



Greetings!

On behalf of the Team at Chrysalis, it's my pleasure to report another successful year of supporting women's empowerment to overcome addiction, violence, homelessness and related issues! Chrysalis Society has again witnessed an increase in the number of women who continue to beat the odds, thereby achieving lasting health, recovery and housing throughout our programs. The demand for our services is such that 300 women waitlisted for our programs. Of the 300 women waitlisted:

- * 111 women accessed residential care and service through our three recovery homes
- * 60% of women at New Dawn successfully completed the program
- * 20% of those women transitioned to one of our two 2nd-stage recovery programs: New Day or New Way
- * 73% completed the program at New Day and 67% completed at New Way

The evidence is in the numbers: with effective supports, and meaningful, and timely opportunities, women do heal and recover! At the heart of Chrysalis Society is a dedicated team who provide, extensive care, and compassionate service to women, daily! The Team consists of 6 F/T & 6 P/T Staff, 5 Board members, and 15 regular Volunteers. Everyone continues to demonstrate stability, cohesion & camaraderie within the constant ebbs and flows that go with such demanding and rewarding work. Chrysalis Society's Team exemplifies true dedication, individually and collectively, to the women we serve, and each other!

Chrysalis Society is proud to report our successful acquisition of a second home! With the invaluable diligence of our Board of Directors and funding contributions from Vancity, Pacifica Family Addiction Foundation, and private support from two other Foundations, we are thrilled to become homeowners for the second time in three years! As with the purchase of New Dawn in 2010, this extraordinary milestone for Chrysalis Society has come about with commitment and determined effort by our staff and Board of Directors. Our homes provide critical safety and care to women in need, and our dream of owning the homes has become a reality!!

Over the years women's services in BC continue to be systematically eroded. The current trend is (ongoing) centralization of many provincial services, which has resulted in elimination of a significant number of programs - particularly women's programs. The need for services in our communities, and particularly women's programs and services, remains ever-increasing.

For women accessing Chrysalis Society, resources are scarcer and scarcer. Of 200 women who waitlisted for New Dawn this year:

- * 32% of those women were homeless
- * 25% reported past experiences of violence
- * 15% reported current experiences/risk of violence
- * 98% reported concurrent mental health needs
- * Only 31% of these women were able to access one of the 10 beds at New Dawn

Women's resources are most often mandate-specific, and it's becoming increasingly clear: segregating services by separating women's concurrent experiences of addiction, violence and mental health can increase their vulnerability to all three. While women's services continue to be reduced or eliminated outright, the need for bridging and maintaining them remains extremely high.

In the truest tradition of grassroots organizations, the support of individuals and stakeholders in our community remains vital and indispensable to Chrysalis Society. This includes financial and in-kind contributions of goods and services, donations of furnishings and home-start items, online and real-time networking, and everything in between. All of this serves to make an enormous difference to the women we serve. We send out our heartfelt thank you and gratitude to our community!

Goals for the coming year are to have the two houses we own, painted and renovated. We also intend to continue increasing our social and financial capacity. We intend to increase the number of people we're connected with; utilizing our Board of Directors, Volunteers, Social Media and Community events! Get involved!! Connect with us online, join our Board, Volunteer, get together with friends and coworkers to make a group monthly contribution... we are all community, we *all benefit* when women recover from addiction and violence!

Thank You All for working with us to make recovery possible for women!

Shannon Skilton