



transition society

shelter, guidance, & hope
for women & children fleeing violence

Annual Report 2015-2016

Vision Statement

Women and children are free from violence

Mission Statement

To raise awareness about and to provide a continuum of services including safe housing, support, counselling and education for women and children impacted by violence.

Our Values

Respect– celebrating individuality and diversity

Trust– providing an environment of safety, confidentiality, and security

Acceptance– freedom of choice and unconditional support

Education– increasing awareness of the issues and impacts of violence against women and children

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Our Work

Dixon Transition Society provides a continuum of services to women and children escaping violence. Services include a safe haven through our Transition House, Second Stage and Third Stage housing programs, Counselling, and Housing Outreach. Raising awareness about the root causes of violence against women, and working towards eliminating gender-based violence complete our continuum of services.

Operating in Burnaby for the past 43 years, our comprehensive services support women from the crisis stage of arriving at our Transition House to when they live safely and independently on their own. Our incredible and passionate team welcome the women and children with open arms and our generous donors ensure the families we serve feel the love and support of the community.

Dixon Transition House: Dixon House is a ten-bed safe house for women and their children who are fleeing violence. Women receive support and advocacy 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in a secure home environment. The Child Support Worker also helps both mother and her children adjust to their new surroundings and begin the process of healing.

Wenda's Place: Individual supportive housing units where women and their children who have passed through the initial crisis stage may stay up to two years. Our program is designed to assist the women achieve their goals and provide children with opportunities for growth and learning.

Third Stage Housing: Safe and affordable housing for women and their children who have recovered from their initial trauma and are ready to live more independently.

Housing Outreach: Housing support for women and their children who are in the process of leaving any of our housing programs. Outreach staff works closely with the women to assist them in their search for safe and affordable housing and connecting them with their new community.

Stopping the Violence Counselling: Professional individual and group counselling for women in Burnaby who have experienced violence in their relationships, sexual assault, or childhood abuse.

Family Counselling: Professional counselling and therapy for low-income residents of Burnaby who are a parent or significantly involved in raising children.

Messages from the Board

Dixon Transition Society does important and necessary work.

Unfortunately the demand for our services is constant. At all levels of the organization our team of staff and volunteers are committed to ensuring our services are accessible and relevant to women from all walks of life. This past year has been one of growth and renewal for the organization as we have spent time reviewing existing programs and building new programs. The staff have been actively looking for ways to expand our services and for creative ways to engage our community.

This has also been a year of renewal for the board and we have some fantastic new members with skills sets that add great value to our team. Lisa Lacamell, Narges Nirumvala and Derrick Lau have joined us this year and our continuing members are Kuldip Taggar, Jane Banham, Helena Rebec, Naveed Nadri and myself. The board along with our wonderful executive director Pany Aghili are working well together and look forward to planning a strong future for Dixon. I am pleased to say that all of our current board members will be standing for re-election.

On behalf of the board I want to thank all of the staff and volunteers for their continued commitment to ensuring that women and children have a chance to live a life free of violence. I also want to extend our thanks to the funders and donors who make our mission possible.

Respectfully,

Gill Sherwood,
Chair of the Board



Grand Villa Casino Cheque Presentation 2015

Messages from the Board

The 2015-2016 fiscal year has been a financially stable and productive year for Dixon Transition Society.

The generosity of our donors enabled us to enhance our capacity and carry out much needed capital repairs to our facilities. Specifically a grant from the Raymond James Foundation for \$8,000 permitted us to carry out updates in our Third Stage facilities. Dixon Transition Society does not receive any government funding to operate these units and maintains the facilities by charging allowable shelter cost as set by Province of BC. That is why it is so important for us to continue to receive donations and raise funds to ensure women and children survivors of violence are receiving the care they need and are living in housing facilities that are safe.

Other notable donations during the last fiscal year include: The Greater Vancouver Community Credit Union with a donation of \$12,500; Gateway Casinos & Entertainment Limited with \$5000, and individual and anonymous donors totalling donations of \$17,000. A grant from Civil Forfeiture enhanced staff capacity by covering training. I would like to thank all of our kind hearted donors and government funders who support the work of Dixon Transition Society.

The staff and board at Dixon Transition Society continue to ensure sound financial practices guaranteeing the sustainability of our organization and service delivery. In a climate where competition for dollars raised is fierce, Dixon's staff and board work to stay connected with our community and donors and emphasize the importance of our work to having healthy communities.

I would like to thank the staff, our volunteers and fellow board members for their contribution to Dixon Transition Society's mission and vision. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve such an important organization.

Respectfully,

Derrick Lau,
Treasurer of the Board



Burnaby Rotaract Club Cheque Presentation 2015

Executive Director's Report

It is my pleasure to provide this report for Dixon Transition Society's 43rd annual report.

The 2015-2016 fiscal year was the second year of our three year strategic plan. The Dixon staff, board, and other volunteers continued to focus on providing high quality services to our clients and I am happy to report we reached all the priorities we had set.

Much like previous years, the generosity of our incredible donors, funders, and volunteers enhanced our capacity and supported us in achieving our goals and providing high quality services to women and children survivors of violence. With the support of Team Phoenix and a generous grant by the Raymond James Foundation we were able to update two bathrooms at our Third Stage housing facilities. This incredible donation of time and skill by members of Team Phoenix allowed us to stretch our grant dollars and maximize our resources. Team Phoenix, thank you so much for your donation to Dixon Transition Society. We appreciate our male allies who stand up to violence against women and display their solidarity with our work in such a meaningful and significant way.

I also would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who generously donated to Dixon Transition Society. Without your support and commitment to ending violence against women and children we would not be able to provide our comprehensive services.

During this past year we also had some staffing changes across some of our programs. Some long term staff retired or moved to part time positions while other staff moved on to pursue new journeys. As we had a sound succession plan in place, all positions were filled with internal talent who were ready to grow and take on new challenges. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Claire Kalfon, Jennifer Oh, Rubi Samra and Stephanie Fowler to their new positions.

I also would like to specially thank Bea Bonner for her years of service to Dixon Transition Society. Bea retires in June after serving our clients for 23 years. Bea, is fierce in her passion for ensuring women and children always receive the highest quality of care at our Transition House. Clients love Bea and continued to come and visit her years after they left our program. Bea, we all miss you and your sense of humor. Although you are not working with us on a day to day basis, we carry your wisdom and passion in our work every day. Thank you for your years of service.

I also would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff and volunteers including our board of directors and members of the Society. The commitment and passion of our staff, volunteers and board members makes Dixon Transition Society the unique and mighty organization that it is. And that is why we continue to provide comprehensive services to the women and children fleeing violence and to men who want to be better parents and partners.

Thank you to all of you for sharing our vision of ending gender-based violence.

Respectfully,

Pany Aghili,
Executive Director

Our Impact



Art work by the children in our Programs



Total clients served: **743**

Total calls for service: **2,061 women and children**

1,051 women and children turned away from Housing programs due to lack of space.

Transition House

Clients served

Total clients: 93
Women: 47
Children: 46

Calls for service: 1,941 women and children

Turned away due to lack of space
Total turned away: 718

Ex-residents receiving support:
130

Stopping the Violence Counselling

Total clients: 46
Number of sessions: 380

Family Counselling

Total clients: 89
Number of sessions: 700
Number of families: 19

Wenda's Place

Clients served

Total clients: 80
Women: 33
Children: 47

Calls for service: 114 women and children

Ex-residents receiving support: 16

Number of workshops held: 7

Activities with children: 21

Turned away due to lack of space
Total turned away: 313
Women: 140
Children: 173

Volunteers

Total volunteers: 463
Total volunteer hours: 1228

Third Stage

Clients served

Total clients: 52
Women: 13
Children: 39

Calls for service: 6 women and children

Turned away due to lack of space
Total turned away: 20
Women: 5
Children: 15

Housing Outreach

Clients served
Total clients: 91
Children: 74

Program Reports

Transition House Report

It has been a very busy yet rewarding year.

One of the things we are grateful for is the wonderful volunteers and community members that support our services. Because of their support, we are able to maintain our house and create a safe and welcoming environment for our clients.

In the Transition House program this year, we housed a number of women and children who are without status in Canada. It was a challenge to find them housing especially because they had no income and no status due to breakdown of sponsorship. However, we partnered with other organizations in our community to work together to help them gain status, and find housing. We have found that partnering with other agencies is a tremendous benefit for our clients. We are continually looking for free medical clinics, pro bono legal services, and dental services for our clients as well.

Women who come to transition houses are resilient despite the many barriers that they face and Dixon House staff consider it a privilege to serve these families. Although this job is difficult it is very rewarding as we witness the change in the lives of the women and children that we serve.

On behalf of staff I would like to thank all of our generous donors who make Christmas holidays special by sponsoring our families and to all our donors and funders that make our services possible.

Mary Daly & Jennifer Oh, House Coordinators



Art Work by the children in Dixon Society Programs

Wenda's Place Report

Our Second Stage Housing Program, Wenda's Place, is for women and their children who are still in need of support while living independently. At Wenda's Place we help women in our program access and navigate the support services they need. Our clients have to overcome many obstacles but they are all strong women and great mothers and I get to witness that and be inspired by their strength every day.

Throughout this past year we hosted a number of workshops including Self-Confidence & Empowerment, UBC Reading Week – Cooking Project, Employment Preparation, Options for Sexual Health, Healthy Relationships & Boundaries, Conflict Resolution, and Finances & Budget management for low income families.

Our Child Support Worker, who has also been very busy with the families in our program and worked with the Transition House Child Support worker to coordinate the Expressive Arts Workshop which took place over spring break and another one during the summer, open to children in all Dixon Society programs, past and present.

We have also had several Days of Caring where workplaces donated a day of their time to help with painting, weeding & other maintenance projects around the building.

Wenda's Place provides more than just a safe affordable home for residents. We provide various supportive services to the women and children residing in our program while they continue healing from the trauma they endured.

Rubi Samra, Program Coordinator



Art Work by the children in Dixon Society Programs

Program Reports

Housing Outreach Report

As the Housing Outreach Worker for current and former residents of Dixon Transition Society, I support women and children to find safe and affordable housing, like second stage transition houses or permanent housing, depending on their needs. I meet with clients and assess their needs, which range from income to housing to employment to education.

When I first meet with a woman, understandably she tells me that her top priority is to secure a place to live in order to be independent and to provide stability for her children. Women leaving violent relationships face several barriers often making it difficult, if not impossible, to leave the abusive situation. The concern over finding housing is real because of the lack of available affordable housing. In fact, lack of adequate number of affordable housing programs hinders woman's opportunities to leave an abusive relationship permanently.

My favourite part of the job is when I find the family a home to move into. The look on their faces when they go see their new place is priceless. For some clients, it is the first time they will be putting their name on a lease and have something to call their own. For the children, having a new home is both exciting and scary as they get used to a new neighbourhood, perhaps a new school, and new friends.

I am always amazed by the resilience of the women and children I meet. I am happy to be able to support them as they start new lives.

Jennifer Oh, Housing Outreach Worker



Art Work by the children in Dixon Society Programs

Stopping the Violence Report

I have been with Dixon Transition Society for over 10 years occupying different roles. I am honoured to provide my services for the Stopping the Violence (STV) program. Violence includes all forms of abuse including physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, verbal, and financial. As the STV counsellor, a position that I have recently stepped into, I support women to interrupt the pattern and conditioning of abuse.

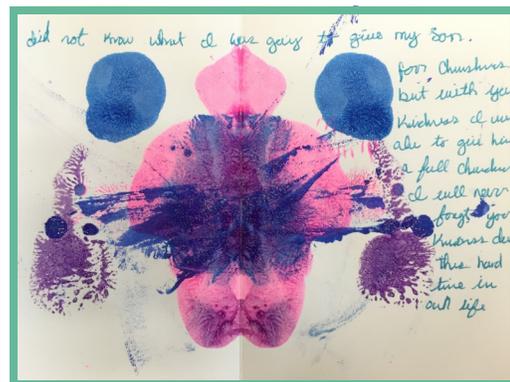
My aim with the women is to facilitate a new understanding regarding the cycle of abuse including holding the abuser responsible for the violence that is perpetrated against them. My wish is that the women and their children begin to live a life free of abuse, which every woman and child deserves. I feel privileged to be part of this amazing organization. Dixon Transition Society is dedicated to not only supporting women and children fleeing violence, but also to educating and raising awareness regarding the prevalence of violence against women in the hope that it will be eradicated one day.

Claire Kalfon, RSW, Stopping the Violence Counsellor

Counselling Program Report

The Counselling Program is one of the first programs that Dixon Transition Society offered. It serves women, men, couples and families that have children, are low income and live in Burnaby. Priority is given to referrals by the Ministry of Children and Family Development social workers. Referrals by other agencies as well as self-referrals are welcome as well.

Elizabeth Herman, M.A., RCC, Family Counsellor



Art Work by the children in Dixon Society Programs

Volunteer Spotlight

Thank you!



Volunteers from RBC



Volunteers from BMO



Volunteers from Apple



Mother's Day Hampers from Cause We Care Foundation

What an absolutely incredible year for volunteers! This year we had 463 volunteers who contributed 1228 hours of their time and skills to help us with various projects throughout the past year. We would not be able to provide the comprehensive services we offer without the support of the community and the countless volunteer hours that go into helping Dixon Transition Society run efficiently.

Volunteers' duties range from serving as directors on the board, helping us maintain our facilities by painting and renovating, weekly grocery shopping to ensure our women and children have access to healthy and fresh food, gardening, or assisting at events to make sure they run smoothly.

We have been amazed by every single volunteer that showed up with a wonderful attitude and dedication to help in whatever way we needed them. A big thank you to all our volunteers who made the last year such a success! We could not have done it without you!

Volunteer Spotlight

Brentwood Presbyterian Church - 4th Annual Christmas Jazz Benefit Concert for Dixon Transition Society

This year we would like to give an extra big thank you to the Brentwood Presbyterian Church for their continual support.

The Brentwood Presbyterian Church donated time and proceeds from the 4th Annual Christmas Jazz Benefit Concert to the Dixon Transition Society.

The concert last year raised over \$700 in proceeds towards helping women and children survivors of violence!

A big thank you to Reverend Dr. Brian Fraser, Glenda Rae (voice), Miles Black (piano), and Brett Wade (guitar) for sharing their amazing talents and expertise with us.



Executive Director addressing the crowd at the concert

Bathroom Renovations

This year we are proud to showcase TWO bathroom renovations in our third stage housing completed by Team Phoenix!

An extra big thank you to the Raymond James Foundation who funded the project and Team Phoenix who volunteered their time and skills to complete the renovation.

This incredible team of volunteers once again donated their valuable time and helped us complete much needed bathroom renovations in our Third Stage housing units. The older bathrooms had sustained major water damage and were in need of new plumbing and fixtures to bring them up to date. This renovation will allow us to continue to provide a safe space for women and children. We are grateful for the amazing support from our community to complete projects like this which allows us to provide safe and comfortable spaces for our clients as they rebuild their lives free of violence.



Before renovations

After renovations



Before renovations

After renovations

2015-2016 Highlights



Ready A Film By Joella Cabalu

Ready, a short film by Joella Cabalu was created in partnership with Cineworks Play it Forward and Dixon Transition Society to highlight the ways in which violence against women is still prevalent in our society. The video does not shy away from the raw emotions that accompany the realities of women's safety when leaving a violent situation. In the video writer and director Joella Cabalu showcases the beautiful monument located in Thomson park for the women who were victims of the Montreal Massacre in 1989. The images in the video remind viewers of how many women are still affected by violence.

Healthy Relationships Workshop

In 2015 Dixon Transition Society used the grant from Face the World Foundation to create the Healthy Relationship Workshop. This workshop was created in response to our Second Stage clients' feedback. The women staying in our program identified building healthy relationships with immediate family members, neighbours, friends and co-workers as an area of struggle. This is due to years of experiencing abuse and control over every aspect of their lives. With the help of our very capable consultant Kristina Trommel, the workshop modules were created. In order to ensure the offering of the workshops became a sustainable and ongoing aspect of our program, we also trained the staff in delivering the workshop so that it can be offered on an annual basis to our new clients. Thank you Face the World Foundation for providing this grant and providing our courageous clients with opportunity for personal growth.

Building Confidence Workshop

The content of the Building Confidence Workshop was created in collaboration between our Program Coordinator, Stopping the Violence Counsellor and our UBC Social Work practicum student. The workshop explored the ways in which women can take control of their self confidence. Participants were provided with exercises and tools of practice through group activities that helped them identify how to gain or improve their self esteem. The women were engaged and provided positive feedback. Again as this workshop was created in house it will be sustainable and we will continue to offer it to our clients on annual basis. Thank you to all of our donors for enabling us to provide comprehensive services.

Scotiabank 5km and Half Marathon 2015

Scotiabank 5km and Half Marathon: 2015 marked the first year that the Dixon Transition Society participated in the Scotiabank 5km and Half Marathon Charity Challenge. The past year we had a team of 10 runners for the half marathon and 5km run. We were able to raise over \$5,000 to support women and children survivors of violence.

Thank you to everyone who joined our team and fundraised for us and thank you to all of our donors. Please come and cheer us on as we participate in this year's event on Sunday June 26, 2016.



Team Dixon Runners

Our Supporters

Ammara Dance Company
Apple Metrotown
Atlas Power Steering
BCAA
BC Air Filter
BC Lions
BCTH Enterprises Inc
Big Brothers Renew Crew
Boston Pizza-Lougheed Hwy
Brentwood Presbyterian Church
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Carter Northshore
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City of Burnaby Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission
Cockroach
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Deloitte (Staff)
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Families of Abuse Society
Gateway Casinos & Entertainment Limited
Greater Vancouver Community Credit Union (GVC Credit Union)
Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society
Good Riddance
Guru Nanaks Free Kitchen
Hermes Lodge
HR Macmillan Space Centre
IBM Employees’ Charitable Fund
Kids Up Front
Leon Judah Blackmore Foundation
Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau
M&M Meat Shop
Macdonald Commercial Real Estate
Marketplace IGA - Burnaby Kingsway
Mc Donald’s Canada

Methanex Corporation
Metropolis at Metrotown
Microsoft Metrotown
Miles Black, Brett Wade, Glenda Rae and the Essential Band
My Yoga Spirit
Nikkei Seniors Health Care and Housing Society
Open Orthopedic Education
Panago - Kingsway
Panago - Rosser Avenue Burnaby
Phython Biotech
Pon Yon’s Dai Society
Purdy’s Chocolates
Raymond James Canada Foundation
Raymond James Canada Ltd
Royal Bank of Canada Foundation
Royal Bank of Canada-Hastings & Rosser
Real Canadian Superstore - Kingsway
Real Canadian Superstore - Marine Drive
Reitmans - Coquitlam Centre
Rita McDonald Foundation
Rotaract Club of Burnaby
Rotary Coats For Kids
Safeway - Kensington
Safeway - 9855 Austin Rd, Burnaby
Safeway - Kingsway
Save On Foods - New Westminster
Scotiabank
SFU Arts and Communications Co-op Department
Silvercity Coquitlam
Silvercity Metropolis
South Burnaby United Church Women
Starbucks Holdom Station
Team TELUS Cares
Theatre Under The Stars
The Body Shop-Lougheed Mall
The Reptile Guy
Uprising Breads
Vancity Centre
Vancity North Burnaby Community Branch
Vancity Savings Credit Union
Vancouver Aquarium
Vancouver Whitecaps FC
Variety Club of BC
White Spot - North Rd
Zone Bowling - Coquitlam

**Thank you to all of our supporters
for their generous contributions!**

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And the many individual and anonymous donors ...

Funding Support by:



BC Housing



Ministry of Children and Family Development
Ministry of Justice
Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch



United Way
Lower Mainland

Department of Justice Canada

Service Canada– Canada Summer Jobs



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