

Winter 2023

DOVE TALES



Holiday Greetings from the Executive Director

As we approach the holiday season, I am filled with gratitude, reflecting on the incredible journey we've shared throughout this challenging yet resilient year.

This year has been a testament to the strength and courage of the remarkable families we serve. Despite hurdles, our community has come together to support, uplift, and empower the women and children at WINGS. In the spirit of the season, I wanted to take a moment to share some highlights and express our deepest appreciate.

Triumphs and Resilience: Our residents have faced adversity head-on, demonstrating immense strength and resilience. It is heartening to witness the transformative power of support, compassion, and a nurturing environment. Your triumphs are our triumphs, and we celebrate each milestone achieved.

Community Support: The support from our community has been nothing short of extraordinary. From generous donations to volunteer efforts, your commitment to our cause has made a lasting impact. Together, we are creating a safe haven where families can rebuild their lives and rediscover hope.

Hope for the Future: As we embrace the festive season, let us carry the spirit of hope into the coming year. Our shared commitment to fostering a community of compassion and empowerment will continue to be the driving force behind our efforts. Together, we can create a future where every woman feels valued, supported, and equipped for success.

On behalf of the entire WINGS family, I extend heartfelt gratitude to each supporter, volunteer, and resident. Your contributions have not only made a difference, but have also created a foundation for positive change.

-Kathy Collins
Executive Director



A big thank you to Saradee Boutique for donating beautiful new women's clothing to WINGS. There was a large variety of much needed new clothes, including winter coats, dresses, jeans, blouses and more. Thank you to Jessica and everyone at Saradee Boutique.



The Edmonton Employee Benefits Association raised \$5000 for WINGS at their 2023 Charity Golf Tournament. Thank you to everyone at EEBA who organized and participated in a fantastic day of golf - and supported a great cause!



Childcare News

Hello everyone! I'm so excited to share some updates from our childcare. The Fall season is passing by so fast with lots of playful times and fun filled family events. We're all enjoying the splendid extended Fall weather. The children at WINGS loved watching the changing colours of the leaves, and seeing them fall on the ground. They explored a Fall themed sensory bin and made a variety of crafts using natural elements like feathers, leaves and seeds.

Early October we had a Thanksgiving celebration where the children performed the "Turkey Hokey Pokey" in front of their moms. The performance followed by sharing delicious snacks along with yummy apple and pumpkin pies. There might have even been some ice cream.

For Halloween, the children had a great time carving pumpkins with their moms,

dressing up, making masks, doing the "Monster Mash" dance, decorating, and eating Halloween cookies & cupcakes. Many of the moms mentioned that they had never had the opportunity to attend such a wonderful occasion like this before. It's truly incredible to see their pure happiness shine.

Now we are beginning our Holiday season, with lots of joyful activities on the horizon. Children will be busy decorating Christmas trees, making festive crafts like tree ornaments, paper roll reindeers, pipe cleaner candy canes, Santa puppets, and so much more. We will be reading holiday stories from different traditions and singing carols together with the children. We've also got some fun gingerbread house decorating in store!

Our deep respect and humble gratitude to those people who support our events and donate their time, money, talent, and treasures to WINGS to help us do our work. Your generosity shows the real meaning of the Holiday Season. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and peaceful, happy New Year 2024!

-Papya Rahman
Childcare Supervisor

Rocky Forest Daycare

Rocky Forest Daycare and Out of School Care is in our 8th year of providing trauma informed care for families at WINGS, Home Next Door and Outreach clients. We continue to support mothers and their children as a preventative program to break the cycle of abuse. By creating an atmosphere of respect and caring, moms feel comfortable to ask for parenting strategies when there are challenges and are happy to celebrate their successes with us. The children learn their strength in their heart and soul by expressing themselves through play and learning social & problem-solving skills, while having fun with their friends and receiving guidance from Educators.

We continue our FLIGHT framework curriculum journey with support from our partner through ARQE (Alberta Resources and Quality Enhancement). Educators enrich their skills by upgrading their professional knowledge in childcare through courses offered by a variety of community agencies, Family Wellness Initiative, Grant MacEwan University and ARQE.

Our first phase of the new playground is complete! The children have been enjoying hours of fun - using those big muscles through gross motor play, creativity through imagination, and the pure joy of climbing and sliding.



The second phase - an Appollo - is a version of a merry go round, and once funds are raised, we will be reaching out to Blue Imp to complete our secure play area.

Accurate Network Services volunteered their time and paid for paint to freshen up the RFDC & OSC. They also added a new garden plot in the playground area and the bulbs are planted for the spring.

It is through your donations that we are able to offer trained professional Early Childhood Educators who create trauma informed activities to enrich the lives of children at the most important age of their development; delicious snack options that are culturally sensitive and healthy to feed those growing brains and bodies; and a warm, comfortable space where children can feel safe and secure.

Wishing you peace, love and joy this holiday season.

-Brenda Kotylak
Director of RFDC & OSC





From the Fund Development Team!

We are so appreciative of the support from our amazing community this past year - it has had a profound impact on the families at WINGS. Thank you for not only believing in the life-saving work being done at WINGS, but also for standing up and surrounding our families with your love and support.

Some highlights from this past year include:

- Early in the year, there were a number of third-party events that kindly fundraised for WINGS - including a Lord of the Wings concert, Funnies for Families comedy night, a concert put on by Montreal-based artist Mekel, and a Square Dancing night by Double Diamond Dancing - all in support of WINGS.

- In the Spring our lovely Mother's Day Tea returned to in-person, and was held at a new location in Stony Plain - we had a record number of guests (300!) and had a fantastic day celebrating moms and raising funds for WINGS! Our NEW Rocky Forest Daycare Playground was opened this spring too (with help from some generous donors), and the kids have absolutely loved climbing and playing on the new equipment! We also had a number of amazing volunteers come out to support WINGS by helping at our Casino this spring - thank you!
- In the Summer, we really felt the love of the community at WINGS! The Run for Kelli campaign, which was organized by a group of supporters in honour and memory of their friend Kelli, ran a marathon together and raised \$10,000 for WINGS. We also had a big Tie-Dye Day for the families at WINGS and Home Next Door, and the Millwoods Community Church were gracious enough to come volunteer to barbecue and serve everyone lunch. There were also 2 Golf Tournaments held in support of WINGS - Edmonton Employee Benefits Association, and Advocis Edmonton. And at the end of the Summer, Accurate Network Services came with 50 of their employees and spend a Saturday painting our hallways, daycare spaces and more!
- In the Fall, we launched our Build a Backpack program and received many backpacks filled with new school supplies for the children! We also kicked off our WINGMAN campaign, and had 15 WINGMEN take a stand against domestic violence and help raise over \$20,000 in support of WINGS. In October, WINGS was chosen by 16 local Shoppers Drug Mart stores as the recipient charity of their #GivingShelter campaign. In November, WINGS supporters bid on our Make-Believe Ball Online Auction and bought raffle tickets too (for the WestJet Flight Voucher!) - all for a good cause of course! Our Special Events Committee also won a National Philanthropy Day award in November too!

Unfortunately, we don't have space to include all of our amazing supporters - but please know that we are so appreciative to everyone for helping to make brighter futures for the families at WINGS!

And now, we are excited to get into the Christmas Spirit! If you would like to support WINGS this Christmas season, please go to www.wingsofprovidence.ca/santas-workshop or email Debbie at dgregg@wingsofprovidence.ca

Even If...

Even if only one woman calls needing support to leave her abusive partner, and I can help her - it will be worth it.

Even if only one person comes to shelter with her children and finds a safe place to sleep and live - it will be worth it.

Even if only one woman finds an empathetic ear and comfort as she cries about her pain and her story - it will be worth it.

Even if only one woman learns that no matter how he blamed her, abuse is not her fault - it will be worth it.

Even if only one woman learns that she is not alone and that others at group understand her pain - it will have been worth it.

Even if only one family starts to relax and share meals together - it will have been worth it.

Even if only one family begins to be silly together, and laughs and has giggles - it will have been worth it.

Even if one family connects to the community, finds employment, feels in charge of their life and sees that even more is possible - it will have been worth it.

Even if one family feels hope and feels free to be who they are - it will have been worth it.

And even if one of these families shares their story with someone still trapped in abuse and tells them there is a way out - it will have been so very worth it.

It is worth it. All of it and more.

-Karen Kingdom
Program Coordinator



Your support helps heal the whole family by providing:

- Safe, long-term housing
- Wrap around support services
- Counselling, social and youth programs
- Early learning childcare and daycare

With your participation in the WINGS vision and mission, we have served:

- **1416 women and 3130 children** in our second stage shelter.
- **279 women and 548 children** at HND and through Outreach support.

It is impossible to do this without many friends, benefactors and generous people in our community. Some of you have been faithful to WINGS since its inception. How grateful we are for all of you! Together we provide hope. It is only with community that we can be catalysts of healing and transformation. Together we provide vision of endless possibilities, for each family. Lets ensure that, together, we are there for the next family who reaches out for what WINGS provides.

Please consider
supporting
WINGS today.!



Donate through our website!

Cheques can be made payable to:
WINGS of Providence. Mailing address:
PO Box 32141, Edmonton AB, T6K 4C2

Thank you to everyone who donated to our 18th Annual Online Auction in November!

- 70 Acre Brew Co.
- ACI Architects Inc.
- Andrew Kay
- Bings Chinese Restaurant
- Bonnie Doon Bowling Lanes
- Cameron Communities
- Caron Services
- Cordell & Nellie Allers
- Double Diamond Electronics Ltd.
- Dr. Dennis Meyer and Associates
- Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge
- Festival Place
- Greg Hogge
- Hillberg & Burk
- Jill Tomanek
- Jim Cregan
- Kingston Ross Pasnak LLP
- Linda & Ken Churchill
- Moira Walker
- Nicholas Leong
- PCI Supply
- Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge
- Raymond Caron
- Rick Bronson's The Comic Strip
- Rockin' Robyn's Diner
- Roger Burns
- Sandman Hotel Group
- Shoppers Drug Mart
- STRUT Footwear & Apparel
- Sue McDonald
- Tami Wetmore
- The Melting Pot
- The Spa at Ambleside
- Village Eye Centre
- WestJet

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

The Online Auction raised \$10,000!

We are proud to announce that WINGS' Special Events Committee received a National Philanthropy Day Award in recognition of their outstanding achievements and contributions to WINGS and the community. We thank these amazing volunteers for contributing their time, talents, and resources in support of women and children at WINGS that have fled domestic violence. Congratulations!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tami Wetmore, Chair
Heather Beyko
Parm Johal
Jennifer Morrison

Suzanne Harbottle, Vice-Chair
James Cregan
Anani Klutse
Carmen Werbowetsky

Ashley Moisey, Treasurer
Pat Garrett
Tessa Leong
Kathy Collins, Executive Director
(ex officio)

Dr. Moira Walker, Secretary
Jennifer Ingledew
Marcia McDonald

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

Every gift, large or small, is important to the families at WINGS



United Way
Alberta Capital Region



**William & Florence
Lede Family Foundation**

Wishlist

- New Pillows
- New twin sheet sets
- Drinking Glasses
- Toilet Bowl Scrubbers
- New Coffee Makers



**REALTORS®
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

EDMONTON & AREA