EFry Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver

2026



ANNUAL REPORT

Creating pathways to safety, healing, opportunity and hope.

OUR *Mission*

To support vulnerable women, girls and children in achieving their potential. With the right support, we know that individuals facing difficult circumstances can transform their lives— and those of their families—for the better.

OUR *Vision*

To have stronger communities by ensuring women and children impacted by crime and its risk factors can access the supports they need to build positive futures. Those in conflict with the law need more positive interventions than incarceration.

OUR *Core Values*

What Guides Us

EFry's work is rooted in the values that have guided us for over eight decades — values that show up in how we serve, how we lead, and how we show up for one another.

Dignity
We believe every woman and child deserves respect, regardless of their past or present circumstances.

Equality
We are committed to dismantling systemic barriers that limit opportunity.

Opportunity
We support women, girls, and children to build new pathways forward — grounded in their strengths, hopes, and goals.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that our work takes place on the unceded and traditional lands of the ˈstɔːloʊ (Stoːlo) and Seabird peoples, the Sḵwxw̱ ú7mesh (Squamish), xwməθkwəy̓ m (Musqueam), səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh), sc̓ə waθən (Tsawwassen), qiqéyt (Qayqayt), Kwantlen, Kwikwetlem and sɛmiˈɑːmu (Semiahmoo), and our work on Vancouver Island on the unceded and traditional lands of the ləkw̓ əŋən People (Esquimalt and Songhees First Nation).

We are grateful to work on these lands and remain committed to reconciliation, truth- telling, and the long-term work of decolonization. This includes recognizing that incarceration and criminalization have been used as tools of colonization, disproportionately impacting Indigenous women, girls and families. Colonization has also created persistent barriers to housing, healthcare, education, and family support, all of which are essential to wellbeing and dignity. We acknowledge that addressing these legacies of colonization is core to our mission and aim to both support those already impacted by the justice system, while also advancing upstream solutions that challenge the systemic conditions that keep Indigenous women and girls at risk.



From Our Leadership

Every day, we are reminded that when people are given opportunity, support, and hope, transformation becomes possible.
From Surviving to Thriving reflects the journeys of the women, children, youth, and families who found the strength to rebuild their lives with EFry beside them.

Every person who comes through our doors has a story. Many have experienced violence, poverty, homelessness, mental health challenges, involvement with the justice system, or barriers that have limited what was available to them. With the right support, those stories change.

This year, together with our staff, volunteers, partners, donors, funders, and supporters, we helped nearly 15,000 individuals access the services and encouragement they needed to move beyond crisis toward lasting stability. Behind every number is a person: a mother finding safe housing, a young person discovering new possibilities, a woman gaining employment, a family receiving the support they need to heal.

It was also a year of building the foundation that makes this work possible. We strengthened our financial position, closing the year with revenue of $26.1 million and a surplus. We reduced frontline vacancies from more than fifty to under twenty, so that programs are staffed by people who stay. We secured two new long-term housing sites with BC Housing for women and families fleeing gender-based violence, and we grew philanthropic support fivefold. None of this is visible to the people we serve, and all of it determines what we can offer them.

As the needs of our communities evolve, so does EFry. We expanded access to mental health care through our EFry Counselling Program, providing no-cost virtual, phone, and in-person counselling for self-identified women and non-binary people in multiple languages, so that more people can find culturally responsive support when they need it. We strengthened Project Red Flag,improving our coordinated-response to people experiencing or at risk of gender-based violence. And through EFry Academy, we continued to build pathways to education, employment, and economic independence.

These achievements belong to our community. We are grateful to our government partners, foundations, corporate sponsors, donors, community organizations, volunteers, and every individual who believes in EFry's mission. Your generosity and trust strengthen our ability to respond well. Together, we are creating opportunities that change lives now and building stronger, safer communities for the years ahead.

We are equally proud of our staff and volunteers. Their expertise, compassion, and commitment ensure that everyone who seeks support is met with dignity and respect. They are the heart of EFry and the reason our mission comes to life every day.

As you read the stories in this report, we hope you see what we see: resilience, courage, and the power of community. Meaningful change happens when people come together with shared purpose and a belief that everyone deserves the chance to reach their full potential.

Thank you for standing with us, and for believing in the strength of the women, children, youth, and families we serve.



Azra Hussain
Chief Executive Officer



Genesa Greening
Board President

From Surviving to Thriving

Anna's Story: A New Beginning

When Anna arrived at Rosewood, she was looking for something every person deserves: a place where she could feel safe.

After experiencing intimate partner violence and losing access to stable housing, Anna was facing an uncertain future. Returning to her home country was not a safe option. She had previously experienced family violence there and feared further gender-based coercion, including the possibility of a forced marriage. At the same time, she was navigating an unfamiliar immigration system while trying to determine what came next.

At Rosewood, Anna was given the time and space to make those decisions for herself. Surrounded by compassionate support, she was able to begin rebuilding a sense of safety and stability, one step at a time. With encouragement from staff and guidance from legal counsel, Anna decided to pursue a refugee claim. Along the way, she received support obtaining identification, accessing income assistance, and connecting with the resources she needed to begin moving forward.

Gradually, uncertainty began to give way to possibility. Anna found employment, regained her independence, and eventually moved into a home of her own.

Nine months later, Anna shared wonderful news: her refugee claim had been approved, and she was preparing to apply for permanent residency.

Anna's journey is one of tremendous courage, resilience, and hope. Rosewood did not choose her path for her - it provided a safe place with the necessary supports in place, where she could breathe, consider her options, and begin shaping the future she wanted for herself. There are many stories like Anna's across EFry. Each journey is different, but they remind us what can become possible when women are met with safety instead of fear, compassion instead of judgment, and the dignity and freedom to determine their own futures.

***Anna is a fictitious name used to protect the client's privacy.*



Year in Review

This past year was one of growth, learning, and meaningful progress for the Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver. Guided by our Strategic Plan and the priorities of Stabilization, Optimization, and Sustainability, we continued to strengthen EFry while staying focused on what matters most: being there for people when they need support and helping create opportunities for a better future.

Across British Columbia, individuals and families continued to face the realities of rising living costs, housing insecurity, mental health challenges, violence, and barriers to employment. For the women, children, youth, and families who turned to EFry, these challenges were deeply personal. Our role was to meet them where they were, listen without judgment, and help them take the next step forward.

Being There When It Matters

Sometimes stability begins with something simple: a safe place to sleep, someone who listens, a meal, a supportive conversation with a counsellor, or knowing that you do not have to face a difficult time alone.

Throughout the year, our shelters, housing, counselling, justice, employment, and family programs provided that support across Metro Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, and Vancouver Island. Each service may look different, but they share the same purpose to help vulnerable women and their children find safety, regain confidence, and begin building a more stable future.

We also continued strengthening EFry from within by investing in our people, governance, and financial stewardship. A strong organization allows us to be there for our communities today while preparing for the needs of tomorrow.

Creating More Pathways Forward

This year, we continued to look for better ways to respond to the changing needs of our communities. We strengthened existing programs, expanded mental wellness services, grew employment opportunities, and worked more closely across programs and with community partners.

Employment became an increasingly important part of that work because a job can mean much more than a paycheque. It can bring independence, confidence, stability, and the ability to imagine a different future. Through the Community Workforce Response Grant, women had opportunities to receive skilled trades training and explore careers in fields where women have traditionally been underrepresented. Participants gained practical skills and experience, but just as importantly, they gained confidence in what they could achieve.

Our Community-Based Employment Services created additional pathways for people facing different barriers to employment. Recognizing that no two journeys are the same, these programs provide support based on where each person is starting, from building essential and workplace skills to preparing resumés, searching for jobs, connecting with employers, and taking those important first steps toward stable employment.

Our counselling services also continued to provide trauma-informed care for adult self- identified women and non-binary people, including members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, creating a space to heal, build resilience, and find hope again.

This is at the heart of EFry's approach. A person may come to us looking for housing and also need counselling. Someone seeking employment may need help rebuilding confidence. A mother working toward stability may also need support for her children. We see the whole person and work alongside them as they find their own path forward.

Stronger Because of Community

None of this work happens alone.

Throughout the year, funders, donors, volunteers, businesses, government partners, and community organizations stood alongside EFry and the people we serve. Their support helped sustain existing programs, create new opportunities, and reach people who might otherwise have nowhere to turn.

We also saw the power of community through events, volunteer initiatives, employment partnerships, and fundraising efforts. Every contribution, whether it was funding, time, expertise, an employment opportunity, or simply showing up, helped strengthen the network of support surrounding the people we serve.

We are deeply grateful for that trust and partnership.

Stories of Hope and Transformation

Behind every program and every number is a person with a story.

A woman leaving violence found a safe place for herself and her children and began rebuilding her life. A young person who had lost hope found encouragement through mentorship and returned to school with renewed confidence. Someone who had struggled to find employment gained new skills, discovered strengths they had forgotten they had, and began moving toward meaningful work and greater independence.

Families found connection and belonging. Parents found encouragement and practical support. Women who had spent years being defined by their circumstances began to see new possibilities for themselves. These moments may not always make headlines, but they are what meaningful change looks like.

Looking Ahead

As we look back on the year, we are grateful for how far we have come and mindful that there is still much more to do.

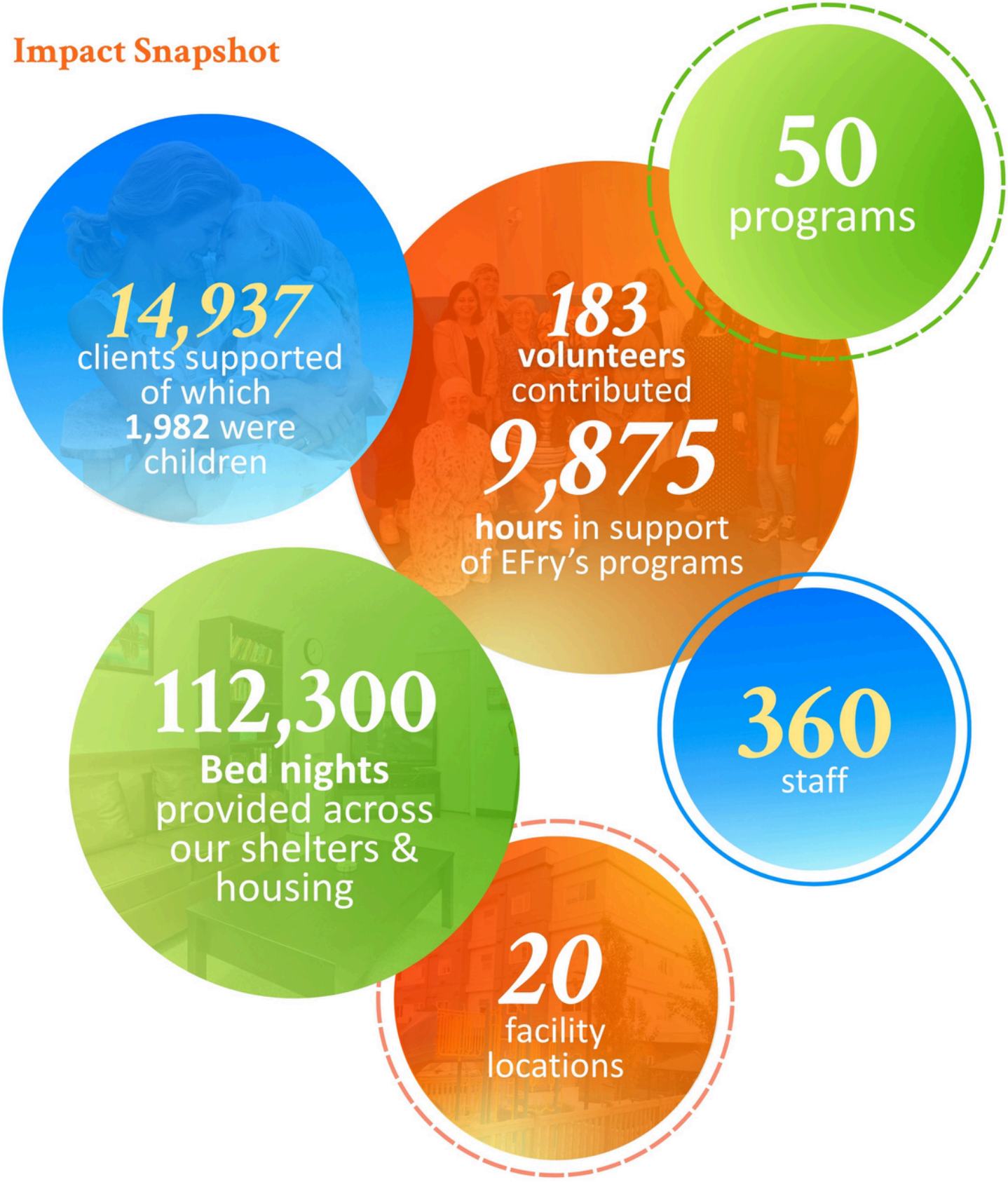
We carry forward the stories of courage we witnessed, the lessons we learned, and the strength of the partnerships that made this work possible. Most of all, we carry forward our belief in the potential of every person who walks through our doors.

In the year ahead, EFry will continue creating opportunities for people to find safety, heal, learn, work, reconnect, and build the lives they want for themselves and their families. Because brighter futures are not built in a single moment. They are built one opportunity, one relationship, and one step forward at a time.

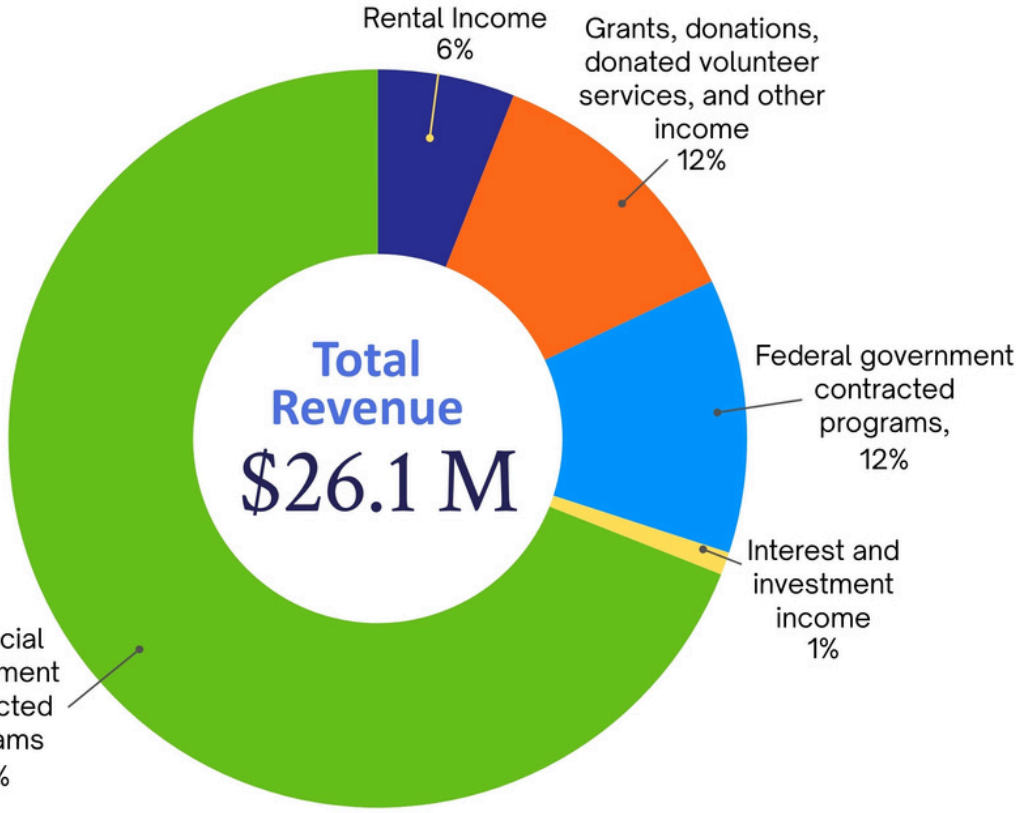
Join us in our journey towards creating lasting change and building brighter futures.

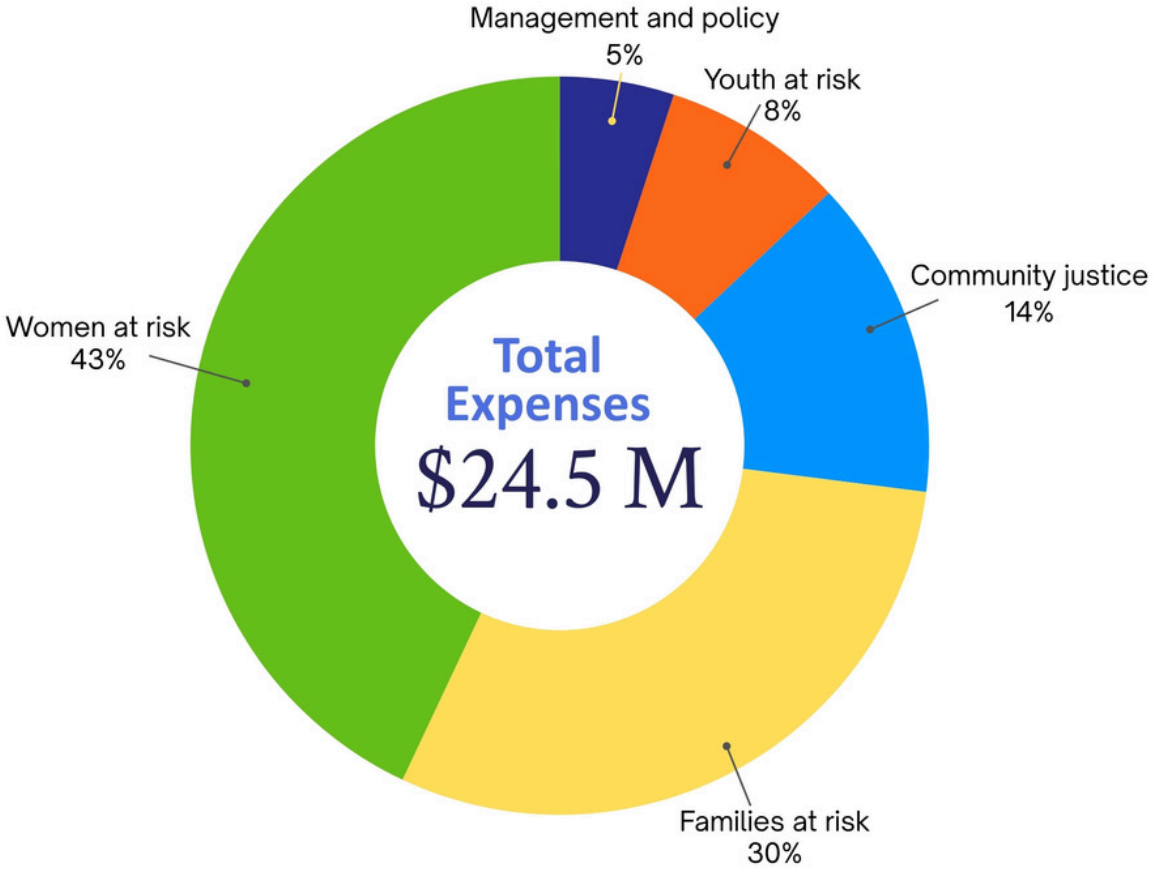
By the Numbers

Impact Snapshot



Financial Snapshot





Meeting Women Where They Are



There is no single reason a woman comes to EFry, and there is no single path forward.

She may need a safe place to stay tonight. She may be leaving violence, facing homelessness, trying to navigate the justice system, recovering from substance use, looking for stable housing, struggling to put food on the table, or simply trying to create a different future for herself and her family. Often, these experiences overlap.

Meeting women where they are means seeing the whole person, not just the circumstance that brought her through our doors.

Across EFry, our approach is grounded in safety, dignity, choice and respect. Women are recognized as experts in their own lives. Rather than prescribing what comes next, our role is to listen, understand what matters to each person, and help remove the barriers standing between where she is today and where she wants to go.

Sometimes that begins with safety in the moment. **Rosewood Shelter** and **Elizabeth Gurney Place** provide emergency shelter and support for women and children experiencing homelessness or violence, while the **Maida Duncan Women's Drop-In Centre** provides low- barrier access to-

753
Individuals provided with housing or a safe place to stay and served through our residential programs, shelters and Reaching Home

199
Individuals supported to avoid homelessness and secure a safe place to live

-nutritious food, clothing, hygiene products, showers, laundry, referrals and other essentials. During periods of extreme weather, **Emergency Weather Response Services** extend that safety net for women who may otherwise have nowhere safe to go.

For others, the next step may be finding a place to call home. EFry's housing continuum includes **Rosewood Housing**, **Anna Buxton Apartments**, **Legacy Manor** and **Mazarine Lodge**, as well as housing navigation and rental supports that respond to women at different points in their lives. A safe and stable home can create the foundation from which someone can begin to focus on her health, family and longer-term goals.











Women may also come to EFry while navigating systems that can feel complicated or overwhelming. Through the **Community Law Clinic** and **Pardon Me: Record Suspension Program**, people can receive support with legal and administrative barriers that may affect housing, income and stability. **Columbia Place** supports women transitioning from federal correctional institutions back into community, helping build connections and practical supports along the way.

Recovery and wellbeing are equally individual. Through programs including Sequoia at **Firth Residences**, **Ellendale**, **Rosedale**, **Cradle** and **EFry's Free Virtual Counselling Program**, women can access different forms of substance use, counselling and wellness support based on their own circumstances and goals. The **EFry Health Centre** further brings health care into this continuum, helping women and children access holistic, gender-sensitive, trauma-informed and culturally safe care.

What matters is not where someone enters EFry's continuum.

A woman may first come through a shelter door, a legal appointment, a counselling session, a housing referral, a meal at a drop-in centre or a visit to the Health Centre.

Where she begins is less important than how she is met.

She should be listened to without judgment. She should have choices. She should be treated with dignity and respect. And she should have the opportunity to decide for herself what safety, stability and a more hopeful future look like.

That is what it means to meet women where they are, and to walk alongside them as they determine where they want to go next.

5,411

Individuals who accessed essential support and a welcoming space at the Maida Duncan Drop-in Centre

1,444

Individuals supported to understand their rights and navigate legal challenges through our Community Law Clinic

Healing and Wellness: Finding Hope, Building Strength

Healing can begin with something as simple as being heard, feeling understood, and knowing that, perhaps for the first time in a long while, you don't have to carry everything on your own.







At EFry, our healing and wellness programs create spaces where women, children, youth, and families can find that support. Through counselling, mentorship, and compassionate care, we walk alongside vulnerable women as they navigate some of the most difficult moments of their lives and help them rediscover their strength, confidence, and hope for what comes next.

The **EFry Counselling Program** provides no-cost virtual, phone, and in-person counselling for adult self-identified women and non-binary people, with services available in English, Punjabi, Hindi, Udu, Mandarin, Vietnamese and Malayalam.

For one client, the journey was about learning to see herself and her circumstances differently while caring for a child with additional support needs. Shame had made it difficult to reach out and connect with others, contributing to feelings of isolation. Through counselling, she began developing a more positive outlook and opening herself to connection. By the end of her sessions, her depression, anxiety, and stress scores had fallen by more than half. But behind those numbers was something deeply human: she felt less alone, more resilient, and better able to move forward.

Another woman came to EFry while experiencing ongoing financial abuse from a former partner. The experience had left her financially vulnerable and emotionally overwhelmed. In counselling, she found more than professional support. She found someone who made her feel deeply heard, comforted, and understood. As trust grew, so did hope. After several sessions, she shared that she was feeling significantly better, less isolated, and more hopeful about her recovery and her future.



For young people facing their own challenges, **Suicide Treatment Assessment for Youth** (**STAY**) and **Supporting Hope Through Intervention and Empowerment** (**SHINE**) offer a simple but powerful message: **you matter, and support is here when you need it**.

Through STAY, youth experiencing serious emotional distress receive timely assessment, safety planning, and short-term counselling when they need it most. SHINE surrounds at-risk youth with one-to-one mentorship and clinical counselling, helping them build confidence, strengthen coping skills, develop healthier relationships, and recognize their own potential. Support for parents and caregivers helps ensure that healing does not happen in isolation, but within a stronger circle of care.

Healing also begins with safety. Through **Project Red Flag**, EFry is helping women experiencing or at risk of gender-based violence understand the protections and options available to them. Working with municipalities and community organizations, EFry has developed plain-language, trauma-informed resources on Red Flag laws and tested them through focus groups and pilot workshops to ensure they are clear, culturally relevant, and accessible. The project helps women better understand their options and the protections available to them, so they can make informed decisions about their safety and next steps.

Sometimes progress is visible in a clinical assessment. Sometimes it is a young person beginning to trust again, a woman realizing she has choices, or someone walking out of a counselling session carrying a little more hope than when they walked in.
These moments matter.

Because moving from surviving to thriving does not happen all at once. It happens one conversation, one connection, one courageous step at a time. And at EFry, we are honoured to walk alongside every person taking those steps toward healing, hope, and a brighter future.







Building Brighter Futures

Opening doors. Discovering strengths. Imagining what comes next.

There can come a time when getting through today no longer takes everything a person has.

There is room to look ahead.

A woman may begin thinking about returning to school. She may be ready to learn a new skill, earn an income or explore work that feels meaningful to her. A young person may begin to recognize abilities in themselves that difficult circumstances once made harder to see.

This is where surviving can begin to become thriving.

Thriving does not look the same for everyone, and it is not a finish line. It can mean having more choices. Feeling confident enough to try something new. Completing an education. Earning an income. Developing a talent. Taking on responsibility. Becoming a mentor. Or simply reaching a point where the future feels open again.

Through **EFry Academy**, education can become one of those new beginnings. Women and girls are supported in pursuing educational goals while developing practical knowledge and skills that can strengthen independence in other areas of life. For someone whose education has been interrupted by violence, poverty, justice-system involvement or other significant circumstances, returning to learning can mean much more than completing coursework. It can be the moment she begins to recognize her own capability again. EFry's educational programming has included support toward high school and post-secondary goals alongside practical learning in areas such as financial literacy, rights and responsibilities and navigating community resources.

That same opportunity to discover strengths and build confidence can take many forms. Through Community Based Employment Services, participants have been able to take part in initiatives designed to create meaningful pathways toward employment and greater independence. The Peer Support Worker Program helps participants transform lived experience into a source of strength, building skills that can allow them to support and encourage others navigating difficult circumstances. Amplify, an employment readiness program, helps participants develop the practical skills, confidence and preparation needed to enter the workforce and take their next steps toward employment.

Through **Community Workforce Response Grant**, women have also been able to access skilled trades training, opening pathways into industries that can be difficult to enter without specialized training, experience and support. For a woman who may not previously have seen herself represented in the trades, learning those skills can create more than an employment opportunity. It can expand what she sees as possible for herself.

At **Woolwerx Fibre Arts Studio**, possibility takes another form. Women who have faced barriers to traditional employment can learn skills, gain meaningful work experience and contribute in an environment designed to recognize what they bring rather than focusing on what may have stood in their way. EFry has operated Woolwerx for more than a decade as a social enterprise supporting women, including those who have experienced incarceration, in building employment skills and practical work experience

There is something fitting about Woolwerx itself: locally sourced waste wool is given new purpose and transformed into handcrafted products. But the most important transformation is not the wool. It is what can happen when someone is given an opportunity to learn, contribute, earn an income and have her abilities recognized.

A new skill can become confidence. Experience can open another door. A first opportunity can lead to the next.

For young people, the journey can come full circle in an equally powerful way. Through **JustKids**, some children first encounter EFry through experiences such as **Blue Sky Camp**. As they grow older, young people who once attended EFry's overnight camps can return through the Camp Counsellor Training and Employment Program, where they develop leadership, teamwork and conflict-management skills while gaining training and employment experience.

A child who once arrived at camp looking for connection can one day become the young person welcoming someone else. Someone who once looked to a counsellor for encouragement can become the counsellor offering it.

That transition captures something important about thriving. Difficult experiences do not have to disappear from someone's story for something hopeful to grow alongside them. A person's past can exist alongside leadership, confidence, independence, compassion and possibility.

At EFry, a brighter future is never something we define on someone else's behalf.

For one woman, it may mean graduating. For another, meaningful employment or greater financial independence. It might mean becoming a peer support worker, learning a skilled trade or taking the first steps toward entering the workforce. For a young person, it may mean becoming a mentor, pursuing an education, stepping into a first job or beginning to imagine a life that feels bigger than the circumstances they have known.

The future belongs to them. EFry's role is to help open doors and reduce barriers so women, girls and young people have opportunities to pursue futures shaped by their own strengths, interests, hopes and goals. Because thriving is not about becoming someone different.

It is about having the safety, opportunity and freedom to become more fully who you already are. A brighter future begins when life is no longer only about making it through today, and there is finally space to dream about tomorrow.



Children, Youth & Families

Strengthening relationships. Protecting childhood. Creating space to thrive.

Children experience the world around them deeply. When a parent is incarcerated, a family is separated, violence enters the home, or housing and other parts of life become uncertain, children can carry the effects of circumstances they did not create.

At EFry, we believe children and youth deserve more than simply being considered alongside the adults in their lives. They deserve supports designed specifically for them - places where they can feel safe, build relationships, experience belonging and have the same opportunities to learn, play and grow as their peers.

For children with an incarcerated parent, even ordinary moments of family connection can become difficult. Through JustKids, EFry works to lessen the impacts of parental incarceration and help preserve relationships that matter to children. The Storybook Program, for example, gives incarcerated parents an opportunity to record themselves reading a book so their child can still hear their voice and share a story with them, even while they are apart.

Other families may need support staying together or rebuilding relationships after separation. The Burnaby and New Westminster Integrated Family Programs provide counselling to women and families when children are at risk of entering care or have been temporarily separated from a parent. The New Westminster Therapeutic Visitation Program creates supported opportunities for parents and- - children to spend meaningful time together, while Growing Great Kids helps new and expectant mothers strengthen parenting skills, attachment and connection.

EFry also believes that children living through difficult circumstances should still have opportunities to simply be children. Through **Blue Sky Camps**, **Out of School programming**, the **Small Frys Toy Bank**, **Gift of Hope** and other **JustKids** activities, children can experience camp, friendship, recreation, celebrations and moments of joy that are not defined by what may be happening elsewhere in their lives.

As children grow, support can grow with them. **SHINE** provides individualized, trauma- informed support to children and youth at risk of exploitation, while **A'mut** offers Indigenous girls involved with the justice system a culturally grounded environment that recognizes the relationships between trauma, violence, substance use, identity and justice involvement. Through culture, relationships and connection to community, young people are supported in recognizing their own strengths and possibilities.

EFry's work with children and families is ultimately about more than responding to one difficult moment. It is about helping reduce the ways poverty, incarceration, violence and other systemic barriers can shape the next generation.

A child should not be defined by a parent's incarceration, a family's financial circumstances, an experience of violence or a difficult chapter in their young life.

With trusted relationships, connection, culture and opportunities to belong, children and youth can begin writing stories shaped not only by what they have experienced, but by their strengths, hopes and potential.

Stories of Transformation

A Safe Foundation for a New Beginning

A client arrived at Rosewood seeking safety after experiencing intimate partner violence and losing access to stable housing. She was also navigating immigration uncertainty and it was unsafe to return to her home country because of previous family violence and the risk of gender-based coercion, including forced marriage. Rosewood provided a safe and supportive environment where she could consider her options, make decisions at her own pace, and begin rebuilding stability.
With encouragement from staff and guidance from legal counsel, she chose to pursue a refugee claim and received support accessing identification, income assistance, and other essential resources. Over time, she secured employment and moved into a home of her own. At her nine-month follow-up, she shared that her refugee claim had been approved and that she was preparing to apply for permanent residency. Her journey reflects tremendous courage and determination, and shows what can become possible when someone is met with dignity, compassion, and the freedom to shape their own future.

Bringing a Family Back Together

When a mother and her family came to Rosewood, they had very few resources and did not have all the identification documents needed to access services, education, and other opportunities. With consistent support from Rosewood staff, she obtained identification for every member of her family, enrolled in office administration training after learning about the opportunity through a house meeting, and secured safe second-stage housing. Each step reflected her persistence and commitment to creating greater stability for herself and her children. During her time at Rosewood, she moved from having three of her five children in her care to preparing for all five children to be reunited with her. As she prepared to leave the program, she shared her deep gratitude for the care and encouragement her family had received, and how difficult it was to say goodbye to a place where she felt at home. Her story is about far more than housing, education, or identification - it is about a mother rebuilding a foundation of safety, possibility, and belonging for her entire family.

A Bright Future No Longer Defined by the Past

A mother supported by the Pardon Me Program had experienced years of barriers to employment and financial security because of a criminal record. Although she wanted to apply for a record suspension, the process felt so complex and overwhelming that she had been unable to complete it on her own. With clear information, practical guidance, and steady encouragement from the Pardon Me team, she was able to move through each stage of the application process and successfully obtain a pardon. She described the outcome as an opportunity to close the door on her past and move forward without worrying that her record would continue to hold her back. She can now pursue employment opportunities that were previously unavailable to her, opening a pathway toward greater financial stability for herself and her children. Her experience demonstrates the lasting impact of removing systemic barriers and ensuring that people have the support and opportunity to move forward with dignity, hope, and a renewed sense of possibility.

From Surviving to Building a Bright Future

Before coming to Ellendale, a client had experienced homelessness and housing instability for more than half of her life. She had also navigated substance use from a very young age, alongside trauma, significant health concerns, and limited access to consistent care and support. When she entered the program, she was facing several interconnected barriers, while also carrying remarkable resilience and a growing hope that change was possible. Through steady, non-judgmental support, she began developing trusting relationships, connecting with services, and working toward goals that were meaningful to her. Her progress unfolded at her own pace and reflected her courage, persistence, and commitment to her well- being. By the time she completed the program, she had achieved every goal she had identified, secured stable housing, and established an ongoing connection with the EFry Clinic for continued health care and support. After spending so many years focused on surviving from one day to the next, having a safe home and a dependable circle of care marked a profound new beginning - one grounded in stability, connection, and the opportunity to build a future shaped by her own hopes.

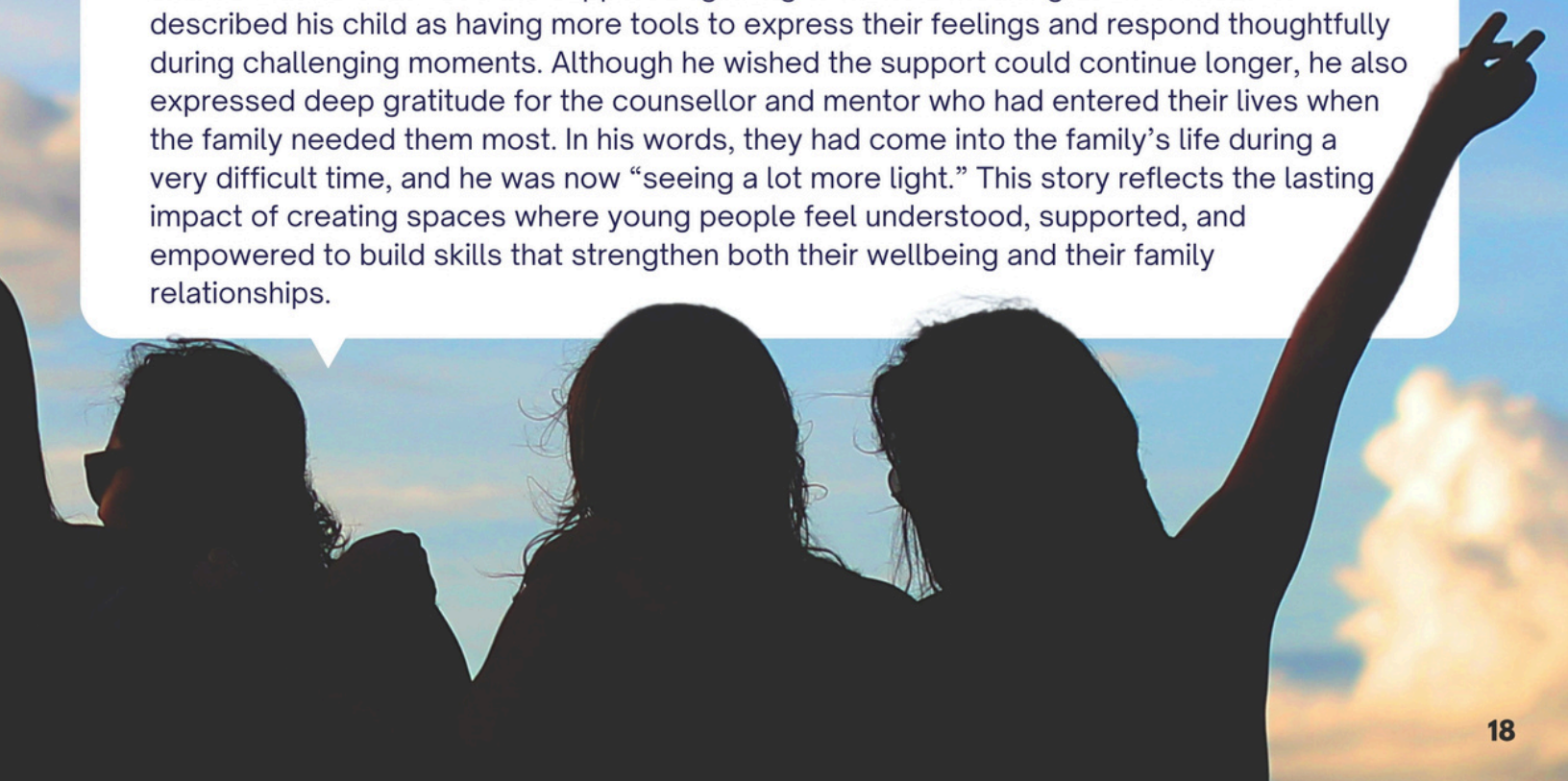


A Safe Return Home

A mother and her two young daughters came to Elizabeth Gurney House when circumstances in their home had become unsafe and they needed a safe place to stay. Their electricity had been disconnected, they had little access to food, and the family was navigating several challenges that made returning home feel out of reach. During their stay, EFry provided safety, stability, and a supportive space while staff worked alongside the mother to identify a path forward. Through a connection to Reaching Home, the family received practical assistance to restore their electricity, have their home professionally cleaned, and obtain groceries and other essentials. With these supports in place, the mother and her daughters were able to return to their own home safely. When the family later attended EFry's Christmas celebration, they were doing well and, most importantly, remained together and housed. Their journey demonstrates how timely, compassionate support can prevent homelessness and help a family move through a moment of crisis without losing the home they had worked to maintain. What initially felt uncertain became a safe return home and a renewed sense of stability for a mother and her children.

A Brighter Path Forward

When a young teen and their family connected with EFry's SHINE Counselling and Mentorship Program, they were going through an especially difficult period and needed compassionate, consistent support. Through counselling, the young teen developed new ways to recognize and describe their emotions and learned to pause and seek clarity before responding when feeling angry or overwhelmed. Their mentorship relationship provided another trusted connection and a supportive place to reflect, grow, and practise these new skills. As the counselling and mentorship sessions came to an end, the young teen's father shared that he could see the support beginning to make a meaningful difference. He described his child as having more tools to express their feelings and respond thoughtfully during challenging moments. Although he wished the support could continue longer, he also expressed deep gratitude for the counsellor and mentor who had entered their lives when the family needed them most. In his words, they had come into the family's life during a very difficult time, and he was now "seeing a lot more light." This story reflects the lasting impact of creating spaces where young people feel understood, supported, and empowered to build skills that strengthen both their wellbeing and their family relationships.



Partnerships that Make it Possible

Partnership Spotlight:

Scotiabank

Investing in Education. Building Economic Resilience. Helping Young Women Thrive.

At EFry, we believe education is more than a pathway to a diploma—it can be a pathway to confidence, independence and a brighter future. Through our partnership with Scotiabank, EFry Academy is helping young women facing barriers reconnect with education, build practical skills and discover new possibilities for their lives.

This partnership closely reflects the vision of **ScotiaRISE**, Scotiabank's 10-year, $500- million community investment initiative to promote economic resilience among disadvantaged groups. The goal of ScotiaRISE is to help create economic resilience by helping individuals and families access opportunities for economic growth, adapt to change, overcome barriers, and fully participate in the economy. One of its four key focus areas is education, equipping disadvantaged youth with the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to thrive amid challenges.

That vision comes to life through EFry Academy.

Originally established as the EFry Learning Centre, the program was designed to address a gap in gender-focused educational support for vulnerable young women in New Westminster, Burnaby and Surrey. Today, EFry Academy works in collaboration with the New Westminster and Surrey School Districts to support young women working toward high school graduation, while also providing skills-readiness programming and connections to training and employment opportunities.

Through EFry Academy, participants have access to a BC-accredited educator, individualized educational planning, life-skills development and ongoing mentorship. These supports help young women rebuild confidence, strengthen self-sufficiency and pursue meaningful educational and career pathways. The impact extends beyond academics, contributing to stronger community connections, improved well-being and greater long-term economic stability.

Impact

With Scotiabank's support, 65 women and girls were reached through the program, 60 received mentorship, 45 participated in financial literacy sessions, and 30 received support with ancillary needs.

Participants also gained access to training, wraparound supports and pathways toward sustainable employment, including opportunities in fields where women continue to be underrepresented.

Behind these numbers are young women beginning to see a different future for themselves, a high school diploma within reach, further education becoming possible, a career they may never have considered, and the confidence to take their next step.

We are deeply grateful to Scotiabank for sharing EFry's belief in the power of opportunity. Through ScotiaRISE and its investment in EFry Academy, Scotiabank is helping remove barriers today while giving young women the education, skills and confidence to build stronger futures tomorrow.

Together, we are doing more than helping young women overcome challenges. **We are helping them rise – from surviving to thriving.**

Our Supporters

from April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026

Thank You to Our Donors and Funders
EFry is deeply grateful to the generous individuals, foundations, and companies whose kindness and support have helped fuel our work this year. Your generosity makes it possible for us to continue creating opportunities, strengthening communities, and building brighter futures for the people we serve.

Circle of Joy $50,000 +

- Anonymous
- The Law Foundation of British Columbia
- Community Workforce Response Grant BC (Province of BC)
- Scotiabank
- Doane Grant Thornton Foundation

Circle of Renewal $25,000 - $49,000

- Vancity Community Foundation
- Diamond Foundation
- Byram Family Foundation
- Employment and Social Development Canada
- First West Foundation
- Jerry Luking and Lilli Luking
- Wubs Family Foundation

Circle of Integrity $10,000 - $24,999

- City of New Westminster
- Abbotsford Community Foundation
- Fraser Valley REALTORS Charitable Foundation
- Surrey Fire Fighters Charitable Society
- United Way British Columbia
- Northbridge Insurance (Northbridge Financial Corporation)
- April Olson

Circle of Empowerment $5,000 - $9,999

- The Shoebox Project for Women
- The Spirit Foundation
- Face The World Foundation
- Fortinet Technologies Canada
- Cadillac Fairview
- Edna Pascual
- Yvette Howard
- St. Agnes Kim Parish
- Building Tomorrow Foundation
- Costco Business Centre
- KPMG Foundation
- Peter Legge and Kay Legge

Circle of Love $2,500 - $4,999

- Shoppers Foundation for Women's Health
- Azra Hussain
- Rotary Club of New Westminster
- Hinda Avery
- Exeter Foundation
- Lisa Wong
- Gillian Ickert
- Dhanda Family Foundation
- Prospera Credit Union

Circle of Well-Being $1,000 - $2,499

- Mike Goetz
- Martin Palacios
- Randle Knill and Sandra Micheals
- The Cumulus Fund
- Anonymous
- Costco Wholesale Regional WC #50
- Calvary Worship Centre
- RDH Building Science Inc.
- Laureen Whyte
- Ariel Qute
- David Maclean
- Jennifer Miller
- Irene Sam
- Elizabeth Burrell
- Gurtej Varn
- Paula M. Knight
- Susan Witter
- Anonymous
- Graham Campbell
- Charles and Lucile Flavelle Family Fund
- Dr. Hinda Avery Foundation Fund
- Nicola Hands
- Labourers' Advancement Fund
- Joyce Relyea
- Silverorange, inc.
- South Delta Baptist Church

Circle of Healing $500 - $999

- Greg Deans
- Kelly Cheung
- Ruby Campbell
- Robin Hilliard
- Barbara Westly
- Fabricia Magalhaes
- Nicole Lee
- Alexandra Diebel
- Julia Kindrachuk
- Azim Jamal
- Mary L. MacDonald
- Sandra Brynjolfson
- Margaret Clarke
- HUB Warranty
- Margaret Jones
- Kathleen Keating
- Randle D Knill
- Terry Koziel
- Northside Petroleum
- Angela Steininger
- Judith Coffin
- Michelle Sweet
- Aerial Roofing Ltd.
- Sherry Baker
- Lise Brayham
- CUPE Local 387
- GluteNull Bakery
- John Hagen
- John Heddle
- Debra Loyd
- Jeanne Wilson

Circle of Caring $200 - $499

- Marilou Appleby
- Delta Burnaby Hotel
- Lorena Castillo
- Christine Paramonczyk
- John Robb
- Jonah Padberg
- Irene Ostrowercha
- Rowan Ilon and Charie Ilon
- LiveRight Heroes
- Mairy Beam
- Isabelle M. Forrer
- Andrea Glen
- Melinda Neil
- Raiomand Parsi-Feraidoonian
- Christina Pook
- Maria Robles
- SFU Young Women in Business
- Trial Lawyers Association of BC
- Marjorie Inocencio
- United Way Winnipeg
- Cheng Kun Chen
- Bunk Beds Canada Furnishings Inc.
- Anonymous
- Deborah Ling
- Colin Mallet and Judith Angel
- Joyce Hale
- David Kean
- Ruth Lang
- Maureen Weston
- Aaron Kumar
- Karen Alvarez
- Laura Campbell
- Katrina Chen
- Mark Halpern
- Jennifer Kirby
- Michael O'Hagan
- Southern Railway of British Columbia Limited
- Philip Webber and Miriam Webber
- York House School
- Haran Aruliah
- Jody Bourgeau
- Erika Plett
- Rhiannon Satherley
- Linda Fumano
- Garrett Aplas
- Roger Goble
- Aishwarya Moitra
- Joselito and Rosalina Torres
- Catherine Anne Mori
- Whiz Accounting Services, LTD
- Maria Dutra
- Dawne L. Nelson
- Wai Lee Phan
- Luciana Skopinski
- Roger Stickland
- Anonymous
- Christina DeMarco
- Diane Cliffe
- Othon Diaz
- Alexander Fernandes
- Christina Giovas
- Yvonne Grue
- Peter Hansen
- Inside Out Care Corporation
- Jenifer Lee
- Heather Lynch
- Kirsty Maxwell
- Peninsula United Church Women

Our Funders

- BC Gaming
- BC Housing
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- City of New Westminster
- City of Surrey
- Community Action Initiative
- Correctional Services Canada
- Fraser Health Authority
- Greater Vancouver Food Bank
- Greater Vancouver Regional District
- Law Foundation of BC
- Ministry of Children and Family Development
- Ministry of Post Secondary Education and Future Skills
- Ministry of Public Safety
- Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
- Toronto Metropolitan University
- Victoria Foundation
- Provincial Health Services Authority



Community Engagement

At the heart of EFry is a team that truly cares. Every day, they stand beside women and families through some of life's most difficult moments, offering compassion, hope, and support as they find their strength and move from surviving to thriving.



Gift of Hope



Abbotsford Connect


Voices of Resilience Speakers


Blue Fryday


Voices and Visions


Blue Fryday



SACH Outdoor Community Hub


BCAPOP


Love New West


Homelessness Action Week


Blue Fryday


CBES Graduation


Voices of Resilience



National Day of Truth and Reconciiation



Reclaiming Justice for Indigenous Youth



Skills Trade Training



Voices of Resilience Community Partner



Blue Fryday



Flames Winter Carnival



International Women's Day



Woolwerx at YWCA Build Her



YWCA Build Her



Blue Fryday



Toy Drive



Grill and Give Back



Voices of Wellness



Volunteer Appreciation



Community Connections in Substance Use Conference

Stewardship & Accountability

Trust is at the heart of everything we do.

Every donation, grant, and partnership is an expression of confidence in EFry and in the work we do alongside women, children, youth, and families. We never take that trust for granted.

We are thoughtful about how resources are used, transparent about our work, and accountable for the difference those resources make. We listen, we learn, and we continue to look for ways to do better. Throughout this report, you have seen numbers that tell part of our story. Behind every one of them is a person, a woman finding safety, a family gaining stability, a young person discovering new possibilities, or someone taking another step toward independence.

To our donors, funders, partners, volunteers, and community: thank you for placing your trust in EFry. We will continue to honour that trust by using every resource with care, staying true to our mission, and keeping the people we serve at the heart of every decision we make.

Board

- President: **Genesa M. McMillan Greening**
- Vice President: **Stacey Reyes**
- Secretary: **Courtney Daws**
- Treasurer: **Taheer Mohamed**
- Director: **Harv Phandal-Dhanda**
- Director: **Jenifer Lee**
- Director: **Kristy Davis**
- Director: **Laureen Whyte**
- Director: **Nicholas Shon**
- Director: **Sandeep Sidhu**

Thank you

Your Support Creates Brighter Futures

Every story of hope, every step toward stability, and every new beginning shared in this report is made possible by people who believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to thrive.
Thank you for being part of the EFry community.

Your generosity helps women, children, youth, and families find safety, rebuild their lives, strengthen their independence, and move toward a brighter future. Whether you have supported EFry through a donation, partnership, volunteerism, advocacy, or simply by sharing our work with others, you are part of the impact we create together.

Make an Impact

There are many ways you can help create lasting change:

Make a Donation

A one-time or monthly gift helps EFry provide essential programs and supports where they are needed most.

Start a Peer-to-Peer Fundraiser

Turn a birthday, milestone, workplace challenge, community event, or personal passion into an opportunity to give back. Invite your friends, family, colleagues, or community to join you in raising funds and awareness for EFry.

Engage Your Workplace or Organization

Corporate giving, employee fundraising, sponsorships, matching gifts, and community partnerships can create an even greater collective impact.

Leave a Legacy

A planned or legacy gift can help ensure EFry continues to be there for women, children, youth, and families for generations to come.

Give in Honour or in Memory

Celebrate someone special or honour the memory of a loved one with a meaningful gift that helps others build a better future.

Together, We Can Do More

When you give to EFry, you are doing more than supporting a program. You are helping someone find safety, discover opportunity, regain hope, and take the next step from surviving to thriving.

Thank you for believing in this work—and in the people at the heart of it. Make your impact today.

Scan to learn more



EFry® Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver
402 E. Columbia Street
New Westminster, BC V3L 3X1

info@efry.com
604 545 0437
efry.com

Charitable Registration No. 124394701 RR 0001