



Jeremy's Memorial Foundation Against Domestic Violence

Winter 2025 Vol. 47

Message from the President

NEWSLETTER

We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support because it directly changes lives in our communities. Your generous donations enable us to provide comfort in the form of pajamas to hundreds of women and children in need each year. In 2024, we distributed 1,246 pairs of pajamas, 45 back to school backpacks, hundreds of knitted items and much more among 9 transition houses.

The transition houses we support offer safe temporary shelter (with 24/7 staffing) for women and children fleeing domestic violence. They offer support services and assistance in planning the next steps. Most of these houses are funded by BC Housing, see more on page 2. The charities that operate the houses are always in need of more funds than those provided by the government. These charities also provide a wide variety of their own programs for the women and children in need. The transition house managers are always very grateful for the goods we provide.

Our pajama program started in 2010 as the need was identified by house managers. We have helped 16,383 women and children to date with this program. Thank you for choosing to go on this journey with us. Unfortunately, the need is growing. According to Stats Canada, the rates of domestic violence across Canada have increased 14% since 2018.

I'm happy to report that our Poinsettia Fundraiser was successful again this year. We always receive lots of compliments on the beauty and quality of the plants. Thank you for your participation. We invite you to support us by purchasing Hanging Baskets in the spring.

We have such a wonderful, kind, generous loyal base of supporters. You will find information on page 2 about The Arts Connection, an organization that has been partnered with us for over 10 years. Another group deserving of honourable mention is La Vie en Rose – details on page 3. There are not enough words to convey our gratitude for all of you – your kind words, your very generous donations and gifts for the women and children.

Thank you and have a very happy, healthy 2025!

Donna

BC HOUSING

BC Housing provides support for women and children who have experienced violence or are at risk of experiencing violence. BC Housing currently has more than 150 programs for these women and children. Some of their housing options include:

Transition houses - provide safe, temporary 24/7 staffed shelter, typically for 30 days. Most transition houses are residential homes in confidential locations where women and families live communally. Support Workers in these homes provide emotional support, crisis intervention and safety planning.

Safe homes- short term shelter (rural)

Second stage housing is usually a private, secure, low-cost apartment or townhouse unit where you can live safely and independently typically for 6 - 18 months. Staff are available to provide emotional support, safety planning and referrals.

Long term housing – Long-term housing provides subsidized rental housing to women, gender-diverse people and/or children at risk of violence or who have witnessed violence. Rental fees are calculated on a rent geared to income basis, specifically 30% of the household's total gross income, with a minimum rent based on number of people in the household. Other support for tenants is also available, including safety planning and referrals.

The Arts Connection

Founded by Linda Shirley, the Arts Connection is the umbrella organization overseeing the Renaissance Academy of Learning and the Arts Conservatory. Linda has many leadership awards and is committed to creating a space where children can thrive creatively and academically.

The Arts Connection places emphasis on developing good citizenship and empathy in children by involving students and families in fundraising activities. They hold an annual pajama drive fundraiser for us each fall and have done so for over 10 years. Naturally, we are very grateful for this ongoing support and deeply value our relationship with Linda and all involved. **Thank you.**



La Vie en Rose

Our pajama program continues to grow. We have distributed over 16,000 pairs of pajamas to date among local transition houses for victims of domestic violence. One executive director wrote: “We cannot stress enough the intangible value that these pajamas bring to the families who stay with us. It is a resource that is of immeasurable importance to our families when they first arrive at our Transition House. It speaks boldly of compassion, understanding, sensitivity and gentleness as well as providing immediate comfort.”



Without community support, this important work would not be happening. Over the years, we have purchased many hundreds of pairs of pajamas from La Vie en Rose. We have always found the pajamas to be of very good quality. We are so grateful to La Vie en Rose’s staff for working so hard and diligently to help us with substantial cost savings on our large purchases of pajamas. We have recently received the amazing and thoughtful donation of 4 boxes filled with 96 pajamas. This kind and generous gift will make a difference to the lives of many women and children who have been impacted in a terrible way by domestic violence. On their behalf, we would like to say, **“Thank you for Caring”**.

ONE PAIR OF PAJAMAS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

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, etc.) and more.

From Apr 2001 – Dec 2024, we have raised a total of **\$576,625**

Thanks for your support!

Our Board of Directors

Elected September 2024

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

Donor Appreciation

Your generous gifts make it possible for us to assist the victims of domestic violence. On their behalf we wish to acknowledge and thank you. Please know that lives are forever changed and impacted in such positive ways because of you.

(Due to confidentiality, we do not list private donors in our newsletter.)

Donors (June 2024 – Dec 2024)

Knitting Sisters

Maple Knitters

Order of the Eastern Star

Provincial Employee & Community Services Fund

Return It Express

The Arts Connection

The Waterford Sisterhood

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 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 number (604-275-7234) at the kiosk and print a label to attach to each bag. Leave the bag in the designated area. A Return-It Express employee will sort and count your donation and credit our account.



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