

Annual Report 2022-23



We envision people living free from poverty, violence, and abuse.

IWAV provides support services and housing to women, inclusive of cis, trans, and gender non-conforming women and their children who are impacted by violence and abuse.

Message from the Executive Director and Board Chair

IWAV's two primary focuses over the past year were housing development and staffing. This aligns with a regional and national focus on these themes, and IWAV specifically focused on employee recruitment, restructuring, and retention to meet the needs of the growing organization. Our strong leadership team and professional staff have continued to work with integrity and passion to help those affected by poverty, violence, and abuse.

Key highlights of the 2022 – 2023 year include:

- The Transition House moved into post-pandemic management where health protocols could be relaxed while maintaining systems for client and employee safety. This allowed the house to operate at capacity, so we turn away fewer who need our help. The crisis line operating from the house continues to offer a high level of support to our Gulf Islands communities.
- The Cedars Second Stage Housing Program was expanded with the development of the market garden. Resident clients enjoyed learning about fresh foods and participating in activities like sign painting and potato harvesting. The new “Grow For It” seed sales program was launched at “Seedy Saturday” and seeds were on sale at Transitions Thrift Store and at Country Grocer.
- Croftonbrook affordable housing was fully tenanted by year end with a mix of 74 units for those who are working, retired, for families, and those who have greater challenges and needs. People's daily lives seem very full, based on the variety of balcony décor, outside activity, and by the pets, strollers and bikes on the road past the IWAV offices.
- Transitions Thrift Store experienced record profits after the previous year's expansion. Alli, Store Manager, refreshed the displays and systems leading to positive feedback from shoppers and merchandise donors about their experience.
- Revenue increased 15.8%, influenced by the new tenants' rents at Croftonbrook, and increased store sales. Strong management was verified by the year-end Audited Financial Statements summarized on the back page.

IWAV's crucial work helps women and children affected by poverty, violence and abuse to move forward with their lives. This would not be possible without the support of our major funders, our grantors, our donors and all the people who share their time and expertise with us. We thank all of you for your kindness and generosity! We are making a difference in people's lives and are working towards a safer and more equitable future.

IWAV
Executive Director,
Alicia Herbert



IWAV
Board Chair,
Jayne Lloyd-Jones



IWAV Values

Respect

We demonstrate respect for our clients and each other

Integrity

We maintain the confidentiality and dignity of our clients

Compassion

We are kind and caring in our work

Resourcefulness

We seek out opportunities to achieve our mission

Safety

We provide an environment that feels safe for our clients and staff

We respectfully recognize that IWAV is located on the unceded, traditional territories of the Hul'qumi'num and SENCOTEN speaking peoples.

Salt Spring Island Transition House & Crisis Line

457 crisis calls

42 women and 18 children served

1047 bed nights

30 nights average length of stay

The Cedars Second Stage

Second-stage transitional housing and support for women and children who have been affected by violence

10 women and 4 children supportively housed

Croftonbrook

Permanent rental housing for seniors, people with disabilities, singles and families, who can live independently

95 people permanently housed in 74 units

Outreach Services

Education, safety planning, risk management, advocacy, emotional support, referrals, and transition planning for women directly impacted by violence or abuse

108 women served

PEACE Program for Children & Youth

Prevention, education, advocacy, counselling, and empowerment through individualized psycho-educational programming for children and youth and support for parents/caregivers

15 children served

6 caregivers served

Stopping the Violence

Counselling for women who have been affected by violence in relationships, sexualized assault, and childhood abuse

50 women served

Sexual Assault Response

Support for survivors age 13+ of all genders for recent and past sexual assault: crisis management, counselling, and referrals, and accompaniment to hospital or RCMP for forensic exams and reporting

22 clients served by intake and crisis response

26 clients served by counselling team

Spotlight on the Transition House

The Salt Spring Island Transition House had a very busy 2022–23 year, with steady resident intakes and an increase in bed nights and average length of stay. Women experiencing violence in relationships are often extremely vulnerable, which is why our Transition House program has prioritized reducing barriers in recent years. Women from all walks of life access the Transition House, with many survivors facing barriers like social isolation, poverty, poor physical and mental health, a history of substance use, trauma, recent immigration, language barriers, and are shouldering the responsibility of children and pets. Our Indigenous women face disproportionately more challenges due to systemic racism and discrimination. Add to these multiple barriers the Canada-wide housing crisis, and the unfortunate result is that many women are at increased risk of homelessness and further abuse.

When people identifying as women (including non-binary, trans and cis) access our Transition House, they are in urgent need of safety, care, and nonjudgmental service. Frontline workers are available 24/7 to offer confidential crisis support and referral services. Children are supported to understand that the abuse is not their fault, and childcare is available on a case-by-case basis. Transition House stays are an average of 30 days; however, due to the challenges of securing quality, affordable housing, stays are often extended. Frontline workers collaborate with local law enforcement's Victim Services and the Integrated Case Assessment Team to assist with our highest-risk cases.

The house boasts two little libraries, a computer room, an open-concept living room/dining room, a playroom, and an adult-only quiet room called 'The Sanctuary' for reading, crafts, and art projects. Seeds from The Cedars' garden project have been planted in the outdoor garden beds, and within our private yard we also have a sandbox for children, a hammock, and other areas to relax in nature.

Residents meet regularly with frontline staff to learn how to recognize the cycle of violence, develop strategies for safety and increased resiliency, and to participate in weekly planning sessions to help guide them moving forward.


IWAV also supplies nutritious groceries, client support money, bus tickets or taxi fare for appointments, pool, yoga and gym passes, and are offered coupons for needed clothing from the Transitions Thrift Store. Thanks to IWAV's Stopping the Violence and PEACE programs, adult and child survivors can access long-term counselling free of charge, and our Outreach program offers women practical supports after departure, as well as the peer support group to encourage new healthy relationships.

The Transition House is an essential service to the Southern Gulf Islands, providing women and families opportunities for a better life. IWAV is grateful to all the generous donors and local service providers who offer their wrap-around support to help our residents achieve this.



A journey to safety


Although each person's journey away from abuse is different, everyone follows the same procedure for accessing IWAV's Transition House program. Here is a simple infographic to show how a made-up client, "Suzie," goes through the process.



After 10 years of living with an abusive partner, Suzie decides to leave. It is a huge decision with many factors at play, including what will happen to her cat, Max.



Suzie finds our crisis line number on the IWAV website and calls. Staff use a Phone Intake Checklist to determine whether our transition house is her best option.



Over the next few weeks, Suzie is further supported in many ways: weekly goal-setting sessions with staff, referrals to IWAV counselling programs, group activities with co-residents, and assistance with her housing search.



Staff support Suzie in seeing the cycle of abuse and exploring resources that will help her heal. She is the only one who can decide what her next steps will be.



Once decided, staff and Suzie create an exit plan. They call a taxi to get Suzie and Max safely away while her partner is at work.



Suzie tries to rest during the first few days of her stay - it is incredibly stressful to leave the abuse for this new environment, even if it *is* safer.



Max is taken to the SPCA temporarily, where he will be safe while Suzie is at the Transition House.



Staff offer Suzie tea, snacks, blankets, and other comfort items, then she settles into her bedroom.

Upon arrival, staff prioritize everyone's safety. They take a description of Suzie's ex-partner and his vehicle information, and ensure she cannot be tracked on her personal devices.



Engagement...

During 2022-23, IWAV's community engagement efforts grew in both quality and quantity. More than ever before, we have the capacity to hold space in our community to show explicit support for survivors of violence, have honest discussions about the prevalence and causes of violence, and generate greater awareness of our services. We planned our second annual Sexual Assault Awareness event, hosted info booths at Salt Spring Film Fest, the GISS Health Fair and Seedy Saturday, and visited the Southern Gulf Islands to speak with colleagues about supporting survivors in that region.



Sarah and Charlie launch the sale of Grow For It seeds at Seedy Saturday 2023

IWAV's display at the Social Justice Documentary Film Fest



GISS students take in resources from the Sexual Assault Response program at the GISS Health Fair

In January, we gratefully accepted a grant from the Amamor Women's Foundation to carry out the groundwork for a project that will eventually see survivors of violence remain in their homes while abusers are made to leave. Building on international research and advocacy for survivors, this project is tentatively being called Safe At Home - Southern Gulf Islands. Our project advisory group has allowed for expanded engagement with Island Community Services, Green Ground Community Design Society, Island Health, and RCMP Victim Services. We are grateful to partner with so many capable and passionate people to advance social justice in our small corner of the world.

...and Collaboration

With greater engagement comes more opportunities for collaboration, and IWAV has continued to participate in a variety of inter-agency groups working toward the betterment of community safety and wellness. These include the Salt Spring Health Advancement Network, Southern Gulf Islands Health Advisory Committee, Salt Spring Housing Council, Violence Against Women in Relationships Working Group, Inter-Agency Case Assessment Team, and others.

One of the most pressing topics of discussion at these tables, which could shift the destructive path of rape culture, is consent. Not ones to pass up an opportunity to bring greater awareness, here we present an easy-to-remember way of understanding the multiple and complex facets of consent. We can use the FRIES acronym for lots of situations, not just sexual. Please take some time to digest this important information; talk about it with your loved ones and especially with the youth in your lives - a more peaceful future lies with them.

Consent: It's like FRIES!



Freely given

Doing something sexual with someone is a decision that should be made without pressure, force, manipulation, or when someone is incapacitated through drugs or alcohol



Reversible

Anyone can change their mind about what they want to do with their bodies at any time.



Informed

Be honest. For example, if someone says they'll use a condom and then they don't, their partner didn't truly consent.



Enthusiastic

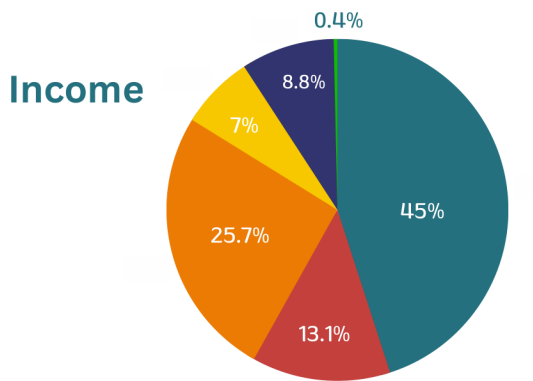
If someone isn't showing enthusiasm with their body or their words, then they probably do not want to have sex.



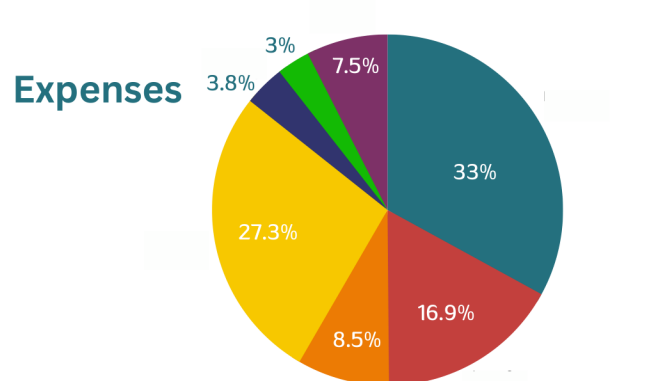
Specific

Saying yes to one thing doesn't mean saying yes to everything.

2022-23 Financial Statement



Anti-violence Program	
Government Funding	\$1,082,979
Thrift Store Sales	\$315,191
Rental Income	\$618,502
Government Funding for Affordable Housing	\$168,233
Donations, grants, and fundraising	\$212,543
Interest	\$8,446
Total	\$2,405,894



Transition House Programs	\$795,696
Counselling & Outreach	\$407,671
Thrift Store	\$205,181
Affordable Housing	\$659,071
Special Grant Expenses	\$90,998
Amortization	\$73,503
Administration & Audit	\$181,300
Total	\$2,413,420

Islanders Working Against Violence is grateful to our funders, government partners, community organizations, local businesses, and the many individual donors who support our society's vital work.

IWAV welcomes donations, which can be made by cheque, credit card, stocks, and bequests. IWAV is a registered charity (#89952 7279) and will issue a tax receipt for all donations of \$20 or more.

Donate now with the QR code below!



Donations – IWAV
iwav.org



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