

Christmas 2021

DOVE TALES



SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

This Christmas message is to pass on heartfelt humble gratitude to the many supporters who are so generous to WINGS with gifts of time, gifts of monetary support, and gifts of advocacy for the work done at WINGS. The services provided keep the Christmas spirit alive all year long as peace, love and hope are ever-present for the families struggling with healing from domestic violence. Hope is such an important ingredient.



No matter how you celebrate the season there is a renewed hope for a better world. Everyone stops for a moment and remembers those facing life's challenges. The magic of the season is in the giving. There is no bigger joy in one's heart than helping others. To know a child will wake up to a toy, or a lonely elder will enjoy a meal, or a family will enjoy a festive meal they couldn't otherwise afford sparks a flame in every heart.

WINGS supporters come from every diverse corner of life but have such a common bond. Your gracious and generous support unite us all in kindness. Thank you to the hardworking staff, the dedicated Board of Directors and the myriad of community donors for caring. We are all saying to the moms and children at WINGS, "Merry Christmas or Seasons Greetings – there is hope for a brighter future".

Best Wishes for a Healthy 2022
Linda Churchill, President



Statistics

Since 1987, WINGS has accommodated
1349 women and 3052 children for a total of **4401 persons**

Dream Wish for 2022!

HOST A FUNDRAISER FOR WINGS!

TELL US YOUR IDEAS - EMAIL RJANZEN@WINGSOFPROVIDENCE.CA

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SEE
HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT
WINGS OVER THE

Holidays



WINGSOFPROVIDENCE.CA



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I feel privileged to be at WINGS of Providence. This is the time of year to count one's blessings. During this Holiday Season I want to express sincere thanks to so many supporters, for the gift of time, energy, resources, and good will. The dedication and commitment of each staff member, volunteer, committee member and Board member is remarkable. A thank you as well to all of the community members and organizations who support us all year long in countless ways. You are truly making a difference to families that need help. Your invaluable support

ensures that we achieve our mission of saving lives and creating futures for women and children fleeing domestic violence.

I hope you will take a moment to reflect on the difference you have made this year. Let us celebrate the New Year with anticipation of all that we will accomplish together in 2022. Thank you for your partnership and support over the past year. And, happy holidays to you and your loved ones.

Kathy Collins
Executive Director



You are appreciated



The incredible team at Sherwood Buick GMC surprised WINGS with a \$60,000 donation! We are beyond thankful for this generous gift and the Sherwood Buick staff for choosing WINGS!

MERRY COVID CHRISTMAS, AGAIN!

When I think of last Christmas I recall the last minute health restrictions that caused us to change everything we had planned overnight. The fun activities and events planned were quickly modified, and a new strategy was implemented included wearing full PPE. There was a heaviness with the change. Would this feel like Christmas for our families? No visitors. No family. They were in isolation. We wanted the families to feel cared for and experience community.

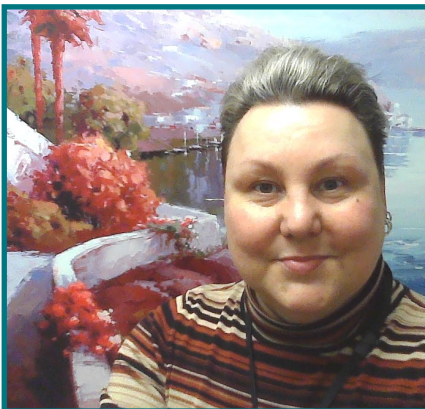
Then it happened. You! You were there for them. You came through in so many ways, bringing gifts and food and gift cards. We were able to deliver the gifts in full PPE: gowns, gloves, goggles. We looked like an army of minions more than Elves. The women were so very grateful. They met us at their doors with their children. They were so happy! They laughed and they cried. Christmas came despite Covid. This was possible because you came through for them and for us. Everyone felt different and hopeful. There was such a wonderful energy. There was so much good that happened.

This year health restrictions have been on, off, partial and in between. We all want to be safe from Covid and follow protocols set out by AHS. Staff and residents complete health assessments. At this time, we are able to have a hybrid program of group programming both in-person and on zoom. Our childcare is open and our Kids Groups and Teen Groups are active. They have a lot of fun and we celebrate safely. The families continue to be supported with domestic violence issues and court matters. We see

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women grow through the stages of change. Every day we see once stressed toddlers laugh and learn social skills, we see our teens open up and share deeply and honestly. The children learn that problems and violence in the home "was not their fault". We see Christmas miracles and it is not yet Christmas. Thank you! We have felt your support all year and know it is here now at Christmas. Your love, support and prayers, have shown us we just need to trust that there will always be good. You are proof of that goodness. Wishing you a blessed and joyful Christmas.

Karen Kingdom
Program Coordinator



INTRODUCING CONNIE DAY, NP

My name is Connie Day and I am a Nurse Practitioner new to WINGS since February 2021. The seasons have flown by as I continue to settle into the ebb and flow of the shelter, its families and staff.

My days are filled with health intake assessments, treating chronic and acute illness, providing prescription renewals, making specialist referrals, providing health centric education, etc. Clients have inspired me to seek out and introduce innovative approaches to improve their physical and emotional wellbeing. I enjoy being a mentor, health care navigator, flu clinic coordinator, community services liaison, adviser and wellness guide. Sometimes, I am merely a listener. Though winter is finally here, the warmth I feel at WINGS is overwhelming. I wish to extend a profound thank you to all of our supporters and a very Happy Holiday Season.

Connie Day, NP



WINGS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE NANCY FATH & JERRY MCKAY REVOCABLE TRUST

For their generous financial assistance enabling WINGS to offer families access to the onsite Nurse Practitioner and trauma informed, physical and mental health education programs. Like this donor, we believe in connecting mind, body, and spirit, with exercise, meditation and holistic practices. Discussions surrounding the long term effects of domestic violence, coping mechanisms, women's heart health, child development, and nutrition, are among the many health topics covered in sessions. Meditation and mindfulness practices are incorporated (including a new MUSE head band for meditation!) among other innovative approaches to health and healing.



We thank this wonderful donor who continues to help us to improve and expand upon this invaluable program!

CHILDCARE AT WINGS

My name is Joca and I have been the Childcare Supervisor at WINGS since September 2021. I am passionate about early childhood development and I love working with children. I have 12 years of experience as a preschool teacher, and I am excited to be at WINGS. I am looking forward to continuing to create a fun and safe learning environment for the children.



Play is critical for child development, and it is important that children at WINGS explore a variety of learning experiences that support their social, physical, language, intellectual and emotional development. The weather has been fantastic, and we have loved our days playing outside, collecting leaves, climbing, jumping, running and having fun on the swings. The children have adjusted to new routines smoothly and they are all kind, loving and caring with each other. It is wonderful to see them making friendships.



We are so grateful for the wonderful volunteers that help us out in Childcare. Britt and Ella are wonderful and the children love playing with them. Thank you!

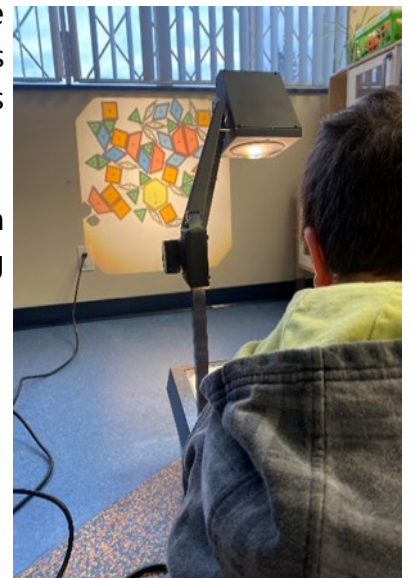
We had a great Halloween celebration with the cutest bats, dinosaurs, deer and super heroes; everyone looked amazing in their costumes! We had fun painting, carving and decorating pumpkins, and the children loved their special snack of fruits and cupcakes.

November was Family Violence Prevention month, and we have been reading picture books that teach and encourage kindness and gentle hands. These books remind us of all the good things that hands are for. Some of the preschoolers love to play with the baby dolls and hold them so carefully in their small arms and whisper "gentle, gentle". So adorable.

We are excited for Christmas and to make Childcare a joyous and festive setting for the children. We look forward to creating lots of Christmas art, counting down to Christmas day, and singing lots of Christmas carols.

Thank you everyone for your invaluable support so that the children can experience a wonderful, magical and peaceful Holiday Season! Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Joca Hornbrook
Childcare Supervisor





CHILD AND YOUTH UPDATE

Our group programs are crucial in helping children and teens to connect and heal from family violence. Before moving to WINGS, families are often isolated (even more so during COVID), so having a safe place to connect with other children, to share feelings, and to play is so important in healing. This fall, we continued with our children and teen group programs while following COVID guidelines, and when needed, we offered online groups, so that children can still interact and relate with each other. In a recent kids group, some of the children opened up about fighting at home and how they now feel safe living at WINGS. One young child added that he feels so relieved that he came to WINGS.

As we move into the Christmas Season, we are excited to offer safe and fun activities that create a sense of community and belonging for children and youth at WINGS. In November, our staff turn into 'Christmas Elves' and 'magically' transform both of our buildings for Christmas. The children become so excited when they see all of the decorations! The kids join in on spreading Christmas cheer by painting a beautiful Christmas Mural, sprinkling on TONS of glitter! In December, they make festive Christmas Crafts, and also pick out beautiful gifts for their moms at the Kids Are Elves event. And of course, the kids will receive a special delivery of Christmas Gifts from Santa (and our wonderful Donors!).



Some of the holiday plans that we have scheduled for the teens this Christmas season are building delicious Gingerbread houses, decorating Christmas trees, taking a trip to the Edmonton zoo during Zoominescence to take in the amazing Christmas light shows and making ugly Christmas sweaters! Every Christmas season the teens also receive personalized gifts that are just for them from our amazing donors; these gifts lift their spirits sky high each and every time. Many teens that live at WINGS and HND have never experienced a Christmas quite like this, and it's extraordinary to see their gratitude and pure happiness shine through the holiday season.

We would like to thank our wonderful donors for all their generosity, especially at this time of year. A Sense of Belonging is so important for our kids and teens, and throughout COVID, times have been especially challenging for all. We are grateful to belong to such a wonderful community of support and love. We wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas!

Debbie & Brie
WINGS & HND Youth workers





ROCKY FOREST DAYCARE AND OUT OF SCHOOL CARE



Opening our doors in 2015 Rocky Forest Daycare and Out of School Care continues to provide quality child care for women and their children. We give the children opportunities for exploration and imagination at their own pace while developing trusting relationships with the qualified staff who are trained in trauma informed care. Mothers can focus on themselves at this time whether it's their education or working to provide better opportunities for their family's future.

The staff numbers have grown in the past few months to accommodate our increase in children attending. We have 7 staff supporting the 15 families registered with a total of 23 children.

Our program is unique as we provide the children with all their needs. Two snacks and a homemade lunch with lots of fresh fruit and vegetables, ensuring dietary needs and culture is taken into consideration. Also diapers are provided for children at no cost to the parents.

We are appreciative of your donations to continue to make the Rocky Forest Daycare an affordable high quality service to support the families who come to us for support as they continue on a path of hope and happiness.

Happy Holidays and all the best in 2022!

Brenda Kotylak, Program Coordinator
& Rocky Forest Daycare Staff



The Rotary Club of Spruce Grove continues to amaze us with their beautifully wrapped gifts for moms.



Thank you to C.U.P.E. Local 30, City of Edmonton Outside Workers for the children's gifts!



Stacey Mask and Syncrude's Women's Interest Network generously donate gifts for the 'Kids are Elves' program (the kids shop and pick out a gift for their mom!)



Thank you to everyone who donated to our 16th Annual Online Auction.

- * Alberta Blue Cross
- * Andrew Kay TD Waterhouse
- * Anna Mayer
- * Atelier Portage
- * Belay Advisory
- * Bonnie Doon Bowling
- * BWWB Quilting Bee
- * Canadian Dry Air Desiccant Systems Inc.
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- * Doughnut Party
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- * Fairmont Hotel McDonald
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- * Lululemon West
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- * Matrix Hotel
- * Matthew Fowler
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- * Pazzo Pazzo
- * PCI Supply
- * Renaissance Edmonton Airport Hotel
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- * Strut Footwear & Apparel
- * Studio B
- * Sue & David McDonald
- * Sweet Skin Beauty
- * The Highlevel Diner
- * The Melting Pot Edmonton
- * The Painted Door
- * The Running Room
- * Token Naturals
- * Towne Goods
- * Village Eye Center
- * Vines Wines
- * Virtu Boutique
- * Weir Bowen LLP
- * Wheaton Honda
- * Whimsical Cake Studio
- * Whiteridge Premium Products



WINGS Online Auction raised \$18,459!

As well as the members of **WINGS Special Events Committee** and Board of Directors who tirelessly sought out items for the auction. We could not have done it without you!

Make Believe Ball donations are still rolling in—stay tuned for an update!



Families at WINGS struggle with poverty and the long term effects of abuse. Please support WINGS! Donate online: wingsofprovidence.ca; Cheques payable to: Wings of Providence or, donate by credit card (call 780-426-4985)

\$5 Membership
 \$35
 \$50
 \$75
 \$100
 \$150
 \$175
 Surprise Us
 I would like to support WINGS with a monthly contribution (tax receipt issued annually in December)

Payment
 VISA/MC/AMEX # _____
 Expiry Date (Month/Year) _____
 Name (as it appears on Credit Card) _____
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 Email _____ Phone _____

THANK YOU for your gift. Together we can make a difference



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 Cynthia Chen Rita Panthi
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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS.
 Every gift, large or small, is important to the families at WINGS



Community Services and Supports Division
 Housing and Homeless Supports

Putting Women's Health First

