

# Jeremy's Memorial Foundation Against Domestic Violence

Spring 2020 Vol. 38

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**We are still operating**, differently of course, in spite of the pandemic. I am astounded every day at how much our world has changed in such a short amount of time. There is so much fear, isolation and anxiety created by this horrid disease, but we must not forget to be thankful for the wonderful, generous folks in our community. People are doing kind and helpful things for each other.

Our new normal does not in any way diminish our appreciation for all the donations we received since November of last year. Two groups that really outdid themselves are: The Arts Connection Group of Companies and the WorkSafeBC Assessment Department. The Arts Connection/Renaissance Kids had a competition in their school classrooms, collecting over 280 pajamas and \$2,000 in donations for us. I would like to congratulate Linda Shirley, CEO on winning the Richmond Chamber of Commerce Award of Excellence for Business Leadership last November. I know Linda and her team take pride in their charity work. The industrious, compassionate WorkSafeBC ladies raised almost \$2,000 (cash and gift cards) plus gifts galore for women and children. Thank you all for your amazing, outstanding work and kindness.

I can't overlook our faithful knitters – both Knitting Sisters and the Maple Knitters. We are truly blessed to have such lovely, creative people support our organization. We are also thankful for donations from River District Physio in Vancouver and the Foresters Pacific Rim Branch. We are grateful for every individual kind thought and each and every single gift.

Our journey, working to help victims of domestic violence, is thankfully done with support from a huge group of kind, compassionate, generous individuals. You are lending a helping hand to those in need and **TOGETHER, WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

*Donna*



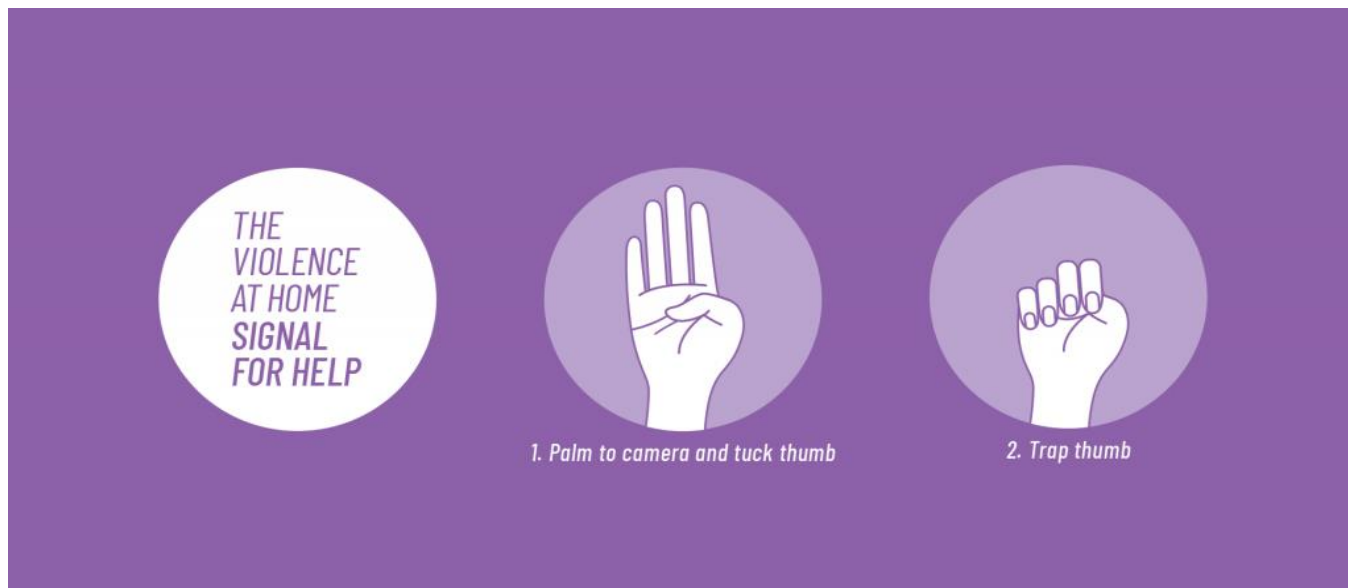
Arts Connection



WorkSafeBC

NEWSLETTER

## COVID-19: How Your Support Helps Women and Girls During the Pandemic



### Signal for Help

*The Canadian Women's Foundation is encouraging people in abusive domestic situations to use this hand signal in video calls if they need help during the pandemic*

The social isolation measures necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic are making it more difficult for those who are at risk of abuse or violence to safely reach out for help. "Signal for Help" is a simple one-handed sign someone can use on a video call. It can help a person silently show they need help and want someone to check in with them in a safe way.

There's ample evidence that disaster situations can lead to a surge in gender-based violence. Public health directives on home isolation might increase danger and risk for people in abusive relationships.

The Signal for Help is a tool that may help some people, some of the time. Some people do not have the ability to make video calls. Please find other resources, services, and programs below that may be helpful in an unsafe situation at home.

*The Signal for Help was launched by the Canadian Women's Foundation in response to COVID-19 and is now being shared by partner organizations around the world. If you are an organization that would like to launch Signal for Help in your own country or region, get in touch with us at [info@canadianwomen.org](mailto:info@canadianwomen.org).*

**If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, call 911 or your local emergency services (police, fire, ambulance).**

### IF YOU SEE THE SIGNAL

If you see someone use the Signal for Help, check in with the person safely to find out what they need and want you to do.

## Some Ways You Can Check in Safely

- 1. Call them and ask questions that can be answered with “yes” or “no”. This may reduce risk if someone is listening. For example:**
  - “Would you like me to call 911?”
  - “Would you like me to call a shelter on your behalf?” (Find a shelter in your community by visiting [ShelterSafe](#).)
  - “Should I look for some services that might help you and call you back?”
- 2. Use another form of communication such as text, social media, WhatsApp, or email and ask general questions. This may reduce risk if someone is watching the person’s device or accounts. For example, you can ask:**
  - “How are you doing?”
  - “How can I help you out?”
  - “Get in touch with me when you can.”
- 3. Other questions you can ask:**
  - “Do you want me to reach out to you regularly?”
  - “How else can I support you?”

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DURING COVID-19

Stay home, governments and public health officials say, framing it as the safest place to be right now, as we all try to avoid a highly infectious coronavirus. But for many women (and a scant minority of men), home isn’t safe at all. Domestic violence has become as worldwide a pandemic as COVID-19 itself: in early April, the United Nations reported a “horrifying global surge.” Statistics Canada just reported that one in 10 women are currently very or extremely worried about violence in the home, and Canadian police forces are reporting a rise in domestic violence calls.

On April 4, the federal government announced \$26 million in emergency funding for women’s shelters. By April 13, 172 qualifying shelters had registered: money was most commonly requested for staffing, figuring out overflow accommodations in places such as hotels or empty apartments and cleaning supplies to keep up with strict new sanitation guidelines.

Capacity has long been a problem, a well documented one. A May 2019 report from Women’s Shelters Canada found that four in 10 women’s shelters were operating at capacity “almost always.” It also found that 74 percent of shelters allow women to overstay provincial guidelines because they have nowhere else to go.

Transition Houses are considered an essential service, but they cannot function at full capacity due to social distancing and upgraded hygiene requirements. Locally, the house managers I chatted with are doing their best to cope with the situation and ever changing rules. They are, as always, grateful for our donations.

## Fundraising

Thank you to all of our supporters (individuals, charities, corporate donors and volunteers) who have chosen to selflessly give. The help comes in many forms – memberships, donations, supporting a fundraiser, gifts in kind (pajamas, toys, backpacks, knitted items, hygiene kits, etc.) and more. From Apr 2001 – Apr 2020, we have raised a total of **\$459,234**

## Donors Appreciation

Your generous gifts make it possible for us to assist the victims of domestic violence. On their behalf we wish to acknowledge you and thank you. (Due to confidentiality we do not list private donors in our newsletter).

### Donors (Dec 2019 – Apr 2020)

The Arts Connection Group of Companies  
Assessment Department of WorkSafeBC  
BP Tile & Stone  
Foresters Pacific Rim Branch  
Fraser Chapter of the Eastern Star  
Knitting Sisters

M & M Canvas  
Maple Knitters  
Pay Pal Giving Fund Canada  
River District Physio  
St. David's Anglican Church, Tsawwassen  
Warren Liu Notary Corp.

## We need your help

- Please make a donation.
  - Send a cheque payable to Jeremy's Memorial Foundation. To receive a tax receipt, please include your name, address, postal code and phone number with your donation.
  - Donate securely online through CanadaHelps.org by any one of the following:  
Interact, Visa, MasterCard, American Express or PayPal. (Access CanadaHelps.org directly or through our website.) You will receive a tax receipt directly from CanadaHelps.  
You can do a one-time donation or set up monthly contributions.
- Donate your Canadian Tire Money, it all adds up. Once we collect enough, we purchase Canadian Tire gift cards to give to the Transition Houses.
- Donate pajamas and toys (new only please)
- Donate the deposit on drink containers. Take returnable drink containers in a clear plastic bag to a Return-It Express depot. Enter our phone (604-275-7234) at their kiosk and print a label to attach to each bag. A Return-It employee will sort, count and credit our account.



## **Jeremy's Memorial Foundation Against Domestic Violence**

30 – 9880 Parsons Road  
Richmond, BC  
V7E 1K9

Charity Tax# BN 87585 7813 RR0001  
For more information contact 604-275-7234  
visit our website: [www.jeremysmemorialfoundation.com](http://www.jeremysmemorialfoundation.com)  
or email [jeremysfoundation2001@gmail.com](mailto:jeremysfoundation2001@gmail.com)