



ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

SOUTH CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE



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OUR MISSION



Mission

Genesis House provides shelter, support, and education around gender based, intimate partner, and family violence in South Central Manitoba.

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.

Vision

- **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.

Core Values





REPORT FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

It is my privilege to present the Chair's Report for Genesis House for the 2024–2025 year. As I reflect on the past twelve months, I am deeply grateful for the commitment, compassion, and resilience shown by our staff, volunteers, board members, and community partners. Together, we have continued to uphold our mission of providing safety, support, and hope for individuals and families affected by domestic violence in the Pembina Valley.

This year has been one of both challenges and exciting progress. The need for our services remains high, with clients facing increasingly complex situations. Yet our team has risen to the occasion, providing not only safe shelter and crisis intervention, but also counseling, outreach, and advocacy that empower clients to rebuild their lives. The work we do is never easy, but it is deeply necessary — and it is possible because of the dedication and heart of everyone connected to Genesis House.

A significant highlight of the year was the **launch of our new Transitional Housing Building Project**. This initiative addresses a critical gap in our community by offering safe, affordable, and supportive housing for individuals and families as they move from crisis toward independence. With the opening of this program, clients who leave the emergency shelter will now have an option to continue receiving structured support while they secure long-term housing, employment, and stability. This is a milestone for Genesis House and a testament to the vision, planning, and collaboration that made it possible.

In addition to transitional housing, other key highlights of 2024–2025 include:

- **Expanded Outreach Services** – Strengthened partnerships with local agencies, schools, and health providers.
- **Community Education** – Hosted multiple workshops and awareness events, including Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities and presentations in schools on healthy relationships and abuse prevention.
- **Staff Development** – Continued investment in professional training, ensuring our team is equipped with the latest tools and approaches in trauma-informed care and crisis intervention.
- **Fundraising Success** – Strong community engagement in our annual fundraising events, with record attendance at the fall gala and increased monthly donors.
- **Facility Improvements** – Upgrades to the shelter's security systems and living spaces, ensuring a safe, comfortable, and welcoming environment for residents.

Financially, we have been prudent in managing our resources, while also actively seeking new funding opportunities to sustain and grow our programs. The generosity of our donors — whether individuals, businesses, churches, or service clubs — has been both humbling and inspiring. Every dollar has a direct impact on the lives of those we serve.

Looking ahead, our priorities remain clear: to provide a safe haven, empower those affected by abuse, and advocate for lasting change in our community. We know that ending domestic violence will require continued collaboration, innovation, and persistence. With the passion of our staff, the guidance of our board, and the support of our communities, I am confident that Genesis House will continue to be a place of refuge, a voice for justice, and a beacon of hope.

DENISE THIESSEN
THE BOARD CHAIR

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year has been an exciting and transformative one for Genesis House. We have been working tirelessly to make our transitional housing project a reality, and we are thrilled by the overwhelming support we've already received from our community. With each step forward, we feel even more confident that this project will provide life-changing opportunities for the families we serve. We are deeply grateful for this outpouring of generosity and encouragement.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the demand for shelter services has only increased. Across the province, most shelters are operating at full capacity every day, with new families reaching out for help daily. The housing crisis in Canada has created significant delays in the system. Families who are able to access shelter often remain for more than three months, not because they want to stay longer, but because there are simply no safe housing options available. Tragically, some individuals return to unsafe homes because the wait feels hopeless.

Genesis House is proud to have launched a new Sexual Assault Intervention Program, funded by the Aurora Foundation. This program has been a long-awaited and much-needed resource for our community. Survivors of sexual assault often face overwhelming barriers when navigating health and justice systems. Through this initiative, we are bringing together key partners who support survivors of sexual violence to create more trauma-informed processes and pathways to healing.

We are incredibly fortunate to work alongside compassionate, resourceful, and dedicated community partners. Supporting individuals and families who come through our shelter requires a team effort far larger than Genesis House alone. The willingness of these partners to collaborate and act in the best interests of those we serve is nothing short of inspiring. Together, we are creating powerful change.

On a personal note, July 28 marked a special milestone for me: 25 years of service with Genesis House. When I joined fresh out of university, this role was an unexpected gift—a calling that has shaped my life and career in ways I could never have imagined. It has been a privilege to work alongside a team that embodies both compassion and courage: offering gentle support to those who grieve while also fiercely advocating for justice, safety, and brighter futures.

Genesis House is more than a shelter—it is a community of hope, resilience, and action. Thank you to everyone who continues to walk this journey with us. Together, we are making a difference.



Regards,

Ang Braun

Angela Braun
Executive Director

REPORT FROM MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF WOMENS SHELTERS (MAWS)



The Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters Inc (MAWS) stands strong in its role as a guiding force for change - working tirelessly toward the elimination of intimate partner, gender-based and family violence. Our purpose goes beyond simply responding to crisis; we are here to inspire hope, strengthen resilience, and create pathways to safety and dignity for all.

Through advocacy, deep collaboration, and intentional support, we ensure that survivors, shelter staff, and community partners have the tools to flourish.

Over the past year, we have celebrated significant milestones that address pressing challenges while laying the groundwork for lasting transformation. Among these are the continuation of the Micro-credential Shelter Support Worker Program, the successful hosting of Manitoba's first-ever Shelter Symposium, and the inaugural year of the Transforming Workplaces Grant, which fostered important bridges between service providers and the business community.

Highlights from the year include:

- **Advocacy** to influence policies and laws that protect survivors and hold systems accountable through Kiera's Law & Clare's Law, Ankle Monitoring & Survivor EmpowerApp, and Legal Professionals Education
- **Building Partnerships** with Elmwood Resource Centre's "Still I Rise" Program. University of Manitoba RESOLVE's Traumatic Brain Injury Project, Micro-Credential Program, and Sector Symposium.
- **Amplifying Our Voice** through government engagement, media presence, public education and cross-sector partnership development.
- **Sustaining and Growing Shelter Support** through the Transforming Workplaces Grant (TWA), ongoing training and development, and shelter leadership support.

Our recent successes are not an ending, but a beginning. They position us to step into the coming years with renewed energy, clearer vision, and deeper resolve. By continuing to champion progressive policies, strength sector capacity, and nurture and culture of solidarity, we are creating the conditions for lasting change. With our members, partners and community allies, we envision a Manitoba where every person can live free from violence - surrounded by networks of care that are strong enough to hold them, and a society courageous enough to stand with them. Together, we are not only changing systems; we are changing lives.

TSUNGAI MUVINGI VAN LANDEGHEM
PROVINCIAL COORDINATOR



OUR PROGRAMS

- 01 Residential Program
- 02 Follow-Up/Non-Residential Program
- 03 Children's Program
- 04 Housing & Outreach Program
- 05 Sexual Assault Advocacy Program

01 Residential Program

This year we have welcomed multiple practicum students to assist them in their educational journeys. We have been fortunate to have some of them, upon completing their practicums, come on as staff members. They bring with them an eagerness to serve our clients and fresh perspectives on program delivery. Additionally, we were fortunate to have Florence N, a retired teacher come in twice a week as a volunteer tutor for the school-aged children in shelter. This helped the children maintain their educational progress during a time of family transition.

Genesis House also collaborated with Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation to honour the Moose Hide Campaign which is an Indigenous-led movement to engage men and boys in standing up against violence against women and girls. This culminated in a walk and a barbeque held on the reserve on May 15, 2024.

Bednights	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Women (# new intakes)	1191 (64)	1213 (76)	1307 (62)
Men (# new intakes)	4 (1)	35 (1)	N/A
Children (# new intakes)	1353 (50)	1216 (82)	998 (40)
TOTAL	2548	2464	2305

Crisis Line Services	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Seeking Shelter	423	441	421
Seeking Counseling	135	115	221
Other Calls	637	1033	821
TOTAL	1195	1589	1463

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 aid applications, addictions and mental health. The Follow Up/Non-Residential Counsellor has worked in collaboration with other Genesis House staff to offer *When Love Hurts* Phase 1, *When Love Hurts* Phase 2, and *When Love Hurts* Phase 3 as well as an open conversation group throughout the year and a parenting group for four weeks over the summer.

Counselling	2022-23 #sessions/#hours	2023-24 #sessions/#hours	2024-25 #sessions/#hours
Residential	1793 / 984	1837 / 942	2286 / 128
Non-Residential	594 / 420	287 / 273	201 / 186
Follow-Up	161 / 133	134 / 148	128 / 144
TOTAL	2548 / 1537	2258 / 1363	2615 / 1613

03 Children's Program

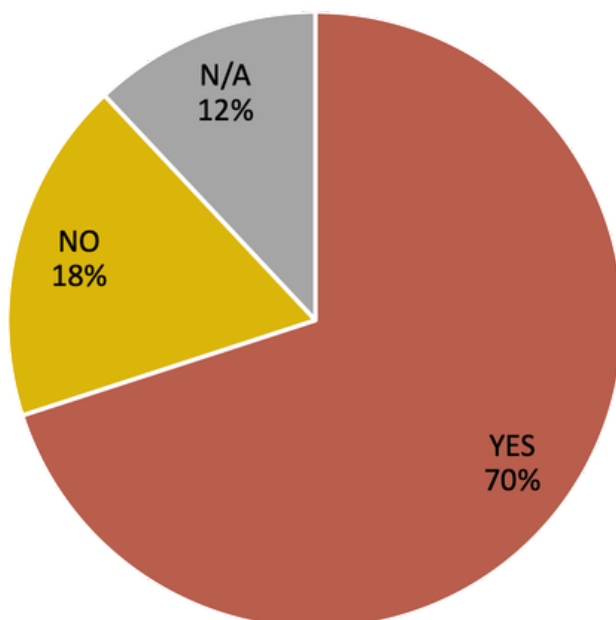
The Children's Counsellor continues to provide 1-1 counselling to both residential and non-residential children. As indicated in the charts below, intimate partner violence affects not only the mother but also has detrimental impacts on the children, such as missed school and other disruptions to their well-being

A highlight of our Children's Program was Family Fun Days held twice a week throughout the summer months. These days included visits to the Pembina Valley Art Gallery for pottery classes once a week, And trips to Vb's Entertainment Centre, Minnewasta Hiking Trails, Meadows Amusement Park, as well as tours of local community services.

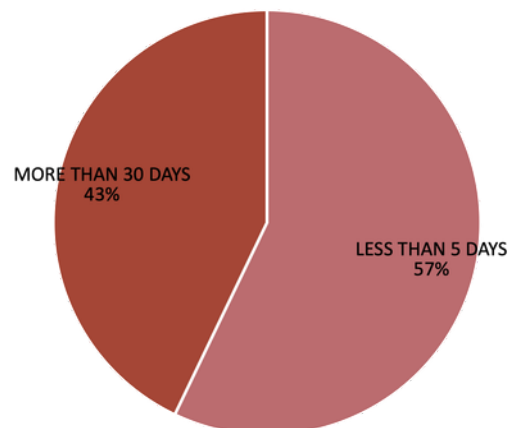
Our commitment to education and outreach extended to approximately 540 students across south central Manitoba. *These included:*

- Running multiple parental support groups in the community
- A 5-week program on healthy relationships at Roseau Valley School in Dominion City focusing on respectful futures
- Ten plus presentations at local schools on healthy relationships
- Multiple presentation's at Swan Lake First Nation, in collaboration with our Follow-Up Counsellor, focusing on healthy parent/child relationships
- The Child Counsellor also attended Winkler's Teddy Bear Picnic, where they spoke with the community about identifying healthy emotions in children

HAVE ANY OF YOUR CHILDREN BEEN WITNESS TO ABUSE?



IF YES, HOW MANY DAYS OF SCHOOL HAS YOUR CHILD MISSED

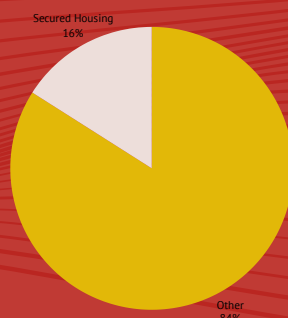


04 Housing & Outreach Program

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. This year the support groups offered included Rent Smart and Springing into Financial Freedom in partnership with Access Credit Union that focused on budgeting basics, building healthy credit, home readiness and an introduction to RESP's as well as a Life Skills group. We also offered a Self-Care Day in partnership with Avalon Spa this year.

Genesis House connected with 50 women and children experiencing homelessness in our catchment area throughout the 2024-2025 year.

Last year, only 16% of the women served by Genesis House were able to secure safe housing. This alarming number highlights the ongoing housing crisis in our community. Through programs like our Housing Outreach and our new Transitional Housing build, Genesis House is committed to tackling this issue head-on.



05 Sexual Assault Advocacy Program

This year we launched our new Sexual Assault Advocacy Program, proudly funded by the Aura Foundation. This three-year pilot project will work to address what sexual assault and sexual exploitation look like in Southern Manitoba.

As part of this program Genesis House will host a free 40-hour sexual assault advocate course for professionals and community members who are interested in assisting with sexual assaults and being able to assist the survivors in our community better.

This important addition expands our support services for survivors in our community.



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	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Family Violence Prevention Grant	695,500	772,100	772,100
Employment & Income Assistance	97,789	100,601	82,110
Fundraising/Donations	276,221	224,352	149,864
Canadian Action Program for Children Grant & Resource	21,959	21,329	20,576
Other Grants (housing, summer student)	218,470	217,443	228,329
Other Revenue (<i>GST, Interest</i>)	264,198	23,745	40,244
TOTAL REVENUE	1,575,137	1,359,567	1,293,223
Expenses	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Salaries & Benefits	791,054	815,578	946,566
Administrative (<i>conferences, staff training</i>)	163,596	57,253	101,599
Board Expenses	12,546	8,418	5,845
Fundraising/Grant Expenses	22,385	76,244	89,418
Insurance	7,906	8,639	8,849
Maintenance Supplies / Janitorial	31,423	41,091	37,322
Professional Fees	40,986	7,142	21,160
Travel	8,970	10,437	16,208
Client Activities & Programs	54,727	43,672	39,588
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,133,593	1,068,474	1,266,555

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

It's been a busy year at Genesis House. We are grateful for the way our community has shown up to support the work we do.



POWER OF THE PJS

During the holiday season, our community generously donated a tremendous amount of PJs for families in need. We distribute them throughout the year, bringing warmth and comfort during difficult times.

We are honoured that the government recognizes our work and are thankful for the invitation to join MLA Carrie Heibert at the Manitoba legislature on Wednesday, March 19th, 2025. The NDP and PC parties gave us a standing ovation after Herbert's just before the question period.



MOOSE HIDE CAMPAIGN

Staff from Genesis House joined the Moose Hide Campaign walk in Winnipeg to take a stand against gender-based violence. This campaign encourages men and boys to be part of the solution by ending violence toward women and children.

PEACE BEGINS AT HOME

The Pembina Valley Hawks showed their support at our annual Peace Begins at Home hockey game, helping raise awareness about gender-based violence and the vital services we offer to survivors in our community.



COMMUNITY DONATIONS

Whether through cheques, or e-transfers, financial donations help us respond quickly and effectively to the needs of those we serve. Your financial support is more than a gift; it's an investment in safety, healing, and long-term stability for survivors.



PHYSICAL NEEDS

Meeting physical needs is one of the first steps in helping someone feel safe and supported. When you donate items like toiletries, clothing, or bedding, you're showing someone they're not alone as they take steps toward stability and healing.

FINER SPIRIT

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our International Women's Day Music Night! Together, we celebrated the strength and resilience of women through inspiring performances and meaningful connections.



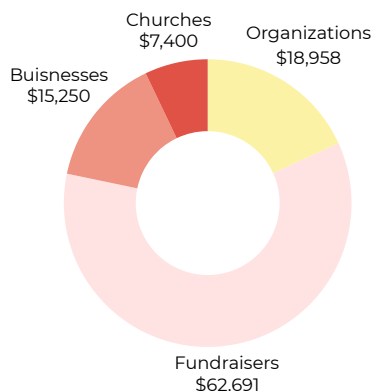
PAINT NIGHT

We hosted a Paint Night fundraiser in support of our transitional housing project. Thank you to everyone who joined us for a creative evening that helps build brighter, safer futures for survivors in our community.



Donation Highlights

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.



Shower for the Shelter

June 23rd, 2024

The community gathered to celebrate 40 years of service. No one wants to celebrate gender-based violence, but the fact that we've been able to deliver service for families in need is worth celebrating.

Masquerade Gala

November 2nd, 2024

Our Gala raised \$28,000—a memorable evening filled with great food, exciting prizes, and a meaningful panel discussion. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets, sponsored the event, and supported our work. Missed out last year? Join us October 17, 2025 at Buttercup's Celebration Hall.



Ride for Refuge Morden

October 5th, 2024

Our Ride for Refuge event successfully raised \$20,000. Participants rallied together by forming teams, fundraising, and showing their support on the day of the event. The ride concluded with a complimentary community lunch, bringing people together in support of a meaningful cause. Join us again October 4, 2025

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.

Staff received training from Life's Journey on supporting individuals with FASD as well as attending a presentation from Klinik on Self Harm. For some fun and a break from the heavy work they do, staff were able to attend 2 Goldeyes baseball games during the summer, courtesy of the Goldeyes Baseball Club. They also spent 2 days and a night on a retreat at Winkler Bible Camp in the fall where they bolstered their skills on facilitating groups and learned more about each other by exploring the Enneagram.

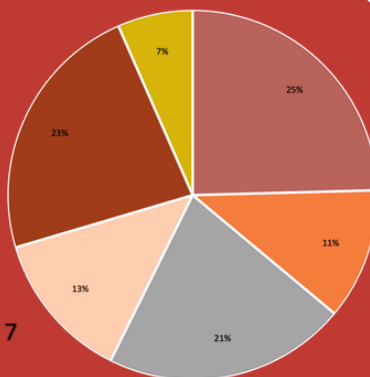
Management - Angela Braun (Executive Director), Karen H (Executive Assistant), Angel R (Program Manager) **Client Support Counsellors** – Marilyn T, Christine T, Karen T, Martha W, Lisa Z, Bree R, Cristina F, Deb Z, Amy F, Cora H, Emily R, Rachel D, Kathy W **Casual Support Workers** – Emily I, Emma D, Judith F **Community Outreach** – Sophie G, Katelyn W **Housing Support Worker** – Jenaya H, Madison F **Kitchen Manager** – Damaris D **Sexual Assault Program** - Taylor G

LEFT RELATIONSHIP BEFORE

Last year, **25%** of the women we served were experiencing their first time leaving an abusive relationship, while **23%** had left and returned more than seven times.

These figures align closely with Canadian national data, which shows that, on average, it takes a woman 6 to 7 attempts before she is able to leave an abusive relationship for good.

- NO
- 1 TIME
- 2-4 TIMES
- 5-7 TIMES
- MORE THAN 7
- N/A



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

“On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank each of you for your steadfast support. You have stood with Genesis House, believed in our mission, and helped create a future where safety, respect, and compassion are a reality for all.”

-Denise Thiessen

2024/25 BOARD

- Denise Thiessen – Chair
- Rachelle Fehr – Vice Chair
- Sam Hilhorst – Treasurer
- Kristin von Riesen – Secretary
- Phillip Duncan
- Danika Fehr
- Shawna Dobbelaere
- Courtenay Winning
- Angela Braun – Executive Director



Transitional Housing

Construction has begun on our new Transitional Housing Facility, a designated safe housing space that will include 25 units. The main level will feature a range of community supports, including a community kitchen, child care centre, two short-term rooms, outdoor space, and a program office. By bringing these resources together under one roof, the facility will provide survivors with the comprehensive supports needed to break the cycle of violence. The project is expected to be completed and open in 2027, with further updates, fundraising opportunities, and community involvement to follow.



Transitional housing provides a longer-term stay for women and children who require safe and affordable housing as well as access to support services to build healthy life skills and heal from abuse.

If you are interested in contributing or learning more please contact:

Angela Braun
director@genesis-house.com



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.