

GENESIS HOUSE

South Central Committee on Family Violence Inc.

38th Annual Report 2021/2022

Box 389, Winkler, Manitoba, R6W 4A6

24 Hour Crisis Line: 1-877-977-0007

Local Crisis Line: 204-325-9800

Phone: 204-325-9957

Fax: 204-325-5889

E-mail: director@genesis-house.ca

Website: www.geneshouseshelter.ca



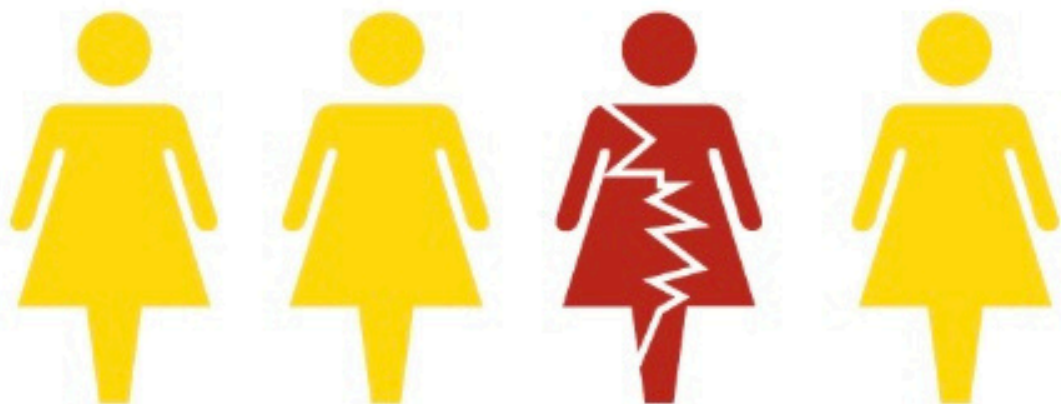
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[GenesisHouseSouthernManitoba](#)

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REPORT FROM THE CHAIR - KAREN TJADEN

On behalf of the Board I want to sincerely thank the dedicated staff team led by Executive Director Angela Braun for your continued incredible commitment to the mission and goals of Genesis House. Although this past year has seen some easing of restrictions related to the COVID 19 pandemic, you continue to serve on the frontlines of the ongoing pandemic of intimate partner violence in our communities.

This annual report documents the dramatic increase in demand for the critical services Genesis House provides and demonstrates your creative responses to respond with compassion and courage to these challenges.

Past investments in Resource Development have greatly enhanced our communication with the community through social media, enabling new corporate and individual donors to contribute generously and new partnerships to flourish. We are thankful for the support we receive from municipal governments who demonstrate their support for this important work with annual grants. After more than a decade without any significant increase to our core funding from the Province we were relieved to receive news of a substantial increase to Family Violence Prevention Program funding which will provide much greater stability to meet the actual costs of providing services to women, children and men in crisis and transition. Generous donations from the community made it possible to create new programming, including a Men's Family Violence Intervention Coordinator and the Caring Dads program.

These initiatives and all of the work documented in this annual report represent our collective commitment to respond creatively and with compassion to the challenge of intimate partner violence in our communities. Thank you to all of our donors and we look forward to your continued support in the year ahead.

Finally, we extend our deep appreciation to the staff team who deliver these programs and services and to Angela Braun for your exceptional leadership and steadfast service in your role as Executive Director of Genesis House.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR - ANGELA BRAUN

2021/2022 has been one of our busiest on record sadly. The first year of covid saw extremely low numbers residentially but as the pandemic went on people could not wait any longer to seek safety. I was shocked by a 2021 report from the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability that reported 173 women and girls violently killed in Canada in 2021. That is a woman or girl murdered almost every other day in Canada! The report was very thorough, identifying that 47% were killed in their own home. There are so many sayings related to home; "Home is where the heart is" "There's no place like home" "Home isn't a place, it's a feeling" Most of us consider home our safe place, sadly for many people it is not.

Other very interesting points from the report include:

- 45% of victims were killed in rural/small towns - that's 79 women/girls
- The youngest victim was under one year old, the oldest was 97
- Stabbing was the most common method of killing (45%), followed by shooting (38%)
- 50% of victims were white, 19% indigenous, 32% racialized Canadians
- Only 5% were murdered by a stranger
- 4 women were pregnant when they were murdered
- over 164 children were left without a mother
- 89% of the murders were committed by a male

These numbers reflect a 26% increase in deaths from the previous year. The COVID lockdown increased the risk factors for domestic abuse in many ways: financial stressors, too much togetherness, no breathing room, no way to reach out for support. The perfect storm. Even as I write this, I was notified of a 20-year-old woman who was murdered by a male friend over the weekend. Two lives ruined due to domestic abuse.

In October 2021 we launched our Men's Intervention Program. It will take time to see the evidence of changes being made by men's engagement with the program but we know with more opportunity for help there will be a positive impact for families and community. I would like to recognize the amazing team of people I get to work with everyday. They have showed up and given their all during a time that was daunting and uncertain. They continued to provide care and compassion to all that walked through our doors. THANK YOU! I am grateful to our board of directors for providing strong leadership and support through rough waters. They are forward thinking and committed to making a real difference for the people we serve.

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. 2021/2022 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.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Children's Counsellor continues to provide 1-1 counselling for residential and non-residential children. In November, we bring awareness to domestic violence and our children's counsellor along with our housing support worker had the opportunity to present to the Winkler Flyers. This opportunity was a great way to engage with those who have great influence on our youth. A lot of the conversation was around the bystander effect as well as consent.

The Children's Counsellor provides childcare during groups to allow mothers to have a break with other women and allows them to better focus on the session. Over the summer, respite was provided for mothers while they received counselling from the Outreach Counsellor. The Children's program also hosted a summer camp, 1 week in July, and 1 week in August. The campers enjoyed visiting fun places around Winkler and Morden.



NON-RESIDENTAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

This past year has become substantially busier in the follow-up/non-residential program at Genesis House, as the pandemic has been slowing down. The follow-up/non-residential counselor works with women after they leave shelter, as well as with women who do not feel comfortable coming in, providing one on one support and counseling, ensuring women understand their rights and options to make the best decisions for her and her family. The follow-up/non-residential counselor also co-facilitated the first ever "Caring Dads" program offered through Genesis House this past winter.

Follow-up/non-res also works closely with Housing & Outreach, co-facilitating support groups offered this year. Our counselor participated in training and educational opportunities such as "When Love Hurts: A Woman's Guide to Understanding Abuse in Relationships" offered in BC, Non-Violent Crisis Intervention, First Aid & CPR, as well as becoming a fully accredited "Caring Dads" facilitator.

Women Counseling Client Type	2019-2020		2020-2021		2021-2022		Information/ Crisis line services	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
	# of sessions/# of hours		# of sessions/# of hours		# of sessions/# of hours					
Residential	1695	1295	960	854	2105	1518	Seeking Shelter	189	244	396
Non-Residential	67	108	421	304	503/26	334/26	Seeking Counseling	123	157	113
Follow-up	111	128	143	117	146	117	Other Calls	526	582	579
TOTAL	1873	1531	1524	1275	2754/26	1969/26	Total	838	983	1088

HOUSING OUTREACH PROGRAM

Another year has come and gone for the Housing and Outreach Counselling Program at Genesis House. The Housing and Outreach Counsellor worked closely throughout the year providing one-on-one support and counselling to women in their communities who identified as financially and housing insecure. The Housing and Outreach Counsellor also offered a variety of support groups for women in their community.

Highlights from support groups offered through this program included Falling into Financial Freedom, Life Skills: Learning to Cook on a Budget, Self Esteem through Scrapbooking, and lasting When Love Hurts. Each support group offered ran at capacity for the duration of the year, with participants stating how important this programming is to their healing journey.

The Housing and Outreach Counsellor also participated in a variety of trainings and educational opportunities which included, but is not limited to, When Love Hurts: A Women's Guide to Understanding Abuse in Relationship through MCC British Columbia, Rent Smart Educator Training, HIFIS, Non Violent Crisis Intervention, First Aid and CPR, as well as attending the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness Annual Conference.

MEN'S INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The Genesis Men's program is dedicated to providing hope for men who have failed or feel they have failed in their relationships with their partner and or children. This feeling of failure leads to further dysfunction and stress in their relationships. Hope is provided through group counseling (Caring Dads program) which helps men to recognize that they are not alone and can give and receive encouragement from group members and through one on one counseling sessions that allow them to really focus on their individual situations.

Men are most often mandated to attend programming but this does not necessarily have a negative effect on the outcome of the sessions. Most men walk away from the sessions feeling glad they came. All of the sessions are designed to give the men simple tools that will empower them to have a better relationships with their children and /or their partner.

Plans for the fall include starting an on-line zoom Caring Dads Group, an in person group with our two new facilitators Hank and Anita Froese and partnering with the Agape House in Steinbach to start a Caring Dads group in that community. This will be in addition to one on one counseling that is always available to those men that are in need of that service. Some of the highlights of this past year include attending "When Love Hurts" training in Abbotsford B.C., meeting with the Crown, Nick Saunders and completing Mentor men's group training in March.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- David Falk with Facilitated solutions – Revisit core values
Core Values: (Initial Short List)
 1. Dignity with Compassion, Genuine connection, Present, Empathy
 2. Person centred
 3. Inclusive/Equity
- CPR & Non Violent Crisis intervention
- When Love Hurts conference for Follow-up, Men's and Housing coordinator
- Board Development with Susan Rogers Governance coaching – This is a two day professional development where the board strategized the current landscape of the service area and planned for anticipated challenges ahead.
- Several staff received Canada MB Jobs grant and received an online counselling program through Elearn Canada.

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. There are many days where the shelter is at capacity and the need feels overwhelming. 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. Thank you to all those that have opened your heart to the work of Genesis House.

I want to teach my children that the world is bigger than them.

I want to be a part of something.

It strengthens my personal values.

VOLUNTEERS

Board Members

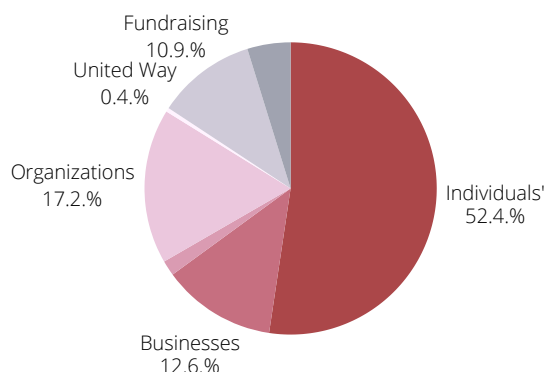
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|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Karen Tjaden – Chair | • Denise Thiessen |
| • Janessa Unrau – Vice Chair | • Sherry Foord |
| • Chris Hildebrand – Secretary | • Sam Hilhorst |
| • Mallory Penner – Treasurer | • Rachelle Fehr |
| | • Angela Braun – Executive Director |

Want a virtual tour of Genesis House?

Check out

www.geneshouseshelter.ca

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.



**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.*

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	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Family Violence Prevention Grant	380,100	380,100	380,100
Employment & Income Assistance - Income Security	45,825	28,373	76,289
Fundraising/Donations	158,843	190,888	198,973
Canadian Action Program for Children Grant & Resource	21,326	21,326	21,726
Other Grants	42,138	339,305	222,229
Other Revenue (GST, Moving Reimbursements, Summer Student)	19, 620	17,361	12,773
Total Revenue	667,852	977,353	912,090
Expenses	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Salaries &Benefits	470,848	592,966	635,603
Administrative/Staff Training/Moving Expenses/RHA Conference	25,526	60,950	45,398
Board Expenses	2,580	1,256	2,495
Fundraising Expenses	20,583	12,333	15,403
Insurance	5,896	5,148	7,291
Maintenance Supplies/Janitorial	20,063	86,015	85,737
Professional Fees	7,730	7,213	9,971
Travel	3,739	4,219	7,522
Client Activities & Programs	18,728	31,469	43,174
Total Expenses	570,975	801,569	852,594

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

Our work with the provincial Family Violence (FV) shelters, as well as our participation on the Women's Shelters Canada (WSC) Advisory Council, has shown us that the Manitoba FV sector faces the same structural challenges as national and international GBV prevention sectors. We have intensified our efforts to address these challenges through capacity-building, communications, and advocacy initiatives. Through two federally-funded projects, "Transforming Together" and "Centering the Rights of Women from The Margins," MAWS staff have connected with the provincial Family Violence shelters to identify possible gaps in their organization's service delivery, consult with them on viable solutions, develop policies and build key partnerships between FV and aligned sector stakeholders throughout the province. MAWS has utilized grants from the Government of Manitoba, the Canadian Women's Foundation and Women's Shelters Canada to develop client-centred and trauma-informed training. Our online courses are being developed in consultation with Indigenous- and newcomer-led organizations, people with lived experience, and thought leaders in trauma-informed practice, harm reduction and GBV.

The pandemic has had a devastating impact on those affected by violence. Earlier this year, Statistics Canada reported that the rate of police-reported sexual assault in Canada has reached its highest level since 1996*. Further, in navigating the challenges of the pandemic, FV staff have been experiencing rising levels of pandemic-related burnout and vicarious trauma - impacting shelter operations.

Today, FV clients present with increasingly complex and multi-sector needs, including mental health and substance use dependence, affordable housing, and food insecurity, to name a few. Robust partnerships between the FV and aligned sectors would ensure that community members in need receive the timely care and support they require to thrive. Additionally, investments in FV shelters' service delivery and operational infrastructure would answer the increasing need for shelter spaces and services for clients. However, the historical and current system in which the FV and other social support organizations operate has been set up to constrain them, limit collaboration, generate a sense of competition for funding, and create siloes between the FV organizations and stakeholders. From the work our members and FV agencies do, we know that gender-based violence and femicide can be reduced if we collectively strengthen the Manitoba anti-violence system by centering the rights and voices of survivors and victims of abuse, caring for anti-violence workers, and promoting consistent, intersectional and culturally inclusive services.

* <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/national-sexual-assault-rate-highest-since-1996-violent-crimes-up-statistics-canada-1.6538842#:~:text=The%20Canadian%20Press>

IN THE KNOW

November is Domestic Abuse Awareness Month. Watch our socials for:

- Free family law webinars with Community Legal Education Association sponsored by Gilmour Brault Hiebert Law Office
- Peace Begins at Home Hockey game with the Winkler Flyers
- Presentation at Fem Fest
- Fawn and Cub
- Power of the Pj's
- "Unmasking" Domestic Violence Masquerade Gala

Stop by our booth at Fawn and Cub November 12th and 13th in Winkler, Manitoba. We will be on site to answer any questions you may have about Genesis House as well as accept donations for the shelter.

Get a taste of New Orleans in this Mardi Gras inspired "Unmasking" Domestic Violence Masquerade Gala, November 26, 2022. This is a formal event that will be filled with good food, entertainment all while supporting Genesis House. Stay tuned to our socials and website for more information.



November we are learning

With November being Domestic Abuse Awareness Month, we want you to have the opportunity to learn what we are about.

Church service? Good Samaritan and the Road of Life.

Business? Who we are, How to support your employees, Why we exist in our community

School? Healthy relationships and Domestic Abuse in our Community

Community Group? Who we are, How to Access Services, Why we exist in our community

Greeting Cards

Genesis House has created blank greeting cards that offer information regarding our services and crisis line. For some women, their only exposure to help could be a card that shows that someone cares and would give them access to the crisis line phone number. A card from a friend could create an opportunity for a community member to move into a safer living environment. Cards are purchased by donation and all proceeds from these greeting cards will support the work of Genesis House.

Cards can be purchased by calling 204-362-0082 or at

Floral Scents (Morden)

The Flower Shop (Altona)

Copper and Sparrow (Winkler)

Willow Creek Curated (Winkler)

Whitecap (Winkler)



Have you experienced domestic abuse and want to be a part of this project? Maybe you have supported an individual who has experienced abuse. Send us your art with your age on it. Send to Kari at resource@genesis-house.ca, 204-325-0082 or Box 389, Winkler, Manitoba, R6W 4A6

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

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.



Management – Angela Braun (Executive Director),

Karen H. (Executive Assistant), Angel R. (Program Manager)

Client Support Counselors – Karen T., Marilyn T., Kristin G., Kristy K., Mary Ann D., Martha W., Madison F., Olivia Z., Atia N., and Chantel H.

Casual Support Workers – Lisa Z., Desirae D. and Vienna P.

Community Outreach – Kari K.

Housing Support Outreach Coordinator – Taylor R.

Men's Intervention Program – George N.

Grant Support – Bree R.

Thank
you!