



Dove Tales

Women in Need Growing Stronger

Christmas 2008

Seasons Greetings.

As the Festive Season quickly approaches and a new year soon begins I reflect on the many accomplishments at Wings to make women and children safer and improve their quality of life. This life transforming work could not be achieved without our dedicated Board of Directors, committed staff, volunteers and solid supporters. I thank you for making a difference to the families we serve.

When a family first arrives at our doors all too often they are tired from living in crisis, overwhelmed with challenges that lay ahead and fearful and angry that their lives feels out of control. There is much work to do on this healing journey and a safe supportive community is a good place to start. A family's stay at Wings is hopefully a path to new opportunities and hope. What do families need after Wings? These families need access to safe, affordable housing as well as opportunities to upgrade their skills so they don't have to continue to live in poverty. They need a system that holds the perpetrator accountable for their abusive behavior. Unfortunately there is still a lot of work to do before we see an improved quality of life for these families. The courage, strength and resilience of these families are both an inspiration to me and a privilege to witness.

It is only as a community working together that we can continue to look at solutions to reducing the growing problem of family violence. I look forward to a New Year with renewed hope. Thanks to all who are working to end violence against women.

Patricia Garrett
Executive Director



WINGS of Providence, PO Box 32141, Edmonton AB T6K 4C2

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T'was the night before Christmas and all through the house,
Someone was raging...namely my spouse.

The children were frightened and stared straight ahead
Then they ran to their rooms and hid in their beds.

The turkey went flying right through the air
It slid with the presents, to the bottom of the stairs.

I cried to myself, I truly was scared.
Take the kids and run I thought...but I didn't dare.

T'was the night before Christmas but the scene wasn't rare.
It happened over and over; it just wasn't fair.

The plans that we'd made, lost, due to a fight.
It couldn't go on. It just wasn't right.

No family or friends our way were bound.
No visitors want to share in that silence, that tension, the sounds.

With the Spirit of Christmas no where in sight,
The general feeling was panic and fright.

Disappointment was thick; it hung in the air.
As parents I thought, we made a terrible pair.

The children still quiet were feigning sleep.
I went to bed but only could weep.

The next day we'd laugh nervously and pretend.
Although the sacred day had been ruined yet again.

I begged him to stop (for the hundredth time);
I pleaded that we seek help from somewhere.
But he insisted that the problem was me and the blame rested solely
there.

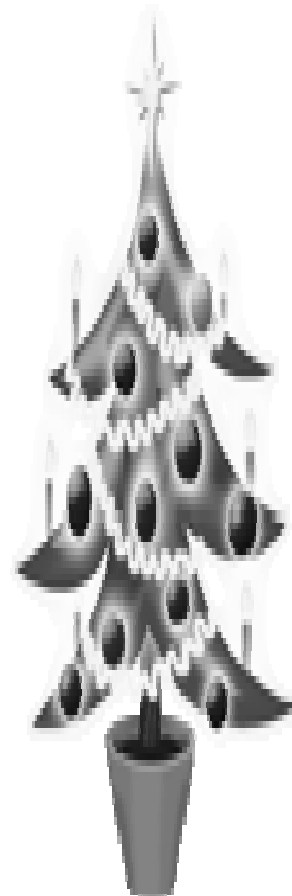
I vowed at that moment with nothing to mend,
It was up to me to bring the madness to an end.

I reached out for help the very next day.
I'll be darned if change didn't begin to happen that way.
And soon I realized that we just couldn't stay.

Once again, T'is the night before Christmas and all through the house
The children are at ease, their smiles sincere.
This Christmas approaches with actual cheer!

As I and my children look forward to the upcoming year,
The peace and joy of the season are finally here.

Chantal Hunter
Transition worker



Report from the Resource Office

There is a universal picture of doom and gloom in the business world right now. We are often asked how that affects our funding. Well it does however we remain positive and count on our loyal donors to continue their unwavering support. It is always the regular Mr. and Mrs. Smith who send the regular donation for our regular budget needs that keep us in financial stability. Thank you for remembering us. Our fund raising portion of our budget is approximately \$600,000. This is how we do it:

- ♥ Financial donations from individuals and corporations.
- ♥ Edmonton Kinette Club held a Spring Fling and donated \$11,049 to Wings
- ♥ Al Amira – Daughters of the Nile assist with the cost of a staff position.
- ♥ Hearts of Blue had a ‘Grille Day’ and donated proceeds to Wings
- ♥ Vivian Broks remembers the families at Wings.
- ♥ ALPC–Alberta Ladies Petroleum Classic. It started with a call from Sheila Picton, Weatherford last year. AMAZING–the ladies raised \$18,000 & golfed & laughed. Thanks Theresa, Ann, Marilyn and all.
- ♥Edmonton Realtor’s charitable Foundation approved our application for funding.
- ♥Our Third 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. Petro Comm, Seanna and Mayor Mandel 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!
- ♥Landmark Homes is committed to seeing Wings continues operation.
- ♥ 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! This was the 4th Annual
- ♥ Zellers and HBC - 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). 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!

Mark your 2009 Calendar



Kinettes Spring Fling Friday, April 17, 2009

Mother’s Day Tea Saturday May 9th, 2009

CASINO Mon and Tues May 25 and 26. Volunteers needed please.

Merry Christmas
Linda Churchill
Mgr, Resources & Development
lchurchill@wingsofprovidence.ca

Statistics

From April 1, 1987 to Nov 30, 2008
WINGS has accommodated **817** families including:
817 women with
1890 Children
For a total of **2707** persons



WINGS of Providence, PO Box 32141, Edmonton AB T6K 4C2

Christmas Wishes...

At Christmas we try to bring as much happiness as possible to our Wings' families who are grieving and struggling with what has happened. The parties, the gifts, the special activities, like the bus tour of Bright Nites and MacDonalds supper, are all possible because of your donations and support. These events are like bright stars in the dark night of dealing with family violence. The families begin to believe "it can be different" and "it can be good". These families face a future of uncertainty but your generosity makes it possible to provide the programs and support they need to grow and be at peace.

I remember as a child looking at the Sears Wish book. It seemed magical and it displayed a world that, even though I might not have it, I knew was possible. Our families have wishes too. They may not be in a book or have pictures but we try to "paint pictures" of what good might become reality for them. They often wonder if it can really come true or does it really exist somewhere? We try to help them learn how to "order from the catalogue of life" all that they want for themselves and especially their children. What do they want? What would they order from the wish book if they could? We were recently talking about this during group. There were no real surprises as they listed things like; happiness, safety, health, communication, respect, laughter, honesty and for everyone to just be able to be themselves. There was nothing extravagant or outrageous. Although all the women know they need "things" to live no one focused on financial stability or material things. These women just want good things for their family to grow. It was the same list whether the women were from Africa, Ontario, Hobbema or Edmonton.

Our women have many hopes and wishes. This is so good as sometimes they can become discouraged and feel that nothing they do will make a difference; that all their wishes are just that, wishing. Our women are realists and know that they cannot just use their wishbone but that change also takes much hard work and backbone. There is hope, always hope.

Thank you for supporting our families in making their wishes come true. May all your Christmas wishes come true for you during this holiday season and in 2009.

Karen Kingdom
Program Coordinator



(Young) Women in need growing stronger ...

On Tuesdays I meet with a counselor and the other teens for "teen group" Some of the things we talk about are safety, feelings, anger and self-esteem. On days that we can't sit still we do a creative project like make a collage. Group is cool because everyone says different things, and you have all of these different opinions to think about. One skill that I've learned in group is how to express my feelings in a way that others can understand.

It's fun having something to do on weekdays other than school. Chillaxin is something to look forward to on Mondays, which seem to be the longest day of the week. I like it when we get to go out to the movies or make cookies. For Halloween we organized a party for the younger kids. We had as much fun as they did. We got to shop for treats and supplies, decorate the group room, and organize crafts and spooky games. As a snack we gave the kids worms and dirt...well not exactly. It was actually chocolate pudding and gummy worms.

I like living at WINGS because everyone here knows each other and it's great to have friends living in the same building as you. There are some really great things coming up. I'm looking forward to going skating, getting manicures and Christmas break. Overall, WINGS is a great place for everybody.

A young woman at Wings – age 14

Hangin' Out with the Kids

The kids and teens at WINGS are doing great as always. They all made it back to school armed with a backpack full of school supplies and were excited to make new friends. The kids are all so ready and willing to join in any activity. They love to make crafts and play games outside. Even the six year olds are excited to come to group on Monday afternoons and can be heard saying: "Is it time for group yet? Can I come?"

The teens are so much fun. We are planning to go skiing at rabbit hill this winter. The girls have also expressed a great deal of excitement about the possibility of going skating at Hawrelak Park in the new year. It is such a gift to be able to provide the youth with these opportunities of growth and experience. The teens however, receive much more from WINGS than fun outings and activities. They meet once a week to talk about serious issues such as anger, healthy relationships and self-esteem. At the end of one of these sessions, the girls came up with the slogan: "Be a kid, have fun, move ahead in life." The wisdom and strength in these words is so inspiring, it is amazing that the phrase was produced by a group of 12-14 year old girls. The teens just celebrated the end of this cycle of group topics and were each given a t-shirt with the saying printed in bold pink letters. The girls loved the shirts, and were so proud of what they had accomplished at their time here at WINGS.

Erica Knutson
Youth Worker



Child Care Chatter

With twenty-five pre-school children WINGS' Child Care is a very busy place. Sometimes I pause to observe the children playing, interacting with each other and with Child Care staff, and think about what these precious little ones have already endured at such a young age. When families move to WINGS and the children first come to Child Care, they are often very quiet and afraid or filled with anger and confusion. Slowly the smiles come and the children begin to relax and feel that our Child Care is a safe, fun place. And then Child Care staff are rewarded with big smiles, high fives or running hugs!! It can't get any better than that!

Thanksgiving Day and Halloween have gone by with wonderful Family Day celebrations. It's great to be able to celebrate together and have fun with each other. Perhaps these celebrations will become new traditions for our families!

Now a little snow has arrived, Christmas lights are going up and excitement is in the air. Child Care is slowly filling up with Christmas decorations. Each day the children come into Child Care with big smiles and twinkling eyes as they take in the added creations they have made. They are so proud to see their work displayed, pointing to the ones that belong to them!

It is my hope and prayer that this Christmas will be a wonderful experience for the children, a time when there is no fear and anxiety. This will and does happen for the children at WINGS but not without your care and concern and your generous hearts. What greater gift can be given to a child – a chance for a change in their lives to be free from family violence. Thank you to all of you for your support, we see daily the positive effects of your generosity.

Wishing all of you a Blessed Christmas!

Jane Kooistra
Child Care Supervisor

Growing stronger...

I lived with violence all my life. I was raised by alcoholic grandparents. I ran away from home into an abusive relationship. I ended that relationship, became a single mom at an early age. I thought that I was mature and had figured life out. I again entered another abusive relationship, which lasted fifteen years. I never realized that there were places like Wings. I knew about shelters but never thought of going to them in the past. I'm so glad that I made that decision. I'm so grateful to the staff of Wings, for their kindness, supports, and the chance to rebuild our lives.

My children and I are so much happier and they really enjoy group time as well as meeting, and making new friends. They've also become more resourceful in helping out. We all pitch in to make our days more fulfilling.

Our next step is moving into our own home. I'm thankful again to the staff at Wings for helping us and guiding us with resources in the community. It is wonderful to know that there are very kind people like the staff at Wings whom are willing to help families such as mine. I always knew deep down inside of me that some people are doing something about family violence. Again I would like to say thank you to the staff at Wings and all of you who support the work being done here.

Sincerely,
A mom at Wings of Providence



 Families at Wings struggle constantly with poverty and all the barriers that brings. 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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Lots of Glitter– Art work from Wings children for Christmas Bulletin Board.



More art work from children.



- *****
 ☆
 ☆ **Wish List/Dream List** ☆
 ☆ **Wish List (** priority items)** ☆
 ☆ (Wings has 20 fully furnished apartments) ☆
 ☆ ***Single sheet sets, comforters, pillows ☆
 ☆ ***Single mattress pads ☆
 ☆ Towels/face cloths, T-towels, dish cloths ☆
 ☆ ***Good knife sets/block knife holders ☆
 ☆ for Collective kitchen program ☆
 ☆ Baby/kids/teen clothing/**WINTER BOOTS ☆
 ☆ ***Bus Tickets ☆
 ☆ ***Children toys ☆
 ☆ *** Cookie sheets, rolling pins, cutters ☆
 ☆ Pots/pans, Laundry baskets ☆
 ☆ Non perishable foods, Baby formula, diapers ☆
 ☆ 2 or 3 Cool mist humidifiers ☆
 ☆ ***Industrial size pots for Collective Kitchen cooking ☆
 ☆ ***Turkeys or hams ☆
 ☆ ***Grocery Gift certificates, turkeys or hams & trimmings ☆
 ☆ Baby thermometers, bean bags to apply heat or ice to injury ☆
 ☆ Beginner level books for kids just learning to read ☆
 ☆
 ☆ **Dream List** ☆
 ☆ No more family violence! Peace on Earth! ☆
 ☆ Board members*** ☆
 ☆ Volunteers with truck to help move furniture for our families ☆
 ☆ Volunteers to help with our special events committee*** ☆
 ☆ Wii for the kid's group Wii games ☆
 ☆ Digital camera ☆
 ☆ Tickets to events for the teens (ie-Oilers tickets or tickets to see plays or concerts) ☆
 ☆
 ☆*****

Jordan Mohr brings presents to Wings. (She asks guests to her birthday party, to bring gifts for Wings' children & not for her.)

Extraordinary Volunteers

Sadly we say goodbye to Jill Tomanek who has volunteered with Wings for 10 years or more. She was a faithful addition to our childcare every Tuesday morning – helping rock babies and wipe faces. Jill had many other faces at Wings – she connected us to now long standing friends in Fort Saskatchewan. She brought Louey – her boxer – to shine in 'pet therapy'. The kids loved Louey! She teaches yoga to the moms at Wings. She helps with gift wrapping every Christmas. She brings fabulous gently used donations from her circle of friends. She helps, helps, helps! She should write the handbook on what it means to be a volunteer. Jane and the childcare staff will miss Jill. We will all miss Jill but we will never replace the experience. Thank you from all of us.

Gift wrapping 2008

We will be wrapping gifts at Wings on Tuesday December 16 and Wednesday December 17. Call Linda if you can help. 780-426-4985 lchurchill@wingsofprovidence.ca



Al Amira-Daughters of Nile making a presentation to Wings.



Hearts of Blue (Blue Cross) Melanie Chouinard presents cheque to Linda Churchill-Wings.



Hearts of Blue—Some kids wanted in on the picture.



Alberta Petroleum Ladies Classic ALPC 2008

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 CanadaHelps.org. It is that simple. Thank you for your support.