



# *Jeremy's Memorial Foundation Against Domestic Violence*

Winter 2026 Vol. 49

## *Message from the President*

We hit another amazing milestone in November – we have raised over \$600,000 since we began almost 25 years ago. Please give yourselves a great big pat on the back. We couldn't do it without our many loyal and generous supporters. We do all we can to steward your donations responsibly and frugally.

There's been a lot going on in the last 6 months. In the summer, we were contacted by Steveston's Arts Connection (a long standing, loyal and very generous donor) because they were planning to expand their annual pajama fundraiser. They wanted Gary and I to participate in a video to promote their pajama drive. They not only created that video but also adapted one that we have posted on our website. The fundraiser was an enormous success (our largest donation ever) and the presentation event in December was extremely emotional for all in attendance. The event was summarized nicely by an article in the Richmond News. We are enormously grateful to Linda Shirley, her employees, the parents and kids and anyone else involved. The Arts Connection is a very large preschool and daycare in Richmond.

Our video is now on our website [www.jeremysmemorialfoundtion.com](http://www.jeremysmemorialfoundtion.com) in the section "HOW WE HELP", then choose "PJ Project", scroll down - It's a YouTube video. We hope you find it interesting.

We also provided 81 backpacks for the kids staying in the 9 transition houses we support in time for back-to-school. We held our AGM in September and welcomed a new member to our Board of Directors – Alexa Falk.

The Fall distribution of pajamas took place in early December (17,646 to date) right after our successful Poinsettia fundraiser. Unbelievably, we received another generous donation from La Vie en Rose of 96 pairs of pajamas. What a wonderful community minded corporation.

There's more – WorkSafe BC has gone back to employees working in the office 3 or more days a week. A group of them worked together to collect new gifts for both women and children..There were toys, hygiene products, clothing and gift cards. We did one more quick distribution to deliver these items before Christmas.

Domestic Violence has been escalating and newsworthy far too often. See story on page 3

I don't have enough words to adequately express my gratitude for our Board members, donors, volunteers, as well as the exceptional events that took place. You all touch my heart each and every day. Together, we are making a difference!

Thank you and Best Wishes for 2026.

*Donna*

NEWSLETTER

## *Richmond News story* – Dec 14, 2025

### **Kudos: Richmond fine arts school raises \$12K for domestic violence victims**

A school's PJ Drive honours an early childhood educator's legacy.



*Students and staff at The Arts Connection, along with community partners, raised \$12,000 and 325 pairs of pyjamas to help women and children facing domestic violence.*

*Photo courtesy of The Arts Connection*

Students and staff at a Richmond fine arts preschool and daycare raised \$12,000 and donated pyjamas to help B.C. women and children facing domestic violence.

The Arts Connection, which oversees the Renaissance Academy of Learning and The Arts Conservatory, donated a record 325 pairs of pyjamas along with the funds earlier this month to Jeremy's Memorial Foundation as part of the school's annual PJ Drive.

Pyjamas and funds were donated by families of the school's Renaissance Kids daycare students, Spark before- and after-school care students, and those enrolled in dance, music, art and enrichment classes.

Donations also came from community members, including business partners, staff, extended family and friends.

Jeremy's Memorial Foundation was named after a young boy who lost his life due to domestic violence and was created by his family, including his aunt Jennifer, who was an early childhood educator at The Arts Connection.

Sadly, Jennifer passed away in December 2005 in a car accident.

Linda Shirley, president and founder of The Arts Connection, said they learned about Jennifer's commitment to the family's foundation through work and decided "that the best way to memorialize her was to help support the foundation" by having the annual pyjama drive.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Jennifer's death, and the PJ Drive at The Art Connection continues the legacy of Jennifer and her nephew Jeremy, Shirley explained.

"On this 20th anniversary of her passing, we decided to really ramp up our efforts to raise funds and collect pyjamas, as we know the foundation is suffering from the economy as are most non-profits nowadays," said Shirley.

Gary Menendez, vice-president of Jeremy's Memorial Foundation and Jennifer's father, highlighted that "domestic violence can strike when and where you least expect it."

"In 2001, [Jeremy's Memorial Foundation president] Donna [Gillette] came up with the idea to do something positive to honour the memory of Jeremy, so that's where our foundation began," said Menendez.

Jeremy's Memorial Foundation supports nine transition houses in the Lower Mainland and has supplied more than 17,000 pairs of pyjamas and other items over the last 15 years.



## **Helping victims of domestic violence matters!**

### **The problem is not going away.**

- Women are 13 times more likely to be assaulted by an intimate partner than by a stranger
- Nearly half of women over the age of 15 in BC have experienced intimate partner violence.
- In 2021, two-thirds of female homicides were committed by an intimate partner.
- In British Columbia 37% of women over the age of 15 have been sexually assaulted.
- 80 % of intimate partner violence is not reported to the police.
- 94 % of sexual assaults are not reported to the police.
- Most survivors never access the legal system.

### **The fight to stem domestic violence killings** by Alec Lazenby – The Province

Excerpts from the Dec. 23, 2025 article

While Statistics Canada found that murders were down by just over a percentage point in 2024, with eight fewer murders reported, MacDougall said murders due to intimate partner violence have gone up by 53 percent nationally.

According to the national statistics agency, more than 100 women were killed by their partner in 2024, making up 17 percent of all murders across the country.

Closer to home, B.C. has said it will look into risk assessments to ensure they are being conducted properly in instances of intimate partner violence, on of MacDougall's (director of the Battered Women's Support Services Association) requests.

The longtime advocate with more than 30 years in the field says she is left wondering how many more women will have to die before preventive action is taken.

It starts with the police and starts with the local governments and their role in taking this issue seriously.

## **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 2025 – Dec 2025)**

Arts Connection  
Costco Wholesale, Richmond  
Knitting Sisters  
La Vie en Rose

Porte Industries Ltd.  
Return It Express  
Vancouver Foundation  
WorkSafe BC – Assessment Department

## **Our Mission**

To help victims of domestic violence while raising awareness of the impact it has on our communities.

The transition houses we support offer safe housing, compassionate support and opportunities to rebuild their lives with dignity.

## **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.
- Become a member and if you'd like to help more, consider joining our board.



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

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