HA VING AN IMPACT ONE CLIENT AT A TIME

CBVS Client
“I’m thankful beyond belief for the C WAV team. Their heart, skill and experience is helping me heal and grow. At the Holding Your Own in Relationship group, I’ve found solace in other women who get the struggle. I’m learning so much, and gaining inner strength. The one to one appointments with my community-based victim services worker is like a soul-lift. This is hard work, but the C WAV team makes it doable by creating a safe space that empowers and transforms. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.”

HPP Client
“Safe. Finally. Safe. Thankyou from the bottom of my heart forever.”

Somenos Client
“Being here at Somenos House is the best decision I’ve ever made for myself. I’ve made a stand for myself in many ways. Somenos House welcomes you with open arms and a warm heart. Staff are very gentle and understanding, always willing to help you walk in whatever direction you choose to take. I lift my hands to Somenos House and the counselling program.”

CWWA Client
“I feel more at ease with myself knowing that I do not stand alone.”

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR
Last year Cowichan Women Against Violence Society (cwav) celebrated its 35th Anniversary. It was a year to recognize the resilience, everyday courage and achievements of our clients. Their hard work accounts for our longevity. It was a year of focus. For the first time, we offered dedicated services for our aboriginal clients. Programming on Coast Salish teachings and healing practices helped re-connect indigenous clients to the power of ancient cultural wisdom and spiritual beliefs.

The year continued our focus on housing. A safe, healthy place that a woman and her family can call home is a necessary foundation for healing from trauma and getting set for the future. Sixty-five women and children have secure housing because of our Homelessness Prevention program despite the low vacancy rate in the Cowichan Valley.

Our initiative to raise money for more permanent housing has raised over $60,000 thanks to our second successful Gala fundraiser. We look forward to working with North Cowichan and the Community Land Trust on developing 12-units of second stage housing on Sherman Road over the next two to three years.

We purchased a building on Evans Street that will house our community programs—Horizons Pre-employment for Women, Community-based Victim Services (cbvs), Children Who Witness Abuse (cwwa) program; Stopping the Violence (stv) counselling and the Homelessness Prevention program (hpp)—as well as our administrative offices. We take possession on July 1st.

As we look forward, we have secured funding to bring the very successful Men Choose Respect (mcr) program to the valley. The program helps men take responsibility for their use of violence and abuse against their partner. It supports their development of critical thinking and commitment to change. Haven Society from Nanaimo developed the program and they are consulting on the project.

Through the generosity of some local donors, we have added more hours of children’s counselling and victim services and we are using a generous donation to continue the Teen Healthy Relationships program for students in grades nine and ten.

We thank our staff and board members for their dedication. Each brings a wealth of talent, insight and commitment to their roles.

With gratitude,
Jane Sterk, Executive Director and Patricia Blair, Board Chair

HAVING AN IMPACT ONE CLIENT AT A TIME

DONATIONS
TO CWAV SOCIETY

37% increase in donations this year

A special thank you...

To the following donors, whose generous financial donations have had a significant impact on CWAV Society’s ability to support women and their families dealing with the impacts of abuse and violence, we thank you.

Scott Lake & Jessica Thomas Lake
Judy & Erdmann Knaack
Doyle Childs & Pam Richmond
Brentwood College Youth Philanthropy Initiative
John Van Barneveld in memory of Anna & Otto Van Barneveld Sr.
In Memory of Shirley May Lamb

5 BIG THINGS
YOUR SUPPORT HELPED US ACCOMPLISH THIS YEAR!

We supported over 4,100 women, youth and children deal with the impacts of abuse and violence.

Over $60,000 raised towards second stage housing.

Secured funding for the Men Choose Respect program.

Aboriginal Outreach program established.

Purchase of new building on Evans Street for permanent CWAV Society community programs.

C WAV Society Funders & Government Partners