

*Elizabeth Fry Society*  
of Edmonton

26<sup>th</sup> Annual  
General Meeting

W E D N E S D A Y  
M A Y 4 , 2 0 0 5



Guest Speaker  
Carol Hutchings

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## Mission Statement and Objectives

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton is committed to fostering the dignity and worth of women of all ages who come into contact with the legal system.

The objectives of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton are:

- a) to provide a supportive environment for individuals, particularly women of all ages who are in contact with the legal system;
- b) to work in conjunction with other agencies to provide programs and services to women of all ages in contact with the legal system;
- c) to assist in the integration into the community of the female offenders;
- d) to advocate improvements in the Criminal Legal System;
- e) to provide education directed toward the reduction of crime, to institution professionals, support groups and the community;
- f) to increase public awareness of:
  - I. issues affecting women of all ages in contact with the law,
  - II. the need for programs for female offenders,
  - III. the need for changes in the Criminal Legal System.



# Dedicated to Elizabeth Fry

Elizabeth Fry (1780 – 1845) was an English Quaker who became an influential minister of her faith, an educator and a reformer of prisons while raising her eleven children. She became an adviser to many European rulers, especially about the conditions of imprisoned women and the dreadful conditions of prison life. Ordained as a Quaker preacher in 1811 Elizabeth Fry's prayers have been published in The Flowering of the Soul – A Book of Prayers by Women.\*

Dearest Lord, increase my faith more firmly, more fixedly establish me upon the Rock of Ages, that however the winds blow, the rains descend, or the floods beat against me, I may not be greatly moved; and let not any of the hindering or pulling of things of this world lessen my love to You and to Your cause; or prevent me from going steadily forward in heights and in depths, in riches and in poverty, in strength and in weakness, in sickness and in health; or prevent my following hard after You in spirit, with a humble, faithful, watchful, circumspect, and devoted heart.

Elizabeth Fry



ELIZABETH FRY READING TO THE PRISONERS AT NEWGATE, 1823

\* Vardey Lucinda. *The Flowering of the Soul – A Book of Prayers By Women*. Vintage Canada. Toronto, 1999.



# 26th Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005 Old Timers Cabin  
9430-99 Street, Edmonton, AB

## A G E N D A

5:00 - 5:30	Sign In	
5:30	Welcome	Jodi Q
	Food Served	
6:00	Volunteer Appreciation	
	Introduction	Valerie
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christine to introduce speakers Jess and Sasha (20 min)</li> <li>• Christine to present flowers</li> <li>• Mel to call on Nadine (5 min)</li> <li>• Mel to present Nadine with flowers</li> </ul>	
	Presentation of Certificates:	Valerie and Program Coordinators
	Presentation to Long Term Volunteers	Jackie H
6:30	Introduction of Guest Speaker	Valerie
	Carol Hutchings	
7:00	Annual General Meeting	Jodi Q
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda for 2005 AGM</li> <li>• Approval of AGM Minutes 2004</li> <li>• Reports:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairpersons Report</li> <li>• Treasurers Report</li> <li>• Appointment of Auditor for 2005</li> <li>• Executive Directors Report</li> <li>• Nomination Committee Report</li> <li>• Board of Directors Slate for 2005/2006</li> <li>• Oath of Board of Directors</li> <li>• Presentation to Board Members who are leaving</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Door Prizes</li> </ul>	Jodi Q Jodi Q Jodi Q Tannis Tannis Valerie Jodi Q Jodi Q Jodi Q Jodi Q Jodi Q Susanne



# MINUTES

of

25th Annual General  
Wednesday, 12 May 2004  
Edmonton House Suite Hotel  
10205-100 Ave.

## **Annual General Meeting Business**

### **(a) Welcome and Introductions**

Chairperson Deborah Stewart welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 18:40.

### **(b) Agenda of the 2004 AGM**

**Motion** to accept the agenda. **Denise McClaren / Cecilia Blassetti.**  
**Carried.**

### **(c) Minutes of the 2003 AGM**

**Motion** to approve the minutes of the 2003 AGM. **Jodi Querengesser / Gerry Beauchamp.**  
**Carried.**

## **1. Chairperson's Report**

Deborah Stewart presented her report. Highlights include:

- i. the Board attended a two-day development workshop.
- ii. Board and staff attended a two-day workshop and developed a three-year action plan and the vision statement, "Women on the wings of change".
- iii. The ED recently resigned and EFS plans to have an interim ED.

## **2. 2003 Auditor's Report**

Al Scherbarth presented the Auditor's Report.

**Motion** to accept the 2003 Auditor's Report as presented. **Vicki Beauchamp / Deb Stewart.**  
**Carried.**

## **3. Appointment of Auditor for 2004**

**Motion** to appoint Al Scherbarth Professional Corporation as Auditor for 2004.  
**Denise McClaren / Jodi Querengesser.**  
**Carried.**

#### **4. Executive Director's Report**

Beverly Sochatsky's report was read by Cecilia Blassetti. Highlights include:

- EFS in Edmonton for 25 years: committed funders, eclectic staff and volunteers.
- In 2003, 132 volunteers logged 6611 hours.
- In 2004, women are being incarcerated at an unprecedented rate.
- A strategic plan was developed: reflected back with goal of moving forward.
- Vision, Values, and Belief statements were developed.
- The work EFS does changes the world.

#### **5. Bylaw Amendments**

Gloria Grieco presented the amended bylaws.

**Motion** to accept the amended Bylaws as presented. **Denise McClaren / Deb Stewart.**

**Carried.**

#### **6. Nominating Committee Report**

Jodi Querengesser presented the Nominating Committee Report.

#### **7. Presentation of the 2004/2005 Board Slate**

##### **Ongoing Board Directors**

Cecilia Blassetti  
Tannis Dukart  
Gloria Grieco  
Denise McClaren  
Jodi Querengesser  
Deborah Stewart

##### **Incoming Board Directors**

Nancy Modeste  
Lynne Tang  
Nicole Truscott

##### **Resigned Board Directors**

Rosemary Fayant  
Pam Vidal

**Motion** to accept the slate as presented. **Vicki Beauchamp / Dorthe Flauer.**  
**Carried.**

#### **8. Adjournment.**

Guest speaker Kim Pate followed the business meeting.

Leslie Wimmer hosted a volunteer appreciation event that followed Kim Pate's presentation.

# Financial Report



<b>Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2004</b>		
<b>ASSETS</b>		
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash – Unrestricted	\$ 68,557	\$ 110,715
Accounts Receivable (Note3)	33,508	22,957
Prepaid Expense	4,196	3,967
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>106,261</b>	<b>137,639</b>
<b>OTHER</b>		
Cash – Restricted	222,847	198,126
Accrued Interest – Restricted	2,728	2,217
Capital Assets (Note4)	18,298	20,481
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>243,873</b>	<b>220,824</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 350,134</b>	<b>\$ 358,463</b>

<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable	6,566	\$ 5,674
Goods and Services Tax Payable	675	287
Deferred Revenue	24,751	57,009
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>31,992</b>	<b>62,970</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted Surplus	74,270	74,670
Equity in Capital Assets	18,298	20,481
Restricted Funds – Bingo	62,932	62,041
Restricted Funds – Casino	162,642	138,301
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>318,142</b>	<b>295,493</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 350,134</b>	<b>\$ 358,463</b>

<b>Statement of Operations – Year Ended December 31, 2004</b>				
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>2004</b>			<b>2003</b>
	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	
Alberta Solicitor General		97,257	97,257	\$ 96,081
Alberta Law Foundation		97,028	97,028	80,000
Solicitor General of Canada		91,633	91,633	94,261
United Way of Alberta Capital Region		91,083	91,083	94,134
Casino Revenue	78,649		78,649	
Alberta Human Resources and Development		54,960	54,960	52,980
City of Edmonton		45,929	45,929	47,809
Memberships, Donations and Other		11,832	11,832	12,022
Solicitor General of Canada Core Funding (CAEFS)		7,500	7,500	8,760
Health Canada		6,675	6,675	15,125
Summer Career Placement (SCP)		5,546	5,546	5,425
Kristie Foundation		3,805	3,805	3,923
AADAC		3,000	3,000	-
Summer Temporary Employment Project (STEP)		2,772	2,772	2,168
Interest	5,167	907	6,074	7,112
Segregation Studies		330	330	385
Wildrose Foundation				11,604
Estate of Robert Tegler				8,529
The Anglican Church				7,850
Clifford E. Lee Foundation				7,265
The United Church				4,000
Muttart Foundation				750
Edmonton Community Foundation				285
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83,816</b>	<b>520,257</b>	<b>604,073</b>	<b>560,468</b>

Expenses	2004			2003
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	
Salaries		\$ 392,594	\$ 392,594	\$ 403,348
Benefits		50,529	50,529	54,831
Private Home Placement		33,997	33,997	34,327
Transportation		22,061	22,061	25,022
Office Supplies		12,946	12,946	16,776
Honoraria		12,068	12,068	4,050
Volunteer Expenses		11,258	11,258	6,109
Professional Fees		8,818	8,818	2,880
Telephone		6,551	6,551	5,980
Pardon Expenses		3,743	3,743	4,009
Staff Development		3,184	3,184	3,671
Insurance		2,955	2,955	2,236
Photocopying and Printing		2,950	2,950	3,915
Client Services		2,936	2,936	4,218
Maintenance		2,734	2,734	6,303
Agency Development/Promotion		2,233	2,233	8,463
Christmas Program and other Fundraising		2,178	2,178	1,470
Internet Setup and Operation		1,259	1,259	1,292
AWP Retreat		1,084	1,084	1,000
Release kit supplies		200	200	4,993
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>576,278</b>	<b>576,278</b>	<b>594,893</b>
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses</b>	<b>83,816</b>	<b>(56,021)</b>	<b>\$27,795</b>	<b>(34,425)</b>

The above financial summary is prepared from 2004 financial statements audited by Al Scherbarth , Professional Corporation Certified Management Accountant.



# President's Report



**J O D I Q U E R E N G E S S E R**

Welcome to the Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton's 26<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. I would like to thank all volunteers, staff, members of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton and our funders for their loyalty and support.

After serving as Executive Director for our agency from 2002 – 2004, Beverly Sochatsky moved on to an opportunity with Alberta Learning. The agency hired an interim Executive Director which allowed us time to find our current Executive Director, Valerie Meaney, who began in September 2004. Ms. Meaney has exceptional qualifications: she is skilled in writing funding proposals, policy and procedures, and has a strong interest in advocacy. Val's personality makes working with her a delight. The Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton is certainly fortunate to have her.

Our Board of Directors had four members resign during the course of the year. Two of our new recruits were presented with exciting job opportunities in other cities. We wish Lynne Tang and Nancy Modeste well. Denise McLaren and Cecilia Blasetti resigned due to other commitments. Their contributions are greatly missed. Denise McLaren provided rich insight into the core issues facing the clients of the Elizabeth Fry Society, and Cecilia Blasetti provided a keen eye for policy and administrative issues. The Board will see Gloria Grieco and Deborah Stewart complete their maximum allowed term for serving on the Board of Directors this year. The Elizabeth Fry organization is lucky these women served full terms. The Board welcomes Karen Telford as a new board member. The board is a small but synchronous group. We hope to continue to recruit more board members throughout the year.

Our staff at Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton was very fertile in 2004. Three women left to have babies: Lisa Dodman, Jynel Christ, and Keri Flesaker. We thank these women for their contributions to the agency. Toni Sinclair, our summer student in 2004, was welcomed to continue with the agency as full-time staff. Finally, Margaret McGeough left Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton and her position is filled internally. Once again, a special thank-you to all the staff who remain dedicated to the Elizabeth Fry Society and its mission to foster the dignity and worth of women and girls who come in conflict with the law, and help them live as valued members of their community.

As we celebrate tonight the completion of the 26<sup>th</sup> year of the Elizabeth Fry Society in Edmonton, I would like to reflect on the organization's funding and sustainability. Funding is a concern for any non-profit agency. Some of our programs continue to be subsidized by our non-profit organization. When approaching funders this past year, we have attempted to rectify this situation and ensure that the actual programs costs are covered. Funding and staff turnover are also directly related. We are grateful for our high quality of staff, and we hope to offer competitive salaries to minimize staff turnover and the resulting disruption in the provision of services to clients.

Funding has also been secured for this upcoming year for a review of the agency's sustainability. Despite the Elizabeth Fry Society being in Edmonton over 25 years, our roots can still be deepened. Program evaluation mechanisms can be strengthened to ensure continued and expanded funding. We look for ways to improve our service delivery.

Once again I would like to thank all volunteers, staff, members of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton and our funders for their loyalty and continued support.

# Executive Director's Report



V A L E R I E M E A N E Y

While I have only worked with the Elizabeth Fry Society for less than a year, the impact on me has been profound. Few places of employment enable you to touch lives at a time when your help is often desperately needed and in return your own life is touched in immeasurable ways. The opportunity to meet and work with our women is an incredible gift and one that will shape my life forever. The courage and determination of our women is an amazing thing that is both inspirational and motivating. And while it is my wish that we lived in a community that didn't need our services, unfortunately we live in a time when our services are in greater need than ever.

We are seeing increasing numbers of women being incarcerated and their needs are higher than ever before. The lack of affordable housing, the difficulties in finding employment and the challenges in dealing with health issues are only the tip of the iceberg of challenges that our women face. Unfortunately, we still see the same stereotyping and ignorance that has faced our women for decades.

However, all is not bleak for our women. We see their successes every day. Women do find jobs and places to live and do deal with their health issues. This is all largely due to the work of our staff and the staff of other community agencies who provide such vital services to the women. Without such community agencies there would be very little support in the reintegration process and it is the work of agencies like ours and others that enable our women to move on with their lives.

The success of our agency in doing the work that we do, is in no small part due to the hard work and dedication of our staff. Going above and beyond the call of duty is just part of the normal workday for our staff, who work tirelessly for our cause. Because such a work ethic and such dedication are a key part of our workplace, it is easy to forget that this is not how all workplaces operate and that we are pretty unique. As a result we often take such efforts for granted and forget to express our appreciation for a group that does so much. I would like to thank all of our staff who work so tirelessly and certainly make this agency a pleasure to work in. You are a dream!

The vision and dedication of our Board of Directors is also a keystone to our success. Their motivation and willingness to help guides our every move. I thank you for your guidance.

Our volunteers also deserve our heartfelt thanks for their dedication and hard work. We would be challenged at every turn to deliver the services we deliver without the help of our volunteers. Don't ever doubt that we appreciate every hour you commit to our good work.

Those who fund our programs and services and donate to our agency also deserve our thanks for their courage in supporting what we do and their vision in seeing the value to the community. Without our funders and donors we could not provide the many services that we do, and impact the many lives we come in contact with.

In closing, I would like to thank all those who have made my transition to this work and this community an easy one. The staff, the Board, and the community have been supportive and welcoming at every turn. I count on your continued support as we face the challenges that lie ahead and celebrate our successes.



# Slate for 2004 - 2005

## Board Members

### Ongoing Board Directors

Tannis Dukart  
Jodi Querengesser

Deborah Stewart  
Nicole Truscott

### Incoming Directors for 2004

Karen Telford

### Resigning Board Directors

Cecilia Blasetti  
Gloria Grieco  
Denise McLaren

Nancy Modeste  
Lynn Tang

### Proposed Board of Directors

## Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton

Tannis Dukart  
Jodi Querengesser  
Deborah Stewart

Karen Telford  
Nicole Truscott

The Executives will be elected at the 1<sup>st</sup> Board meeting after 2005 AGM.



# Special Thanks & Acknowledgements

## Our Board of Directors 2003/2004

Cecilia Blasetti  
Tannis Dukart  
Rosemary Fayant

Gloria Greico  
Denise McLaren  
Jodi Querengesser

Deborah Stewart  
Pam Vidal

## Our 2004 Funders

Alberta Alcohol & Drug Abuse Commission  
Alberta Human Resources & Employment  
Alberta Solicitor General  
Alberta Law Foundation  
Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies  
City of Edmonton  
Correctional Services Canada  
Edmonton Community Foundation  
Health Canada  
Human Resources Development Canada-SCP  
Kristie Charitable Foundation  
The Muttart Foundation  
The United Way of Alberta Capital Region  
The United Way of Calgary Region (directed giving)  
Wildrose Foundation



## Financial Supporters

Civil Service Union 52  
Chinese Lion's Club  
Hudson's Bay Charitable Foundation  
Iron Workers Local 720  
Sisters of the Immaculate Conception  
Hon. W.J. Girgulis  
Peter Adamski  
Zelekash Alemu  
Barbara Belcourt  
Cherry L. Bowhay  
R.L. Bowhay  
Rosalyne Craggs  
Marion deShield  
Sherri Dougherty  
Karen Ewaschuk  
Elaine Fleming

Gilman Freschauf  
Annabelle Friesen  
Ruth Horne  
Jeanette Isles  
Marianne Kirkwood  
Shirley Lewis  
Michelle Norton  
I.J. Paley  
Dr. Pierce  
Jennifer Plamondon  
Marianne Reo  
Mavis Rideout  
Charles Seto  
Beverly Sochatsky  
William Trofimuk  
Alexandra Unruh

## Christmas Donors

Bacarat Casino  
Bene AA Professional Corporation  
Book Publishers Association of Alberta  
Centre for Spiritual Awareness  
Coca-Cola Bottling  
Cornerstone Pentecostal Women's  
Edmonton Chinese Lions Club  
Freemasons Hall of Edmonton  
Good Earth Produce Co.  
Highlands United Church  
Hope Lutherin Church  
Iron Workers Local 720  
Italian Bakery  
Little Potatoe Company  
Planned Parenthood

Save On Foods  
St. George's Anglican Church  
Time to Care Dental Group  
Walmart – Mayfield Common  
YellowHead Casino  
Donna Carson  
Linda Delorme  
Jess Gilbert  
Ruth Horne  
Jackie Norman  
Dale Norton  
Michelle Norton  
Helgard Proft-Mather  
Gary Reid  
Toni Sinclair

## In-Kind-Donors

Barney's Rubble  
Caprice Re-Sale  
Changes – The Classy  
Consignment Co.  
City of Edmonton, Donate-A-  
Ride  
Robes and Relics  
Millet United Church  
Pamela Anthony  
Barbara Belcourt  
Lee Boon  
Amy Chow  
Jynel Christ  
Nora Day  
Sandra Devries  
Lisa Dodman  
Lynda Dolinsky  
Alida Dyer  
Linda Giroux  
Jean Goebel

Cathy Golinowski  
Elaine Hancheruk  
Ruth Horne  
Angela Hubble  
Pat Hughes  
Danielle Hulinski  
Janet Hutton  
Mary Jurak  
Bob Kaufman  
Shelley Kenyon  
Marianne Kirkwood  
Sherry Kowalchuk  
Laverne Lewis  
Fran Loise  
Docia Lynse  
Lois Mackie  
Ina Mayer  
Joan McCollum  
Brenda McCollum  
Jan McMillan

Jan Newman  
Tina Nightingale  
Deborah Noel  
Michelle Norton  
Darlene Packwood  
Danika Packwood  
Jodi Querengesser  
Marie Rowland  
Kerry Samletzki  
Melanie Shepard  
Nadine Shepard  
Liz Spychka  
Pam Stubbs  
Alma Swan  
Bonnie Trevellyn  
Laurie Tymchuk  
Michelle Vanlonderzele Karla  
Walli

## Our Volunteers

### **Administration**

Cecillia Blassetti  
Nana Dimachi  
Tannis Dukart  
Gloria Greico  
Ruth Horne  
Sheila Humble  
Marianne Kirkwood  
Denise McLaren  
Nancy Modeste  
Jodi Querengesser  
Gary Reid  
Deborah Stewart  
Lynn Tang  
Nicole Truscott  
Laurie Tymchuk  
Volkder Rademacher

### **Aboriginal Women**

Kathy Hamelin

Evelyn Guignon

### **Adult Court**

The Body Shop-Edmonton  
Center  
The Body Shop-Kingsway  
Garden Mall  
Nickela Anderson  
Dolly Ashe  
Maxine Andrushak  
Maggie Baczynski  
Janna Booth  
Danisha Bhaloo  
Shaheena Daredia  
Alan Delgado  
Kealy Dube  
Jennifer Groves  
Shalen House  
Ashley Lone  
Sandra Mah

Victoria Oland  
Don Reid  
Shannon St. Louis  
Laurie Tymchuk  
Saira Woosaree  
Lesley Wimmer

### **CAFFY**

Dolly Bains  
Danisha Bhaloo  
Donna Carson  
Surrey Dowell  
Chantelle Edel  
Julie Evans  
Crystal Fraser  
Jess Gilbert  
Sheila Humble  
Shelagh Lumsden  
Christine Miles  
Shazin Mohamed

Maria Nanninga  
Lenda Sadoon  
Leah Shinkewski  
Gisella Suescum  
Melinda Thomson

**Casino 2004**

Zelekash Alemu  
Gerard Beauchamp  
Victoria Beauchamp  
Cecilia Blasetti  
Jynel Christ  
Tyson Christ  
Sarrah Cloutier  
Marcel Darmanin  
Lisa Dodman  
Tanis Dukart  
Dorthe Flauer  
Keri Flesaker  
Lindsey Gagne  
Evelyn Guignon  
Christina Harris  
Darlene Hirshmilller  
Jackie Horejsi  
Shirley Howarth  
Patricia Kennedy  
Bernard Krewski  
Michelle Norton  
Colleen Novotny  
Darlene Plamondon  
Volker Rademacher  
Bonnie Sayers  
Melanie Shepard  
Karen Smith  
Beverly Sochatsky  
Christine Stevens  
William Trofimuk  
Beverly Tweedle  
Lesley Wimmer

**Changing Path's**

Sheila Humble  
Sheri Dyck

**Christmas**

Centre For Spirtual  
Awareness  
Sorentino's St Albert  
Madonna Barry  
Ronda Bedard  
Phoenix Boudreau  
Larry Boudreau  
Joe Bourgon  
Amanda Brunke  
Bridgette Bruyere  
Leona Burkey  
Donna Carson  
Jynel Christ  
Nana Dimachi  
Kerri Flesaker  
Laura Giles  
Sandi Hamel  
Jesse Lipscombe  
Sara McEwan  
Heather Plewes  
Dani Rac  
Owen Shaw  
Nadine Shepard  
Trent Soholt  
Lexie Stevens  
Bonnie Trevellyn  
Laurie Tymchuk  
Kuna Ulch

**Community Resources**

Sandra Devries

**Legal Clinic**

Nancy Cush  
Maria Gallo  
Ashton Gill  
Marshall Gourlay  
Gloria Grieco  
Ning Ramos  
Dan Scott  
Nicole Sissons  
Darin Slaferek  
Cindy Turner

**Prison Liason**

**ERC/EIFW/FSCC**  
Nana Dimachi  
Shaleen House

**Private Home Placement**

Janice Adam  
Ronald Barry  
Barbara Belcourt  
Jacqueline Biollo  
Beverly Cressman  
Nana Dimachi  
Wendy Florence  
Docia Lysne  
Dona Mills  
Sandy Schreiber  
Nadine Shepard  
Laurie Tymchuk  
Susan Yetz

**Youth Court**

Jennifer Allport  
Danisha Bhaloo  
Adrienne Breakwell  
Sunita Chowdhury  
Shaheena Daredia  
Alan Delgado  
Surrey Dowell  
Fay Faraghr  
Helen Huang  
Marta Jacewska  
Cheri Knight  
Robert Lee  
Pascal Paradis  
Lenda Sadoon  
Leah Shinkewski  
Melinda Thomson  
Jocelyn Wady

**Women's Work**

Lindsey Gagne  
Sheri Dyck

# Program Highlights

## Aboriginal Women's Program Report

ELSIE PAUL

The original design of the Aboriginal Women's program is still the same, focusing it from the Medicine Wheel perspective and addressing the multifaceted issues that affect First Nations women using our services on a daily basis.

It's hard to believe that it's been a year since I returned to my old position of the Aboriginal Women's Program Coordinator. It is with sadness that I report that I have found the issues of over-representation in the Criminal Justice and the Child Welfare systems haven't changed to any acceptable degree for First Nations people.

The massive amount of physiological abuse and the continuation of genocide are very much a reality and I just find it very difficult at times to instill hope and enthusiasm as I am a direct witness to such hopelessness, powerlessness and pain in all areas of people's lives. People haven't even been nurtured as children and as Mr. M. Jackson puts it in his book 'Justice Behind the Walls' they have been predestined for the big house.

For example, I find it very hard to relay hope to a homeless pregnant mother who has to look for a warm safe place for the night to sleep. Even though this mother may awaken to a nice sunny day, she then has to walk around to find a meal for her and her unborn child. This mother to be, faces major barriers on a daily bases as she attempts to meet her rightful basic needs and supports for independence.

I hear many stories of sexual abuse and the tragic consequences that have resulted, of disparaging remarks from those in positions of trust and support who are supposed to help us, and of force being used by Peace Officers in situations where it is hard to imagine it was needed. Unfortunately, these stories are real and reflect the ignorance and stereotyping that still exists in our community.

Such incidents quickly undo all the hard work, all the healing programs, all the barriers and all the renewed hope a woman has been able to muster up as she again is victimized yet again for the hundredth time. The result is often an expression that there is no more left for her to go on, but we pray and hope that she will return for another try, and most do.

But in spite of these horrible events that are often part of our women's daily lives women come to E. Fry to cleanse themselves with the sweetgrass or even for the smell because of it's sacredness to the spirit and this provides the necessary and meaningful need for that woman seeking help and healing. Our work is always the balance of tragedy and hope and in the midst of the tragedy there is also success and hope.

Many of our women have become real success stories and are no longer using drugs or alcohol and no longer in conflict with the legal system. As well, we have women who have regained custody of their children, are working full time, have bought their first home or are attending university.

I recall so many memorable and sad experiences and learning to no small degree from each and every one of these women - they have been my Teachers and I really need to honor them. The daily ups and downs of our women are proof that the Aboriginal Women's Program at E. Fry Society is a must because I know it helps and it works for as long it complements with Respect, Honor, Unconditional Love and Acceptance. I truly believe any program can work if it has these principal concepts in place.

In 2004 1,674 women received 2,592 units of services. The services included referrals to other service providers, practical advocacy, and providing cultural groups. I had the help of two volunteers, who contributed 103 hours of their time and two students who worked 134 hours.

There is still so much work to be done and so much change that needs to take place. I fear that I am not going to see any major changes in this century. My reality is, I just have to focus harder on what I can do just for Today.

"When you heal the child you heal the community, when you heal  
the community you heal the child" O.Mercardi

The City of Edmonton, Family and Community Services (FCSS), and the United Way of Alberta Capital Region finances this program.

## Adult Courtwork Program Report

**JACKIE HOREJSI AND  
SUSANNE HAY, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA CRIMINOLOGY STUDENT**

For twenty seven years, the Elizabeth Fry Society's Courtwork Program has provided guidance, support and information to families, youth and individuals appearing in provincial court. Through funding provided by the United Way and Alberta Law Foundation, this program provides a unique service delivered by dedicated Elizabeth Fry Staff, as well as trained community volunteers. The program has proven to be essential in facilitating procedural efficiency through assisting individuals in understanding the complicated protocol involved in a court appearance. However, the benefits of the courtwork program are not limited to educating those who find their name on the court docket. The Elizabeth Fry Society is also integral in providing educational opportunities to post secondary students through this valuable program.

Over the years, many students from both the University of Alberta and Grant MacEwan Community College have fulfilled practicum requirements through positions offered in the courtwork program. This educational experience provides students with an invaluable opportunity to enhance theoretical knowledge by situating them right in the center of the justice arena. It also provides students with the chance to explore the justice system from many different perspectives. Completing practicums in this program has assisted many students in determining a career path, or further refining their educational goals.

As a fourth year student in the Criminology Program at the University of Alberta, I feel very fortunate to be a participant in the courtwork program. It has exceeded my expectations and exposed me to a wealth of knowledge that only hands-on experience can provide. Along with a more thorough understanding of the criminal justice system, I have also enhanced my communication and interpersonal skills. It is not only a challenge to communicate effectively with professionals within the system, but also with confused and sometimes distraught clients. When I have been successful in easing the apprehension of a client appearing in court for the first time, it is most rewarding.

Through my experience both personally and educationally, I have developed an understanding of criminal law and court processes that I could not have acquired from a textbook. I have gained a deeper sense of empathy and understanding toward individuals whose lives have become enmeshed in the system. Court protocol is formal and can be very intimidating, but the dedicated staff, volunteers and students do their best to provide comfort and support to those burdened by the weight on the scales of justice.

2004 was a busy year in Adult court. 27 volunteers donated 1798 hours to the program, providing 18,634 units of service. Two students completed their field placements, contributing 205 hours.

## Changing Paths Program Report

M A R G A R E T M C G E O U G H

Changing Paths, a literacy and life skills program, works to empower women to address behavior patterns that have brought them in contact with the legal system. The program curriculum explores: addictions, anger issues, maintaining healthy and equitable relationships, setting appropriate boundaries, parenting, childhood issues and the cycle of violence and crime.

Participants are referred to this program by probation officers, social workers, lawyers, and courts to complete fine option, alternative measures programs or to complete community service hours. Program Participants come from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. The average age of the women in the program is 35 and range from 19-58 years of age. Women report low literacy skills, addictions, history of emotional, sexual

or physical abuse, physical or mental health issues and poverty as contributing factors to coming in conflict with the legal system.

In 2004, a total of 108 women attended the program. During this time, 57 women successfully completed the program and 9 continued into 2005. Changing Paths used 158 volunteers and they contributed a total of 306 volunteer hours.

Success and Highlights from the year:

Throughout the year Changing Paths participants have made a significant contribution of 'giving back to the community' by stuffing thousands of envelopes at the United way main office for various campaigns and compiling packages for the Success by Six Program.

The Elizabeth Fry *Boutique* continues to grow and the Changing Paths participants continue in their role with this initiative. Women in the program participate in helping to unpack, sort and organize the many boxes and bags of donated clothing for the boutique.

The Changing Paths program has incorporated various activities to help women continue to work on their self- esteem and confidence with several successful components. Many of the women have obtained library cards to continue learning on their own and also access videos and tapes. The women make their own affirmation cards to continue using once they have left the program and are now making affirmation cards for their friends and family members.

The participants make their own bath salts, milk baths and other self-care items. Several women continue with the instructions and come up with variations on what has been demonstrated in the classroom and come back and share their inventions.

This program is funded by the Alberta Solicitor General.

## Christmas Events' Report

V A L E R I E M E A N E Y a n d  
M E L A N I E S H E P A R D

Those of us fortunate enough to be connected to the Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton during the Christmas season receive the ultimate Christmas gift. This gift is manifested in the work of many compassionate and loving citizens and local businesses that generously share their time, special talents, food and music with women incarcerated over the holiday season.

In conjunction with agency partners and donors our agency organized Christmas celebrations at the Edmonton Institution for Women, the Edmonton Remand Centre, Fort

Saskatchewan Correctional Centre, the Edmonton Young Offenders Centre and an agency community party.

Christmas at the Remand Centre was a memorable, heart-warming, and spirited event. More than 60 women were incarcerated in the Remand Centre for our Christmas celebrations. As a result, three separate parties were hosted on the three units housing these women. We were honored to partner with the Centre for Spiritual Awareness, who graciously provided friendly fellowship and decadent food for this event. Together, we sang Christmas carols and shared stories of the holiday season. Much to the excitement of the women, Santa made an appearance, bringing gift bags for each woman.

Many thanks need to be given to the Centre for Spiritual Awareness, 'Santa', the staff at the Remand Centre, and the generous gift donors for their support in the spirit of Christmas. Their generosity helped to make Christmas in the Remand a wonderful success.

With the help of the women from St. George's Anglican Church, Cornerstone Pentecostal Women's Ministry Assembly and many other community donors, we were able to bring the joy of Christmas to the 80 women incarcerated at the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre. Elizabeth Fry Society Staff, volunteers and the women at FSCC joined together to eat a wonderfully prepared meal, sing Christmas Carols and share wonderful stories pertaining to Christmas. Santa also found us at FSCC and was able to give the women gift bags that were prepared by volunteers at the agency.

At the Edmonton Institution for Women, there was a banquet of wonderfully prepared food from the Italian Bakery, Good Earth Produce, St. Albert Sorrentino's and specialty treats from staff at the agency. Loena Burkey, a fabulous musician, provided entertainment that the women truly enjoyed. There was laughter and a wonderful sharing by all.

Women in the secure unit at the Edmonton Institution for Women decorated gingerbread houses and enjoyed Christmas goodies.

All 105 women received a gift bag filled with journals, bookmarks, candies and greeting cards.

The Edmonton Young Offenders Centre event had CAFFY volunteers and staff share snacks, Christmas Carols, gifts and laughter. There was also a performance for the girls from a local hip hop group, JOENESS. This event proved to be a very overwhelming experience for some of the young women that were incarcerated at EYOC over Christmas. There were a lot of grateful tears and words of thanks for the show of compassion by the staff and volunteers.

Separation from family and friends, and being housed in a less than hospitable environment are circumstances which are tremendously stressful and unbearable for any woman. Certainly at Christmas time, it is that much more devastating for our incarcerated clients. We are happy to provide for these women a glimmer of hope in the spirit of the holiday season, even for a moment.

The agency community Christmas Dinner was held at the Freemasons' Hall and the space was generously donated for the agency Christmas Dinner. Guests, staff and volunteers enjoyed a hot turkey dinner with all the trimmings and a visit by Santa Claus was a highlight for the children. We sang Christmas Carols, decorated gingerbread houses and enjoyed the company of each other

for the entire afternoon. Children received gifts that were gathered from generous donors and parents were given beautiful books donated by the Book Publishers Association of Alberta.

To make Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton Christmas events such a success, 32 volunteers contributed 143 hours of their time in addition to the many in kind and money donations. We sincerely thank you all for making a difference.

Donations from Edmonton Community financed these events.

## Community Resources Program Report

TONI SINCLAIR

The Community Resources Program is an umbrella for a number of programs, services and initiatives designed to meet the needs of women who have just been released from prison. These programs and services include Adult Shoplifting, Clothing Room, Agency Drop-In, networking, and referrals to resources in the community. This range of programs and services are woven together to provide support for our clients, and to provide for their basic needs of food, clothing, shelter and support.

Statistics show that the first 72 hours of release from an institution are the most vulnerable for our clients; our goal, then, is to provide the necessary supports to enable women to survive these first few days upon release from prison and beyond, thereby breaking that cycle of crime.

A total of 12 women graduated from our Adult Shoplifting Program in 2004. This 10 week program is offered three times a year and is designed to address the underlying issues that contribute to shoplifting behaviour. These topics include boundaries, co-dependency, addictions, anger, self-awareness, grief and loss, etc.

As a result of participation from the program, the graduates reported their increase in knowledge of the legal, societal, and personal consequences of shoplifting.

In 2004, 259 women accessed our clothing room 462 times. Providing gently used, clean clothing for women just released from prison, or in crises, contributes to our goal of fostering their dignity and worth. Some commonly given reasons for accessing our clothing room include: need for warm clothing, need for professional attire for court, parole hearings, interviews, and meetings, and need for clothing as a result of a crisis situation. We would not be able to provide this service without the generous clothing donations from local businesses and community members.

The Community Resources Program Coordinator works closely with the Aboriginal Women's Program Coordinator to ensure that drop-in coverage is met. Our Drop-In service includes access to a telephone, newspapers, books, job postings, community resource listings, washer and dryer, computer, fax, and mail drop. As well, women routinely report their need to have a safe and warm place to come to during the day; our Drop-In meets that need.

Our agency benefits from the hard work of many dedicated volunteers and students. The Community Resources Program was lucky to receive help from 16 volunteers for 584 hours and one student for 32 hours in 2004.

This program is funded by the United Way of Alberta Capital Region.

## Legal Clinic Program Report

C H R I S T I N E   S T E V E N S

The Elizabeth Fry Society's Legal Clinic Program was created in 1999 to assist the women who resided at The Edmonton Institution for Women (EIFW). As many of the women in EIFW have a continuing need to access legal advice, they have been benefiting from this service.

In 2004, the program utilized ten lawyers who volunteered 72 hours of their time by providing expertise from their specific area of law. They provided 99 units of services to 55 women, which varied from legal advice to follow-up and referrals to Legal Aid, and Student Legal Services.

***The major issues that were addressed are:***

- Child Welfare matters including custody/guardianship
- Criminal matters which may involve outstanding charges
- Family matters including divorce
- Immigration matters including deportation
- Civil matters including bankruptcy

We are so grateful to Nancy Cush, Maria Gallo, Ashton Gill, Marshall Gourlay, Gloria Grieco, Ning Ramos, Dan Scott, Nicole Sissions, Darin Slaferek, and Cindy Turner, who have been providing the legal clinic to the women in the federal institution in 2004/05. These lawyers are making a difference in the women's life. When women understand their legal options, their life in the federal institutions becomes a little more bearable.

This program is funded by The Alberta Law Foundation.

# Pardons For Women Program Report

M I C H E L L E N O R T O N

The Pardons for Women project began in the spring of 2001 in collaboration with seven other community agencies. The purpose of the program is to assist women with the pardon process, both in filling out all the forms and subsidizing the cost of applying for a pardon. Criminal records are an enormous barrier for women trying to secure employment, return to school and/or volunteer.

A pardon as awarded by the National Parole Board will remove some of the limitations of having a criminal record. A pardon seals the criminal record. In turn we have realized that this process will increase women's self-esteem, self-worth and change how they view their own potential.

Participant Quotes:

I feel free. I have joy. I am now able to apply for work where I want. It opens more doors for me.

I feel so great! This was a lesson well learned and I'm working for a great future.

During the years 2001 to 2003 the Pardon program saw an average of 50 new clients a year. In 2004 we had 104 new clients in total. The Pardon program has been very successful. Since 2001 a total of 110 applications have been sent in and 68 pardons awarded to date.

The Clemency and Pardons Division of the National Parole Board is revamping the pardon application process, part of which consist of advertising to the 1.5 million people eligible for a pardon. As a result we expect an increase in the number of new clients for 2005. Other good news for Elizabeth Fry Society and our pardon clients is that now it only takes an average of 1 year to receive a pardon compared to 3 years in 2004.

This program is financed by the Edmonton Community Foundation, the Kristie Charitable Foundation and private directed donations.

# Prison Liaison Program Reports

## The Edmonton Institution for Women (EIFW)

A L M A S W A N

As the Co-ordinator of the Prison Liaison program I visit Edmonton Institution for Women two evenings a week to provide services, to establish a community link and to assist with reintegration of women serving a federal sentence. I also attend parole hearings and various meetings on a regular basis.

The Prison Liaison Program provided approximately 5,334 units of service to different women serving a federal sentence in EIFW and in the community. These services included, but not limited to:

1. providing community resource information
2. links to family and community supports
3. clothing for women in prison and in the community
4. assistance with release options and planning
5. advocacy in various areas
6. positive role modelling
7. one-on-one support
8. assistance in accessing and filling out various application forms
9. location and transportation of property
10. access to education and employment information and applications
11. housing and addictions treatment resources
12. connect with other Elizabeth Fry societies

The Executive Director of Elizabeth Society and myself, meet with the warden on a regular basis to discuss various issues. We also attend Inmate Committee meetings and various other committee meetings. We consistently advocate for improving policies and procedures that will affect the entire population at EIFW.

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton is designated as the Prairie Regional Advocate. In this capacity, we attend quarterly Prairie Regional meetings and quarterly Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Society meetings.

I attended a National Aboriginal Community Initiatives meeting hosted by Correctional Services of Canada to discuss release options for Aboriginal Women. I also attend regular meetings with the Women's Reintegration Chaplaincy. With the help of a summer student, we co-ordinated a successful Prisoners' Justice Day Event on August 10. This event was held on the institution's ground and EFry staff, volunteers, summer students, board members, EIFW residents and staff were in attendance.

A major ongoing project since 2001 has been the CAEFS submission to the Human Rights Commission. This project has been a collaboration of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (C.A.E.F.S.), the Native Women's Association of Canada and

other organisations including the Canadian Bar Association, the Assembly of First Nations and the National Association of Women. The concerns are regarding the treatment of federally sentenced women in federal institutions and correctional facilities. Also, of great significance was the disproportionate number of Aboriginal women in the justice system and the treatment of incarcerated Aboriginal women with cognitive and mental challenges. There have been some changes implemented as a result of this submission and there is work in progress.

The EFry Christmas event at Edmonton Institution for Women is always a welcome event. Some women find these events as a ray of hope in an otherwise hopeless existence. Once again, women at E.I.F.W. and Elizabeth Fry Society staff enjoyed the talents of their peers in a talent show and good food was shared. There was great camaraderie among incarcerated women, Elizabeth Fry Society staff, and volunteers. Many thanks to all to the volunteers, community members, agencies, and businesses who contributed to this event. These celebrations would not be possible without the phenomenal support from the Edmonton community.

As part of the reintegration work that we do, 3 women from E.I.F.W. volunteered at our community Christmas dinner. This event gives the women an opportunity to give back to the community. It is also an excellent opportunity for institutional staff to work with the community.

Attendance at parole hearings, including Elder Assisted, has steadily increased.

This program is funded in part by Correctional Services of Canada

## The Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre

A L M A S W A N

This past year has seen a staff change in the prison liaison program at the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre (FSCC), with Lesley Wimmer providing services until May 2004. I started providing services at the institution in June 2004. The work has provided me with an excellent opportunity for learning and also extremely rewarding.

The prison liaison program maintains regular visits to Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre to establish a community link and assistance with reintegration.

The Prison Liaison made contact/provided services to approximately 500 women serving a provincial sentence or remanded in custody awaiting bail or sentencing.

There are many issues that women serving time in the provincial system face. The issues include, and are not limited to: poverty, addictions, the costly phone system, limited resources and lack of support while incarcerated and upon release, lack of safe and affordable housing upon release and the ongoing challenge of community reintegration. The Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton works to address some of these issues, working

with women while they are incarcerated and upon release into the community. Advocacy, building bridges to access education, employment, community resources, developing creative problem solving skills and one-on-one support are the key areas of work to ensure successful reintegration for women leaving the provincial correctional system.

Prison visits occur twice a week and follow up work occurs out of the main office. There has been an increase in the number of women accessing the services of the prison liaison.

Many women at FSCC are seeking help with obtaining identification, finding suitable housing and sourcing information and services for addictions treatment facilities.

The prison liaison worker provides the women with the opportunity to visit, make connections, with society outside of prison and most importantly share their experiences and stories.

I look forward to an ongoing positive working relationship with Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre.

This program is funded by Alberta Solicitor General.

## The Edmonton Remand Center

**T O N I S I N C L A I R**

The Edmonton Remand Centre houses individuals who are on remand status awaiting trial, sentencing and/or transfer to another institution.

The ERC Prison Liaison provides the following:

- assistance with release preparations such as housing, identification, and treatment;
- referrals to the agency for programs such as Stoplifting, Changing Paths, Women's Work, and Aboriginal Women's program, and for continued reintegration support;
- referrals to community partners;
- contact with lawyers, and support in court if needed;
- advocacy for human rights issues;
- support, and an opportunity for the women to share their personal stories, struggles, and experiences.

The ERC Prison Liaison visits women incarcerated in the Edmonton Remand Centre twice weekly. In 2004, the Prison Liaison assisted 740 women in custody at the Remand Centre.

The Prison Liaison played an important role in the necessary judicial changes to the telephone system in the Edmonton Remand Centre. Prior to the change, women were

unable to make certain phone calls to their lawyers to make arrangements for legal representation, to their families to make arrangements for payment of bail, or to keep in touch with their support systems. The Prison Liaison signed an affidavit and testified to these facts. On July 12, 2004 Justice Beilby of the Court of Queen's Bench rendered a decision challenging the telephone system in the Remand Centre. She declared that the phone system (or at least, that portion of it which requires that recipients of calls be billed the costs involved) to be unconstitutional. Because of the recommendations made, the telephone system reverted to its original status.

This program is funded by the Alberta Solicitor General.

## Private & Supported Home Placement Programs Report

M E L A N I E S H E P A R D

The Private Home Placement and Supported Private Home Placement Programs offer women on Conditional Release from a federal institution the opportunity to reside in a private family dwelling as opposed to a community residential facility. The Private Home Provider offers individual guidance and one on one support to the woman residing in their home. The Supported Private Home Placement Program was designed to accommodate women with special needs who require a more intense level of support and guidance. Women with special needs face unique challenges and barriers to a successful reintegration and the supportive provider assists the woman with practical assistance to deal with the many different obstacles on a day to day basis.

Both programs follow a woman-centered approach, with focus on role-modelling the positive behaviors and adaptive coping mechanisms of their provider. The opportunity for women to observe and participate in a 'family setting' enables participants to practice newly acquired skills in a supportive, non-judgmental and caring environment.

In the year of 2004, an average of 8 homes were available to women on Day Parole and 14 matches were facilitated between federally sentenced women (FSW) and community providers with 7 women being placed in homes. Of these 7 placements, 3 women completed Day Parole by the end of 2004.

The year of 2004 was a busy year for the Private Home Placement Program. The coordinator of the program applied for, and was awarded, a full scholarship to attend the 2nd annual conference on Hepatitis C in Vancouver, British Columbia. This was a great opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and resources regarding the work that is currently being done in Canada and beyond.

The Elizabeth Fry Society was asked to present an overview of the Private Home Placement model at a national conference focusing on Aboriginal Initiatives held by the

Correctional Service of Canada in Edmonton. This was a fantastic experience with very positive feedback and keen interest from all participants.

The coordinator of the program was interviewed along with a current provider, Barbara Belcourt for Let's Talk, an e-publication on the Correctional Service of Canada's website. This is a national publication intended for CSC employees but available to the public. There has been some very favorable feedback regarding this article and the interest in the program nation-wide continues to grow.

The Private Home Placement Program facilitated 3 tours of the Edmonton Institution for Women in the year of 2004 and facilitated one training session, with 6 new providers attending the training.

A few statistics for the year of 2004 are:

- 139 hours were spent inside the Edmonton Institution for Women meeting with participants
- 298 consultations were made with PHP providers
- 178 consultations were made with Edmonton Area District Parole
- 193 consultations were made with the Edmonton Institution for Women
- 269 consultations were made with program participants
- 85 one on one sessions were facilitated offering guidance and support to FSW both within the Institution and in the community on conditional release

In 2004 a total of 13 volunteers gave 220 hours to the Regular and Supported Private Home Placement Programs. Without the commitment and care of the Providers and their families and our volunteers this programs would not have succeeded as much. Providers spend many months visiting women during incarceration without financial gain. They volunteer their time, energy and a listening ear to many women during this relationship building time. I would like to recognize the Providers as an essential component to the volunteer core of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton.

Providers who volunteered visiting women at the Edmonton Institution for Women in 2004:

Barbara Belcourt	Susan Yetz	Docia Lysne
Janice Adam	Wendy Florence	Jacqueline Biollo
Beverly Cressman	Sandy Schreiber	Dona Mills
Ronald Barry		

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton would also like to thank all of the women who have trusted in our agency to assist with the reintegration process. The participants of the program are breaking new ground and are allowing interested community members to "make a difference" in the lives of others. With the continued assistance of the community, we can help women as they face the next steps in their journey.

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton is contracted by the Correctional Service of Canada to recruit, train and maintain the Regular and Supported Private Home Placement Programs.

This program is funded by Correctional Service of Canada under Edmonton Area District Parole.

## Teen Shoplifting Program Report

T O N I S I N C L A I R

Teen Shoplifting is a program designed for young women ages 13 to 18 who want to stop shoplifting. As an extra-judicial measure, the program has assisted many young women with current shoplifting charges from entering further into the criminal justice funnel. Moreover, as a preventative measure, Teen Shoplifting has been a useful program for many female youth who have shoplifting concerns, and want to learn to change their behavior before any involvement in the criminal legal system.

The goals of Teen Shoplifting are to:

- help young women understand why they shoplift';
- help young women learn the consequences of criminal behaviour;
- teach healthier ways to manage stress, anger, peer pressure, and depression;
- promote healthy self-esteem;
- help young women learn important conflict resolution skills;
- encourage and discuss healthy relationships.

In 2004, Teen Shoplifting ran twice; each session was eight weeks in duration. 13 young women participated in the program, and eight girls graduated. All participants worked hard to increase their knowledge of shoplifting, and to improve their awareness of the negative impact of shoplifting on themselves, their family, and society.

"Before this program, I stole all the time. Now, I don't steal anymore and I don't want to either."

Participant quote

This program is funded by the United Way of Alberta Capital Region and private donors.

# Volunteer Coordinator's Report

J A C K I E H O R E J S I

2004 was a busy year for our volunteers. Thanks to their generosity Christmas was a huge success. Volunteers attended parties at Edmonton Institution for Women, Edmonton Remand Center, Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre, the Edmonton Young Offenders Centre and in the Community. They assisted with preparing food, and making up over 200 gift bags for the women. Volunteers provided entertainment and caroling and everyone agreed it was the best Christmas ever! Thanks to all who participated.

Volunteers continue to play a major role in all our programs. Without their assistance our program would not run. A big thank-you to 4 agency volunteers who have been with us for over 10 years. Thanks to Maxine Andrushak , 24 years of service, Dolly Ashe, 20 years of service, Don Reid, 10 years of service and Ruth Horne, 11 years of service.

Thank you to all the 346 volunteers who donated 6163 hours to Elizabeth Fry Society's programs. We are truly grateful for your on-going support.

# Women's Work Program Report

J A C K I E N O R M A N

The Women's Work program provides employment-related services to women who are at risk to be and who are in contact with the legal system. The program is a sister operation to the Bissell Centre's employment program but is specifically designed to meet the unique needs of women. Women accessing the program face a variety of barriers, which often include poverty, mental health issues, addictions, criminal records, isolation, child welfare issues, illiteracy and/or a lack of education, and/or discrimination. Working with other community agencies and each woman's unique goals, the Women's Work Employment Program seeks to reduce these barriers. The Women's Work Employment Program offers the following services.

- Casual and permanent job placements
- Workshops on resume and cover letter development, job search techniques, life choices, interview etiquette, and dealing with criminal records
- A comprehensive intake to identify personal strengths and barriers, goals and an achievable action plan
- One-on-one resume development and life skills assistance sessions
- One-on-one assistance to introduce clients to employers, drop off resumes and accompany clients to the interview if needed
- One-on-one support in accompanying clients to resources that fit their specific needs; appropriate training programs, educational institutions and other community resources as needed

- Job search tools, including access to daily newspapers, the Internet, computers, phones, photocopier and fax machine
- A resource centre with information on job searching, labor market trends, occupational profiles and educational institutions
- Advocating for women on issues related to Labor Standards, Human Rights and basic living needs
- Referrals to training programs, educational institutions and other community resources
- In-reach to women at the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre, Edmonton Remand Center and the Edmonton Institution for Women
- Cold calling and employer site visits to recruit employers for casual labor
- Connecting women to employers that are willing to overlook their barriers and take a look at their resumes for work
- Ongoing contact to current employers, by telephone or scheduled meetings, to provide support to the employer/employee with casual or permanent employment
- Ongoing follow-ups with clients to determine employment outcomes, assist with continued employment supports and/or information of resources within the community
- Networking/referrals to the Bissell Centre's Employment Program

In the three years since the program started, 368 women have registered for employment assistance. There have also been over 700 temporary and permanent job placements through the program. Thirty-six employment-related workshops have been presented at the Edmonton Attendance Centre, the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre, Edmonton Institution for Women, Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton and in the community.

Sadly, our funding from Alberta Human Resources and Employment ended on March 31, 2005, completing the third year pilot project. However, on a positive note, the Bissell Centre will provide part time employment support to our women at the Elizabeth Fry Society beginning April 1, 2005. We look forward to a successful partnership with the Bissell Centre employment program.

Seeing women succeed is the highlight of this program. Over the past three years, several women were accepted into the pre-apprenticeship Trades programs, Nursing Attendant programs and University Transfer programs. Other women are currently working full-time, part-time and/or taking programs for Academic Upgrading. Through the Women's Work Employment Program, many women have learned about the Pardon Assistance Program offered at the Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton. Obtaining a Pardon can greatly increase a woman's chance of securing employment and being accepted/registered into some educational/trades programs.

Currently, building strong relationships with employers in the community had been a large part of the program and throughout the past three years the relationships with employers grew. An increased number of employers were utilizing the Women's Work Employment Program to employ women on a temporary and/or permanent basis. Employers continued to be educated about stereotypes and the systemic issues that bring

women into contact with the legal system. Overall, the Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton has laid a positive path in the community for employers, private citizens providing casual labor services, and the Bissell Centre employment program, to continue to provide the opportunity to employ women who struggle with multiple barriers.

This program was funded by Alberta Human Resources and Employment.

## Youth Courtwork Program Report

C H R I S T I N E   S T E V E N S

The Elizabeth Fry Society's Youth Court Program works with youth aged 12 - 17 who have been charged under The Youth Criminal Justice Act. The new Act has brought many changes to the Youth Court System. It highlights restorative rather than punitive measures, and encourages Extrajudicial Measures whenever appropriate. Youth Justice panels including the Youth Restorative Action Project have proven to be effective in the majority of cases utilizing advisory groups to confer with the Crown Prosecutors, Judges, victims and offenders.

Youth docket court occurs each weekday, and the Youth Court volunteers are available to provide practical support and information relating to court procedures and protocol, terminology, and assisting in the completion of intakes for Duty Counsel. In addition, they provide referrals to Native Counselling, Duty Counsel, Legal Aid, and other applicable youth resources.

The volunteers also track statistical information on their daily dockets including dispositions, pleas, upcoming court dates, legal representation, and other relevant data. In 2004, the program utilized 19 Youth Court volunteers who provided 756 hours of service and assisted 3167 clients in providing 9572 units of information. There is a collaborative effort amongst the youth court staff and volunteers in working for the best interests of the youth.

The Youth Court volunteers are committed to assisting these youth, and continue to exhibit their dedication and enthusiasm by their involvement.

The C.A.F.F.Y (Court Assistants for Female Youth) is an initiative that falls within the Youth Court Program. It is a gender specific program targeted to girls who have involvement in the Youth Court system. The program connects these girls who have been charged with a criminal offence under The Youth Criminal Justice Act with volunteers. The volunteers act as mentors and provide emotional and court support, prison administration, advocacy work, and assistance with living skills.

Many of these girls are facing serious issues, and are struggling with addictions and high-risk lifestyles, and find very little support. High numbers are from dysfunctional home

environments, having Child Welfare status, and can benefit from positive role models such as these mentors.

The initial C.A.F.F.Y. training includes presentations from Youth Justice workers and others that have expertise on these issues, and are available to access for additional support as required. There have been many successful matches where positive trusting relationships have developed between the girls and their mentors, and many of these continue beyond the program's involvement. These mentors may be the individuals to make a lasting impact with these girls.

One of last year's highlights included a Christmas event at The Edmonton Young Offenders Centre. There were crafts, snacks, and even a visit by Santa, who brought gift bags filled with goodies. We also had a special talented guest who performed and provided inspiration to the unit. The girls had a great time using the karaoke machine, and presented a handmade card to our group expressing their appreciation at the close of the evening.

In 2004, there were 8 C.A.F.F.Y. volunteers who provided 596 hours of their time to assist 25 girls with 1390 units of service. The involvement of the volunteers in this program allows for greater community awareness, a better knowledge of the Youth Judicial System, and of the issues these young women face.

This program is funded by the Alberta Law Foundation.



## Agency Staff 2004/2005

Valerie Meaney	Executive Director
Beverly Sochatsky	Executive Director (to May 04)
Zelekash Alemu	Team Leader - Administration
Lisa Dodman	Administration Assistant (to May 04) and Pardon Program Coordinator (to May 04)
Michelle Norton	Administration Assistant and Pardon Program Coordinator
Elsie Paul	Aboriginal Women's Coordinator
Kathy Hamelin	Part-time Aboriginal Women's Assistant Coordinator /Community Resources during September - December 2004
Jackie Horejsi	Team Leader – Courtworks and Teen Stoplifting
Andrea Perry	Adult Stoplifting Co-facilitator
Dorthe Flauer	Community Resources Coordinator (to March 04)
Jynel Christ	Changing Paths Coordinator (to August 04)
Margaret McGeough	Community Resources Coordinator (to August 04) and Changing Path's Coordinator (to April 05)
Alma Swan	Prison Liason Program Coordinator
Lesley Wimmer	Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre (to June 04) and Release Kit Project and (to June 04)
Toni Sinclair	Community Resource Coordinator, Teen Stoplifting and Edmonton Remand Centre
Melanie Shepard	Private Home Placement Program Coordinator
Kathryn Berry	Teen Stoplifting Co-facilitator (to February 04)
Kealy Dube	Teen Stoplifting Co-facilitator
Christine Stevens	Youth Court Program, CAFFY and Legal Clinic Program Coordinator
Keri Flesaker	Women's Work Program Coordinator (to August 04)
Jacqueline Norman	Women's Work Program Coordinator (to March 05) Changing Paths Coordinator
Sandra Devries	Custodial Services

## Agency Placement/Practicum Students

Elisha Anthony  
Amanda Brunke  
Sarrah Cloutier  
Dawn Conners  
Nana Demanchi  
Shannon Droeske  
Lynda Gladue  
Suzanne Hay

Elsa Hudson  
Shelagh McGregor  
Nicole Nunnes  
Jodi Ann Palcza  
Sharee Roberts-Scott  
Michelle Suelzle  
Sabrina Yurick

## Summer Staff 2004

Evelyn Derus  
Kathy Hamelin

Robert Lee  
Toni Sinclair

## Private Home Placement Providers

Barbara Belcourt  
Susan Yetz  
Docia Lysne  
Janice Adam

Jacqueline Biollo  
Sandy Schreiber  
Dona Mills  
Ronald Barry





### **Recruiting Board Members**

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton works to foster the dignity and worth of women in contact with the legal system with the goal to have them become independent, valued and productive members of our society.

The agency is currently recruiting volunteer Board Members who have skills and expertise in the areas of: accounting, board governance, criminalization of women, women's issues, knowledge of and connection to community resources.

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton Board operates on a governance model. All Board Members participate in board development workshops, fundraising and committee work. Board meetings are held on a monthly basis and the time commitment is between 3 – 6 hours per month.

For more information about the good work we do, please visit our website at [www.elizabethfry.ab.ca](http://www.elizabethfry.ab.ca) and click on Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton. If you would like a detailed information package please send an email to [director@elizabethfry.ab.ca](mailto:director@elizabethfry.ab.ca) or call Valerie at 421-1175 Ext. 23.

Please submit your resume indicating your area of interest to:

Recruitment Committee  
Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton  
10523 – 100 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5J 0A8  
Fax: 425-8989  
[director@elizabethfry.ab.ca](mailto:director@elizabethfry.ab.ca)



*Application for Membership*

Any person can be a member and have a vote at The Annual General Meeting

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Yearly Membership \$20.00 Tax Deductible.

- I wish to volunteer.
- I would like more information

**Mail to:** Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton  
10523 – 100 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB  
T5J 0A8



**Charitable Donation**  
**Charitable Registration No. 10729 4381 RR0001**  
**[www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charities](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charities)**

- Yes! I want to help**  
**My one time gift is:**
- \$25
  - \$50
  - \$100
  - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Cheque Enclosed (post-dated cheques are accepted)**  
(Please make cheques payable to Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton)

- Automatic Bank Withdrawal**  
To pay your pledge directly from your bank, complete this authorization and return it with you blank cheque marked "VOID". I authorize Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton to take \$ \_\_\_\_\_ from my account at the end of every month starting from \_\_\_\_\_. I may cancel my pledge at any time by notifying Elizabeth Fry Society.

- Bill me:**
- Quarterly
  - Semi-annually
  - Annually

- Credit Card** \_\_\_\_\_
- VISA
  - MasterCard

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton  
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Edmonton, AB  
T5J 0A8