Islanders Working Against Violence

External Newsletter
Winter 2026

Safe • Free
Confidential

Message from the Board Chair

We envision community working together to eliminate violence and abuse.

In the year ending March 31, 2026, IWAV provided safety and housing for 58 women and children in our Transition House and at The Cedars, our second-stage housing. We responded to 431 crisis calls and delivered more than 550 counselling sessions for women, children, and families. Behind every number is a person or family.

This year, we found new ways to connect with you, from our first Bottle Drive at the Island Return-It Depot to Saturday Market parking and the Fall Fair. You came to our fundraisers, donated prizes and supplies, volunteered, and signed up as monthly donors. That support is turning into progress: donations to The Cedars and our programs are growing, renovations at Norton Road will help us expand our services, and our affordable housing development project continues to move forward.

What draws me to IWAV is a simple but powerful belief: strong communities are built when we care for and support one another, especially during difficult times. The strength of IWAV comes not only from its programs and services, but also from the volunteers, donors, community partners, staff, and supporters whose generosity and commitment make this work possible.

Here on Salt Spring, rising housing and living costs make it even harder for women to leave unsafe situations and find a stable place to rebuild, which is why The Cedars and the new affordable housing planned at Norton Road matter more than ever. In a world where connection and compassion can sometimes feel in short supply, this work reminds us that we all have a role to play in building a more caring and resilient community. It is a privilege to contribute to this collective effort alongside so many dedicated people who continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for being part of this work.

With gratitude,
Jel Eugenio
Board Chair, Islanders Working Against Violence



Alicia Herbert, Executive Director
at the Fall Fair



Board members Jel Eugenio and Natalie Gold
at our Annual Fundraiser

IWAV services are accessible, inclusive, and gender-affirming.
IWAV respectfully recognizes that we are located on the traditional, unceded territories
of the Hul'qumi'num- and SENĆOŦEN-speaking Peoples.

The Cedars: Stability and New Possibilities

Leaving an abusive situation is an important first step. Rebuilding a life takes time, stability, and support.

The Cedars is IWAV's second-stage housing program for women (including cis and trans women), non-binary people, and their children. With seven housing units and stays of up to 18 months, residents have a safe, stable home while they recover, access IWAV programs, build skills, and plan for their futures.





Beets grown in The Cedars garden, prepared by Sweetgrass Food Co., were served as the first course at our $10,000 for Change fundraiser dinner at Stowel Lake Farm.

The Cedars Garden Program

Through the Garden Program, residents take part in planting, tending, harvesting, collecting seeds, and preparing food. The program combines learning with hands-on experience. It builds practical skills and confidence, and provides fresh food and locally collected seeds to the community.

A United Way Work Experience Opportunity grant allowed us to expand the Garden Program. With this funding, we paid several clients to work in the garden, growing seeds and making garlic braids to sell at our Transitions Thrift Store. Along the way, they gained work experience and skills that support future employment, health, and food security.

What We've Grown Together This Year

13	10	$500
women in the housing program	children in the housing program	in seeds sold since January 1

Life at The Cedars is always changing as families arrive and move on. Lately we've welcomed more young moms with little ones, and celebrated some residents moving into safe, permanent homes, including Croftonbrook.

We're grateful to the Salt Spring Island Foundation for a $15,000 Community Grant. The grant funds a new gate, better drainage, child-friendly surfacing and sturdy outdoor toys, so the play area can be used all year. It gives children a safe place to play as their families recover and rebuild together.

A Resident's Perspective

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I have lived at The Cedars for nearly 18 months, and over that time I've enjoyed having access to the garden. It has provided many benefits: a small relief of my food bill, which is very important these days as the price of food continues to rise, and the simple pleasure of growing my own food, harvesting it, and creating delicious meals with it. Being in the garden, watching birds and other wildlife, also provides a much-needed measure of calm in a fairly stressful time in my life. Being low-income, food security is just as important to me as housing security, and I'm grateful for the hard work that has gone into keeping the garden going.

— Resident of The Cedars

Norton Road: From Community Vision to What's Next

In February, thanks to an extraordinary community fundraising effort, IWAV purchased 210 Norton Road. Neighbours, local organizations, donors, and supporters came together around a shared goal: creating more affordable housing on Salt Spring Island.

Since then, we've held nine community consultations with neighbours and partners to better understand local housing and service needs. Their input has been gathered into a report that will guide the next stages of planning. We are so grateful to everyone who shared their time and knowledge.



An ariel view of 210 Norton Road



100+ Women Who Care Salt Spring Island, October 7

What's Underway

House Renovation

Renovations to the existing house are underway and should be finished in early 2027, allowing us to expand our services.

Pre-Development Work

Hydrological testing is expected to begin in the coming months, supported by a $5,000 Grant-in-Aid from the Capital Regional District (CRD). Following approval of an Expression of Interest, the CRD Rural Housing Program invited us to apply for $93,000 in pre-development funding.

Looking Ahead

There is still much work ahead, and the same generosity that made the purchase possible continues to move the project forward. We are especially grateful to 100+ Women Who Care Salt Spring Island, whose members voted for IWAV at their October 7 meeting to support our efforts to expand services at Norton Road.

Be Part of What's Next

Thank you to our community sponsors and donors who keep the project moving forward, including:

- 100+ Women Who Care SSI
- The Artemis and Petunia Fund
- The Philip & Muriel Berman Foundation
- Julie Bryant
- The Stewart Fund

Do you want to be a part of making affordable housing at Norton Road a reality? Contact Alicia Herbert, Executive Director: executivedirector@iwav.org

Community Makes It Possible

This fall, two fundraising events raised a combined $13,900 for The Cedars.

$10,000 for Change: An Evening at Stowel Lake Farm

On Oct 6, we gathered at Stowel Lake Farm where our guests and donors together raised $9,200. Over dinner, they heard about life at The Cedars and enjoyed a first course from Sweetgrass Food Co. featuring beets grown in The Cedars garden (see page 2).

Special thanks to Stowel Lake Farm, Sweetgrass Food Co., Voyage Liquor Merchants, Vivezza Vineyard, The Cedars residents and volunteers, and our Transitional Housing Coordinator, Sarah Cordes. Thank you to our raffle prize donors: All Out Septic, Jayne Lloyd-Jones Yoga, Nadia & David Youngson, Natalie Gold Reflexology & Bowen Therapy, Osisi Boutique, Salt Spring Kitchen Co., and Vivezza Vineyard. To our Board and volunteers, thank you for your energy and heart.

More Than Lunch: Women Supporting Women

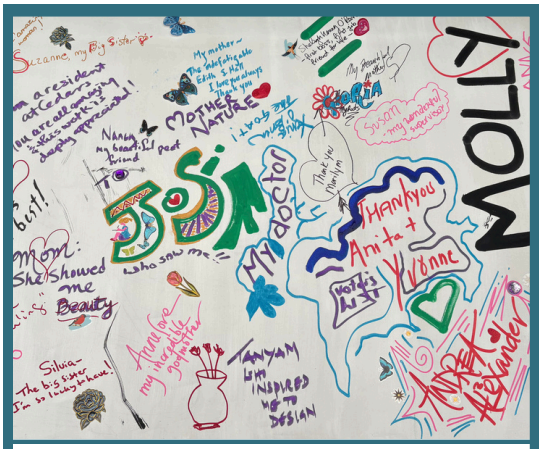
On November 3, Alexandra Montgomery and Andrea Little brought women together for lunch at Salt Spring Wild Cider and raised $4,700. Guests also wrote tributes on a community canvas to the women in their lives who inspire them.

We are so grateful to Alexandra and Andrea for organizing, to every woman who attended, and to our anonymous donors, Salt Spring Wild Cider, ArtSpring, and everyone who contributed door prizes.

You Answered Our Call: 15 New Monthly Donors

In our April newsletter, we told our community we needed more ongoing support, and since then 15 new donors have joined the IWAV Monthly Donor Circle. Whether it's $5, $25, $50, or more a month, regular gifts give us reliable funding to plan and sustain our services, so support is there when women and children need it.

Congratulations to Rob and Shelley Newmarch, who won our Monthly Donor promotion and a $250 gift basket from Rock Salt Restaurant & Café and Salt Spring Mercantile!



Tributes on the community canvas at More Than Lunch

There Are Many Ways You Can Help

- Bid Online: Our silent auction runs Nov 30 to Dec 7. Watch our website and social media for details.
- Shop or Donate: Transitions Thrift Store, 119 – 109 McPhillips Ave.
- Return Recyclables: Island Return-It Depot, IWAV Account #300.
- Save Receipts: Country Grocer Save-a-Tape Program, Box 29.
- Give Monthly: Become a Monthly Donor at iwav.org/donating/
- Donate Anytime: E-transfer to admin@iwav.org, or mail a cheque to: IWAV, 20-132 Corbett Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 1Z8
- Spread the Word: Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn, and share our work with friends.

Need a safe place to go?

Experiencing abuse and need someone to talk to?

24-HOUR CRISIS & INTAKE LINE

TOLL-FREE
1-877-435-7544

LOCAL
250-537-0735

EMAIL
ssitransitionhouse@iwav.org

Thank You, Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands.

Together, we are building a community where everyone can live free from violence & abuse.

iwav.org