

Christmas 2022

DOVE TALES



SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

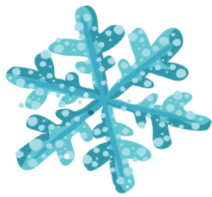
Another eventful year at WINGS has passed. As COVID retreated we became more psychologically prepared to live with the virus. With the evolution of vaccines, treatments and mitigation strategies, programs at WINGS came to life again. It has been wonderful to see residents participating in such things as collective kitchen, groups, Humanities 101 and a variety of other activities for both the moms and the children.

Staff, board members, donors and community volunteers really came together to help WINGS thrive during the challenges of the past few years. For this we are so grateful. Without this help we would be hard pressed to serve the families at WINGS in the manner we have been able to.

As the winter solstice is upon us, the sun appears at its lowest in the sky and then reverses course, marking what many cultures believe to be a rebirth. As the days become longer it is a time of anticipation, hope and thanks for all the blessings of the past year and the hope for the future.

I wish you all the best during this holiday season and hope that you can spend time with family and friends and enjoy the season.

Kathy Collins
Executive Director



KEEP READING TO
FIND OUT ALL THE
WAYS YOU CAN HELP
WINGS THIS
HOLIDAY SEASON!

JUST LOOK FOR THE
PINECONE!



vs



50/50
VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!

December 31, 2022. Volunteers must be 18+, at Rogers Place NO LATER than 5:30pm, able to volunteer until approx. 11pm, and able to stand for long periods.

Email dgregg@wingsofprovidence.ca or call 780-426-4985 to be added to the volunteer list.



CHRISTMAS STILL COMES!

Lately we have been hearing a lot about mental health and illness. In Edmonton and Alberta viruses are everywhere, impacting staff attendance, participation in programs, and creating childcare challenges. Friends and other agencies also report people struggling with mental health and most people have someone in their family who is struggling with a mental health issue. We are in a transition time between Covid restrictions and are rebuilding the new normal. WINGS has also been impacted. Illness seems to spread quickly, and we are concerned about the health of our families. As we morph from the virtual work to face-to-face interactions there is more risk, however there is also more energy and growth for our families. Many plans and supports are quite unpredictable. Is court in person or on Webex? On any given day half of our families are sick. We check in each morning to see who needs support, who has gone to school, who do we expect in our Childcare and our group program. Often, we need to provide our services with staff absent due to illness.

Our families struggle with poverty and financial insecurity. They struggle with medication insecurity. We are so grateful for Connie, our Nurse Practitioner, who provides excellent care and guidance for our families mitigating the need for unnecessary visits to a doctor or emergency room. They have endured much trauma and are leaving family violence. They know that they can't change him, and they have new choices. Somehow, things will be different.

So, what of Christmas? The first gift of Christmas is safety. They are not only safe but have support and are not alone here. They have hope of new possibilities. There will still be grief around the dream of a happy family. They navigate court applications for protection orders and parenting orders. They don't need to do it alone. They have advocates at WINGS and with expertise in domestic violence.

The children are asking a lot of questions and at times are confused about their 'new house'. But they are happy and laughing and just being kids! It is so good! The children paint a Christmas mural, do crafts, have treats, get to be Elves for Mom and have pizza. The children are assured that Santa does know where they are and that he comes every year to WINGS! They love the decorations in our common areas and get to decorate in their apartment. The staff support them in intense safety planning for Christmas break. WINGS has always worked to provide a safe and fun Holiday season. We respect the diversity in both culture and faith traditions. Not everyone celebrates Christmas, but everyone does celebrate feeling loved and finding joy. The Moms feel they are a success if their children receive gifts, have food and a safe place to live. Maybe even with new pajamas!

This is a new beginning, and it is your generosity that makes the healing and providing both basic needs and special celebrations a reality. Thank you for your compassion and giving spirit.

Karen Kingdom
Program Coordinator



Statistics
Since 1987, WINGS has accommodated
1384 women and 3056 children
for a total of **4440 persons**

CHILDCARE AT WINGS

Hi, I am Papya, the new Childcare Supervisor at WINGS. I have been working in the childcare field for 8 years. I believe all children are precious and individually unique. It's my passion to create a safe, encouraging, and nurturing environment where they feel a sense of belonging and acceptance and can be confident to be themselves.

I am excited to share some insights of our childcare program. Our team of warm, kind, and nurturing educators and volunteers provide exceptional care and stimulating play experiences for children. Play is more than just a fun activity at WINGS. We believe play contributes to a child's healthy development. It helps to build social, emotional, physical and cognitive skills. We continue to offer ample learning opportunities through dramatic play, outdoor play, signing, rhyming, games, puzzles, cooking, baking, and movement.

Delightful December is here! We are enthusiastic to make WINGS childcare a joyous and festive setting for the children. We look forward to reading Christmas stories, singing carols, and dancing to Christmas music. Along with those fun activities, children will be doing many cute crafts, including ornaments, reindeers, candy canes and Christmas cards for their loved ones!

Thank you, and our sincere gratitude to everyone for your priceless support so that the children at WINGS can experience a joyful, magical Christmas this year! From our WINGS families to yours—wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and blessed New Year!

Papya Rahman
Childcare Supervisor



Buy a Gift Card

Grocery Gift Cards including Sobeys (Sobeys is within walking distance to WINGS), Superstore, Safeway etc. are provided to the families throughout the whole year and especially during the holiday season.



Other gift cards used most often at WINGS include: Walmart, Shoppers Drug Mart, McDonalds, Tim Hortons, Boston Pizza, A&W, Amazon, Google Play, Clothing Stores - Old Navy, Garage, Dynamite, Southgate Mall etc.

Gift Cards can be mailed to PO Box 32141, Edmonton AB, T6K 4C2.

MEET OUR NEW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

Hello Everyone! My name is Debbie Gregg, and I am excited to be the new Community Engagement Officer at WINGS of Providence! In my previous position as a Youth Worker at WINGS, I have witnessed firsthand the incredible and life-transitioning impact that WINGS programs and services have on families escaping domestic violence. I have also seen the profound effect that our community supporters, volunteers, donors, stakeholders, and champions have in helping WINGS families to heal and move forward from violence.

In my short time as the new Community Engagement Officer, I have started to meet with some of our outstanding community supporters, (including our WINGMEN, Online Auction contributors, Christmas donors, and special events volunteers), and with each conversation, I am astonished and so very grateful of the kind and compassionate offerings of support. I look forward to continuing to meet, connect, and work together with all of you in the coming months. I welcome your voice, insight, and collaboration!

Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2023!

Debbie Gregg
Community Engagement Officer



Thank you to the Spruce Grove Rotary Club for donating 49 gift bags for the moms at WINGS this Christmas.



Stacey Mask and the Syncrude Women's Interest Network donated gifts for moms for our Kids are Elves event!

Coordinate a 3rd Party Fundraiser or Christmas Drive



We always love and appreciate when groups come together in support of WINGS! Whether it's a group of co-workers collecting Christmas gifts for our families, a sports team fundraising for WINGS, or a group of friends and family raising funds on our behalf. If your group would like to fundraise for WINGS this holiday season, or start a Christmas Gift Drive, please contact us!

Email Debbie at dgregg@wingsofprovidence.ca

Sponsor a Child

Help make a difference in a child's life! The Rocky Forest Daycare and Out of School Care provides specialized trauma informed early education programs and healthy snacks to support them in their growth and development in all areas.



Although we are helping families to achieve their goals, we need your help to continue to operate the Rocky Forest Daycare and Out of School Care.

Would you consider sponsoring a child? Visit www.wingsofprovidence.ca today.



WINTER UPDATE FROM RFDC & OSC



The Rocky Forest Daycare and Out of School Care is in our 7th year of providing quality childcare for the families of WINGS, Home Next Door and outreach families that have moved on to their journey of independence. We continue to provide trauma informed care for our children and mothers utilizing the program, by being sensitive to effects of domestic violence on parenting and their children. We prioritize building relationships as this is the foundation of us providing the individual care the family requires and deserves.

The program is holistic in our approach in that we support all aspects of the child's care. Diapers and wipes are provided for younger children and extra clothes from donations for older children. We also encourage healthy eating and incorporate different cultures, such as curry, perogies, and nachos—along with an emphasize on fresh fruit and vegetables. With rising food costs, we are appreciative of the donations that we receive to provide these opportunities.

Our Early Childhood Educators are working on becoming familiar with FLIGHT curriculum framework and supporting the interests of the children through emergent curriculum. We are co-learners and co-researchers on expanding the child's interest and making them mighty citizens of their world.

In the spring we are excited to have the 1st phase of our new playground construction start! We are all very excited! The generous donations of the community have made this possible, we are hopeful for donations to complete the 2nd phase soon.

Wishing you all a wonderful winter season filled with peace, love and joy, and a happy New Year.

Brenda Kotylak, RFDC Program Coordinator, & Early Childhood Educators Cynthia, Sasha, Kyra, Jas, Ankita, Stacey, Jolly, and Kathryn



CHILD AND YOUTH UPDATE

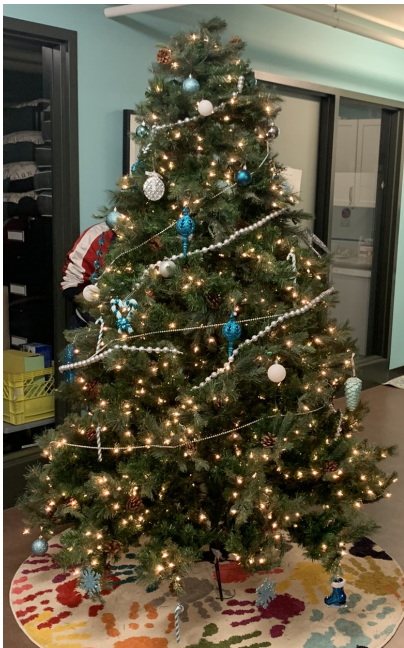
Our group programs are crucial in helping our children and teens to connect and heal from family violence. November was Family Violence Prevention Month, but at WINGS every month is family violence prevention. Our goal is to provide the children and their moms with a safe place to share their feelings, promote building friendships & connections with others, and education on skills to assist with breaking the cycle of violence.



This fall, we continued with our children and teen group programs while following safety guidelines. In a recent kids group, some of the children shared about fighting at home and how they now feel safe living at WINGS. One teen added that she feels so relieved that her family came to live at WINGS as her and her mother's relationship has only grown stronger through their healing process.

As we move into the Christmas season, we are excited to offer safe and fun activities that create a sense of community and belonging for our kids. In November, our staff turn into 'Christmas Elves' and magically transform both of our buildings for Christmas. The children become so excited when they see all of the decorations! Our kids join in on spreading Christmas cheer by painting a beautiful Christmas Mural, sprinkling on TONS of glitter! In December, our kids make festive Christmas crafts, and also pick out beautiful gifts for their moms at our Kids Are Elves event. And of course, the kids will receive a special delivery of Christmas gifts from Santa (and our wonderful donors!).

Some of the holiday plans that we have scheduled for the teens this Christmas season include decorating the Home Next Door Youth Room and putting up a Christmas tree, along with building delicious Gingerbread houses, and going on an outing to Glow Edmonton light festival at the Expo Centre! Every Christmas season the teens also receive personalized gifts that are just for them from our amazing donors; these gifts lift their spirits sky high each and every time. Many teens that live at WINGS and HND have never experienced a Christmas quite like this, and it's extraordinary to see their gratitude and pure happiness shine through the holiday season.



We would like to thank our wonderful donors for all their generosity, especially at this time of year. A sense of belonging is so important for our kids and teens at WINGS and HND, so experiencing that members from the community are displaying feelings of kindness and care for their families really touches their hearts in wonderful ways. We are truly grateful to receive such strong support and love from our community. We wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas!

Brie Bedford
HND Youth Worker



Thank you to everyone who donated to our 17th Annual Online Auction.

- * 70 Acre Brew Co.
- * Afton Photography
- * Alberta Blue Cross
- * Andrew Kay of TD Waterhouse
- * Andrew Knack, City Councillor
- * Anna Mayer
- * Arch&OAK Photography
- * BELAY Advisory
- * Brenda T. Chelvam
- * Brown's Socialhouse – Salisbury Gate
- * BWWB Quilting Bee
- * Callia Flowers
- * Cameron Communities Inc.
- * Carol Janzen
- * Cordell & Nellie Allers
- * Cynthia Zutter
- * Days with Gray
- * DOCAP Distribution Inc.
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- * Dr. Moira F. Juliebo Walker
- * Earls Edmonton Tin Palace
- * Edmonton Petroleum Golf & Country Club
- * Ella Coco Lingerie
- * Escape City
- * Fran Weekes
- * Gordan Yam
- * Highlevel Diner
- * Hillberg & Berk
- * Holly Mitchell of Norwex
- * Jackie Travis
- * Jim Cregan
- * Josey Petterson
- * Kathy Collins
- * Kay Merry Designs
- * Kersten Merry
- * Kind Ice Cream
- * Linda Churchill
- * Lord's Shoes
- * Lorna Hoey
- * Lou Lou's Cakes and Cupcakes
- * Maclab Development Group
- * Melting Pot Edmonton
- * MNDFL Movement Studio Inc.
- * Mother Earth Essentials
- * Moxie's
- * Nicholas Leong, Shoppers Drug Mart
- * Old Spaghetti Factory
- * Oodle Noodle
- * PCI Supply
- * Peavy Mart Sherwood Park
- * Propaganda Hair Group
- * Raymond Caron
- * Rick Bronson's The Comic Strip
- * Sabina O. Zutter
- * Sara Tharakan
- * Sisters of Providence
- * STRUT Footwear & Apparel
- * Sturgeon Valley Golf & Country Club
- * Sue & David McDonald
- * Tami Wetmore
- * TELUS World of Science
- * Teryle Simpson
- * The Citadel Theatre
- * Thumb Print Design
- * Village Eye Centre
- * West Edmonton Mall



WINGS Online Auction raised \$15,070!

As well as the members of **WINGS Special Events Committee** who tirelessly sought out items for the auction. We could not have done it without you!

Make Believe Ball donations are still rolling in—stay tuned for an update!



Families at WINGS struggle with poverty and the long term effects of abuse. Please support WINGS! Donate online: wingsofprovidence.ca; Cheques payable to: Wings of Providence or, donate by credit card (call 780-426-4985)

- \$5 Membership**
 \$35
 \$50
 \$75
 \$100
 \$150
 \$175

Surprise Us
 I would like to support WINGS with a monthly contribution (tax receipt issued annually in December)

Payment

VISA/MC/AMEX # _____

Expiry Date (Month/Year) _____

Name (as it appears on Credit Card) _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

THANK YOU for your gift. Together we can make a difference



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Daniel Lower, Caretaker—HND
Brenda Kotylak, Child Care Coordinator
Early Childhood Educators:
Cynthia Ankita
Sasha Stacey
Kyra Jolly
Jas Kathryn



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS.

Every gift, large or small, is important to the families at WINGS



Community Services and Supports Division
Housing and Homeless Supports



Kristie Charitable
Foundation

