



KAMLOOPS AND DISTRICT

Elizabeth Fry Society



ANNUAL REPORT

2023

Report from the President of the Board

On reflection 2023-2024 has been a year of exciting changes and new challenges. Throughout the past year the board of directors has been pleased to provide oversight and support to help our teams navigate these changes and challenges, with the goal of providing housing, programs and support to some of our most vulnerable families.

One highlight from the past year was welcoming women and children into, Penny's Place, our long-term housing program. This program provided 14 new residences for women in our community leaving domestic abuse and violence. Penny's Place was named after Penny Douglass in recognition for her 23 years of service to Elizabeth Fry as a long-time board member and volunteer. Penny continues to volunteer with us and she is an integral part of our organization.

Another highlight for the organization was The Gender Equity Program, conference at Thompson Rivers University, which was attended by community partners, donors, students, and academia. The board would like to thank Nicole Green, for all of her hard work and commitment to this project and for holding space for our community to have these very important discussion.

In February 2024, the board was very pleased to announce that Allison McLauchlan would be taking on the role of Executive Director. Allison comes to Elizabeth Fry from Kelowna and brings with her a wealth of experience in the social services sector, particularly with respect to women-focussed programs. Allison has been working in the violence against women and children sector for over 20 years and we are thrilled to have her aboard as we look forward to an exciting phase of new growth and change in our organization. The board of directors would also like to thank Holly-Rose Vesper who stepped in when needed and filled the role of interim executive director. Holly-Rose continues to show her passion and commitment to the work that we do, and we are thankful to have her continue to be a part of the leadership team.

The Board feel very honored to be part of this organization and thankful for our staff, leadership team, volunteers and for those, who provide financial support to our programs. It is due to your donations and fund-raising events that Kamloops Elizabeth Fry Society is able provide services and programs to vulnerable families within our community. I am sure that this coming year will be filled with successes and challenges, but I am confident that together we can face whatever comes our way. On behalf of the board, our teams and the countless families we have been able to support over the last year, thank you for your ongoing collaboration and commitment to our mission.



Board President
Rachel Lammers



Executive Director
Allison McLauchlan

"I am excited to take on the role of executive director and I can already see so many opportunities to grow and develop our existing services and the potential to create new programs. I want to thank the board for giving me this opportunity. It is a great feeling to have their trust and support. I would also like to thank all of the teams as they have welcomed me in and their commitment and desire to embrace this new chapter is inspiring"

BOARD OF DIRECTOR
2023 – 2024

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Rachel Lammers

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Jennifer Murphy

Treasurer
Kayley Boutcher

Secretary
Gayle Frank

Executive Director
Allison McLauchlan

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Sarah Naissmith | Agenlica Kovac | Marlene Harrison
Janielle CoKehyeng | Clay Gray

Family Stepping Stones

Throughout the last year the Family Stepping Stones was able to support 14 unique women and their 18 children, creating an overall impact on 32 individuals. We supported two family transitions into our new Women's Long Term Housing units (Penny's Place), one family unit into our community housing building, and one family out of community to attend post secondary school. Throughout the year folks in program had access to many supports, including volunteer hair services, volunteer counselling service, cultural connections and smudging, gardening and cooking experiences with their children and volunteers, food share and psycho-educational supports and connection to community.

"Since arriving at Family Stepping Stones, secure, safe housing with staff support, and Food share options, I am finally able to provide my son the nutritious meals he should have."

Housing Resources Service and Women's Housing Support Services programs continue to be a part of a network of services assisting people in locating and maintaining their housing. A lack of safe, affordable housing continues to be one of the most urgent issues facing the Kamloops community. These two services helped clients through access to information, referral assistance, locating housing, providing life skills training and other individualized supports to help folks maintain their housing. Throughout the 2023-2024 year these programs supported 1,324 people either obtain or maintain their housing in Kamloops.

A client came through the Women's Housing Support Program having just lost her housing. Unfortunately, she was also suffering a medical disorder and not given much time to live. Through the coordination of the Housing Support Worker and the other Housing staff, Elizabeth Fry was able to connect her with a unit where she could live out the rest of her time in peace.



FSS/Penny's Place Pictures with Santa Day
(Front row:Erika Anderson, Taylor Meeks, Santa, Tara Lee Morin, Back row: Ginger the Elf, Andrea Blondal)



Volunteering Cupcake or Cookie Decorating Day
Penny Douglas, Debbie Hansen, Stephanie Ostojic, Joni Reed, Taylor Meeks, Viktoriya Ipatieva

| Elizabeth Fry Legal Clinic

Throughout the 2023-2024 operating year the Efry Legal Clinic continued to serve the communities of Kamloops and Kelowna. As of February 2024 Kamloops Elizabeth Fry is no longer the operator of the legal clinic. The clinic does however operate under a new Society called The Okanagan Thompson Legal Clinic, here in town and in Kelowna.

| Projects

The Gender Equity Program, funded by the Women and Gender Equity Funds from the Government of Canada closed the project this year with a conference at Thompson Rivers University, during the conference they delivered research results, spoke about gender and equality and engaged in panel discussion. Some of the presenters during this conference included: Nicole Green the Project Lead, Thompson River’s University research and faculty members; Dr. Jennifer Murphy; Dr. Julianna West; Dr. Amie Mclean; Dr. Laura Lamb; Parliamentary Secretary for gender equity – Kelli Paddon and a representative from the BC Office of the Human Rights Commissioner.

| Housing



Danielle Cox, Erika Anderson, Anthony Spada, Shawn Koly

One of the largest impacts to share from this year, is the opening of Penny’s Place, named in honour of a previous KDEFS Board President and long-standing volunteer to Kamloops Efry, Penny Douglas. This is the Women’s Long Term Housing townhouse units which opened in the Summer of 2023, providing 14 new units of affordable housing specific to women. The Housing Program now provides 111 units of housing in Kamloops and housed 130 families in 2023-2024 year and aims to continue to reduce barriers for vulnerable folks to gain accessing to housing.

“When Penny’s Place opened in July 2023. One woman who moved in had just finished her degree in mental health and addictions, the final key to her securing work and having safety was moving to Penny’s Place. She refers to her life now as “Blessed”.



Flower Boxes built by Enbridge

| Rent Bank

The Kamloops and District Elizabeth Fry Society operates two Rent Banks the Elizabeth Fry – Servicing the Thompson Nicola Regional District and Kamloops City Specifically, as well as the Province Wide Rent Bank which provides services to all communities without a local rent bank access, to ensure the mandate of BC Rent Bank reaches 100% of the province. Between both Rent Banks Kamloops Efry, provided 109 of Loans and Grants In 2023-2024, for a total of \$217,826.95, which directly aims to keep folks from facing homelessness housed and prevent future risk of homelessness.

Testimonial:

“Before I came to rent back, my life had been going pretty amazing and then it took an unexpected turn with the loss of my children’s father and we really needed help and didn’t know where to turn as I could not afford to pay rent. Rent bank was extremely helpful with resources so that we could get the help we needed. They also helped with a grant to cover owing rent costs which took a huge stress away and I was able to find a job immediately after. I would have to say my favourite part was how easy and non-judgemental the process was. I was able to explain my situation and receive help without feeling I was burdening anyone or begging for help. ”



Project at the Gender Equity Conference -TRU
Nicole Green | Project Lead of Gender Equity



Erika Anderson, Taffy Nyazema, Renu Bala, Tara Lee Morin, Joni Reed, Brandy Griffiths, Taylor Meeks

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS & COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Thank-you to all the amazing volunteers who support the work of Kamloops Efry, we couldn't do the work we do without you. A Special thanks to Celeste who volunteers in our Lizzy's Closet; Jillian Welsh for consistently volunteering hair services to Family Stepping stones program participants; and Penny Douglas and friends for ongoing support to the Women in the Family Stepping stone Program

Congratulations to Roxanne Denego and Janae Bylan for receiving \$1500 from The Kamloops and District Elizabeth Fry Society, Women's Educational Bursaries.

A special Thank-you to Enbridge throughout the 2023-2024 year they provided volunteer time and resources for two projects building garden boxes for Family Stepping Stones program, and helping to hang shelving and build a changing area while also doing a donation drive for Lizzy's Closet.

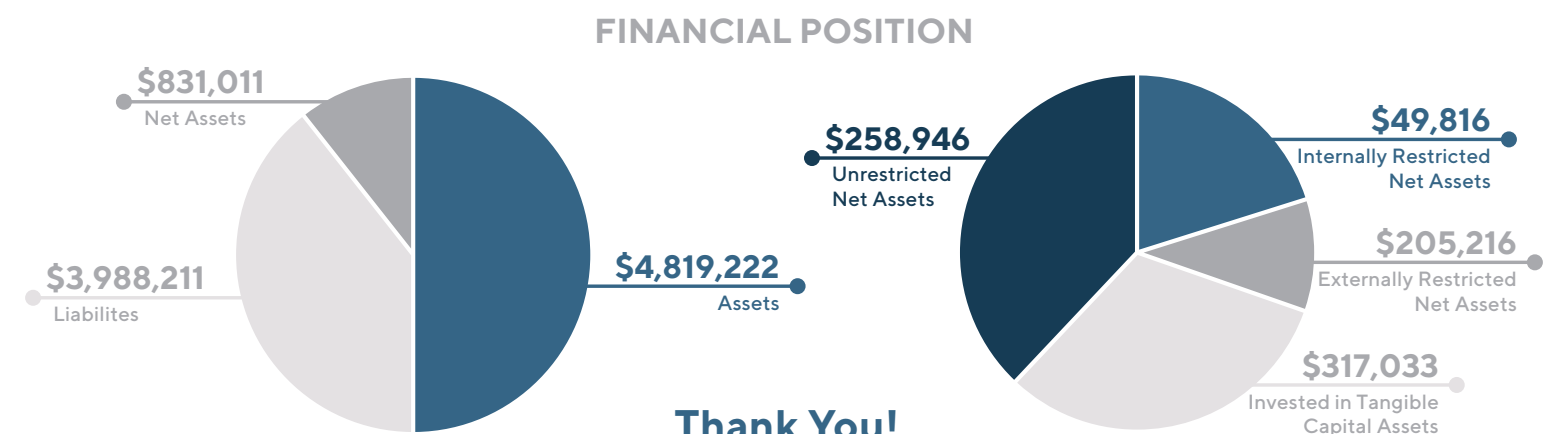
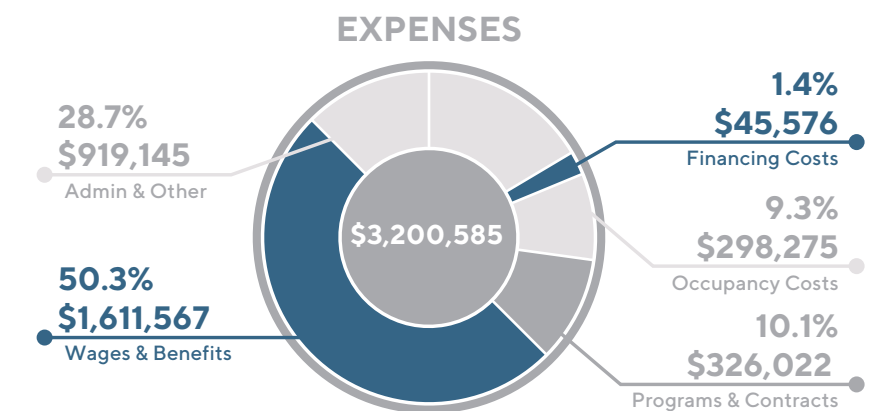
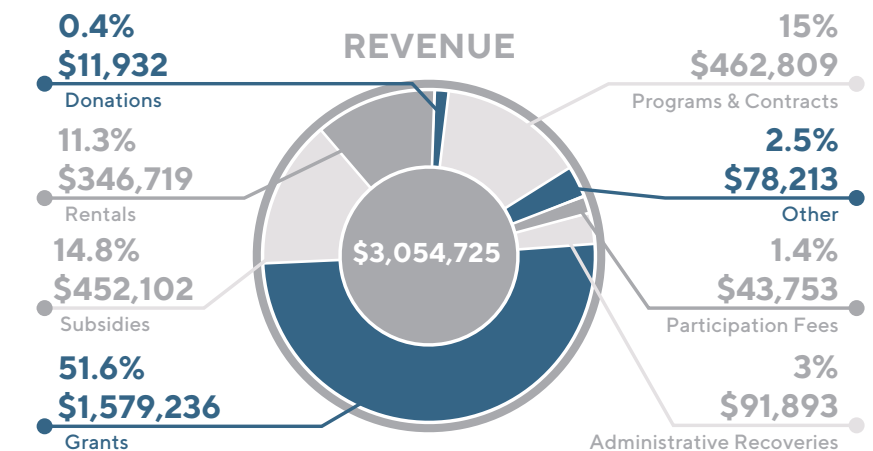
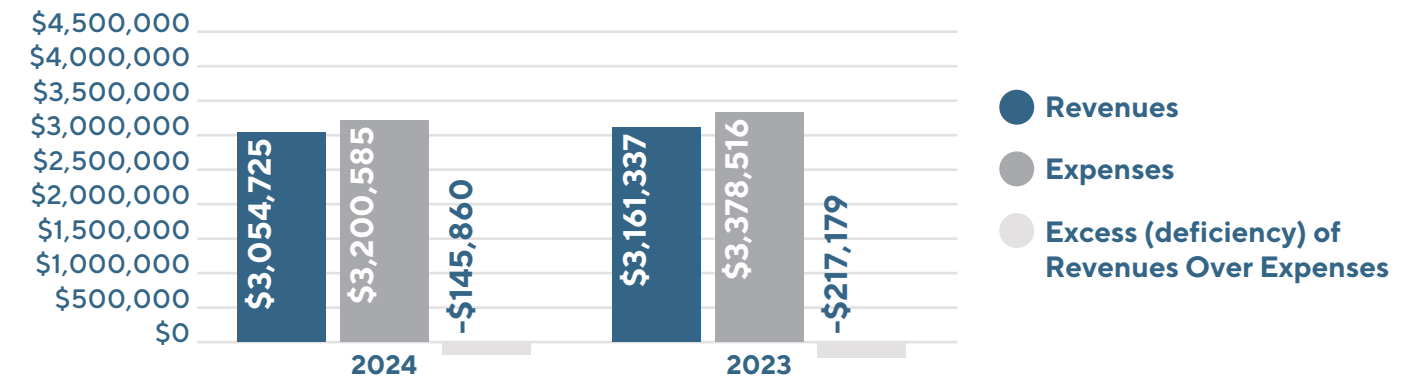
As well as huge thank-you to all our holiday sponsor a family donors; The Kelson Group; KPMG; Berneice Machuk; Alliance Church, Kamloops Airport; and Starbucks.

And the Kamloops Shoebox Project which donated over 30 boxes to our women residing in our buildings.

Thank you to our ongoing funders and grant providers.

BC Housing | Ministry of Child and Family Development | British Columbia Rent Bank
City of Kamloops | United Way | New Gold | Canadian Women's Foundation
Women's Shelters of Canada | Women and Gender Equity Canada | BC Gaming
BC Civil Forfeiture | Law Foundation

Financials



Thank You!

We are grateful for the generosity of our donors, sponsors, and funders whose support has changed the lives of women and youth in our community.

Year ended March 31, 2024. This information has been extracted from the audited financial statements prepared by Tenisci Piva Chartered Professional Accountants. The full statements are available at www.kamloopsefry.com or by request.



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