

GENESIS HOUSE

40th Annual Report 2023/24



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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CORE VALUES



MAKE EACH
OTHER BETTER



CREATE
PSYCHOLOGICAL
SAFETY



LEAD WITH
COMPASSION

REPORT FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Genesis House and the South Central Committee on Family Violence. This somber anniversary invites all of us to reflect on the reality of gender-based violence that persists in our communities and in our country.

We are extremely grateful for the dedicated staff and volunteers who have served Genesis House faithfully for the past 40 years, and we are deeply saddened to know that our services are still necessary because women and their children are not always safe in their homes and communities. The longer we do this work the more we learn about the toll this epidemic of violence against women takes on women, children, families, and communities. This suffering is multiplied by other social factors including poverty, racism, and lack of affordable and stable housing options in our communities. Over the past several years Genesis House has been investing time, energy, and resources towards realizing our goal of building 25 transitional housing units so that women and their children can move out of violence and into realizing their hopes and dreams for the future. Transitional housing has proven to be very effective in ending the cycle of violence and your support for this project will be a very fitting way to acknowledge this 40th anniversary. Hope builds when we share our resources and work together for change.

Thanks to our growing and generous community support, from individuals, businesses, other social agencies, and all levels of government we can 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. Several Board members will have completed six years on the Board and we thank them for their dedicated service as we welcome new Board members to continue this important work.

In closing our sincere gratitude to Ang Braun 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

It has been a difficult year to work at our shelter. The murders in Carman, of a young woman and her three children, as well as her niece were shocking and tragic. While we are very aware that domestic violence happens in every community, this truly hit very close to home. We extend our condolences to the families of those who were lost. This year we lost a number of our participants, some that we had worked with over time and others that were new friends of our agency. It is a strange feeling of grief because our relationship with each person is private, so we can only share inside our team how their deaths impact us. Sometimes we know how their story ended and other times we don't. We honor and care for each person that comes to us for help, and their loss of life is felt deeply by the team at Genesis House.

We have continued to see very high numbers over the past year, often working at residential capacity. In April 2023 the *Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability* shared a report detailing that 850 women and girls have been killed between 2018 and 2022, equating to a single woman or girl being killed every 48 hours. This left 868 Canadian children without mothers. In Canada we have yet to add Femicide to the Criminal code or implement legislation to protect women and girls. Canada was one of 35 countries to sign on to a global treaty that aims to create initiatives to investigate and eliminate Femicide, but is now one of 3 that have yet to fulfill this commitment.

Genesis House has continued its quest to pursue transitional housing units in our service area. You will be seeing more about this in the coming months and I truly hope you will feel moved to support this project. Having a safe place to land and heal, while you gain your strength and build your support system can be the world of difference. A real chance to start over in a good way.

Genesis House is very grateful to the *Gender Based Violence Program of Manitoba* for their support and work on our behalf. We are also grateful to the *Manitoba Association of Womens Shelters* and *Womens Shelter Canada* for their advocacy and support each year. I am honored to work on a supportive team. We have a Board of Directors with wisdom and vision, and a staff team with compassion and resourcefulness. I am confident that the families we serve are in very good hands.

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!

Ang Braun
ANGELA BRAUN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



DID YOU NOTICE OUR **NEW LOGO?**

Our new logo maintains the recognizable Genesis House red and yellow, symbolizing hope, strength, and resilience. However, it now features an updated statistic, boldly showcasing the reality that one in three women in Canada have been victims of abuse. It also highlights our mission to support all people who have experienced abuse, regardless of their gender, sexual identity, race or socio-economic status.

REPORT FROM

MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF WOMENS SHELTERS (MAWS)

This past year has been one of profound growth and unwavering resilience for MAWS, representing provincially funded family violence shelters, associate members, and service organizations across Manitoba. Amidst an unprecedented rise in families accessing shelter and services, and survivors needing support for more complex traumas including mental health and substance use, we have continued to stand as a beacon of hope, providing critical support to survivors and service providers. Where the shelters have consistently operated at or near capacity since COVID, organizations supporting survivors have also, sadly, seen an escalation in the level of violence. Our collective efforts have reinforced the importance of our mission and driven us to innovate, expand, and deepen our impact.

Advocacy efforts are a big part of the work of MAWS and we have seen remarkable progress this year. We met with provincial and federal ministers including Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, Her Honour, Anita Neville, MP Leah Gazan, MLA Cindy Lamoureux, MLA Tyler Blashko, and Minister Nahanni Fontaine on crucial matters including the challenges that shelters and service providers are experiencing. MAWS also met with Jennifer Keegan, Keira's Mother, and Minister Cindy Lamoureux to discuss Keira's Law being made mandatory in Manitoba and we were invited to sit in on the reading of Bill 209/Keira's Law at the Manitoba Legislature.

In addition to several speaking engagements such as the Agape House Gala for International Women's Day, Tsungai Muvungi of MAWS attended and spoke at Rossburn Collegiate's Red Dress Day and engaged in meaningful dialogue with Dr. Mandi Gray at McNally Robinsons during her book launch - *Suing for Silence: Sexual Violence and Defamation Law*. MAWS worked with Kendra Nixon from the University of Manitoba, the Director of RESOLVE, and a group of concerned service providers across the province to call for the provincial government to declare DV an epidemic in Manitoba. Upon speaking with MB First Nations Education Director, Davin Dumas regarding indigenous translations for a worksheet for family violence shelters and agencies, he generously agreed to do the translations from English to traditional indigenous languages for free to support those suffering from abuse. MAWS staff guest presented with the First Nation Healing Centre at a webinar hosted by the Community Legal Education Association on IPV and Mental Health.

We have strengthened our engagement with local communities. Through partnerships with schools, businesses, cultural organizations, and community groups, we have conducted educational workshops and awareness campaigns, reaching more than 1,000 people. These efforts have not only raised awareness about gender-based violence but have also encouraged community members to take an active role in supporting survivors and preventing violence. As we reflect on this year's achievements, we are grateful for the unwavering support of our funders, donors, partners, staff, and volunteers. If you would like to learn more about MAWS and the work we do please visit www.maws.mb.ca.

TSUNGAI MUVINGI VAN LANDEGHEM (SHE/HER)
PROVINCIAL CO-ORDINATOR

PROGRAM UPDATES

Genesis House runs a variety of programming to empower people experiencing gender based violence.

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.

This year we introduced Izzy, an secure online chat, to our Crisis Line services. Now people can access our 24/7 support through our website if it is not safe, or they do not feel comfortable phoning in. Our team was involved with a of a variety of national & provincial projects including: piloting the Economic Screening Tool, serving as a case Study for Humane Canada on how to create a pet sheltering program, and sitting on the Rural Manitoba Sexual Assault Network.

Bednights	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Women (# new intakes)	1037 (64)	1191 (64)	1213 (76)
Men (# new intakes)	0	4 (1)	35 (1)
Children (# new intakes)	904 (60)	1353 (50)	1216 (82)
TOTAL	1941	2548	2464

Crisis Line Services	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Seeking Shelter	396	423	441
Seeking Counseling	113	135	115
Other Calls	579	637	1033
TOTAL	1088	1195	1589

02

Follow-Up/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 provide 1-1 support, counselling and advocacy 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 in collaboration with other Genesis House staff to offer *When Love Hurts* Phase 1, *When Love Hurts* Phase 2, and an open conversation group throughout the year.

Counselling	2021-22 #sessions/#hours	2022-23 #sessions/#hours	2023-24 #sessions/#hours
Residential	2105 / 1518	1793 / 984	1837 / 942
Non-Residential	503 / 334	594 / 420	287 / 273
Follow-Up	146 / 117	161 / 133	134 / 148
TOTAL	2754 / 1969	2548 / 1537	2258 / 1363

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.

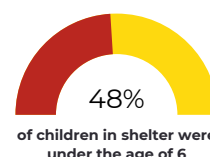
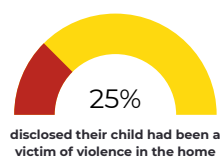
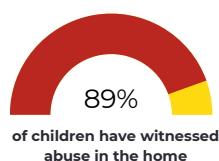
A highlight of our Children's Program was summer camp, held for one week in July and another in August. The camp, organized in collaboration with the Winkler Arts and Culture Centre, provided children with an opportunity to engage in arts and crafts and enjoy outdoor games, creating a memorable and enriching experience.

Our commitment to education and outreach extended to approximately 770 students across south central Manitoba. *These included:*

- A presentation on consent to the Winkler Flyers, coordinated with our Housing Outreach Counsellor and Resource Development Coordinator
- A 5-week program on healthy relationships at Roseau Valley School in Dominion City
- A information session for the Red River College Health Care Aide Class
- Ten high school presentations on healthy relationships, reaching approximately 150 students
- Fifteen middle school presentations on healthy relationships, engaging approximately 600 students
- A presentation to staff at Emerado Centennial School on recognizing signs of children experiencing violence at home
- and a presentation at Swan Lake First Nation, in collaboration with our Follow-Up Counsellor, focusing on domestic violence and its impacts on children

In February 2024, we ran the 17 week long Caring Dads program with 5 male clients. This program aims to support fathers in building better relationships with their children and addressing issues related to parenting and family dynamics.

STATISTICS BASED ON 2023/24 RESIDENTIAL CLIENTS



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. Two new support groups offered through this program included a 4 week Life Skills Cooking group held at a local church in conjunction with Healthy Baby attendees, and a 4 week Falling into Financial Freedom workshop in partnership with Access Credit Union that focused on budgeting basics, building healthy credit, home readiness and an intro to RESPs.

Genesis House connected with 51 women and children experiencing homelessness in our catchment area throughout the 2023-2024 year.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Overall Funding is derived from four main sources:

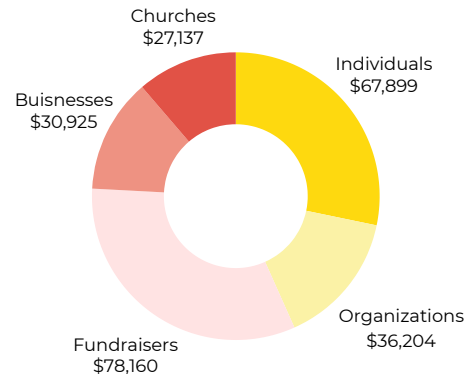
- **Family Violence Prevention Grant** from the Manitoba Government provides programming, facility and staffing allocating specific amounts to each cost centre. The Branch is responsible for ensuring standards and monitoring our progress. The Service purchase Agreement with the Branch is one of the primary 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	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Family Violence Prevention Grant	380,100	696,500	772,100
Employment & Income Assistance	76,289	97,789	100,601
Fundraising/Donations	198,973	276,221	224,352
Canadian Action Program for Children Grant & Resource	21,726	21,959	21,326
Other Grants (housing, summer student)	222,229	218,470	217,443
Other Revenue (<i>GST, Interest</i>)	12,773	264,198	23,745
TOTAL REVENUE	912,090	1,575,137	1,359,567
Expenses	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Salaries & Benefits	635, 603	791,054	815,578
Administrative (<i>conferences, staff training</i>)	45,398	163,596	57,253
Board Expenses	2,495	12,546	8,418
Fundraising/Grant Expenses	15,403	22,385	76,244
Insurance	7,291	7,906	8,639
Maintenance Supplies / Janitorial	85,737	31,423	41,091
Professional Fees	9,971	40,986	7,142
Travel	7,522	8,970	10,437
Client Activities & Programs	43,174	54,727	43,672
TOTAL EXPENSES	852,594	1,133,593	1,068,474

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

The generous contributions of time, materials, and funds from individuals, organizations, and businesses have been vital to the operations of Genesis House in providing services free of charge to clients. We are deeply grateful for the support from our community and from many known and anonymous donors.



Gifts-in-kind play a crucial role in the daily operations of our shelter and significantly benefit our clients. These contributions help us save thousands of dollars each year, ensuring that resources are directed towards providing essential services and support. Here are some of the standout contributions from this year:



EASTER BASKETS

Thank you to Heather Deamel at Discovery Toys for providing Easter baskets to children in and out of shelter.



DRIVE-BY DONATIONS

In July, we put out the call for cereal online and collected over 60 boxes less than 48 hours later!



CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

Thank you to staff at Eden, CW Wiebe and Menzies, who donated a truck full of gifts for women and children.



FRIESENS EMPLOYEES

We are always humbled when local businesses choose to support us. Thank you to the Friesens Employee Owners!



TUPPERWARE

A whole kitchen worth of new Tupperware was donated to the shelter by a local rep! What a great gift!



MORDEN THRIFT

We were honored to receive \$10,000 from Morden Community Thrift Store in their spring round of giving.

GENESIS HOUSE STAFF

Our staff demonstrate their commitment to quality client services every day, managing challenges like uncertainty in occupancy and the increasing needs of our clients. They are truly the strength of our organization.

This year, we have worked hard to establish a full complement of staff, including two Client Support Counsellors available on-site 24/7. We are excited to see how this investment in our team will not only increase staff safety, but enhance the support we can provide to clients. In September and October, Genesis House staff visited shelters across Manitoba, from Dauphin in the west to Selkirk and Steinbach in the east. It was a wonderful experience and highly educational to meet with shelter directors, tour facilities, and discuss commonalities and differences with other shelter staff.

Management - Angela Braun (*Executive Director*), Karen H (*Executive Assistant*), Angel R (*Program Manager*) **Client Support Counsellors** – Karen T, Marilyn T, Martha W, Madison F, Lisa Z, Bree R, Judith F, Cristina F, Amy F, Jane S, Emily I, Marissa P **Casual Support Workers** – Kathy W **Community Outreach** – Sophie G **Housing Support Coordinator** – Jenaya H, Taylor R (*Mat Leave*) **Kitchen** – Damaris D

Staff Trainings



Southern Chiefs Organization, RAAM (*Rapid Access to Addictions Medicine*) Clinic, *When Love Hurts* facilitation, Hearing Voices (*Peer Connections MB*), Addictions & Recovery, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (*ASIST*), Rainbow Resource (*LGBTQ+ service provider*), Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership (*PVLIP*), Motivational interviewing, De-escalation, in-house skills trainings, and a 2 day staff retreat at Bell Aura B&B in Carman with *Wired for Connection* training.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We extend a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated board members. Your behind-the-scenes efforts in developing policies, crafting a vision, and creating a long-term strategic plan are the cornerstones of our organization's foundation.

2023/24 BOARD

- Karen Tjaden – Chair
- Denise Thiessen – Vice Chair
- Sam Hilhorst – Treasurer
- Chris Hildebrand – Secretary
- Rachelle Fehr
- Kristin von Riesen
- Julia Stoesz
- Mallory Toews
- Janessa Unrau
- Courtenay Winning
- 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.

IN THE COMMUNITY

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



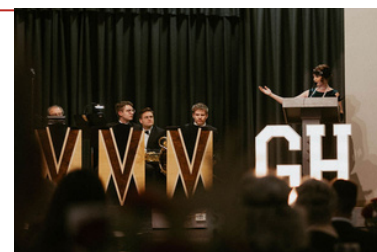
In October, we partnered with MCC Abuse Prevention to host over 20 church and community leaders for a daylong workshop. Filtered through the Christian lens; the workshop covered a variety of topics from pornography, to forgiveness, to practical steps on how to respond to Domestic Violence. We look forward to continuing to equip local faith leaders to better support victims of abuse in their congregations.

This year, we hosted two movie screenings of Rustic Oracle, in collaboration with STEPS to Reconciliation and PV Truth & Reconciliation Working Group. The film shares a story experienced by countless Indigenous families who have faced the trauma caused by the disappearance of a loved one. Following the film screening, a sharing circle with community members to bring the topic back home.



This year we got creative with two new fundraising events! Puzzle Night fundraisers proved to be a big hit, with two events of 20 teams each, selling out in only days! We also hosted two outdoor fitness classes - "Empower Hour" with Aura Studio to move our bodies and bring awareness to GBV. It was encouraging to see new faces - of all ages - coming out for an evening of fun to support Genesis House!

On November 17th we held our 3rd annual Unmasking DV Masquerade Gala on at the Access Event Centre in Morden. 110 attendees gathered in their red carpet best for an old Hollywood themed night, hosted by MC Meagan Reimer and the River City Syncopators, an 11-piece brass band. \$29,300 was raised to support the ongoing work of Genesis House. Special thanks to our platinum sponsor, Access Credit Union.



In November, we hosted two awareness hockey games, with the Pembina Valley U15 Hawks and Winkler Flyers. Not only did they spread awareness about domestic abuse, the teams collected donations and took part in a morning of education to learn more about consent. Pictured are the winners of the "Peace Begins at Home" art contest, who dropped the puck at the Flyers game!

On March 23, over 250 women attended the 2nd South Central Women's Health Expo. 20 community booths participated displaying a wide range of services. 6 presentations were held, covering topics spanning from lymphedema to nutrition in menopause. The day ended with an inspiring message from Catherine Wreford, who shared her story of advocacy and living life to the fullest with a terminal diagnosis.





WE REMEMBER LIVES LOST TO GBV

Our hearts go out to all of those impacted by violence in our community. We commit to continue to educate, advocate and empower to end GBV.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Since Genesis House opened its doors 40 years ago, securing housing has been a major obstacle for women leaving abuse.

In response, Genesis House is committed to create a transitional housing facility to ensure that women and children in Southern Manitoba who have experienced gender-based violence have a longer-term safe and supportive place to call home. A smooth transition from the shelter to transitional housing means women have the opportunity to stay in their community, continue to access critical on-site and off-site supports and ultimately have a better chance at rebuilding their lives free from 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: 204-325-9957

Fax: 204-325-5889

Website: www.geneshouseshelter.ca

Email: director@genesis-house.ca



GenesisHouseSouth



Genesis House Southern Manitoba

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