

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark hair and a young child with blonde hair. They are both smiling warmly at the camera. The woman is on the left, and the child is on the right, leaning their head against her. They are outdoors, with a background of green foliage.

**SAFE TODAY**  
**STRONG TOMORROW**

...by Building Brighter Futures!

# OUR STORY

**PEI Family Violence Prevention Services Inc.** is a community volunteer organization, based on the principles of justice, equality and peace. We are dedicated to the eradication of physical, sexual and emotional violence in families through advocacy, prevention programs and the provision of services to help empower and support those affected by family violence.

Our primary goals are to: provide a place of safety for women and children who are victims of abuse; educate the public about the issues of violence against women and family violence; and, advocate for the needs of abused women and children. We believe it is a basic human right to be free of abuse and fear of abuse in relationships.

Family violence can become an endless cycle without access to the support and resources needed to heal broken bodies, minds and spirits. With a multi-faceted, coordinated approach, PEI Family Violence Prevention Services provides a variety of programming to assist women and children who have faced or are facing violence in their lives.

*"I can use the things they showed me... things like love, compassion, understanding, patience and acceptance, to help change someone else's life."*

# ANDERSON HOUSE

Anderson House was established in 1981 and provides consistent, supportive programming to families who are faced with the horrible and debilitating effects of family violence. Located in Charlottetown, Anderson House is an emergency women's shelter on Prince Edward Island. The house can accommodate up to 18 women and children at a time with 6 bedrooms and a shared kitchen and living space. Each year Anderson House shelters approximately 70 women and 35 children.

Services at Anderson House include: emergency shelter, 24/7 confidential crisis and support phone line, childcare services, follow-up support, referrals to outreach services and other agencies, drop-in support, advocacy, referrals to second stage housing and resource information.

Safety planning with women and children is at the heart of daily case planning. Accompanying women to appointments, as well as advocating for them is an essential piece of work. Finding appropriate resources, such as, lawyers, housing, stay-away orders, child care, transportation, and pet care are some of the challenges. Most important is the work of supporting women, taking time to sit, listen and acknowledge their grief and giving hope for their future.

Anderson House uses a multifaceted, comprehensive approach in response to individuals and families affected by violence, and has strong partnerships in the community with Police, Victim Services, Child Protection, Family Court, Income Support, Mental Health, Addiction Services, and other community-based agencies. Sheltering women and children involves looking after daily necessities, as well as providing ongoing support after leaving the shelter.

# OUTREACH PROGRAM

Outreach Programs are offered province-wide, including rural and remote areas, with offices in Montague, Charlottetown, Summerside and O'Leary. The primary goal of the Outreach Program is to reach those affected by family violence who may not use the services of the emergency shelter, but still need some safety planning, counselling, advocacy and referrals to resources. Outreach offices serve approximately 500 families each year.

By assisting victims earlier in the cycle of violence, outreach services can reduce the need for more shelter stays and improve the long-term outcomes for women and their children. With a prevention and early intervention focus, outreach services delivered in local communities offer a cost-effective and less disruptive alternative to serving those who may not be in imminent physical danger, but who seek support in transitioning to a life free from violence.

## Outreach workers provide support to women and their families through:

- One-on-one crisis intervention via phone or in person.
- Support groups on a variety of topics including, healthy relationships, boundaries, consent, self-esteem, assertiveness, safety planning, self-care, mindfulness, and the law.
- Referral services to community organizations to address individual needs. These may include, but are not limited to, information about: shelters, counselling, legal aid, child care, income support, addictions, mental health, housing, medical issues, financial counselling, job/career counseling, and the court system.
- Safety assessment and planning, including creating an individual safety plan.
- Advocacy to ensure clients have someone with a social justice focus looking out for their rights.
- Accompaniment to court and other meetings, as required.

## THIS IS MY STORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# SECOND & THIRD STAGE HOUSING

Second Stage housing offers safe, secure and affordable accommodations for women and children as they transition to independent living. It affords women who have been faced with violence in their lives a place to plan for a future without fear. Housing units are available in Kings, Queens and Prince Counties. Residency is up to one year with rent-geared-to-income or rent ceiling set by the Department of Community Services and Canada Mortgage and Housing. If required, women can continue to receive the support of an outreach worker throughout their stay.

Available in Charlottetown, Third Stage housing is the next step in independent living. It provides the same supportive living environment as Second Stage housing but with no cap on length of stay.

*"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."*

## PUBLIC EDUCATION

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Outreach coordinators provide presentations on the subject of family violence to organizations across the province. These presentations are available to organizations such as local businesses, hospitals, government agencies, schools, the legal system, police, service clubs, volunteers and citizens concerned about family violence and its effect on a community. Training is also provided to professionals who would like more education about family violence and the services our organization provide.

## YOUTH PROGRAM

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Youth programming is offered in various locations across the province in junior and senior high schools. Youth can access more information about relationships at [www.teenrelationships.ca](http://www.teenrelationships.ca).

It's All About YOUth focuses on healthy relationships and encourages youth to examine all the relationships in their lives. The program covers topics such as, communication and characteristics associated with healthy, unhealthy and abusive relationships.

SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) is a student-driven program designed to raise awareness about the issues of relationship abuse, family violence and helpful services.

"Domestic Violence is a subject that isn't often spoken about... it's almost as though people are afraid to speak about it. SAVE is an incredible way to break the silence on the issue and spread awareness."

- SAVE participant

# Be one of the community partners supporting PEI Family Violence Prevention Services.



Thank you for helping us to achieve our goal.

2016 marks the launch of our Endowment Campaign. The goal of the campaign is to raise a \$1 Million dollar endowment, which will be invested with the Community Foundation. As financial sustainability is always on the minds of those of us in the non-profit world, having an endowment would ease the pressure each year of fundraising and securing donations. This would allow staff time to do more front-line work with the women and children that we serve.

As such, we are excited to launch our Building Brighter Futures Campaign. Our hope is to find 200 individuals, groups or businesses to be our Future Builders! If each donor makes the commitment to donate \$1,000/year over 5 years, we will reach our goal.



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1. Walk in Silence - Family Violence Prevention Week
2. Sweetheart Dinner - Red Shores
3. Tea Service - Anderson House Open House
4. Mom2Mom Sale - Eastlink Centre
5. Mom2Mom Sale - Eastlink Centre
6. Ceilidh for SAVE - Kaylee Hall, Pooles Corner
7. PEI FVPS Fundraiser - Island Storm
8. Anderson House Fundraising Dinner - Inn at St Peters
9. Evening of Wine and Song - Harmony House

Anderson House Emergency Shelter  
Community Outreach Services  
24/7 Crisis Line 1-800-240-9894  
Second & Third Stage Housing

Serving Families Across the Island  
West Prince | East Prince | Queens County | Eastern PEI