SOUTH CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE INC.

ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

Empowering Survivors of Abuse

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Genesis House is located on the original homeland of the Anishinaabe, Nêhiyawak, Dëne Sųłiné, Oji-Cree, Dakota Oyate, Inuit peoples and the home of the Red River Metis Settlement. We respect the treaties that were made on this land. We acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past. As a shelter supporting women and children, we recognize the ongoing impacts of colonial violence, and the disproportionate harm experienced by Indigenous Women and girls. We hold up their voices with dignity and strength while committing ourselves to justice, healing, and meaningful change. We dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of Reconciliation and collaboration. For as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the river flows.

SOUTH CENTRAL COMMITTTE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE INC.

Our Vision

Build and provide a community where every individual feels safe, supported, and free from violence.

Our Mission

The South Central Committee on Family Violence, Inc. exists to provide education, shelter and support around gender-based, intimate partner, and family violence.

How we serve:

Emergency Shelter: Safe, confidential shelter at Genesis House for women and children in abusive situations. Immediate support is available in a secure & compassionate environment.

Programs & Resources: Free access to counselling, support groups, advocacy, education programs, & community resources.



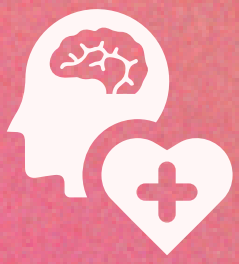
Make Each Other Better

We build one another up, fostering confidence, independence, and a renewed sense of possibility for the future.



Lead with Compassion

Our approach is rooted in understanding the complex impacts of trauma and violence, and responding with kindness, patience, and care.



Create Psychological Safety

We are committed to creating an environment where individuals can express their thoughts, feelings, and experiences without fear of blame, shame, or harm.

Manitoba Association of Womens Shelters

MAWS Report

This year has been an important one for the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters (MAWS). We have continued to grow as an organization, strengthen our relationships across the province, and find new ways to support the people who work every day to help women, children and families find safety.

2ND ANNUAL GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SYMPOSIUM: *EMPOWER, CONNECT, INSPIRE*

A highlight of the year - the symposium created space for important conversations about the realities facing people who experience violence, as well as the realities facing those who support them. Just as importantly, it gave people the chance to connect, share ideas and build relationships that will continue beyond the event.

BUILDING STRONG, SUSTAINABLE SHELTERS

Over the past year, MAWS focused on strengthening capacity at every level of the sector, from frontline staff to shelter leadership, through the following initiatives:

Ongoing Training and Development

MAWS hosted province wide training sessions, both in person and online, on topics such as trauma-informed care, crisis de-escalation, and cultural safety. These sessions were co-led by sector experts and survivor advocates, ensuring the learning was grounded in research and enriched by lived experience.

Shelter Leadership Support

Recognizing the immense responsibilities shelter directors and managers carry, MAWS facilitated leadership onboarding. This included monthly peer roundtables, one-on-one coaching for complex operational challenges, and curated resources to strengthen strategic planning, governance, and staff well-being initiatives.

We were also proud to continue our work in education and workforce development through the Shelter Support Worker micro-credential. Developed with sector partners, the course provides shelter workers with an opportunity to build their knowledge and skills while recognizing the important work they already do. Creating accessible learning opportunities like this helps strengthen the shelter workforce and supports consistent, quality care for those seeking help. What stands out most to me this year is the commitment of the people who make up our sector. Across Manitoba, shelter staff and community partners continue to show up for people during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. Their compassion, knowledge and determination are what make this work possible.

As we move forward, we will continue to listen to our members, strengthen the shelter sector, invest in learning and training, and speak up for the changes needed to make Manitoba safer for those experiencing gender-based violence.

TSUNGAI MUVINGI VAN LANDEGHEM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF WOMENS SHELTERS

a message from the

Board Chair

As I reflect on the past year and the work of Genesis House, I am reminded that our organization is about so much more than a building, a program, or a service. Genesis House is about people. It is about courage, hope, safety, healing, and the belief that every person and every child deserves to live free from violence and fear.

Serving as Board Chair has given me the privilege of witnessing firsthand the dedication and compassion that make Genesis House what it is. I am continually inspired by our staff, leadership, volunteers, board members, community partners, donors, and supporters who come together with a shared purpose.

One of our most significant accomplishments and proudest moments has been the development of Clearwater Transitional Housing. Clearwater recognizes that leaving an abusive situation is only the beginning of a person's journey toward safety and independence. For many people and their children, finding a safe place to go after leaving emergency shelter can be one of the greatest challenges they face. Clearwater helps bridge that gap.

This home represents a safe place to land, breathe, rebuild, plan, and begin again. It provides people and children with an opportunity to move forward with dignity while working toward stable, independent lives. What makes Clearwater so meaningful is not simply the building itself, but the tremendous amount of heart, determination, collaboration, fundraising, and hard work that brought it to life.

III want to sincerely recognize our Board of Directors for their countless hours, wisdom, and commitment. I also want to recognize our incredible staff team. Much of their work happens quietly, behind closed doors, during moments of crisis, fear, and uncertainty. Yet they continue to show up, listen, support, and advocate. Their work matters, and because of them, there is hope.

A special acknowledgement must go to our Executive Director, Ang. Her leadership, dedication, and commitment have been instrumental in moving Genesis House forward. Bringing Clearwater to fruition required perseverance, advocacy, relationship-building, and an incredible amount of work behind the scenes. On behalf of the Board, thank you, Ang.
As we celebrate what has been accomplished, we must also look ahead. Clearwater is an incredible milestone, but it is not the finish line. It is another step in our commitment to creating safer communities and ensuring that people and children have the support they need to move forward. The need for Genesis House remains significant, and our commitment must remain just as strong.

To the people and children who have trusted Genesis House during some of the most difficult moments of their lives - thank you for allowing us to walk alongside you. It is an honour and a responsibility we do not take lightly.

As Board Chair, I am incredibly proud of what has been accomplished, deeply grateful for those who made it possible, and filled with hope for what lies ahead.

LET US CONTINUE TO LEAD WITH COURAGE. LET US CONTINUE TO SERVE WITH COMPASSION. LET US CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IN THE STRENGTH OF THE PEOPLE AND CHILDREN WE SERVE. AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, LET US CONTINUE TO CREATE SPACES WHERE SAFETY, HEALING, AND HOPE ARE POSSIBLE.

With sincere gratitude and admiration,
Denise Thiessen

a message from the

Executive Director

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR CAN MAKE.

In July of 2025, a small team of Genesis House staff went over to the empty plot of land that would become the home of Clearwater Place to have some fun with photos. Fast forward one year and there is a huge building that will provide solace, hope, and new beginnings for 25 families.

Thank you to the team of experts, including University of Winnipeg Renewal Corp 2.0, XOYO, Sputnik Architects, and Bockstael Construction, lead us through this exciting and, at times, scary ride. Each person on this team has been dedicated to creating the best environment possible for the families who will thrive here..

Shelters across Manitoba continue to operate at capacity, with longer stays leaving families in turmoil and unable to rebuild their lives. In 2025, six women and girls were killed in Manitoba, highlighting the urgent need for safety and support.

Genesis House secured funding through Women and Gender Equity Canada to review our policies and services through a low-barrier, trauma-informed lens. With support from Homefield, we also extended this important work to Clearwater Place, ensuring both agencies are built on strong, accessible policies. Policy work is hard, but deeply important as it guides how we do the work.



The work of ending gender-based violence is difficult, but I am grateful to stand alongside an incredible team of women who show up every day with compassion, courage, and non-judgmental care. They support families through complex systems, advocate for their safety, and help rebuild lives-sometimes while stirring a pot of soup for a family in need. They are the heart of Genesis House, and I am deeply proud of and grateful for each of them. Thank you to our fearless Board of Directors for your leadership, trust, and unwavering support. Your courage and commitment continue to move this organization forward.

This has been an exciting and transformative year for Genesis House. We are overwhelmed by our community's generosity and belief in the families we serve. While there is still much work to do, we know that together, we can create a community where everyone has the opportunity to live free from violence. Thank you for making this work possible. We cannot wait to see what comes next.

The Board of Directors

Thank you to our Board & Staff - much of what they do happens quietly, behind closed doors, in moments of crisis, fear, uncertainty, and heartbreak. Yet they continue to show up. They continue to listen. They continue to support. They continue to advocate. They continue to believe in the people they serve - even during moments when those individuals may struggle to believe in themselves.



Denise Thiessen
Board Chair, 2020-2026

2025/26 BOARD

- Denise Thiessen – Chair
- Courtenay Winning – Vice Chair
- Shawna Dobbelaere – Treasurer
- Kristin von Riesen – Secretary
- Danika Fehr
- Jessi Viero
- Jade Runne
- Angela Braun – Executive Director

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.

We are proud to have had opportunities for our staff to present at Innovations in Addressing GBV and Trauma- and Violence-Informed Health Promotion National Conference. Angel presented “Pets Can Be Victims Too – One Shelter’s Solution to Providing Safety for a Survivor’s Animals” while Taylor shared insights on “Creating a Sexual Assault Response Team in Rural Manitoba”.



MANAGEMENT	Angela Braun (Executive Director), Karen H (Executive Assistant), Angel R (Program Manager)		
CLIENT SUPPORT COUNSELLORS	Karen T, Martha W, Lisa Z, Bree R, Cristina F, Deb Z, Amy F, Cora H, Hayley E, Jackie N, Katelyn W, Lola C, Judith H		
HOUSING SUPPORT	Lizzy M, Madison F	SA PROGRAM	Taylor G
CULTURAL SUPPORT	Christine T	RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT	Sophie G
KITCHEN MANAGER	Damaris D	CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	Kari K
CHILDREN COUNSELLOR	Kathy W	FOLLOW UP COUNSELLOR	Marilyn T

the heart of the organization

Program Updates

Over the last year Genesis House has continued to expand services to better serve our community. All programs and services work together to provide safety, support and education to survivors of abuse across South Central Manitoba.

Emergency Shelter & Crisis Lines Services

Genesis House has capacity for 5 women and 11 children at a time in emergency shelter. This frontline service meets clients where they are at - whether they are seeking immediate shelter, emotional support, or guidance for next steps.

Client Risk Assessments

62%
identified that their partner had an addicition

54%
had requested police intervention in the last 2 years

23%
of abusers had charges laid against them

Bednights	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Women *(# new intakes)*	1213 *(76)*	1307 *(62)*	1444 *(56)*
Men *(# new intakes)*	35 *(1)*	N/A	N/A
Children *(#new intakes)*	1216 *(82)*	998 *(40)*	899 *(50)*
TOTAL	2464 *(159)*	2305 *(102)*	2343 *(106)*

Crisis Line Services	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Seeking Shelter	441	421	570
Seeking Counselling	115	221	173
Other Calls	1033	821	1598
TOTAL	1589	1463	2324

Client Demographics

39% diganosed phyisical illness

47% diagnosed mental illness

66% Graduated High School

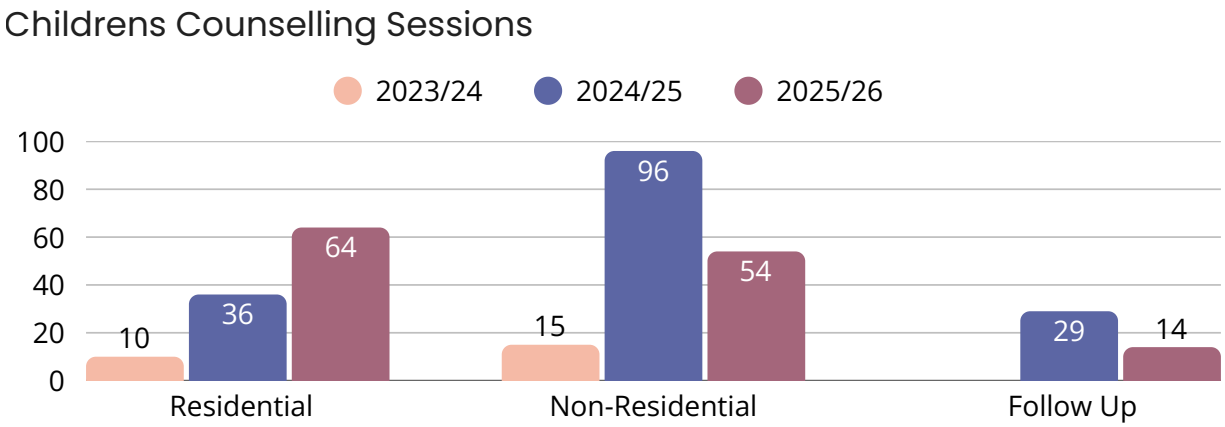
23% Have been treated for substance use

Relation to the Abuser

Partner	Ex-Partner	Parent	Other
64%	**19%**	**9%**	**8%**

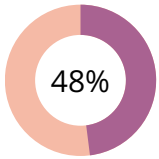
Childrens Program

In 2025–26, approximately 60 children stayed at Genesis House, while an additional 14 non-residential children participated in one-on-one support with the Children's Counsellor. Two children's groups/childcare sessions were offered each week, along with individual support for mothers and children as needed.

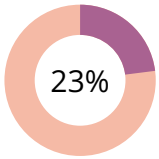


Community outreach remained an important part of the program. The Children's Counsellor delivered 17 school presentations, reaching approximately 400 children, and helped organize and participate in community events, including the Teddy Bear Picnic, which welcomed approximately 400 children.

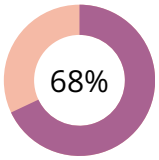
Nine parental support groups were held in Swan Lake and participated in ongoing professional development through nine training courses. Through these programs and connections, Genesis House continues to create safe spaces where children can feel supported, build healthy relationships, and begin to heal from the impacts of violence.



Children had a Previous Shelter Stay



Children a victim of violence in the home



Children a witness to violence in the home

The Clearwater Memorial Playground was unveiled in September 2025 at the Friends & Family Park in Carman.

Dedicated to Amanda Clearwater and her children - Bethany, Jayven and Isabella - who were killed alongside their cousin Myah-Lee Gratton in February 2024. The upgrades feature 5 bronze turtles, chosen because of their deep significance in Indigenous teachings. A turtle carries the world on its back - a powerful symbol of endurance, wisdom and the sacredness of life. It reminds us of the strength it takes to continue forward, even in the face of unimaginable loss.



Sexual Assault Prevention Program

The SA Coordinator continued to grow the program by providing compassionate, trauma-informed support to individuals affected by sexual assault in our community.

20 individuals accessed 1-1 sexual assault counselling

16 individuals participated in group sexual assault couselling

36 individuals received training as Sexual Assault Advocates

2 students completed practicum placements with the program

Public Education

The SA Coordinator continued to raise awareness, challenge victim-blaming, and encourage meaningful conversations about sexual violence through two art installations displayed in communities across South Central Manitoba. *What Were You Wearing?* display featured clothing worn by survivors of sexual assault while *The Clothesline Project* invited survivors to create their own shirt to express their experience with violence.







Housing & Outreach Coordinator

This year, 25 families were supported through the program, including 25 women and 28 children. The HOC successfully supported 8 women and their children in securing housing, with the majority finding rentals through the private market. With limited subsidized housing available in our region, finding affordable and appropriate housing continues to be a significant challenge. Clients receiving EIA or other government assistance often face additional barriers when applying for private rentals.

The HOC also focused on education, wellness, and prevention. Two wellness series were offered hroughout the year, for a total of 10 sessions. Topics included financial, physical, and emotional wellness, with community partners such as Access Credit Union, Aura Studio, and The Everyday Method contributing to the sessions. Housing education remained an important component of the program. Rent Smart was facilitated in partnership with Central Station during the fall and winter, with 10 participants, and again with Carman Wellness Connections in the spring, with eight participants.

Professional development and community advocacy were also key priorities throughout the year. The HOC participated in Housing Days, the MNPHA Annual Conference, and the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness Conference. Additional training included When Love Hurts, Who Do You Tell?, Red Flag Law, Claire's Law, and Safe & Together. The HOC also represented Genesis House at the Right to Housing Coalition campaign launch for "Social Housing for Women and Gender-Diverse People" in February 2026, including delivering a speech in support of increased access to safe and affordable housing.

Follow Up & Non-Residential Services

Over the past year, support and advocacy services were provided to 51 women through a variety of individualized and group-based supports. Key areas of support included:

- Accompanying clients to court and providing support throughout court proceedings
- Advocacy and support with lawyers, medical appointments, housing, finances, court matters, and CFS
- Translation and communication support
- Assistance with applications for Protection Orders
- Facilitating weekly groups

Counselling	**2023-24** (#sessions/#hours)	**2024-25** (#sessions/#hours)	**2025-26** (#sessions/#hours)
Residential	1837/942	2286/1283	1796/1028
Non-Residential	287/273	201/186	183/193
Follow-Up	134/148	128/144	86/105
TOTAL	2258/1363	2615/1613	2065/1326

***When Love Hurts* Program**

3

sessions held

10

women engaged in programming

Mary Kay Ash FOUNDATION®

Thank you for your generous support to make these programs possible!



Cultural Support Program

The Cultural Support Program continued to provide culturally relevant supports and opportunities for both in-shelter and non-residential clients. One-to-one cultural supports included smudging, beading, and other cultural activities, providing clients with opportunities for connection, healing, and cultural learning.

Programming has included: Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe) Bingo groups, Medicine Bag Workshop, Medicine Wheel Workshop, and a screening of *Sugarcane*. The program continues to build community partnerships and increase cultural engagement through collaboration with the Pembina Valley Truth & Action Working group, with events like the TRC Day Walk.

Through these activities and ongoing one-to-one supports, the Cultural Support Program helped create culturally safe opportunities for clients to connect with culture, community, and traditional practices as part of their healing and support journey.

where healing flows, and hope begins

Clearwater Place

IT HAS BEEN A MOMENTOUS YEAR FOR GENESIS HOUSE AS THE BUILDING FOR CLEARWATER PLACE IS COMING INTO FRUITION.

For over 42 years, Genesis House has been committed to safe housing for women and children fleeing violence by providing emergency service to a catchment area with a population exceeding 62,000 individuals and covers 9791 square miles with over 13 municipalities, including a combination of cities, towns, two first nation communities, and rural municipalities.

Lack of safe and affordable housing remains a leading barrier for women and children escaping violence. Our region currently has only three transitional housing units, which are highly sought after and have limited availability due to longer stays.

As a result, women often have to leave their communities to find safe, affordable housing, while others may feel they have no choice but to return to an abusive household. This facility will provide safe transitional housing alongside supportive programming and resources to help survivors heal from trauma, build healthy support systems, and develop employment skills - allowing them to rebuild their lives without leaving their home community.







Funding for this project was possible through many grants, the Manitoba Provincial Government, community businesses and individuals. The majority of funding was secured, and the remaining amount is being raised through fundraisers and donors. In October, money raised from Ride for Refuge supported Clearwater Place along with the $80,000+ dollars that was raised at our first Building Safety and Support Radiothon. We are humbled by our generous community. Every dollar that has been received has been thoughtfully looked after. Intention and care have gone into the design and function of this space. Clearwater Place is set to open February 2027.

There are four walls, now we make it a home. We fundraise for 25 kitchen tables to talk about our day, 25 fridges for all the fresh food, 25 couches to cuddle and read, 25 stoves to learn new recipes, 25 microwaves to heat yummy popcorn, 25 tv's for movies nights and laughs. 25 women and their children experience peace in a safe home where they can learn and grow.

Event Highlights

Fundraising

SPINATHON

$9,800 was raised at our 2nd annual Spinathon hosted at *Dead Horse Cider* in partnership with *Aura Studio.* Over 80 riders braved the conditions to help us break the cycle of violence. Stay tuned for Spinathon 2026 - reimagined!



RIDE FOR REFUGE

Our 2nd annual Ride for Refuge grew to include more local businesses including a pizza lunch from *Little Ceasars* and coffee from *Alice's Coffee*. Thnak you to all of our sponsors for helping us bring in over $20,000 for Clearwater Place.



UNMASK DV GALA

Buttercup Celebration Hall was the perfect venue for this year's Bridgerton twist. Attendees enjoyed an elegant evening of dancing, delicious food, and storytelling from dressmaker, Sasha Pashchenko.

Missed out last year? Join us October 16, 2026 at Buttercup's Celebration Hall!



RADIOTHON

In November we took to the radiowaves for 24 hours for our first ever Radiothon! The broadcast raised over $80,000 for Clearwater Place from the contributions of business sponsors and community members. Thank you to GoldenWest and Co-op@Home for bringing this idea to life.



the year in review

Financial Report

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	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Family Violence Prevention Grant	772,100	772,100	772,100
Employment & Income Assistance	100,601	82,110	99,884
Fundraising/Donations	224,352	149,864	711,452
Canadian Action Program for Children Grant & Resource	21,329	20,576	22,226
Other Grants (housing, summer student)	217,443	228,329	5,494,859
Other Revenue *(GST, Interest)*	23,745	40,244	130,696
TOTAL REVENUE	**1,359,567**	**1,293,223**	**7,231,217**

Expenses	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Salaries & Benefits	815,578	946,566	1,021,463
Administrative *(conferences, staff training)*	57,253	101,599	305,940
Board Expenses	8,418	5,845	5,711
Fundraising/Grant Expenses	76,244	89,418	3,711,679
Insurance	8,639	8,849	21
Maintenance Supplies / Janitorial	41,091	37,322	24,164
Professional Fees	7,142	21,160	16,893
Travel	10,437	16,208	25,060
Client Activities & Programs	43,672	39,588	77,376
TOTAL EXPENSES	**1,068,474**	**1,266,555**	**5,179,307**

the people that make it happen

Community Support

This year has been an exciting and transformative one for Genesis House. We are grateful and overwhelmed by the support we receive from our community. There is still much work to do. The need is great, but so is our commitment.

Thank you for believing in Genesis House, for believing in the families we serve, and for believing that together we can create a community where everyone has the opportunity to live a life free from violence. Your encouragement, your trust, and your support make this work possible.

Increases in donations and grants received is a reflection of our community - in the Pembina Valley, Provincially and Federally - and their beleif in the work we do. Special Thanks to MNPHA, Aurora Foundation, PDF Manitoba, Canada Agriculture Infrasture Fund, and Winkler, Morden, Altona & Plum Couleee Community Foundations.



Top Donors of 2025/26

Access Credit Union	*100,000*	J&K Nickel	*100,000*
J&J Smith	*32,019*	Border Electric	*10,000*
Falk Fehr Foundation	*30,000*	Mary Kay Foundation	*30,000*
C&K Wall	*22,000*	Annonymous Church	*10,000*



Access Credit Union committed $100,000 to Clearwater Place capital campaign, a generous donation from one of our longest standing supporters.



51 pairs of adult PJs, and 67 children's PJs were collected at South Central Regional Libraries - stocking the shelter for the year.



We were grateful to have been selected as a receipent for the Falk Fehr Classic in June, receiving $30,000 for our essential services.

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.genesishouseshelter.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.