

*Annual Report*  
*2014-2015*



*Safe Haven Women's*  
*Shelter Society*



*Safe  
Haven*

*"Striving for a safer  
tomorrow...today"*

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# President's Report

We've had another eventful year at the shelter. Board positions remained the same, with eight board members.

We were able to give another wage increase this year due to increased funding from the government. More beds were purchased to bring us up to our new bed increase. We were also able to get new mattresses and pillows for all the beds as an upgrade. The housekeeping position was also expanded with significantly more hours. The fire panel was updated along with related upgrades to all the alarms.

Our third Halloween Howler was a great success this year, with the Chevelles performing. Our other fundraisers, while not bringing in the same amount of funds, continue to increase the awareness of the shelter and our mission.

In February, our Executive Director, Amy Hall, left us for a one-year maternity leave, and shortly thereafter welcomed a boy, Liam into their family. Mildred Ongoma, from Whitehorse, Yukon, joined us as our temporary full-time Executive Director, driving many hours and miles to arrive safely.

It has been a year of many changes for everyone, and we look forward to what the future has to bring us. I would like to thank the board members for their support on our team, and for all their hard work.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorraine Dykstra  
*President*  
*Safe Haven Women's Shelter Society*



# Executive Director's Report

I took over the reins of the shelter from Amy Hall in February, 2015. It has been an interesting, enlightening, and life changing journey bringing me face to face with the harsh and often heartbreaking reality of the extent of abuse and violence unleashed against women in our midst. I have had the chance to have a closer encounter with the amazing work done by organizations and agencies like our own, and the support systems and services we have in place helping the brave women who endure the said abuse. I have also had the opportunity of working alongside a very skilled and dedicated staff particularly our frontline workers – the Crisis Intervention Workers (CIW) who work tirelessly round the clock and with a non-judgemental approach to ensure our clients are safe, supported, and provided for during their stay. The staff provide emotional support, information, and referrals to women in the community who may be in danger and needing these services. I am honored and very proud to be associated with this group – they are my ‘unsung’ heroines who often go above and beyond their call of duty to ensure the comfort of our clients. Our Outreach staff penetrate the depths of the community accessing those that may be facing threats of abuse and violence but have courageously chosen to remain in place. They are equipped with safety planning skills, knowledge, and information on how to access services if and when they need it. Through public education in schools and other forums our Child Support worker reaches out to the youth instilling in them the need to foster respect for all and for each other in relationships; self-esteem; and self-efficacy. To our other staff, who may not be at the forefront dealing directly with clients but whose services are equally significant in keeping the wheels of the Shelter oiled and running, I am very proud of them all. Without the exceptional support and dedication of our Board of Directors we wouldn't be where we are today. The Board are the ‘pillars’ holding Safe Haven together and in place. We do appreciate the selfless commitment, support, and expertise they extend to our mission and vision of rooting out violence and abuse from our community.

Our friends and supporters within the Taber community and beyond have continued to keep us operating through generous donations, grants, and voluntary services. Without them it would not be possible to continue with our spirited fight against abuse and our bid to create a community where all individuals respect one another and a place where children can grow in a safe and secure environment.

We are currently gearing up for our annual Summer Day Camp set to begin on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015. This will run for six weeks until August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Our Child Support worker is currently enrolling those interested in taking part. This free event is made possible by/through the generous contributions of our friends. We have also started preliminary preparations for the popular Halloween Howler scheduled for October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015. We shall be reaching out to the community members, listening to what/how they believe they would best benefit from this ‘fun-filled’ event, and what we need to do different to make it more inclusive.

I am looking forward to a productive 2015/2016 year even as we all work together to rid our community of abuse and violence.

Yours Sincerely,

Mildred Ongoma  
*Acting Executive Director*  
*Safe Haven Women's Shelter Society*

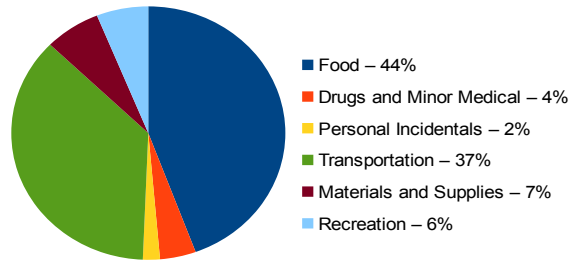


# Treasurer's Report

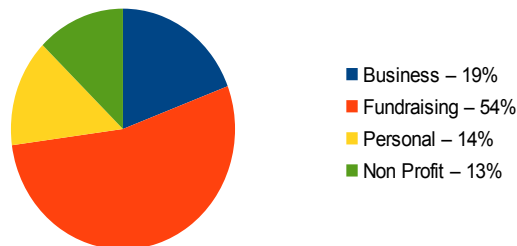
Thanks to the support of the community our main fund-raising event was more successful than ever. While the bulk of our funding is received from Human Services, we rely on the support of the community to enable us to provide the best care possible for the clients using our services. Food and transportation remain the largest expenditures in direct client costs.

Jill Sanden  
*Treasurer*  
*Safe Haven Women's Shelter Society*

Direct Client Costs : 2014 - 2015



Donations Received: 2014-2015



# Fundraising Committee Report

Our fundraising committee was busy again this year with the third annual Halloween Howler. The Chevelles joined us in raising the roof and a very good time was had by all! We grossed approximately \$22,000 and had a net profit of \$13,000. Other fundraisers were the BBQ held by Walmart, and a Tupperware fundraiser. Adopt-a-Family was a huge success again, and a very busy time for the people in charge of making sure everything got to the right families in a timely manner.

We could not run this shelter without the donations from many different people and corporations, and we are so grateful for them. Also, thanks to all the board members and other volunteers that have helped make the fundraising activities a success during the past year!

We are looking forward to holding our fourth annual Halloween Howler in October 2015 and also exploring new partnerships and fundraising opportunities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorraine Dykstra  
*President/Fundraising Committee Member*  
*Safe Haven Women's Shelter Society*



# Child Support Report

Safe Haven has had some changes over the past year, and I am excited to say that I am one of them. My name is Kayla Williams and in December I stepped into the role of the Child Support Worker. Safe Haven is not new to me, as I have spent the last two summers being a Camp Assistant at Safe Haven's Summer Camp program. During that short stretch of time during past summer camps, I was able to experience the phenomenal people and services that Safe Haven has to offer. I left Summer Camp last year hoping that someday I would part of the Safe Haven team, and now I am fortunate to say that I am. I look forward to what this year has to bring.

I recently represented Safe Haven at S.A.S.H.A House Sharing Day. I was educated on organizations in our surrounding community, and was given the opportunity to share information about the shelter with other organizations attending. Sharing Day gave me the chance to spread the word about how Safe Haven can support families and children in our community. In March, I attended the Health and Wellness Fair at D.A Ferguson and used the time to tell the students about our services that they can access. I also talked to students about how to express, deal, and identify emotions and played a game based around feelings. I look forward to the booked presentations I have in the following months and am passionate on educating our community and youth on things like dating violence, bullying, emotions, type of abuse and more. I am always eager to give presentations, and will cater to any requests or needs of the group.

This spring's Girls Group and Kids Club has already wrapped up for the year. Kids Club and Girls Group have been a tremendous amount of fun. Both groups were able to participate in crafts, activities, and games. Each week we talked and learned about things like, positive self-image, boundaries, safety, friendship, bullying, expressing and coping with feelings and more. Kids Club and Girls Group are both free and run for 2 hours once a week. I am looking forward to starting the groups back up in fall and hope to see new and returning faces.

With summer being right around the corner, Safe Haven's Summer Day Camp Program is getting closer to beginning. Summer Camp will be running for 6 weeks and offered to children between the ages of 6-11. Summer Camp is a free day program that runs from 8:30am-3:30pm Monday to Thursday and Friday from 8:30am-12:00pm. Summer Day Camp is a great opportunity for children to learn about topics like bullying, friendship, feelings and more while having fun. This summer's themes will be Pioneer Gold Rush and When I Grow Up. Each week will have themed activities, crafts and more. I look forward to meeting all happy campers.

I am excited for all that this year holds in store for Safe Haven's Child Support Program and I am thankful to have the opportunity of being a part of the Safe Haven Team.

Sincerely,

Kayla Williams  
*Child Support Worker*  
*Safe Haven Women's Shelter Society*



# Crisis Intervention Report

## Safe Haven Residential Services

The 2014- 2015 year has brought some changes to the services we are able to provide. We are now funded for 21 beds for the residential program. We have had funding increases so as we are able to provide more staff for the increase in services available.

We currently have 6 full-time, 3 part-time and 6 casual crisis intervention workers on staff. We also have a Child Support Worker that works full-time and part-time house manager. The CIW's are responsible for the 24/7 crisis line and all aspects of the residential clients stay in shelter.

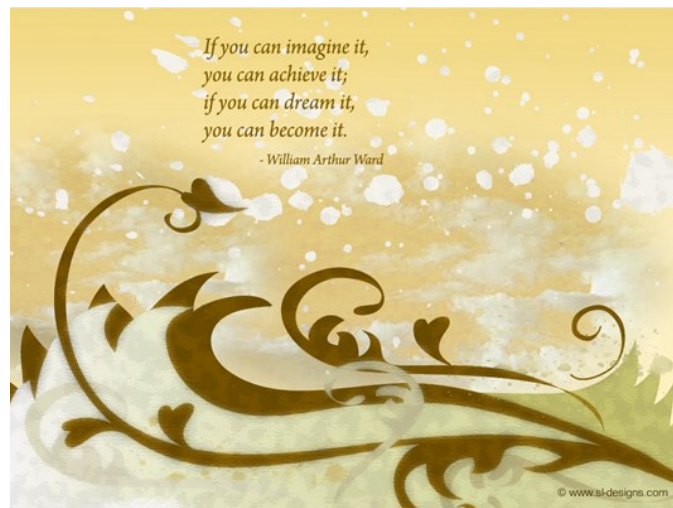
We are very fortunate that we are able to offer a 30 day stay in our residential services. Many shelter are only able to provide a 21 day stay. During their stay women and children are provided with the opportunity to attend information session regarding issues such as, abuse awareness, safety planning, stress and stress management, self- esteem and healthy relationships.

Assistance is provided to client to obtain their individual goals during their stay here. These goals may vary from funding assistance, employment search or safe housing for themselves and children. Residential client's children are able to go to school during their stay due to great support from the schools in Taber.

Safe Haven Women's shelter is very fortunate to have the support of many organizations and individual. Our board member are all volunteers and dedicate many hours to making sure that Safe Haven Women's Shelter runs smoothly.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynne  
*CIW Team Leader*  
*Safe Haven Women's Shelter Society*

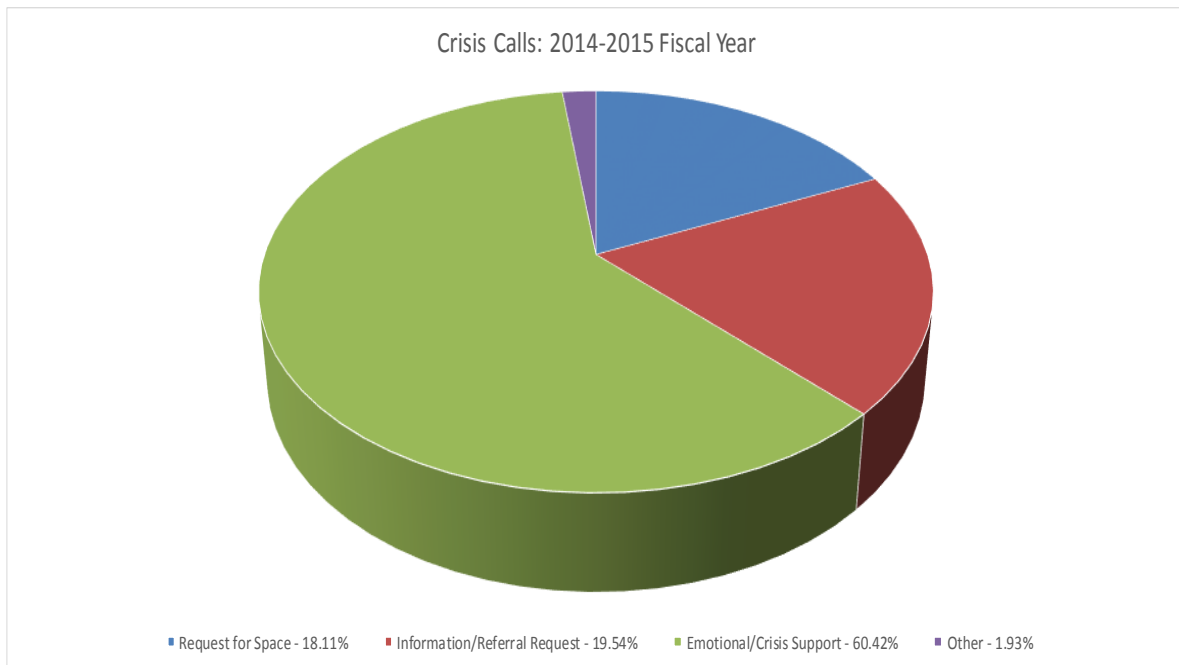




# Crisis Calls Report

## Crisis Calls Report 2014-2015

Crisis Calls Report 2014-2015	Total Calls
Request for Space - 18.11%	291
Information/Referral Request - 19.54%	314
Emotional/Crisis Support - 60.42%	971
Other - 1.93%	31
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>1607</b>



# Outreach Report

My role as Community Outreach Worker has been expanding in the past year. Being in this position for 6 ½ years has given me different insight to the ever changing needs of my clients. In the past year the Outreach program served 41 clients. While this number has decreased in the past year, many of these clients had more complex issues and remained clients for extended periods. There has been a significant increase in word of mouth referrals, which reminds me the value of the relationships I build with clients in providing non-judgmental supportive services. As the Outreach Worker I strive to offer Women's Group that focus on issues relevant to participants. In the past year I was able to run one of my biggest groups to date, with 9 participants. However, my spring group had only 5 ladies and ended with 4. Both groups were a success, but the feedback from my spring group consistently reinforced the small group enabled participants to be more vulnerable and feel safe sharing at a deeper level.

While my main focus is always on my clients, I am currently working on expanding Outreach services into some of our surrounding communities in our service area, specifically focusing on Vauxhall. My goal is to do presentations to get awareness about Safe Haven Outreach program in Vauxhall with the hopes it could lead to doing groups and eventually the possibility of having office space to meet clients facing transportation issues an opportunity to meet individually.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi Wilson  
Community Outreach Worker



# Board of Directors for 2014-2015

**President:**

Lorraine Dykstra

**Vice President:**

Stevie Farough

**Treasurer:**

Jill Sanden

**Secretary:**

Ken Reinke

**Directors:**

Juanita Fudge

Andrew Prokop

Elisha Boulay

Alf Rudd

**Executive Director:**

Mildred Ongoma



*Thank You*

