Through our initiatives, MAWS will continue to collaborate with FV shelters and agencies in Manitoba, as well as community stakeholders. We are committed to supporting FV service providers in their work, and ultimately, survivors and victims.



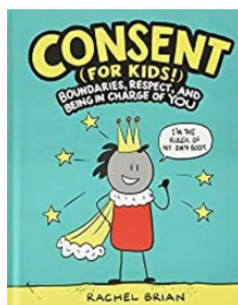
10 Week Women's Group on building healthy and respectful relationships with yourself and others was possible by United Way, ECSFund and SunValley Coop.



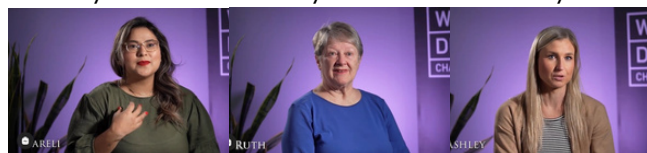
We were able to add a Kitchen Coordinator to our team with the support of the Emergency Community Support Fund and Morden Area Foundation.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

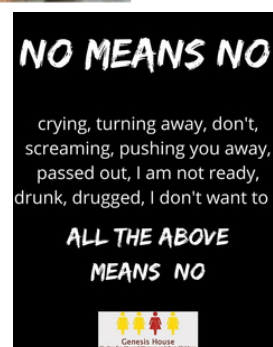
- ASIST suicide Intervention
- Conflict resolution and de-escalation strategies
- Increasing Access for Indigenous Women - BC Society of Transition Houses (webinars)
- Red Cross PPE Training (webinar)



There are many books for parents to help teach children about body safety. Stranger danger is not enough as statistically 95% of sexually abuse children will know their abusers. Teaching children about boundaries, both theirs and others will give children confidence and they will learn how they should be treated by others.



Winkler District Chamber of Commerce along with Genesis House celebrated International Women's Day. This year we highlighted women and their great contribution to society in business, in the home and volunteering in community.



April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Information/ Crisis Line Services	2020-2021
Seeking Shelter	235 Women 7 Men 2 Youth
Seeking Counselling	127 Women 18 Men 10 Youth
Information/Referrals	298 3 Youth
Donation Calls	112
Other Calls (not DV related, hang ups)	117
TOTAL	983

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

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 many of our anonymous donors.

OVERAL FUNDING IS DERIVED FROM FOUR MAIN SOURCES:

- **Family Violence Prevention Grant** from the Manitoba Government provides programming, facility and staffing allocating specific amounts to each cost centre. The Branch 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 few exceptions, no capitol expenditures are allowed.
- **Employment & Income Assistance** provides a per diem for every bed night(intended to cover staff and food). Special needs specific to clients(transport, medications) is also financed. This portion of our income is dependant on the utilization of our shelter.
- **Fundraising/Donations**
- **CAPC Grant** is part of the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters Project. This grant has been essential for the majority of the Child Counselling Program.

Revenue	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Family Violence Prevention Grant	380,100	380,100	380,100
Employment & Income Assistance - Income Security	40,863	45,825	28,373
Fundraising/Donations	99,697	158,843	190,888
Canadian Action Program for Children Grant & Resource	21,326	21,326	21,326
Other Grants	45,344	42,138	127,410
Other Revenue (GST, Moving Reimbursements, Summer Student)	12,133	19, 620	17,361
Total Revenue	599,463	667,852	211,895
Expenses	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Salaries &Benefits Benefits	445,582	470,848	592,966
Administrative/Staff Training/Moving Expenses/RHA Conference	46,208	25,526	60,950
Board Expenses	5,422	2,580	1,256
Fundraising Expenses	10,033	20,583	12,333
Insurance Insurance	5,583	5,896	5,148
Maintenance Supplies/Janitorial	20,101	20,063	86,015
Professional Fees	12,255	7,730	7,213
Travel	7,335	3,739	4,219
Client Activities & Programs	18,456	18,728	31,469
Total Expenses	570,975	570,975	801,569

Family Violence Prevention Program

The specialized program of the government of Manitoba's Status of Women promotes the elimination of intimate partner violence through the development in support of community-based services. The program provides policy and program direction as well as funding to specialize services for women, their children and men caught in the cycle of violence. The services are delivered by 33 agencies in the community across the province. We would like to express our gratitude to the staff of the family violence project prevention program, especially our External Agency Coordinator Aiyana Lajeunesse and Director Jamie Carnegie your ongoing support.



When English is not your first language, finding supports in your community can be daunting. Thank you to Lowell at Profuzion Studio for helping us create several videos in some of the different languages in our area. Find them on our website.



Both men and women can be abusers. Statistically, women are more likely to be the victims of abuse but we know that abuse does happen to both men and women. The way men abuse is generally more physical and can cause bodily harm and/or death which is why women's and children's shelters exist.

Women's shelters Canada(WSC)

WSC represent a strong, unified voice on the issue of violence against women on the national stage. Through collaboration, knowledge exchange and adoption of innovative practices, we advance the coordination and implementation of high-quality services for women and children access in shelter.

Bednights *	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Women (42)	734/38 Men	711	406
Children (30)	406	684	239
Total	1178	1395	645

Bednights * refers to each night a bed is occupied in shelter
(ex. A mom with 2 children = 3 bednights)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

THE GENESIS HOUSE TEAM

Working at Genesis House is a challenging job. The staff demonstrate their commitment to quality client services everyday by dealing with challenges such as uncertainty in occupancy and the increase in high needs clients. Counselors enthusiastically develop and facilitate programming in the needs they have identified. They are the strength of the organization.



Staff

Management - Angela Braun (Executive Director), Karen H.(Executive Assistant)
Client Support Counselors - Karen T., Marilyn T., Anita RL., Kristy K., Angel R., Martha W., Madison F., Kristin G., and Jane S.
Casual Support Workers - Mary Ann D., Crystal D., Lisa Z.
Community Outreach - Kari Kauenhofen
Housing Outreach Coordinator - Taylor R.
Grant Support - Althea F., Maria F.

Thank You!