

Message from the Executive Director and Board Chair

making a difference, one woman at a time

Our organization was created in response to a horrific incidence of violence against a woman and her daughter in our community. A small group of women came together and chose to take that incident as a 'wake-up call' for action. On a volunteer and informal basis, this group of women set up and operated the transition house and crisis line for several years until ongoing operational funding was established in 1998.

It is through the skill, dedication and unwavering commitment of staff, board members and volunteers, that Island Women Against Violence has successfully expanded its services and been able to achieve its mission each year in helping women and their children throughout the Southern Gulf Islands whose lives have been affected by poverty, violence and abuse. • In 1997, we opened the 'Transitions' Thrift store, our social enterprise that helps raise funds for the organization. • In 2007, IWAV was successful in a tender to operate the Stopping the Violence Service programs; Stopping the Violence Counselling for women, the Children Who Witness Abuse program and Women's Outreach services. • In 2012, in a partnership with another society, IWAV purchased an existing home on a three-acre property to provide second stage transitional housing and support for women and their children, and permanent housing for low-income senior women. • In 2015, IWAV was approached to take over management and operations of Croftonbrook housing for seniors, a 20 unit affordable housing project for low income seniors and people with disabilities who are able to live independently.

For the future...

- First stage of the Croftonbrook housing expansion initiated
- IWAV Strategic planning process for 2018-2021
- Fundraiser event – Fall 2017 – '\$10,000 for Change'
- Communication Plan implementation continues

Dana Peace - Executive Director
Susan Dann - Board Chair



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Donations & Funding:

Island Women Against Violence Society sincerely thanks its funders, government partners, community organizations, local businesses and the many individual donors, who fund and support our society in achieving our mission and vision.

Big Thank-you to Transitions Thrift Store!



Violence against women and children remains a serious issue on Salt Spring and the Outer Gulf Islands.

2017 Annual Report



Highlights of 2016-17

- The Cedars becomes wholly owned and operated by IWAV with Abbeyfield dissolving the partnership.
- Successful 'Building Peace/Building Homes' fundraiser at Artspring with Peter Levitt and Lorna Crozier
- Board and staff engages with Judy Kirk of Kirk and Co. to develop a communication plan. Key messages created, stakeholder list developed and contact initiated. Webpage redesign contract established.
- Seasonal lunch with staff, board and volunteers
- Board committees established – finance, Fund-raising, Housing and Governance. New board orientation manual produced.
- Successful fund development – for Transition House renovations and repairs, The Cedars renos and repairs, and new housing expansion at Croftonbrook.
- New Societies Act transition complete.

The risk of violence can be increased by poverty, addiction and mental health issues.

One woman's journey

I want to say how much the quality of my life has improved since moving onto this beautiful property. Looking back through the past years it is pretty amazing to recognize how far I have truly come. I was a regular visitor to the Transition house and suffered from severe post traumatic stress disorder from the abuse I lived with. My self-image was completely damaged and I really could not see myself becoming anything but a depressed, unmotivated waste of oxygen. But today I feel much differently. The positive changes that took place did not come quickly or easily and stable was never a word used to describe me. Thankfully my time spent in the safe and positive environment that the Cedars has provided me made a world of difference. I have managed to hold down a part time job and recently graduated from the Health Care Assistant program. It is clear to me that without the wise, loving support of IWAV and wonderful home the Cedars has provided, that I would not be in this joyous place of looking forward to a brighter future. I would like to say Thank You for everything that you have done to help me achieve my goals while keeping my head held high.

Programs

Since 2007, IWAV has been operating the Stopping the Violence Service programs; Stopping the Violence Counselling, the Children Who Witness Abuse program and Women's Outreach Services.

STV 81  Stopping the Violence Counselling – 840 hours of 1:1 counselling provided

CWWA 12  **11**  **6**  Children Who Witness Abuse – 840 hours of 1:1 psycho-educational services, parenting support and violence prevention education in schools. 12 Children 11 mothers 6 fathers served

ORS Women's Outreach Services – 1680 hours of 1:1 individual support, groups, court accompaniment, safety planning, advocacy, community awareness, education and outreach – throughout the Southern Gulf Islands.

Poverty can be a key factor in the cycle of violence and abuse.

Housing

There is an urgent need for safe and affordable housing in our community. Access to housing is critical for the health and safety of those who have been impacted by poverty, violence or abuse. IWAV remains committed to responding to this need and developing leadership in the provision of housing in our community.

Salt Spring Island Transition House & Crisis Line

1126  **218**  overnight bed stays
63  **16**  women & children served

[Some women and children had more than one stay during the year]

The Cedars Second Stage

11  **7**  **4** 

Second stage transitional housing and support for women and children and permanent housing for low-income senior women.

Croftonbrook

26   **74**   26 individuals housed. 74 applications on waitlist.