



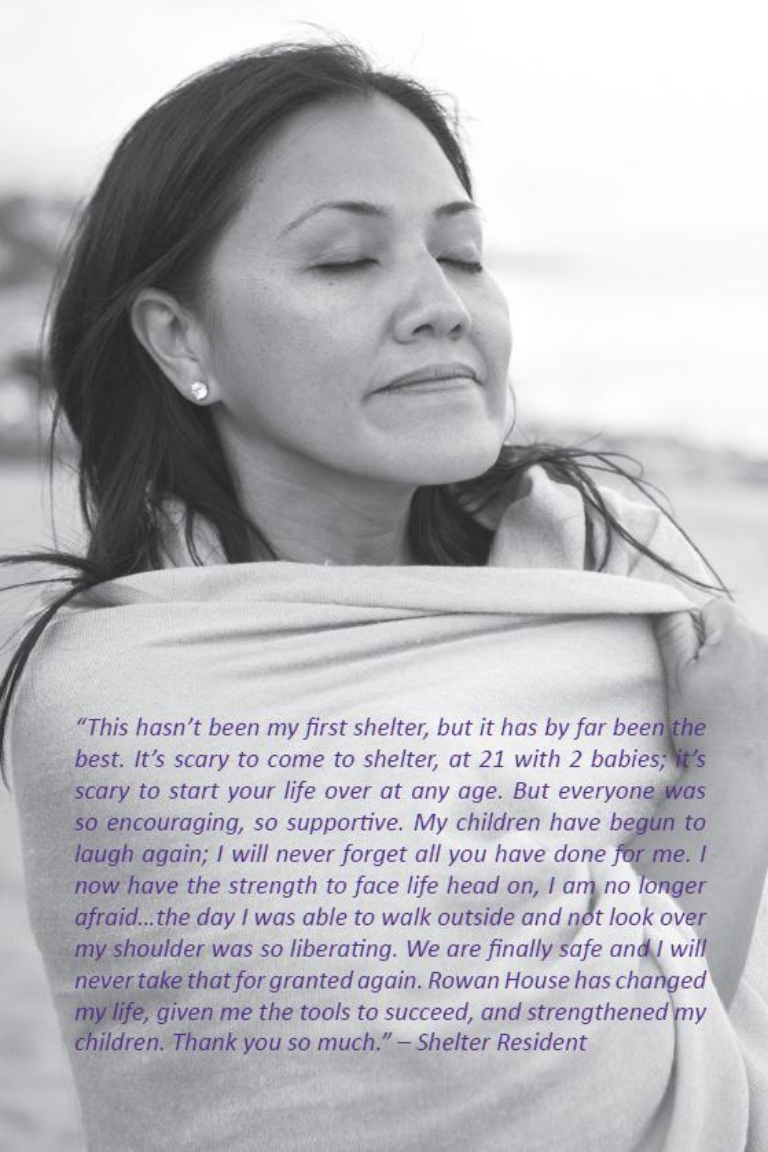
**ROWAN
HOUSE**
SOCIETY



BUILDING VIOLENCE FREE COMMUNITIES



ROWAN HOUSE SOCIETY
2016-2017 Report to the Community

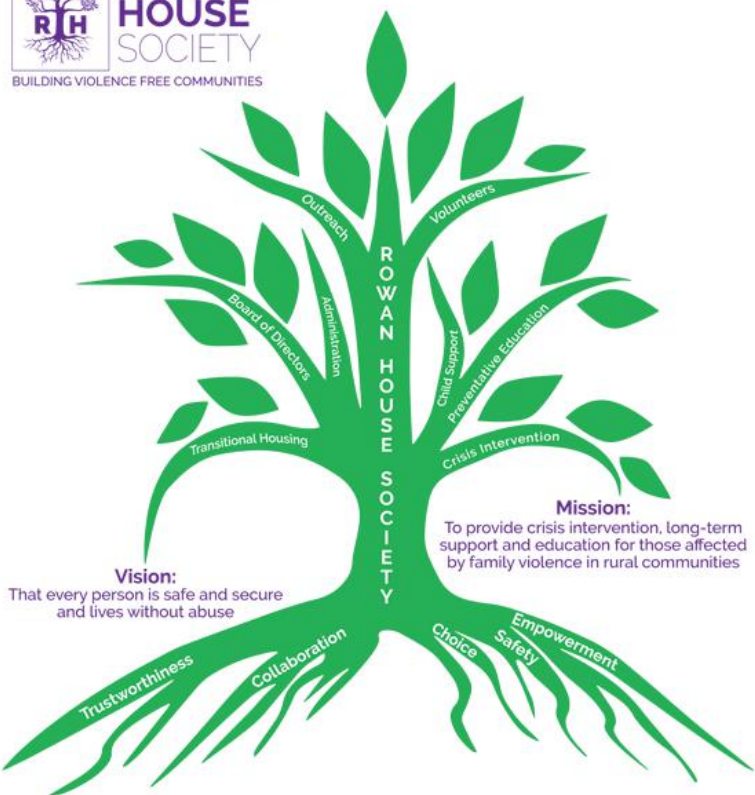


"This hasn't been my first shelter, but it has by far been the best. It's scary to come to shelter, at 21 with 2 babies; it's scary to start your life over at any age. But everyone was so encouraging, so supportive. My children have begun to laugh again; I will never forget all you have done for me. I now have the strength to face life head on, I am no longer afraid...the day I was able to walk outside and not look over my shoulder was so liberating. We are finally safe and I will never take that for granted again. Rowan House has changed my life, given me the tools to succeed, and strengthened my children. Thank you so much." – Shelter Resident



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Vision:

That every person is safe and secure and lives without abuse

Mission:

To provide crisis intervention, long-term support and education for those affected by family violence in rural communities

Rowan House Trauma Informed services take into account an understanding of trauma in all aspects of service delivery.

Safety, trustworthiness, choice, collaboration and empowerment are the core values at Rowan House.

A Year in Review

This past year has been a busy one with both supporting families leaving abusive situations as well as further expanding the work we do in the community.

Some of these highlights are:

- A **successful Hope and Healing Gala** fundraiser to start off the year
- Development of a **sustainability plan**, generously funded through Calgary Foundation, to determine how to make our Branches, community education program financially sustainable
- The **Leading Change** project, in partnership with ACWS, trained 7 local men on gender based violence. These volunteers will facilitate this program with our staff in schools
- Strategic implementation for **program expansion in housing** for women leaving abusive situations continues to develop
- A partnership with the Calgary and area emergency shelters to develop a **one line intake process** to allow more seamless support to women fleeing family violence
- Rowan House trauma-informed practice was **showcased internationally** at the Australian Institute for Family Studies in Melbourne, AU
- **Eden Valley Community partnership** to support groups with women
- Soup Sisters continues to provide **hugs in a bowl** for our families 5 times a year
- November **Family Violence Prevention Month** awareness events throughout our area
- **International Women's Day** event in partnership with the Okotoks United Church

Trends:

- **Not enough safe and affordable housing** for families leaving Rowan House Emergency Shelter
- We have been able to **reduce the number of women and children we turn away** by 50%. We still continue to turn many families away because we are full to capacity.
- We are hopeful that our **new housing initiative** will help immensely with this.

We thank our community for your financial contributions to ensure we provide the best support possible to the families that come to Rowan House for safety and support.

In Gratitude,
Sherrie Botten, Executive Director



Message from the Board of Directors of Rowan House Society:

Every time I visit our amazing facility in High River, I'm reminded how fortunate we are to have such wonderful support from our community of volunteers and donors. Your support has allowed us to grow and develop into the organization we have come to know so well. You should know that the funding we receive from the provincial government isn't enough to operate the shelter effectively, let alone run all the preventative and outreach programs that are so important to our mission.

A couple of years ago, the Rowan House Board decided that we were to be more than a crisis shelter - that our aspiration is to bring about changes in how people view domestic violence. We work every day in schools, with partner agencies and with folks in the community to get the message out, to change the conversation, and to break the inter-generational cycle of abuse that our shelter staff witness every day.

These are lofty goals, and entirely funded through donations and grants. I, on behalf of the Rowan House Board and staff would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our donors and volunteers that allow us to make our aspirations a reality, and to make a real difference in people's lives.

You make this possible.

Chris Tulloch, Board Chair



Have you been inspired to take action by what you've seen in this report? There are many ways you can make a difference for the families supported by Rowan House.

Financial:

The daily needs of families in shelter can change on a regular basis depending on time of year, family sizes and the ages and genders of children. Cash allows us to access what our residents need the most and ensure all of our programming not funded by the government can continue to operate.

Donate online or send cash or cheque to our mailing address.

Essential Items:

Did you know we provide food, toiletries, clothing staples and other items to residents – all at no cost? Visit our website for some ideas of essential items you can donate individually or as a care package.

Other ways:

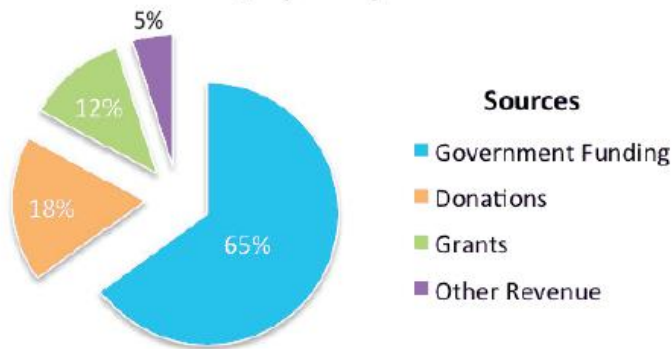
- Volunteer
- Help plan, sponsor or attend our annual Hope & Healing Gala (Save the Date for April 14th, 2018)
- Host a Third-Party Fundraiser
- Planned Giving
- Employee Matching Gifts

Thank you for your consideration!

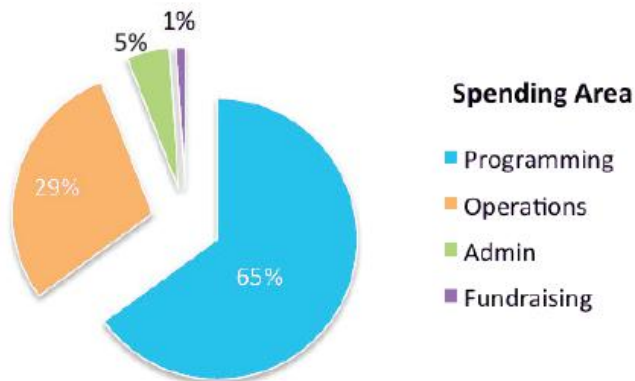


Where Does Your Money Go?

Total Revenue 2016-2017 \$2,018,986



Total Expenses 2016-2017 \$2,079,917



Recognizing Donors Who Gave between April 1st, 2016 and March 31st, 2017

Trunk Level 1 - \$25,000+

Government of Alberta
Accenture
Anonymous Donor
The Benson Family
Galvin Family Trust
MD of Foothills FCSS

Trunk Level 2 - \$10,000+

Foothills Salvage & Recycling Society
Middleton, Rob & Joanne
Okotoks FCSS
Olson, Brian & Shannon
United Way/Okotoks Partnership
Van Tighem, Marion

Branch Level 1 - \$5,000+

Avanade
Black Diamond FCSS
Dream Management Corporation
High River FCSS
Johnston, Don
McGill, Margaret
Nexen Inc.
Okotoks Charity Check Stop
Okotoks Western Wheel Cares Campaign
Progressive Waste Solutions
Shelter Enhancement Initiative
United Way/High River Partnership

Branch Level 2 - \$2,500+

100 Women Who Care Foothills
Al Azhar Shrine Centre
AmiJane FunRaiser 4.0
Annapolis Capital Limited
Ball, Jody
Banner Environmental Engineer
Big Rock Singers
Cargill Meat Solutions
Danielle Smith's Baskets of Hope Group
Dewinton United Church – Mother's Day Tea
Foothills Bisons Midget
AA Hockey – Benefit Game

Fraser Family Foundation
Insurance Bureau of Canada
Kolkman, Jocelyn
MD of Foothills
Songwriters in the Round – Benefit Concert
TD Bank Group
WestJet Airlines

Leaf - \$1,000+

Ambertec Ltd.
Black Diamond Gospel Chapel
Blackie Lions Club Community Breakfast
Birdies for Kids Program presented by AltaLink
Boehm, Gary
Canadian Women's Foundation
Century 21 Foothills
Cottonwood Bridal & Formals
Denny's Okotoks
Dorais, Cindy – ATB Investments
Fairfield Watson & Lewis Inc.
Firth, Rick
High River Charity Check Stop
High River Rebekah Lodge
Highwood MLA, Wayne Anderson
Investors Group
Kruschel, Evelyn
Landgraf, Ken & Jackie
Leask, Dean
Leckie, Penny A.
Martyna, Kathy
Mackay, Anne
Maitland, Gail
Millarville Fair
Millarville Half Marathon Pledges
Okotoks Collector Car Auction
Optimist Club of High River
Parker, Barbara
Richter, Hollis
River City Classics
Rockyview Costco
Sim, John
Snyder, Joan C.
Sobeys Okotoks

Splunk Inc.
St. Mary's Elementary
Stirling, James
Tenbroek, Dee
TransCanada Pipeline Limited
Turner Valley Crop for a Cause Fundraiser
Turner Valley FCSS
Western Communities Foundation
Western Financial Group
Westmount School
Winter Wonder Barre Fundraiser

Berry - \$500+

Agrium/Al Gaja
Anderson, Kim
Backyard Bootcampers
Baker, Suzanne
Borthwick, Beth
Charlton, Richard
Complete Health Chiropractic & Massage
Conroy, Darryl
Dykes, Lori
Ecole Good Shepherd School
Ecole Secondaire Highwood High School
Elaschuk, Robert
Feddersen, Jean
Foran, Betty
Great West Life
Infinite Chartered Accountants
Kayden Industries
Kinsmen Club of Calgary
Kononoff, Jennifer
Meehan, Heather
Mock, Aage
Moldowan, Ernie
Mullen Trucking LP
Murphy, Paul & Terrie
Nielsen, Karen
Okotoks Lions Club
Senator Riley School
Tanya Ryan Yoga Fundraiser
Waddle, Ken

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

6 women and 9 children lived in one of our four Transitional Housing units throughout the year.

2 women and 3 children were new admissions to this program. (Families can stay up to 1.5 years)

26 women referred to second stage shelters in Calgary.



"The first night was very hard...I was very confused but one counsellor took the time (a lot of time) to listen to my needs and my story" – Shelter Resident

PREVENTATIVE EDUCATION

97 school presentations to 2,131 students

5, 6-week Healthy Relationship Groups were held

24 Drop-In groups held for women who've completed a 6-week group

Organized or attended 26 community events with our Information Booth

Provided 7 community and professional domestic violence training sessions

OUTREACH

109 women in the community were supported



"I am really grateful to take this course. I learned a lot of common sense things that are not so common in this group. Now I can be aware of the "red flags" in my relationships, and be able to be a stronger woman and mother to be able to look out for me and my three boys!" – Healthy Relationship Group Participant

CHILD SUPPORT

"We had one child in shelter that was very active and would run and play all day long. We could not get him to take a nap or have quiet time so one day we brought him into the Sensory room. He listened to music and fell asleep on the mat. The next day he asked to go back into the Sensory room to listen to the 'Robot Instruments'. The music calmed him and he climbed on the child support worker and fell asleep in her arms! We shared with mom and she was provided with this music CD when she left the shelter."

– Child Support Team Lead

EMERGENCY SHELTER

of Calls to Crisis Line: 1,343

New Admissions: 200 | 92 women / 108 children

Turnaways: 369 Total

236 due to capacity | 185 women / 51 children

133 for other reasons | 88 women / 45 children

(other reasons: compromises safety, was under the influence, chose themselves not to come)

80% of residents were first time users

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

58 volunteers supported Rowan House | 27 were new this past year

- They recorded 1,580 hours of service! (Of course countless more hours go un-recorded)
- Volunteer areas: gala, events/awareness, child support, in-shelter support (grocery shopping, cleaning, baking), resident self-care activities (yoga, reiki, meditation, crafts, treat nights)



Thank you to our partners!

