

ANNUAL REPORT

2022–2023



A Safe Place 

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



As we close on another very successful year at A Safe Place, I extend a very hearty thank-you to all who have contributed their time and efforts towards ensuring the well-being, health and safety of all our clients and staff.

Our Board is comprised of a group of dedicated individuals, from varied backgrounds, that has worked tirelessly — often beyond the usual business of A Safe Place. The Board, in collaboration with our Executive Director and management staff, has successfully completed another year of operations. We continue to pursue a multi-year strategic plan, developed in 2021, which affirms our mission and lays out a number of strategic goals. This year, particular focus and considerable resources were expended in a continued pursuit of grant funding and exploration of potential siting opportunities for replacement shelter facilities. We have commissioned a feasibility assessment for a significant future capital fundraising campaign, and initiated advocacy efforts to help with capital funding for a new facility. In addition, the Board has committed to a fulsome review of our governance practices, including a much needed update of our policies and procedures.

With costs increasing exponentially, despite prudent fiscal management and an ever-increasing reliance on public donations for much-needed revenues, we find ourselves in a significant crunch to manage even current service levels. Grants continue to provide the mainstay in meeting our funding requirements. A very generous thank-you is owed to the provincial government and, in particular, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, which continues to make available core funding that forms an essential base by which we are able to deliver the services so needed by our clientele and community. We also wish to thank Strathcona County for volunteer and community collaboration funding; United Way for support for mental health services; and Alberta Justice and Women's Shelters Canada for COVID response and recovery costs. Thank you, too, to all those involved in helping to get full value from those funds we are so fortunate to receive. The Board has also been focused on sharing with provincial and community leaders information about some of the challenges we face. Notably, the need is great and the demand for our services is sadly growing. Women's shelters in Alberta have not had an operational funding increase since 2015, though we have advocated for a review of the funding model used by the provincial government.

In recent months, there has been significant change in Board membership. Three new members have joined the Board. Their added skills, knowledge, and experience have brought some welcome input to Board activities. I thank each and every Board Member, along with the Executive Director, for their dedication, commitment, and perspective.

We applaud the people who work at A Safe Place. They work in many diverse roles and are crucial in making A Safe Place effective within the community it serves. The challenges are constant. We are grateful to have the support of dedicated and passionate volunteers, as well as longtime sponsors and donors, who embody the spirit of compassion. The amount of funding received through annual donations and fundraising efforts has been unprecedented. Without our partner organizations and supporters, and their constant efforts to support A Safe Place, we simply could not function. Thank you.

Kris Sakowsky, President, Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



This past year saw us open all our rooms once again to operate at full capacity after two years of adjusting our practices to keep our clients and staff as safe as possible through the COVID-19 pandemic. This resulted in a 30% increase in the number of families, individuals, and children we served. Our contact with community partners and stakeholders also increased. We began planning a collaborative project with A Saffron Centre to increase our capacity to best serve to our clients who have experienced sexual abuse. We strengthened our bond with existing partners, and developed new relationships.

We also welcomed a new management team to lead us into the next chapter of A Safe Place — one that will see an increased focus on client-centered and trauma-informed care and deeper collaboration with community partners. We formed incredible partnerships with donors who understand our vision, and who support our passion — some of whom remember the safety, support, and thoughtfulness provided to them years ago, when they sought shelter at A Safe Place. Thank you to all who have contributed to A Safe Place over this past year.

Our volunteers continue to dedicate themselves to our residents, preparing and serving food, picking up donations, and even setting up a 'store' for our families and individuals to 'shop' at. Once again, our dedicated Tree of Hope volunteers collected donations at Christmastime to support our residents year round. Our regular New Beginnings volunteers came weekly to ensure donations were sorted and distributed to families setting up in new homes of their own.

Our Board of Directors, led by Kris Sakowsky, is to be recognized for their time, talents, and commitment to making A Safe Place a better place. Thank you for all you put in to forge ahead in achieving our strategic goals.

Our dedicated staff pivoted once again to adjust to the increased requests for service by those needing our shelter and support. Their commitment to being available 24/7 during what is often the most difficult period in a person's life is to be recognized and commended. Their passion for those families and individuals who come to us is amazing, and I thank you all!

This year also had us say goodbye to several longterm staff, including our nurse since 2007. In addition to nursing duties, Morag McLean led our organization through COVID-19 prevention and response with tireless commitment to safety, support, and professionalism. Her expertise in domestic violence, including her leadership in strangulation protocols and procedures, will be missed in our organization. We wish her all the best!

This year, we provided A Safe Place to 364 adults and children. For those who came to us for A Safe Place, I want to acknowledge the courage it takes to step away from abuse, call or come into a place with the hope of a safer future.

Karen Kadatz, Executive Director

WHO WE ARE

Since 1982, A Safe Place has been empowering women to attain lives of peace, connection and freedom. In 1984, we opened the doors of our 25-bed emergency shelter to the community. Since that time, skilled professionals, passionate volunteers, dedicated donors, and proud allies have served tens of thousands of women and children from Strathcona county, the greater Edmonton area, and beyond.

We continue to provide comprehensive services, including: advocacy, education, court support, counselling, supported referrals, Community Outreach, New Beginnings, and so much more.

OUR VISION

To create a community free from domestic violence and abuse in any form.

OUR MISSION

A Safe Place is driven to create safe and lasting solutions for those impacted by domestic violence and abuse.

OUR VALUES

- ✦ Safety and Security
- ✦ Compassion
- ✦ Inclusivity
- ✦ Connection
- ✦ Empowerment
- ✦ Innovation



PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Our customized approach supports clients holistically, and meets them where they are.

Because we value collaboration, we are committed to building and maintaining strong partnerships – we leverage resources to provide services with lasting impact.

CRISIS & SHELTER HELP LINE

24/7 support for anyone in crisis and/or looking for support or information regarding domestic abuse, domestic violence and elder abuse.

EMERGENCY SHELTER

A 35-bed residential facility that provides a safe, secure environment for women and children as they transition to longer-term supports.

SECOND-STAGE SHELTER

Three second stage units bridge the gap to long-term stability by addressing the barrier of affordable housing.

OUTREACH

One-on-one supports for non-residential clients navigating domestic abuse and/or violence.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Responsive presentations that build community capacity for addressing domestic abuse.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

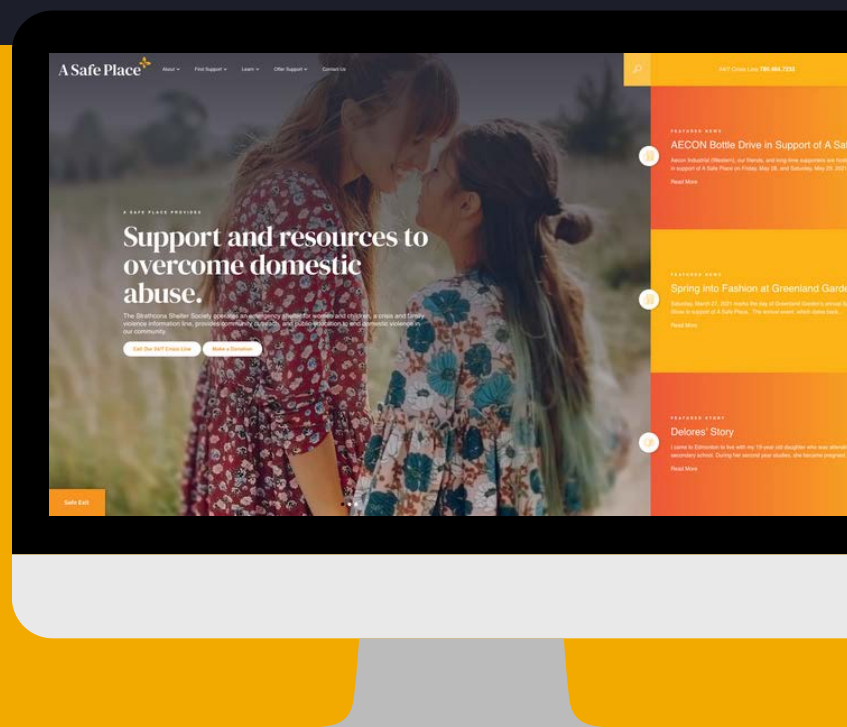
President
Kris Sakowsky

Secretary
Scott Waters

Vice-President
Danielle Klooster

Directors
Mike Cameron
Carla Howatt
Kathy Vasko
Dave Quest
Janice Penner

Treasurer
Clayton Schweb



STRATEGIC GOALS

1

Offer a spectrum of programs and services to meet community needs

2

Secure facilities that meet Strathcona Shelter Society program requirements

3

Maximize fund raising in order to be financially viable and sustainable

4

Invest in staff and relationships to further our mission

5

Maximize awareness of Strathcona Shelter Society presence, mission and needs

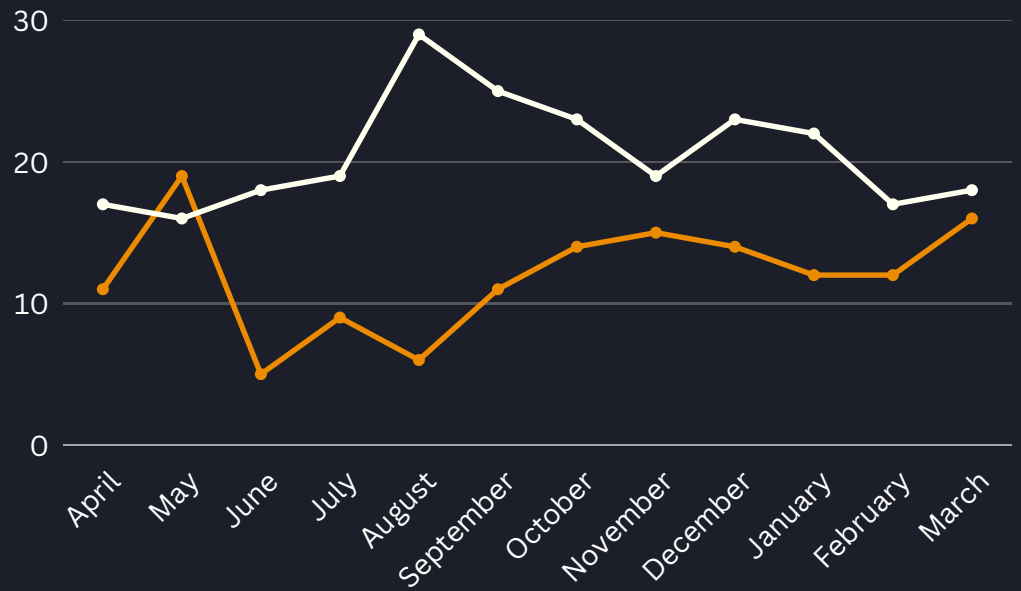




BY THE NUMBERS

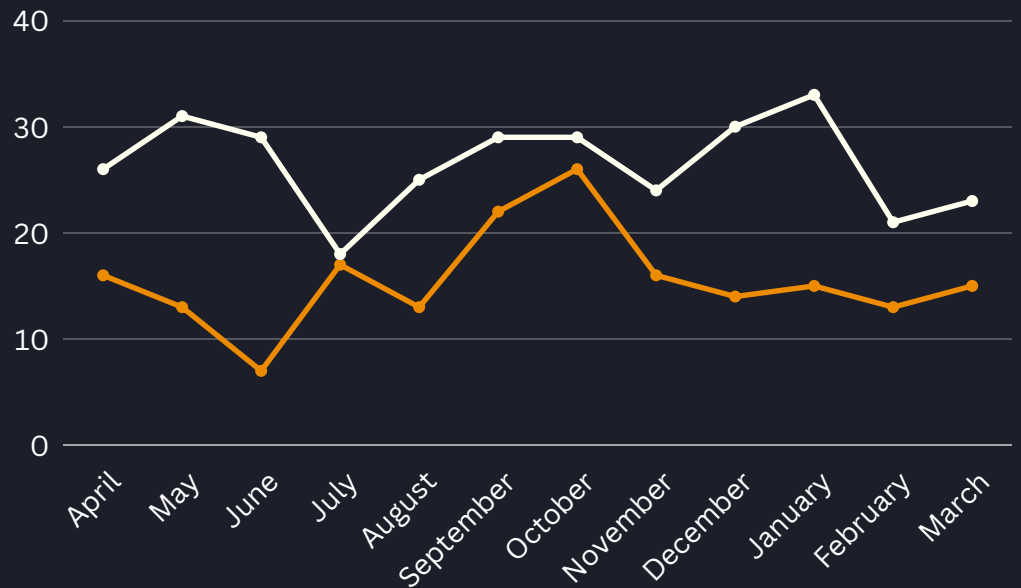
CLIENTS SERVED (Adults)

■ 2021-2022 ■ 2022-2023



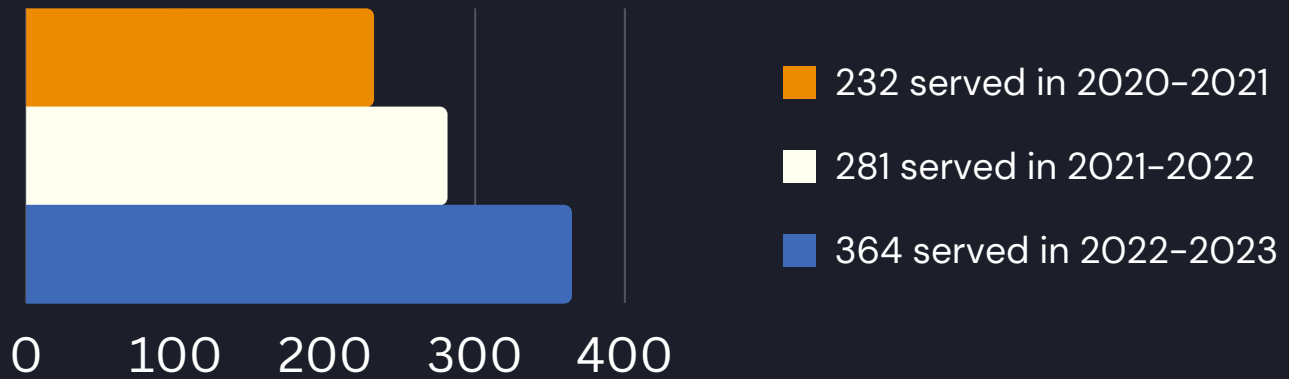
CLIENTS SERVED (Children)

■ 2021-2022 ■ 2022-2023

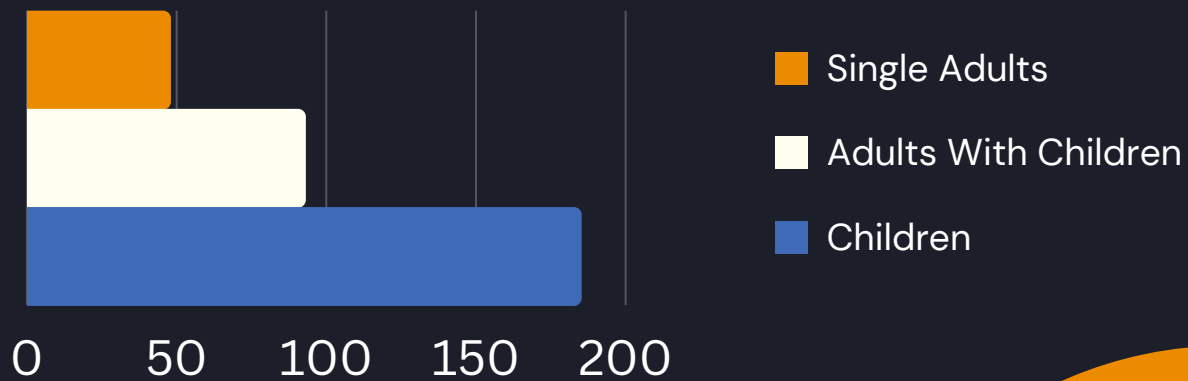


BY THE NUMBERS

Number of Clients Served (Annual)



Residential Client Comparison



88

Total outreach for 2022-2023



GOLF TOURNAMENT



The 2nd Annual 'A Safe Place' Golf Tournament was a great success, with 116 golfers coming out to Northern Bear Golf Course on a beautiful summer day to support A Safe Place! A special thank you to all our sponsors, donors, and volunteers. The amazing support resulted in more than \$30,000 raised, assisting us in keeping our families and individuals safe.

We were delighted to welcome Sherwood Park-based Olympic gold medallist Kelsey Mitchell, who joined our new VIP table.

We're looking forward to continuing this tournament for years to come!



UNITED WAY HEARTLAND CHALLENGE

We were incredibly fortunate to have United Way's Heartland Challenge choose A Safe Place as its beneficiary for the 2022 Project. The initiative saw 56 employees from Sherritt, DOW, Shell Scotford, Inter Pipeline, Pembina, Nutrien, Willow Ridge Construction, MEGlobal, Spartan Controls, and TransAlta team up to create beautiful, welcoming spaces at our shelter. We transformed our entrance and intake room with amazing and uplifting murals, and equipped all our bedrooms with brand new beds and a new paint job.

This project won the United Way Award of Distinction for Education and Engagement, beating out 18 other projects! The renovations have made a huge difference for those who live, work, and visit A Safe Place.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to our amazing contributors who help to ensure that A Safe Place is available to individuals and families when they need us. In addition to those granters listed below, thank you to all of our amazing supporters and donors.

We could not do what we do without any of you!



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada



United Way
Alberta Capital Region



WOMEN'S
SHELTERS
CANADA

Shelters and
Transition Houses
United to End Violence
Against Women





A Safe Place

Support & Resources for Domestic Abuse

www.ASafePlace.ca | #ASafePlace

Shelter Intake & Crisis Line: 780.464.7233 / 1.877.252.7233

Charitable Registration 11920 0327 RR001

