

GENESIS HOUSE

39th Annual Report **2022/23**



OUR MISSION

The South Central Committee on Family Violence, Inc. exists so there will be:

- **Empowerment** for women and children to connect to their personal power,
- **Resources** for women in abusive situations,
- **Assistance** in reaching goals,
- **Safety** for women and children in facility and protection planning,
- **Education** to the community to decrease the incidence of abuse,
- **Support** for women and children 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to help them make informed choices.

OUR VISION

That physical, emotional, sexual, and economic abuse toward another individual is violence. Such violence is damaging and contrary to standards of reasonable behaviour in our communities.

We consider such violence to be the concern of all members of our society.

We believe that victims and abusers should receive the assistance/support of their communities in the changes they choose to make.

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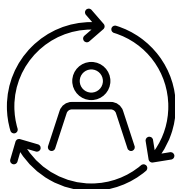
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CORE VALUES



PERSON CENTERED



INCLUSIVE/EQUALITY



COMPASSION
WITH DIGNITY

REPORT FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

On behalf of the Board of Genesis House, thank you for taking time to read this annual report. These pages are a faithful record of our ongoing efforts to respond with compassion to the ongoing injustice and suffering caused by intimate partner violence in the communities that we serve.

Gender based violence has been recognized as a pandemic in its own right and we lament the huge cost in human suffering, broken relationships, lost income and education opportunities and diminished personal and community security and safety. We are saddened to learn about how the suffering caused by violence experienced in families is multiplied by other social factors including poverty, racism, and lack of affordable and stable housing options in our communities.

Genesis House could not begin to respond to these challenges without the dedicated team of staff led by our exceptional Executive Director Angela Braun. We are thankful for significant increases in provincial government funding in our sector last year which have allowed us to hire more staff and provide more competitive compensation to our dedicated staff who do such an amazing job 24/7, 365 days of the year! A shelter like Genesis House never closes and we always need staff ready to welcome women and children who literally have no other place to turn.

Thanks to our growing and generous community support, from individuals, businesses, other social agencies and all levels of government we are able to continue to create new programs and explore new opportunities to address the reality of gender based violence and some of its root causes. Thank you for being an active participant in the work of Genesis House and helping to create safer, healthier communities.

In closing our sincere gratitude to Ang Bruan and the whole staff team of Genesis House! You will read about their work in these pages and we hope you will continue to support them and the mission of Genesis House in many ways in the coming year!

KAREN TJADEN
BOARD CHAIR

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The 2022/2023 remained extremely busy. The shelters across the province are mostly full on any given day.

The stays for families are becoming longer and longer. This is in large part to the sad reality that there is simply no place to move on to. The housing market has been unable to sustain the deluge of families that are seeking a place to live. In shelter heartbreakingly that often looks like people giving up and returning to their abusive home.

Genesis House has decided to pursue a project to develop transitional housing units in our service area. This project has been a long time in coming. As I recently described to our Board of Directors, housing has been one of my top three concerns since I started working here in 1992. When is the right time to take such a huge risk? I wish I could see the future to know if this is the right decision, but as an organization we are taking a leap of faith. We hope we can count on community for support.

Genesis House is very grateful to the Family Violence Prevention Program now Gender Based Violence Program of Manitoba for their work on creating a new service purchase agreement and funding model for the shelters in Manitoba.

This new funding has allowed us to improve staff salaries which had been stagnant for many years as well as improve our service delivery by having additional staff members on shift. Over the past ten years many of the families that need our services are coming with more complex needs. It was becoming untenable to support multiple families at one time as well as answer the crisis line. This will improve the quality of service that staff are able to provide.

Even with all the challenges, I truly enjoy coming to work each day! I am blessed to work with a great team that is not only supportive of the families we serve but also a great support to me. They are prepared to be honest with me when I am off track and push me to speak up even when my knees and voice are shaking, so that the voice of the women we help can be heard. They truly are Wonder Women! Through all of the challenges of the past year I have also had the unwavering support of the Board of Directors. Thank you does not seem adequate but THANK YOU!

STATISTICS BASED ON 2022/23 RESIDENTIAL CLIENTS



54% of the women have graduated high school



spouses are the most common abuser (24%) followed by ex-partner (22%)



38% had never left the relationship before, 21% had left 2-4 times before



67% identified that their partner had addictions

REPORT FROM MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF WOMENS SHELTERS

In the busy, post-pandemic landscape of 2022-2023, MAWS has been focused on systems change, to help the Manitoba Family Violence (FV)/Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention sector recover from the setbacks of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our three goals to facilitate the transformation of the FV/GBV sector included: (a) building community partnerships; (b) providing anti-violence education; and, (c) strengthening the capacity of the FV/GBV system.

At the national level, MAWS sits on the Women's Shelters Canada (WSC) Board of Directors and Advisory Council, as well as on committees convened by the national Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children (CREVAWC). Provincially, MAWS has been part of the University of Manitoba COVID-19 Committee, the Manitoba CAPC Coalition, and the Government of Manitoba's Clare's Law Working Group. At the municipal and local level, MAWS has engaged with the Winnipeg Safe Cities Initiative, and is part of the City of Winnipeg MMIWG2S+ Working Group.

Along with building community partnerships, our anti-violence work has involved education, awareness, and training initiatives. Two crucial advanced training initiatives that MAWS launched in the past year are the free "Understanding Mental Health and Substance Use: Training for Professionals Working with Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence" and "The Shelter Support Worker Micro-Credential Program (SSW)".

MAWS has held a variety of community awareness campaigns including "16 Days – 16 Ways to End GBV" in partnership with McNally Robinson and a virtual Art Gallery for IWD.

2022-2023 has been a year of great internal and external changes, and 2023-24 is already bringing its own transformations. Internally, MAWS Provincial Coordinator Deena Brock is transitioning out of her role, and MAWS will also be saying goodbye to valued team member Amrita Chavan (Communications Specialist). Deena and Amrita's contributions to MAWS have helped us advance our organization's mission. They will be missed, and we wish them every success in their future endeavors.

As part of our efforts to move forward with our vision and goals, the MAWS Board of Directors has appointed Tsungai (Sue) Muvingi as Associate Provincial Coordinator. We're thrilled to be working with Sue, who will take over the Provincial Coordinator role. Under her leadership and with the support of the MAWS Board, members and the MAWS team, we are confident that MAWS will continue to build community partnerships, add to its public education initiatives, strengthen the capacity of the FV/GBV sector, and advocate for survivor-centred solutions to end GBV.

DEENA BROCK
PROVINCIAL CO-ORDINATOR

PROGRAM UPDATES

Genesis House runs a variety of programming to assist women and their children experiencing abuse.

01

Residential Program

Genesis House is a voluntary program for women that are experiencing abuse. 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. While the woman is in shelter all of her basic needs will be met.

A cook has been hired to prepare snacks for the groups and making delicious meals every day for our guests. With the assistance of grant money, we were able to purchase new furniture for the shelter including couches, end tables and a new dining room set. We are so pleased with how welcoming our space looks!

Bednights	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Women (# new intakes)	406 (42)	1037 (64)	1191 (64)
Men	0	0	4 (1)
Children (# new intakes)	239 (30)	904 (60)	1353 (50)
TOTAL	645	1941	2548

Crisis Line Services	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Seeking Shelter	244	396	423
Seeking Counseling	157	113	135
Other Calls	582	579	637
TOTAL	983	1088	1195

02

Non-Residential Program

The Follow-Up/Non-Residential Counselor works with women after they leave shelter, as well as with women who choose to not access shelter. They continues to provide one-on-one support and counseling, ensuring women understand their rights and options to make the best decisions for her and her family. Support and advocacy are provided in a variety of areas including: housing, medical appointments, protection order applications, legal aide applications, addictions and mental health. The Follow Up/Non-Residential Counselor has worked closely with Housing & Outreach, co-facilitating support groups offered this year.

Counselling	2020-21 #sessions/#hours	2021-22 #sessions/#hours	2022-23 #sessions/#hours
Residential	960 / 854	2105 / 1518	1793 / 984
Non-Residential	421 / 304	503 / 26 334 / 26	594 / 140 420 / 140
Follow-Up	143 / 117	146 / 117	161 / 133
TOTAL	1524 / 1275	2754 / 26 1969 / 26	2548 / 140 1537 / 140

03

Children's Program

The Children's Counsellor continues to provide 1-1 counselling to both residential and non-residential children. As indicated in the charts above, we continue to see more children in shelter. The Children's Counsellor continues to provide childcare during groups to allow mothers to have a break with other women and allows them to better focus on the session. A part-time child minder was also hired in the Spring of 2023 to help with the influx of children in shelter.

The Children's Counsellor has presented for a variety of students across South Central Manitoba including: the Grade 12 family studies at Morden Collegiate Institute, RRC Health Care Aide Program, EMMS Mental Health Expo and a 5 week program at with Grade 10s at Roseau Valley School on Healthy Youth Relationships. 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.

04

Housing & Outreach Program

The Housing and Outreach Counsellor continues to provide one-on-one support, group counselling and advocacy supports to women who identified as financially and housing insecure. Highlights from support groups offered through this program included When Love Hurts (Phase 1 & 2), Rent Smart and Rock'n'Roll. Many participants stated how important this programming was to their healing journey.

34 referrals for women and children experiencing homelessness in our catchment area throughout the 2022-2023 year, bringing the total amount of women served up to 98 women to date.

The Housing and Outreach Counsellor has had the opportunity to participate in the CHRA National Congress on Housing and Homelessness, Rural & Remote Housing Symposium, as well as the Canadian Sexual Exploitation Summit.



**from the Southern Health-Santé Sud 2019 Community Health Assessment: WINKLER DISTRICT*

05

Men's Program

We are sad to announce that the Mens' Intervention Program has ended as of March 31, 2023. It was a program funded by community which we had hoped we would be able to continue by securing ongoing funding. While that dream has not materialized, we are taking away some very good lessons. They include: a very thorough intake and assessment process for the perpetrator is essential to success, a strong knowledge base of working with men that have abused is imperative, there needs to be a cooling off period between the time when the couple separates and men engaging in programming. Finally, the program would be better suited to be run out of another organization where the intervention worker has strong peer support and supervision with support from the shelter. We are still prepared to facilitate the Caring Dads program and would engage with any other groups looking to fill the gap in supports to men.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

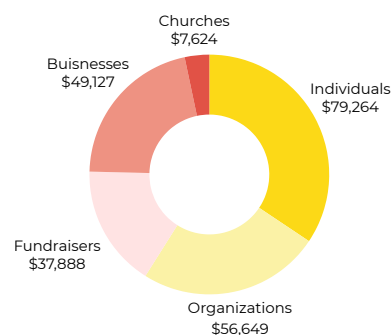
Overall Funding is derived from four main sources:

- **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 capital 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 dependent 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	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Family Violence Prevention Grant	380,100	380,100	696,500
Employment & Income Assistance	28,373	76,289	97,789
Fundraising/Donations	190,888	198,973	276,221
Canadian Action Program for Children Grant & Resource	21,326	21,726	21,959
Other Grants (housing, summer student)	339,305	222,229	218,470
Other Revenue (<i>GST, COVID relief</i>)	17,361	12,773	264,198
TOTAL REVENUE	977,353	912,090	1,575,137
Expenses	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Salaries & Benefits	592,966	635,603	791,054
Administrative (<i>moving expenses, conferences, staff training</i>)	60,950	45,398	163,596
Board Expenses	1,256	2,495	12,546
Fundraising Expenses	12,333	15,403	22,385
Insurance	5,148	7,291	7,906
Maintenance Supplies / Janitorial	86,015	85,737	31,423
Professional Fees	7,213	9,971	40,986
Travel	4,219	7,522	8,970
Client Activities & Programs	31,469	43,174	54,727
TOTAL EXPENSES	801,569	852,594	1,133,593

We could not do what we do without the support of community.

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.



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. Highlights from this year include new Tupperware, Christmas gifts, pantry items and Easter baskets.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A heartfelt thank you to our 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.

2022/23 BOARD

- Karen Tjaden - Chair
- Janessa Unrau - Vice Chair
- Chris Hildebrand - Secretary
- Mallory Penner - Treasurer
- Denise Thiessen
- Julia Stoesz
- Sam Hilhorst
- Donna Gueushi
- Rachelle Fehr
- Angela Braun - Executive Director

Genesis House is seeking board members.

The board provides a solid foundation in a policy governance style from which the agency operates. Applicants 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.

Contact the Executive Director for more information.

GENESIS HOUSE STAFF

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 Counsellors** – Karen T, Marilyn T, Martha W, Madison F, Atia N, Olivia Z, Desiree J, Bree R **Casual Support Workers** – Lisa Z, Kathy W, Judith F, Cristina **Community Outreach** – Sophie G **Housing Support Coordinator** – Taylor R **Kitchen** – Damaris D

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Staff Trainings

Vicarious Trauma and Stress, Economic Abuse Screening, Cultural Awareness Training, KAIROS Blanket Exercise, Family Law - CLEA Presentation, HIFIS, Safe & Together, Disclosures of Childhood Abuse, Dare to Lead - Brene Brown, Harm Reduction Conference, Vicarious Trauma - Vikki Reynolds



Women's Shelters Canada Conference

In March, Executive Director, Ang Braun, attended the Shockproofing Communities Summit hosted by Women's Shelters Canada and the Canadian Women's Foundation in Ottawa. The goal of the summit was to share learnings and experiences related to the pandemic with shelters across Canada in hopes of creating a better prepared system if such a crisis were to occur again. 500 delegates from shelters across Canada attended the two day Summit. 100 delegates remained an additional day to meet with Canadian MP's about the 10 year Canadian National Action Plan on Gender Based Violence. The key message that Ang was able to deliver to MP of Provencher, Ted Falk, was that it should not matter where in Canada you live, everyone should have equal access to protection and supports when experiencing gender based violence. The National Action Plan must be seen as Non Partisan and survive election cycles in order for it to have the impact intended.



HIGHLIGHTING A NATIONAL REPORT

“Turning the Tide Together– Mass Casualty Report” commissioned by Government of Canada and Province of Nova Scotia, includes recommendations from the tragic mass killings in Port a Pique Nova Scotia on April 18, 2020. One of many recommendations coming out of this report includes recognizing gender-based, intimate partner, and family violence as an epidemic and calls for sweeping changes to end gender based violence. It was noted that the gunman had a long history of violence as a victim when he was a child and a perpetrator as an adult. It also noted that there were many points of intervention that were ignored based on bias due to the gunman's status as a wealthy white male. It notes collective and systemic failures are attributable to the fact that women's safety is underfunded. It calls for an all of community response as a valuable first step necessary to prevent and eradicate these forms of violence.

The full report and all 17 recommendations on gender based violence can be found online at: <https://masscasualtycommission.ca/final-report/>

IN THE COMMUNITY

Genesis House has hosted a variety of events throughout the year to raise awareness and funds for their ongoing work. Here are a few of the highlights:

This year's Mardi Gras themed "Unmasking" Domestic Violence Masquerade Gala was held at Mulligans on November 27. The event raised just over \$27, 000! The funds went towards operating costs at Genesis House. Thank you to those who sponsored, donated prizes, attended, volunteered! Special thanks to our platinum sponsor, Access Credit Union.



Genesis House held the first **South Central Women's Health Expo**, on March 11, in hopes to enlighten, empower, and educate women in the Pembina Valley. Over 135 women attended the event. 28 community booths participated displaying the wide range of health supports available in our area. There were 9 presentations held throughout the day, covering topics spanning from endometriosis, to nutrition in menopause.

On June 13, Genesis House hosted a free screening of **Women Talking** at P.W. Enns Concert Hall, followed by a panel discussion featuring Marilyn (Genesis House), Don (Caring Dads) and Sally (CFS). Over 200 people came to watch, listen and learn about the violence and barriers Low-German women face and were educated on resources available in our area. \$2,700 was raised to support Low German Programming at Genesis House.

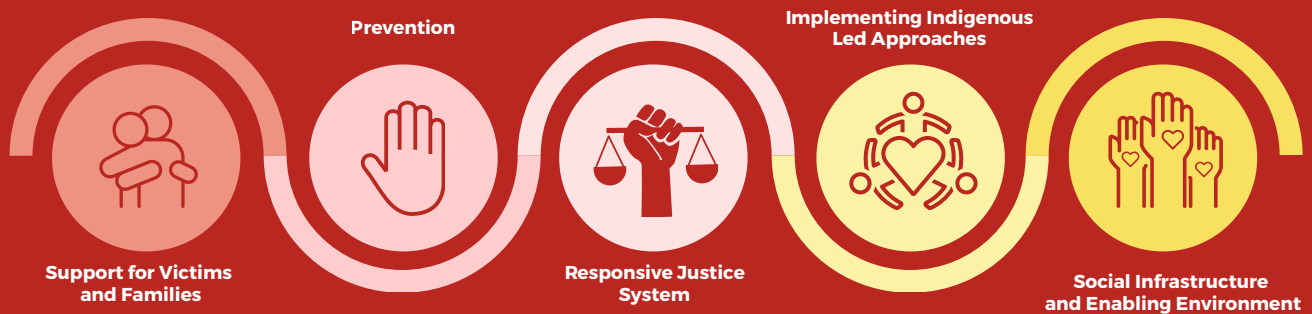


Purchase a greeting card to spread joy and offer information regarding our services and crisis line. A card from a friend could create an opportunity for a community member to move into a safer living environment! Cards are available by donation by calling 204-362-0082 or at Floral Scents (Morden), The Flower Shop (Altona), Copper & Sparrow (Winkler), Whitecap (Winkler) Charley's Coffee (Manitou) and Knockabouts Boutique (Carman).

Follow our social media pages to stay up to date with upcoming events, education and opportunities to support Genesis House.

5 Pillars of the National Action Plan on Gender Based Violence

View the full action plan at: <https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/gender-based-violence>



CONTACT

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



SCAN TO CALL

Box 389 Winkler, MB R6W 4A6

Phone: 204-325-9967

Fax: 204-325-5889

Website: www.geneshouseshelter.ca

Email: director@genesis-house.ca



GenesisHouseSouth



Genesis House Southern Manitoba