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# **Annual Report 2016-2017**



PEI Family Violence Prevention Services Inc.  
**36<sup>th</sup> Annual Report**  
2016-17

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PEI Family Violence Prevention Services Inc.  
**36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**  
2016-17

**AGENDA**

**Date:** June 21, 2017

**Location:** Camp Gencheff, Stratford, PE

**Time:** 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

- Agenda:**
1. Approval of the Agenda
  2. Minutes of the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of PEI FVPS
  3. Financial Statements
  4. Motion to Approve the 2016-17 Audited Statement
  5. Motion to Appoint Auditor
  6. Election of Directors
  7. Report from the Board Chair and Executive Director
  8. Roundtable Discussion
  9. Other Business
  10. Adjournment

## Notable Moments from 2016-2017



Proclamation of Family Violence Prevention Week in Summerside



Holiday donation to Anderson House from MRSB



Strait Jazz Trio playing at Red Shores for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Sweetheart Dinner



Winners of the WestJet trip at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Sweetheart Dinner



Mom2Mom Sale



Vendors and shoppers at the Mom2Mom Sale





Island Storm's purple game in support of FVPS



Donation of new mattresses and bedding for every bed at Anderson House from Sleep Country



Donation from JEMS Boutique from their Go2 Clothing Launch

## **PEI FVPS Inc. – 35th Annual General Meeting**

**Wednesday, June 15, 2016 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**The Haviland Club, Haviland St, Charlottetown, PE**

**Present:** Tina Pranger, Selina Pellerin, Michelle Burge, Gwyn Davies, Lee Anne Farrar, Lauren McQuaid, Beth Cruwys, Amanda Cudmore, Alanna Jankov, Detry Carragher, Valerie Smallman, Jan Devine, Michelle Buttery, Gloria Dennis, Ellen Ridgeway, Alanna Jankov, Daneen MacDonald, Wendy Verhoek-Oftedahl, Danya O'Malley, Sharon O'Brien, Valerie Docherty, Norma McColeman, Vickie Deveau, Darla Gallant, Hon. Paula Biggar, Michelle Harris-Genge, Phil Matusiewicz (exofficial), Dara Rayner (exofficial)

**Regrets:** Kathy Bigsby, Bill MacLeod, Shauna Reddin

**Chair:** Tina Pranger

### **1. Approval of Amended Agenda**

There is nothing to list under Other Business.

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

**M/S:** Detry Carragher/Selina Pellerin

**CARRIED.**

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Be it resolved that the minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting held June 25, 2015 be approved as circulated.

**M/S:** Daneen MacDonald/Lee Anne Farrar

**CARRIED.**

### **3. Guest Speaker – Valerie Docherty**

Valerie Docherty is heading an endowment campaign for PEI FVPS. Valerie was an obvious choice after leading our successful Capital Campaign in 2010. The Building Brighter Futures Campaign aims to raise one million dollars and will be managed by the Community Foundation. The goal is to find 200 people to commit \$5000 over 5 years. The endowment will help ensure the organization's financial sustainability.

### **4. Financial Statements**

Michelle Burge from MRSB reviewed the Statement of Financial Position, which is a snapshot of the financial position of the organization at March 31, 2016. Cash is up from the previous year and includes money that has been received for particular projects, but has yet to be expensed. Our bottom line shows an excess of revenues over expenditures of \$67,449. Revenues are down approximately \$36,000, this is mainly in donations. We are also down \$30,000 because of one-time grant in the fiscal year. Michelle reviewed the Schedule of Financial Statements, expenses have decreased approximately \$3000, which is helped by the lower fuel costs. Overall our numbers are very consistent and shows good management of the organization.

### **Second Stage Housing**

Next year the year end for Second Stage will be changed to December 31, 2016 to be consistent with SAS House, another project managed by PEI FVPS. The revenue was \$88,437, an increase of approximately \$19,000. The main increase is due to a funding grant from CMHC towards the Replacement Reserve. Expenditures are up \$3500 and the overall excess of revenue over expenditures is \$3292. With our agreement to CMHC this amount gets returned to them.

**5. Motion to Approve the 2015-16 Audited Statements**

**MOTION:** Be it resolved that the audited financial statements be accepted from MRSB Chartered Accountants for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016.

**M/S:** Selina Pellerin/Lauren McQuaid

**CARRIED.**

**6. Motion to Appoint Auditor**

**MOTION:** Be it resolved that MRSB Chartered Accountants be appointed as auditors for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

**M/S:** Detry Carragher/Sharon O'Brien

**CARRIED.**

**7. Presentations**

Tina Pranger gave a presentation on the career highlights of Valerie Smallman. Valerie is retiring in September 2016 after 26 years with the organization. She began working a 6 month pilot project in 1980 and now at the end of 26 years, she has had over 30,000 contacts with women.

**8. Election of Directors**

Selina Pellerin presented the report from the nomination committee. There were two nominees brought forth for election to the board: Leslie Hadfield and Shira Zipursky. Selina called for further nominations from the floor three times. Hearing none, Selina moved that nominations cease and for the nominations to be approved. Sharon O'Brien seconded the motion. As such, the two nominees were declared members of the board.

**9. Report from Board Chair and Executive Director**

Phil Matusiewicz – Executive Director

Phil verbally delivered his report and wanted to highlight one aspect, which is what the Rotary Club of Charlottetown Royalty and Lindsay Merrill have done for the organization. The Rotary Club gave a total grant of \$90,000 over three years for a Development Coordinator Position. There have been many positive impacts for the organization, such as solidifying the Financial Campaign. Lindsay has boosted our financial campaign from \$15,000 in the first year to \$35,000 raised in the campaign in the third year.

Phil took the time to acknowledge previous Board Chairs: Karen LaRonde, Patricia Roy, Shauna Reddin and currently Bill MacLeod. He also thanked the staff for their hard work, the work that we all do is difficult work and takes dedication and experience. Tina Pranger – Vice Chair, on behalf of Bill MacLeod, Chair, offered thanks to board and staff for their commitment to the organization.

**10. Other Business**

Norma thanked Phil for the support over the years.

**11. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Be it resolved that the 35th annual meeting be adjourned.

**M/S:** Daneen MacDonald

**CARRIED.**

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FVPS Board Member

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Date

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FVPS – Recording Secretary

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Date

## Executive Director 2016-2017 Annual Reports

*Danya O'Malley, Executive Director | Rev. Bill MacLeod, Board Chair*

It is with great pleasure that I submit my first annual report as Executive Director of PEI Family Violence Prevention Services. 2016 marked the retirement of two key people in the organization. I had the pleasure of working with our outgoing Executive Director, Phil Matusiewicz, for the past 8 years. Phil retired in September of 2016 and is a tough act to follow. His expertise saw the agency through a very large transformation into the provincial organization that it is today. It is my belief that the organization benefits from replacing Phil from within, as I understand the unique needs of our clients and staff. It is my great hope to put all of my education and experience into this role, living up to the social work values and ethics that Phil mentored me in.

The other employee – Valerie Smallman, Outreach Coordinator in O'Leary, also retired in September, 2016. This was less than a year after Shelter Worker Sherry Pagé retired in December, 2015. They took over half a century of experience with them. These are not easy roles to fill, as they take a career's worth of information, a network of contacts and a lot of practice wisdom with them. Also departing this year is Board Chair, Reverend Bill MacLeod. He has been with the organization for 6 years, first as a director, and then as Chair. Bill's experience and good humour has been an asset to our board meetings, not to mention his efficiency!

All of these wonderful people are or will be missed. Turnover like this can be hard for those who remain – change is no easy thing. Getting used to working with new individuals can take time. Even so, within this upheaval there is great opportunity. Working with new people can bring a fresh perspective, reinvigorate our passion for the work that we do, and challenge us to think differently. It can make us question things that we have taken for granted, encourage us to try new things. I appreciate it when my staff take risks and branch out, or learn something new. For example, this year we trained two of our outreach staff in the Triple P parenting program. This is a new area for us and one I'm very excited about.

One of the greatest opportunities for creating new ideas is hosting student placements within the organization. We have been very fortunate to have some very bright students come our way and it's my pleasure to mentor them into becoming the workers of the future. Two recent BSW students in 2016-2017 have been Maggie McSweeney and Melissa Munro-Bernard. The caliber of social work students we've been receiving is very promising in terms of who the workers of tomorrow will be. Maggie came to us from the UVic program, with Melissa coming from Dalhousie. Both programs have a strong social justice focus that explores the various barriers and divisions that create our social world. I am proud to have worked with both of them, and hope that they continue their involvement with our organization.

Another way that we're trying to refresh how we do things is through our Endowment Campaign. 2016 saw the launch of the **Building Brighter Futures** campaign, designed to help the organization raise a \$1 Million dollar endowment. It is our hope that the revenue generated from this campaign will take the pressure of some of our fundraising efforts, as well as fund some projects that have until now been funded year to year through foundations and other project funding applications. I am very proud of the work our tireless committee has done thus far, with 41.5% of our goal raised. We still have a great deal of work to be done, but I am confident that we will meet our target.

Finally- a topic I would like to focus on when reflecting on the past year is collaboration. Collaboration gets a lot of air time these days. It seems that every time people have the opportunity to suggest improvements to services the idea of increased collaboration gets mentioned. In the Child Protection Act Review released earlier this year the need for greater information sharing and increased collaboration between services was mentioned. 2016 also saw the launch of Bridge – Building Collaborative Solutions to Help Islanders at Acute Risk. Bridge brings together a number of service



providers from both government and non-government agencies to ensure Islanders at risk are identified, and an offer of support is made. Interventions can be at the individual, family or community level. This is collaboration targeting the micro, mezzo and macro level, happening twice a week, every week.

As an organization we have always taken the belief that many hands make light work. This remains very true in light of the complex cases that we see now- where no one organization will be able to address the multi-layered nature of many of the cases we see today. It is our hope that with this new focus on collaboration that other allied services and government departments create a framework for sharing the responsibility for ensuring that the people in need receive a coordinated effort in service delivery. It is to everyone's benefit that we work together. Clients will receive better, more informed services, while services themselves will feel as though we are working towards a common cause.

This kind of change does not happen overnight. It will evolve slowly over time. I can assure everyone that I am committed to ensuring that our organization does its part to partner with other agencies and groups. We must value our professional alliances and strive to be helpful. If we do this the hope is that others are there when we need help ourselves. As I mentioned in my last annual report, this change is already happening within addiction services. I am delighted to report that clients are still receiving care more quickly and comprehensively than before. I hope to see this shift throughout all of the human services, as this type of efficiency in both access to and quality of services benefits us all- but especially women and children in need.

I would like to thank my team of outreach and shelter staff. The work we do is challenging and often feels up hill. Their tireless work is appreciated. My management team of Dara and Ellen is essential to the running of the organization. Finally to our Development Coordinator, Lindsay – whose absence was acutely felt while she was on maternity leave- welcome back!!

Respectfully Submitted,

Danya O'Malley, MSW, RSW  
Executive Director

Rev. Bill MacLeod  
Board Chair

## Anderson House Annual Stats – 2016-2017

Admissions - Adults		
Total number of women admitted:		73
By Age:	>18	0
	18-24	5
	25-34	30
	35-44	18
	45-54	11
	55-64	6
	65+	3
By Marital Status:	Common Law	23
	Divorced	2
	Married	10
	Never Married	38
	Separated	0
	Widowed	
	Unknown	
By Location:	West Prince	1
	East Prince	6
	Queens	54
	Eastern Kings	4
	Southern Kings	1
	Out of Province	7
	Unknown	
Admitted with:	1 child	5
	2 children	7
	3 or more children	1
Admitted for current violence/abuse		53
Admitted for the first time to AH		40

Admissions - Children			
Total number of children admitted:			22
	Gender:	F	M
By Age:	0-2	3	2
	3-6	3	5
	7-12	4	3
	13-16	2	0
Total by Gender:	Female		12
	Male		10
Admitted for current violence/abuse			13
Admitted for the first time to AH:			14
	West Prince		2
	East Prince		4
	Queens		12
	Eastern Kings		0
	Southern Kings		0
	Out of Province		4
	Unknown		0

## Outreach Annual Stats – 2016-2017

Clients Receiving Services (count once for the year)			Services		
Total number of women served:		291	Total number of supportive contacts:		4153
By Age:	Youth	3		Visits	1927
	18-24	26		Calls	1250
	25-34	114		Emails	976
	35-44	79		Contacts	
	45-54	41	Average number of contacts per woman:		9.5
	55-64	16	Total number of women with...		
	65+	12		1 contact	13
By Marital Status:	Common Law	54		2-4 contacts	72
	Divorced	22		5-9 contacts	68
	Married	39		10+ contacts	138
	Never Married	55	Geographical Location of Client's Residence		
	Separated	114	Location	Number of Women	
	Widowed	7	West Prince	41	
	Unknown	0	East Prince	66	
Receiving outreach services for first time this year:		143	Queen's County	91	
Children			Eastern PEI	90	
Client:	Living with Children	175	Out of Province	3	
	Children in Care	29	Unknown	0	
Women living with	0 children	87	Supportive Contacts		
	1 child	67	Average number of contacts per woman:		4.2
	2 childre	82	Number of women receiving contacts		139
	3 or more...	55	Total number of contacts:		578

## **Anderson House 2016-2017 Annual Report**

*Dara Rayner, Manager of Operations*

In December 2016, I took on the role of Manager of Operations, a role that had been previously filled by our current Executive Director, Danya O'Malley. Within this role is managing the Anderson House shelter. I've spent the past 6 months watching and learning from my co-workers and from the women that we serve. Management of staff and human resource issues is a new area of focus for me. It's a challenge that I eagerly accepted and look forward to growing in this role. To augment the experience and education I have brought to the position, I have enrolled in the Bachelor of Business Administration with a Major in Management at Mount Saint Vincent University. I expect this program will give me additional skills that will benefit the organization.

Our clients, like in many of our allied services, have an increased level of complexity, facing a number of personal struggles and social barriers. Mainly our clients face domestic violence, childhood trauma, addiction and problematic substance use, and homelessness. Many of our clients also face mental health problems associated with living with abuse and chronic poverty. For many clients they face a number of these issues at the same time. Creating a plan to prioritize a woman's needs can often be a challenge when there is a high level of urgency to the case. We also must remember that a woman in crisis needs some time before making major decisions.

Increasingly, finding appropriate housing and avoiding homelessness are becoming major obstacles in the women's lives. When a woman that comes into the shelter is facing a loss of safe, affordable housing due to domestic violence, she isn't able to focus on any other issue in her life other than the need for safe, secure housing. Finding acceptable rental properties within our usual length of stay is a challenge that we deal with regularly. This is often coupled with establishing an adequate income or ensuring the woman has food security for herself and possibly her children. Anderson House staff assists each woman in a variety of ways that strives to meet their individual needs.

We have recently implemented a process to begin case management with each woman within 48 hours of her intake. We do this to determine her primary needs and establish short and long term goals. A short term goal can be something as basic as booking an appointment; however, being able to cross an item off what can feel like a daunting list gives the woman a feeling of accomplishment. Included in this plan is also a list of any other supports a woman has. This is done to highlight any areas where collaboration could move the case forward. It is always our goal to coordinate with other services so that a woman is well supported in her healing journey.

Finally, I would like to thank each member of the Anderson House team and Outreach for their tireless commitment to the women and for making my transition into this role a seamless and positive experience. Our team consists of Michelle Buttery – Team Lead/Children's Services Coordinator, full time Shelter Workers: Cindy Banks, Jan Devine, Daneen MacDonald, and Kim McGuigan, part-time shelter workers: Rachel Hoogerbrugge and Noelle Smith, and casual shelter workers: Beth Cruwys, Natasha Flood, Valerie MacEachern, Sapphire MacPhee, Maggie McSweeney and Melissa Munro-Bernard, and Outreach Coordinators: Kara Katmouz, Lee Anne Farrar, Gloria Dennis and Gwyn Davies.

Sincerely,  
Dara Rayner, Manager of Operations



## Program Manager 2016-2017 Annual Report

*Ellen Ridgeway, Program Manager*

The ASPIRE Program is now in its sixth year. ASPIRE is an individualized empowerment and strength based program for women experiencing barriers after leaving abusive relationships. ASPIRE has given support to 198 women, 21 children, in the past year. The ASPIRE program supports women who struggle with poverty, empowers women in their career or education, or need supportive intervention with substance use and mental wellness. In addition we help women who need advocacy, housing, transportation, accompaniment to appointments, or support in leaving an abusive relationship. The ASPIRE Program gratefully acknowledges financial support from the Homeless Partnering Strategy (HPS), a federal initiative from HRSDC. Through HPS funding the ASPIRE Program is undergoing a program evaluation with the assistance of Nishka Smith.

ASPIRE offers group programming. Over the winter months ten psychoeducational groups were given on the topics: *Rebuilding My Foundation*, *Mindfulness*, *Making Change Happen*, *Career/Education Opportunities*, *Grief*, and *Triple P*. Presenters for these sessions were Heather MacMillan, Dr. Christina Campbell, Sandra MacNevin, Sally Duffy, Teresa Clarke, Katherine Lowings, Kara Katmouz, and Lee Anne Farrar. Thank you to the presenters for your work delivering these sessions. Women who attended these group sessions gave high praise for the content and the shared learning experience that transpired. The ASPIRE Program gratefully acknowledges the support from Sally Duffy at Career Development Services for assisting women to further their educational and career pursuits.

PEI FVPS received financial support from the Law Foundation of PEI to deliver a project *Women and the Law on Prince Edward Island*. Information sessions wrapped up in December 2016. Sessions were given to women and service providers across PEI. We would like to thank the Law Society and to Ann Sherman for her knowledge and expertise presenting these educational sessions.

Work continues with the Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses. The "Network" changed its name to Women's Shelters Canada (WSC). I have been active on the Advisory Board and recently nominated representative for the Atlantic Region on the Board of Directors. PEI FVPS also continues to hold the project for the federal government's initiative HIFIS, a software program from HPS-HRSDC designed to track homelessness. This past year training was given to staff at Deacon House, a men's homeless shelter in Charlottetown. PEI FVPS is represented on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness (CAB). The CAB is preparing to release its fifth consecutive Report on Homelessness for PEI. We contribute to this report with HIFIS data from the various 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, Outreach Services, and/or referrals from community agencies. There were a total of 14 women and 11 children who resided at Second Stage in the past year. Our new project SAS House housed 10 women and 8 children. SAS House has 9 units. Both buildings offer rent geared to income.

I would like to thank the PEI FVPS Board of Directors for their interest and dedication to family violence prevention. Also, I would like to congratulate Danya O'Malley as our new Executive Director, and wish her success in this exciting role. Much appreciation goes out to our admin staff Dara Rayner and Lindsay Merrill 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 2016-2017 Annual Report**

*Kara Katmouz, Outreach Coordinator*

The West Prince Family Violence office experienced a significant change with the retirement of Valerie Smallman in September 2016. It quickly became apparent to me that I had big shoes to fill when I stepped into her role. Not only did she have a wealth experience dealing with women in abusive relationships, but it was clear that she was loved and respected by staff and clients alike. Overwhelmed by the gravity of the position, yet equally grateful and honored to have been hired, I was determined to persevere and do my best to meet the needs of clients in the West Prince Region.

It is important to note at the outset of this report that I am still in the process of mastering a significant learning curve. This learning curve has included: 1) meeting various community partners such as Income Support, Child Protection, Community Mental Health, Victim Services and Housing and learning how my role is connected to theirs, 2) engaging in formal training opportunities, for which I am extremely grateful such as Triple P, Handle with Care, SARA, BRIDGE, 3) learning the logistics of various community events and helping to plan, organize and execute events, and 4) learning about the norms and expectations of the organization. Some successes in these areas included partnering with the Salvation Army and completing 22 Christmas Hamper applications with residents in West Prince, assisting Rene Tremblay with presentations to grade 7 students on the topic of bullying, completing presentations on healthy relationships to Grade 12 students at Westisle as part of Family Violence Prevention week, having a story featured in the Western Graphic on the importance of getting into the schools as part of family violence prevention, and guiding my first young family through the Standard Level 4 Triple P process.

It has also been a pleasure working with Lee Anne Farrar to complete our first Liberty Group with five women in East Prince. This group is now nearing completion and has been a wonderful learning experience. Recently, in an effort to become visible to RCMP, I attended their District Meeting and completed a presentation on FVPS. Because so many of our clients and their families are impacted by mental health issues, I feel that family violence prevention and mental health awareness go hand in hand. Therefore, I was delighted when Danya supported me in doing the Thumbbody Program in three grade 3 classes this month.

As I reflect upon the past nine months in the role, I realize that my primary focus was to figure out how to support women in a way that is in their highest and best interests. I had to realize that while I do not have all of the answers, providing a nonjudgmental environment for them to air their concerns and frustrations has been a gift to many. Themes that I have encountered in women are PTSD, a history of dysfunctional family and/or relationship dynamics, and the difficulties inherent in having to deal with abusive ex partners in an effort to parent mutual children. I have lent several women the book "Women Who Love Too Much" by Robin Norwood and many of them see themselves in the stories they read. Promoting awareness is a start. As we all know, leaving an abusive relationship is more of a process than a single event for most women.

I would like to thank Management (Danya, Dara) for taking a chance on me and selecting me for this role. Slow and steady wins the race and I promise not to disappoint. Thank you for this opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Katmouz, MSW, RSW, CCC  
Outreach Coordinator, West Prince

## **East Prince Outreach 2016-2017 Annual Report**

*Lee Anne Farrar, Acting Outreach Coordinator*

This past year has brought about a number of changes within the Summerside office and also within my role with PEI Family Violence Prevention Services. Since October 2016, I have had the pleasure of taking on the role as acting Outreach Manager in the Summerside location. In this role I am fortunate to provide education and awareness to my clients on family violence. I also provide them with support, advocacy, and referrals; and oversee our Next Step Housing facilities. Since October, I have been focused on reconnecting and collaborating with other resources within the community. I feel strongly that connecting our services will enhance our abilities to support our clients through a difficult journey in their lives.

The community of Summerside have been kind in accepting me in this role, and I am grateful for that. I have had the opportunity to work closely and get acquainted with the amazing staff at Victim Services, Probations, Police Services, Mental Health and Addictions, Child Protection Services, Income and Support, Housing First, Best Start, Newcomers, Women's Information Centre, EPYDC, Notre Dame Place, and the staff at Athena, SIS, and Three Oaks.

Many of these resources have been gracious enough to meet with me to discuss any changes they felt could be implemented in enhancing the support of our mutual clients and the best approach to working together. I am thankful for the opportunity to have given presentations on family violence and on PEI FVPS to a number of those groups; most importantly the chance to provide that awareness to the youths in the area.

I have worked closely with the outstanding staff at Three Oaks Senior High school; doing presentations with the Silent Witness Program, setting up tables at lunch hour, meeting with at-risk youths, and attending a GSA group meeting. I have also begun volunteering my time with the Breakfast Buddies program at SIS, getting to know the students. I believe early intervention is crucial in breaking the cycle of violence. My goal is for the students to see me, get to know me, and feel comfortable if they ever need to speak with someone within this field.

Over the past few months I have been given the opportunity to enhance my knowledge within this field by completing the SARA, BRIDGE, Handle with Care, and Triple P training. The parenting programs that I am using with my clients have helped to reduce their stress in regards to transitional behaviors their children may be experiencing. This past spring, I began the "Liberty" support group, along with the assistance and support of our West Prince Outreach worker- Kara Katmouz. It has been a privileged opportunity to educate these women on healthy relationship, self-care, and watching them support one another. I look forward to beginning our second group this fall.

This winter the East Prince office held a fundraising event in partnership with East Coast Art Party at The Silver Fox Curling Club. Supporters had fun being taught how to paint a portrait of a snowman, while being made aware of our organization within Summerside. The Summerside office also participated in Family Violence Prevention Week; holding community walks, engagements, and getting local school to participate in awareness activities. It was wonderful to see so many members of the community and organizations support FVP week.

During my time in Summerside, I have witnessed an increasing need for faster referral services from both mental health and addictions, and the need for affordable housing options. Many of my clients are in need of social assistance and it is considerably difficult for clients to seek safe housing within the community under the rental ceiling amounts they are given. Our safe housing duplex in Summerside has been occupied since the fall. The women staying there have excelled in moving forward in their lives and bettering the lives of their children. It has been wonderful to see the changes they have been making for themselves in this past year.

I could not express my thanks enough to the staff at Anderson House and the Outreach workers for their guidance and support, to the board for all they do, and to Danya, Dara, and Lindsay for all their support and keeping us all going. Very special thanks to Kara for being on this journey with me. Within these past months I have witnessed some amazing transformations in the self-esteem, strength, and general happiness in a number of the women I have been privileged enough to work with. I feel blessed to be a part of those transformations and a part of FVPS.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lee Anne Farrar, Acting Outreach Coordinator

## **Queens County Outreach 2016-2017 Annual Report**

*Gloria Dennis, Outreach Coordinator*

As I have in years past, I would first like to acknowledge the women that have courageously reached out for support and information. The women often have many situational and emotional barriers to overcome in order to establish a safe life for themselves and their children. PEI has many supports and services in place but there are still resource challenges that women face. Affordable, appropriate, safe housing has been an on-going issue for women leaving an abusive relationships. Family legal service has at times been a lengthy wait or process, a stressful process at least- as it has heightened stressors when dealing with an abusive partner. I was pleased to see the addition of safe exchange sites for families to manage the exchange of children for shared parenting/visitation. A good step taken by our province. Situational barriers for women can be worked on by PEI FVPS, community and the province working to address them and improve the quality of life for the families needing our services.

As well as client service, during this year I have also taken part in many other activities. I have continued to sit on the Justice Options for Women Steering Committee which is a provincial partnership of community and government focused on women experiencing family violence in PEI. It is project based and project funded. Some of the work done by the committee includes Circles of Safety and Support, a Power and Control Wheel specific to the experience of immigrant women in multiple languages and training of translators to accompany immigrant women to police and shelter if needed. The current project of Justice Options is a PEI Collaborative Systemic Response to Family Violence, with the goal of developing a model for a collaborative response for service providers for those experiencing violence in an intimate relationship.

Our involvement with Justice Options' current project has fit very well with another activity I have been involved with this past year. The BRIDGE, which is a committee of government and community based agencies working collaboratively to identify individuals and families facing serious issues that create an acutely elevated risk of serious harm happening soon. To protect the privacy of individuals and families there is a 4 Level process. If the committee agrees that an individual or family is at acutely elevated risk and that the risk is multi-disciplinary, then and only then is a limited amount of information shared in order to assist the individual or family. The BRIDGE meets 2x per week and the situations that are brought to the table are of a time sensitive nature. This collaborative process has helped over 100 individuals in the past year. Feedback from participants at the table and within the community has been positive. Individuals and families have been connected to services and multiple issues have been addressed at one time. Breaking down the silos for services to work together collaboratively benefits both service providers and individuals with complex issues.

Public Education and involvement in community activities has also been a positive part of the Outreach role. I have done presentations at Holland College, UPEI and the Alternative Education program. I took part in the Truth and Reconciliation Study group that met bi-weekly at the library from Feb. – May to offer support to individuals that found the discussions difficult.

I have also taken some training during the year. SARA, which is a Spousal Assault Risk Assessment tool which has been up-dated, had updated training offered through a partnership with Victim Services. BRIDGE also required specialized training. I've also had opportunity to attend some workshops on Trauma and the impact on the brain.

It has been a busy and productive year for Outreach and for our organization. Thank you to all of my colleagues for your insight, assistance and humor.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Gloria Dennis



## Eastern PEI Outreach 2016-2017 Annual Report

*Gwyn Davies, Outreach Coordinator*

This is the twenty- second year of Outreach Service in Eastern PEI. We are still housed at the Montague Riverview Manor. I have appreciated the in-kind supports the region has provided since 1996, showing that our work is a valuable community service. A comfortable office space in the basement is private and the phone and internet are both provided. Soon there will be a new Manor in Montague and there will be no space available for Family Violence Prevention in the new setting. One of the tasks of 2017 is to relocate. Wherever we are, the service will continue to outreach into Eastern PEI, providing support, information and advocacy. I assist women to listen to themselves, make hard choices, and plan for better, safer lives for themselves and their children. One of the major parts of continued outreaching support to women and their families is to assist on the long journey of carrying out the plan.

The matters of custody and access of children is a challenge that is critical for women whose partners continue to be emotionally violent and controlling. The impact of parents unable to cooperate in the best interest of their children is seriously detrimental. The most difficult situations I am involved with are in helping women manage these conflicts. Separation of assets is also very contentious and difficult for women. Legal Aid services are over burdened. Many women need support for their children's issues- extreme behavior, anger, and insecurity as a result of chaos and tension between their parents and negative messages. Children cannot feel safe and well when they cannot trust their foundation- those who are supposed to protect them.

Some women I meet are wrestling with keeping their children safe from family violence and their children have spent some time in foster care. During that time I am involved in the Child Protection case plan to inform women about the effects of conflict and violence on their children and to empower them to bravely care for their children and regain their trust. They learn and practice and when progress is made and children are no longer in need of protection they are reunited with their family. Most work seasonally or minimally and often are not able to get child support from the fathers of their children. When the children come back home the women can apply for Federal Child Tax Credit which is often the mainstay of their income for the children. It takes months to be reinstated in their names. In the mean time they have limited money. The food bank provides a small amount of food. Provincial source of financial assistance cannot supplement their needs. Security of person is shattered in a crisis of having little money for groceries, little money for gas to get to work, etc. So, women who have worked hard to get their children back in their homes can become defeated, overwhelmed and unable to cope.

**Community Donations:** The Rotary Club of Montague has donated gift cards for gas, groceries and Value Village. This is the most fabulous way to give women some practical help.

**Memorial United Church** in Murray River generously filled boxes with food items and sundries for an Advent project. They agreed and understand that I was going to offer it to women after Christmas when times are tougher. Much appreciated by several women. It does not take long to disperse.

As always I thank Maxine MacLennan and all the great work being done with SAVE groups in Montague, Morell and Souris. They are always generating interesting ways to communicate that violence is preventable.

My Outreach is collaborating with women to move forward and take charge of their lives. Thanks to the Board, Danya, Staff for all you do.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gwyn Davies, Outreach Coordinator

## Youth Programming & Education 2016-2017

Michelle Buttery – Children's Services Coordinator/Team Lead

It has been another busy year with the *'It's All About YOUth'* pilot program as we wrap up the 4<sup>th</sup> and final year of the Canadian Women's Foundation's Teen Healthy Relationships initiative. *'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.

We did have a new facilitator join us this year from Women's Network PEI. Kate Dempsey came into the program bringing a lot of experience and knowledge of programming and working with youth. This allowed my co-facilitator and co-creator of the *'It's All About YOUth'* program, Jaime Griffin to take some time away from the project AND means that we now have a 3<sup>rd</sup> person trained and familiar with the program. It has been fantastic working alongside Kate this year and to have her offer suggestions, ideas and 'tweaks' with fresh eyes. I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with both of these amazing women.

I am pleased to report that through The United Way, we were successful in securing monies to continue the program for the next two of years. The United Way has three areas of priority for their funding – All That Kids Can Be, From Poverty to Possibility, and Healthy People, Strong Communities. We applied to All That Kids Can Be – under their outcome of *helping youth make a healthy transition to adulthood*. With strong evidence provided by the evaluations completed by 275 Island youth who received the program just last year, as well as a letter of support from one of the schools guidance councillors, we are thrilled to be moving forward into more schools next year. So now the work begins - figuring out which schools to enter into, how many and when. The program its self will also require some updating in order to keep it current, relevant and engaging for the students. I welcome this opportunity and look forward to continuing this important work.

Respectfully submitted  
Michelle Buttery

