



Welcome Everyone !

On behalf of everyone at Chrysalis Society, it's my pleasure to report on another incredible year! Once again, we've witnessed women continue to beat the odds, secure placement in our homes, and ultimately achieve lasting health, recovery and their own independent housing. The demand for our services remains incredibly high: 280 women waitlisted for our programs. Of these 280 women:

- * 109 women accessed long-term residential services through our three recovery homes
- * 58% of women at New Dawn successfully completed the program
- * 31% of those women transitioned to one of our two 2nd-stage recovery programs: New Day or New Way
- * 57% completed the program at New Day; 42% completed at New Way

As we see time and time again, women do heal and recover with effective supports, and meaningful, timely opportunities to make healthy changes in their lives!

For the marginalized women accessing Chrysalis Society, however, these opportunities are becoming scarcer and scarcer. Women's resources in BC remain mandate-specific, despite increasing evidence to indicate that segregation of services based on mandates (ie: addiction *or* violence *or* mental health services) in fact increases women's vulnerability overall. While funding for women's services in BC continue to be reduced or eliminated outright, the need for bridging and maintaining them remains extremely high.

Of 192 women who waitlisted for New Dawn this year:

- * 36% (70 women) were homeless
- * 35% (67 women) reported past or current experiences of violence
- * 98% (189 women) reported concurrent mental health needs
- * Only 34% of these women were able to access one of the 10 beds at New Dawn

Staffing-wise, we saw some challenges over the year with unforeseen medical leaves and the layoff of our New Dawn House Manager at year end due to cuts in our current VCH contract. Our core Team remains strong, and we share cohesion & camaraderie within the constant ebbs and flows that go with our demanding and rewarding work! Every member of our Team at Chrysalis exemplifies true dedication, to the women we serve, and each other – and this dedication is demonstrated through the exceptional care and service provided to women daily! On behalf of Chrysalis Society I would like to give a BIG thank you to our team!

I wish to also thank the Board of Directors for all their support this past year, a BIG thank to our Board for your ongoing dedication, time, contributions and efforts!! We couldn't do what we do without the back bone of the Board.

Over all, Service providers and clients throughout the field continue to be impacted as everyone contends with ongoing changes. Continuous staffing transitions have become the norm primarily within some of the major, government bodies that regularly intersect with Chrysalis. An 18-month review process began in 2011 of all VCH addiction-service contracts, followed by the contracts being put out to public tender on the government's BC Bid site. An extraordinary amount of time and work was required for the bid process and subsequent negotiations that were necessary to secure our contract which resulted in excessive demands on our staffing resources. The good news: our contract was secured, and we continue to be able to provide critical residential and mental health care to women in need! Centralization continues to evolve and we at Chrysalis continue to role with the ongoing changes and impacts of this new centralization referral process within our Health Authority.

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 a Big heartfelt thank you to our community!

With capital funding we secured through BC Gaming and the City of Vancouver, we were able to have the fence replaced and deck repaired at New Dawn this year. Goals for the coming year are to have New Dawn and New Day painted and renovated, and to have some landscaping work done at New Dawn. We also have a current initiative to increase the number of monthly donors, with a goal of connecting with 50 – 100 individuals or groups committed to a monthly donation of \$25 - \$100. We intend to increase the number of people we're connected with, through 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