

Annual Report



Thank You to Rotary Club of Charlottetown Royalty



This year marks the end of a 3-year funding agreement with the Rotary Club of Charlottetown Royalty. The Rotary funded a Development Coordinator position as part of their Peace Initiative. We could not be happier with Lindsay Merrill, who has become an important and valued part of our organization.

Having a full time development coordinator has allowed our board to be more outcome focused and less concerned with sustainability of the organization. Program staff are able to provide their undivided attention to our clients and their specific needs. We can all focus on delivering quality services.

Lindsay has raised our profile in the community, overseen our presence on social media, and redesigned our brochures and literature. She has coordinated many grant requests, campaigns, fundraisers, and the redesign of our website. The board has committed to continue funding her position, as the whole organization benefits from having someone take on a leadership role in our marketing and promotion.

PEI Family Violence Prevention Services Inc.
35th Annual Report
2015-16

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Agenda for the 35th Annual General Meeting
- Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting
- Report of the Executive Director & Chair
- PEI FVPS Statistics for 2015-16
- Service Reports:
 - Anderson House
 - FVPS Programs & Second Stage Housing
 - Outreach Coordinators
- Testimonials

PEI Family Violence Prevention Services Inc.
35th Annual General Meeting
2015-16

AGENDA

Date: June 15th, 2016

Location: The Haviland Club, Charlottetown, PE

Time: 6:00 p.m.

- Agenda:**
1. Approval of the Agenda
 2. Minutes of the 34th Annual Meeting of PEI FVPS
 3. Financial Statements
 4. Motion to Approve the 2015-16 Audited Statements
 5. Motion to Appoint Auditor
 6. Election of Directors
 7. Presentations
 8. Guest Speakers
Valerie Docherty – Endowment Campaign
 9. Report from the Board Chair and Executive Director
 10. Other Business
 11. Adjournment

PEI FVPS Inc. – 34th Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, June 24, 2015 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Rodd Charlottetown, Kent St, Charlottetown, PE

Present: Norma McColeman, Michelle Burge, Gloria Dennis, Gwyn Davies, Bill MacLeod, Sharon O'Brien, Lindsay Merrill, Wendy Verhoek-Oftedahl, Cindy Banks, Jaime Griffin, Selena Pellerin, Daneen MacDonald, Lee Anne Farrar, Tony Morrison, Darla Gallant, Ann Sherman, Vickie Deveau, Ellen Ridgeway, Gerry Franciosa, Karen Langevin, Michelle Harris-Genge, Amanda Cudmore, Alanna Jankov, Hon. Paula Biggar, Phil Matusiewicz (exoffical), Dara Rayner (exofficial)

Regrets: Kathy Bigsby, Valerie Smallman, Tina Pranger, Detry Carragher, Edgar MacLeod

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: Sharon O'Brien/Lee Anne Farrar

CARRIED.

2. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Be it resolved that the minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting held June 18, 2014 be adopted as presented.

M/S: Sharon O'Brien/Daneen MacDonald

CARRIED.

3. Financial Statement

Michelle Burge reviewed the Statement of Income and Balance Sheet for PEI Family Violence Prevention Services and Second Stage Housing. Assets are up from 2013-14. Cash on hand increased slightly from last year. Funds remain in the restricted legacy fund and is accumulating interest. Overall the financial position of PEI FVPS is strong and healthy.

Our total surplus is \$100,869 this is helped by the onetime grant of \$30,000 from the PEI Government, funding from a new program (HPS) of \$20,000, and \$25,000 in donations and fundraising amounts. Our expenditures decreased approximately \$11,000, mainly due to fuel/utilities (switch of supplier), reduction in groceries purchased (due to additional food donated and fewer residents), and wages were reduced due to Danya's maternity leave. Overall our expenses were consistent from last year. We have moved \$50,000 of the surplus to restricted funds.

4. Motion to Approve the 2014-15 Audited Statements

MOTION: Be it resolved that the audited financial statements be accepted from MRSB Chartered Accountants for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2015.

M/S: Selina Pellerin/Michelle Buttery

CARRIED.

5. Motion to Appoint Auditor

MOTION: Be it resolved that MRSB Chartered Accountants be appointed as auditors for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

M/S: Sharon O'Brien/Selina Pellerin

CARRIED.

6. Election of Directors

Michelle Buttery presented the report from the nomination committee. There were three nominees brought forth for election to the board: Lee Anne Farrar, Nancy Beth Guptill, Amanda Cudmore.

Michelle called for further nominations from the floor three times. Hearing none, Michelle moved that nominations cease and for the nominations to be approved, Sharon O'Brien seconded the motion. As

such, the three nominees were declared members of the board.

7. Cheque Presentations

Norma McColeman presented a cheque for last quarter of 2014-15 in the amount of \$8049.00 which included a grant from the City of Summerside. \$24, 408 was received by the Summerside office through fundraising and grants. Bill mentioned how much the Board appreciates the gifts to PEI FVPS so we can continue our work.

8. Guest Speakers

Michelle Buttery and Jaime Griffin gave a presentation on their All about YOUTH program. It began originally as a program for grades 7-9, however, through their experiences they have chosen to focus their work on the grade 7 level. This project represents a core service as the Board feels we need to educate our young people in order to make changes in the future. They have just finished their second year. The program was developed to meet the health curriculum of the English Language School Board.

9. Report from Board Chair and Executive Director

Phil Matusiewicz – Executive Director

Phil presented his report which focused on appreciation to staff and volunteers, gratitude to the Rotary Club of Charlottetown Royalty, the increased level of public education, and long term sustainability. The Board is looking to us to increase the level of public education, we have done so this past year with: All about YOUTH, Women and the Law, Impact of Family Violence in the Workplace.

As well, our financial campaign this year focused on the support group work that we do with our clients. Groups provide security, empowerment, and support women that are leaving violence situations.

As an organization, long term sustainability has always been important, but it remains a present concern as our funding decreases. Our funding is not keeping pace with our operational costs. In dollar 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 farewell to board members Jan Link, Faye Kingdon, Edgar MacLeod, and Michelle Buttery. Jan and Faye have moved to a different province, Edgar and Michelle have completed their terms with the Board. Phil thanked Bill MacLeod and the Board for the leadership they have provided for the past year. Honorable Paula Biggar was introduced, she commented that she looked forward to working with the organization and maintaining a positive working relationship.

Bill MacLeod – Board Chair

Bill commented on what a pleasure it is to work with the board, that they are diligent with their work. The Board consists of people that are committed to taking on work that is necessary. The Board's focus this year was on sustainability and succession. A future goal is to build an endowment fund that would enable us to do more of the work that we do. Bill expressed his appreciation to Phil for his hard work and dedication.

10. Other Business

None

11. Adjournment

MOTION: Be it resolved that the 34th annual meeting be adjourned.

M/S: Daneen MacDonald/Sharon O'Brien

CARRIED.

FVPS Board Member

Date

FVPS – Recording Secretary

Date

Notable Moments from 2015-2016



Purple jerseys at the Island Storm game



Island Storm game in support of FVPS



Donation of goods from the RCMP



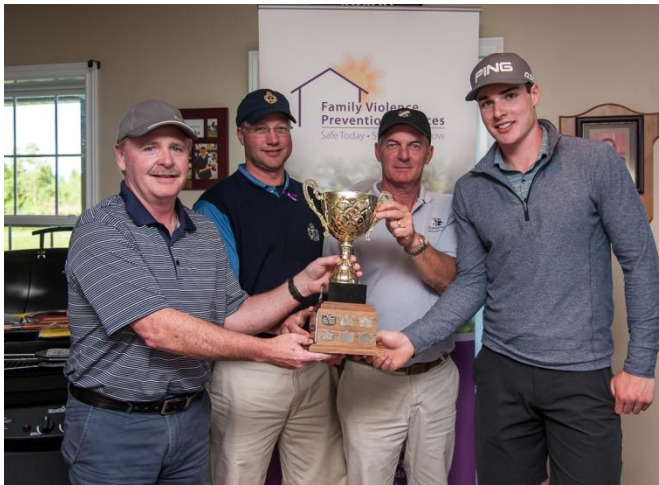
Funds raised by Gr 6 West Royalty Elementary School



Mayor's Proclamation, FVP Week, Summerside



Retirement lunch for Sherry Page



VIP Golf Tournament in support of SAVE



First Responders' Luncheon, Summerside



Concert in support of SAVE



Concert in support of SAVE



Ale & Folk Fundraiser at Upstreet Brewery



Ale & Folk Fundraiser at Upstreet Brewery

Anderson House - Annual Statistics 2015-16

Admissions - Adults		
Total number of women admitted:		72
By Age:	>18	1
	18-24	17
	25-34	20
	35-44	10
	45-54	13
	55-64	10
	65+	1
By Marital Status:	Common Law	30
	Divorced	4
	Married	14
	Never Married	23
	Separated	1
	Widowed	0
	Unknown	0
By Location:	West Prince	0
	East Prince	7
	Queens	56
	Eastern Kings	0
	Southern Kings	5
	Out of Province	4
	Unknown	0
Admitted with:	1 child	6
	2 children	6
	3 or more children	7
Admitted for the first time to AH		39

Admissions - Children			
Total number of children admitted:			43
	Gender:	F	M
By Age:	0-2	10	5
	3-6	3	13
	7-12	1	10
	13-16	0	1
Total by Gender:	Female		14
	Male		29
Admitted for current violence/abuse			26
Admitted for the first time to AH:			9
	West Prince		0
	East Prince		18
	Queens		23
	Eastern Kings		1
	Southern Kings		0
	Out of Province		1
	Unknown		0

Outreach - Annual Statistics - 2015-16

Clients Receiving Services (count once for the year)		
Total number of women served:		292
By Age:	Youth	2
	18-24	36
	25-34	108
	35-44	68
	45-54	52
	55-64	17
	65+	9
By Marital Status:	Common Law	51
	Divorced	20
	Married	41
	Never Married	52
	Separated	124
	Widowed	3
	Unknown	1
Receiving outreach services for first time this year:		179
Children		
Client:	Living with Children	109
	Children in Care	87
Women living with	0 children	94
	1 child	69
	2 childre	72
	3 or more...	57

Services		
Total number of supportive contacts:		4072
	Visits	1938
	Calls	1292
	Emails	842
Contacts		
Average number of contacts per woman:		9.5
Total number of women with...		
	1 contact	14
	2-4 contacts	69
	5-9 contacts	88
	10+ contacts	121
Geographical Location of Client's Residence		
Location	Number of Women	
West Prince	46	
East Prince	61	
Queen's County	100	
Eastern PEI	85	
Out of Province	0	
Unknown	0	
Supportive Contacts		
Average number of contacts per woman:		4.7
Number of women receiving contacts		102
Total number of contacts:		481

Executive Director 2015-2016 Annual Reports

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

This report represents another successful year for PEI FVPS. I'm proud to say as an organization we are continuing to raise the conversation in the community around the issue of family violence. Our focus has and continues to be on individuals, families and communities. However, this past year we have made an investment in educating employers on family violence in the workplace in terms of costs to the employee, employer and society in general.

The success of an organization is dependent upon the involvement and commitment of everyone in the organization. While everyone in the organization has an identified role or job description, it is important to recognize that success can only be ultimately achieved by doing the little things that make a difference in an organization.

For any non-profit to have success it must have the confidence and support of the community it serves. For the past 3 years one of the major supporters that we have had has been the Rotary Club of Charlottetown Royalty. Their commitment to fund the Development Coordinator position over the past three years has made a significant difference to the organization. As a result of this position our fundraising efforts have expanded and the presentation of our events in the community have been much more professional. Because this role has made a significant difference our Board is committed to maintaining this position going forward. It goes without saying that this position has made a significant difference to our signature fundraising events and it has also played an important role in events that are done on behalf of our organization by a variety of community groups.

For a significant period of time the organization staffing has been stable. In the coming months the organization will experience a significant amount of staff turnover at all levels. The Board has been conscientiously planning for this eventuality as part of its strategic plan. This past December saw the replacement of our longest serving shelter worker with over 30 years of service. In the coming months the organization will have a new Executive Director, followed by the replacement of Outreach Coordinators in various regions of the province. This will mean opportunity with all of the change coming in the near future and an opportunity to bring new energy into the organization.

Along with its focus on HR over the past year, the Board has been focused on the long term sustainability of the organization. To that end the Board has established an endowment committee that has a goal of raising \$1 million dollars. The Endowment Committee is chaired by Valerie Docherty with representation across the Island. The Board has also entered into a contractual arrangement with the Community Foundation of PEI to administer the endowment fund.

The programs and services that we provide to individuals and families are central to our role at FVPS. It is through the efforts and dedication of our staff at Anderson House, Outreach and administrative staff that we are able to provide quality programming. While it is impossible to highlight all of the work of our organization, it is noteworthy to highlight some of our efforts. The single most important work that we do is providing support and advocacy to individuals and families in times of crisis. Many of the systems that our clients deal with are complicated and are 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. The staff of FVPS is able to support, advocate and problem solve many of these complex issues and thereby minimize the stress that families and individuals endure. Other areas of programming that have been our focus over the year has been youth programming. It is a critical piece of work for our organization as its primary focus is to promote healthy and respectful relationships.

Our youth programming remains one of the critical pieces of work in the community as it pertains to prevention work. We also continue to focus on group work in a variety of ways. Women who participate in groups, experience them as positive and supportive. Our group work continues to run with both open and closed groups across the province. In particular this year we have introduced group programming that has focused on mindfulness. Our experience is that the feedback we have received from group programming is supportive and positive.

The budget challenge remains as it has been highlighted in other annual reports. The core operational grant covers most of our salaries and none of our operational costs. The Board remains committed to raising a percentage of the operational budget, as has been indicated in the past. The Board's commitment remains to raise 10% of our budget. At present the challenge the Board faces is raising 20 to 25% of our annual budget.

This annual report will be my final report as I plan to retire later this summer. I would like to acknowledge the leadership of past boards and chairs that have worked closely with me: Karen Laronde, Patricia Roy, Shauna Reddin and our current board chair, Rev. Bill MacLeod. It is the dedication of our current and past board chairs along with their boards that have made a difference in this organization. I would also like to acknowledge the departure of two of our current board members Detry Carragher and Nancy Beth Guptill.

I also want to thank the staff for their dedication to the women and children they serve and the commitment they have made over the years, creating a safe environment. The success of the organization is very much dependent on the notion of "going the extra mile". It is through staff's commitment that PEI Family Violence Prevention Services has been able to achieve its success.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phil Matusiewicz RSW
Executive Director

Rev. Bill MacLeod
Board Chair

Anderson House 2015-2016 Annual Report

Danya O'Malley, Manager of Operations

As I reflect on the past year I am most impressed by the changes that I have seen for our clients accessing addiction services. We have a large number of clients who experience addiction or problematic substance use. This is not surprising, as substances are often used as a way to cope with violence and abuse. Many of the women that we serve have also had trauma and abuse in their childhoods, which is another predictor of addiction in adulthood. Over the past couple of years we've seen a lot of positive changes that greatly impact the lives of our clients – the wait time to enter Detox is virtually non-existent, clients can easily access further treatment after Detox, such as the Transitions Program, and clients seem to have the option to move to Lacey House for long term treatment more frequently than in the past.

All of this is due to the good work being done by Health PEI and their focus on making their addiction services accessible, responsive and evidence-based. A woman who has effective treatment options for her addiction is more likely to be able to move her life forward in positive ways. She can be in a healthier place to access work or school, can be a more effective parent, and can work on rebuilding her life after the devastating effects of violence. It pleases me to see the coordination of services within Health PEI, and we partner with them frequently to do what we can to keep our mutual clients safe, healthy and free from fear of abuse.

I am also impressed at the team effort that went into holding down the fort while I was on maternity leave for most of last year. Change is never easy, but my team made every effort to pick up additional tasks in order to keep things running smoothly. Thank you to Lee Anne and Dara for managing the administration of the organization, and thank you to Anderson House staff for continuing to bring a high level of integrity to the work that we do. We also saw long time shelter worker Sherry Page retire in 2015, and her position was filled by long time relief worker, Kim McGuigan. I am so proud of my shelter team and how they continue to do the work we do year after year.

I am also grateful for our Board of Directors for their work at governing our organization, and the management team with Phil and Ellen, who partner with me to make sure things run effectively. I would also like to thank our counterpart in government, Dr Wendy Verhoek-Oftedahl, who is a continuous source of support and encouragement, and a big believer in our work. I expect the next year to be a challenging one. With many individuals returning from out west due to unemployment or homelessness, we are sure to see a trickledown effect in social issues here on PEI. The stress and strain of unemployment has a huge effect on our clients. We will continue to do what we can to make sure people's lives get back on track.

Sincerely,

Danya O'Malley, Manager of Operations

Program Manager 2015-2016 Annual Report

Ellen Ridgeway, Program Manager

The ASPIRE Program is now in its fifth year. ASPIRE is an individualized empowerment and strength based program for women experiencing barriers after leaving abusive relationships. ASPIRE has given support to 178 women in total, with 38 women and 1 man in the past year. The ASPIRE program supports women who may live in poverty, need assistance to obtain more education, wish to further their career opportunities, or need supportive intervention with substance use and mental wellness issues. The program helps women who may need advocacy, housing, transportation and accompaniment to appointments. The ASPIRE Program gratefully acknowledges financial support from the Canadian Women's Foundation and all community donors.

ASPIRE Support Groups run throughout the year. Over the winter months two psychoeducational groups were given on the topics of *Mindfulness Training* and *Awareness for Healthy Relationships*. Thank you Dr. Christina Campbell for your work designing and presenting these ten sessions. Women who attended these sessions gave high praise for the content and the shared learning experience that transpired. I would like to acknowledge Maggie McSweeney, Social Worker student, who helped co-facilitate support groups with me. FVPS would also like to thank invited guest speakers Ann Sherman and Sister Norma Gallant. This past year ASPIRE began a sewing program with the assistance of volunteer Angela LeRoy. Thanks Angela for helping women and young children make sewing projects fun. We also gratefully acknowledges the support from Sally Duffy at Career Development Services for assisting women to further their educational and career pursuits.

Recently FVPS received financial support from the Law Foundation of PEI to deliver a project *Women and the Law on Prince Edward Island*. To date four 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 educational sessions. 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 Canada project. This project, *Promising Practices Exchange Project* (PEP) has produced a manual (versions in French and English) which was released on May 25, 2016. The manual, which goes through the steps of how to adopt a promising practice within a shelter, will be integrated into training sessions being organized by British Columbia Shelters and Transition Houses for another project, *Open Doors*.

PEI Family Violence Prevention Services continues 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. This past year training was given to Housing First Project workers, another program from the Homeless Partnering Strategy. PEI FVPS is represented on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness (CAB). The CAB released its fourth consecutive Report on Homelessness for PEI. PEI FVPS contributes to this report by using data from HIFIS from the various shelters across PEI. FVPS also contributed to a Point in Time Count, a survey of homelessness in Summerside and Charlottetown.

Second Stage Housing in Charlottetown is an eight unit apartment building that provides safe supportive housing and programming (ASPIRE) to women and their children. Many families come to Second Stage from Anderson House Emergency Shelter and also Outreach Services. There were a total of 12 women and 10 children who resided at Second Stage in the past year. Our new housing project SAS House assisted 13 women and 10 children. SAS House has 9 units for women and their children.

I would like to thank the PEI FVPS Board of Directors for their interest and dedication to family violence prevention work. Also, I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to Phil Matusiewicz, outgoing Executive Director, for his support and consultation over the past 7 years. It has been a privilege to work with you, Phil. Also, thanks to Danya O'Malley, House Manager, for ongoing support and capability. Much appreciation goes out to our admin staff, Lee Anne Farrar, Lindsay Merrill, and Dara Rayner for support and proficiency in their everyday work. 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 2015-2016 Annual Report

Valerie Smallman, Outreach Coordinator

This year has been another successful year for West Prince Family Violence Prevention. What began as a 6-month pilot project has continued to evolve and now marks 26 years for me in this role. This is also my last year as Coordinator. On September 15th I will be retiring. I am struggling to put my thoughts and feelings on paper as I reminisce about my years as Coordinator. Reporting is one task that I will not miss! One of the most notable events that took place during the life of this program was the amalgamation of outreach services with Transition House Association, now known as PEI Family Violence Prevention Services Inc. It was not an easy job for the community based Boards in both East and West Prince to negotiate with both government and Transition House Association to have all services that dealt with family violence prevention join under one organization. There were many obstacles to be addressed. One of those obstacles was our Executive Director had stepped down and left a position to be filled. Not many wanted to step into mayhem, but we were successful in hiring a very skilled individual. My personal view is that we were successful in hiring the best, his personality and management skills far exceeded my expectations. We now have a strong and respected organization cemented in hope, support, safety, advocacy, and many other values that I hold high. Thank you Phil Matusiewicz, for all that you have done. You made a difference.

Stats - In the past year our stats total in West Prince were: 51 women seen with 527 contacts for service. We ran 2 support group programs that had 11 women in attendance.

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 4 families used the Second Stage Housing Facility.

Education, Training and information Sessions - This was our fourth year hosting a free clothing and household item giveaway (two years in partnership with Canadian Mental Health). We made presentations to the United Church Women in O'Leary and Alberton. Doctors and staff at Community Hospital O'Leary (CHO) attended a health fair day at CHO health clinic. Meetings with Circle of Connection, Occupational Health & Safety, Impacts of Violence in the Work Place, CRAFT training, etc.

Family Violence Prevention Week- 11 schools participated with activities, acts of kindness, purple day, daily announcements throughout the week with kindness ideas and quotes. There were pancake breakfasts, tattoos and ribbons given out, and promotional activities. We had a huge group of women out for the second year of hosting a "Women in Nature" workshop.

Fundraising and Donations - Through fundraising and donations, we received approximately \$9000 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 from the Anderson House Christmas Wish Program we were able to help numerous families in our region. Salvation Army also helped us support 33 families with Christmas dinners and toys/clothing for the children.

In closing I would like to thank everyone for their support over the years. To my outreach team, Norma, Gwyn and Gloria, strong women full of passion for the work that they do. Thank you. A special thank you goes to my assistant, my friend, Dara. Working with you these past 4 years have been the best, thank you for all that you are and all that you do.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Smallman, Outreach Coordinator

East Prince Outreach 2015-2016 Annual Report

Norma McColeman, Outreach Coordinator

East Prince Family Violence Prevention Services is in its 30th year of operation, providing consistent frontline, community-based services in Summerside and the surrounding region. Many factors contribute to successful outcomes for our clients: 1) Consistent collaboration with community partners; 2) Client engagement in setting goals; 3) The ability to provide support programs and workshops for our client's personal growth and empowerment; and 4) A team approach to case management to build trust.

Through the year we provided direct client work with one-on-one and group support. We provided ongoing evening weekly support groups and specialized workshops. Evaluations after each session or workshop showed that little things to enrich and encourage our clients really do mean a lot to them.

Community events offered during **Family Violence Prevention Week 2016**: *'First Responders Appreciation Luncheon'*, and *'Shine the Light on Domestic Violence' - Community Outreach Walk*. Both outreach special events invited our justice, policing and municipal leaders and other groups for a walk and a dynamic evening program at Credit Union Place. Both events were received positive feedback. The awareness message presented was on our responsibility as individuals and as a community. Other activities took place within local schools and businesses.

Next Step Housing is a second stage duplex offering safe and supportive housing for women and their children. Second Stage Housing provides an opportunity to plan for a future without fear. During the past year we sheltered two women and five children.

Outreach is a contributing team member and a designated referring agency for Circles of Safety and Support, focused on identified high risk clients who request this multi-disciplinary approach. All Circles of Safety and Support are coordinated by a trained, interest-based facilitator. The goal is to provide timely safety and support from a community team. East Prince has experienced successful outcomes working with the Circle's framework. This year the East Prince office facilitated two Safety Circles, with two former Safety Circles that resumed for some additional support.

Building strong partnerships that establish better understanding and collaboration for the greater support of clients is our goal. We have developed valuable partnerships with the following stakeholders that assist in our work to the greater community and clients:- PEI Provincial Government core-funding, and City of Summerside annual Community Grant, Summerside Police Services, PEI Police Association, Victim Services, The Journal Pioneer, Catholic Women's League, the Kinsmen and Lions Clubs, and Marguerite Bourgeoys Centre, (St. Mary's Convent), Summerside Christian Council, and Royal LePage Real Estate, PEI Mutual Insurance Co. Ltd., Consolidated Credit Union, Silent Witness Project, Atlantic Police Academy, St. Eleanor's Lioness, Robin Smith, Century 21 Associate, Shoppers Drug Mart, Summerside Store, and Go Girl Fashions, Paulette Barke.

During this last fiscal year of 2015 - 2016, East Prince region was successful in raising funds exceeding \$20,000. There were other in-kind donations presented to our office that helped frontline services and clients in many ways. We are very grateful for this support from our community.

I would like to express appreciation to the dedicated PEI FVPS Board of Directors for their guiding leadership. Also to our Executive Director, Phil Matusiewicz, for his continuous efforts to build a strong and healthy organization, and for providing consultation support and wise counsel to staff members. We wish you the very best in your well deserved future retirement plans. To Danya O'Malley, Operations Manager, and to Dara Rayner, Lee Anne Farrar, and Lindsay Merrill for the many operating and administrative details and special events with the organizational skills you bring to assist us all year-round; and, to all Shelter staff, and to other Outreach Coordinators who diligently work provincially advocating for women and promoting prevention awareness daily, a very big appreciative recognition to all of you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Norma D. McColeman, Outreach Coordinator

Queens County Outreach 2015-2016 Annual Report

Gloria Dennis, Outreach Coordinator

This year marks my 27th year with the organization, the 20th year in my role as the Outreach Coordinator in Queens County. While reflecting over the time it is easy to point to areas of concern. Women still face barriers when dealing with or leaving an abusive relationship. Many of those barriers are attached to financial resources available to the woman and her children. Many services and organizations are also dealing with financial constraints limiting resources available for providing service, including our own services at PEI FVPS. The women and children we provide service to still receive the support and services they need, however often it takes longer to access help without the financial freedom to simply hire a lawyer or secure appropriate affordable housing, or access a private counsellor.

On a more positive note there have been many improvements over the years. Family violence is recognized as a priority issue within housing, Family Legal Aid and an issue to be educated on and dealt with within the workplace. The Victims of Family Violence Act has helped many families with the implementation of Emergency Protection Orders and for some families Victim Assistance Orders, offering longer term protection. Circles of Safety and Support continue to be offered for high risk women and their families in spite of the challenge of not being funded. Child and Family Services work to connect families with the support available within the community including our services at PEI Family Violence Prevention, mental health, Victim Services and addiction services. I fully believe we are all working to improve the lives of those impacted by family violence.

During this past year I have continue to represent PEI Family Violence Prevention as part of the Justice Options for Women steering committee. Justice Options has created numerous valuable resources through the years including protocols for services dealing with victims of family violence, Circles of Safety and Support, and a resource for Newcomers with a *Power and Control Wheel* resource for immigrant women. Justice Options' most recent work has been to partner with the new risk-driven PEI HUB model which is about to become active late June 2016.

Outreach has also been involved in a number of community education and trainings throughout the year, some of those are: Violence in the Workplace sessions presented to nursing homes and UPEI, the impact of violence on women and children and the services available for the students at Holland College in the Youth Worker and Early Childhood Education programs, Trade Horizons program which helps prepare women entering non-traditional trade programs, and to Talbot House, a men's addiction recovery program. I have also been available on site for the Truth and Reconciliation study group meetings that took place during lunch hour at the library, for anyone that may need support.

Over the last few months I have been involved with PEI HUB planning team, the next year will be one of hopefully exciting and innovative ways to offer families at risk the supports they need to overcome challenges that risk their well-being. I look forward to the collaboration and coordination of services over the next year, and reporting on the new model in next year's annual report.

Thank you to the Board, management and my coworkers for all your support and guidance throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted by,
Gloria Dennis

Eastern PEI Outreach 2015-2016 Annual Report

Gwyn Davies, Outreach Coordinator

The twenty-first year of service in Eastern PEI Outreach Service has been rich and meaningful. We have provided support, information and advocacy by listening, planning, and problem solving. The goal is to involve women in proactive steps towards healthier, safer lives for themselves and their families. Referrals come from housing services, Child Protection, Victim Services, Income Support, Mental Health and Addictions, Adult Protection, and physicians. Women who have used our services over the years are our best ambassadors.

Each year I report that safe affordable housing is one of the most important concerns for women needing to leave an abusive relationship. Working with the Housing Manager in our region and the Project Managers of Family Housing in Souris, Georgetown and Montague is very productive. They care and are part of the network of support to women who need to move. The challenge is the shortage of family housing. This anxiety and stress can sustain a crisis for women.

The needs of children and helping mothers with the deep concern for the emotional safety of their children are paramount in this service. Mothers want and appreciate support in knowing how to talk to and cope with their children during the crisis of leaving home, and the often slow process of adjustment to a visitation schedule with their Dad. How to help kids manage change is an important support. Getting custody and access arrangements negotiated with a hostile partner is extremely overwhelming. Family Legal Aid is limited and often takes longer than expected.

Women who are involved with investigation or a case plan with Child Protection Services have another layer of concern. I can help them understand the risk their children are experiencing and build parenting knowledge about the effects of violence in a home. The continued support can be over time- to encourage their better choices and nurture more mindful parenting. Working together with Child Protection workers in this region is helpful to me and the families we serve.

Collaboration in the best interest of battling violence against women is invaluable. I appreciate being part of Justice Options - the involvement with HUB is promising. It is good to know that the consideration of cases may well avert a critical incident and also give more support to prevent ongoing conflicts that can slowly erode the ability of persons to thrive. Regular meetings with Wendy Verhoek-Ofstedahl are affirming- to know that examples of women's struggles are being heard.

We were invited to contribute to the review of the Child Protection Act. The discussions were meaningful and I believe that we underlined much that had already been heard by the team, but our perspective is often unique. Our suggestions as professionals was respected.

I continue to celebrate the SAVE program in our three regional high schools and the fearless leader, Maxine MacLennan. Educating kids and giving them space to take action against relationship violence is worthwhile.

Outreach support is collaborating with women to move forward and to take charge of their lives.

Thanks to the Board, Phil and staff who all do their part.

Respectfully submitted,
Gwyn Davies, Outreach Coordinator

Youth Programming & Education 2015-2016

Michelle Buttery – Children's Services Coordinator

It has been another busy year with both the *'It's All About YOUth'* program and invitations to go and speak with various groups of students, youth groups and service providers on the subject of Teen Healthy Relationships. The biggest audience was the English Language School Board's Educational Assistants, during their annual conference last fall. One of the shortest, just exactly 5 minutes long, yet most nerve wracking presentations, was to Charlottetown's chapter of '100 Women Who Care'. I am delighted to report that the outcome of those 5 minutes was a generous cheque for \$15,800. This was a fabulous boost to our Financial Campaign, which this year focused on Youth Programming.

My co-facilitator and co-creator of the *'It's All About YOUth'* program, Jaime Griffin (Women's Network, PEI) and I, were invited to the Canadian Women's Foundation National Conference in Calgary last October. We spent 3 days meeting, sharing and learning about the many various youth programs being implemented across Canada. It was a fantastic opportunity and we were able to bring home many new ideas and skills.

We are just coming to the end of year 3 of the Canadian Women's Foundation's 4-year Teen Healthy Relationships initiative; and have once again had a very successful year in the 4 schools we are partnered with. We made some significant changes and up-scaled the student work books once again last fall, as well as produced a comprehensive facilitators manual. The workbook now consists of all our own graphics, photos and activities, therefore making it totally our own unique work. We have also redesigned and made our own, *'Healthy Relationship – What Does It Look Like'* pamphlet, specifically designed for youth. It is a great resource and tool, which we are able to distribute when we attend presentations.

'It's All About YOUth' is a 6 week, in-school program, currently running in Montague Intermediate, Gulf Shore Consolidated, Birchwood Intermediate and Athena Consolidated. It is presented to ALL grade 7 students in each school, in six 1-hour blocks, over 6 weeks, and was written to meet outcomes of the grade 7 Health curriculum.

Our final year of the pilot program will begin this fall. The goal during this coming year is to seek and secure funding in order to make this program available to more Island schools for years to come. As word is getting out among other schools and educators, I am starting to receive e-mails asking when we will be able to bring the program to their school. We are excited and quietly optimistic that this is just the beginning of something amazing.

Respectfully submitted
Michelle Buttery



Testimonials

Hello Phil,

I understand tonight is your Sweetheart Dinner, best wishes for a fun and successful event in support of Anderson House!

On that note, I have been meaning to share with you my tidbit from a child in care with us who spent some time at Anderson House; although it may appear nonchalant to those unaware it was profound to me given the circumstance.

We currently have 3 children in care and drove daily on Euston on our way to a City school. One day the 8yr pointed and declared that he really liked it at the "blue house" it was "awesome". I prompted him to share what he liked about it (recognizing the other two pairs of wide eyes and ears)...his reply was simple "they have a nice TV and lots of food", the others nodded in unison.

As the caregiver we always remain cognizant of triggers but the drive down Euston is not somewhere we avoid but rather somewhere that remains part of their journey where they felt safe, comfortable and apparently had some fun!

Thank you to you and your team for the great work you do!

(Email received from local foster parent)

My name is Barbara* and I moved to Summerside, P.E.I. from Alberta last year. I have a friend in Summerside and that is how I got a job and began receiving support from E.P. Family Violence Prevention Services.

I was married for 25 years to a man who was verbally and emotionally abusive. I left my husband and entered a relationship that ultimately was much worse than I had with my husband. This man was emotionally, verbally, mentally, and sexually abusive. We were together for a year and a half and when I finally left him for the third and final time, I felt strong for leaving but terrorized by all that I had been through. I needed to run, escape. P.E.I. was far enough away that he could no longer drive by and check up on me.

My friend here in Summerside, did not know me as the friend she had for 25 years. I was a wreck. She took me to see Sonya Meyers at Mental Health. After my evaluation, Sonya referred me to Tracy Craig, as I am an adult child of an alcoholic from a family of addicts in various forms. I, myself, am not an addict but many of my relationships have been with addicts and I have issues revolving around addiction.

Sonya also referred me to Norma at E.P. Family Violence Prevention Services, as I have endured abuse in many forms for most of my life. It is through E.P. Family Prevention Services that I received the help I needed to heal from the abuse and to clarify what had happened to me. Norma helped me to make sense of all that I had endured. She helped me understand that although my story was unique to me, abuse is not. There are patterns of behavior in abuse. She helped me to untangle the web that I was caught up in. Norma encouraged me to read, to journal, to walk, to do anything that I felt helped me to move forward towards recovering. It has been almost a year now since I started to see Norma and I can truly say that I followed her advice and was very proactive with wanting to heal.

I started with personal counseling and moved onto Group Therapy... Group Healing! Although I knew that I was not alone in being a victim of abuse, here I was able to share some of my story as well as hear stories from other women. I always looked forward to group night, as I knew it was another step toward fully recovering.

I am truly thankful for Norma, Vicki, Darla, and E.P. Family Violence Prevention Services. You helped me get my life back. I was able to move from the darkness of abuse into the light of a normal life. I still continue to be proactive with my healing and I would not be anywhere near my recovery without you. Your services were and are essential to me and to the many women who also shared the horrible traumas of abuse.

**Some details changed to protect identity*

Dear Staff at Anderson House,

Thank you for your love and continual support during this so very difficult time in my life. I hope each one of you know how special and important your roles were in helping me to come to the conclusion of wanting more out of love and life. I want you to know that you are all very strong examples beautiful, smart, generous women who do so much and such a wonderful thing in the community. I am sure your jobs all may be difficult at times but I assure you every talk, every smile, every bit of the love, kindness and support did not go unnoticed. I have thoroughly enjoyed my stay and have met the most amazing people with even more amazing stories. You will all continue to inspire me and many more women to care, and for that I thank you, from the depths of my soul and back,

You have helped me find my smile again, helped me recognize my laughter. I have found peace in my soul and am never looking back,

Thank you to all the beautiful people at Anderson House. Your work does not go unnoticed.

Love,

K xox