



BIG HILL HAVEN
A SAFE TOMORROW STARTS TODAY.



Annual Report

2019-2020



MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

In 2016, a group of six women met for a book club meeting in Cochrane, Alberta.

The uncomfortable topic of domestic violence came up. They realized that of the six of them, five had experienced family violence. Someone said that a women's shelter in Cochrane would never happen.

It was a red flag for two of the women. "Watch us," they said.

Together, and with other partners, they worked to form Big Hill Haven as a society. By 2018, a part-time outreach worker was hired to make a difference in the lives of women and children who were living with or leaving domestic violence. Help was provided, but shelter space was limited to only a few nights stay at a local hotel.

For that same year, the Cochrane RCMP reported over 550 spousal abuse related incidents. This was an increase of over 14% for the municipal detachment area of Cochrane over the year before. Cochrane's population was under 33,000.

The Covid-19 pandemic added to what was already an epidemic of domestic violence, not only for Cochrane but for the whole country. From January to June 4 of 2020, Cochrane and Area Victim Services reported that they had opened 472 new files, of which 190 were domestic violence related.

The need for help for women and children living with or leaving family continued to grow.

With the support of donors and supporters, Big Hill Haven is working to provide the help and support that women need. Through 2019-2020, we provided 82 nights of shelter. And in August, opened the "Haven" our first shelter space. Throughout the fall we are working to add more service hours to ensure we are there when women need us.

From that coffee meeting, when a group of women decided to make a difference, a story of coming together, to create safe and healthy lives for women and children has been created.

Big Hill Haven exists to provide the help that women and their families need. We exist to end domestic violence.

That safe tomorrow, starts today, with Big Hill Haven.



Valerie Gilmore
Chair, Board of Directors
Big Hill Haven

OUR IMPACT

Big Hill Haven provides assistance to women and children experiencing domestic abuse through housing, outreach, and case management programs. We serve the residents of Cochrane and Area, a growing population of over 40,000.

The last year has been one of transformation in how Big Hill Haven is making women's lives safer and healthier.

In November 2019, our services were limited to a dedicated part-time outreach worker who provided outreach support and case management over 20 hours a week. Through the generosity of a donor, emergency shelter was available but limited to a few nights stay at a local hotel.

Fast forward a year, through the challenges of the provincial economic downturn and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and Big Hill Haven is growing to meeting the increasing need for our support.

Through a rental support strategy, the generosity of donors, and key grants, we have been able to provide short stay housing, expand our hours of operation, and as of August 2020, have launched our first shelter space, the Haven. Through our last year, we helped 62 clients and provided 82 nights of shelter.

Following our Five Year Strategy, Big Hill Haven is working to increase service hours to full time, including evenings and weekends, provide emergency housing, and raise funds for the purchase of a residential unit for second stage housing.

“The group brought me back to myself. Everyone’s support and encouragement made me love myself again.”

- Peer Support Group Participant

OUR NUMBERS



244

PEER SUPPORT HOURS



82

NIGHTS OF SHELTER
PROVIDED



62

CLIENTS SERVED



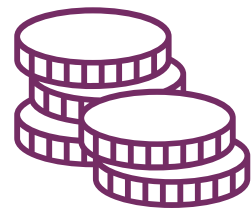
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STAFF MEMBERS



41

DEDICATED
VOLUNTEERS



\$176,000

DOLLARS RAISED

OUR PROGRAMS

Emergency Housing

We provide emergency housing through a secure building to ensure a safe place for healing that aids in preventing ongoing abuse. This service also provides the support needed for women and their families to put domestic violence behind them through the wrap-around support of our intensive case manager.

Outreach Support

Our Outreach Program offers support to women leaving or experiencing domestic abuse. This program can be a source of short-term support as women seek information and make healthy choices. The focus is safety, connection to community resources, and information and education related to domestic abuse and breaking the cycle of violence.

Case Management

We provide intensive case management services to women who have experienced or are experiencing domestic abuse or family violence in Cochrane and area. While women's experiences are unique, case management includes risk assessment, safety planning, abuse education, emotional support, referrals, court support, and support around basic needs as well as system navigation and assistance to access community resources.

"I Finally felt there is a place that I fit in and belong, never victim blamed. It made a world of difference to me."

- Peer Support Group Participant

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

With thanks to our 2019-2020 Board of Directors.

This volunteer group has poured in countless hours to help end domestic violence through supporting and empowering families in Cochrane and area.

Jeff Brunner

Director

Fay Chrisohou

Treasurer

Allison Comeau

Director

Sandra Gateman

Director

Valerie Gilmore

Chair

Cindy Iles

Former Director

Taylor Kawaguchi

Director

Debbie Leah

Vice Chair

Jacque Matechuk

Director

Tracey Radloff

Director

Laurel Skidmore

Secretary

Joy Steppacher

Director

Margaret Van Tighem

Honorary Board Member

The Board of Directors would like to recognize and extend their gratitude to those who served on the board in the past year.

Gretchen Albers

Former Vice Chair

Ana Botelho Clark

Former Co-Chair

Faith Brace

Former Co-Chair

Cindy Iles

Former Director

Alanna Thompson

Former Director

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The Cochrane Women's Emergency Shelter Society, operating as Big Hill Haven, has a year end of July 31. MDP LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants has been engaged to conduct the annual audit.

As of the preparation of the Annual Report, the audit exists in draft form. Highlights of the draft financial report include:

Annual Report Highlights (*Draft*)

Assets:	\$264,452.00
Liabilities:	\$24,126.00
Revenue:	\$176,456.00
Expenses:	\$98,486.00
Excess of revenue over expenses:	\$77,970.00

COVID-19 Impact

As a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic there has been a slight increase in demand for the Society's services. There has also been a negative impact on the ability to raise funds, due to the government-imposed restrictions on gatherings, which has limited fundraising events available to the Society. Management is unable to determine the full extent that these matters will have on operations.

Once finalized, the 2020 Financial Report will be available to the community upon request.



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For more information visit our website at
bighillhaven.com

Cochrane Women's Emergency Shelter Society

Charitable Registration #709526099 RR0001

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www.bighillhaven.com