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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
September 2024 Edition

With immense gratitude...

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We ♥ our
community



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Hello . Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our work. We look forward to sharing more successes and milestones with you in the coming months.

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Welcome Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Partners,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of our quarterly newsletter! I am excited to bring you the latest updates from Ishtar Women's Resource Society and share how your generous donations are making a remarkable impact on our programs.

On behalf of the staff and board, I want to extend our deepest gratitude to all our donors. Your commitment and support are the foundation of our success. Together, we are building a brighter future for our communities.

As Ishtar continues its search for the next leader, I am honored to support the incredible work of this organization. If you have any questions about the Executive Director position, please feel free to [reach out](#).

With sincere appreciation,

Pany Aghili

Interim Executive Director

Your Impact

Because of your support, in the last fiscal year we:

- Housed 128 women and children at our transitional housing programs.
- Provided continued support to women and children impacted by violence through our Stopping the Violence (STV) and our PEACE program for children and youth, and held 3,574 counselling sessions.
- Assisted 56 survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and criminal harassment via our Community-Based Victim Services program.
- Supported women to find and move into affordable housing and be connected to the necessities for rebuilding their lives through our Outreach program.

Thank you for your continued generosity and belief in our mission.



We are grateful to our funders: BC Housing, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, and Ministry of Children and Family Development for their continued

support.

What Is New at Ishtar

Ishtar Women's Resources Society (Ishtar) is excited about the potential of 36 units of Second Stage Housing developed by Quadra Homes and operated by Ishtar. These housing units will enable Ishtar to meet the needs of women and children survivors of domestic violence beyond the immediate crisis at our transition houses and sustain women's success to break the cycle of abuse for themselves and for the future of their children.

Clients of Ishtar who will reside at Second Stage Housing are women, who often have children, and have left their abuser in pursuit of safety and a healthier life.

Women who qualify for Second Stage Housing program are women who are intent on rebuilding their lives and are looking for structured support that is provided through Second Stage Housing. They also must be willing to abide by program standards and requirements set to enhance safety and ensure success.

Second Stage Housing clients are supported by professional staff who connect clients to resources, assist them with family court and the criminal justice system, and assist them to secure employment or go back to school for better career opportunities. Clients will also have access to Stopping the Violence Counselling and children and youth will have access to PEACE counselling program and services that Ishtar offers at our main offices.

Women who have stayed at other Second Stage Housing programs report:

- Increased self confidence
- Empowered to regain control over their lives
- Gained resilience and strength to face future challenges of life
- Improved mental health
- And last but not least accessed a community that lifted them up and out of the most difficult part of their lives into a new stage of life where health, safety and a bright future for their children is a possibility.

That is why we are so excited about the potential Second Stage Housing program, and how it will enable Ishtar to empower women and children to break the cycle of abuse, rebuilding healthy lives.

Join us in supporting our vision.

Your donation will enable Ishtar to enhance services and provide a continuum of support, including workshops, activities, and other resources.

Your continued donations are essential in supporting

[Please Donate](#)

Ishtar to achieve its vision. Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a significant impact. Please consider donating today to help us continue our vital work.

Upcoming Events & Highlights

Back to School Period: The new school year has begun, and we have been able to provide back to school materials to Ishtar's children and youths in need. We are grateful for school backpacks and school supplies donated by JS Held LLC and the Jeremy's Memorial Foundation Against Domestic Violence. Their support of our students with these resources increase opportunities to succeed.



Shoppers Foundation for Women's Health™ Giving Shelter campaign:

From **Saturday, September 7 to Friday, October 4, 2024**, make an impact by:

Donating in-store

at any Shoppers Drug Mart store location at cash self-checkout.



\$2



\$5



\$10



\$20

Langley women are among 40% that will experience domestic violence in their lifetime – your support is needed now.

Unfortunately, violence against women is far more common than we realize - 2 in 5 Canadian women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. Many may not know that a friend, neighbour or coworker could be affected by domestic violence, as 80% of intimate partner violence cases continue to go unreported.

While many communities across Canada are experiencing a significant spike in intimate partner violence since 2020, shelters across the country – including right here in Langley, BC – lack adequate funds to support the high number of women and children escaping domestic violence.

At Ishtar Women's Resources Society, demand for support services is high. While staying at our transition houses, women and children are provided with food,

clothing, hygiene products, and school supplies. When leaving our housing programs, women are offered start up kits for their new homes and are supported through counselling and advocacy as they rebuild their lives free from violence.

Organizations like ours help women who experience intimate partner violence, providing life-saving services such as providing a safe place to stay, counselling, and financial and legal support.

Shelters like ours need help urgently, and the Shoppers Foundation for Women's Health is here to help women access the support they need. Here in Langley, community members can support Ishtar Women's Resource Society by donating at local Langley and Aldergrove Shoppers Drug Mart stores from September 7 to October 4, as well as online at shoppersfoundation.ca. Our supporting stores are Murrayville Square, Langley Crossing, Brookswood Mall, 208th St & 80 Ave, Thunderbird Village, and Aldergrove Village.

*Shoppers Foundation for Women's Health issues tax receipts for donations of \$20 or more made online only. When a donation is made online, an electronic tax receipt will be delivered via email, in PDF format. Tax receipts are not issued for in-store donations.

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We see you. We believe in you. You are not alone.

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