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# **33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report**

Wednesday, June 18, 2014 6pm  
Rodd Charlottetown Hotel (75 Kent St, Charlottetown, PE)

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14



## Community Partnerships



The Rotary Club of Charlottetown Royalty has been working on the development of a new major project now for about the last year. This began through the creation of a Peace Initiative Committee within our club which was formed at the request of Rotary's International President Sakuhi Tanaka. It was Tanaka's wish to see local programs that would improve peace within their respective communities.

Our club began by discussing what the many peace possibilities might be within our province. The 11 member committee, consisting of several Past Presidents met with a variety of organizations on Prince Edward Island to ascertain their needs and in the end, the group felt that Rotary could be of greatest help to the PEI Family Violence Prevention Services organization. As the Rotary Club has had a long history with Anderson House and domestic violence issues on Prince Edward Island, our Peace Initiative Committee now wanted to something major which would have a lasting impact.

Over the course of the 2012/13 Rotary year, the committee developed a 3 year funding project (value of \$90,000), through which Rotary would subsidize a new position within the current staff structure of PEI FVPS. Whereas this organization has had to raise approximately 10% of their operating budget each year, it was felt that both volunteers and staff were having to spend too much time seeking funds and therefore taking valuable manpower away from their main task at hand.

Taking the "teach a man to fish" philosophy, the creation of a full time Development Coordinator position for PEI FVPS would result in the financial stability for the organization as well as more focused efforts on behalf of other staff and Board members with the major issues that they are dealing with.

It's not very often that a PEI service club makes such a substantial contribution to another organization. In fact, Rotary is quite proud of the fact that this is a highly innovative approach to helping another organization. In the words of past President Lewie Creed, "as Rotarians we can be very proud of making a difference in promoting peace in families and providing hope to children who are most affected by this recurring phenomenon".

*Rotary club of Charlottetown, July 2013 <http://www.royaltyrotary.ca/projects.html#fvps>*



Making the new development coordinator position official. Shauna Reddin, PEI FVPS Past Chair and Catherine O'Bryan, RCCR President signing the agreement.



Rotary Club of Charlottetown Royalty representatives John McQuaid and Catherine O'Bryan, President with Lindsay Merrill the new development coordinator for PEI FVPS.

# **PEI Family Violence Prevention Services Inc.**

## **33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting 2013 – 2014**

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# PEI Family Violence Prevention Services Inc

## 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Report 2013 - 2014

### AGENDA

**Date:** June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Location:** The Rodd, Charlottetown

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Agenda:**

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Minutes of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual meeting of FVPS
3. Financial Statements
4. Motion to Approve the 2013-2014 Audited Statements
5. Motion to Appoint Auditor
6. Presentations
7. Guest Speakers
  - Dr Philip Smith  
*Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence*
  - Dr Wendy Verhoek-Oftedahl  
*Office of Family Violence Prevention & Community Development*
8. Report from the Board Chair and Executive Director
9. Other Business
10. Election of Directors
11. Adjournment

**PEI FVPS Inc. – 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 20, 2013 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**  
**The Haviland Club, 2 Haviland St, Charlottetown, PE**

**Present:** Norma McColeman, Sr. Norma Gallant, Ellen Ridgeway, Michelle Burge, Lorne Cudmore, Cindy Banks, Sharon O'Brien, Shauna Reddin, Michelle Harris-Genge, Chelsea Condon, Jane Ledwell, Hon. Valerie Docherty, MLA, Philip Smith, Gloria Dennis-McVicar, Michelle Buttery, Sherry Pagé, Gwyn Davies, Hon. Colin Lavie, MLA, Shirley Gardiner, Farida Chishti, Farahnaz Rezaei, Bill MacLeod, Edgar MacLeod, Dave O'Brien, Melissa Coffin, Susan Maynard, Phil Matusiewicz (exofficial), Danya O'Malley (exofficial)

**Regrets:** Michele Dorsey, Cathy McInnis, Nancy Wallace

**Chair:** Shauna Reddin

**1. Approval of Agenda**

There is nothing to list under Other Business.

**MOTION:** Be it resolved that the agenda be approved as circulated.

**M/S:** Edgar MacLeod / Shirley Gardiner

**CARRIED.**

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Be it resolved that the minutes of the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting held June 20, 2012 be adopted as presented.

**M/S:** Dave O'Brien / Edgar MacLeod

**CARRIED.**

**3. Financial Statement**

Michelle Burge reviewed the Statement of Income and Balance Sheet for PEI Family Violence Prevention Services and Second Stage Housing. Overall the organization had a successful fiscal year and is in a good, healthy position overall. While revenue was down slightly from the previous year, expenditures are also down to a greater degree, resulting in an overall net figure of a \$27,000 surplus. Client expenses and groceries are notably higher over the figures from the previous year. Second Stage is also in a good position at year-end. We received a large refund as a result of a change in our GST rebate. The decision was made to add that amount to the Replacement Reserve.

**4. Motion to Approve the 2012-2013 Audited Statements**

**MOTION:** Be it resolved that the audited financial statements be accepted from MRSB Chartered Accountants for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2013.

**M/S:** Lorne Cudmore / Sharon O'Brien

**CARRIED.**

**5. Motion to Appoint Auditor**

**MOTION:** Be it resolved that MRSB Chartered Accountants be appointed as auditors for the 2013 – 2014 fiscal year.

**M/S:** Bill MacLeod / Edgar MacLeod

**CARRIED.**

**6. Cheque Presentations**

Cheques for some recent fundraising efforts were presented to the organization.

**7. Guest Speakers**

Melissa Coffin from the PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada was our first guest speaker for the event. She talked about the programs and services available at the ANC. In 2012 their clients came from a total of 58 different countries. She talked about the work they do with new refugees around family violence. Newcomers also works in partnership with Justice Options as well as the Circles of Safety.

Our second guest speaker was Carol, a client of East Prince Family Violence Prevention Services. She detailed the abuse she suffered and the struggles she has overcome the effects on her confidence. She has successfully raised four children and likes the woman she has become today. The programs and services at EPFVPS has helped her to find her voice.

**8. Report from Board Chair & Executive Director**

Phil focused his report this year on the volunteers and the amount of volunteerism we've seen in support of the organization. Initiatives like the Fundraising Committee are a big help in addressing one of the main issues facing the board today- the issue of long term sustainability. Phil offered his thanks and appreciation to committee members Patsy Doiron, Lynn Campbell, Lindsay Merrill, Nancy Wallace and Cathy McInnis. Our annual fundraising efforts include four signature events - the Evening of Wine and Song at Harmony House (organized mainly through the efforts of Patsy Doiron), the Sweetheart Dinner held at Red Shores, which was coordinated this year by Lisa Murphy, The Inn at St Peter's fundraising dinner, organized by Karen Davey, and finally the VIP Golf Tournament in support of SAVE. FVPS benefits from many valuable partnerships with people who are willing to give time and effort to ending family violence in our Island communities. While we are successful in a lot of efforts, we can't overlook the fact that we also have times where we aren't successful and feelings of failure than take their toll on staff. We put our best effort into every intervention, but sometimes things don't go the way we plan. Phil thanked staff and everyone who continues to put their best effort forward.

**9. Other Business**

Hon. Colin Lavie, MLA from Souris and Elmira made comments to the attendees and thanked our many volunteers. Hon. Minister Valerie Docherty, MLA, also made comments following the presentation and reminded us of her government's commitment to victims of abuse.

**10. Election of Directors**

There were three nominees brought forth for election to the board. They were Faye Kingdon, Jan Link and Detry Carragher. Shauna called for further nominations from the floor three times. Hearing none, Dave O'Brien moved that nominations cease. Edgar MacLeod seconded his motion. As such, the three nominees were declared members of the board.

**11. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Be it resolved that the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting be adjourned.

**M/S:** Lorne Cudmore

**CARRIED.**

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FVPS Board Member

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Date

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FVPS – Recording Secretary

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Date



## Notable Moments from 2013-2014



Municipal grant from City of Summerside



Donation from Atlantic Women in Law Enforcement



Kia Drive Change Event



Maritime Electric Golf Tournament



Funding for youth website from Intact



New site – [teenrelationships.ca](http://teenrelationships.ca)

## **Executive Director 2013-2014 Annual Report**

*Philip Matusiewicz, Executive Director*

*Bill MacLeod, Board Chair*

I am pleased to present the 2013-2014 Annual Report. This past year has been another successful one for PEI Family Violence Prevention Services. Our organization continues to make strides in the area of family violence prevention. We continue to reach out into our communities to profile the impact of family violence. This past year we identified three key areas of work: the impact of family violence in the work place, initiatives focusing on youth and long term sustainability.

The success of any organization and the services provided is largely due to the commitment of staff in the provision of those services. The quality of services provided by our regional Outreach Program and Anderson House staff continue to be exemplary. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of all staff. These efforts manifest themselves at multiple levels. It may be through the individual work with clients, group work or through community development activities. It is through these efforts that our organization gains recognition in the community.

This year marks a new direction for our organization in terms of sustainability. We are pleased to have entered to a three-year development contract with the Rotary Club of Charlottetown Royalty. Over the next three years the Rotary Club will partially fund a Development Coordinator position. The goal of this initiative is to increase the capacity of the organization to improve its long term sustainability. This initiative is the result and commitment of the Charlottetown Rotary to build on one of its core values which is the development of peace at both the local and global level. We are extremely grateful for this opportunity. This initiative has provided benefits from the onset. The addition of Lindsay Merrill as Development Coordinator has enabled us to improve our overall efficiency and professionalism in our fundraising events. Thus, our signature events continue to grow in terms of awareness and financial success.

Another area that I would like to highlight is the work we have done with youth. Our work with the SAVE students continues in the regional high schools in Kings County: Montague, Souris and Morell. This is a noon time based program with some weekend activities. The focus of the program helps students engage in activities that discuss healthy relationships among their peers and in the community. As a result of funding provided by the Canadian Women's Foundation we have been able to expand our programming with the English Language School Board to four schools (two urban and two rural). The program is targeted to students in grades seven, eight and nine. The sessions are delivered during regular class time. There are four sessions covering the following topics:

- Communication – Focuses on healthy communication and how to communicate in a positive manner.
- Living in a Cyber World – Identifying and raising issues as it relates to the Internet and social media.
- A Healthy Tango – Taking an open and honest look at abuse and its impact in the lives of youth.
- Media Critic – An explanation and critical thinking on the impact of violence in relationships.

In addition, we have developed a website for youth that focuses on youth relationships and provides them with basic information regarding healthy relationships as well as contact information for those seeking help or assistance. We also participated in a youth video which was sponsored by the City of Charlottetown's Mayor's Purple Ribbon Task Force. The video represents a candid exploration of youth talking about their relationships and the insights they gained as a result of their participation.

The development of our work place initiative was a result of funding through the Department of Justice. During National Victims of Crime Awareness Week we provided one-hour workshops on the impact of family violence in the workplace. Both large and small employers were approached and took advantage of the opportunity. Organizations that took advantage of the opportunity were municipal governments, provincial Human Resource departments, and private sectors employers. It is our estimate that the employers that we engaged with have in excess of ten thousand employees. This initiative resulted in follow up work and referrals for our services.

As an Organization, we continue to be active partners with Provincial Government Committees: the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence and the Victim Services Advisory Committee. Through these committees we have been actively involved in a number of sub-committees with PAC: Family Violence Week



Activities, Social Marketing, and Youth Engagement. We also participated in a presentation to the Federal Minister of Justice on the impact of crime on victims, highlighting our experience with women and children who are traumatized by abuse in their lives.

It is our belief that wherever possible we should give back to our community. Therefore, we see engagement with students as way to achieve this goal. This past year we had student placements from the University of Victoria Social Work program, the Holland College Early Childhood Education program and the UPEI Human Sciences Program. I would like to acknowledge with thanks the staff who provided leadership and mentoring to these individuals.

We continue to have a contract with the Federal Government to provide community coordination of the HIFIS program and work with a number of community groups across the province in monitoring and tracking the issue of homelessness. This work continues to be done under the leadership of Ellen and Danya. This past year we have joined with other community stakeholders to examine the issue of homeless women, the results of this work is pending.

The issue of sustainability for our Organization remains a constant theme. While the audit reports continue to demonstrate that our organization has had balanced books, the challenge remains present year to year. In absolute terms, funding from the Province has continued to decline. We must continuously grow our capacity to generate revenue from the community in an increasingly competitive environment. In 2005, our annual commitment from the Provincial Government was \$618,800. Our contract for this coming year is \$649,100, and our annual budget for 2014-2015 is \$860,500. As a consequence, we are challenged on an annual basis to raise 25% of the dollars we require through a variety of initiatives such as fundraising events, financial campaign, and through the solicitation of various Foundations.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our current Board Chair, Bill MacLeod, and the entire Board Membership for the support and leadership they have provided this past year. It is through their guidance and leadership that our organization continues to play an impactful role in the area of family violence. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the departure of Michele Dorsey who has provided our Board with thoughtful and insightful commentary on the matters related to our organization. In addition, a heartfelt thanks to Shauna Reddin for her dedication and leadership as Chair/Past Chair of our Board.

Inclosing a special thanks to all of the volunteers, individuals and business that supported our organization this past year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phil Matusiewicz RSW  
Executive Director

and

Bill MacLeod  
Board Chair

## Anderson House - Annual Statistics 2013-14

Admissions - Adults		
Total number of women admitted:		66
By Age:	18-24	21
	25-34	18
	35-44	15
	45-54	8
	55-64	4
	65+	0
By Marital Status:	Common Law	20
	Divorced	4
	Married	9
	Never Married	27
	Separated	6
	Widowed	0
	Unknown	0
By Location:	West Prince	2
	East Prince	9
	Queens	47
	Eastern Kings	1
	Southern Kings	4
	Out of Province	3
	Unknown	0
Admitted with:	1 child	13
	2 children	5
	3 or more children	3
Admitted for the first time to AH		47

Admissions – Children			
Total number of children admitted:			35
	Gender:	F	M
By Age:	0-2	2	10
	3-6	6	3
	7-12	7	3
	13-16	3	1
Total by Gender:	Female		18
	Male		17
Admitted for the first time to AH:			22
By Location:	West Prince		2
	East Prince		6
	Queens		16
	Eastern Kings		4
	Southern Kings		5
	Out of Province		2
	Unknown		

## Outreach - Annual Statistics - 2013-14

Clients Receiving Services (count once for the year)		
Total number of women served:		480
By Age:	Youth	3
	18-24	70
	25-34	146
	35-44	122
	45-54	84
	55-64	39
	65+	16
By Marital Status:	Common Law	87
	Divorced	32
	Married	99
	Never Married	78
	Separated	174
	Widowed	7
	Unknown	3
Receiving outreach services for first time this year:		195
Children		
Client:	Living with Children	292
	Children in Care	17
Women living with	0 children	40
	1 child	105
	2 childre	138
	3 or more...	116

Services		
Total number of supportive contacts:		4577
	Visits	2627
	Calls	1521
	Emails	429
Contacts		
Average number of contacts per woman:		9.5
Total number of women with...		
	1 contact	70
	2-4 contacts	143
	5-9 contacts	105
	10+ contacts	162
Geographical Location of Client's Residence		
Location		Number of Women
West Prince *(1)		98
East Prince *(3)		71
Queen's County		131
Eastern PEI *(1)		177
Out of Province *(3)		3
Unknown		0
* Some women in these locations have received assistance from the QC office. The number of clients is indicated in parentheses.		

# **Anderson House 2013-2014 Annual Report**

*Danya O'Malley, Manager of Operations*

As I reflect on the past year at Anderson House one trend that has been outside the norm for us has been the number of pregnant women we have admitted to the shelter. Until recently this had been a pretty rare occurrence, but in the past year we've had 6 or more women at various stages of pregnancy stay at Anderson House. This can make a woman's plan to leave an abusive relationship more complicated. We know that sometimes abuse can begin in pregnancy, and it can be very confusing/distressing to have your relationship breakdown while you're in the midst of a very major life change.

There are several concerns when a woman is leaving her relationship while pregnant. One of the most important becomes access to safe, affordable housing. If a woman is receiving financial assistance they may be reluctant to provide her with housing large enough for the baby until the baby arrives. This is problematic because a woman may be going through her pregnancy while in unsafe housing, such as a rooming house, and will be looking at moving once she has a newborn infant. This is not ideal, and we certainly appreciate Income Support's willingness to allow our clients to rent an apartment at our Second Stage Apartments. They recognize that being in a supportive environment is a benefit to both mom and baby, and we have had the opportunity of supporting several women throughout their pregnancy. We have also made a number of referrals to the Island Pregnancy Centre, which provides many things free of charge to moms-to-be. Clothing, toys and furniture are all very costly and having this community resource is valuable.

No matter what life stage our residents are at, we provide a place of healing, understanding, and compassion. The reach of the work that we do is even greater when there are children involved. In 2013-2014 we sheltered 66 women and 35 children. A third of those children were under 3 years old. To be able to intervene in those children's lives at such an early stage is key. I applaud the courage and sense of hope that it takes for a woman to leave. I also applaud my staff for maintaining hope that we can make a difference in someone's life, no matter how brief their stay with us.

Something else of note during the past year is a few women contacting us who were here as child residents. Our shelter is now finishing its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of operation, so the children who stayed here in those early years are now adults themselves. It saddens us to know that these women are seeing similar patterns from their childhood play out in their relationships now. What is encouraging is the memories these women have of the shelter and staff. They often remember this as a place of happiness and peace. As they grow they remember that this is somewhere they can turn for support, or their mothers encourage them to turn here because they remember being supported and empowered. It is interesting to reconnect with women who have stayed here in the distant past, who may be at a very different and positive point in their life. It's affirming of the work that we do.

In closing, I am very proud of the work we do with all of the women we serve. The past year has been one of exciting growth and change for us. I continue to work closely with Phil, our ED, and Program Manager Ellen Ridgeway, to provide a solid management team for the organization. Joining our team is Development Coordinator Lindsay Merrill, whose experience and fresh perspective has already been greatly appreciated. She brings new life to our organization's public profile and has been a great asset to us in terms of event planning and promotion. Looking forward to many new challenges ahead.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Danya O'Malley  
Manager of Operations

## **Program Manager 2013-2014 Annual Report**

*Ellen Ridgeway, Program Manager*

The ASPIRE Program, now in its third year, continues to develop and grow. ASPIRE is an individualized empowerment and strength based program for women experiencing barriers after leaving an abusive relationship. ASPIRE has assisted over 122 women. Women face many challenges when leaving violent situations. Women may live in poverty, need to obtain more education, wish to further career opportunities, or need support around substance use or mental wellness. ASPIRE supports women through these times through advocacy & information.

ASPIRE support groups run continually throughout the year. Group themes have focused on topics such as Coping Skills, Cooking Economically, Identity and Who I Am, Beyond Liberty, and Writing to Heal. Co-facilitators for group work include social worker student Wendy Adams and poet laureate Dianne Hicks Morrow. FVPS would like to thank them for their assistance, dedication, and genuine support to all women who attended group. ASPIRE gratefully acknowledges financial support from the Canadian Women's Foundation and community donors.

Educational talks and information sessions were given to groups such as the East Prince Women's Employment Preparation Class, Fort Augustus CWL, UPEI, and St Vincent de Paul Society. FVPS received financial support from the Law Foundation to deliver a project *Women and the Law on Prince Edward Island*. To date 13 information sessions have been given to women and service providers across PEI. We would like to thank Ann Sherman for her knowledge and expertise presenting these sessions. FVPS staff also attended a Collaborative Law info session.

I attended a two day conference in Charlottetown with presenter Dr. Dan Segal. In November I also had the opportunity to go to Halifax and listen to Dr. Bessel Van de Kolk give a two day workshop on trauma. Work continues with the Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses. I have been active on the Knowledge Exchange Committee and the National Action Plan to end violence against women. The Network is incorporated and received charitable status from Canada Revenue Agency. Collective membership in the CNWSTH includes over 350 emergency and second stage shelters for abused women and their children in Canada.

FVPS organized a small housing forum to inform shelter staff across the province on programs for the homeless population. We also had the opportunity to attend a Housing First Forum sponsored by the Federal Governments' Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). We continue to hold the project for the federal government's initiative HIFIS (Homeless Individuals and Families Information System), a software program from HPS-HRSDC designed to count and track homelessness in Canada. HIFIS will be playing an integral role as the Housing First program is unveiled over the next five years across Canada. FVPS is represented on the Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CAC). The CAC has released 3 consecutive Reports on Homelessness. PEI FVPS contributes to this report by using data from HIFIS from the shelters across PEI. Danya O'Malley is the HIFIS analyst for PEI and I am the Community Coordinator for the project. It is important to note that the loss of Grandmother's House, a shelter for women in Charlottetown, has greatly impacted women seeking temporary shelter. FVPS has helped facilitate a community committee to look at a solution to this issue.

Second Stage Housing in Charlottetown is an 8 unit apartment building that provides safe supportive housing and programming to women and their children. Many families come to Second Stage from Anderson House or our outreach service. There were a total of 13 women and 11 children who resided at Second Stage in the past year. I would like to thank the FVPS Board of Directors for your interest and dedication to family violence prevention work. Also, I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to Phil Matusiewicz, Executive Director and Danya O'Malley, Operations Manager for their support and consultation in our everyday work. Phil and Danya are true advocates for the needs and challenges faced by women. Thanks Phil and Danya for creating avenues and opportunities to assist women in very meaningful ways.

Respectfully,  
Ellen Ridgeway, Program Manager

# **West Prince Family Violence Prevention Services 2013-2014 Annual Report**

*Valerie Smallman, Outreach Coordinator*

West Prince is primarily a rural community. Work is seasonal and unemployment is high. There is a shortage of affordable housing, lawyers, counselling services and specialized services for women. Some live in isolation. While there are many seasonal jobs available for women, they are primarily in fish plants with a 12-14 hour work day, 7 days a week. These hours make it extremely difficult for single mothers. A resident at Second Stage is facing this problem. She has a job, however, finding transport and a reliable sitter is difficult. She can get day care subsidy, but the day cares close at 5 and she has trouble finding someone to watch her three children after they close.

This office is busiest in the 'off season'. This is due to people being unemployed, as this can cause stress. Being home together constantly can be hard and a lower income brings financial strain. Stress leads to increased addiction and other methods used to cope, which in turn creates further financial stresses. It is a vicious cycle. Also, due to a lack of job opportunities men leave to work out west, leaving women to run the household and parent alone. This is a problem in West Prince. All too often we see marriages fail and children getting in trouble due to the abandonment issues. These factors and more make it difficult for a woman to make life changes; this is where outreach comes in.

Outreach offers support, provide information, and help problem solve. We can accompany women to appointments and refer them to appropriate services. Outreach also provides support groups, public education sessions, presentations and training, community liaison, and a library of resource materials. Additionally, because of the lack of public transport and large geographic area in West Prince, I spend more time on the road, conducting visits in homes rather than the office. This results in lower productivity, but is a necessary service to provide.

**Next Step Housing** – This facility supports a woman moving forward from abuse to independence. People support us through giving items such as furniture, dishes, bedding, small appliances, etc. This enables us to keep the apartments furnished, as many arrive with only their clothing. This year 6 families used the second stage facility.

**Education, Training, Information Sessions** – WPFVP set up a booth at the Well Woman Clinic in O'Leary. This clinic was open to the public and attended by approx 100 people. Training and information sessions attended were: Response to Poverty, Trade HERizons, and Integrating and Retaining Newcomers. WPFVP in partnership with the RCMP and Mental Health and Addictions presented, 'Yes for Youth – Safety Planning over the Holidays' to 170 students from Callaghan Junior High, Hernewood Junior High and Deblois French School. WPFVP is an active member of the three year *Justice Options for Women* project. The current phase has seen the creation of Circle of Connections, a group of volunteers with a variety of skills to assist women as they set out on their own. These needs can include: meal planning, property and car maintenance, sewing, and gardening, to name a few needs.

**Family Violence Prevention Week** – The activities held by WPFVP were as follows: pancake breakfast and purple day at Callaghan Jr High, Hernewood Jr High and Westisle High School; Free Daily Lunch Special at Vinny's Restaurant; Sweetheart Dinner at Access PEI; Random Acts of Kindness Cards. Activities were held in 10 schools.

**Memorial Service** – At our December 6<sup>th</sup> memorial students from Westisle lit candles and placed roses, the Contemporary Choir supplied music. Constable Renee Michels read the biographies of the 14 victims of the Montreal Massacre and the 10 women murdered on PEI. I was the guest speaker. About 50 people attended.

**Support Groups** – A total of 17 women were served by three support groups. The groups were hosted in O'Leary. Group programs are very positive in West Prince. Group programs are costly, but without assistance clients could not attend. Friendships have evolved from sharing, and women feel a sense of belonging.

**Christmas** – We distributed 32 Christmas Hampers through the Salvation Army. We were also able to supply gifts to a number of families, thanks to the generosity of our communities and Anderson House.

**Fundraising and Donations** – Between fundraising and donations, we have received approximately \$7,638 from community members and organizations. On a number of occasions we picked up items from members of the community. These items were sorted and dispersed throughout the West Prince Region.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Valerie Smallman, Outreach Coordinator



# East Prince Family Violence Prevention Services 2013-2014 Annual Report

*Norma McColeman, Outreach Coordinator*

It is a pleasure to submit the annual report on behalf of East Prince region. During the past 28 years, family violence prevention front-line services in East Prince have engaged with the community to develop strong partnerships. This adds value to the community-based focus: '**Safer homes and families, workplaces and communities**'. There are approximately 22 villages, several towns, 1 city, the Evangeline region and Lennox Island serviced by East Prince. Client services are conducted in-office or in the community, at a client's home, workplace, at the hospital, at Sleepy Hollow Provincial Correctional Services, and Anderson House Shelter or Mary Bernard Memorial Shelter.

Client profiles range from high school students through to senior. Clients' economic status ranged from financial assistance and EI recipients, to professional women and those in high earning roles. However, working poor clients continue to grow due to situations relating to the dynamics of abuse. These dynamics affect many things, such as trust, addictions, mismanagement of anger, unhealthy boundaries, dysfunctional family factors, and mental health concerns like depression, PTSD, and anxiety disorders.

**Year in Review:** **Next Step Housing** provided second-stage housing to two women and two children; Outreach staff conducted three support groups and five special evening workshops/events (*113 evening hours in total*) to a total of approx 40 clients. One event for the general public during Family Violence Prevention Week brought 40 women. Numerous families were also supported through collaboration with The Salvation Army and Kinsmen Christmas Appeal for Food Hampers. Additional '*Christmas Family*' support was provided to 14 women and their children through Anderson House Shelter and community donations.

**Fund-Raising:** \$12,300 was raised through fundraising, donations, and grants. Local organizations provided charitable donations to assist with community programming. As well, in-kind support was provided from the community for a variety of needs. To all individuals, groups, and organizations your support is greatly appreciated.

**Partnerships and Collaboration Work:** Strong partnerships establish understanding and collaboration for the greater support of clients. We are pleased to partner with: *City of Summerside, Summerside Police Services, Community Connections, Adult Protection, PEI Police Association, East Prince Youth Development Centre, Victim Services, The Journal Pioneer, Child & Family Services, Justice Options for Women, Prince County Hospital, Catholic Women's League, Summerside Kinsmen, Summerside Lions Club, St. Eleanor's Lions and Lioness Clubs, Women's Institute, Shoppers Drug Mart, Marguerite Bourgeoys Centre, Probation Services, and the Nazarene Church.*

In closing, my appreciation is extended to East Prince Team members, Vickie Deveau-Fitzpatrick and Darla Gallant. As well, appreciation goes to Executive Director, Phil Matusiewicz, and Danya O'Malley for your consistent approach to outcomes and the needs that arise. It does take attention to manage and coordinate the many unseen details. To the provincial board members, a thank-you for volunteering for the needs of the organization. To all remaining PEIFVPs, Inc. staff members and my sister Outreach Coordinators, a thank-you to each one of you for the work and contributions each of you make in our valuable front-line work.

Respectfully submitted by  
Norma D. McColeman, Outreach Coordinator



This is a group of clients from the East Prince Region attending an evening workshop/meal. This was in conjunction with a national campaign (Delivering Hope) Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness, which is sponsored by Fed Ex Canada. Motivational topics and group discussion around Dignity & Respect were the highlight of the night. Our evening ended with **each** woman receiving a gift of a purse that was filled with makeup, cosmetics, scarves, etc. The women were so touched by this gesture.

## **Queen's County Outreach Service 2013-2014 Annual Report**

*Gloria Dennis-McVicar, Outreach Coordinator*

During this past year the referral sources for women (and some young men) coming to Outreach for service have continued to come from the same places as in years past; Child and Family Services, Victim Services, Anderson House, and Mental Health and Addiction Services. Other referrals have come from family and friends, legal services and the Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

I have continued to sit on the Steering Committee for Justice Options for Women. That involvement has included working to assess and improve access to services and information for immigrant women, which resulted in Justice Options designing a Power and Control Wheel for Immigrant Women. As this fiscal year was coming to an end work was being finalized to offer a training session for interpreters on family violence, safety and resources available in the community, which is to be offer in April 2014. I will update on that in the next annual report.

Activities for Outreach with PEI FVPS included workplace training sessions on family violence for supervisors. Training goals were to educate supervisors on: signs of family violence, how to start a conversation with an employee about concerns and observations, development of workplace policies and procedures, and community resources. Feedback from the sessions offered was positive. Other presentations this year included: Around The Block – a program for youth with disabilities which includes components of life skills, employability and creation of an educational theatre production addressing concerns of youth with disabilities. Presentations on family violence the impact on women and children and the services available were given to Holland College, Eastern College, various Women's Institutes and Christian Women's groups.

I remained involved with Circles of Safety and Support: A Collaborative, Comprehensive Safety Planning Model, for women who feel they need an additional level of safety planning and support. In some situations the process for a Safety Circle was started and was suspended because of a change in the woman's situation. In those cases the option to reconvene in future is open if the woman feels she is again at higher risk.

The challenges for women continue in the areas of affordable, appropriate, safe housing and in the area of legal service for women without children that are living on limited income. Family Legal Aid offers service to families dealing with custody, access, and child support, but usually does not deal with division of assets or spousal support. Many women find themselves unable to retain a lawyer or end up in a drawn out legal battle that uses much of the settlement they may have been entitled to. One area that women have expressed some satisfaction with is in the family court's efforts to "triage" cases, which involves the clients, their lawyers, and the judge meeting so that the issues can be resolved without the expense and stress of having to go to trial.

As I have stated in past years I am honored to bear witness and support the women who come to Outreach, their courage and strength is an inspiration.

Submitted by

Gloria Dennis-McVicar, Outreach Coordinator

# **Eastern PEI Family Violence Prevention Services 2013-2014 Annual Report**

*Gwyn Davies, Outreach Coordinator*

This is the nineteenth year for Outreach Services in Eastern PEI. Since 1996 we have provided support, information and advocacy for women and families who are living with violence. Referrals come through Housing, Child and Family, Victim Services, Financial Assistance, Mental Health and Addictions, and Adult Protection. Women also hear about us through friends and family. I have been the only Outreach Coordinator, so women reconnect to access services at difficult times in their relationships or those of their children.

When a woman decides to leave her home, the first concern she has is housing. Finding the proper size home, in the right area, for the right price, is a challenge. Then the emotional considerations for children leaving home and leaving their dad. To change schools is a hard choice when their lives are chaotic and unpredictable because of violence. A move can be overwhelming for a woman whose emotional energy is drained from struggling to keep things together. I am always impressed by the strength and integrity many women have. Employment, transportation, and increased weeks for EI claims are all part of their burden. When we assist a family with housing so they can work, be in touch with family & friends, and feel safe and independent- that is a success.

However, many women cannot overcome these barriers and have to cope with the violence by being creative. I met a woman who well understands her husband is abusive. The first important things she talked about was how guilty she feels about her children seeing and knowing the abuse. Right now she feels trapped in her marriage because she has no job, no car and no money. He is harsh, bad tempered, drinks on the weekends, insults her and is quite sure she would never leave him. He abuses her in sexualized ways- intimacy is frightening for her. The children are old enough now to work with her to make the best of their situation- two girls, eight and ten, take care of their little brother who is two. They know their Dad is mean to their Mum and that he doesn't want to take care of them. Mum and the girls cut a path through a short stretch of woods to a neighbour's house so they do not have to walk on the road. In the winter Mum stomped the snow down when she could, so the kids could get through. The neighbours are an older couple with lots of family visitors. Mum knows it is fun for them there. The girls often take their brother over for visits. The couple knows their Dad is mean and welcome the children. The kids all sleep together in one bedroom so when their Dad is yelling at their Mum they amuse themselves and take care of their brother by keeping him away. They have built dinky tracks and blanket forts. This winter Mum looked into how her husband could get a job out west. He has no training but is handy. She started telling him about trucking jobs, courses he could take and camp life. She wants him to work so he can give them money, telling him she is not able to do anything to earn money. They are dependent on him...

I often tell her how smart and brave she is. When I see her we do an inventory of her victories. Recently she told him that he was raping her and she did not want that any more. We practiced how she would say this. He was as shocked as he was angry! She told him she could go to Anderson House. We talk about her future plans- she wants to be a Resident Care Worker. I took her to Career Development and she now knows how to get her GED. It is great to meet her children and see how smart they are to help their Mum. I showed them how to make cookies "from scratch". This all happens when Dad is at work. She protects them bravely. They feel proud to be able to take care of themselves and their brother. They are hoping that their Dad will go out west this spring. When he goes she will start upgrading. He knows she is planning this but figures she will never do it. She has figured out transportation and childcare. I visit regularly and she calls often. When I think of the things she does and plans to do I see her working as hard as any CEO of a large corporation! This story is an example of the things I can do to support a family. This situation is not dramatic, but it is more common than we would like. Brave women resourcefully coping and slowly shifting towards independence and a peaceful life. That is heroic. I appreciate and admire them always.

**SAVE – Students Against Violence Everywhere** continues to be well received in our community. Maxine MacLennan works hard and accomplishes a lot with the SAVE groups in Morell, Montague and Souris. Thanks to The PEI Family Violence Prevention Board members, Phil and staff for all their efforts to support abused women and prevent violence.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gwyn Davies, Outreach Coordinator

# SAVE Program 2013-2014 Annual Report

*Maxine MacLennan, Youth Facilitator*

This year has been one of wonderful highlights in all of our three schools; and well as some very low lows. Montague Regional High School has had once again to deal with tragedy...this time in the death of three young boys in a fire. There were some negative letters to the editor of the Guardian written and published online surrounding the sad event. Our *SAVE* students called it "bullying behind technology". They wanted to address the matter in some way. They decided to write their own letter and bring to light all the positive things that happened in the wake of all the sadness and grief. The benefits, the coming together as a community, a song was written, a garden was planted.

In the end it was felt by administration of the school that it might bring pain to the surface again for the families and friends of the boys who died in the fire. We decided instead to publish the letter in the FVPS Annual Report. I urge you to take the time to read it very carefully. The letter is a clear reflection of just how well our *SAVE* students understand the importance of what they are learning being part of the *SAVE* program. They recognize the positive impact they can make on abusive or negative situations. They know they can make a difference. The education they receive and the hands on tasks they perform all year long will have a lasting impact, helping them to continue to make good choices when it comes to relationships, no matter who it is they have that relationship with.

## *Our Highlights:*

All year we discussed the material I gather from different sources as part of the education component of the *SAVE* program, everything from Elder Abuse to taking about signs of depression or suicide, to Anderson House and Family Violence Prevention Services.

Myself, Gwyn and 3 students attended the *We Day* conference in Halifax, sponsored by McInnis Cooper. It was a great time. *SAVE* week was held in November, each school doing their own campaign. Morell had Gordon MacNeily come to speak, Montague did a poster campaign and permanently put up a big 7ft Purple ribbon in front of their school. Announcements were made including statistics about abuse in relationships in all schools. Souris had a similar campaign in their school and as well bake sales, bagging groceries and other in-school fundraisers. All three schools raised money for *Free the Children* and *Anderson House* by having bake sales, cake auctions, bagging groceries selling buttons of love from *Free the Children*. We chose to direct our fundraising efforts to help girls in third world countries get an education. *Pink T Shirt Day* raised over \$800.00 to go to *Anderson House*. Morell High School also presented a cheque to *Anderson House* for \$525.00!

All three schools had their own campaign over *Family Violence Prevention Week*: Morell High School sent the whole student body two years in a row to participate in the walk, with all teachers and staff going along as well. Montague Students participated in the Walk in Silence, Georgetown Elementary grades 7 and 8 came along for the Walk in Silence in Georgetown, and Souris High School sent several grades as well as our *SAVE* students. The four Walks In Silence took place in Eastern PEI with *Hot 105.5*, *The Eastern Graphic*, *Island EMS*, *four Fire Departments* and *RCMP* participating in all of them. Plus *The Lieutenant Governor* was on hand for three of them!

We have a safe graduation campaign partnering with *MADD* to combine our efforts in having a safe prom and graduation season. Family violence Prevention Services has sponsored our students with *SAVE* tee shirts. It has been a very busy year!!!

Thank you,  
Maxine MacLennan  
Youth Program Facilitator-SAVE

May 14, 2014

Dear Editor,

We are members of the Montague Regional High SAVE Group. We meet weekly to discuss the issues of violence in relationships and how, as individuals, and a school group, we can prevent violence. Our Mission Statement includes the statement- Violence is Preventable .We think of ways to communicate to students about what violence is and where to go for help. We believe that it is important to respect others, act responsibly and step up when we see violence towards others. Raising awareness about violence prevention is our task.

Recently our school and community has been shocked and saddened by the death of three young boys and the injuries of a survivor. The story of the fire, the names of the boys and their families unfolded quickly and everyone was sharing the grief. We appreciate our school administration and teachers for their great support to help us grieve and come to terms with this tragedy.

During that time much was said in social media. There were positive, heartfelt comments that supported the boys and their families. Sadly there were other comments that were negative and hurtful to the families and their friends. We are disappointed and upset about some of the comments we read. So we are stepping up to say that we feel let down and embarrassed that people anonymously chose to criticize and judge the boys and their families. This is a very hard time for our community- a time to show caring.

- ~ We support the efforts of the youth who are promoting a community center for kids to gather.
- ~ The benefit concert that was held at our school was caring and supportive. It showed our strength in numbers.
- ~ We appreciate the respect that was shown to the boys by the flags being flown at half mast.
- ~ A song was written.
- ~ A wreath was laid at the Intermediate School.
- ~ There have been lots of individual efforts and displays of caring.
- ~ The funerals were well attended. There were beautiful tributes to the boys.

All this drew people together in support of the families.

We acknowledge the sadness of the families of the boys. We are sensitive to your loss. Our intention in this letter is to emphasize the positive actions of our community.

We believe that abuse of any sort is unacceptable– Violence is preventable. We expect our community to act as we want to be treated; with respect, acceptance and caring.

Respectfully submitted,

Montague SAVE Group

Dear Donor,

I wanted to write a letter of gratitude for assisting me in joining team sport. I have thought many times of what to write and a simple thank you does not seem to truly express what being able to participate in the sport means to me. I feel that for you to truly understand that I must explain my past.

When I was 13 I lost my father to suicide. I was fortunate that my mother was able to financially afford for me to play hockey. I spent my youth participating on a variety of teams. Being able to play helped me control my frustration and anger. I was able to get on the ice and forget my life and the troubles I was dealing with. Skating helped me release the pent up anger I was holding on to and it gave me the ability to release emotions that I had stored away and was unable to properly deal with. Hockey was my saving grace, as I did not know how to communicate the hurt and anger I was feeling. I have never been good at building relationships with people, but again hockey gave me the confidence to talk to new people.

Eventually I had to leave hockey. It was difficult to leave the one thing that had helped me to deal with my emotions. However having a beautiful baby filled my days. As my child becomes older and does not need me for everything anymore, I found myself needing something to get me out and to deal with my emotions again.

Last August I ended a very abusive relationship and entered into counseling to become healthy. I was diagnosed with depression in October and have been attending counseling at Family Violence Prevention and at Richmond Centre to get back on track. One of the concerns my counselors had is that I was not involved in any activities for me. Because of the cost I had not considered joining a sport for myself. Gloria suggested I look into what I may enjoy, after researching it, I found something that I thought I would enjoy but I financially could not afford it.

Gloria reassured me that we could work something out. I began participating in the sport and found that I loved it. It was the same release I got from playing hockey as a teen. I have made new friends and I am not completely dependent on my son's activities to meet new people and develop relationships.

Being able to play has given me a new lease on life. I have something to look forward to and I have made new friends. I am currently still in therapy and making much better progress now that I have an activity to participate in. Participating in sport has given me the ability to release tension, develop my self-esteem, develop my confidence by learning new things and making new friends.

I am truly grateful for this chance and there are no words in any language in the world that can express how much your support has meant to me. I am still struggling to get back on track in my life, but you have given me a gift, the ability to get out of my home and do something that means the world to me. With your help and therapy I have made much progress towards a healthy life and one that I have been working hard to achieve.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart



This is my story ...

One day I was married. The next day I was a single, middle-aged, un-employed parent with dependent children. I left the marriage with \$300 in my bank account.

My emergency visit to the QEH was followed by a midnight referral to Anderson House, an intervention at dawn by Victim Services, and a morning escort with Charlottetown City Police to collect our personal items. Anderson House took us in. We stayed for three weeks before moving back into the family home. This was my introduction to Family Violence Prevention Services PEI.

I was financially independent with a successful career when I married. I left my position as National Sales Manager to work in his business, to be a homemaker, and to raise our children. He pursued his career and handled all our finances. We enjoyed a privileged lifestyle which included a home in Canada and a home abroad, a summer cottage, several cars, private school for the children, high-end social events, and summer holidays in Europe. Our last home, before moving to the Island, sold for \$1.9M.

We arrived on the Island in July. The following June, I drove myself to the hospital. A nurse in the parking lot asked "Is this the first time?" "No", I replied. "Is this the last time?" she asked.

The next months were a blur of Anderson House, Victim Services, Queen's County Outreach, Charlottetown City Police, RCMP, Legal Aid, Lawyers, Judges, Family Court, Criminal Court, Emergency Protection Orders, Interim Family Court Orders, Parental Visitation Schedules, Child Custody matters, Home Study, Social Assistance, Food Bank, Maintenance Enforcement, Revenue Canada, job applications and more.

The bank foreclosed on the house, the cars were repossessed, the collection agencies started calling, and the mail delivered an envelope from my mother-in-law. Inside the envelope was my Notice of Assessment from Revenue Canada, addressed to her postal address. It showed \$134,119 balance due. Victim Services referred me to an accountant.

The holidays arrived. Queen's County Outreach brought a Christmas Hamper. Social Assistance arranged for the children's presents. Neighbours filled our oil tank, lent us their car, brought food, and watched over us. I filed my tax return and reported income of \$2,314 and in the next year filed my tax return with reported income of \$9,103.

The next six years were spent surviving a barrage of intimidation, legal maneuvers, and financial challenges. My Interim Court Orders for Child and Spousal Support were appealed. Child Support was reduced to \$270 per month and Spousal Support to \$0. My Interim Child Custody Orders were challenged. Legal Aid expired. The Prothonotary of the Supreme Court prepared me for Court. The Separation Judgement was finalized. There was no spousal support or division of assets. Family Violence Prevention Services PEI continued with their unrelenting support. Revenue Canada cleared and reversed my Assessment. I filed for Bankruptcy. A MLA from another province offered a 3 year employment contract which required that we move to the main land. My research generated a \$4.5 joint-venture between the Federal and Provincial Government. I filed for Divorce. The intimidation continued. The Divorce application was contested. The government contract expired. I was unemployed again. I obtained my Certificate of Divorce. I found a job on PEI. The children and I returned to the Island.

When asked to write my story, it was hard and very emotional. I reviewed the Court Motions, the Court Orders, and everything came back as if it was yesterday. Then I realized that it was a milestone year. I was married for 13 years and left with nothing. I have been a single parent for 13 years and now own my own company, a home, and a car. Most important, the children have grown into strong, young adults. They are involved in various stages of their post-secondary studies and work, and have a bright future ahead of them. Thank you Family Violence Prevention Services PEI. Your unwavering faith and support rescued us. I could never have imagined that I would feel safe and secure today.