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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
March 2025 Edition

With immense gratitude...

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International Women's Day

As the days grow longer and the promise of spring begins to bloom, we are reminded of the resilience, strength, and beauty of women everywhere. March is a month of renewal, and it brings with it the global celebration of **International Women's Day on March 8th** - a time to honor the achievements of women and reaffirm our commitment to gender equality. As we prepare to embrace this season of growth and possibility, we stand together in solidarity, continuing our work toward a world where every woman and girl is empowered to reach her fullest potential.

In this issue, we reflect on the progress made, the challenges ahead, and the incredible individuals and movements that inspire us every day. Let's celebrate the power of women and the changes we are all working toward!

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Welcome to our New Executive Director

We are excited to welcome Julia (Boyle) Davidson and announce her appointment as the new Executive Director of Ishtar Women's Resource Society. With a wealth of experience in nonprofit leadership and a deep commitment to creating positive social change through fundraising, community development, and policy advocacy, Julia brings a fresh perspective and a passion for creating a lasting impact within our community.

Julia comes to us with over 10 years of experience in the nonprofit sector. Over the years, she has demonstrated exceptional leadership, strategic vision, and a relentless dedication to advancing causes that align with our values. In her previous role as Executive Director of AutismBC, Julia led a team of dedicated professionals striving to empower, support, and connect the autism community in British Columbia.

Julia's educational background includes a master's degree in International Development and Management from Lund University, Sweden, along with a focus in psychology as well as First Nations studies from the University of British Columbia. Julia is driven by the belief that every woman and child deserves to live in safety, free from fear and violence, and we are confident that under her guidance, Ishtar will continue to thrive and make a positive difference.

Welcome to Ishtar, Julia!



Extraordinary Support Received in the Past 6 Months:

From the beginning of the school year through the winter season, the level of support has been amazing

A Heartfelt Thank You for Your Incredible Support

As we reflect on the last six months, we are filled with immense gratitude for the incredible support we've received from both organizations and individuals. It's been a time of immense challenges that has had a negative effect on many nonprofits, yet thanks to your generosity, we have been able to continue our important work without interruption, staying true to our mission and making a meaningful difference in the lives of those who need it most.

In an era marked by uncertainty and economic hardship, the kindness and dedication we've witnessed are nothing short of remarkable. Every donation, every contribution, whether financial or in-kind, has helped us move closer to achieving our goals. The impact of your support is immeasurable. Your compassion has not only allowed us to continue to uphold our services but has also enabled us to expand our reach and serve even more people who rely on our resources.

In-Kind Donations: Making a Difference Every Day

The range of in-kind donations we have received over the past six months has been astounding. From essential goods and much-needed supplies to toys for children and youth, each donation has been a vital part of sustaining our operations. These donations, particularly during tough economic times, have been incredibly valuable, helping us reduce operational costs and directly benefit those in need.

A special thank you to the businesses, community groups, and individuals who have stepped forward with these tangible contributions. Whether it was food, clothing, hygiene and beauty products, school supplies, toys or even gift cards, your generosity has made a real difference in the lives of those we serve.

Monetary Donations: A Lifeline of Support

The monetary donations we have received have also been overwhelming, providing us with the flexibility to allocate resources where they are most needed. These funds have gone directly into programs and initiatives that support our mission, from outreach efforts to educational workshops and community services. With these donations, we've been able to continue to make a positive impact in the community, ensuring that we can keep up with demand and maintain the high standards of service that our beneficiaries rely on.

In a time of economic strain, these donations have been a lifeline. The kindness and trust placed in us by our donors have allowed us to keep our programs running smoothly and remain resilient in the face of adversity.

Why Your Support Matters

At the core of everything we do is the belief that a compassionate and connected community can overcome even the toughest challenges. These past six months have proven that, and your support reinforces our commitment to that vision. Every donation—whether it be a large sum or a small item—has a ripple effect, helping to strengthen our community and create lasting change.

We are honoured to be able to serve those in need, and it is thanks to the incredible generosity of people like you that we are able to do so. Your support directly contributes to improving lives, building hope, and creating opportunities for those who may be facing tough times.

Looking Ahead: Together, We Continue to Make a Difference

As we move forward into the coming months, we know that we can continue to count on your support. With your help, we are confident that we can meet the ongoing challenges, grow our reach, and make an even greater impact. We look forward to continuing to work together with all of you—organizations, individuals, and community partners—to bring about positive change.

On behalf of everyone at Ishtar Women's Resource Society, we offer our deepest thanks. Your support, in whatever form it takes, has been an essential part of our success. Together, we are building a better future, one generous act at a time.

Thank you for believing in our mission, and for being a part of the incredible work we do. We couldn't do it without you!

With gratitude,

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.



Ministry of
Public Safety and
Solicitor General



Ministry of
Education and
Child Care

A Report on Services Received from Ishtar Women's Resource Society: A Story of Hope and Healing

The following made up story serves to give a generalised example of the kinds of experiences shared by many women who have sought help from Ishtar Women's Resource Society over the years. While each individual's journey is unique, the challenges of escaping abuse, finding safety, and rebuilding a life are common threads that run through the stories of countless women and children who have walked through our doors. This example account highlights the comprehensive support we offer, from temporary shelter and counselling to legal assistance and victim services, all aimed at helping women regain control of their lives and heal from trauma.

I arrived at Ishtar House during one of the hardest times of my life. After leaving an abusive relationship, I felt lost and overwhelmed, not knowing how to move forward for myself or my children. I was scared and unsure, and I knew I couldn't keep living in the situation I was in. I needed help, and that's when I found Ishtar Women's Resource Society.

The first thing I needed was a safe place to stay. The shelter they offered gave me and my children a secure place away from the danger we had been living with. It wasn't just a place to sleep—it became a space where we could start to heal and feel safe again. I didn't realize how much I needed that time to rest and find my footing until I had it.

But the help didn't stop there. Ishtar offered counseling for me. I had been carrying the pain of abuse for so long, and talking to a counsellor helped me start to understand my feelings and begin to heal. The counsellor listened without

judging me and helped me find ways to cope with the trauma. I also learned to recognize the signs of abuse and how to rebuild my self-confidence, which had been broken down over time.

My children, who had also been hurt by the abuse, received counselling too. At first, they were quiet and scared, but the counsellor worked with them patiently, helping them express their feelings in healthy ways. After a few months, I noticed a big change. They started playing again, laughing more, and seemed less afraid.

Ishtar also provided victim services that helped me a lot. They guided me through the tough process of filing police reports, understanding my rights, and dealing with the legal system. Their support wasn't just emotional—they also helped me figure out the steps I needed to take to protect myself and my family. When it was time to go to court, I wasn't alone. Staff from the organization came with me, giving me support and comfort throughout the whole process.

They also helped me with paperwork, which felt overwhelming. I didn't know where to start with applying for legal aid, income assistance, or finding housing. The staff took the time to explain each form and what I needed to do. They also helped me look into second-stage housing when I was ready to leave the shelter and find a more permanent home. It felt like I was being given the tools I needed to rebuild my life, step by step.

I can't say enough how much the support from this non-profit organization has meant to me and my children. Having a safe place to stay, professional counselling, legal help, and emotional support has made all the difference. Today, we are healing, and I feel stronger and more hopeful about the future.

I will always be grateful to Ishtar Women's Resource Society for being there when I had nowhere else to turn. Their commitment to helping women and children escape violence and abuse is life-changing, and I will never forget how they helped me regain my life and my dignity.



Support Ishtar by sharing your story of healing

If you are a present or past client of Ishtar's who wishes to share your personal story anonymously, please reach out to our Community Relations Assistant at

communityrelations@ishtarsociety.org.

Success Story: Gratitude from a Past Client

Dear (Women's Support Workers) ❤️❤️❤️,

I hope this message finds you both well and in great spirits.

As we approach this wonderful holiday season, I wanted to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude and share some wonderful updates about our lives. It has been three months since we moved from the (Ishtar) transitional house, and while we are incredibly happy in our new home, we often think of you both with great fondness and miss you dearly. Your kindness, support, and encouragement during one of the most challenging times in our lives will always hold a special place in our hearts.

Thanks to (the Women's Support Workers) efforts, (Son) now has a beautiful new big bed provided by the Ministry. He loves it so much! It has made a world of difference for him, and he is incredibly happy and comfortable. My son has also started playing basketball at school and is making great progress! He is enjoying it a lot, and I know you would be proud to see how far he has come.

We warmly remember our time in the transitional house and feel so fortunate to have had your guidance and care.

As the holiday season draws near, we want to extend our warmest wishes to you and your families. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May this season bring you endless joy, love, and peace❤️.

With love and gratitude,

(Client) and the kids ❤️

** The names of the client and staff were removed from this story to ensure client privacy.*

With Gratitude

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank some of the organizations that have supported Ishtar with either in-kind or monetary donations since the beginning of our current fiscal year:

- 0821345 BC LTD, Check N Loans
- Amazon, Inc-Grants
- Close Knit Langley
- Coast Capital Savings
- Coghlan Fundamental Elementary
- Costco Wholesale Canada Ltd
- Dr. Fatemeh Basij Inc DBA Allard Dental Centre
- Fort Langley Lions Club
- Fred & Judy DeVries Foundation
- Gateway Casinos & Entertainment Limited
- Greater Langley Chamber of Commerce
- GYBO - Get Your Books Outsourced
- Holland Imports
- Infinite Expansion Foundation
- Jeremy's Memorial Foundation Against Domestic Violence

- JS Held LLC
- La Vie en Rose
- Ladies Aux to RCL #265
- Langley Good Times Cruise-In Society
- Langley Presbyterian Church
- Langley Quilters Guild
- Longboard Architectural Products Inc
- Meme Brooks Design Inc
- North Langley Community Church
- Northern Reflections
- OK Tire Stores, Langley
- Panorama Wellness Group Inc
- Pharmasave Drugs (National) Ltd
- Poppy Estate Ladies Golf Club
- Provincial Employees Community Services Fund
- Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) Vancouver Regional Women's Committee
- Rack Fashions
- Reflection Development Ltd
- Reitmans (Canada) Limited
- Rona Foundation
- Royal LePage Shelter
- SCR Golf Group
- Shoppers Foundation for Women's Health
- Spinco Cloverdale
- Surrey Ladies Golf Club
- Texas Smoke BBQ
- The Body Shop
- The Huntsfield Green Social Club
- Township of Langley Professional Firefighters Local 4550 Charitable
- United Churches of Langley Women
- Vintage Feminist
- West Coast Beauty
- Westland Insurance

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

Your continued donations are essential in supporting 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.

[Click Here to Donate](#)

Upcoming Events & Highlights

Spring Fundraising - March through June

Spring into Action for Women's Empowerment: "As spring blooms, sow seeds of change for women's empowerment. Donate now to nurture opportunities and growth for women in need."

International Women's Day - March 8th

Celebrated globally, this day recognizes the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. It also calls for gender equality and women's rights.

Rotary Clubs of Langley & Aldergrove 13th Annual International Women's Day Luncheon - March 8th, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm

- Woman of Distinction Awards, Silent Auction, and 50/50 Draw
- All proceeds from this lunch will go to Ishtar Women's Resource Society
- Tickets: \$60/person or \$450/table of 8.
- Venue: Adrian's at the Airport, 5385 216 Street, Langley, BC V2Y 2N3
- Keynote Speaker: Beverlee Rasmussen, MA CED PCC, Business Coach
- Link: RotaryWomensDay.com

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - March 21st

While this is a global observance, it has particular resonance in BC, where communities work to address issues of racial discrimination, which intersect significantly with women's rights.

Earth Day - April 22nd

Be a Lifeline: "Be the lifeline women need. Your donation provides critical support services for those in crisis."

National Volunteer Week - April 27th to May 3rd

Join Our Cause: "Volunteer with us to support women and their families. Your time and dedication make a meaningful impact in our community."

Sexual Assault Awareness Month - May

Canada's Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), observed in May, is dedicated to raising public awareness about sexual violence and its impact on individuals and communities. It serves as a time to educate the public, support survivors, and promote prevention strategies. Throughout the month, various organizations, advocacy groups, and communities organize events, campaigns, and discussions to foster understanding, challenge harmful attitudes, and advocate for policies that address sexual assault and support survivors on their healing journeys.

Langley Walk - May 4th

Held annually, usually in May. This community walk encourages health and fitness while raising funds for various local charities and initiatives.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Awareness Day - May 5th

Honour and Remember: "Join us in honouring and remembering the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls."

Red Dress Day - May 5th

Red Dress Day, observed annually on May 5th, is a day to raise awareness and honor missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people in Canada and the United States. The red dress has become a symbol of the epidemic of violence faced by Indigenous women and serves as a visual reminder of the many lives lost and affected. The initiative began with the REDress Project, an art installation by Métis artist Jaime Black, where red dresses are hung in public spaces to represent the missing and murdered individuals. The day involves various activities, including marches, educational events, and community gatherings to bring attention to this critical issue and advocate for justice and change.

Mother's Day - May 11th

Celebrate Mothers, Support Women: "Celebrate Mother's Day by supporting women everywhere. Your donation honors mothers and empowers women to create brighter futures."

Moose Hide Campaign - May 16th

The Moose Hide Campaign is a Canadian grassroots movement aimed at ending violence against women and children, particularly focusing on Indigenous communities. The campaign encourages men and boys to take a stand against violence by wearing a small piece of moose hide as a symbol of their commitment. It promotes awareness, education, and action through various events and initiatives, fostering a safer environment for women and children and promoting gender equality.

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

Our mailing address is:

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