

80 Years
of Dignity, Equality
and Opportunity



Our Mission

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver (EFry) is a charitable organization that supports some of society's most vulnerable populations — women, girls and children at risk, involved in or affected by the justice system. Our more than two dozen programs work to break the cycle of poverty, addiction, mental illness, homelessness and crime.

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In the year 2018-19...

... we supported **16,931** clients:

15,686 adults and **1,233** children

with the help of **138** employees and **472** volunteers who donated **15,103** hours.

Message from EFry's Executive Director and Chair

Eighty years ago, a small group of women came together in the belief that providing the right supports to incarcerated women and those exiting prison could mean the difference between a bleak future and rebuilding positive lives in the community. This organization was named the Elizabeth Fry Society, in honour of a 19th century social reformer. Not only did she open the first homeless shelter in London, Elizabeth Fry was instrumental in dramatically improving prison conditions. She successfully championed the separation of incarcerated men and women to reduce victimization, and brought education and vocational training into prisons. She also founded the first-ever programs for children of incarcerated parents.

Since EFry's own first prison reform efforts, the scope of our supports has grown steadily to address related needs. We broadened our efforts to include breaking down systemic barriers that marginalize women and reduce their dignity, equality and opportunity. In this annual report, we're pleased to share some of the significant milestones we have achieved. Since our inception, EFry has played a role helping improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of women, youth and children. We have supported our clients with immediate, individual needs like a safe place to spend the night, while at the same time pursuing changes at the provincial and national level to help women and children living with risk factors that can lead to conflict with the justice system: deep poverty, homelessness, trauma, addiction, mental health issues, and familial incarceration.

We haven't done it alone. EFry's donors, funders and volunteers enabled us to create and deliver gender and trauma-informed programs and services. We collaborate with other charities, amplifying our collective impact by working together towards common goals. For example, the WEAVE program, which helps women exit the sex trade in Abbotsford, works collaboratively with Abbotsford Community Services and SARA for Women to create a network and continuum of care for women. To really drive broad change, collaboration with and learning from other organizations is vital.

This past year, we have continued to evolve the care we offer by opening women-only supportive modular housing to respond to the lack of women-only homeless shelters in Abbotsford. A similar project is slated for Queensborough. This fall, construction begins for our innovative, 55,000 square foot Surrey facility for vulnerable women and children that will bring housing, an emergency shelter, a multi-disciplinary medical and dental clinic, and JustKids programming together in one place. And, we've taken our advocacy for poor children's rights to the House of Commons in Ottawa. We'll continue to advance these initiatives in the coming year and share our ABC agenda for supporting Canada's poorest children in this report.

To EFry's donors, volunteers, funders and staff: thank you for making our work possible over these past 80 years. Together, we will continue to empower women and youth to build bright futures in our community.

Shawn Bayes Executive Director, EFry Christine Paramonczyk Chair

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Highlights from EFry's first 80 years

EFry has always believed strongly in the value of gender-informed programming and services. We see the transformative power that safety and trauma-sensitivity create in helping marginalized women rebuild their lives. Over the years, EFry has piloted shelters, treatment programs and services developed specifically to meet women's needs which have become models shared across the country. We have partnered with others in pursuing systemic change and have successfully advocated for government program changes that benefited women and children well beyond our client base. Today, we continue to look for opportunities to improve our offerings and help ensure government-funded initiatives take the realities of vulnerable women, youth and children into account.

1930s-50s

1939 EFry Vancouver (the first in Canada) was founded in New Westminster. EFry begins fostering Elizabeth Fry societies elsewhere in Canada.

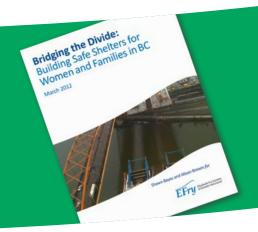


1965 EFry opened the first non-government group home for adolescent girls exiting prison.

1979 We opened BC's first shelter beds that accepted opiate-using women.



2011 EFry launched JustKids, a suite of programs designed to support the unique needs of children with incarcerated parents.



2012 EFry held a shelter symposium that brought together social service and government representatives to create best-practice standards for ensuring women and children's safety in co-ed shelters. At the time, all recommendations were adopted by BC Housing.



2014 Our pilot program to help "chronic offenders" find housing immediately upon release from prison nearly halved recidivism and has been implemented in all BC provincial prisons.

1987 EFry negotiated the Burnaby Exchange of Services Agreement, which enabled federally sentenced BC women to be incarcerated closer to home, even in provincial prisons, while still accessing the expanded federal-level program and supports. This led to the opening of the Burnaby Correctional Centre for Women in 1991.

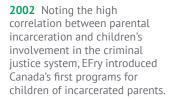
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building opened, bringing services for women at risk of justice system involvement and those transitioning to community life together in a single, accessible location.



2019 EFry authored two handbooks to support improved outcomes for children: Raising a Relative's Child: A Free Guide for Caregivers of Children with Incarcerated Parents and Supporting Children with an *Incarcerated Parent: A Community Guide.*

2019 Members of Parliament gave 47 speeches in the House of Commons in support of EFry's child rights petition for federally driven changes to remove barriers to accessing benefits and provide improved supports for marginalized children. The core of the petition has become EFry's A Canada for All Kids: ABC Strategy.



2008 Our report, BC Girls in Custody, successfully advocated for the end of co-ed youth prisons in BC; gender-responsive youth programming related to addictions and violence, and gender-responsive training for correctional officers.

2009 Developed the case management tool framework and staff-training standards for BC Housing-funded shelters.

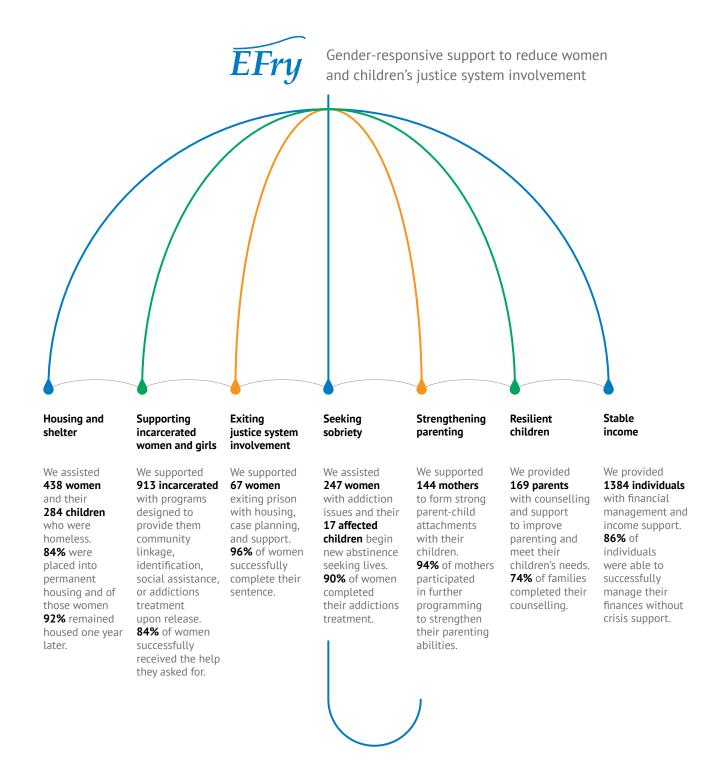


2015 EFry was accepted into the United Nations working group, Child Rights Connect, as one of 84 organizations worldwide advising on treaties involving children. We serve on the advisory group related to children of incarcerated parents.

2018 EFry co-authored *Framework* for Action – Enhancing Protective Factors of Children of Incarcerated Parents with the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy and the University of the Fraser Valley, School of Criminology.

Impacts

To offer effective interventions, EFry identified the factors which research shows make women more likely to come into conflict with the law, as well as those that help women develop resilience and reduce criminal justice involvement. We then matched those with pathways out of the correlated issues of homelessness, addiction, poverty, trauma and mental illness. Our programs are specifically designed to address those risk factors and support clients in developing resilience to manage the challenges they face in their lives.



Strategic Plan

In 2015, EFry undertook a five-year plan to evolve our structure and operations to ensure long-term sustainability and our ability to grow in a changing environmental landscape.

We diversified our funding, reduced reliance on province funding, and developed financial sustainability measures to see our work continue for another 80 years.

Key investments were made in evolving our sites to enable the expansion of addiction services. We also acquired property, so EFry could offer integrated services that provide our clients with increased supports, while offering funders and donors a more efficient and effective way to impact the lives of vulnerable women and children. This past year saw EFry reach key benchmarks, leading us to undertake a new strategic planning process early.



EFry's New Strategic Plan

EFry's new plan for 2019 - 2024 centres on increased:

- Integration of services for holistic care for women and children impacted by homelessness, addiction, mental illness, violence, trauma and the justice system;
- Staff development to build a third generation of women-centred leadership grown in-house;
- Third party verified measures regarding the effectiveness of our work, and
- Identification and tackling of systemic roadblocks that are increasing the depth of poverty and marginalization of poor women and children in BC and the country.

Meeting Immediate Needs

EFry's clients come to us at the most vulnerable times in their lives. While our ultimate goal is to support women in building stable, sustainable lives, the first step is often dealing with a dire need for the necessities of life or addressing a crisis situation. All our clients are offered individualized case management support.

Maida Duncan Drop-in Centre

Women and their children are welcomed into a safe space where they can relax and connect with others, get help finding community services, have a snack or meal, take a shower, do laundry, get needed clothes and household items, access computers, receive dental care provided by UBC's School of Dentistry, and take part in recreational activities or special events like spa days, where stylists donate hair service. The Maida Duncan Drop-in Centre is often a first point of contact with our homeless clients and provides an opportunity to link each woman with appropriate supports.

Cold-weather Shelter and Shelter Homes

Winter nights can be deadly for homeless women, though due to trauma, many will choose the streets over a co-ed emergency shelter. When temperatures drop to unsafe levels, EFry opens our doors in New Westminster as a women-only cold-weather shelter to help women stay safe, warm and alive during period of extreme cold.

As well, EFry operates three shelter homes for women without resources. Women and children live communally and are assisted in finding housing and addressing the circumstances that led to their homelessness. The shelter homes also help children regain a much-needed sense of security. Our shelters are community homes, rather than facilities that individuals leave daily to return at night. With support form peers and professional staff, women leave with stabilized lives and a road map for their future.

Poverty Law Clinic

This year, EFry launched the Advocate Program, a free legal support clinic to help people with situations commonly faced by the poor such as accessing government income programs; housing issues such as rental disputes and evictions; debt collections, and bankruptcy.



4,223 clients were served, including **348** children.



Collaborators in Change

Working together with other organizations to achieve common goals enables EFry to broaden the impact of our supports and help more marginalized women and children enjoy stronger, stable lives. This past year, EFry has collaborated with a number of other social service organizations and we look forward to continuing these relationships in the future.

Amplifying Our Voice

Transformational change requires collaborative support. To help raise awareness of EFry's child rights petition before Canada's House of Commons, which calls for changes to benefit the country's poorest children, the Child Welfare League of Canada co-authored an op-ed for the *Ottawa Citizen* highlighting the issues poor children face in accessing federally funded benefits.



Housing First

Through the federally funded Housing First initiative, EFry helped women who were chronically homeless or homeless for a long time to find safe, stable housing. We operated programs in New Westminster and Surrey. In Surrey, EFry managed the collective efforts of four agencies working together to build a network of resources and supports for chronically homeless people. Together with Options Community Services Society, Sources Community Resources Society, Lookout Emergency Aid Society, EFry helped clients locate stable, long-term housing and provided them the needed transitional bridging to establish community relationships.

Knowledge Sharing

EFry is committed to seeking out ways to continually improve our supports. We also welcome opportunities to share our knowledge of the compounding nature of poverty when it intersects with trauma, gender, race, children, justice involvement, mental illness or addiction. These factors increase the corrosive nature of poverty and deepen the deprivation. This year, EFry participated in 87 knowledge-sharing initiatives, such as sharing insights into the challenges deeply poor children and their caregivers face in accessing the federally funded supports created to help them at the annual conference of Board Voice, a leadership-focused



association of BC non-profits and their board members. Board Voice joined EFry in calling on Canada's government to make the necessary changes to break down those barriers.

WEAVE

Women Exiting Abuse Violence and Exploitation (WEAVE) helps women exit the sex trade. EFry partners with Abbotsford Community Services Association and SARA for Women to provide income, counselling, addiction treatment, housing, health care, education and support.

A total of **428** clients served by WEAVE and Housing First.

Justice System Programs

EFry has always supported incarcerated women in rebuilding their lives. While we now devote much of our programming to helping address the risk factors that lead to justice system involvement (trauma, deep poverty/homelessness, addiction and mental illness), helping women and girls in conflict with the law to create a second chance at a positive future remains at the core of what we do.

Burnaby Youth Custody Centre

EFry provides esteem-building programs to incarcerated teens, such as tutoring, recreation and baking.

Parent-Child Bonding

Maintaining strong parent-child relationships during parental incarceration is valuable for positive child development and esteem, as well as parents' reduced recidivism. Our Storybook Program also promotes literacy by providing new books which parents are recorded reading to their children. The book and recordings are then delivered to the children so they can share a story any time.



A total of **9,384** women and youth were supported.

152 volunteers contributed **3,581.5** hours.

Am'ut (Alternative to Custody) Program

Our culturally sensitive intensive full-time attendance program for Aboriginal teen girls provides a healing alternative to custody, where girls are supported to address the trauma impacting their lives, enhance their education and develop personalized behaviour management skills. The program is operated with guidance from First Nations Elders.

Navigating the Court System

EFry's Downtown Community Court Program provides trained volunteers to support those appearing before the court access the wraparound supports and services attached to the court.

Community Re-entry

Through our Integrated Transitional and Release Planning Program for women with complex needs, EFry supports women existing prison plan for a successful transition back to their community, with a particular focus on housing, health, income, and meaningful employment or education. As well, the program helps women address the factors that place them at high risk of future justice involvement.

Through Columbia Place, EFry helps women exiting the federal prison system rebuild their lives with support in completing parole, securing employment, finding housing, and accessing community support.





Supporting Stable Lives

EFry is a strong believer in empowering women and youth to be the drivers of change in their own lives. We dedicate ourselves to creating the opportunity for our clients to make those changes but it's always the clients own dedication that makes those positive transformations.

Detox and Addiction Recovery

EFry helps women through various stages of addiction recovery. At our Firth Residence in Abbotsford, Fraser Health staff supervises women detoxing for up to seven days in a comfortable environment that is supported by dedicated EFry staff. At Firth, women also receive stabilization care for up to 30 days, and structured relapse prevention for up to five months. In Chilliwack, our Rosedale Intensive Residential Treatment program helps women with substance use challenges for up to six months as they work on their recovery and transition to independent living.

Job Training and Employment

EFry's social enterprise, Woolwerx Fibre Arts Studio, trains and employs six women transitioning back to community life to process donated waste wool and turn it into artisanal yarns. Woolwerx also employs up to six women in the Fraser Valley Institution. Its products have been featured at craft fairs and knitting stores throughout the Lower Mainland.

Modular Housing

We opened women-only supportive modular housing in Abbotsford this year. Called Legacy Manor, it provides homes and case management for 37 women who were homeless or at risk of homelessness, including a specially designed accessible unit.

Centre for Vulnerable Women and Children

Our multi-year project to build an innovative 55,000 square foot centre in Surrey that will bring together housing, programming and multidisciplinary medical care for vulnerable women and children, is quickly moving forward. In partnership with the Fraser Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association and with support from the City of Surrey, BC Housing, UBC Faculty of Dentistry, and generous private donations, the building will begin construction shortly.





Building Brighter Futures for Vulnerable Kids

EFry continues to expand our JustKids offerings, which were created to support the unique needs of children who have experienced parental incarceration, homelessness or addiction.

Summer Camp

Blue Sky summer camp welcomed children aged six to 15 to week-long camps, where campers enjoy traditional outdoor experiences with the support of specially trained counsellors. Made possible solely thanks to donations, camp is a highly impactful experience for children, many of whom form lasting friendships with others who can relate to their experiences.

Saturday Club

To provide vulnerable children, all of whom live in poverty, with pro-social activities throughout the year, EFry welcomes our JustKids clients to day camps called Saturday Club when summer camp is not in session.

Growing Great Kids and Families

This trauma-informed parenting program helps mothers understand child development and care, which supports parent-child attachment and promotes healthy brain development.

Future Bright

This year, EFry launched Future Bright, a free program that helps parents and guardians of children from low income families to access grants from the federal and provincial governments to help fund post-secondary education and vocational training. A Canada Learning Bond totaling \$2,000 and a potential BC Training and Education Savings Grant of \$1,200 are available with no additional contributions. In addition, EFry has established a matching program, funded through donations, that triple matches every dollar privately contributed into a child's RESP.

EFry's Bright Future Scholarship

EFry's JustKids clients often grow with us, participating in multiple JustKids programs over many years. To acknowledge the achievement of our child clients graduating high school, this year EFry introduced our Bright Future Scholarship, which provides these graduates with \$1,000 to support their further education and associated expenses.

JustKids provided direct support to **816** children.



Handbooks for Caregivers and Communities

This year, EFry created two handbooks to support improved outcomes for children with incarcerated parents: Raising a Relative's Child: A Free Guide for Caregivers of Children with Incarcerated Parents and Supporting Children with an Incarcerated Parent: A Community Guide.



Advocating for Positive Change

EFry has a history of advocating for systemic changes that will bring dignity, equality and opportunity to vulnerable women and children beyond our Lower Mainland client base. We work, both alone and wherever possible in collaboration with others, to prompt provincial and federal changes to public policy and industry best practices.

Petitioning Canada's Government to Support Poor Children's Rights

While the federal government has multiple ways of providing funds to children from low income and less stable family situations, these benefits and payments were not designed with the realities of the deeply poor in mind, nor is funding made equally available across the country. To pursue systemic change that will benefit children from coast-to-coast, EFry created a petition calling for change that was sponsored by our local Member of Parliament, Peter Julian, and brought before Canada's House of Commons. EFry gathered 10,000 signatures in support of our call, which we are still actively pursuing.

The ABCs of our A Canada for All Kids are:

A ll kids must have equal access to federally funded benefits — no matter where or how they live.

Preak down barriers so our most vulnerable can achieve bright futures: kids affected by parental homelessness, addiction or incarceration.

onsider the context of poverty in developing program requirements to ensure the poor can meet them.

Helping Inform Changes to Canada's Divorce Act

EFry was invited to provide input to the Justice Committee on Bill 78, the proposed New Divorce Act. We advocated to expand the definition of intimate partner to include controlling behaviours such as being prevented from seeing family or friends, and isolation. The legislation now provides for this expanded definition.

Supporting Children with Incarcerated Parents

When EFry introduced Canada's first specialized programs for this group of children, we relied on data from other countries, as no Canadian information existed. In recognition of the need for Canadian benchmarks if we are to evaluate the impacts of our work and inform future initiatives, EFry has partnered with researcher Ruth Martin of the University of BC's School of Population and Public Health to conduct a research project analyzing anonymized data relating to our JustKids clients. This initiative is in its 3rd year.

National Advisory Council on Poverty

EFry's executive director, Shawn Bayes, has been selected by the Canadian government to be a member of the National Advisory Council on Poverty. As more than two-thirds of EFry's clients live on less than \$7,500 a year, Shawn will draw on her more than 30 years working with EFry to share the realities of life for Canada's deeply poor and provide input directly to the Government of Canada on how to better support them.



April 2018 – March 2019 **Donor Report**

EFry would like to thank our donor family for their generous support which makes so much of our work possible.

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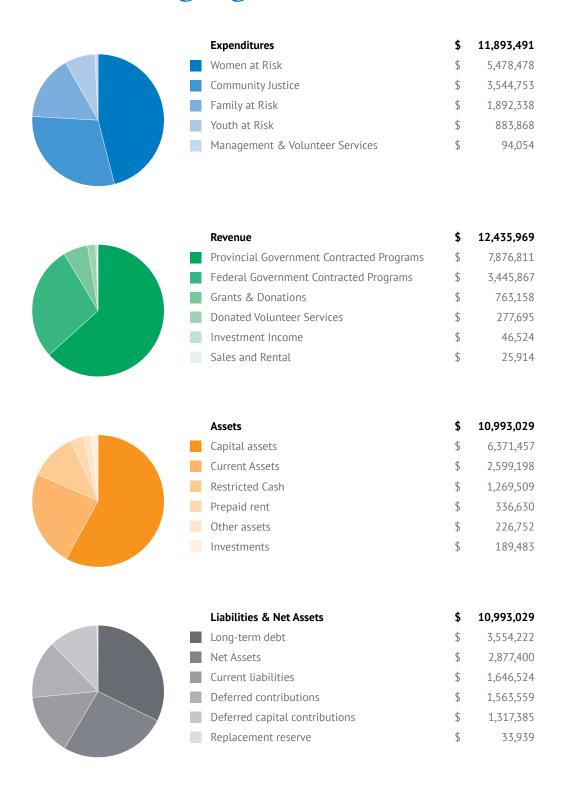
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April 2018 – March 2019 Financial Highlights









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