



Operating
Phoenix Safe House
and
Musasa House

A New Look for Our Newsletter!

Summer 2009 Edition
Published June 2009

Dear Readers,

Nothing remains static at the Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society. In order to keep you—our community supporters—as informed as possible, we are changing the format of our quarterly newsletter. As well as reporting on recent and upcoming events, each edition will feature one of our many programs and will put the spotlight on our Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society staff. We want you to know who we are—how and why we do what we do. Although we have different tasks, we have one common goal: "To break the cycle of violence against women and children."

This edition features our newest program: **Resource Development.**

We hope you enjoy. We appreciate your feedback and encourage you to forward your comments and suggestions to: info@psh-medhat.com

**Mary DeWolfe, Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society
Resource Development Coordinator was hired in August 2008.**



Resource Development Program Background: Musasa House, our 10-unit second-stage shelter for women with children recovering from the traumatic effects of family violence, opened in July 2006. While the Society was thrilled that they were now able to provide this vital service, with no secure funding in place for Musasa House operations, they also had the responsibility of raising over \$350,000 annually.

Faced with that daunting task the Board of Directors, in the Spring of 2008, held a consultation session with various community stakeholders and financial experts. As a result of that session, the Board of Directors made the decision to hire a Resource Development Coordinator. The position was advertised in the summer, and Mary DeWolfe was hired to commence work on September 2nd.

Introducing Our Resource Development Coordinator

Born in St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Mary was one of six children. Her father was a hardware merchant and mother a teacher. Raised with a love of reading, learning and music, Mary also had an early and vigorous introduction to politics, privy to spirited discussions among her parents and their friends and extended family members. Although with her own coming of age her personal politics veered sharply from those of that group, she credits her family with providing her with strong values, ethics and a solid introduction to the democratic process.

Mary has lived from coast to coast in Canada, and first lived in Alberta in the late 1960's, where she attended Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton in the 70's. After the birth of her second child, her family returned to her home in the Maritimes. There she began her professional career as a musician. She first visited Medicine Hat in the summer of 1980, as the first stop of a Western tour. She fell in love with both the city and one of its residents! December 1980 found Mary, her children and new partner living in 'the Hat'.

Mary was one of the four original Medicine Hat Women's Shelter staffers hired in 1981, a few months before the first shelter opened. She left that position when she and her family moved to Victoria, B.C. in the summer of 1983. At that point Mary resumed her work as a performing musician and continued in that work after moving back to Nova Scotia in 1985.

Her passion for social justice and community activism compelled her to return to work in the shelter movement, and she accepted the position of Executive Director for Chrysalis House in July 1989. Chrysalis House, a shelter for abused women and children, serves the entire Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia.

Mary, known as a fierce and tireless advocate for social justice, in her 15 years with Chrysalis House and the Transition House Association of Nova Scotia (THANS), she accomplished many goals. Those goals included moving Chrysalis House from a remote rural location into the town of Kentville, expanding programs to include outreach services for women and children, and lobbying successfully for legislative change and social reform—at the local, provincial and regional levels—in many issues affecting women and children. She represented the Transition House Association of Nova Scotia (THANS) on the committee to implement the Children and Family Services Act and as Chair of the Family Violence Subcommittee wrote ground breaking protocol for Nova Scotia transition houses and child welfare agencies. Mary also served as Co-Chair of THANS for many years and participated on boards and committees at the local, provincial, regional and national levels.

She and her partner felt the 'call of the west' again and returned to Medicine Hat in late 2007. They are delighted to be able to spend quality time with their families. As they renew old friendships, they are also creating new ones. Although 'east is east' and 'west is west', they cherish their countrywide experiences and friendships.



The Resource Development Program

The purpose of the Program is to ensure that funding is secured for day-to-day operations of Phoenix Safe House, our emergency shelter, and for Musasa House, our second stage housing program. This requires balancing the immediate fiscal needs of the Society with working toward achieving long-term sustainable funding.

The Resource Development Coordinator duties include:

- Working with our friends in the community on third party fundraising events
 - Organizing fundraising events and activities
 - Building an endowment fund and arranging for 'planned giving'
 - Media and public relations
 - Writing grant proposals and reports for acquired grants
 - Tracking donations, charitable tax receipting & writing 'thank you' letters
-
- **Grants:** Mary researches available grants and funding sources, works closely with Executive Director, Natasha Carvalho, and Musasa House and Phoenix Safe House Program Managers in ensuring a 'good fit' between programs and granting criteria. Once a grant has been approved, it is her responsibility to work with the appropriate program manager in monitoring and evaluating the grant activities and to report on the same to the grantors.

Of the many grant proposals written this year, one of the successful applications was to the Alberta Children and Youth Services for a brand-new child care program. **The 'Musasa Tree House Childcare Program'**, for which we have just received our grant, will commence this summer. It will provide child care in a day care type setting and will be offered to the families who use both Phoenix Safe House and Musasa House. The program will run Monday to Friday, for 7 hours each day.

Our annual **Summer Recreation Program** has been expanded and enhanced this year. The program will run from Monday to Friday, from early morning to mid-afternoon and will be able to accommodate 15 children and youth aged 5 to 14. The Phoenix Safe House Child Support team – Mirna Avelar and Kyla Zimbowski have hired 2 students to assist with the program. This was made possible through a Canada Summer Jobs grant. Kyla, the designated supervisor for the summer program, has been busy organizing an ambitious schedule of events and activities. Should be a good summer!



We Appreciate our Community Partners!

- **Working with our corporate and group partners in the community.** We continue to benefit from our many community friends – individuals, organizations and businesses - who contribute through their volunteerism, holding fundraising events on our behalf, and money and in-kind donations.

'Third party' fundraising events are very important for us at the MHWSS. Not only do they bring in much needed revenue, but they are indicative of the high level of community support and awareness we enjoy. These events give us the opportunity to increase that awareness and to broaden community support.

We were delighted that Bob Kalista and his staff at Royal LePage Community Realty have 'adopted' the Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society. Their first fundraising events – a Gala and Auction, held on May 20th, and followed three days later by a yard sale, raised nearly \$13,000 for the Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society! The Gala was not only a financial success, but participants had a great time. Thank you, Royal LePage!

We also thank Lydia Burger for organizing her 'Ladies Morning Spring Tea' and donating the proceeds to the Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society. The Tea and silent auction was a huge success, raising nearly \$6,000.

We also receive tremendous support from various service clubs, organizations, churches and schools—too numerous to list. Suffice to say, each and every donor or donor group is personally thanked for their contribution.

Phoenix Safe House, Musasa House and the Brooks shelter - Canterra House – were the beneficiaries of a large donation of goods from Unilever Canada. This was arranged by Darlene Dorchek, who works for Unilever. She and her brother Adam Frisch formed an organization called 'Never Give Up' as a tribute to their sister Karen who was killed in 2007 by her estranged husband. 'Never Give Up' works to support shelters for abused women and their children and to speak out publicly about family violence and violence against women and children.

Darlene Dorchek and Adam Frisch of 'Never Give Up', helping us to unpack the Unilever donation.



Some of our other recent community supporters include:

Hat Harmonettes, Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis and Kinettes, Lions Clubs, Order of the Royal Purple, Church of Latter Day Saints, Oil Wives, McCoy High School

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



Royal Purple Medicine Hat Lodge #206 L-R: Nora Sept, Honored Royal Lady Loretta Oddan, (Mary DeWolfe), Irene Sandau, Tina Friesz

More Community Partners

Scotiabank Group Charity Golf Classic

Scotiabank Group is working hard to make this year's Charity Golf Tournament an even bigger success than last year's – which raised \$25,000! The Scotiabank Group Charity Golf Classic will be held at the Medicine Hat Golf and Country Club on Thursday, September 3rd, 2009. As always, there will be prizes, great food and lots of fun. Happy golfing!

Registration is \$150.00 per person – deadline for registration is July 20, 2009. Please contact Mary DeWolfe (resources@psh-medhat.com or 403-527-8223) at the Shelter, or Patti Hieb at Scotiabank (patti.hieb@scotiabank.com or 403-528-6753) for more information.



50th Annual Medicine Hat Police Association Ball

Work on the Medicine Hat Police Association Ball has already commenced. This year's event will be very special as it marks the 50th anniversary of the Police Association Ball. It will be held at the Medicine Hat Lodge on October 17th. As we have done for the past few years, the Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society will be organizing a silent auction, and the Police Association will be organizing a live auction, with all proceeds coming to the Society. Should be a great event!



Medicine Hat Kiwanis Club has just donated \$10,000 to help upgrade the security system at Musasa House. Thank you so much!

And in Closing...

We're Building an Endowment: This summer, Mary and the Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society Fund Development Committee will be working on developing tools for building an endowment fund. The endowment fund has been set up with the Community Foundation of Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta. Established in the fall of 2008, there is \$1.00 in the fund at this time. We have a long way to go to build it to the point where it can sustain operations at Musasa House!

If you are interested in helping to build our fund, please contact Mary DeWolfe at the MHWSS. She may be reached by telephone: 403-527-8223, by email: resources@psh-medhat.com or by post: PO Box 2500, Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8G8

Mark These Dates on Your Calendar

Scotiabank Golf Classic: Registration Deadline July 20, 2009

Tournament Thursday, September 3rd, 2009



50th Annual Medicine Hat Police Association Ball: October 17, 2009



We cannot say 'Thank You' loudly or often enough. Thank you to all of you who continue to support the Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society and who ensure that women and children in need of our help continue to receive it.

Thank you for helping us 'Break the Cycle of Violence'!

Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society

Staff Members

Administration:

Executive Director: Natasha Carvalho
Administration Manager: Dianne Finch
Public Ed & Awareness: Jamie Evans
Administration Assistant: Vivian Young
Volunteer Coordinator: Jennifer Ottenbreit
Resource Development Coordinator: Mary DeWolfe

Phoenix Safe House:

Program Manager: Catherine Ohama
Child Support Coordinator: Mirna Avelar
Child Support Worker: Kyla Zimbowski
Outreach Worker: Jannay Douville
Household Workers: Ineke deVries
Christine Robins

Crisis Intervention Workers:

Shannon Gaetz Tracy Poisson
Minota Kennell Tracy Robinson
Joy Metz

Musasa House:

Program Manager: Cathy Barnes
Family Support Workers: Vanessa Klaudt
Kelsey Hilsendager
Nicole Hieb
Child Care Worker: Patti Knibbs

Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society

Board Members

President: Sandy Redden
Vice President: Kambi Heywood
Secretary: Wanda Simmons
Treasurer: Donna-Lee Sheardown

Directors:

Darlene O'Reilly
Dean Milne
Hilary Munro
Andrea Dolan
Andy McGrogan

We're on the Web!

www.mhwss.ca

MEMBERSHIP IN THE MEDICINE HAT WOMEN'S SHELTER SOCIETY SHOWS SUPPORT FOR THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SOCIETY AND GIVES VOTING PRIVILEGES AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER, PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM, CLIP, AND MAIL TO THE ADDRESS BELOW. MEMBERSHIP COST IS \$10.00.

Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society
Box 2500
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8G8

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: (home) _____ (work) _____

EMAIL: _____



A very special 'Thank You' to all our
generous sponsors and donors.



Box 2500

Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8G8

Phone 527-8223

E-Mail: info@psh-medhat.com

Website: www.mhwss.ca