



Dignity | Equality | Opportunity



Fall has arrived. As we gear up for another busy winter, we're pleased to share some highlights from summer and what we're working on now.

Channelling Kindness

On August 1, Lady Gaga started her much-anticipated Joanne World Tour in Vancouver. As part of her commitment to support at-risk youth, she and her mother created the Born this Way Foundation (BTWF) to undertake volunteer work under the banner: Channel Kindness. We were thrilled when BTWF staff contacted us about opportunities to volunteer for our JustKids initiative, which supports children with incarcerated parents.

The night before the tour's kick-off concert, BTWF staff visited with kids from our Saturday Club, bringing them toys and games and enjoying a dinner together. The kids created letters for Lady Gaga reflecting on their experiences of being brave and thanking the BTWF for a great night.

The BTWF's visit was profiled on both their social media channels and EFry's, bringing awareness of our JustKids work to a new, broader audience.



The BTWF Team and our Senior Counsellors helped out with dinner.

Another Summer of Great Camp Memories



Once again, our Blue Sky Summer Camps operated at capacity, providing children and youth with incarcerated parents the opportunity to enjoy a sun-filled week on Gambier Island. Camp activities included swimming, kayaking, archery, rock-climbing, tie-dying, crafts, sing-a-longs, making friends and just being kids.

Our counsellor-in-training program, for kids aging out as campers, had another

successful year with 14 campers learning job skills and modelling success for younger boys and girls.

Blue Sky Summer Camps are made possible solely thanks to the generous support of our donors. To all who helped make this summer adventure possible, we and the children thank you.



bedrooms, shared responsibility for keeping the house running and case management to help women address their challenges and secure safe, stable housing so they can build brighter futures.

Below, one of EFry's clients, Jackie, reflects on her time at Elizabeth Gurney House, one of our shelter homes in Surrey.

My family became homeless after the house we were living in was sold by the owner. We couldn't find a place to rent and had to go to a shelter. I'm a mother to six kids. We lived together in one shelter for awhile but had to leave. My fiancé and I ended up in different shelters but the first one was very different to EFry's. Eventually, I found EFry and came to Gurney House with my two youngest, ages six and eight. The

other kids stayed with the father in Surrey.

We lived at Gurney's for four months. It was a good experience. EFry helped me with housing, bus tickets to and from my kids' school, and even threw a birthday party for my daughter.

It was enjoyable living in EFry's shelter because it was like a home. In the other one, I ate in a big cafeteria. At EFry, you eat with the women you live with. We all cook and everything we need to prepare meals is supplied. I liked that and got along with the other mothers.

EFry's staff was really helpful and nice. My kids enjoyed being there, which made it possible for me to get things done. We finally found a suite to rent and were able to come back together as a family.

In Her Own Words

At EFry, we view homeless shelters not as a band-aid to just get a roof over someone's head for a night but as a stepping stone back to a stable life. Because of this philosophy, we offer shelter 'homes' – houses with private

Wild N' Woolly

Things are getting Wild n' Woolly at EFry! We're thrilled to launch our new social enterprise, which is creating jobs for women and those rebuilding their lives in the community after incarceration. This aptly named new business is providing women with training and employment in the production of yarn and wool products, using wool donated by local sheep farmers that is ordinarily an unused waste product due to the lack of production facilities in BC.

This past June, an initial group of nine participants underwent four days of training in the production of wool from start to finish: from cleaning the fleece (a sheep's coat) to spinning the wool into yarn.

Work is already underway for an in-prison component, where inmates will learn to card (brushing the wool) and spin the wool. Stay tuned for more on this exciting new venture.

Look for us this December at the Heritage Hall WOMEN'S WINTER FAIRE selling our wares.



2017 Annual Report

Interested in learning more about what EFry's been up to in our most recent program year (April 2017 to March 2017)? Don't miss our 2017 Annual Report, available now for viewing and download via our website

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