



2011 REPORT to the Community

The Nurturing and Refining of a Vision

Calgary's River Park Church established Sunshine 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 Sunshine 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.

2011

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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Message from the Board Chair

Sonshine Community Services is a full-service community organization that provides excellence in child care, support to individuals and families facing life challenges, and a safe haven for women and children fleeing domestic violence. 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 able to fulfill this mission because of the hard work of our staff and volunteers. And they are able to do their work because our donors and sponsors provide the funds necessary to maintain our operations.

Our annual report gives us, as an organization, the opportunity to thank all of our donors and our great team of talented and dedicated staff and volunteers. Your commitment to our mission and your care for our clients — the women, children and men who need our services — is highly commendable and greatly appreciated.

Sonshine is not an organization flush with cash, but we are rich in testimonies of how our services have helped our community's most vulnerable. We operate without any core government funding which is a small miracle in itself. Consequently, we struggle every year to balance our books and 2011 was no exception. While we are first and foremost a social service agency, we have had to become better at telling

our story and telling it to more people, and as a Board we need your help to get our message out to more people.

To that end, 2011 will be remembered as the year we embarked upon a \$1 million campaign to tell the story of how we need to develop a specialized children's centre and therapeutic program for children in our community who have been impacted by domestic violence and other forms of emotional trauma. This exciting project is possible because we have 4,000 square feet of undeveloped space within our facility and because Sonshine is led by a professional staff who understand the needs of our clients goes well beyond a safe place to recover from domestic violence and begin the long process of healing and starting over. We know all too well that the children need very deliberate and consistent therapeutic interventions to overcome the effects of witnessing domestic violence.

Our plan is to achieve our fundraising goal sometime in 2012 and immediately begin construction with an eye to opening this one-of-a-kind facility in January 2013. This is an ambitious step for Sonshine, but there is no question about the need for this space and these services. We are confident that our current donors and some new ones will combine to make this dream a reality.

*Bruce Daze,
Chair, Board of Directors*



Executive Director's Report

Sonshine Community Services is a vibrant organization that continues to be a leader in the social fabric of the Calgary human service community. For the past 33 years, the organization has embraced each fiscal year with vision and anticipation of serving an ever-changing community and 2011 was no exception.

2011 was an exciting and exceptional year. After 5 years of contemplation and planning, Sonshine launched its one million dollar campaign to create a Specialized Children's Centre for children who have experienced domestic violence and other forms of emotional trauma. We know that witnessing domestic violence is the single largest indicator that a child will grow up to either perpetuate violence or become a victim. With this in mind, Sonshine is on its way to developing the first children's centre in Canada that will provide interventions five days per week to a child who has had this devastating experience. Our expertise in child care, evidenced by our 25 year old Day Home program, one of the first in Alberta that was accredited by the government, coupled with our expertise in providing support and counseling to children who have witnessed domestic violence, make Sonshine perfectly suited to develop and operate this program. We are excited to be able to provide this service not only to the families who reside at Sonshine but also to children in the community who have been assessed as having experienced this and other forms of trauma. We are grateful for all our supporters who want to do more to end

the cycle of violence, not only for this generation but for to future generations. We recognize that while shelters play a vital role in saving lives, more has to be done to break the cycle of violence for the next generation. With the help of our generous community, we hope to have our program up and running in January 2013.

Sonshine continues to meet the complex needs of families who come to us for help by developing strategic relationships with other service providers and community partners. We realize that in order to meet the needs of our community, there must be a seamless continuum of services that is responsive to the needs of the community. We are not interested in doing all things, but being a strong link in a chain of community providers who ensures that no woman or child fleeing violence is ever left without a safe alternative. Sonshine has the only one year residential program in Alberta for women fleeing violence. Its role is key to breaking the cycle and meeting the needs of Calgarians fleeing violence.

Our Family Day Home program continues to be a leader in the child care field. This year, the program once again successfully completed its re-accreditation process. We continue to diligently monitor, supervise and support our contracted day homes to ensure service quality surpasses that outlined by the provincial government.

Sonshine is able to provide these outstanding services only though

the commitment of our staff and the generous support of our donors. We are grateful to all our community partners who give of their time, talent and resources to ensure that families who come to us in need will not be turned away. We are committed to remaining leaders in our field and broadening our impact in the community. We look towards 2012 with much anticipation.

*Joy Johnson-Green, PhD
Executive Director*

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*I learned that a shelter isn't a place where a person can soak in depression and keep out from the cold. The women who stay at Sonshine are people who don't want to give up on themselves and their children. They come to build up their emotional stability that was robbed from them and start creating the new life they deserve to live. **I now see a shelter as word to describe a starting point***

Written by a Sonshine Resident

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Jane's Story

My year and a half old daughter and I moved into Sonshine after spending 29 days at a woman's emergency shelter. I had left my husband after two domestic violence incidents, unable to live in fear any longer. I had no family in Calgary and limited finances and it was a relief to be taken in by the Christian organization.

Any fear that I had was alleviated by the kind staff at some point. I was terrified that my ex would find us but the double security door and cameras provided a sense of safety, as well as the undisclosed location. The staff was always diligent in screening visitors and being on high alert for potential problems. It was an environment that promoted peace and serenity which was something that I desperately needed.

I was afraid that my daughter would be so negatively impacted by my decision to leave our home and family life. I took her from everything she knew, all of her toys and her crib and thrust her into a life of uncertainty. It took about 6 months before she started to open up to the staff and started enjoying going to the playroom when I had my group sessions. She eventually started calling our suite "home" and she started to blossom. The staff was always so helpful in providing insight on why she might be acting the way she was and how to properly deal with undesirable behaviors. I found that children are much more resilient and adaptable than we give them credit for, and our fears about negative impacts should not override leaving a potentially unsafe situation.

Finances were a huge concern but the rent was affordable and it was a safe and secure location. I didn't have to worry about utilities other than a phone and internet if I wanted it. My counselor helped me set out a budget and do some financial planning. She assured me that worrying that I had no bank account opened for my daughter was not a crucial thing. I was giving her a safe and happy environment and providing for her which was more important. I was able to avoid having to file for bankruptcy which was one of my biggest fears.

Blessingdale's was a truly a blessing. The free food that was brought in once a week helped reduce my weekly budget and ensured that my daughter and I had fresh fruit and vegetables in the fridge. It was hard to go down there at first but I soon learned that pride had no place where my daughter's nutrition and health was concerned. People were willing to help us and I was very grateful to accept the help.



I was worried that I was alone in my plight and that I would always be doomed to make the same mistakes in my relationships. I quickly found in the evening group sessions that my story was far from unique and that the women there shared my fears and experiences. There was understanding, sympathy and support. The facilitators were amazing and the course material started to sink in – I could break the abuse cycle and have a healthy, happy life for myself and my daughter. My individual counselor helped me confront and deal with so many issues that were threatening to keep me in the mindset of being a victim. She helped me see that I was a strong, valuable person who could be successful in all aspects of my life.

I was scared that people at work, my friends and family, would find out about my situation and that I would be ashamed and embarrassed. Stuff like this only happens to low income, uneducated people. I quickly found that that mentality was incorrect. There were women of all backgrounds and ethnicities at Sonshine, all of whom had suffered from some sort of violence or poor situations. I increasingly became more aware that the stigma of domestic violence was the reason that many women didn't come forward and talk about it, but suffered in silence. At Sonshine, we didn't need to suffer any longer and that knowledge allowed me the strength to slowly talk to more people about my experiences.

As my time at Sonshine came to an end, the staff was incredible in helping support me in any way that they could. They were able to find a desk and two couches for my new home which I would not have been able to afford on my own. A last check-in with my counselor highlighted the incredible changes that I had made since first arriving. I had been a scared, helpless woman with no self-esteem. Thanks to my time at Sonshine, I was leaving a strong, confident woman who was completely capable of doing anything I put my mind to; including never entering the abuse cycle again.

Written by a former resident

Sonshine Centre Residential Program

Storms are a part of life; we all experience them. There are different types of storms; some are unpredictable, some you can see coming and some are of our own doing. For most of the women and children who come to live at the Sonshine Centre, life has been full of storms. Many experienced the storms of a childhood with family members who were neglectful, chaotic and even abusive. Many experienced the storms of a relationship with someone they thought loved them and instead tried to manipulate, control and harm them. For some, they also endured the storms of leaving a country torn by war and violence. All have experienced the devastation that happens when violence tears a person's life apart.

There is a reason Sonshine Centre is called a shelter. A shelter is a refuge from the storm. It is a temporary place where one gets their breath back while staying safe so they can plan how to deal with the fall out of the storm and learn how to avert or prepare for future storms. We provide a safe place for people to recover from their storms and then develop the skills and tools to deal with the storms of the future. We provide counseling and support for a variety of issues from knowing how to open a bank account to connecting with Legal Aid to learning how to manage a household to learning new parenting strategies.

Often we see storms as bringing devastation but there are times when storms also force healthy evaluation and change. We have experienced



a type of storm this past year as well. We saw several staff members move on and start new chapters in their lives. We are grateful to their contributions to Sonshine. These transitions provided us the opportunity to re-evaluate our program. We began asking questions like: How has the population we provide services to, changed? How have their needs changed? Have we kept up with those changes? What do we need and what do we need to change to do better?

We realized that one of the significant changes that we have experienced over the last few years is that there are a higher percentage of women in the shelter who are experiencing issues with addictions and mental health. As a result, we entered into an exciting new partnership with Alberta Health Care, Adult Addictions Services and Mental Health Divisions that will enable us to work more effectively with clients who experience addictions and mental health concerns. We expect this partnership to gain momentum in 2012. Sonshine's Life Skills

curriculum was updated to more effectively address the complex needs of our families. Our Community Outreach Team continued to provide excellent follow-up service to the women leaving the shelter and reintegrating in to the community, linking them to resources including housing, immigration services, legal services, income support, food resources, police support and counseling support.

We intend to continue evaluating our program into the New Year and developing new approaches and supports for the women and children while maintaining existing programs that meet their needs. We know the women and children who come through our doors will face more storms in their lives. We continue to work to provide them with navigation tools and the various resources they need to find their way safely through to the other side.

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Sonshine has helped to provide a safe and secure place to live where both my kids and I were able to begin the healing process and where I learned, as well as my children, about boundary setting, healthy relationships and self awareness. Now, equipped with the knowledge taught through weekly groups and individual counseling by the amazing staff that go above and beyond, I can choose to continue making healthy choices in my life for a safe, loving and secure environment for my family, free of abuse.

Former Resident

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Sonshine Centre Children's Program

The primary goal of Sonshine Centre Children's Program is ending the cycle of violence. We work to actualize this goal through a program which places emphasis on healing, social and life-skill development, safety, acceptance, respect and validation. While the children are at the heart of all we do, our planning is focused on the family system. The aim is to facilitate a child-centered program rich with both age and developmentally appropriate activities accompanied by opportunities for building upon a parent's many strengths and developing capacity.

We base our intervention practice with special consideration paid to the impact of childhood trauma. The focus is on the whole child: physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual. Children are engaged in a wide variety of activities such as art, fine motor and gross motor play, floor play, table-top play, sand and water play, music, dance and sensory exploration. We offer both group and individual intervention programs and plans. Those activities focused on domestic violence and trauma are based upon the work of Dr. Bruce Perry and the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics. We work to heal and rewire the brain . . . making new connections (rewiring) with each interaction.

“*Children are a gift from the Lord.*”

Psalm 127:3



Recent changes to our children's program have had a positive impact for the children. We have added several after-school programs for school aged children. They include social and life skills groups which focus on self-esteem, anger management, understanding moods and emotions, healthy relationships, problem solving and self-care. In addition, ours is a program which facilitates the opportunity for parents to learn and grow with their children. We have taken a creative approach to our programming. Parents are invited to come in during the day and use our space for play, enjoyment, conversation, support and healing. This decreases isolation, strengthens parent-child relationships, enhances



parenting skills, promotes family preservation, builds social skills and builds our community.

We have developed and implemented a number of new programs. One of note is our weekly Moms & Tots program. Our program is based upon a best practice intervention model which has been proven to be highly effective. We work with both the children (newborn to age 5 years) and mothers in order to increase the likelihood of long-lasting change. The children (ages 20 months – 5 years) attend the first half hour of the program on their own and are engaged in a wide variety of age, need and developmentally enriching activities. The mothers then join us for the last half hour of the program where they can practice new parenting skills, learn, grow and play with their children. Mothers with children ages newborn to 20 months can choose to attend the full

hour with their children or attend the last half hour with all mothers and children. This is a naturally occurring opportunity for the mothers to build new and healthy relationships with one another.

We would like to recognize and thank Further Education Society and Birthday Buddies. The Further Education Society offers a new parenting program to our families each week. This new curriculum is focused on Parenting After Violence and is generating positive feedback and outcomes. Birthday Buddies provides birthday gifts and cake for the children who live at Sonshine Centre. They ensure that each child has a special day on their very special day! In addition, we would like to extend a sincere 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/or celebrations.



Sonshine Community Counseling and Outreach

Sonshine Community Counselors and Masters-level practicum students provided 756 individual and group sessions in 2011.

As we drive to a destination, we are constantly evaluating our progress even if we don't realize it. This is especially true if we're headed into new territory or revisiting some place we haven't been to for a while. If we have a map, we refer to it after we've made a turn to make sure we're still going in the right direction. If we have GPS, we follow the direction of the irritatingly soothing voice as it tells us when to take our next turn. When you run a business, or a charity and when you serve people, you do the same thing.

Sonshine Community Services continually evaluates our service delivery by examining our programs and practices to ensure we are meeting the greatest need in the most effective way. We have examined the needs of the community and listened to our clients. One need we are addressing is to provide counseling services to people who cannot afford the fees associated with professional counseling. Under close supervision, Master of Counseling students are completing practicum hours by seeing clients free of charge. This has allowed us to provide opportunities for students to gain practical learning which is monitored and supervised and at the same time provide professional counseling to

clients who might not otherwise be able to access it.

Another way that the cost of counseling is reduced is by providing group support and counseling for individuals. We were able to offer a therapy group called Mending the Soul to individuals who have experienced abuse in their lives. This was a great opportunity for us to provide a setting similar to individual counseling with the added benefit of peer support. A partnership with Southview Alliance Church allowed us to provide the service at an exceptionally low price for those attending. We were also able to provide groups for 16 children whose parents had gone through a separation or divorce. This allowed them to begin to sort through the many issues they face in a fun, informative and therapeutic way. We partnered with Southview Alliance and Providence Theological Seminary, who provided both the manpower and the funds to make this a success.

Generous donors made significant donations to our benevolent fund which allows us to make counseling accessible to individuals who would not normally be able to pay the fees.

In an effort to build partnerships and keep abreast of Calgary's ever-changing resources, Community Counseling Staff visit other

organizations to learn more about their services. We have maintained a supportive profile in southwest Calgary by participating in the Bow Trail Resource group which provides a venue for local faith communities and agencies to build capacity.

Although statistics state that 1 in 4 families are affected by domestic violence, we recognize that many people are unaware of indicators and consequences of family violence, so we look for opportunities to share our expertise with the Calgary community. We were able to do this with several community groups this year including the Bow Valley nursing program for mental health nurses. We count it a privilege to be able to raise the community's awareness of this significant issue.

An important part of program development is professional development for our staff to ensure counselors are up-to-date on the latest changes in our communities. Strengthening cultural competency in an increasingly diverse city requires Sonshine to be involved in ongoing development. In order to provide meaningful support to residents who have English as a second language, our staff participated in workshops to increase their understanding of refugee claims and housing accessibility for this population. The families who come to Sonshine most often need support in overcoming high degrees of trauma. To address these challenging issues, Counsellors take courses to strengthen their skills in dealing with trauma-specific issues including compassion fatigue.

2012 promises to be a year of strengthening our service delivery through vigorous evaluation and on-going skill development to ensure we are meeting the greatest need in the most effective way.

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Sonshine has empowered me incredibly. The support and the education have given me a better sense of worth and self esteem and enabled me to see the abusive cycle I had been in. It has allowed me the time to discover my strength and build healthy boundaries so I can be a great person and mother.

Former Resident

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Sonshine Family Day Homes

187 families received quality child care from 44 Sonshine Day Home providers located throughout the city in 2011.

Sonshine Family Day Homes are experts in child development. We understand the healthy stages a child should transition through and we share that expertise with parents and day home providers. Child development starts with the cry of a new born baby. At one, the child takes her first steps and everything goes into her mouth. At a year and a half she adds more and more words to her vocabulary. At two and a half everything is 'mine'. Sharing is not a concept she can understand. At five she goes off to school for the first time. At 12 she experiences junior high school and at 15 she is off to high school.

In the same way, organizations develop over time. Some of the experiences that strengthen and build an organization are pure joy and others are challenging. This year Sonshine Day Homes has experienced a little of both.

Excellence has been the hallmark of our Day Home agency since its inception. We are committed to surpass the expectations of governmental standards and provide the highest level of service delivery for the children in our care. In 2005 we were the first to enter into a voluntary accreditation process that set the bar above the government standards. The accreditation process is gruelling and takes place every three years. 2011 was the third time Sonshine Family Day Homes

went through it. We reviewed all our policies and procedures, filled out reams of forms, made additional visits to our day home providers, evaluated and re-evaluated. We are proud of all the hard work the staff and all our providers put into their homes and their work this past year. We are once again accredited which demonstrates our commitment to excellence and to the children in our care.

In 2011 the Provincial Government revised the standards for Day Home agencies and their providers and our committed team implemented the changes in record time with professionalism and grace.

One of our longstanding consultants retired after 17 years of service. This was a catalyst for a new phase of our program's development. There have been times of teaching, times of growth and times of establishing interdependence with new consultants and providers. Some days went smoothly, while others had bumps and curves.

With the re-accreditation process is complete, we continue to grow, re-evaluate, revise goals and provide excellent care and service. In the same way that a child moves through the developmental stages, Sonshine Family Day homes continues to develop, as we establish our organization as a leader in the child care sector.



Volunteer Engagement

This year, 243 amazing volunteers invested nearly 2500 hours of volunteer time to make life better for the families who take refuge at Sonshine Centre. If you can dream of it, there is likely a Sonshine volunteer doing it. This year a men's group washed the walls at the Centre - the moms really appreciated seeing men doing the cleaning! An energetic, 70 years young, Grandma provided a friendly face and a warm hug every Thursday morning to the children who participate in the Life Skills Group. ConocoPhillips sponsored all the families living at Sonshine at Christmas time. A Mount Royal University student helped clients refine their resume. A group from CH2M Hill turned the muddy path to the garbage bin into a delightful stroll. It may be a bit of a stretch to say the walk to the garbage bin is now delightful,

but there is definitely a vast improvement. Woodcliff United Church furnished their adopted suite with everything a new family will need to start again, by having a church shower. Hard working, creative volunteers devoted hours to planning the Hope Gala. The value of our cherished volunteers is impossible to measure, but we are very grateful for their contributions.

There was a significant increase in the mentorship component of Sonshine's volunteer program in 2011. Mentoring reinforced the community's commitment to Sonshine's families, letting them know they are not alone; that people care for them and are supporting the choices they are making to end the cycle of domestic violence in their lives. By



their acts of kindness and support, volunteers reinforce and supplement the empowering messages of building healthy relationships communicated by Sonshine counselors.

In 2012, a group of women from Life Connection Church will facilitate an opportunity for our families to get together, share a meal, and build community once a month. They will also direct Sonshine residents to community resources that will assist with their successful integration back into the community. This will happen in a safe environment with volunteers who have gone through Sonshine's screening process.

Throughout all the refining in staff and programming at Sonshine over this last year, two core strengths of our organization remain.

1. Brave women and children are making choices for healing and health
2. Generous volunteers cheer for their success with intentional acts of kindness.

Thank you to each and every volunteer.

*Terry-Mae Hepburn
Volunteer Coordinator*

“ Because humans are inescapably social beings, the worst catastrophes that can befall us inevitably involve relational loss. As a result, recovery from trauma and neglect is also all about relationships - rebuilding trust, regaining confidence, returning to a sense of security and reconnecting to love. Of course, medications can help relieve symptoms and talking to a therapist can be incredibly useful. But healing and recovery are impossible - even with the best medications and therapy in the world - without lasting, caring connections to others. ”

The Boy Who was Raised as a Dog, by Bruce D. Perry, M.D., Ph.D. and Maia Szalavitz, 2006, p 231.

Treasurer's Report for 2011

2011 was a successful year for Sonshine to celebrate. In a difficult year for fundraising, we were still able to report revenues of \$1.0 million. To operate our facility and services, our total expenses were over \$1.1 million in 2011.

Although we had to report a deficit for 2011, progress is being made in 2012 to reverse this. With a committed fundraising budget in place for 2012, we are very encouraged that we will be able to meet all of our operating needs in this year of hope. Our Capital Campaign, Firm Foundations, is giving us financial and operational momentum to gain strides in our fundraising efforts.

Sonshine faces a very real challenge in the 2012 year – although we are creating new initiatives to serve women and children fleeing domestic violence, this has yet to be met with committed funding from our provincial or federal government bodies. We assure our stakeholders we are continuing to explore every avenue of provincial and federal funding in order to execute our vision at Sonshine. Our operating requirements simply depend on it to secure our future for years to come.

Our approach to our financial responsibilities is one of conservatism. Our budgeted operating costs for 2012 are just under \$1.3 million, a realistic increase as we offer a broader scope of services to our families in 2012. We have thoroughly reviewed our costs entering into the new

year to ensure we are conservative in managing our resources effectively for our stakeholders.

We cannot thank you enough for your generous support of Sonshine in the past and for your continued financial support going forward in making a difference in the lives of our Calgary families.

We look forward to 2012 as a strong year of financial growth.

2011 Revenue



- Counseling Fees
- Designated donations
- Unrestricted donations
- Gala Income
- Grants
- Rental Income
- Day Homes Income

2011 Expenses



- General & Administrative
- Advertising & Marketing
- Salaries & Personnel
- Gala Expenses
- Facility Expenses
- Day Homes Expenses



Resource Development

A Charity is defined as an organization established to meet a community need. Charity is also a Christian virtue and is synonymous with the word mercy. Whether providing quality child care, professional counseling or a place of refuge for families affected by domestic violence; Sonshine Community Services is a charity that supports families in a merciful way. Resource Development works to translate Sonshine's vision in such a way that individuals and organizations invest in Sonshine's determination to support families and turn the tide on the tsunami of devastation that accompanies the trauma of domestic violence.

The Conference Board of Canada reported that in 2011, 5.7 million Canadians gave to Canada's 85,000 registered charities and that

Calgarians made an average donation of \$390, the second highest average per capita donation in Canada. Individuals who gave to Sonshine in 2011 gave in line with the average Calgarian's donation.

Many of Sonshine's donors are like the widow who gave from her modest means, while others gave from their excess. I am intrigued by what inspires people to invest their precious time, treasure or talent into a charitable mission, like Sonshine's. Motivations for giving are as varied as those who give. Theologian Fredrick Buchner suggests that the primary reason people are charitable is found in the intersection between the great needs of the world and an individual's life purpose.

He wrote, "The place to which God calls you is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." We aim to connect the "great gladness" of individuals and organizations with the deep needs of the women and children who find refuge in Sonshine Centre.

We are very grateful to every donor who gave from their heart to the ongoing operations of this important enterprise. The Calgary City Centre Canadian Progress Club spends their entire year raising money for Sonshine and we are humbled by their generosity. ConocoPhillips is a longstanding friend of Sonshine. They have linked arms with our organization to help fund operations and programs, clean walls on a Day of Caring, and celebrate our residents with thoughtful gifts at Christmas and throughout the year. Centre Street Church and River



Park Church support Sonshine with monthly donations of money, volunteers and prayer. Several anonymous donors provide core strength to our operation and we are indebted to them. We benefited from the generosity of a number of foundations including the Nickle Family Foundation, the Calgary Charitable Foundation and Canadian Woman's Foundation.

In the fall of 2011 we embarked on a Capital Campaign for a specialized Children's Centre that promises to help children who are traumatized by domestic violence, overcome their adversity and establish them on a path that will help them realize their potential. This initiative has given Sonshine a fresh opportunity to introduce our organization to new community partners.

In December, a group of junior high school students toured Sonshine. They were very interested in the work we did and excited to learn about the new Children's Centre. They wondered who paid for the work we do at Sonshine. I asked them who they thought should pay for it. I will never forget the answer that came from a sweet 12 year old girl. "We should," she said. "We all should." She is right. It takes a world of good to right the wrongs of a few. We are very grateful to the generous contributions of our faithful donors who are committed to doing just that.



Thank You Community Partners

\$100,000 +
Anonymous

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Alberta Children and Youth Services
Alberta Innovative Child Care Grant
Canadian Progress Club Calgary City Centre
The Calgary Herald Christmas Fund
The Calgary Real Estate Board Foundation
The Nickle Family Foundation

\$20,000 - \$49,999

Anonymous Donor
Canadian Women's Foundation
Centre Street Church
ConocoPhillips Canada
River Park Church

\$10,000 - \$19,999

The Calgary Charitable Foundation
The Calgary Homeless Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

BD Consulting Ltd.

Cenovus Employee Foundation
Foothills Alliance Church
Kern's Partners
Ptarmigan Charitable Foundation
Southview Alliance Church

\$1,000 - \$4,999

All Systems Contracting Calgary Inc. (ASCCI)
Alpha Construction
ATCO Gas
Butlers Inc.
Calgary Motor Dealers Association
Emmanuel Christian Reform Church
First Alliance Church
Olympia Charitable Foundation
Progress Exploration Partnership
Quadrus Charitable Foundation
Style Realty
Spectra Light Window Films
Telus Community Affairs
The Christian Reformed Church of Granum
The Garbage Company Inc.
Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada
WorleyParsons Resources & Energy

In-Kind Donors

Karla Smit Design
Minuteman Press
RAM Cleaning Services
The Sign Group, Inc.
Tippet Richardson Moving Services

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Thank you to my “adopt-a-family” and the Foothills Alliance Church for adopting my suite. Lots of people still care for us and don't forget about the single mother.”

2011 Resident

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2011 Partners in Service Awards

Sonshine Community Services relies on the support of community partners to deliver the high quality of programs and services that our city has come to expect. Each year Sonshine recognizes individuals or organizations that have made a valuable contribution of financial or in-kind support to Sonshine. We are pleased to honour the following Partners in Service Award recipients for the impact they have made in the lives of many women, men and children we serve.

Karla Smit

Karla is a very special gift to our organization. She is responsible for making our Annual Report and Gala marketing beautiful. During the day, Karla is a Graphic Designer for a local print shop, but her greatest passion is in using her creative gifts to help non-profits like Sonshine. Since 2009, she has donated countless hours of time and creativity to Sonshine's marketing efforts. She is responsible for the design of our newsletters and AGM reports. She is creative, responsive and patient with us. We are very grateful for her commitment to Sonshine Community Services.



BDD Artifex

BDD Artifex has played a major role in Sonshine's ability to effectively interface with corporate Calgary and tell its story to the community. In 2007, they donated their time and resources to provide Sonshine with a much needed complete overhaul of its marketing materials. They have also most recently designed our capital campaign materials and sit on our capital campaign committee to provide invaluable insight and suggestions as to how we can make this campaign a success. Without the support of BDD Artifex, Sonshine would not have been able to make the giant leap in its development that has occurred over the past 5 years. We are grateful for their willingness to assist us in fulfilling our mission.

Kevin Zerr is a multi-disciplinary designer and photographer who uses traditional and computer media to solve client needs in a creative and collaborative manner. Heidi Miller Zerr works with organizations to recognize, evaluate and bridge the gaps between operations, strategy development and execution within a framework of organizational development.

To Kevin and Heidi, we are forever grateful to you for your faithful service to Sonshine.



Sonshine Community Services

Leadership

Board of Directors

Bruce Daze
Chairman of the Board

Angela Gosselin
Treasurer

Sandy A. Vander Ziel

Philip C. Vander Ziel

Jeff Swart

Heidi DeJong

Donna Graham

Richard (Dick) Feasel

Marjorie Stobbe

Program Leadership

Joy Johnson-Green, PhD
Executive Director

Geri Karsten
Director of Residential and Community Programming

Kim Nystrom, Dip ECE
Director of Sonshine Family Day Homes

Jacquie Shand
Business Manager

Celina Laforet, NFRE
Resource Development Manager

Terry-Mae Hepburn
Volunteer Engagement

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

Sonshine Community Services
PO Box 34067 RPO Westbrook
Calgary AB T3C 3W2
Phone: 403.243.2002
Fax: 403.287.2194
Email: info@sonshine.ab.ca
www.sonshine.ab.ca

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 2012 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.