



Dove Tales

Women in Need Growing Stronger

Christmas 2007

The Magic of the Season

The holidays are a special and hectic time for WINGS. So many of our families have forgotten the magic and joy of the holiday season. It is easy for each of us to lose sight of the magic of the season. It is easy to be distracted by the chaos of the malls and scheduling all the parties, school recitals and holiday get-togethers. We focus so much on getting through the season we fail to stop and enjoy it. Imagine how easy it is to lose sight of the magic when your family is living in fear or running from violence.

It is possible to restore the magic in our lives and others. The key is at the centre of this important holiday season - - giving. Giving of time, money, prayers and thoughts can restore magic to the season. We see it at WINGS each month through the generosity of our staff, volunteers and donors. But we recognize it most specifically during this special season.

We try very hard during the holidays to restore a little magic to the lives of our women and children. Each year, through the efforts of our staff and numerous volunteers and donors, we offer the families Christmas parties, a beautiful Christmas hamper and presents under the tree on Christmas morning. It is magic.

As I have said before, it is difficult to convey the difference each of you make to our families. The women and children are in awe that complete strangers will arrange for a party, or give time, or provide gifts, or donate a holiday meal. Your support restores magic to their lives. Thank you!

Have a wonderful holiday season – enjoy the magic!

Marta

Marta Burns, President



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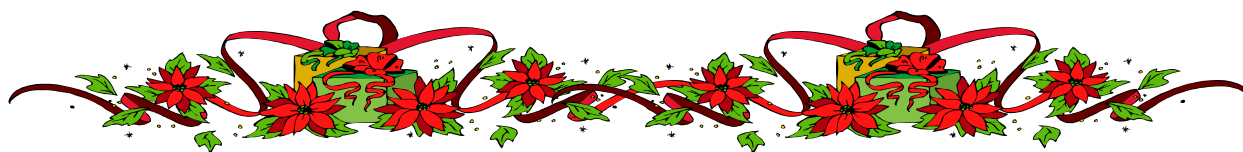
Season's Greetings from the Director

In November there was a flurry of activities for Family Violence Prevention Month to increase the awareness of this important and unfortunately growing problem in our communities. This year's theme both municipally and provincially was "Stop the Silence/ End the Violence". This simple slogan says it all as it is only by stopping the silence and talking about family violence that we can hope to break the cycle of violence and create safer families and communities.

At Wings we are now getting ready to celebrate the spirit of giving that the Christmas Season brings. I would like to thank all of you who support Wings at Christmas by providing the women and children at Wings a safe, happy Christmas and most importantly hope for future Christmas' to come! We couldn't do that without your support.

Soon it will be time to make our New Year's resolutions and reflect on the past year. I would like to thank the Board of Wings for volunteering your time and skills for Wings. I would like to thank the dedicated staff at Wings who make a difference in the life of a woman or a child every day. I would like to thank our community supporters because without you we couldn't carry on with our life saving and life transforming work. Let's hope the New Year brings Peace and Joy to us all. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Patricia Garrett
Executive Director



Growing stronger, and stronger ...

Recently a mom who lived at Wings looked up our website and sent this message via the internet. When I asked –she gave us her permission to share it with our readers: We are proud to share this – it is always heartwarming to know positive changes are happening:

Name: Pam

Email: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Message: Hi you guys! I don't know if you remember me but it's Pam XXXXX, tall, real tall, blonde lol. I just wanted to drop you a quick note to let you know that me and the boys are doing really well. Aidan is in Grade 4 now, and Aaron, Grade 1!!!! time really flies. I'm attending University now at the University of Calgary, and it's fabulous to be turning the ole wheels so to speak hahaha. Well, I just wanted to say hi, and to thank you all for my time there years ago ... It changed my life forever :) Lots of love, Pam
P.S. Happy Halloween!

End of message

Child Care Chatter ...

What a privilege it is for Child Care staff to care for the little children that come to WINGS. It is so important for these little ones to have a place to come to where it is safe to be children. Again and again I am overwhelmed with what these children have been through at such a young age that I am so grateful for WINGS, a place where these little ones may begin their healing journey.

October is one of our busier months in Child Care as we have the opportunity to have two Family Day Celebrations! The pre-school children, sporting their handmade "Turkey Hats", joined all our Moms for a Thanksgiving Day snack of apple and pumpkin pie with lots of whip cream and ice cream. Our Halloween Family Day turned out to be such a fun morning! Dressing up, pumpkin carving and mask making were the highlights of the morning. What talent we have at WINGS!

Outside play is the children's favourite part of the day! The moment they come into Child Care they are asking staff if we are going outside!

November is Family Violence Prevention Month and our theme is "Hands are NOT for hitting". We as staff have been using this theme as a reminder to the children throughout their everyday play time in Child Care.

Every Wednesday morning we have a Mom/Child Play Group for all Moms with their pre-school children. This is an extension of the Parenting Program at WINGS. There is a strong focus on interaction between mother and child through songs, rhymes and play because play is such an important part of a child's development. And playing with your child encourages the tremendous benefit and healing of a lifelong bond with your child which may have been interrupted when a family lives with family violence.

We have been blessed with Jill Tomanek and Dale Joslin, our two volunteers. They each come once a week giving their time and love to the children in Child Care! They are so deeply appreciated by staff and tremendously loved by the children! Thank you to both of you for your care and concern for our little ones!

As Christmas draws near we are filled with the excitement and anticipation of the season. Decorating of the tree, the tour of lights at Hawrelek Park, a Christmas Party and our children's favourite, a visit from Santa are all the things we at WINGS are looking forward to. I am thankful that our families may experience a Christmas filled with fun, joy and laughter this year.

Thank you to all of you for your continued support. Because of your caring and generous hearts the little ones at WINGS can begin to heal and live lives free of family violence.

Sheila, Coreen and I (Child Care staff) wish you all a very blessed Christmas!

Jane Kooistra, Child Care Supervisor



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The financial facts ...

Wings is so aptly named Wings of Providence because we know there are wonderful outside influences helping us to reach our annual operating costs. Call it destiny, divine intervention or positive external circumstances -- Wings receives solid community support and we are so thankful. Our fund raising portion of our budget is approximately \$600,000. This is how we do it - we have had some great events this fall:

- ♥ October 6, 2007 - 70 volunteers were needed to work the Oilers 50/50 event
- ♥ St. Paul's Foundation approved a grant application from us.
- ♥ Lynda Steele of Global TV launched her book Laptop Diaries – proceeds to go to 5 Edmonton shelters – Wings being one of them. Way to go Lynda!
- ♥ ALPC–Alberta Ladies Petroleum Classic. It started with a call from Sheila Picton, Weatherford. AMAZING–the ladies raised \$17,000 & golfed & laughed.
- ♥Our second annual **Make Believe Ball** and online auction was a huge success. We are still receiving responses - Some with some interesting quips – so we know our readers have a sense of humor. The auction was first class. Sisters of Providence, Seanna and Susannah WOW! Great auction items. We couldn't have done it without the generous donations of auction items from everyone – yes that means YOU! I am lining things up already for next year!
- ♥Meshuggah Nuns – an Into the Light Production – thought of us with their production. All proceeds to Wings. Thankyou.
- ♥ AltaFab and the Taillefer family continue to amaze us with their dedication.
- ♥Connie Lloyd and Sheila Negraeff and their dependable hard working group will once again provide a huge Christmas party for all our families.
- ♥Susannah Staios opened her home for 'Ladies Night In' once again. What a wonderful evening. Susannah you are the BEST!
- ♥ Lily Kriese and her Herbal Magic crew did an awesome job for us.
- ♥ Zellers and HBC - Kingsway and Meadowlark continue to support our families.
- ♥ Wings' Nest Egg Club. Wings is building an Endowment within the Edmonton Community Foundation. Our goal of this Legacy work is to realize an ongoing revenue stream for operations (in perpetuity). This is a new fund development strategy for Wings – call me if you would like to know more. Wings is working closely with the Edmonton community Foundation and Sue Nunn, Planned Giving Specialist, in this area.

So many good people are at work to help us reach our financial goals so our program can continue uninterrupted. A big thanks to each one of you – it really does take a village to raise a child – YOU are our village!

Merry Christmas

Linda Churchill

Mgr, Resources & Development

lchurchill@wingsofprovidence.ca



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You taught me!

The other day I was walking through Zellers. My intention was to pick up some things for our Staff Christmas meeting the next day. Okay, I was also hoping to get something for me! I was reflecting on how good Zellers has been to us over the years helping with Christmas and with so many other needs of our families.

Then I thought of how it feels to give. To give anything. A smile. A coffee. A gift. A Christmas Hamper. I remembered how much of Wings has been built on your giving. I was feeling nostalgic and very, very grateful as I thought of those who give so generously to the families here. It came to mind how your giving helps our families and gives them not only "stuff" but a home and a sense of worth. How fulfilling that is. Giving lets us feel good and feel grateful. However, you have no idea how wonderful you help these families feel on Christmas morning and each morning that they are safe from violence. You have such a large heart! A Community heart! A heart that considers those who are afraid, lonely and ashamed. We have such good friends here at Wings. Some of the names and faces graced my memory as I thought of people who have given to our families for years and for those who are new to our family. I think of you with warmth and gratitude. Our women are often touched by your giving and respond with "but they don't even know us!". No, you don't know them yet the compassion continues to help our families celebrate Christmas and a new way of living. Your compassion helps them live in safe furnished apartments and heal through a comprehensive counseling program. Your giving helps them with fun activities and events during the holiday season and throughout the year.

Some of you I have not met. But, I would like to meet you and hope to do so one day. I know you have good and kind hearts. There is so much I have learned from you. Thank you for your compassion, love and many kindnesses. Merry Christmas!

Karen Kingdom
Program Coordinator.



Way to go ALPC – Alberta Ladies Petroleum Classic – This committee raised funds for Wings through a very successful golf day. Thank you. Committee from l-r Gayla Breckenridge, Marilyn Kirwer, Karen Alexander, Tanis Kydd, Sheila Picton, Linda Churchill – accepting on behalf of Wings, Anne Fisher, Teresa Lee.



Steve's on the ice # 24 and yet Susannah Staios is helping Wings sell 50/50 tickets. Thanks to everyone who helped on Oct 6. Lots of fun.

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From a volunteer ...

I was delighted to be asked to write a few words for the WINGS newsletter. As we approach the holiday season we have much to celebrate in the accomplishments of WINGS over the past year, and much to look forward to for the coming year. On behalf of the Board, I would like to wish everyone all the best for the Christmas season. I would especially like to thank all those who support WINGS - as volunteers, donors, friends, and ambassadors. Without your support the important and effective programs that WINGS provides to families would not be possible. I would also like to recognize and thank all the WINGS' staff for their excellent and tireless work which ensures that families at WINGS experience a positive Christmas, and are supported in their healing journey throughout the year. WINGS is an extremely well run and effective organization, and it has been a privilege and rewarding experience to participate as a Board member. There is always more to be done! As we look forward to 2008, we hope that some of you will consider joining the Board and extending the success and strengths of WINGS. Best wishes for the holiday season!

Alan Knowles

(Alan Knowles has been a Board member for the past three years and is a member of the Personnel Committee)





Families at Wings struggle constantly with poverty and all the barriers that brings especially during Christmas season. Please support Wings. Cheques payable to: Wings of Providence, **or** you can donate by credit card, **or** you can donate online at www.wingsofprovidence.ca

_____ **\$5 Membership** _____ **\$25** _____ **\$50**

_____ **\$100** _____ **\$ My preferred contribution**

_____ **I would like to support Wings with a monthly contribution**
(tax receipt issued annually in December)

Payment
VISA/MC # _____ Expiry Date (Month/Year) _____

Name (as it appears on Credit Card) _____

Address _____

E mail _____ Phone _____

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

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Statistics

From April 1, 1987 to Nov 30, 2007
WINGS has accommodated **776** families including:
776 women with
1782 children
For a total of **2558** persons



**Donate
Online**

We are trying to make it as easy as possible for donors. You can now make monetary donations to Wings of Providence online! Just visit our website www.wingsofprovidence.ca and click on the icon "Donate now" through Canada-Helps.org. It is that simple. Thank you for your support.

Some positions to fill at Wings:

- 1) Support worker to cover a maternity leave
- 2) Facility coordinator f/t
- 3) Part-time week end/evening security reception position.

If you are interested in any of these positions please direct inquiries to Patricia Garrett at pgarrett@wingsofprovidence.ca (please no calls) We can send the full job ad to you and you can submit a resume to us.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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