



2012 REPORT to the Community

The Nurturing and Refining of a Vision

Calgary's River Park Church established Sonshine Centre and Counseling, a transitional housing and counseling program for homeless individuals and families.

1978

Sonshine Society of Christian Community Services was incorporated under the Societies Act, and subsequently became a registered charitable organization with Revenue Canada in 1981.

1980

The Society expanded with the addition of Sonshine Family Day Homes. This was established to provide quality, affordable child care for pre-school children.

1985

In recognition of the growing need of women and children fleeing domestic abuse, the decision was made to exclusively provide long-term residential support for this population.

1989

Sonshine Community Counseling Services was added to the organization to provide counseling on a sliding fee scale to individuals, couples and families living in Calgary and area. This added a prevention component to Sonshine's service delivery model.

1994

2004

Due to the demand in our city for more second-stage housing for women and children fleeing domestic violence, a number of generous donors and supporters, including the Government of Alberta and the Calgary Homeless Foundation, helped Sonshine purchase and begin renovations on a new residential shelter facility.

2007

The doors of the new Sonshine Centre were opened. With 24 new units for families and individuals, these spaces represent over one-third of Calgary's current second stage shelter capacity.

2008

A domestic violence outreach program and follow-up program was set up to work with people living in the community who are struggling with family violence issues, as well as to provide support for women transitioning back into the community from the Sonshine Centre.

2012

Sonshine embarked on a \$1,000,000 Capital Campaign to raise the resources required to open a specialized centre for children affected by domestic violence. Sonshine Children's Centre will represent the culmination of Sonshine's long-held vision to do more for children affected by family violence.

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Report from the Board of Directors

I have frequently heard Sonshine Community Services described as a “community treasure” and “Calgary’s best kept secret.” I firmly believe that these thoughts are shared by everyone who has experienced the incredible passion, love and support that Sonshine staff and volunteers bring to their work every day. Sonshine Family Day Homes is an established pioneer and expert in Calgary’s Day Home community. Sonshine Community Counseling is a respected provider of compassionate counseling services. Sonshine Centre is Alberta’s only second stage shelter that provides a one year secure residential program for women and children who flee the devastating and traumatic impacts of domestic violence. Together, these services help families live safely in healthy communities.

It is clear, however, that Sonshine’s staff and volunteers could not make this imprint without the generous and ongoing support of our community and corporate partners. While we take as many opportunities as we can to show our genuine gratitude for your ongoing support, the Annual Report allows us to share this message to our entire audience and to recognize that without your support, both financial and otherwise, we would not be able to continue to transform lives and to be a leader in the domestic violence sector.

Over the years, it has become increasingly clear to us that there was an immediate need for a different response to the scourge of domestic

violence, particularly as it impacts children. The World Health Organization states that the greatest indicator that a child will grow up to be a perpetrator or victim of domestic violence is that they have witnessed domestic violence as a child. This fact is a stirring reminder of the need to address the cycle of violence and, more importantly, determine what should be done differently.

Our 35 year legacy of supporting families and individuals in their quest to live safely in healthy communities drove our decision to do all that we can to help the children affected by family violence. So, in 2012, we initiated the Firm Foundations Capital Campaign to raise \$1,000,000 to build Sonshine Children’s Centre and our organizational transformation began.

As we looked for similar models in Canada and North America, we discovered that this would be the first Children’s Centre that would combine child care with therapeutic treatment and intervention for children who have been exposed to domestic violence. While we recognized that it was a significant endeavor to launch the campaign, we knew that we had an important story to tell and that with our new model, the chapters of this story and the ending would reflect a very different journey for vulnerable children.

We are committed to building the Children’s Centre and working to recognize the vulnerable victims of domestic violence and to ultimately

give them an opportunity to walk a different path.

This past year, we had the great fortune to work with Christine Hall who served as Sonshine’s Acting Executive Director in Joy’s absence. Christine took a leave of absence from the YWCA of Calgary to serve in this important role. On behalf of the Board and employees of Sonshine Community Services, we would like to thank both Christine and the YWCA and for allowing Christine to work with us during a transformative year at Sonshine. Her talent, passion and dedication to Sonshine is a tremendous gift that will never be forgotten.

While we have been given so many gifts in this past year, the reality is that we still struggle with our fund development efforts. It is well known that we receive no core funding from the Government and, as a result, we solely fundraise a budget of over 1 million dollars.

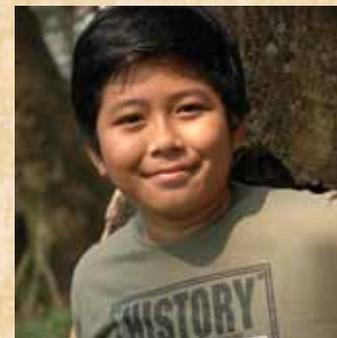
To that end, we remain committed to sharing our story, inspiring our community and bringing awareness of the devastating impact of domestic violence. A community can make a lasting change when we recognize that the tragedy that surrounds this pervasive issue is a catalyst to shift focus and be transformed into a society that honors and respects one another.

*Sandy Vander Ziel
Chairman, Sonshine Board of Directors*

“ Thank you for giving that hope back to my family.

Former Sonshine Resident

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Executive Directors Report

After thirty five years of service, Sonshine Community Services continues to be purposeful, passionate and tenacious in pursuing its mission of helping women and children transform their lives. Our vision for safe, healthy families strengthens our resolve to enlist the community in our struggle to ensure that Calgary is a great city for everyone.

In 2012 the organization focused on securing the resources required to develop an innovative Children's Centre that will meet the special needs of children who have experienced domestic violence and other forms of trauma. This undertaking has allowed Sonshine to build new relationships with community partners, as well as raise awareness regarding the impact that domestic violence has on a child's development. Sonshine is committed to breaking the cycle of domestic violence for future generations and is confident that Sonshine Children's Centre, the first of its kind in Canada, will have a significant impact on our efforts to stem the tide of this crisis. We were fortunate to second Christine Hall, from the YWCA of Calgary, to act as Executive Director during my maternity leave. Christine brought with her expertise in achieving quality assurance in operational objectives.

We are thankful to Christine as well as the management and Board of the YWCA of Calgary, who demonstrated the essence of collaboration as they partnered with Sonshine to ensure that services to Sonshine's

vulnerable families was not disrupted. This partnership also allowed the YWCA to build capacity within their organization and within Calgary's domestic violence and homeless sector.

The Board of Directors at Sonshine provided exceptional leadership in 2012. Their passion for the ministry was evident and second to none. We are thankful to have such an exceptional group of volunteers leading this organization.

As we look forward to 2013, we are excited about the many lives that will be transformed through our services. We are excited about the many families who will be able to find affordable, quality childcare. We are excited about the individuals and families who will allow us to walk beside them as they journey from pain to peace in our community counselling program. We are excited and thankful for the many individuals, churches, corporations and foundations that will work with us to ensure that the resources are in place to make Calgary a great place for everyone.

*Joy Johnson-Green, PhD
Executive Director*

I was honored to be chosen as Acting Executive Director for Sonshine Community Services. As I reflect on the time I spent at Sonshine, several highlights stand out to me. I appreciated working with a passionate Board, dedicated management team and gracious staff that went the extra mile to benefit the clients and the organization.

Despite a protracted Capital Campaign, Sonshine persevered with plans for the Children's Centre and by the end of 2012 the Board, in principle, had approved moving forward with renovations. The promise of the new Sonshine Children's Centre presented the opportunity to re-imagine program, operational and administrative structures to best support Sonshine going forward. I am very proud of the fact that the Organizational Assessment funding and consultants were secured to allow Sonshine to begin its transformation process toward future sustainability.

I was impressed by the innovative initiatives advanced by Calgary's domestic violence collective to educate all stakeholders about domestic violence, with a mind to eradicate it once and for all. With no core government funding, representing the Second Stage perspective is challenging, but strides are being made to acknowledge the role second stage domestic violence shelters have in the continuum of services for homeless people.

We are confident that the future holds the promise of many collaborative partnership opportunities between Sonshine and YWCA and we look forward to them.

*Christine Hall, MSW
Manager, Quality Assurance
YWCA of Calgary*



Ruth's Story

As a woman, born into a strict, male-centered, middle-eastern family, I was forced to follow my Father, my brother, and then my husband. I was not allowed to think, to create, to try, to adventure, or to share. I lost my voice for a long period of time; I used to be told how, what, and when to talk. My first step and the major push towards success started from Sonshine. It is our shelter, our haven, and our resort that gave me the secure home I was looking for, the love I was lacking, and the loving care that I did not feel before.

I came to Calgary four years ago. My ex-husband and his father kept me isolated in their basement for the whole time, so I did not get the chance to see or know anything about Calgary, until I came to Sonshine and left the abuse that I was exposed to.

When I moved to Sonshine I immediately received great care and love from my counselor, the staff, and the directors. They taught me everything I needed to learn, provided a safe home and assisted with living expenses. They gave me the courage to face my present and to look for a better future for myself and for my two year old daughter. Sonshine took me step-by-step through the journey to get my daughter back from overseas where my ex-husband had obtained a travel ban against her, to prevent me from seeing her again. When she was returned to me, after several months of separation, everyone at Sonshine celebrated with me. Friends of Sonshine helped me with my rent. Sonshine provided food and housekeeping supplies, clothes and toys for my baby. They provided counseling and encouragement to me. In the darkest days, my counselor communicated with me on a daily basis by phone, email, and meetings to give me the push I needed to move on to a healthy future and not to look back. Through the weekly life-skills group Sonshine counselors encouraged all the residents to use the bad experience that we had lived in, to shift our lives for better and work toward success, happiness, and justice for ourselves and our children.

I acknowledge the fact that I survived with the help I got from God first, then Sonshine. I proudly award Sonshine my success that I was granted with its great help and assistance. Sonshine is not an ordinary shelter for women; it exceeded my expectations. Sonshine is a magnificent source for education, nurturing, and awareness for all the women that live there. I was encouraged to learn that many successful women in our society at some point called Sonshine home and were motivated to leave their trace in society because of the great impact that Sonshine had on their spirits. We are blessed to have had protection, security, safety, knowledge, and education for our minds and souls. It let us defeat our fears and nurture our spirits to

a better future, a healthier society, and a prosperous generation that we will be proud of.

I wanted to achieve a bigger step that will assist me and lift me up to a higher level. So I decided that this step will be crowned by going back to school and getting more education, knowledge, and nurture. At first, it seemed to be a hard and maybe an impossible mission...but with determination, I was able to balance motherhood along with my other commitments, of being a student and a working mother. As a way to maintain my strength, faith, and confidence, I kept in mind that every step towards my goal is actually a step towards my children's bright future.

Finally, I achieved my goals. I am an independent lady, working to support myself and my daughter, and studying to educate myself as well as to be a role model to my children in the future to show them that going to school is their first step and their most powerful stand which they can use to spread their voice. Over and above, they can request for a better change, share in decisions, and have a goal that they can live for. Accordingly, I believe that when you teach and educate a female, you are actually educating a whole generation, since the mother, who raise, teach, and contributes to show her children the right path, is the key for a healthy society.

I gained my self-respect and self-confidence after getting my independence. Now I have a voice that I can use for a good change in the society, and getting to touch the whole world, taking by consideration that the change takes place when we change ourselves.

Community and Residential Services

In 2012, we served 39 very special women and 38 amazing children

When we think of transformation we envision something more than just change. Change can be simply deciding to drink our coffee black or switching from driving down Deerfoot Trail to taking Blackfoot Trail. Although these changes might be noteworthy they are seldom transformative. Transformation makes us think of caterpillars transforming into butterflies. At Sonshine we think of transformation as something incredibly significant. As we journey with women and children we see them transform from individuals who are fearful, timid, reactive, sometimes angry to people who demonstrate confidence and new-found well being in their lives. As a result of what they learn in our life-skills group and through counseling, they become stronger and begin to speak up for themselves. They are able to do this because we create an atmosphere of safety, encouragement and accountability. When women complete the one-year residential program we are available to support them as they intentionally live violence-free lives outside of Sonshine Centre. Many women are reporting that they are empowered and making significant changes in their lives as a result of what they are learning at Sonshine. One woman wrote, "I have learned so much from these sessions and it's helped me to overcome my fears in speaking out for myself and my children."

In 2012 every program and experience at Sonshine Centre was evaluated by a single, probing question. 'Is what we are doing, providing the women and children we are serving with the best transformative experience they can have?' This has led us to evaluate our program and re-imagine a model of practice. We evaluated our life skills group and changed some of the modules to better meet the needs of the women. New modules included resiliency, self-care and successful running of a home. Our Outreach Program also provided counseling, safety planning, and access to community resources for women who experienced domestic violence but did not access a shelter.

Sonshine Community Services are committed to continuous learning and our counseling team participates in regular skill development in order to provide the best support to the families and individuals we serve. Some of these have included webinars that provide new and innovative approaches to counseling those affected by family violence, as well as dealing with the effects of trauma and post traumatic stress. Several counselors took training to educate companies who deal with domestic violence issues in the workplace.

We are also continually open to working with agencies and programs that can provide support and services to our women and children. We are grateful to the many collaborations and partnerships that augment the service we provide for our families at Sonshine. Alberta Health

Services work with our clients who are experiencing addictions. Peer Support Services provided two personalized group experiences called Finding Our Voices - A Self Esteem Workshop, and Growth Circles -Dealing with the Aftermath of Family Violence. Smile Dental Hygiene Bus comes to our building once a month to provide dental service to the families living in residence. The YMCA provided an exciting camping experience for our families past and present in the spring of 2012.

Increasingly, Sonshine families come from other countries. In 2012 one-third of our families spoke English as a second language. Many of those families found themselves recovering from the impact of family violence, while learning a new language and adjusting to the Canadian culture. We couldn't do our work without agencies such as Calgary Immigrant Women's Association and Immigrant Aid Society, who help with translation and provide extra support for these families.

Sonshine Community Counselling provides counseling and support to individuals living in the community at large. Many people have benefited



from the excellent counseling provided by our community counselor and masters students, who see individual, families and couples. The most common issues faced include family violence, depression, anxiety, marital discord and post traumatic stress. One woman indicated that for first time she felt safe enough to talk about the violence in her marital relationship after many years of abuse. Her counselors' caring attitude provided that safe place. Another said, "My counselor is very good, very knowledgeable, a good listener, effective and helpful."

2012 began with a team of exciting, new people who brought energy and fresh ideas. Together, we evaluated our approach to service delivery with optimism and creativity. By continually examining our programs, our procedures and ourselves, we nurtured new ideas and advanced the quality of service delivery. In 2013, we plan to refine and expand these ideas and continue to provide the best care and support that we can.

*Geri Karsten, MA, RSW
Director of Community and Residential Services*

Sonshine Centre Children's Program

In 2012, we served 38 children ages newborn to 15 years

The many children who walked through the doors of Sonshine Centre in 2012 carried with them not only their teddy bears and backpacks, but also the experiences of, and trauma from exposure to violence. Children exposed to domestic violence can manifest behavioral, social and emotional challenges, cognitive functioning challenges, and long term challenges. These include adult depression and distress, trauma-related symptoms, low self-esteem, and difficulties with emotional and social adjustment. Domestic violence can interfere with a child forming secure attachments, learning self-regulation, and establishing healthy social and peer relationships.

Following exposure to violence, children benefit from, and require, opportunities to work through the trauma of their experience. This is where we step in and walk alongside the child. We work to rewire the brain, creating new pathways and connections with each experience, activity, interaction and outcome. The focus is on the whole child: physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual. We did this through play (sand, water, building/constructing, board games, and puzzles), music, art, drama, dance, recreation, active exploration, discussion and movement. A child's healing process is aided by supporting each child to gain a sense of understanding and perspective about the events, appraise the safety issues involved, identify and learn to approach the safe people in their

life, and ultimately gain a sense mastery and confidence in themselves and their environment. The primary long-term goal of the Sonshine Centre Children's Program is ending the cycle of violence. Through targeted objectives facilitated by a program which places emphasis on healing, we delivered a program focused on building social and life skills, healthy relationships, emotional regulation, anger management skills, rational problem solving skills, safety (internal & external), respect of self and others, and effective interpersonal communication skills. We offered individual, dyadic, group and parent-child supports, programs, services and intervention plans. Children are our greatest hope for a future free from violence.



Child Support & Intervention Process

As we serve the wonderful children who live at Sonshine, we follow an intervention process based on six R's.

Relationship → Release → Re-creation → Re-experiencing → Re-wiring → Resolving.

- Counseling and Supported Play (Individual, Dyadic and Group)
- Social Skills Group
- Parent-Chat: Parenting After Violence
- Parent-Child Supported Play
- Moms & Tots
- Summer Recreation
- Connecting and referral to community resources
- Advocacy
- Child Care



The children's program and intervention plans placed a special emphasis on addressing the impact of trauma on the individual child, parent and family system as a whole. Empirical evidence supports that child intervention, in tandem with parent intervention, provides the strongest long-term outcomes. While the children are at the heart of all we do, our planning pays careful consideration to the family system as a whole. The aim was to facilitate a child-centered program supported by opportunities for parent participation. This dynamic approach emphasized building upon a mother's strengths, and therefore, building capacity and strengthening the family system.

We would like to recognize and thank Sue Stretton, Further Education Society and Birthday Buddies. Sue Stretton is the Women's Shelter Liaison Specialist - Learning Services with the Calgary Board of Education. She works with our staff in providing advocacy and support for our school-aged children within their school setting. The Further Education Society offered a newly developed parenting program to our families. This curriculum is focused on parenting after violence and is generating favorable outcomes. Birthday Buddies provides birthday gifts and cake for the children who live at Sonshine Centre. They ensure that each child makes a special memory on their very special day! In addition, we would like to extend a heart-felt thanks to all of our exceptional volunteers. The children's program volunteers provide child care, are mentors, and assist us when planning special outings and celebrations. We truly could not deliver the children's program without them!

*Elisabeth Citro, RSW
Child & Family Counselor/Coordinator*

Sonshine Family Day Homes

190 children received excellent child care from Sonshine Family Day Home providers in 2012

Sonshine Family Day Homes provides quality childcare for children and families in the City of Calgary by recruiting and empowering dedicated care-givers. These providers embrace our commitment to enable children to participate to their fullest potential in activities, routines, and play experiences within the family child care setting.

Sonshine's dedication to support the development of safe, healthy families underlies our commitment to exceed government standards. So in 2012 we determined to be extra vigilant in our recruiting process to ensure that the finest providers available supported the children within our care. Although most of our providers exceeded expectations, we challenged all our providers to a higher degree of excellence, and they rose to the challenge. Our providers continue to expand their understanding of child development through workshops and conferences. Some are registered in continuing education at a college or university. We are very proud of the Sonshine Day Homes providers.

Sixty percent of our Family Day Homes providers have been with us for between three and twenty-four years! This is unusual in an industry where the average time a provider stays with a day-home agency is only three to four years. Parents who rely on Sonshine

Day Homes for their child care needs are confident that their child will enjoy compassionate, professional care within a safe, healthy environment.

Sonshine Day Homes believes:

- Every child is a unique creation of God.
- All children, including children with special or diverse needs, are entitled to play, explore, love, learn, interact with others, share, and be listened to, in a safe and caring environment.
- A child's development is supported by the warmth and care they receive from the adults in their lives especially parents and providers.
- Family child care can provide a child with the individual attention that he or she needs for optimum growth and development.
- Childcare supplements the care a parent can give to the child, but it never takes the place of it.
- Childcare in a family child care setting can offer a viable option for parents seeking quality childcare arrangements.

Our vision is to expand the number of Sonshine Day Homes available in Calgary by 50% in 2013. We look forward to establishing new day homes and supporting many new families.

*Kim Nystrom, DIP ECE
Director of Sonshine Family Day Homes*



Volunteer Engagement

244 dedicated Sonshine volunteers contributed more than 2600 volunteer hours in 2012

Every day in every way volunteers bring light and life to Sonshine. It is not an exaggeration to say we could not fulfill our mission without them. The activities and talents shared with us range from very practical hands on work, to helping us refine our vision and mission. Every moment of volunteer support is valuable and necessary.

It is impossible to share all the great volunteer moments that filled 2012 but I will share a few. Chris Prefontaine came to the shelter to take portraits of the moms and their children for Mother's Day. A

group of women volunteered to do hair and make up for the residents who wanted it. Some families came in colorful ethnic outfits and others wore their Sunday finery. One sporty young lady surprised us when she dressed in a frilly, shiny dress for the photo session. All felt honored and blessed by this special event. One mom told me that this picture of her family would serve as a reminder of the fresh start her family was making at Sonshine.

Sonshine Centre was the beneficiary of Ruby Ellen Designs brilliant Spring Fashion Show celebrating International Woman's Day. Foundations for the Future Charter School held a bake sale for Sonshine. The Gala team met every month, all year long, to produce a beauti-



ful, momentous event. Our Adopt-a-Family program is a meaningful way to impact families at Christmas time and we were overwhelmed by the interest this Christmas. ConocoPhillips Canada once again adapted all the Sonshine residents and our community families were supported by a wonderful group of individuals and organizations.

Practical work such as cleaning suites, painting fences, and sitting on the board is a large portion of the vital work of Sonshine's volunteers, but there is a bigger picture. Strong connections in a supportive community are keys to a healthy, fulfilling life. Volunteers who support our families, say their experience enriches their lives. When volunteers recognize that they are indeed making positive changes through the connections that they develop with the families at Sonshine, their faces light up and I am filled with joy and hope. It is truly a privilege for me to serve the families and volunteers at Sonshine.

Strong connections and a supportive community make for healthy organizations as well. We are thankful for the volunteers and stakeholders who provide this for us and look forward to continuing these connections for many years to come.

*Terry-Mae Hepburn
Volunteer Coordinator*

“ You truly are a blessing sent from God for the lives of all the residents! If only you could really know how much your support has really done. For me personally, it has changed my life in a dramatic way. I can finally find the joy in my life that was once lost. I now know that from here on in my children and I can live free from abuse and I can give them and myself a home that we want to come home to, our little haven of love.

Former Sonshine Resident



Resource Development

Sonshine Community Services is devoted to empowering women and children to live safely in healthy families. We cannot achieve that vision, and impact the world for good, without a collaborative coalition of organizations and individuals who share our passion. At the heart of Sonshine's mission is a determination to ensure that women, who are courageous enough to leave violent family situations, are protected, supported and encouraged to walk in the potential of their lives. In 2012 we worked to generate and nurture relationships that were robust enough to build the momentum needed for authentic transformation of our organization and the families we serve.

Many new and long-standing community partners invested time, talent and treasure into the possibility that life could be better for women and children fleeing domestic violence. Caring people, churches and corporations with a profound yearning to make a difference, partnered with us in many innovative and inspiring ways. Cartwright Lighting joyfully donated the proceeds from the sales of a busy Saturday in November to Sonshine. Small businesses like Butlers, Inc. donated to Sonshine in honor of their clients. First Alliance Church donated the proceeds from their remarkable Christmas production to Sonshine Children's Centre. Schools held bake sales and Woodcliff United Church held a shower to refurbish the suite they sponsor.

Those donations were used to meet critical needs of secure, transitional housing, counseling, and life-skill development. They advanced Ruth's dreams of mercy, justice and unification with her baby daughter. They empowered Cindy to confidently return to high school and prepare for college, without the threat of derailment from her violent father and abusive boyfriend. They provided security, support and opportunity for Donna and her four children.

2012 will be remembered as the year we stepped out in faith and made significant progress on our long-term strategy to end domestic violence by establishing the Firm Foundations Capital Campaign, in support of Sonshine Children's Centre. We shared our vision to

help the children in our shelter and the broader community who are impacted by violence with visionary Calgarians who responded generously. Donations to the Firm Foundations Capital Campaign for Sonshine Children's Centre are an investment in healthy adults. It means children traumatized by family violence will not repeat the cycle of violence that ensnared their parents.

The practice of resource development is to communicate, cultivate, cherish and collaborate with individuals and organizations who want to change the world for good. Resource development is powered by meaningful, enduring relationships. I am very grateful to have had the privilege of communicating our message, cultivating and cherishing new and long-standing relationships and collaborating with community partners to build a community where women and children live safely in healthy families.

*Celina Laforet, NFRE
Resource Development Manager*

“ *Thanks to everyone here, I can sustain a belief in the vision of becoming a good citizen, of giving back some of what has been given to me and using the gifts God has given me to serve others. This is my prayer – that for every blessing you have bestowed on me, that I am enabled to give one back. I love you – my heart overflows with gratitude for your presence in my life.*

Former Sonshine Resident



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Treasurer's Report for 2012

In 2012 Sonshine's financial strategy became increasingly aligned with our larger vision for creating social impact. The cost associated with empowering families to overcome the impact of domestic violence remains primarily in one-on-one support and in providing secure shelter. The personal nature of empowering families escaping domestic violence requires our agency to invest in human capital to ensure excellence in service delivery and we have invested in a skillful, committed team of professionals. As with most charities, fundraising continues to be a challenge, but we have worked hard to increase the diversity of funders and build the foundation of loyal donors.

Sonshine reported a significantly reduced deficit in 2012 compared to 2011, reporting revenues of \$1.5 million. To operate our facility and services, our total expenses were \$1.6 million in 2012. We remain focused on meeting all operating requirements while we continue to operate without committed funding from our provincial or federal government bodies. Our Firm Foundations Capital Campaign continues to be a catalyst for financial and operational momentum as fundraising efforts are invigorated.

Our approach to our financial responsibilities is one of conservatism. We have thoroughly reviewed our costs entering into 2013 to ensure we are conservative in managing our resources effectively for our stakeholders. We are also reviewing our financial and risk management

practices in order to ensure Sonshine operates on a strong foundation for future growth.

We cannot thank you enough for your generous support in partnering with Sonshine in its vision to transform the lives of Calgary's brave women and children. We look forward to celebrating 2013.



Thank You Community Partners

\$100,000 +
Anonymous Donors
Government of Alberta

\$50,000 - \$99,999
Alberta Innovative Child Care Grant
Anonymous Donors
Centre Street Church
River Park Church

\$20,000 - \$49,999
Canadian Women's Foundation
Cartwright Lighting Centre
Conoco Phillips Canada

\$10,000 - \$19,999
Anonymous Donors
ASCCI - All Systems Contracting
Baytex Energy Corp.
Bellatrix Exploration Ltd.
The Calgary Flames Foundation
The Calgary Charitable Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999
Anonymous Donors
BD Consulting Ltd.

Cenovus Employee Foundation
First Alliance Church
Foothills Alliance Church
Hern & Associates
Kern's Partners
MEG Energy
Olympia charitable foundation
Ptarmigan Charitable Foundation
Southview Alliance Church

\$1,000 - \$4,999
Anonymous Donors
Alpha Construction
ARCIS Seismic Solutions
ATCO Gas
Butlers Inc.
California Homes
Canadian Progress Club Calgary City Centre
CRC of Granum
David LLP
Edith Cavell Chapter #25
Emmanuel CRC
Foundation of Grace

at the Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation
Good Shepherd Community Church
Harry and Martha Cohen Foundation

Investors Group
K & H Dental
Olympia Charitable Foundation
Peddie Roofing & Waterproofing
Progress Exploration Partnership
Quadrus Charitable Foundation
RBC Foundation
Rotary Club West
South Calgary Community Church
Spectra Light Window Films
Style Realty
Telus Community Affairs
The Garbage Company Inc.
Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada
Woodcliffe United Church

In-Kind Donors
BDD Artifex Corporation
Karla Smit Design
Minuteman Press
RAM Cleaning Services
The Sign Group, Inc.
Tippet-Richardson Moving Services

2012 Partners in Service Awards

When individuals, corporations, charities and churches come together to share their strength, positive societal impact is multiplied. Sonshine is empowered by a diverse alliance of community partners that enable our work. Each year Sonshine Community Services selects three community partners to celebrate. This year we are pleased to celebrate Westgate Community, Baytex Energy and the Developmental Disabilities Resource Centre of Calgary.

Baytex Energy Corp.

Baytex Energy Corp. is known as a Calgary-based, conventional oil and gas company, but to Sonshine, Baytex isn't conventional at all. We consider Baytex Energy an exceptional community partner with a big heart and a generous staff. Baytex is committed to its stakeholders, but it is also committed to the communities where its employees live and work. In 2012 they demonstrated their commitment to the Sonshine community when the employees at Baytex pooled their resources to bring Christmas comfort and joy to eight former Sonshine families through our Adopt-a-Family program. In addition to providing generous Christmas hampers, Baytex employees made significant donations to Sonshine Centre which was matched by Baytex Energy.

The Westgate Community

A great community is more than a group of interacting people, services and businesses living in a shared location. A great community

is a safe, neighborhood where people can count on one another, where there are innovative schools, churches and healthcare. A great community is a place where kids can play in the park or skate on the community rink, without fear. The Westgate community is that kind of a neighborhood. The Community Centre is the hub of activity, but its citizens form the heart of a community. The residents are hospitable, generous and community minded. The community of Westgate embraced our organization in 2007 and continues to support and encourage us. One of the neighbors has the entire staff over for tea at Christmas. Great communities collaborate to achieve social, economic and environmental goals that benefit the whole community and strengthen community capacity to promote and sustain health. Westgate is that kind of community. We are grateful to be a part of this vibrant community and we celebrate their members.

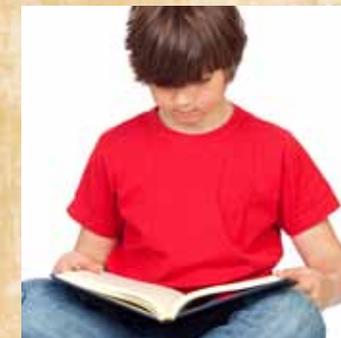
Developmental Disabilities Resource Centre of Calgary (DDRC)

Sonshine has chosen the DDRC, and in particular, Ben McKay for a Partner in Service Award because of their long-standing support of Sonshine's Children's Programming. In 2009, the DDRC recruited Ben to volunteer at Sonshine every week to maintain the integrity and cleanliness of the learning materials and toys in the Children's Play Room.

We depend on Ben to ensure the toys are sanitized and free of

disease. As a direct result of his work, children can play in a healthy environment. Ben has been instrumental in preventing the spread of viral infections and ensuring the health standards are met in the Children's Play Room.

In all those years, Ben has missed only one day of work. His work is important and he takes it seriously. The DDRC's vision is to promote awareness and support communities to include persons with developmental disabilities, thereby strengthening communities for all citizens. The DDRC's partnership has strengthened Sonshine's children's programming. It is with great appreciation that we recognize the DDRC and Ben for their contribution.



“ *After our move to Sonshine our lives changed. We would like to thank all the staff for truly taking care of us and our needs. This one year of stay helped us be strong and ready to face new challenges. Thank you so much for the support and love.*

Former Sonshine Resident

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Sonshine Community Services

Leadership

Board of Directors

Sandy A. Vander Ziel
Board Chair

Angela Gosselin
Treasurer/Vice Chair

Donna Graham
Secretary

Jeff Swart
Director

Heidi DeJong
Director

Alisha O'Neil
Director

Richard (Dick) Feasel
Director

Program Leadership

Joy Johnson-Green, PhD
Executive Director

Geri Karsten, MA, RSW
Director of Community and Residential Services

Kim Nystrom, Dip EDE
Director of Sonshine Family Day Homes

Jacque Shand
Business Manager

Celina Laforet, NFRE
Resource Development Manager

Terry-Mae Hepburn
Volunteer Engagement





“

Through professional counseling offered here, I have learned, un-learned and gained new perspectives and insights in various aspects of life- communication, self-care, money management, parenting – to name a few.

Former Sonshine Resident ”

Sonshine Community Services is a non-profit organization that has been serving the local Calgary community since 1978 by providing a blend of care, support and counseling services to families and individuals in need. *Our mission is to effectively deliver services from a Christian perspective that support the development of healthy individuals and families, assist in the building of respectful relationships, and respond to the needs of those who have experienced family violence and abuse.*

Sonshine Community Services plays an integral role in Calgary's comprehensive community response to breaking the cycle of domestic violence and promoting healthy and respectful relationships. We operate a one-year residential program for women and children who have experienced domestic violence and abuse, as well as a family day homes agency, community counseling services, and an outreach support program for victims of domestic abuse. These programs work together to strengthen individuals and families, and therefore strengthen our community.

Together, we do make a difference!

*Bringing healing and
hope since 1978.*



For more information

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Sonshine Society of Christian Community Services is a registered Canadian charitable organization, Registered Charity Business # 119156412RR0001. Our mission is to effectively deliver services from a Christian perspective that support the development of healthy individuals and families, assist in the building of respectful relationships, and respond to the needs of those experiencing family violence and abuse. We are incorporated under the Societies Act (Alberta). Sonshine expects to fundraise \$1,600,000 in 2013 at the cost of 10% of these funds. Gifts are acknowledged and receipted with an official receipt for income tax purposes. For further information, please contact Celina Laforet, Resource Development Manager at 403.705.3485.