



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

## **Agape House-Eastman Crisis Centre, Inc.**

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

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6:30 P.M.

Welcome and Introductions –Board of Directors

6:45 P.M.

1. Call to Order of 2018-2019 Annual General Meeting
2. Acceptance of 2018-2019 Annual General Meeting Agenda
3. Minutes of 2017-2018 Annual General Meeting
4. Message from the Board President
5. Auditor's Report presented by Nadine Perrin, Treasurer
6. Appointment of Auditor
7. Message from the Executive Director
8. Appointment of new Board members

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7:00 P.M.

Staff and Volunteer Recognition, and Community Awards – Executive Director

Closing Remarks – Board of Directors

7:15 P.M.

Adjournment of Meeting

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REFRESHMENTS



## MESSAGE from the BOARD of DIRECTORS

Agape House – Eastman Crisis Centre Inc. continues to play a key role in Southeast Manitoba in providing a safe haven for abused women and their children. We continue to see a significant number of women and children supported by our staff and the services the shelter provides. These services are a vital part of our society that promotes healthier families and stronger communities.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself, we would like to formally thank Tracy Whitby for her dedication and commitment to the shelter's fiscal management and overall leadership. We truly appreciate all of your hard work Tracy and tireless hours you spend going the extra mile to ensure the staff and clients are well served.

The Board also recognizes and applauds the staff's unwavering dedication to carrying out the mission and direction of the organization. From the bottom of our hearts, Thank You! Thank you for your outstanding service to our clients every day. Thank you for your teamwork including the volunteering you do. Moreover, thank you for your commitment to our organization. You are all valued members of what I feel is one of the most important causes in our region.

I would also like to thank the entire Board of Directors for your dedication and efforts to this worthy organization. The Board gives up a lot of their precious spare time to plan and volunteer for Agape through Teddy Bear Picnic, volunteering and our monthly Board meeting. Your commitment to carry out our mission and to better the organization is evident in all you do. So I just want to say thank you!

This last year the shelter received considerable public recognition, enhancing our community presence. This has brought increased clients through our doors as well as increased monetary donations that are vital to continuing the great work that is done within our community. Together, our mission is carried out on a daily basis. Women and their children who rely on our services are able to resume a healthy family life due to the generosity of our donors. This past year we have experienced some changes within the Board. Christy Seniuk has stepped down from her position as Board Member, however we are grateful for her willingness to volunteer with our fundraising efforts. The Board has begun our strategic planning sessions and will work to complete the plan within the next 2 months.

The Board and I look forward to continued success with the organization and are truly grateful for the committed relationships we have developed. Not only within the organization but also within all levels of the government as well as private, corporate and community support.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors,

Val Fehr – Board President  
Agape House – Eastman Crisis Centre, Inc.



## Board Treasurer's Message

The Eastman Crisis Centre is a valued and necessary member of our community. We provide safe shelter, counselling both to residential and non-residential adults and children in need, and support for those in our community that are experiencing crisis. We are grateful to be supported directly by donations of all types: monetary, gifts-in-kind, and volunteer hours. They are all critical in helping Agape House achieve its mission each day. Thank you to all who have donated in any way throughout the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Agape House, and indeed all women's shelters in the province, are operating in an economically precarious environment. The provincial government is considering a change to our funding model. This in and of itself is not risky. In fact, a Shelter like ours could benefit from a change to the funding model. However, the first draft of the new model had all Shelters committing to a 10-year funding plan, with no mechanism to adjust funding during those 10 years! We are happy to report the new model has not been adopted, and we continue to follow the old funding model for the time being.

As well, we continue to negotiate with CUPE. At this time, we cannot report on any increased costs related to salaries and wages.

We continue to have operational expenses that are higher than our funding. Our shelter is paid based on the number of clients we have in the shelter overnight. However, our clients are not always overnight guests. We provide higher-than-average non-residential and follow-up counselling sessions to adults and children that are not staying at the shelter. While this is part of our mandate, we receive no funding for it.

Thankfully, we here in the southeast are fortunate. We are among a very supportive and involved community. Our efforts are rewarded through local commitment to our fundraising activities. We tried out some new ones this year! Some were very successful, some less so. But in every case, your contributions continue to help us help others. During the 2019-2020 fiscal year, we will have an opportunity to invest funds in some Capital Projects, making our Shelter more comfortable and accessible, and widening the scope of our Outreach.

Our total revenue from donations and fundraising alone was \$116,240. This covers 22% of our costs. Total revenue (including fundraising and donations) was \$598,241 with Net Operating Expenses coming in at \$535,368. With the Gain on the disposal of our old van, this resulted in a Net Surplus of \$66,373. However, remove the fundraising and donations revenue, and we would have had a loss of \$49,867... we are unable to operate without private donors.

Significant accounting transactions for the year were:

1. Purchase of a New Van, which allows us to transport our clients to programming and events.
2. Increase in proceeds from Donations and Fundraising. Our major donors are mentioned throughout our Annual Report, but I'd like to thank all those that took part in our Paint Night, Wreath Night, Facebook Purse Auction, Clara Clark Sheet Sale, Mother's Day Flowers Fundraiser, Pizza Sale, and the International Women's Day Celebration (which promises to be even bigger and better this coming March).

Regards,

Nadine Perrin, CPA, CGA, MBA

Treasurer, Eastman Crisis Centre Inc



## Executive Director's Message

As I reflect upon the past year at Agape House, I am filled with gratitude for the supports received and partnerships built that have allowed us to grow as individuals and as an organization. We can accomplish far more together than we ever could on our own.

Let's take some time to celebrate some of our successes. This past year, we worked together with fellow agencies and organizations to deliver engaging events including Women, Wine & Theatre, Teddy Bear Fun Day, and the Candlelight Memorial. Through new grants, we were fortunate to offer many new programs to our clients and community members including Artistic Connections, the Phoenix Project and Winter Wellness. We have expanded our social media presence, including a new Facebook page and now have a fresh new website. Our team continues to engage in our own professional growth and this year we began leadership development. Our goals are to build upon our client-focused programming to provide our participants consistent, quality services. The highlights mentioned above wouldn't have been possible without the connections and partnerships built. We look forward to build upon this momentum and continue to expand this upcoming year.

With that said, we continue to face challenges. Despite over 30 years of service in southeastern Manitoba, Agape House and her nine regionally located sister shelters continue to face funding shortfalls. Funding for our services has not increased in over 13 years. As a result, we are relying more heavily on fundraising and donations to be able to continue to offer our free domestic violence support services in our region. With limited resources, board and staff spend much time and effort to secure donations and host fundraising events. Arguably, this is time that could and should be focused on providing quality/additional services that would benefit our clients.

Throughout the past year, we have been overwhelmingly grateful for the support of community, business, our board of directors and other volunteers. In 2018-2019, over \$96,000 was fundraised to maintain current shelter operations. Thank you to our generous supporters and amazing volunteers - your dedication, thoughtfulness and inspiring generosity allowed us to serve vulnerable individuals in our region at their most critical time of need; our work would not be possible without your contributions.

Agape House is privileged to have many positive supports. I would like to thank the dedicated group of individuals holding positions on our Board. They each bring vast knowledge and connections to our agency and generously give their time and energy to ensure our success. I feel fortunate to work alongside our dedicated and hard-working staff who oftentimes go beyond for the betterment of our clients. In addition, the ongoing encouragement and direction received from our funder (Family Violence Prevention Program) and from the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters (MAWS) members. Thank you – together we are making a difference!

It has been a great pleasure and honour to serve our region as Executive Director. I have a passion for watching our clients rebuild their lives and am inspired by the strength and resilience they hold. I look forward to the opportunities this new year will bring and am focused on doing my best for Agape House, its clients, board, staff, and the communities of southeastern Manitoba.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Whitby, Executive Director  
Agape House-Eastman Crisis Centre, Inc.



## Board of Directors 2018-2019

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### Board Executive

Val Fehr - President

Nadine Perrin - Treasurer

Brittany Friesen – Secretary (beginning two-year term; joined mid-year)

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### Board Members

Carmelle Friesen – Member

Cyndy Friesen – Member

Ann Lemon – Member (beginning two-year term; joined mid-year)

Constable Dennis Redikop – Member

Christy Seniuk – Member

Joyce Vogan-Plett – Member

Milaine Rondeau – Member (beginning two-year term; joined mid-year)

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### *Thank you to our Volunteer Board Members!*

*A warm welcome to our incoming board members: **Ann Lemon, Brittany Friesen, and Milaine Rondeau** thank you for sharing your talents with us. Thank you to **Val Fehr** for continuing in the role of President, **Nadine Perrin** for continuing as Treasurer, and **Brittany** for accepting the role of Secretary – thank you for sharing your passion and knowledge to benefit Agape House. Big thanks to **Carmelle Friesen, Cyndy Friesen, Constable Dennis Redikop and Joyce Vogan-Plett** for staying on with Agape as Members – your contributions are vital to our success. Heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our out-going Board Member: **Christy Seniuk** (Member and Fundraising Committee) – your generous sharing of time and talent has been of immeasurable value, and you will be missed. Special appreciation to those board members who have accepted committee positions with the board.*

*Thank  
you*

## Agape House Staff 2018-2019

### Management:

Tracy Whitby, Executive Director

Melissa Decelles, Office Administrator

### Follow-up/Interim Housing/Community Outreach:

Janet Desautels, Interim Counsellor-Advocate, Follow-Up/Non-Residential

Carrie Bilawchuk, Counsellor-Advocate, Evening Program

Doreen Penner, Counsellor-Advocate, Outreach

### Children's Program:

Donna Garofalo, Children's Counsellor

### Women's Shelter Core Service:

Helen Wiens-Laing, Residential Counsellor

### Shelter Support Workers:

Marjorie Ammerman, Andrea Berg, Allyson Friesen, Heidi Harder, Heather Hildebrand, Amanda Jonas, Emily Letkeman, Melanie Martens, Kim Petrie, Alexandra Ross, Amelia Tamlin

*Good bye to long term Counsellor-Advocate, **Candice Perry** thank you for your work and contributions over the years and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.*

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## Message from Family Violence Prevention Program

*"The Family Violence Prevention Program and the Manitoba Status of Women would like to thank Agape House for their continued efforts and commitment in supporting women and their children that have been impacted by family violence. We send a special thank you to all staff, volunteers, and board members who give generously of their time and energy to support women and children. We acknowledge the important work you do in your communities. Thank you and we look forward to our ongoing relationship with Agape House."*

*~ Beth Ulrich, Executive Director of Manitoba Status of Women*



## Canadian Shelter Statistics – A day in the life of Canada’s shelters and Transition Houses

- On a single day in Canada, 232 shelters/THs were housing and helping a total of 5,409 women and 3,578 children.
- Of these, 1,824 women and 1,527 children were staying in shelters/THs,
- While an additional 3585 women and 2051 children were supported through outreach services and other programming without staying at the shelter/TH itself.
- 495 women and 253 children requested shelter at 123 shelter/THs on this day.
- 39% of shelters were full; 79% of residential service requests could not be accommodated
- While the number of women staying at shelters/THs has remained relatively stable compared to previous years, the number of women accessing non-residential services was much higher in 2019.
- Although not all shelters/THs collect this information, of the women helped on this day, 100 were known to be pregnant, and 87 were known to have been threatened by a gun.

Source: Shelter Voices, June 2019, Women’s Shelters Canada

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*“Women with complex physical needs do sometimes require more staff time and attention. Which we are happy to provide but when we have women with these complex needs our levels of staffing can seem less than desirable.” ~ shelter respondent*

Source: Shelter Voices, June 2019, Women’s Shelters Canada

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## Agape House - Our Philosophy

1. Physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse is damaging and should not be tolerated in our communities.
2. Families can be source of security and growth where positive attitudes and behaviours are learned.
3. Communities can be encouraged to respond to victims and abusers in a way that stops violence and promotes healing.

*Women make up just over half of the Canadian population, yet continue to be underrepresented in political and professional leadership positions.*

*When more women ascend to leadership roles, they become role models to girls and to other women. More women leaders will also influence the high-level decision-making that will pave the way toward gender equality.*

Source: Canadian Women’s Foundation, The Facts, 2019

## Agape House-Eastman Crisis Centre Objectives

1. To provide an accessible, safe environment to abused women and their children.
2. To provide services that are client-focused and client-directed.
3. To provide education on physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse and their effects on women and children.
4. To provide an opportunity for the community to participate in events that raises awareness of issues surrounding the abuse of women and children.

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## Meeting our Objectives

### **Agape House-Eastman Crisis Centre offers the following programs and services:**

- Women's abuse shelter which operates 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, providing a safe place for women and their children in times of crisis – all services are provided at no cost.
- We operate a 24-hour, toll-free regional crisis line which offers crisis counselling and referrals to appropriate resources.
- For residential clients - which are those that stay in the shelter - we offer crisis and ongoing counselling, assistance with medical, legal, and social services, and the basic daily provisions: food, clothing and personal hygiene items at no cost.
- We run support groups for women on various topics, including dealing with abuse, parenting support, and self- esteem (residential and non-residential).
- Non-residential services are for women who may not have a need to stay in shelter - they can access free counselling services and supports for a variety of issues.
- Our outreach program provides services such as counselling, information, referrals, and support groups to women and youth in our catchment area - outreach also promotes general awareness of our shelter, along with its services and programs.
- We have two interim housing units which are in place to help women make the transition toward independent living, while allowing for access to support services.
- We offer no-cost public education workshops, presentations and services in our region, while promoting general awareness of our shelter services and programs, and of domestic violence issues.
- We work proactively with all other agencies in the South Eastman region, Winnipeg and within the Province of Manitoba to address issues of domestic violence and abuse

## Agape House Strategic Plan

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### Introduction

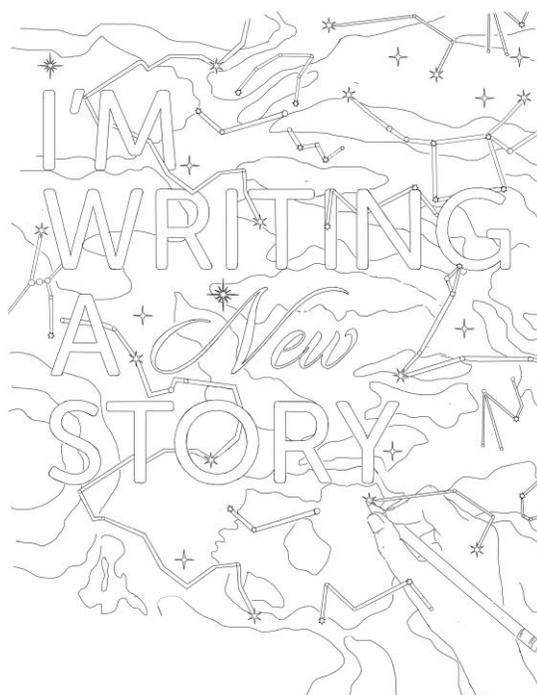
In 2014, Agape House-Eastman Crisis Centre, Inc. contracted the services of ROAR Leadership Consultants Inc. to assist in the development of a three-year (2014-2017) strategic plan. Board members, administration and staff of Agape House participated in two evenings of facilitated planning, August 19 and 20, 2014 in Steinbach, Manitoba. This provided the framework for the development of a strategic plan.

In June 2015 a board committee was created, and a first draft of the plan was presented to the Board on September 30, 2015. A final draft, amended to extend from October 2015 until October 2017, was approved by the Board.

### Agape House-Eastman Crisis Centre Background

Agape House-Eastman Crisis Centre Inc. is a charitable, non-profit organization funded through a grant from the Manitoba Provincial Government Department of Family Services; as well as through community donations and fundraising. Located in Steinbach, Manitoba, Agape House-Eastman Crisis Centre is one of ten women's crisis shelters in the province, and serves Southeast Manitoba, one of the largest catchment areas.

As a crisis intervention facility, Agape House's main activities include providing emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence, operating a 24-hour toll-free crisis line; as well as providing counselling, referral, follow-up, and out-reach services. The shelter has operated since 1985, and currently has sixteen beds. In an average year, the shelter will have over 1,500 bednights and will support more than 150 clients (a "bednight" occurs every time a woman or child sleep in a shelter bed). Additionally, staff respond to an average of over 1,000 crisis calls in a typical year.



## Our Strategic Plan

### Vision | Mission | Beliefs | Values

#### *Our Vision*

“A safe place to grow.”

#### *Our Mission*

The mission of Agape House-Eastman Crisis Centre, Inc. is to empower women and children experiencing family violence by providing safe shelter, information, counselling, and ongoing support.

#### *We Believe*

1. Abuse is damaging and should not be tolerated.
2. Women and children have the right to make informed decisions that will assist them in leading lives free from abuse.
3. Families can be a source of security and growth where positive attitudes and behaviours are learned.
4. Communities can respond to victims in a way that stops violence and promotes healing.

#### *Our Core Ethical Values*

1. Respect
2. Compassion
3. Confidentiality
4. Integrity

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### Our Goals

1. To provide an accessible, safe environment to abused women and children.
2. To provide consistent, quality services that are client-focused, client-directed.
3. To provide information to the community that raises awareness of issues surrounding the abuse of women and children.
4. To establish sustainable funding strategies.
5. To pursue a capital campaign, while addressing the need for improved facilities and expanded services
6. To maintain a stable and respectful workplace.
7. To provide enriching work opportunities for all staff.
8. To provide meaningful volunteer opportunities for board and community members.

## Minutes from the 2017-2018 AGM

6:33 p.m.

- **Welcome and introductions – Board of Directors**
- **Staff and Volunteer Recognition, and Community Awards – Executive Director**

6:45 p.m.

1. **Call to order of 2017-2018 Annual General Meeting**  
Motion: Nadine Perrin, Second Dennis Redikop. All in favour.
2. **Acceptance of 2017-2018 Annual General Meeting Agenda**  
Motion to accept agenda: Christy Seniuk. Second: Cyndy Friesen. All in favour.
3. **Minutes of 2016-2017 Annual General Meeting**  
Motion to accept 2016-2017 minutes: Dennis Redikop. Second: Carmelle Friesen. All in favour.
4. **Message from the Board President:** Val Fehr
5. **Auditor's Report presented by Nadine Perrin, Treasurer**  
Motion to accept financials as presented Cyndy Friesen. Second: Christy Seniuk. All in favour.
6. **Appointment of Auditor**  
Motion to appoint GTP as auditor for 2018-2019: Cyndy Friesen. Second: Christy Seniuk. All in favour.
7. **Appointment of New Board Members**  
None to appoint.
8. **Questions from the floor?**  
None.

7:10 p.m.

**Closing Remarks – Board of Directors**

7:15 p.m.

**Adjournment of Meeting**

Motion to adjourn (6:59 p.m.): Carmelle Friesen. Second: Joyce Plett-Vogan. All in favour.

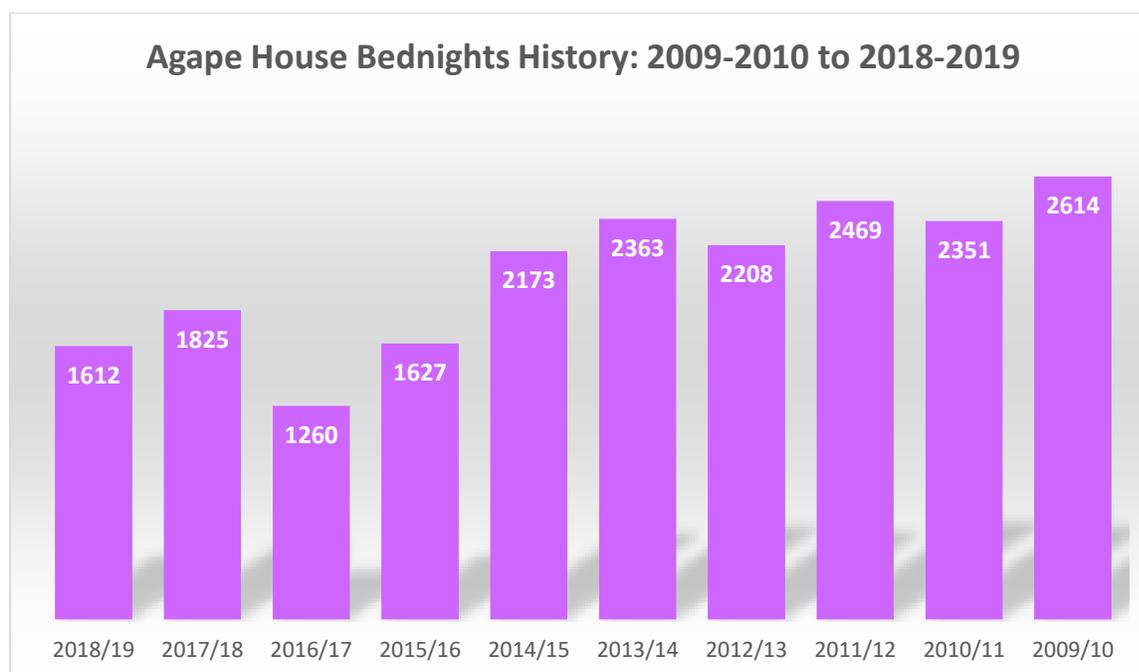
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**REFRESHMENTS**

## Programs and Services Information

### CENTRAL SUPPORT

Central support provides financial and policy administration and management for Core Services, the Children’s Counselling Program and the Follow-up Program; maintains a 24-hour local and regional crisis line and ensures compliance with the terms and conditions as set out in the Service Purchase Agreement with the Province of Manitoba, Department of Family Services and Housing, the Standards Manual, and the Agency’s Lease Agreement with Manitoba Housing.



A bednight occurs every time a woman or child sleep in a shelter bed. During 2016-2017 Agape House operated with reduced capacity due to shelter renovations.

*At Agape House, we want every youth to believe in themselves and realize that she/he matters. That’s why we work to empower youth with confidence, a sense of connection, and critical thinking skills.*

*Red Cross Healthy Youth Relationships is an educational program for students in middle and high school grades which offers teens the knowledge and skills to develop healthy relationships and prevent relationship violence.*

*Agape House offers Healthy Youth Relationships to our regional school divisions. The program can be customized to suite your requirements – contact us for more information.*

## CORE SERVICES

**Residential Core Services** provides a short-term, safe and supportive residential environment for women and children dealing with family violence. Support services assist women to make informed decisions towards assuming control over their lives in a non-abusive environment.

<b>RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>
Total Number of Families (women with children)	29
Total Number of Women ( with or without children)	73
Total Bednights (women)	722
Total Bednights (children)	890
Total Bednights	1612
Number of Clients from Steinbach area	31
Number of Women Over Age 55	6
Average Length of Stay (Days)	11.7
Number of Repeat Stays	5
Number of Clients from Outside Steinbach area	42

**Crisis Line** is operational 24 hours, 365 days a year. Core funding does not allow for staffing the crisis line as a separate service, but it remains a vital access component of the shelter programs, including for offering emergency shelter, supportive counselling, referrals to services and domestic abuse info.

<b>CRISIS LINE: Emergency Intervention</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>
Emergency Intervention	Women: 213	Men: 4
Abuse Counselling	Women: 167	Men: 6
Abuse Information/Referral	Women: 165	Men: 7
Suicidal Ideation	Women: 3	Men: 1
Donations	Women: 18	Men: 0
Other Calls/Support	Women: 292	Men: 7
<b>Total Logged Calls (combined genders)</b>	<b>883</b>	

**Non-Residential Core Services** provide support services for abused women living outside the shelter to make informed decisions toward establishing themselves in a non-abusive environment. As with all other programming, these services are offered at no-cost, and included supportive counseling for domestic violence, advocacy, community support information and service referrals. Common needs are housing, transportation, access to services, family law, financial services, mental health, parenting, and domestic violence information and support. Anger Solutions is offered and can be customized for individual and group needs.

<b>NON RESIDENTIAL COUNSELLING PROGRAM</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>
Total Number Women:	45
Total number sessions:	129
Average number of sessions per client:	2.9

## CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

The **Children's Program** provides support for the children of abused women while they are residents in shelter and after leaving shelter. The program is intended to assist child witnesses to "break the secret" of abuse and understand the dynamics of abuse in the context of family relationships. Non-residential services include counselling and parenting support (Triple P Parenting). Outreach work includes Healthy Youth Relationships (Red Cross, certified staff).

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM	2018-2019
Children's Bednights	890
Number of Children in Shelter Program	55
Total Children Aged Six and Younger	25

## FOLLOW-UP and COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Follow-up services assist former clients of the shelter who have left an abusive relationship and are planning long-term and on-going changes toward an independent lifestyle and the development of non-abusive relationships. Follow-up services ensure a continuum of support and are available to women after the crisis stage has passed; until they are established in the community. Community Outreach Services provides counselling, education and awareness information; and other supports within our catchment area.

FOLLOW UP PROGRAM	2018-2019
Total Number Women	7
Total Number of Counselling Sessions	55
New Follow Up Clients	6
Total Interim Housing Clients	20

## Partners, Donors and Collateral Agencies

The Family Violence Prevention Program provides the primary funding and overall coordination of shelter services in the province. We are grateful for their continued support.

We would like to thank Manitoba Housing and Community Development for their support of our physical structure and for supporting women in finding affordable housing options. To our sister shelters, resource centers and community partners, the circle of support is stronger because of you; thank you.

We are privileged to be part of a community that acknowledges the need for our services in southeast Manitoba. Our caring community supports abused woman and children in so many ways: through financial support, by volunteering, by providing regular monthly food donations, and through generous donations of clothing, toiletries, furnishings, household supplies, and more.

**TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

## Special Thank You to our Donors and Supporters

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### DONORS

**Barkman Concrete Ltd.** *Recipient of 2018 Community Partner Award*

**Canadian Women's Foundation**

**Dairy Queen, Steinbach**

**EG Penner Building Centres Ltd.**

**Fight Against Domestic Violence**

**Valerie Hiebert**

**HyLife Ltd.** *2018 Recipient of Community Partner Award*

**Loewen Body Shop**

**Moni Loewen**

**Mitchell Community Fellowship Inc.**

**Allan and Simone Penner**

**Rene and Eileen Penner**

**RM of Hanover**

**Robert and Dorothy Schinkel**

**Southeastern Volleyball League**

**Southland Community Church** *2017 Recipient of Lead with Love Award*

**Steinbach Credit Union Limited** *2017 Recipient of Community Partner Award*

**Steinbach Dental Corporation**

**Steinbach MCC Community Assistance Centre Inc.**

**Steinbach Realtors Golf**

**Taste of Summer Charity BBQ**

**Ethel M Teetaert** *2018 Recipient of the Lead with Love Award*

**The InnKeepers Inc,**

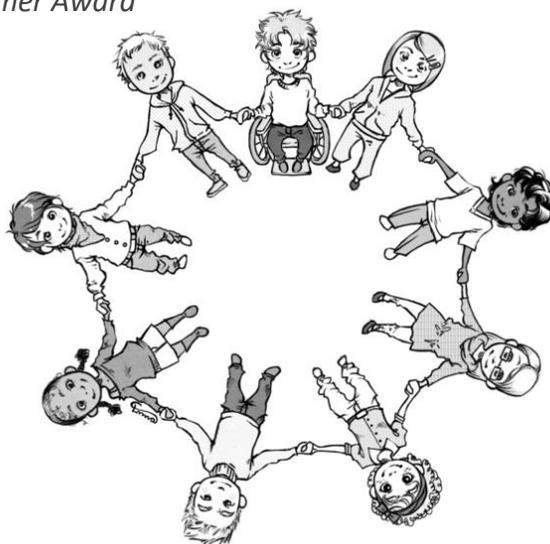
**The Scrapbook Cottage**

**Thou Mayest Inc.**

**Henry Van De Velde, Penny Cabernel**

**Claude Vielfaure**

**Jacinthe and Wade Wiebe**



*Agape House is grateful to all donors – every donation makes a difference! The listed donors have donated a value of \$500 or more in the past year. THANK YOU!*

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## SUPPORTERS

**Best Sleep Centre Steinbach** – *Recipient of 2016 Community Partner Award*

Best Sleep Centre accepts clothing and household donations for Agape House.

**Canadian Women's Foundation** (through Winners, Steinbach) – clothing and household goods.

**Carillon News** – supporter, our sincere thanks for helping us reach out to community.

**Derksen Printers** – donated print services, AGM report 2018-2019.

**Fairway Ford Sales Ltd.** – *Recipient of the 2019 Community Partner Award*

Fairway Ford generously offered us free Board meeting space throughout the past year.

**Golden West Radio** – supporter, our thanks for helping us share our message.

**Maurices, Steinbach** – donator of clothing and household goods.

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church** – supporter, our sincere thanks for allowing us to offer programs in your space.

**South East Helping Hands** – *Recipient of the 2019 Helping Hands Award*

Helping Hands generously shares excess food donations and offers us free meeting space.

**Steinbach Arts Council** – *Recipient of the 2019 Community Partner Award*

SAC partnered with Agape House to present the Women, Wine & Theatre event.

**Steinbach United Church** – *Recipient of the 2017 Lead with Love Award*

Steinbach United Church accepts food and household donations on our behalf and gives us free meeting space.

**The Brick** – donation of new furniture to the shelter.

*Agape House is grateful to all supporters – we appreciate every contribution. We want to give special acknowledgement to the generous silent auction donations received this year - THANK YOU!*

## THANK YOU to our Volunteers and Community Partners

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### VOLUNTEERS

**Carly Koop** – *2019 Recipient of Lead with Love Award*

A creative and inspiring photographer, Carly generously volunteered her professional services to offer our clients a private photoshoot and took amazing photos of our shelter. Our heartfelt appreciation for making our families shine!

**Red River College – Business Admin Students** – Andrea, Mikayla, Jennifer and Kaitlyn eagerly assisted with the planning of our International Women's Day event, Women, Wine & Theatre – thank you for sharing your talent and passion!

**Shear Effects** – *2018 Recipient of Lead with Love Award*

Led by Amanda and Ewald, the Shear Effects team generously volunteered their time and space to offer a special Spa Day event for our clients. Our heartfelt appreciation for making our families feel amazing!

**Melissa and Gilles Decelles** – events, repairs, lawn care and much more! Melissa recruits family, friends and neighbours for our events! Gilles was the *2015 Recipient of the Helping Hands Award!*

**Les and Annette Schewe** – *2016 Recipients of the Helping Hands Award*

Master gardener Annette and her spouse, Les, have generously committed to support our staff at both our shelter and the interim housing properties.

**Men's Cell – Pastor Joel Nedohin and Cam Klassen, Southland Church** – *2017 Recipients of Lead with Love Award*

Yard clean up, repairs, furniture moving, carpentry and more – angels walk among us; thank you!

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## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Addictions Foundation Manitoba  
Borderland School Division  
Child and Family Services Steinbach  
Crisis Stabilization Unit Steinbach  
Eastman Immigration Services  
Eastman Region Assessment Committee (ERAC)  
Family Violence Prevention Program  
Family Violence Consortium of Manitoba  
Ginew Wellness Centre  
Headstart Steinbach  
Healthy Child Coalition-South East  
Hanover School Division  
Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters  
Manitoba Moon Voices  
Red River College  
RCMP Steinbach Detachment  
Seine River School Division  
Sexual Exploitation Strategy Manitoba (Tracia's Trust)  
Steinbach Cultural Arts Centre  
Steinbach Community Outreach  
Steinbach Family Resource Centre  
Steinbach United Church  
Southern Chiefs Organization  
Southern Health-Santé Sud  
South Eastman Employment Synergy Network (SEES)  
Southern Health Authority  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
The Chrysalis Fund  
Today House  
Vita and District Interagency Committee  
WEST Centre - Steinbach  
Women's Shelters Canada – Shelter Safe



## More Than a Bed

### *The key findings of this report are:*

1. In addition to providing safety, Violence Against Women (VAW) shelters are helping women rebuild their lives, heal from abuse, develop resiliency, and move towards living violence-free lives. However, the data presented in this report point to a lack of sustainable and adequate resources to do this work, with VAW shelters increasingly being expected to do more with less.
2. Far too often, women and children cannot access VAW shelter services.
3. VAW shelters strive to be as inclusive and barrier-free as possible. However, capacity and funding issues make this challenging.
4. VAW shelter workers are the experts in their field and provide direct support to survivors. However, maintaining quality full-time, part-time, and casual staff is a challenge facing many VAW shelters across the country.
5. VAW shelters are dealing with aging buildings in need of repair.
6. VAW shelters are struggling with a lack of funding despite having to engage in increasingly complex service delivery.

### *Recommendations:*

The role of VAW shelters in addressing the pandemic that is violence against women needs to be fully recognized by governments across the country. Women's Shelters Canada recommends:

1. The number of shelters in Canada must be increased to respond to
  - a. the fact that turn-away rates are alarmingly high in major cities and that,
  - b. far too many women in rural and remote areas simply do not have access to shelter services.
2. Sustainable, core operational funding for all VAW shelters is required as are yearly increases in accordance with standard of living costs.
3. WSC supports the National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence (NACAFV)'s recommendation to the Standing Committee on the Status of Women on November 19, 2018.
4. WSC calls on the federal government to develop and implement a National Action Plan on Violence against Women.

(Source: More Than a Bed: A National Profile of VAW Shelters and Transition Houses, 2019)