



# Jeremy's Memorial Foundation Against Domestic Violence

Summer 2021 Vol. 40

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### We are celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Thank you for helping create a legacy to the memory of Jeremy Harris – a sweet innocent child who lost his life due to domestic violence. Like many charities, this one was created and continues to be motivated by the tragic loss of a loved one. We started with baby steps in 2001 and look what happened.



We have raised almost \$500,000. Thank you to all our donors and volunteers for your support. The Board of Directors (past and present) are conscientious, dedicated and caring. I would like to acknowledge them and all of you. This has been an amazing team effort year after year.

It's time to celebrate and have a good look at what has been accomplished. As we began, we desperately wanted to help in any way possible. Through the years, we have evolved by consulting with the house managers. We are now focused on our pajama program, monthly planners, children's workbooks, backpacks for school age children and distribution of countless donated items.

Over the years, we have distributed over 11,650 pjs, over 100,000 monthly planners, over 4,000 children's workbooks "THERE'S ONLY ONE ME!", over 1,000 backpacks including basic school supplies, countless toys, gift cards, personal hygiene items, makeup, journals, beautiful knitted slippers, toques, blankets & more. The variety and volume of goods has been amazing.

I requested some feedback from the organizations we support in the Lower Mainland and am happy to share their kind words with you. THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR MAKING THIS WORK POSSIBLE.

TOGETHER, WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

*Donna*



NEWSLETTER

## *Excerpts from the Transition Houses letters*

Our Foundation helps twelve Transition houses in the Lower Mainland. These houses provide a safe temporary shelter which supports women and children fleeing domestic violence. Below are some of excerpts from their feedback letters of how our help impacts the women, children and staff at the houses.

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On behalf of the Nova Transition House team and all staff from CHIMO Community Services, I would like to extend our gratitude to everyone at Jeremy's Memorial Foundation for all their help and kindness in supplying the necessities and items of comfort to Nova House resident families. Your long standing efforts and generosity over the years have made a positive and significant impact to Nova House recipients; this remarkable experience touched by kindness has been a true blessing for all of us here to witness.

With deepest gratitude to the community at large, it has been a wonderful experience working in partnership with Jeremy Foundation's founders in a never ending collective effort to end domestic violence.

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As a worker who welcomes new families into Joy's Place, I see firsthand the relief and appreciation on their faces when I offer them a pair of pj's. I remember few years back, I had just welcomed a new woman into the house, set her up in her room and asked if she needed pj's. She told me that she has not slept in pj's for at least 2 years. She always slept in her clothing because she never knew when an argument might ensue and when she might have to leave with the clothing on her back. Because of your regular donations, I was able to provide that client 2 pairs of new pajamas. On behalf of all staff and clients, we thank you.

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Thank you for the continued support and dedication you have shown to the women and children at Evergreen and Virginia Sam Transition Houses during the Christmas season and throughout the years.

This past year has been especially challenging as we navigated a pandemic, focused our efforts on keeping everyone around us safe, and found new means of working with the women and children fleeing their homes due to relationship violence. Leaving home can be difficult even without the added concerns of health and safety brought on by the pandemic. We are grateful for your donations during these unprecedented times in our program's history.

The generous donation of women's and children's pajamas, Christmas gifts and toys, and various gift cards, made Christmas extra special for the clients in our programs. With your ongoing donation of backpacks, school supplies, water bottles, toiletries and children's workbooks you have continued to provide some of the most essential items utilized by the clients and the programs.

We want to express our appreciation and gratitude for all your support now and in the future.

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At Monarch Place and Azure Place, we have come to appreciate the partnership that we have had with Jeremy's Foundation over the years. The new summer and winter PJs we receive are given to women and children who come to us, having left abusive situations. They've often expressed how much that new pair of PJ's has meant to them and how good it felt to be given something warm and cozy to change into when they've left with so little. The little pocket calendars have become a big part of our welcome kits, and the generous donations of the school backpacks have supported many women and children as they continue or start their education. We count ourselves blessed by this amazing organization. Happy 20th Anniversary Jeremy's Foundation!

We at Atira are very grateful for the continued support of Jeremy's Memorial Foundation and your ongoing generosity. The generous donations of pajamas and other much needed items help us to provide the support that we do to women and children who have experienced the impact of violence/abuse in our community. When women and children come to our transition homes, it is often with very little, being able to provide a new, clean pair of pj's as well as other basic needs items is invaluable to making the women and children feel welcome in their new temporary home. Your commitment to helping families live free of violence is much appreciated, not only by our staff but more importantly by those who access our services. Thank you.

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A great big thank you to Jeremy's Foundation and to those who tirelessly work to ensure that the basic simple needs of a woman and her children who are fleeing domestic violence are provided for in the way of a clean, new pair of pajamas.

I have worked at Azure Place now for three years. I have seen the smile and relief on a woman's face when she receives a new, fresh pair of pajamas. It seems like such a small thing but when you think that many of these ladies have been able to get away from their abusive partner, in fear, with just the clothes on their backs. There is so much that a woman is going through when she is finally able to leave a horrific relationship and find safety. There is so much that she needs to consider, to think about presently and for her future and her children. Pajamas seem so minimal but when a woman who has been stripped of almost everything, climbs into a warm, new set of pajamas, so much of her life gets to a place of "it's going to be ok"

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On behalf of Ishtar Women's Resource Society, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of Blankets, Slippers, Toques, Sweaters, Socks, Backpacks and Scarfs. These items go directly into our 'Free Store' and are vital for women who use our services. Your support helps us continue in our mission of advocating change through service to women and children who have experienced violence and abuse.

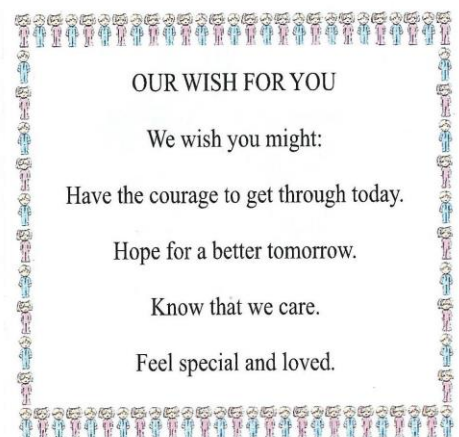
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The practical nature of the items you donate, continue to provide relief to the families who stay with us at Cythera Transition House. The generosity and thoughtfulness of sponsor groups like yours make life brighter for our clients. Your assistance offers them encouragement and hope during this transitional time in their lives. You inspire not only our families, but our staff as well. Your generosity has not gone unnoticed and is of immeasurable value. We are honoured beyond words that you continue to support us, season after season, year after year. Please know that lives are forever changed and impacted in such positive ways because of your benevolence. We Thank you wholeheartedly.

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We tie each donated pair of pajamas with a ribbon and attach this card. We received this email from a woman who had stayed in one of the transition houses.

*Hi.  
I'm currently staying at ... house with my three-year-old son.  
Tonight I asked for a pair of pajamas for my boy.  
On the pajamas was a card.  
"Our wish for you."  
Tonight I feel special and loved by people I don't even know  
and I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart.  
Sincerely ...*



## Fundraising

Thank you to all 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 2021, we have raised a total of **\$492,720**

*Thanks for your support!*

## Board of Directors

Elected Sept 2020

Donna Gillette	President	Bob Meister	Director
Gary Menendez	Vice President	Gail Rawle	Director
Toki Menendez	Secretary	Bonnie Rumley	Director
Christine Halston	Treasurer		

## 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.
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