

Chestermere Women's Crisis Society 2025- 2026 Impact Report



WE ENVISION A WORLD WITHOUT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND A
WORLD WHERE WOMEN ARE SAFE AND HAVE EASY ACCESS TO BASIC
NEEDS FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN.

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Land Acknowledgement

With reverence, the Chestermere Women's Crisis Society acknowledges and honours the traditional territories of the Treaty 7 Region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Nations of Siksika (sick-sick-ah), Piikani (pee-can-ee) and Kainai (kigh-ah-nigh) as well as Tsuut'ina (soot-ina) First Nation and the Stoney Nakoda First Nations of Chiniki (chinikee), Bearspaw, Goodstoney, and Wesley.

The City of Chestermere is also home to the Metis (may-tee) Nation of Alberta, Region 3. We acknowledge all the First Nations, Metis, and Northern Indigenous people whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries before European colonization. We pledge our commitment to truth and reconciliation, centering the lives and ancestries of Canada's first people.



CWCS Mission, Vision & Value Statements

Mission

To provide compassionate, accessible, and life-changing support for women and families in crisis—ensuring safety, dignity and hope through advocacy, resources, and community connection.

Vision

A future where every person experiencing crisis has access to immediate support, long-term solutions, and a compassionate community dedicated to their well-being.

Values

Compassion & Respect
Education & Awareness
Collaboration & Community
Safety & Confidentiality
Inclusivity & Accessibility
Empowerment & Advocacy



CWCS Team



Board of Directors



President



Treasurer



Director at Large



Director at Large



Secretary



Vice President

Coordinators



Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator



Program Coordinator

Client
Volunteers

Non-Client
Volunteers

Community
Stakeholders

Practicum
Students

Programs & Services

Helpline

Our Helpline is there for Chestermere women & families who are in need of support. Although we help in times of crisis, we refer to this program as our Helpline, as callers request various supported referrals, or sometimes, are simply in need of peer support. This program is rapidly expanding as the number of calls have increased and the complexity of each call continues to become evident. Our trained volunteers are there to answer calls Monday-Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm.

Volunteer Engagement

Our volunteer program is expanding as we continue to grow and our client-base increases. All volunteers are provided with orientation training and those answering our helpline receive client specific training and support. CWCS volunteers help with our outreach and awareness efforts, participate and engage at community events and assist with fundraising and donation projects.

Advocacy

Volunteer advocates meet clients 'where they are at' in terms of each individual client's capacity to help themselves and move forward in their life. As such, advocates aid clients who may be overwhelmed and unable to navigate community and social systems independently. Advocates support clients while connecting them with the appropriate resources, services, and professional support to begin their healing journey and reduce barriers. As first point of contact, advocates provide crisis intervention and emotional support to clients who find themselves in states of crisis or vulnerability.



Programs & Services

Systems Navigation

We assist clients in navigating the complex system of services and resources, providing different levels of support based on the needs of the client. Using our internal database of resources and services, we provide clients with supported referrals, companion advocates, and mentors.

Court Support

In some cases, we accompany clients to court when they seek Emergency Protection Orders and Restraining Orders. We do not offer legal advice, we simply act as a support person as they navigate this system. Clients are at their most vulnerable when obtaining these orders and benefit from this assistance. Supportive referrals are also made to local Professional Lawyers.

Essential Needs

We assist women in gaining access to both the needs of basic sustenance and the broad needs that lead to a healthy and thriving quality of life for vulnerable clients and their dependents. Volunteers work in the community to establish, build, and maintain relationships with community organizations, service providers, and policy makers to ensure that barriers to essential needs can be overcome and clients can gain access to services.



Programs & Services

Domestic Violence Support

Involving partner organizations including the Chestermere RCMP, Southern Alberta Victim Serving Society (SARVSS) and Chestermere Community Support Services (CSS) as the extension of the City of Chestermere, we ensure women in Chestermere who are facing domestic violence situations are able to access immediate domestic violence intervention and support. We assist clients in finding the resources and services that can remove them from dangerous situations and ensure ongoing safety and support.

Emergency Accommodation

We may be able to provide local emergency accommodations for women and families in crisis. This space is intended for short-term, temporary stays for individuals who need immediate safety, support, or time to make a plan during a difficult situation.

The accommodation provides a safe and confidential environment where individuals can stabilize, connect with crisis support, and explore next steps. During a stay, CWCS can help with safety planning, referrals to community services, and support in accessing longer-term housing or shelter options if needed.

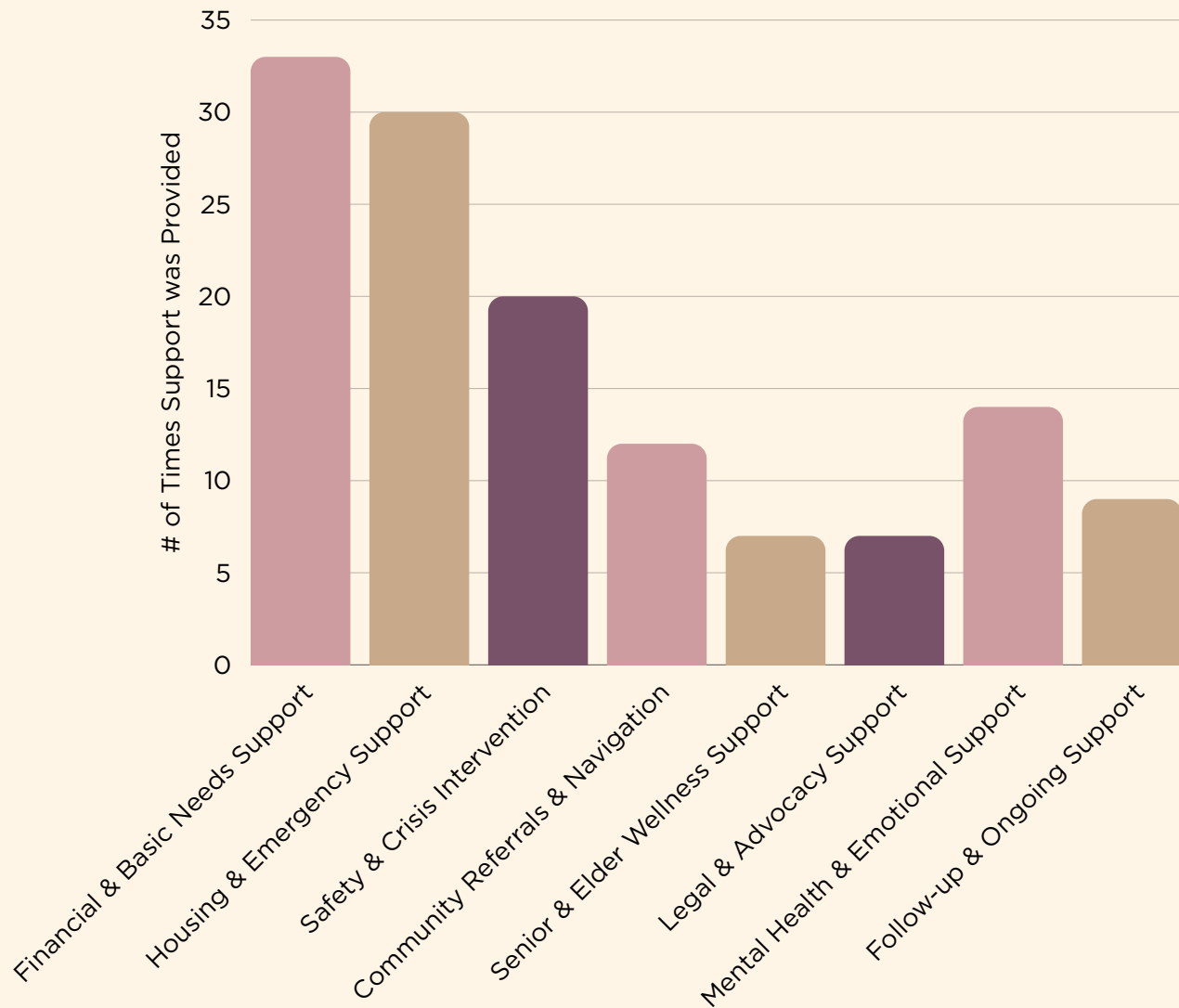
"The Chestermere Women's Crisis Society has given me hope. They have allowed me to begin to recover from my tribulations when my world was upside down. The encouragement, love, support and selflessness this organization has shown in so many ways has kept me going at my rock bottom. "

- CWCS Client Testimonial



CWCS Fiscal Year in Review - It's in the Numbers

Support Categories (Fiscal Year)
April 1 2025 - May 1 2025)



606

Helpline
Calls

20

Safety Plans
Compelled

30

Shelter
Requests

67

Supportive
Referrals

70

Clients Served
Through
Outreach

3

Clients Accessed
Emergency
Accommodation



CWCS Year in Review - Committees & Collaborators

Committees that CWCS Sits On:

- Grasslands Elder Abuse Coordinated Response Steering Committee (GEACCR)
- Older Adults Community Coalition (OACC)
- Chestermere Interagency
- Chestermere Not for Profit Collective
- Chestermere-Strathmore Committee
- City of Chestermere Not for Profit Committee
- Mental Health Coalition (MHC)

CWCS Collaborators:



CWCS Year in Review - Events

Women's Day Gala

This is our third year collaborating with the City of Chestermere, with next year's event already confirmed. The gala is a free event designed to promote social connection and community awareness. This year, we introduced a raffle, raising \$2,595, with proceeds shared by the City's Gifts of Kindness Program and CWCS. The theme was Old Hollywood Glamour and attendees came dressed to impress!



Pink Toque Awareness Campaign



Mayor Shannon Dean helped launch this campaign by proudly wearing one of our bright pink toques throughout the community. The campaign officially launched at last year's That Winter Thing event. Toques are available for \$20, with all proceeds staying in Chestermere to directly support the work of CWCS.



CWCS Year in Review - Events

Quilting Program



Now in its third year, this program involves three local quilting groups: Whitecappers Quilters, Prince of Peace Quilters, and Lakeside Quilters Group. Handmade quilts are provided to CWCS clients and also distributed to local schools, preschools, and daycares, where they are available for children who may need comfort and support.

ASIST Lunch & Learn

In partnership with Synergy, CWCS hosted an ASIST suicide awareness lunch and learn. The event was extremely well attended and reached capacity, highlighting the community's interest in and need for mental health and suicide prevention education.

Lunch & Learns - Volunteer Training



Throughout the year, CWCS collaborates with community partners to offer educational sessions on topics related to safety, wellness, and community resources. CWCS also provided additional training for our volunteers including Volunteer Orientation and Crisis Response Training. These training opportunities help ensure our volunteers are well-equipped to provide compassionate, informed, and effective support to community members. In addition, we offered Danger Assessment Training, Men & Training and EPO Training for both volunteers and for the community at large.



CWCS Year in Review - Events

Client Christmas PJ Party



CWCS hosted a Christmas PJ Party for our clients and their families. The event provided an opportunity for connection, celebration, and holiday cheer, featuring hot chocolate, cookies, crafts, new pajamas, and gifts for both children and adults. It was a meaningful way to support families during the holiday season and help create positive memories. Due to its success, we hope to expand the event this year to serve even more families and offer additional activities and supports.

Seniors' Week

CWCS is committed to supporting other nonprofits and community initiatives. We have been active participants in Seniors' Week, helping support a variety of events and activities held throughout the first week of June for seniors in our community.

Photos with Santa at That Winter Thing



2025 marked our third year partnering with the Rocky View Chestermere Agricultural Society at That Winter Thing. The event includes games, crafts, food, a children's shopping experience, and photos with Santa by donation. It has been an excellent opportunity to raise awareness about CWCS, connect with community members, and in 2025 launch our Pink Toque Awareness Campaign.



President's Report

Good evening,

On behalf of the Chestermere Women's Crisis Society (CWCS), I am pleased to present this year's President's Report and reflect on a year of significant growth, resilience, and community impact.

Over the past year, CWCS has continued evolving from a grassroots, volunteer-led organization into a growing and increasingly recognized crisis support service within Chestermere. As our community grows, so does the demand for support. This year, we assisted women, seniors, and families facing domestic violence, housing instability, financial hardship, mental health concerns, elder abuse, social isolation, and other complex crisis situations.

In 2025 alone, CWCS supported 119 client files, contributing to more than 300 client interactions and files since our inception. Many individuals required support in multiple areas simultaneously, reflecting the increasing complexity of needs within our community. Housing-related concerns remained one of the most common reasons people sought assistance, with growing requests for emergency shelter, affordable housing support, relocation assistance, and housing advocacy. Alongside crisis intervention, CWCS provided practical supports including grocery and gas gift cards, emergency accommodations, clothing and winter essentials, transportation assistance, advocacy, referrals, and ongoing emotional support.

I am especially proud of the dedicated team behind CWCS. Our board, staff, and volunteers have shown tremendous commitment, compassion, and professionalism throughout a year of rapid growth and increasing demand. Their willingness to step forward, support one another, and serve our community has been instrumental to our success.

This year also marked an important milestone as we welcomed our Outreach & Volunteer Engagement Specialist and Program Coordinator. Their leadership and dedication have strengthened our operations and allowed the organization to continue transitioning from a highly operational working board toward a more sustainable governance-focused model.

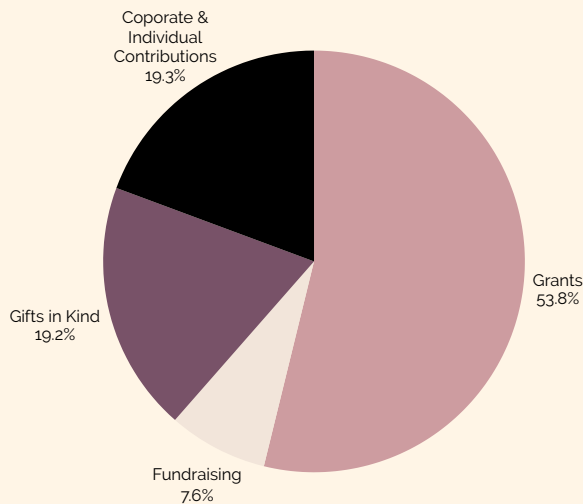
As Chestermere continues to grow, CWCS is increasingly serving individuals and families who have limited local options for support. We recognize that this work cannot be done alone and remain deeply grateful to our volunteers, donors, community partners, staff, and board members whose support makes our work possible.

Thank you for believing in our mission and helping us provide safety, advocacy, connection, and hope to those who need it most. I am incredibly proud of how far CWCS has come and excited about the future ahead.

Morgan Matheson
President
Chestermere Women's Crisis Society

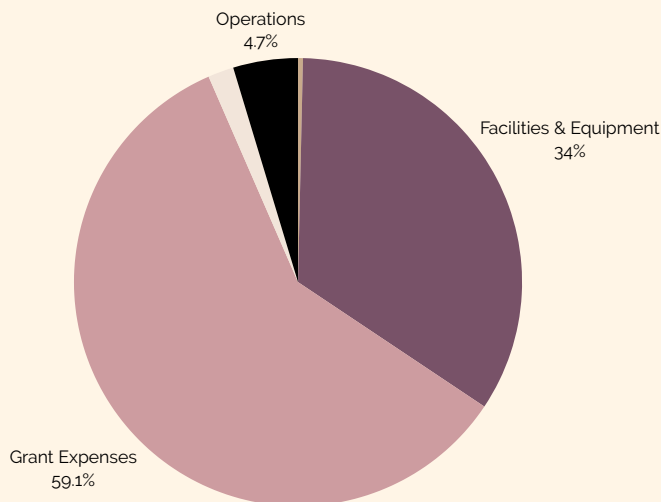
Treasurer's Report

Funding Streams



- Grants remain the main source of our funding
- In addition, Corporate and Individual Contributions help alleviate our extra expenses
- Funds received through Gifts in Kind represent the generous contribution of services to CWCS.

Expense Streams



Grant expenses are dedicated to CWCS programming including :

- ✓ Client Supports & Supportive Referrals
- ✓ Community Engagement & Awareness Initiatives
- ✓ Training for Volunteers, Board & Contract Staff
- ✓ Volunteer & Donor Appreciation

Facilities & Equipment Expenses largely consist of Gifts in Kind donations



Volunteer Program



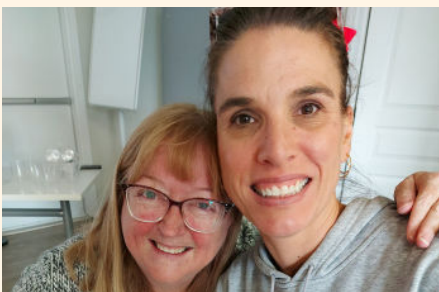
Our volunteers are the heartbeat of CWCS and each act of service makes a significant impact within our organization. Volunteers provided close to 3,000 hours of support towards our mission, of providing compassionate, accessible, life-changing support, for women and families in crisis. All in all, this year we received assistance from 3 Practicum Students, 6 Board Member Volunteers, 17 General Volunteers.

Volunteers are essential to our services, allowing us to deliver programs efficiently and with humanity. Every hour given amplifies our impact and translates into safety, support, and hope for our clients. In the community and at events, volunteer connection bridges gaps, fosters trust, and strengthens our outreach.

From client crisis support, to awareness initiatives, fundraising, community events, administrative support and everything in between, volunteer efforts empower lives, sustain our programs and creates real change for all we serve.

CWCS is deeply grateful for all our volunteers. We thank them for the gift of their time and care, towards joining us in our vision, of a future where those experiencing crisis have access to immediate support, long-term solutions, and a compassionate community dedicated to their well-being.

Together, we are creating a stronger and safer, community for everyone.



Spotlights



Farewell Jennifer

Jennifer started volunteering with CWCS in October 2022 and joined the Board of Directors in January 2025 as a Director at Large. Throughout her journey with CWCS, she has brought incredible energy, creativity, and heart to the organization.

Jennifer's passion for sexual exploitation awareness and prevention has helped strengthen important conversations within our community and broaden CWCS's understanding of these complex issues. She also played a significant role in helping modernize and elevate our social media presence and rebranding, helping CWCS grow its visibility and connection within the community. Her special talent for creating welcoming, engaging, and interactive community booths, created a warm and approachable atmosphere, making a lasting impact and encouraging meaningful community engagement. In addition, Jennifer supported clients in crisis and was always ready to help when needed.

We wish Jennifer well in her next chapter and thank her for everything she contributed to CWCS.



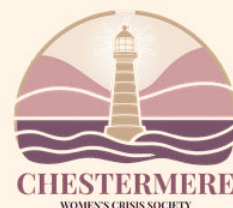
Volunteer Spotlight: Marj

Since joining the CWCS volunteer team in 2023, Marj has been a constant source of support, compassion, and dedication.

Whether supporting clients, assisting with community engagement and awareness initiatives, volunteering at events, or simply lending a helping hand behind the scenes, Marj is always there with a positive attitude and willingness to help.

We are incredibly grateful for the time, energy, and care she has so generously given over the years.

Marj, thank you for growing with us. Your contributions truly make a difference and we appreciate all you do.



2026 Onward

Practicum Students

Our goal is to broaden our volunteer base and provide education pertaining to resource navigation and assisted support specifically geared to women and families in crisis. In order to expand in this capacity, we will be actively building relationships with various schools to acquire dedicated practicum students who will help aid us in our mission. Due to the increased volume of calls and complex cases, we will be seeking students who have a basic understanding and training in areas of social work, justice and psychology.

Quilting Program

In partnership with the Chestermere Whitecappers Quilting Group and Prince of Peace Quilters, we have acquired various handmade quilts for clients. These quilts are more than fabric and stitches - they are a symbol of warmth, safety, and hope for women and families navigating crisis. Every quilt is unique, created with love, and offered as comfort during difficult times. We are tremendously grateful for their donations. Beyond offering these quilts to our clients, we will be reaching out to schools and other community front-line services for them to provide their clients when they are in need.

Domestic Violence Candlelight Vigil

On September 19, 2026, a special gathering will take place titled "Light the Night" dedicated to acknowledging and remembering those affected by domestic violence. This project will be lead by our Justice Practicum student who will be inviting guest speakers to share their stories and will also feature local agencies who will provide relevant resources. In addition, we will use this as an opportunity to educate the community about this issue and we will encourage those in attendance to advocate for both survivors and those impacted by DV.

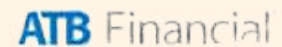


Final Acknowledgements

Funders

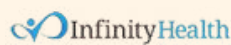


Sponsors



Donors

Thanks to all the Individual Community Donors!



Soloman Insurance Services Ltd.



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cwcshelps.com



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Crisis Society - CWCS



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