

Annual Report 2024-2025



IWAV provides a range of housing options on Salt Spring Island, from free emergency transitional housing to long-term, independent, affordable housing. We offer free programs and services to provide practical and emotional support to those directly or indirectly impacted by violence and abuse.

Image Credit: The Golden Hour, Aio Panwar - as part of the Youth-led Safety, Survival, and Solidarity Project

Message from IWAV Leadership

Uncertain Times & Budget Cuts

The changing political climate over IWAV's fiscal year from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025 swept IWAV and other social services organizations into a time of financial uncertainty. Funding cuts and freezes to our anti-violence and housing programs have come just as inflation and necessary wage increases push costs higher. While we remain strong and stable, your support is more vital than ever.

To help meet these challenges, we welcomed Theresa Burley as our new Community Builder to strengthen communications, deepen community engagement, and grow donor support. Every contribution- monthly or one-time - directly sustains our work to keep women and children safe.



Natalie Gold, Board Chair



Alicia Herbert, MA in Leadership
Executive Director

This Year's Special Projects

- The Road to Reconciliation: 30+ staff, board, and guests attended "The Village" Indigenous Awareness Program; 7 staff joined a Talking Circle to explore IWAV's reconciliation steps; 2 staff refreshed counselling and outreach spaces for a more welcoming, homelike feel (Salt Spring Island Foundation).
- Safety, Survival and Solidarity Project: 20 youth created 6 original short films addressing sexualized violence, reaching 200+ community members through local screenings; films are now shared province-wide by the BC Society of Transition Houses (Civil Forfeitures Grant).
- Governance & Policy Project: Overhauled governance, HR, and organizational policies; board trained with clearly documented roles; 13 key policies modernized and digitized (Victoria Foundation).



Theresa Burley
Community Builder

Looking Ahead

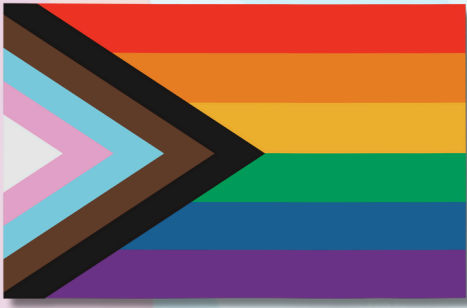
This autumn, we will be building a new strategic plan that looks at innovative new ways to support those in our community affected by the nationwide crisis of violence, primarily against women, and by the housing crisis. With your help, we will make a difference!

A Heartfelt Thank You from IWAV

We extend our gratitude to our funders, donors, and supporters. Violence and abuse are realities in the Southern Gulf Islands, and IWAV is dedicated to raising awareness so that individuals can recognize and prevent it and seek help.

As we strive toward a world free from poverty, violence, and abuse, we ask for your continued—and perhaps even stronger—support. Together, we can make this vision a reality.

IWAV services are accessible, inclusive, and gender affirming.



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

IWAV respectfully recognizes that we are located on the unceded, traditional territories of the Hul'qumi'num- and SENCOTEN-speaking peoples.

Salt Spring Island Transition House & Crisis Line

This program offers temporary housing up to 30 days for women and children inclusive of cis, trans, and gender non-conforming people affected by violence and abuse. The Transition House served over 50 women and children and received 457 crisis calls

Cedars 2nd Stage Transition House

This program offers temporary housing of up to 18 months for women and children who are rebuilding their lives.

10 women and 5 children served

Outreach Services

These services include education, safety planning, risk management, advocacy, emotional support and referrals.

43 women served

PEACE Program for Children & Youths

Prevention, education, counselling, and empowerment through individualized programming for clients and for their parents and caregivers.

12 children and 20 caregivers served

Stopping the Violence

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

48 women served

Sexual Assault Services

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.

19 clients served by the counselling team

It Takes Community to Build a New Beginning - Without You, There's No Second Stage

The Cedars continues to be a safe and supportive space where women and their children can rebuild their lives after experiencing violence. For many, The Cedars is a vital link between a crisis and the stability of permanent safety and independence.

Our 2024 Cedars Garden Program was a great success, leading to the hiring of some residents through a Work BC grant, increased community engagement at local markets, and the creation of beautiful bouquets for our \$10,000 for Change fundraising dinner.

Inspired by this momentum, we entered a new phase of leadership with renewed energy. Our team has enhanced internal processes for simplicity, while also connecting with our "older sister" second-stage program in Victoria for shared learning and inspiration.

The Cedars also experienced significant client transitions and is currently home to several families. Every family brings their own story, strength, and hopes for the future, and we are honoured to walk alongside them during this important stage in their journey.



However, The Cedars faces a serious and ongoing challenge - it is not fully funded by any major agencies and the needs of the women and children we serve are rising. The Cedars relies on proceeds from the Transition Thrift Store and the generosity of individual donors to meet these increasing needs.

Your support can make a difference. By becoming a monthly donor or making a one-time gift, you ensure that The Cedars remains open and strong. Your contribution helps keep the lights on, the garden growing, and the families we serve moving forward toward a life free from violence.

Together, we can keep The Cedars a place of safety, dignity, and hope - and ensure that every woman and child who walks through its doors has the support they need to thrive. [Visit our Donate page to find out how you can become a donor.](#)



Transition House & Anti-Violence Programs

Holding Space for Safety, Dignity, and Change

Balancing head and heart remains at the core of our work at the Transition House and across IWAV's Anti-Violence Programs. We do this work in a changing world, where outdated systems are being dismantled and survivors of gendered violence - especially those navigating systemic oppression and displacement - continue to face enormous barriers.

At the Transition House

This year, we served an average of seven women and children per month. Our 24-hour crisis line supported 457 calls—fewer than last year, but often involving more complex situations. Staffing changes brought fresh energy, with three new casual team members joining. Staff continue to grow their skills, with upcoming training on reducing barriers for women who face both violence and mental health or substance use challenges.

Anti-Violence Programs

Across our Outreach Services, PEACE Program, Sexual Assault Services (SAS), and Stopping the Violence counselling, we saw powerful moments of change. Clients told us, “I don't hide under my desk anymore” and “Your kindness helped all of us this week.” For some, success meant attending counselling regularly; for others, it was simply knowing they had options.

New initiatives this year included the youth film project on Safety, Survival, and Solidarity and deeper school connections through PEACE with IEP support. We also engaged in high school presentations on consent through SAS, created a streamlined intake process to connect clients with the right services faster, and started to develop a Peer Support Program that is set to launch in fall 2025.

Challenges & Emerging Needs

Clients continue to face limited housing, complex legal systems, and childcare shortages. Technology-based abuse, including cyberstalking, is on the rise, and youth need support that bridges both online and offline worlds.

Despite these challenges, we are sustained by moments when a client feels truly heard, a family begins to heal, or someone takes their first steps toward independence.

Looking ahead, we will focus on strengthening staff training, building partnerships, and expanding cultural safety - especially for Indigenous clients. Above all, we remain committed to ensuring every survivor who reaches out finds safety, respect, and the possibility of a new beginning.



Croftonbrook: Listening & Growing Together

This past year at Croftonbrook was marked by meaningful engagement with residents and a commitment to building a welcoming community. Together, we created space for connection, ensuring that each resident's voice could be heard.

We hosted two town halls where residents shared their ideas, and concerns. These gatherings celebrated what's working while also identifying areas for improvements. The feedback and suggestions from these conversations continue to guide us in making Croftonbrook an even better place to call home.

One of the year's most memorable moments was the September BBQ, which brought together 40–50 residents for an afternoon of food, laughter, and neighbourly connection. Participants commented on how special it felt to gather outdoors and share a meal. Levi and Brent impressed everyone with their grilling skills, while Charlie contributed their warmth and energy by mingling with the crowd. It was a simple but powerful reminder of the joy that comes from community.

Spending time with residents throughout the year has reinforced just how profound an impact safe, stable housing can have. Each time a new neighbour moves into Croftonbrook, especially those coming from difficult circumstances, we see firsthand the relief and gratitude that a clean, well-maintained home brings. While the process of choosing who receives an available unit is never easy, witnessing the transformation that follows - joy, comfort, and renewed hope - reminds us why this work matters.

CROFTONBROOK

Residents and Pets in Croftonbrook



RESIDENTS

76 Adults and 15 Children live at Croftonbrook

FAMILIES

11 Families call Croftonbrook home



PETS

9 dogs and 15 cats are a part of the Croftonbrook family

DEMOGRAPHICS

25 Residents are 18-54 yrs old
51 Residents are 55+



From Crisis to Independence: How IWAV Supports Survivors Like Maria

Crisis Point

After months of escalating tension, one night the threat of violence became real. Afraid for the safety of her and her daughter, Maria calls IWAV's Crisis Line. Believed and supported, she makes a safety plan.



Immediate Safety

Within hours, Maria and her young daughter arrive at the Transition House. They are welcomed with a private room, a warm meal, and space to breathe.



Support & Resources

Professional staff provide Maria with practical and emotional support, and help with her on safety planning and stability.



Healing & Stability

Over the following months, Maria attends counselling, learns about her rights, and sees her daughter begin to heal through children's counselling.



Longer-Term Support

When ready and space is available, Maria moves to The Cedars Second Stage Housing. She joins the garden program, and is able to attend skills workshops with child minding support from volunteers.

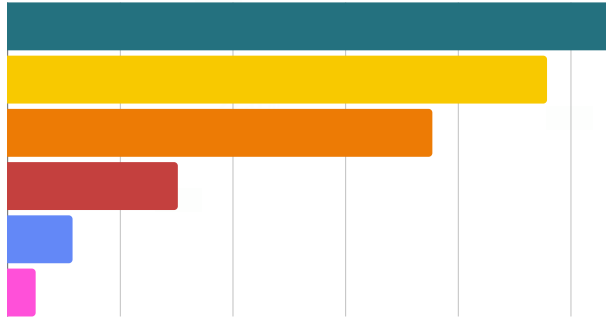


Independence

18 months later, Maria secures safe, affordable housing. With IWAV Outreach still checking in, she continues to build her new life in safety and hope.

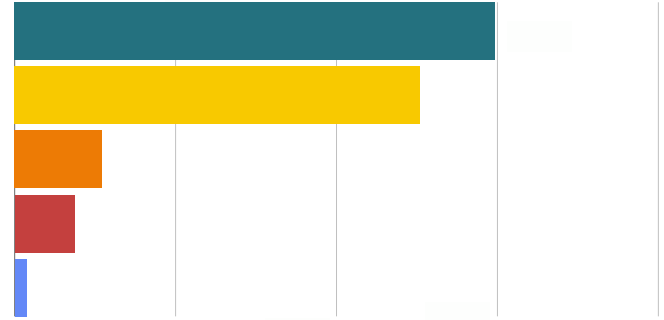
2024-25 Financials

Income



Anti-violence Program Government Funding	\$1,068,742
Government Funding for Affordable Housing	\$957,528
Rental Income	\$753,957
Thrift Store Sales	\$302,107
Donations, Grants, & Fundraising	\$115,209
Other income	\$49,696
Total	\$3,247,239

Expenses



Affordable Housing	\$1,491,886
Anti-violence Programs & Transition House	\$1,259,818
Thrift Store	\$270,702
Amortization	\$186,419
Administration & Audit	\$36,897
Total	\$3,245,724

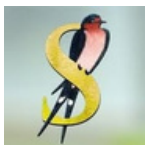
Donate anytime with the QR code below!



IWAV is grateful to our funders, partners, local businesses, and the many individual donors who support our society's vital work.

IWAV welcomes donations by cheque, credit card, stocks, or bequests. As a registered charity (#89952 7279), we issue tax receipts for gifts of \$20 or more.

Mail cheques to: Islanders Working Against Violence, #20 -132 Corbett Road, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1Z8



Stowel Lake Farm



Islanders Working Against Violence

Admin: 250-537-1867

Crisis Line: 1-877-435-7544 or 250-537-0735 iwav.org