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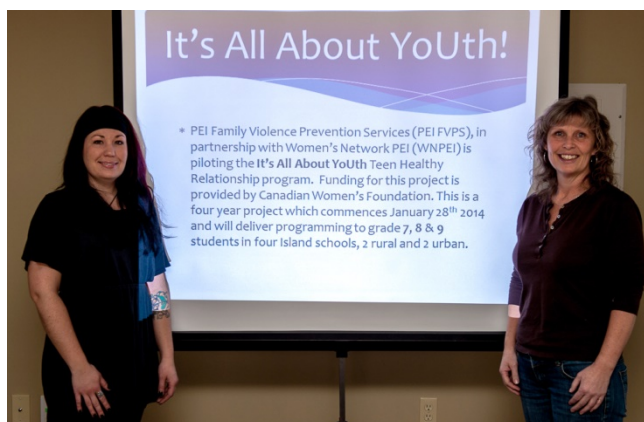
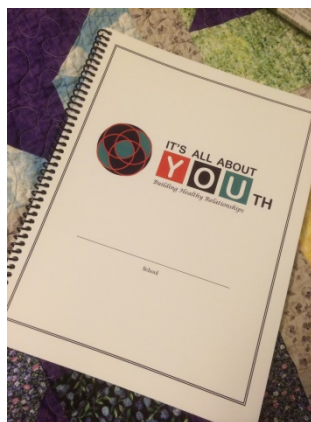
34th Annual Report

Wednesday, June 24, 2015 6pm
Rodd Charlottetown Hotel (75 Kent St, Charlottetown, PE)

20
15



The *It's All About YOUTH* program has recently wrapped up the second year of a four year pilot program, funded by Canadian Women's Foundation. Jaime Griffin from Women's Network PEI and Michelle Buttery from FVPS are the partnering facilitators of the six week program. *It's All About YOUTH* is aimed at grade seven students currently enrolled in four schools across the island. The program focuses on the topic of healthy relationships and encourages youth to examine all the various relationships they have in their lives. This can include family members, peers, teachers, team mates etc. and will then translate into their intimate partner relationships in the future. The six, one hour sessions include topics like communication, examining characteristics, and elements associated with healthy, unhealthy and abusive relationships. It provides critical thinking skills and helps with identifying potentially unsafe situations both on and offline, as well as exploring risk reducing strategies. The response so far, from both students and school administration, has been extremely positive and we look forward to moving forward into year three.



PEI Family Violence Prevention Services Inc.
34th Annual Report
2014-15

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- Testimonials
- Major Donors 2014-15

PEI Family Violence Prevention Services Inc.
34th Annual General Meeting
2014-15

AGENDA

Date: June 24th, 2015

Location: The Rodd Charlottetown, Charlottetown, PE

Time: 6:00 p.m.

- Agenda:**
1. Approval of the Agenda
 2. Minutes of the 33rd Annual Meeting of PEI FVPS
 3. Financial Statements
 4. Motion to Approve the 2014-15 Audited Statements
 5. Motion to Appoint Auditor
 6. Election of Directors
 7. Presentations
 8. Guest Speakers
Michelle Buttery and Jaime Griffin
All about YOUTh
 9. Report from the Board Chair and Executive Director
 10. Other Business
 11. Adjournment

PEI FVPS Inc. – 33rd Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, June 18, 2014 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
The Rodd Charlottetown, Kent St., Charlottetown, PE

Present: Norma McColeman, Michelle Burge, Lorne Cudmore, Philip Smith, Gloria Dennis, Gwyn Davies, Bill MacLeod, Edgar MacLeod, Sharon O'Brien, Jan Link, Lindsay Merrill, Wendy Verhoek-Oftedahl, Kelsey Chaisson, Vickie Deveau, Detry Carragher, Ellen Ridgeway, Hon. Richard Brown, Phil Matusiewicz (exofficial), Danya O'Malley (exofficial)

Regrets: Kathy Bigsby, Valerie Smallman, Dara Rayner, Shauna Reddin, Michelle Buttery, Faye Kingdon

Chair: Bill MacLeod

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: Detry Carragher / Jan Link

CARRIED.

2. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Be it resolved that the minutes of the 32nd Annual General Meeting held June 20, 2013 be adopted as presented.

M/S: Edgar MacLeod / Jan Link

CARRIED.

3. Financial Statement

Michelle Burge reviewed the Statement of Income and Balance Sheet for PEI Family Violence Prevention Services and Second Stage Housing. For FVPS, the revenue and expenses have both increased by about the same margin, making our surplus for the year very similar to the one from the last fiscal period. Our total surplus is \$26,990. While there was some change around the types of projects we received funding for, overall our expenses were comparable. Overall Second Stage Housing has closed the year with a \$12,063 deficit, which will be covered off by our funding agreement through CMHC. Our rental revenue was down by approximately \$5,000, and our expenses increased over last year by about \$2,000. It is often difficult to budget the rent for the year, since the rates are calculated as geared to income.

4. Motion to Approve the 2013-2014 Audited Statements

MOTION: Be it resolved that the audited financial statements be accepted from MRSB Chartered Accountants for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2014.

M/S: Lorne Cudmore / Detry Carragher

CARRIED.

5. Motion to Appoint Auditor

MOTION: Be it resolved that MRSB Chartered Accountants be appointed as auditors for the 2014 – 2015 fiscal year.

M/S: Detry Carragher / Jan Link

CARRIED.

6. Cheque Presentations

Norma McColeman presented a cheque from the City of Summerside for their annual municipal grant. Edgar MacLeod commented that it might be fitting to send a letter from board on the good leadership Summerside is showing by choosing to fund our work against family violence. We do send thank you's for all donations, however writing to the Mayor and council to tell them that there was special mention of their donation at the Annual Meeting could also be sent. We congratulate the City of Summerside for seeing our work as a priority and hope that other municipalities take up this priority as well.

7. Guest Speakers

Dr. Philip Smith presented on the activities of the Premier's Action Committee. He reviewed the priorities of the committee over the previous 5-year term. The PAC mandate has been renewed for a 4-year term. The new committee's vision has not yet been fully determined, but they will always remain committed to shaping a society where violence is not tolerated.

Dr. Wendy Verhoek-Oftedahl presented on her position as the coordinator of the Office of Family Violence Prevention and Community Development. Dr. Wendy started her career as an epidemiologist looking at diseases, and moved into looking at injury as a result of violence or sexual abuse/assault. This was a shift for her but she has grown into fully occupying her role and using information, research and data to further policy and practice in the area of family violence prevention.

8. Report from Board Chair & Executive Director

Phil presented his report on behalf of himself and Bill MacLeod. He spoke of the events over the past year. He focused on three main areas for the year- long-term sustainability, youth programming and family violence in the workplace. As an organization, long term sustainability has always been important, but it remains a present concern as our funding decreases. In dollars we may be receiving more than in years past, however the board is now responsible for raising 25% of our budget, which is higher than the 10% they had previously committed to. It remains a challenge in an environment where the competition for donations is high.

Phil wished a fair well to Shauna Reddin, who was past chair this year and will not be returning to our board now that she has served two consecutive terms. Also, Michele Dorsey has resigned due to other commitments, and Phil acknowledged that her expertise and skills will be missed. Phil acknowledged the role staff have played in having a successful year.

9. Other Business

None

10. Election of Directors

Jan Link presented the report from the nomination committee. There were two nominees brought forth for election to the board. They were Tina Pranger and Selina Pellerin. Jan called for further nominations from the floor three times. Hearing none, Detry Carragher moved that nominations cease. Edgar MacLeod seconded his motion. As such, the two nominees were declared members of the board.

11. Adjournment

MOTION: Be it resolved that the 32nd annual meeting be adjourned.

M/S: Detry Carragher

CARRIED.

FVPS Board Member

Date

FVPS – Recording Secretary

Date

Notable Moments from 2013-2014



Donation from Catherine Callbeck's retirement & birthday celebration



Cheque presentation from Telus & Quentin Bevan



Winner of the *Lucky You!* grand prize – a trip for two from WestJet at the 3rd Annual Sweetheart Dinner



MLA Gerard Greenan presents a donation from the Insurance Bureau of Canada for East Prince programs



Pajama and dollar donations from West Royalty Elementary!



A social gathering of friends and supporters at Anderson House



6th Annual Walk in Silence for Family Violence



Mayor's proclamation of Family Violence Prevention Week 2015, Summerside



Cheque presentation from the team at Vogue Optical



Ash & Bloom benefit concert for PEI FVPS at the Guild



Red Shore Drive for Charity – donation from MacQuarrie Meats



Makeup donation from Mary Kay, East Prince Outreach

Executive Director 2014-2015 Annual Report

Philip Matusiewicz, Executive Director | Rev. Bill MacLeod, Board Chair

This report represents another successful year for PEI Family Violence Prevention Services Inc. (PEI FVPS). As an organization we continue to make strides in our community, profiling the issues of family violence and the impact it has on communities, families, and individuals.

As an organization our accomplishments and successes come from the individuals that support our organization. For PEI FVPS to succeed it is dependent on the quality services provided by our staff and volunteers. Without the assistance of our community we would not be able to provide our current level of services.

We are thankful for the support that we receive from the Rotary Club of Charlottetown-Royalty in supporting the Development Coordinator position through its signature project. The addition of the Development Coordinator has enabled us to provide a level of professionalism to our initiatives. We are currently in year two of a three year agreement. The establishment of a Development Coordinator position within the organization has enabled PEI FVPS to be actively involved in our community, create a greater awareness of our fundraising initiatives, and raise the profile of the issue of family violence. The organization continues to hold its key signature events: Evening of Wine and Song at Harmony House, Sweetheart Dinner at Red Shores, SAVE VIP Golf Tournament, and Dinner and Silent Auction at Inn at St. Peters. Throughout the year there are a number of other events that take place in the community on our behalf. It is because of the Development Coordinator position that we are able to support these many events. This past year over 17 events took place to benefit PEI FVPS. These events helped raise awareness about family violence, raise funds to support our programming and services, and provide an opportunity for our community to be involved with our organization.

This past year our board participated in a planning session and identified 4 key areas of work:

1. To develop an HR plan to deal with the pending retirements within the organization within the next 12-60 months.
2. Continue to develop a social enterprise to educate work places in the area of family violence.
3. To develop a strategy that will see the current level of youth programming expand within communities and schools within the province.
4. To establish a strategy that would see the creation of an endowment fund that will serve to provide long term sustainability to the organization.

The programs and services that we provide to individuals and families are central to the role of PEI FVPS. It is through the efforts and dedication of our staff at Anderson House and our Outreach staff that we are able to provide quality programming. While it is impossible to highlight all of the work in our organization, it is noteworthy to highlight some of our efforts. The single most important piece of work that we do is to provide support and advocacy to individuals and families in times of crisis. Many of the systems that our clients deal with are complicated and difficult to navigate. Having to work your way through complex systems while you are in crisis is a challenge. Supporting individuals and families through this challenge is crucial. PEI FVPS staffs are able to support, advocate and problem solve many of these complex issues and thereby minimize the stresses that individuals and families endure.

Another area that provides critical support to the women we serve is our group programming. One of the greatest learnings for women who participate in group work is the tremendous amount of support they can receive from each other. It reinforces that they are not alone and isolated in their journey. This is a comment that is continually noted in the evaluations completed by program participants.

The area of youth programming is one from which we derive great satisfaction. The feedback we receive from youth, school administration, and teachers is positive and appreciative. Our youth programming has a central theme of healthy and respectful relationships. As an organization we take great pride in providing prevention programming and recognize that if we are to succeed in building respectful and healthy communities, it lies with our youth.

The other area of work that I would like to reflect upon is the education sessions that we brought to employers on the impact of family violence in the workplace. We approached several workplaces. Some welcomed the education sessions and others found the topic difficult and were reluctant to engage in discussion. Our speculation is that family violence remains a difficult conversation to have, particularly with some smaller employers. We believe however, that we need to persist with this work as it is potentially a significant way to support victims of family violence. We know that the work place can be a vehicle for victims to extricate themselves from an abusive relationship. Our conviction has been bolstered by one of the recommendations in the Hennessey-Campbell inquest which identified the education of employers on the topic of family violence as an important initiative.

The constant theme of sustainability remains present for our organization. In the last presentation made to government it was noted that over a nine year period our grant had increased (+\$30,000) as did our operational costs. While we are appreciative of the additional \$30,000 we received at the end of March 2015, it remains a stop gap measure. The Board remains committed to the proposition of raising 10% of the annual budget. However, in recent years the Board finds itself having to raise 25% of the annual budget. The Board embraces the role of providing quality services to victims of family violence and welcomes the view that government considers these services as core for victims of family violence. The increased focus on the need to fund raise detracts from the primary focus of the staff and Board and in the long run only serves to weaken the long term viability of the organization.

This past year our Operations Manager left on maternity at the end of November which left a significant void in our organization. We have been able to maintain the operations of the organization through the efforts of a number of individuals. Michelle Buttery has provided the supervision and support to the Anderson House staff. Lee Anne Farrar and Dara Rayner have supported and maintained our efficiency on the administrative side. The Board and I are extremely grateful for the efforts of these staff.

This past year we had a number of Board members leave our organization unexpectedly. Faye Kingdon and Jan Link left for personal reasons; their leadership and dedication will be missed. With this AGM we see the departure of Chief Edgar MacLeod. We will miss the insight that Edgar brought to our Board particularly from a policing perspective, as well as his advocacy within the police community for victims of family violence. I would like to thank Bill and the Board for their leadership and support over this past year.

In closing, a special thanks to all of the volunteers, individuals and businesses that supported our organization this past year.

Respectfully submitted;

Phil Matusiewicz, RSW
Executive Director

Rev. Bill MacLeod
Board Chair

Anderson House - Annual Statistics 2014-15

Admissions - Adults		
Total number of women admitted:		62
By Age:	18-24	16
	25-34	18
	35-44	12
	45-54	8
	55-64	8
	65+	0
By Marital Status:	Common Law	25
	Divorced	1
	Married	9
	Never Married	21
	Separated	5
	Widowed	0
	Unknown	1
By Location:	West Prince	2
	East Prince	8
	Queens	42
	Eastern Kings	0
	Southern Kings	3
	Out of Province	7
	Unknown	
Admitted with:	1 child	9
	2 children	4
	3 or more children	4
Admitted for the first time to AH		37

Admissions - Children			
Total number of children admitted:			31
	Gender:	F	M
By Age:	0-2	6	7
	3-6	2	9
	7-12	1	4
	13-16	1	1
Total by Gender:	Female		10
	Male		21
Admitted for current violence/abuse			50
Admitted for the first time to AH:			26
	West Prince		2
	East Prince		5
	Queens		24
	Eastern Kings		
	Southern Kings		
	Out of Province		
	Unknown		

Outreach - Annual Statistics 2014-15

Clients Receiving Services (count once for the year)		
Total number of women served:		468
By Age:	Youth	2
	18-24	65
	25-34	152
	35-44	114
	45-54	77
	55-64	49
	65+	9
By Marital Status:	Common Law	77
	Divorced	30
	Married	85
	Never Married	83
	Separated	184
	Widowed	7
	Unknown	2
Receiving outreach services for first time this year:		203
Children		
Client:	Living with Children	256
	Children in Care	37
Women living with	0 children	170
	1 child	114
	2 children	114
	3 or more...	70

Services		
Total number of supportive contacts:		4394
	Visits	2285
	Calls	1584
	Emails	525
Contacts		
Average number of contacts per woman:		9.5
Total number of women with...		
	1 contact	57
	2-4 contacts	135
	5-9 contacts	114
	10+ contacts	162
Geographical Location of Client's Residence		
Location	Number of Women	
West Prince	97	
East Prince	74	
Queen's County	119	
Eastern PEI	173	
Out of Province	5	
Unknown	0	

Anderson House 2014-2015 Annual Report

Michelle Buttery, Child & Youth Services Coordinator

This year's Annual Report is written in the absence of our Manager of Operations, Danya O'Malley. At the beginning of December 2014, Danya went on maternity leave, leaving behind a huge gap which has required several people to step in to collectively fill her position. As the Child & Youth Coordinator and therefore the 'consistent' day shift staff at Anderson House, I have taken over some of those responsibilities. There is an ironic element to this as many of you may remember that Danya recorded last year, as part of her Annual Report, the influx of pregnant women admitted to Anderson House over the year. She then left to have her own baby several months later.

That irony is duplicated and reflected once again as I prepare this year's report. Over the 13 years that I have worked at Anderson House, after arriving from the UK as an immigrant with Permanent Resident status, I have seen many Newcomers to Canada enter the shelter. However this past year has seen us working with several more complex and challenging cases involving women who are residing in Canada under a range of legal statuses. Three admissions in particular really challenged staff in many ways, as we needed to find ways to work 'outside the box' with each of their unique situations.

One young woman from a South American country first came to us a couple of years ago after leaving her abusive, Canadian husband. She had Permanent Resident status which meant she could at least work and support herself financially, but her husband was still her sponsor. This situation can put many newcomer women in an extremely vulnerable position as he could change his mind and cease sponsorship at any time. Even the threat of this would be enough for many women to stay in abusive relationships. Also her English was quite basic in the beginning. This seriously limited jobs available to her. It also left her feeling quite isolated. Between our staff and the staff at PEI Association for Newcomers, this woman required a lot of support and advocacy with various tasks such as searching and applying for housing, work and financial supports. The reason she is mentioned in this year's report is that she recently required our services again; however, she now has a young son and is pregnant again with another partner, yet is still facing many of the same challenges as before. We were successful once again in supporting her in overcoming barriers and helping her move forward.

Another very unique situation came with a young woman who came to us more in a homeless capacity. This woman came to Canada under Refugee status, originally from a Middle Eastern country. The language barrier and extreme trauma suffered by this young woman was so severe that it had affected her mental health to the point where she trusted no one and refused point blank to be 'housed' anywhere safe. The most we were able to do for her was give her a bed, a hot shower and a meal on a nightly basis. This continued for nearly 3 months in the hopes that we could build up trust and a rapport with her. Other agencies also tried to support her but she would always run and return to the streets. This became very difficult emotionally on all involved as the woman was so vulnerable and so in need of support and safety. Our last means of support for this woman was to safely transport her to a larger shelter in a more Metropolitan city with more services that specialized in working with refugee clients. We remain hopeful.

Our third situation very recently involved a woman from an Asian country who had arrived on PEI with her Canadian husband and their 3 boys less than a year ago. The husband's abusive behaviour had increased exponentially since their return to PEI. The woman left with police assistance and came into shelter. This woman currently holds no legal status at all. Her husband is her sponsor; however the application for Permanent Residency is still under review and can take up to another year to be complete. She currently holds no Work Visa and so has no way to support herself. There was and continues to be, a huge amount of support and advocacy with many different services, including, Income & Support, Legal Aid, Housing, Immigration, to name but a few. We did successfully support her in securing housing in one of our own Secondary Housing Projects for the time being and we continue to support her today.

Each woman's situation is very unique and yet we see many of the same barriers and issues as mentioned in the above case examples. Conversations with other women as newcomers who have either called or come into the shelter for support, also talk about what is 'culturally acceptable' for them. What our society here in Canada views as abusive behaviour may not be the same view in other cultures. Therefore they do not always recognize themselves as being in an abusive relationship. Another issue can be the barrier of language. It can make the simplest of tasks, like reaching out and learning about our service, almost impossible for some women. Because of this, we recently had our Welcome Message and Shelter Guidelines translated into 6 different languages making it more inviting and comfortable for a newcomer to understand where she is coming to for support. I was also part of a 2 day training session for translators around the subject of Family Violence. The Staff at Anderson House are continually moving forward and updating their knowledge around the ever changing newcomer issues and rights in order to efficiently and successfully support all women who come through our doors.

In 2014-2015 we sheltered 62 women and 31 children in total. At the same time, staff assisted and responded to 185 women calling in a crisis situation as well as talking with a further 170 people calling and needing support and information on our services. These calls can take on many different forms and are from varying people out in the community; concerned family members and friends, women who have previously used our service, other service providers, service providers from out of province, and school administration, to name but a few. All of these calls often require an extensive skill set and wide knowledge base from us as a staff team.

In closing, as part of the seasoned team that makes up the core, front line staff of Anderson House, I would like to recognize and applaud us for the difficult, rewarding, sometimes challenging, often unseen, necessary and essential, amazing work we do. The collective 130+ years of hands-on experience this small team has in working with women and children fleeing abuse is both astounding and commendable. I am proud to be a part of it.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle BATTERY
Child & Youth Services Coordinator

Program Manager 2014-2015 Annual Report

Ellen Ridgeway, Program Manager

ASPIRE is an empowerment and strength based program for women experiencing barriers after leaving an abusive relationship. After 4 years ASPIRE has assisted over 140 women. Many challenges face women who leave abusive situations. ASPIRE works with women who may live in poverty, need assistance to obtain education, wish to further their career opportunities, or need support or advocacy around addiction, mental wellness, housing, etc. Weekly ASPIRE support groups run continually. There are on average 6 women attending our group sessions. Group themes have focused on topics that interest participants. Discussions include relationship issues, boundaries, loneliness, living with poverty, coping mechanisms, journaling, and systemic barriers that hinder their progress. FVPS would like to thank Hilary Jones, a UPEI student, for co-facilitating group through much of the winter months. Also to invited guests Nadia Dykerman, Heather MacMillan, Suzanne O'Callaghan, and Sister Norma Gallant for sharing topics with this group. The ASPIRE Program gratefully acknowledges support from Sally Duffy at Career Development Services for assisting women with her skills to further women's education and career skills.

FVPS received financial support from the Law Foundation and Justice Canada to deliver a project called *Women and the Law on Prince Edward Island*. To date 16 sessions have been given across PEI. We would like to thank Ann Sherman for her knowledge and expertise presenting these educational sessions.

Over the past year I have had the opportunity to attend these conferences:

June, 2014 – St John's , NL, **Bethany Brant, Trauma and Dissociation**

October, 2014 – Dartmouth, NS, **Cathy Steele, Trauma and Dissociation**

March, 2015 – Fredericton, NB, **Lorna Gallant, Flashbacks**

January, 2015 – Ottawa, ON, **HIFIS Community Coordinator Workshop**

March, 2015 – Saint John, NB, **CND Mental Health Commission, Housing First Training**

Work continues with the Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses. I have been active on the Knowledge Exchange Committee and its work with a Status of Women project. This project will develop a framework of shelter practices to be used nationally. The Network recently launched Shelter Safe, an online tool to assist women to find shelter and support from over 450 Canadian shelters.

PEI FVPS coordinates the project for the federal government's HIFIS (Homeless Individuals and Families Information System) initiative, a software program from HPS-HRSDC designed to track homelessness. HIFIS will play an integral role as the Housing First program is rolled out over the next 5 years across Canada. PEI FVPS also holds a seat on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness (CAB). The CAB has released 3 Reports on Homelessness on PEI and will release another this fall. PEI FVPS contributes to this report with data from HIFIS from the shelters across PEI.

Second Stage Housing in Charlottetown is an 8-unit building that provides safe, supportive housing and programming to women and their children. Many families come to Second Stage from Anderson House and Outreach Services. There were a total of 10 women and 5 children who resided at Second Stage this year. Our new housing project, a 9-unit building called SAS House, assisted 13 women and 7 children.

I would like to thank the FVPS Board of Directors for their interest and dedication to prevention work. Also, I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to Phil Matusiewicz, Executive Director, for his support and consultation; Danya O'Malley, House Manager, and Michelle Buttery, acting House Manager, for their expertise in problem solving. Thank you to our admin staff, Lee Anne Farrar, Lindsay Merrill, and Dara Rayner for their ongoing support and consultation. Thanks to all the staff and Board for creating avenues and opportunities to assist women in very meaningful ways.

Respectfully,
Ellen Ridgeway, Program Manager

West Prince Outreach 2014-2015 Annual Report

Valerie Smallman, Outreach Coordinator

I am now in my 25th year as Outreach Coordinator in what originally began as a 6-month pilot project. Seven years ago, we amalgamated with other outreach offices across the island to form PEI FVPS. For us, this resulted in access to more resources for our clients and colleagues for idea sharing. Under the leadership of Phil Matusiewicz, ED, we have evolved into a team, with standardized forms, data collection and sharing of resources and information. Our office offers support, information and problem solving. We also provide support groups, education sessions, presentations and training, act as a community liaison, and offer a library of resource materials. With a lack of public transportation and large geographic area I spend a lot of time on the road conducting in-home visits. This results in lower productivity, but is a necessary service. As a result of health issues, I was on medical leave for just over 2 months. This resulted in lower stats in Q2.

Next Step Housing - Our housing facility supports a woman moving from abuse to independence. Community members support us by giving furniture, dishes, bedding, small appliances, etc. This enables us to keep the units furnished. This year 6 families used the Second Stage Housing Facility. Our house is now 20 years old, and is starting to show signs of wear, such as the windows and doors.

Education, Training and Information Sessions - We facilitated Liberty and Beyond Liberty groups. We participated in: Mind the Gap training, Honoring our Differences, Social Enterprise sessions, Circle of Connection meetings, Occupational Health and Safety, Computer Training, and Honor with Care.

We hosted a free clothing and household item giveaway in partnership with Canadian Mental Health. This was highly successful and helped over 110 people. Other vendors present provided the attendees with free manicures and health and fitness demonstrations. Snacks and apple cider were provided free of charge.

Family Violence Prevention Week - 10 schools in our region participated in a variety of activities including: purple day, making posters, Random Act of Kindness Cards (which were given by teachers or peers when someone was 'caught' doing a RAK), daily announcements throughout the week with kindness ideas and quotes, pancake breakfasts, and tattoos and ribbons were given out to students.. As a result of the mini grants provided by the Premier's Action Committee, we were able to partner with Alberton, Tignish, and O'Leary council to use the money to provide a \$25.00 movie card in each school to promote participation in the FVP Week activities. Feedback from the schools shared high participation. Vinny's Restaurant sponsors a weekly 50/50 for our organization. As a thank you to Vinny's and their customers for their continued support there was a daily draw for a free lunch special each day through FVP Week.

On Valentine's Day we had a Day of Outdoor Activities, where women were invited to wear purple and join in a day of fun activities including a snow shoe poker run, outdoor fitness, boxing lesson, demonstrations and lunch. The event took place at the Trout River Natural Area and saw 20+ participants.

The December 6th Memorial Service was held in the theatre at Westisle Composite High School. The grade 11/12 Family Living Class took a leadership role with the service this year. They provided live music and singing, lit candles and laid flowers as the names were read. 200+ people attended the service.

Fundraising and Donations - through fundraising and donations, we received approximately \$9010 from community members and organizations. On a number of occasions we picked up items from members of the community and dispersed them throughout West Prince. Through donations to Anderson House's Christmas Wish program we received gift cards for 5 families. It was a positive experience for the mothers, as they could choose the gifts for their family. On behalf of the Salvation Army we facilitated the Christmas Food and Toy Hampers for clients in our region. 34 families benefitted from the generosity of the Salvation Army.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Smallman, Outreach Coordinator

East Prince Outreach 2014-2015 Annual Report

Norma McColeman, Outreach Coordinator

East Prince Outreach has offered confidential domestic abuse and violence prevention services for the past 29 years. We provide outreach, advocacy and leadership to build strong community partnerships that directly empower the women we work with. In 2014-2015 the client profiles ranged from young adults to seniors, and from all socioeconomic groups. However, our number of “working poor” clients continues to grow due to situations relating to the dynamics of abuse.

There are many concerns and barriers to moving forward successfully on abuse issues. These include addiction, anger management issues, probation orders, family dysfunction, unhealthy boundaries, and the impacts of abuse on a woman’s mental health. The complexity and range of issues and needs that accompany client referrals is demanding and ever-changing.

Next Step Housing: Both units were utilized this year with client tenants. The duplex provided safe and supportive housing for five women and seven children in total.

Community Leadership Partnerships: Building strong partnerships establishes understanding and collaboration for greater client support. Some valuable partnerships that have been developed are: City of Summerside, Mary Kay Ash Foundation, Summerside Police Services, Community Connections, Adult Protection, PEI Police Association, East Prince Youth Development Centre, Victim Services, The Journal Pioneer, Summerside Probations, Prince County Hospital, Catholic Women’s League, the Kinsmen and Lions Clubs, and Marguerite Bourgeoys Centre, Congregation of Notre Dame - Visitation Province, Insurance Bureau of Canada, and PEI Mutual Insurance Co. Ltd.

Groups / Program Delivery/ Leadership Provided in East Prince:

- **Roundtable Participation:** Invited to participate in discussions on various topics involving abuse awareness, crime prevention, and parole issues that impact upon client safety.
- **Policing, Legal & Justice & Victim Roundtable** discussions are hosted at EPFVPS for dialogue on victims’ personal stories and the legislation requirements during domestic episodes.
- **Support Sessions:** Regular weekly sessions that operate from fall to spring. The sessions deal with life skills and personal wellness, focusing on numerous issues to assist victims of violence. As well, regular violence support groups are offered as required.
- **Customized Workshops:** Based on community funding at least three workshops are conducted annually. An evening program of training and encouragement is offered for each participant at no cost. The women love these events!
- **Mediation Skills to Advocate for Clients:** In special circumstances we advocate on behalf of clients using specialized skills in conflict resolution and mediation.
- **Safety Circles of Support (High Risk Clients):** This multi-service engagement group is an in-depth bridging process. The Outreach Coordinator's involvement facilitating Safety Circles is significant due to: **a)** a pre-existing understanding and level of trust in the working relationship with the client; **b)** having communication skills to relay the impact of abuse to the group; and **c)** interest-based skills and experience with facilitation and advocacy negotiation. Outreach understands how crucial it is to determine appropriate Circle agendas and timelines, productive use of Circle members’ involvement, and understanding the client's case history so there is not a re-victimization or loss of priority in safety planning goals.

Respectfully Submitted,
Norma D. McColeman, Outreach Coordinator

Queens County Outreach 2014-2015 Annual Report

Gloria Dennis, Outreach Coordinator

As I sit to write this report, my 19th as Outreach Coordinator, I reflect on the past year and I am truly humbled by the courage, resilience and resourcefulness of the women that have reached out for support, information and advocacy. Also, that the women entrust me with their experience within their most intimate relationship. Often they have not shared the details and emotions with others for fear of judgement or repercussion. I take that trust very seriously.

It has been a challenging year for me personally and as well in bearing witness to the challenges and barriers women are faced with while reorganizing their lives. Many of the women that have sought or been referred for service deal with mental health issues, depression, anxiety and PTSD. Some of the women I have referred on to mental health or their physician for assessment when the sadness, sleep disturbance and ability to cope is beyond what they can manage. Too many women are just existing on Income Support or sick benefits and trying to make ends meet. I have assisted the women to create a budget but it is hard to budget with not enough coming in. Some had debt from their relationship or are trying to maintain a residence with one income. Rent-geared-to-income housing is difficult to find. Getting child support established can also be challenging. It is difficult to work on healing when struggling to meet yours and your children's basic needs. Sometimes the best I can offer is someone to listen, a ride to the food bank and encouragement in setting attainable goals. That the women continue to attend meetings, work on keeping themselves and their children safe is testament to their courage.

I attended a Coroner's Inquiry which highlighted many of the challenges family, friends and service providers deal with when providing service in volatile and abusive relationships. All of the information may not be known by those wishing to help; restrictions in sharing information, or information being withheld from service providers can mean the full understanding of the risk and planning for that risk in a comprehensive manner can't happen. There were a number of recommendations made by the jurors but no context as to the reasoning behind each or who would be responsible to examine and implement those recommendations. The jurors were attentive and engaged and asked questions but their knowledge of the dynamics of family violence and mental health was varied. I'm sure it was difficult for them to hear the testimony. Since then, a few individuals have met to discuss the recommendations and document their concerns and questions.

The year had some very positive action. I am representing PEI FVPS on the steering committee of Justice Options for Women. This year a Power and Control Wheel for Immigrant Women was revised and completed and used in a 2-day training for interpreters about family violence. The Power and Control Wheel was later translated into 7 languages. The training of interpreters included on-site tours of the police station and Anderson House and opportunity to see the re-enactment of the police getting a statement and Anderson House staff doing an intake of a women seeking shelter. This was to help the interpreters understand what they may be called upon to assist with. Having people that are willing to provide interpreter service so women have information in their own language is a valuable resource.

Circles of Safety and Support, a collaborative, comprehensive safety planning process for women in high risk situations are on-going. The project by Justice Options has trained facilitators, developed materials and held workshops on the benefits of Safety Circles. The project has been completed and no longer has funding. In future the hope is to acquire funding from other sources to cover basic program costs. Those that have participated in the Safety Circle process have found it to be beneficial.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gloria Dennis, Outreach Coordinator

Eastern PEI Outreach 2014-2015 Annual Report

Gwyn Davies, Outreach Coordinator

This is the twentieth year for Outreach Services in Eastern PEI. Since 1996 we have provided support, information and advocacy for families who are living with violence. Referrals come to us through Housing Services, Child Protection, Victim Services, Income Support, Mental Health and Addictions, RCMP, Adult Protection. Also women hear about us through friends and family. As the only Outreach Coordinator, I have many long term connections with women and their families. Several women I met in the early years still keep in touch for support. They are our best community public relations ambassadors.

When a woman makes the decision to leave her home, her first concern is to get affordable housing that is the right size and in the children's school district. The children's emotions around the separation: anxiety, confusion, are a challenge to her planning. Some women have very few options because of unemployment, lack of transportation, and depleted self-worth and energy. Hopelessness is numbing. Support, to see a way over and through the barriers, is what we do. I provide assistance to make a plan to find housing and arrange finances, so many details that demand action at a time of grieving and sadness.

I am always impressed with the strength and integrity that many women have. When we can assist a woman to get safe, affordable housing it is a good foundation. The ongoing support often includes supporting her to talk to her children and cope with their emotions. Getting custody and access arranged in the face of a father who is angry and uncooperative is daunting. Often our clients need Family Legal Aid -often not enough lawyers with not enough time. It is along long journey to peace and independence.

Years ago I met a woman because her son had been sexually abused by a member of her boyfriend's family. She was very fearful because the families were enmeshed- they were related, neighbours, workmates. Her boyfriend was a good man. When the son told her she was paralyzed with despair. She was too afraid to tell her boyfriend, or anyone. She broke down in tears at her hairdresser's. The hairdresser (one of our public relations ambassadors) brought her to see me. Her shame and sadness were overwhelming. The unfolding of her actions was painful- reporting to the RCMP, Child Protection investigation, comforting her son, counselling, telling the school, dealing with her own anger and her boyfriend's. He was heartbroken, angry for not seeing, knowing this was happening on his watch. Many of the incidents happened when they were visiting the family. The 8 year old boy became a weekly visitor to my office. We drew, talked, played and read stories. He learned to put his feelings into healthy action. I also spent time with his Mum and her boyfriend. They learned how to deal with their wounds. They found common ground and coping skills. The Mum and the boyfriend didn't stay together but are friends- the boyfriend and the now 18 year old boy are buddies and life goes on. There was some forgiveness and I believe a feud was averted because they worked hard to keep the peace amongst the families.

And so this week the boyfriend called me. I have seen him over the years and chatted often about his new family and his work. He takes a great interest in our support work and the SAVE program.(Students Against Violence Everywhere). He called me because: his 16 year old daughter has a 16 year old girlfriend who disclosed she was being abused at home. The "boyfriend" and his wife asked if she wanted to stay with them. In the 3 months that have passed he has helped her report her abuse to Child Protection and make arrangements with the school. She now lives with them. The girl has been seriously neglected and abused for as long as she can remember. She has many scars from cutting herself. She is safe with her new family, being cared for physically and emotionally. He wanted to make sure he and his wife are doing everything they can, and remembers all he learned 9 years ago. The girl has a lot of healing to do.

It has been another great year, meeting brave, strong people who benefit from our support services. Thanks to the Board and Staff for keeping things going.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gwyn Davies, Outreach Coordinator

Testimonials

B's Story

I sit here today and reflect on the last three years since I left my emotionally abusive marriage. I have come a long way... that woman no longer exists from the broken shell of worthlessness. I still have the memories and the scars, yes, but I think of them without the darkness and the pain and without fear. They are in the past now.

Today I am strong and confident that I can clearly see the signs and the red flags, whereas before I took everyone at face value. Today I have an inner circle of people in my life that I can fully trust. I love my alone time, where at one time living alone would set me into panic. I no longer allow drama and/or negativity from people to take up any room in my life. I'm so much stronger than what was done to me by the people who were supposed to have loved me. After 20 years of feeling I was stupid and crazy and worthless I walked out. The hardest thing I ever did was leaving my 16 year old daughter behind because she had the legal right to stay. She had a boyfriend and didn't want to leave him, so I left my heart in Ontario got on a plane with what was left of me. I was completely shattered. The road ahead of me was rough. Some days I wanted to stop the world and get off. I felt like I would never feel whole again. The pain was almost physical the only comfort I had was the consistent encouragement I got from Anderson House. I was heard for the first time without anyone judging me and asking me, "Why did you stay so long??" I heard that often from people, which strengthened my worthlessness.

I was walking around dead inside and didn't know who or what to believe until I went to second stage housing. There, for the first time ever, I lived on my own. I was scared to death, but slowly realized I was safe and cared about. I went to the group sessions which really made me open up. At first I didn't want to go, and then I found myself looking forward to them. It's been three years and I still attend them. They're actually a life saver because they make me feel not so alone with my story, that there are others who know exactly what I am going through. There is never judgement, just understanding.

They helped me get legal assistance and provided information that was necessary – food, clothing, cabs to and from all my appointments. Most importantly to me was the love from complete strangers in the same boat. This is where I learned to see my value. From there I started to thaw out from all the pain I had endured, I realized it's nothing to be ashamed of to be humble and ask for help. By me doing that I made my first step to making me count and to recovery. I have purpose now and it's a wonderful feeling to sleep at night and wake up with the day ahead being all mine, not having to balance the scale when he'd come home.

I've discovered a lot about myself and my talents, and that I have a lot to give. I know I'm worthy. It's a brand new me... and I am continuing to build on myself. There's still work to become the best version of me that I can.

I will forever remember the moment when I first realized that I mattered, even a little bit. It was with the program manager from PEI Family Violence Prevention Services second stage housing. She offered me an apartment and I carried and said "I do not deserve this. There's someone worse off than me that needs this." I remember feeling guilty somewhat. She said to me, "You deserve this as much as anyone else and it's yours if you would like it." I felt validation – that a stranger believed in me and listened and cared. From there on I knew I was going to be okay.

From: Vickie Deveau
Sent: April-28-15 11:27 AM
To: Philip Matusiewicz
Cc: Norma McColeman
Subject: Client

Hi Phil...

I just thought you would like to know how pleased our client (*K) was with all the help and support she received from East Prince Outreach, you and Anderson House. She is so grateful for everything and she said she cried when she went to Anderson House to pick up the TV and bed sheets, etc.

She dropped in today and I gave her some more supplies and a couple of those gift cards you brought to our office to help her buy some essentials such as salt, pepper, etc.

She told me her son slept like a baby last night and she also said she had her best sleep in ages. Her son told her he is glad that she left his father and that she did the right thing, which made her feel so good about her decision.

Also, his teacher called her saying that she is noticing a big change in him and that she is seeing him smiling and laughing and interacting with the other students!

And this is why I LOVE my job!

Vickie

This year's Annual Financial Campaign focused on support groups for victims of violence. The campaign was very successful and raised \$28,450 exceeding the goal of \$24,000.

"I was so unhappy. I really never accepted that I was considered an abused wife. [The support groups} helped with my attitudes and problems with my children. They helped me to finally move on."

"The group sessions are like a safe zone for women like me. They are an extremely needed program and actually... they have saved my life"

"The support group program has helped me be a stronger person and to be able to set boundaries in my ongoing relationships."

"I felt alone and thought no one understood me but here when you start talking another woman nods her head before you're finished speaking because she gets it I'm not alone but it took hearing other women to realize it."

A special thank you to our 2014/15 Platinum Donors

Corporate & Service Clubs (\$5000+)

City of Summerside
Joan & Regis Duffy Foundation
Telus (designated by Quentin Bevan)
The Rotary Club of Charlottetown Royalty

Corporate & Service Clubs (\$1000+)

Bell Aliant Pioneers- Abegweit Council
Congregation of Notre Dame/Visitation Province
Insurance Bureau of Canada
MacQuarrie Meats Ltd
PEI Women's Institute
Provincial Credit Union
Rotary Club of Charlottetown Foundation
Rotary Club of Montague
Stratford Quick-Stop

Individual (\$1000+)

Catherine Callbeck (in addition Sen. Callbeck directed donations from her retirement/birthday party totalling \$10k)
David Keoughn
David O'Brien
Edward L. Prebinski
Eric MacPhail
Kent MacPhee
Mary-Jean Irving
Nettie & Robert Likely
Patsy & Steve Matheson
Dr. Philip Smith

Significant Contributors through Voluntary Efforts (\$1000+)

Amanda Rae Gallant
Bethany Vessey
Karen Davey
Patricia Doiron



Community Partnerships - Year 2 of 3



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 Royalty, 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 Past President signing the agreement.



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

