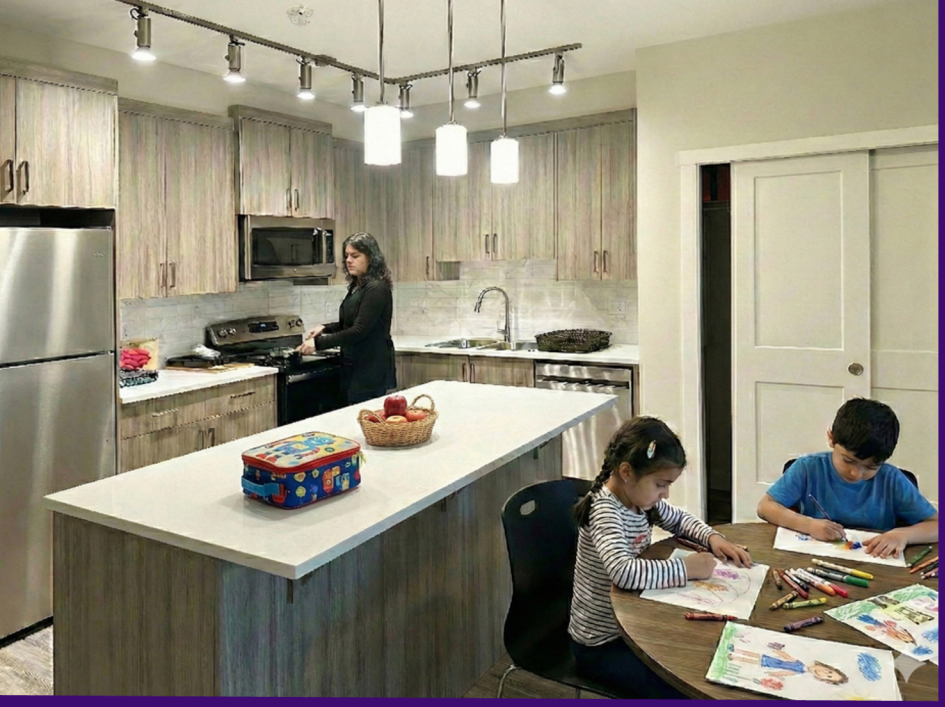




Annual Report

2025-2026







Ishtar
Women's Resource Society

We gratefully acknowledge

that our work takes place on the traditional and unceded territories of the Katzie, Kwantlen, Matsqui, Stó:lō, and Tsawwassen First Nations.

We express our respect and gratitude for their ongoing connection to this land.



We also recognize the ongoing impacts of colonialism, including the disproportionate violence experienced by indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit people.

The Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls remind us that addressing gender-based violence, domestic violence, and human trafficking is a shared responsibility.

We commit to listening with care, centering Indigenous voices, and working toward a community grounded in safety, dignity, and respect for all.

Map Source: Google Maps

Vision

Feminist leaders working together locally to eliminate violence against women globally.

Mission

Ishtar advocates for, supports, and empowers women and their children who have been affected by abuse in all forms by providing safe housing, counselling, and education.

Values

In our everyday practice, we are held accountable by the values that connect us:

Integrity, Honesty, Trust, and Respect.

These values guide our relationship with each other and our work with women and children.

Ishtar
Women's Resource Society

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion





Commitment to Anti-Oppression

Working from an anti-oppressive framework, Ishtar is committed to providing equal and socially-inclusive services so that no one faces discrimination based on race, culture, national origin, ethnicity, religion, spirituality, sexual orientation, gender identity, health, social condition, and mental or physical disability or ability.

Values and Equity of Access

Ishtar recognizes that providing equality of access and opportunity means actively challenging discrimination and removing barriers to accessing our services.

Staff Diversity as Strength

Ishtar's staff and Board of Directors reflect a wide diversity of cultures and lived experiences. Our diversity strengthens our ability to serve our community with insight, empathy, and responsiveness.

"Our diversity strengthens our ability to serve our community."



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Message from the Board Chair

This fiscal year has brought Ishtar Women's Resource Society into a new phase of development. Ishtar has successfully opened its first second-stage housing facility, providing 33 safe and secure homes in Langley at New Roots House.

This has been a long-term goal for Langley and Ishtar and one that the Board is extremely proud to be a part of. New Roots House is part of the continuum of housing where women can transition from a short 30-day stay to up to 18 months, which will help women create a safe and stable foundation in which they can continue on their own unique path towards healing and wellness.

The Board has a vital role to play, and I am thankful to work alongside such dedicated women who understand the vision that we hold for Ishtar. Diana Bryant, Vice-Chair brings a strong background in human resources and non-profit experience; Victoria Smith, Treasurer, offers her financial expertise; and Kiran Kooner is expert in union management. This year we have added two new members: Anisha Grewal, Secretary and legal expert, and Elaine O'Conner who has a background in communications. Two members have left the board to focus on family commitments, Hanh Gerry and Kirti Naslund. I wish to thank past and present members for their insightful and valuable expertise and knowledge which contributes to the continued success of Ishtar.

Ishtar relies on government funding for the majority of its programs, and we are grateful for the funding we receive from our provincial partners, especially in the wake of the economic restraints that the province finds itself in. We are also extremely grateful for the many donations we receive from members in our community. Whether large or small, we are grateful that Ishtar holds a place in your heart.

Ishtar cannot be the organization that it is without the incredible leadership of the management team led by the Executive Director, Julia Boyle Davidson. We are very happy to work alongside a motivated and driven management team. 2026-2027 annual goals for Ishtar include these three top goals: improvements in the operation and delivery of core services and programs; employee recruitment and retention; and participating in the BC Housing Operations Review with a focus on policy review and development.



Board Chair, Dawn-Marie Hugh

Thank you for this opportunity to continue in the role of Board Chair. I look forward to another year of working alongside a team of dedicated professionals that share in the vision and mission of the Society.

Championing equity, safety, and resilience - working together to build a community where every woman is supported to rebuild her life.

Ishtar Women's Resource Society Opens New Roots House in February 2026 in the Township of Langley

After 52 years of providing transition housing to women affected by intimate partner violence, Ishtar Women's Resource Society is excited to have launched its first second-stage housing facility in Langley Township. Opened in February 2026 with the support of BC Housing, New Roots House provides a safe place for 33 women and their children to recover from domestic violence, rebuild their lives, and put down new roots. The 33 units include 13 1-bedroom units and 20 2-bedroom units with 3 or 4 beds. Two units are accessible units, and a number of the units will accommodate pets.



Breaking away from Ishtar's tradition of using goddess or goddess-inspired names for their housing, New Roots House was named by Ishtar staff to symbolize a fresh beginning and the strength to grow in new soil. New Roots represents more than housing it's a space for healing, growth, and empowerment where women and children can rebuild stability, confidence, and community connections after violence. New Roots will be a place of transformation on the journey of rebuilding after the trauma of living in a violent relationship and home.

At Ishtar, we believe every woman deserves not only safety, but the chance to thrive. New Roots is where that future begins. New Roots opened at a time of great need for Ishtar clients and the Langley community living through a housing and affordability crisis. New Roots is the first second-stage housing facility for women affected by intimate partner violence in Langley. Also available in the same housing facility are 48 long-term housing units for women affected by gender-based violence, providing additional continuity of support for survivors. The absence of affordable housing forces many women to make impossible choices - to either remain in unsafe situations or relocate far from their communities and support networks. We are grateful for the support of BC Housing, the Township of Langley, and the City of Langley in making this housing available locally at a confidential location.

Transition housing is designed to be a short-term solution for women after they leave violent homes, allowing them to be protected and supported through short-term safety planning and goal setting. But in the absence of a second-stage program, many of Ishtar's clients ended up staying closer to six months. It's not realistic for someone who's just been through a traumatic life experience to move into a transition home and then find permanent housing 30 days later. In just the first few months we've already seen New Roots House alleviate some of the strain on our transition houses, allowing more women to access immediate services while residents in need of longer-term support are moved into a facility that is better suited to their needs.

The most rewarding piece for Ishtar staff is being able to offer women real security and safety after having gone through hell. One of the most rewarding moments at Ishtar has been showing women their new home. It's that moment where it becomes real for them, where they're seeing where their life is going. Seeing the excitement on future residents' faces when they see that they will have a brand-new, safe, stable home has greatly encouraged staff. It's a really beautiful moment to be opening this housing facility, providing real solutions to help women leave violent relationships and build safer, happier lives for themselves and for their children.



Ishtar House Relocation

After months of planning and preparation, Ishtar House relocated to its new home. The new Ishtar House provides 15 beds, along with a second-stage suite, creating a safe, welcoming environment where women and children can begin their journey from crisis to stability. The new Ishtar House was temporarily closed to complete the move and address electrical needs; however, these challenges were met with determination and a steadfast commitment to ensure the new house met the high safety and living standards that our clients deserve.

If the following statistics could talk, they would scream themselves off the page. In BC, nearly half (48% of women over the age of 15 have experienced intimate partner violence[1], and **more than a third (37%)** have been sexually assaulted.[2] Battered Women's Support Services reported that between August 2024 and December 19, 2025, at least **40 women had been killed** in British Columbia. Many were killed by current or former intimate partners or other people known to them.[3] Together with feminist, Indigenous, and anti-violence organizations and actors across BC and Canada, Ishtar Women's Resource Society is calling on local and provincial governments to treat gender-based violence as a public safety emergency.

[1] Statistics Canada, "Self-Reported Sexual Assault since Age 15 (Table 35-10-0166-01)" (December 2, 2020), https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=3510016601
[2] Statistics Canada, "Intimate Partner Violence, since Age 15 and in the Past 12 Months, by Selected Characteristics of Victim (Table 35-10-0205-01, British Columbia)" (January 10, 2023), https://doi.org/10.25318/3510020501-eng.
[3] Battered Women Support Services, "Crime Is Down" But Women Are Being Killed Pamela Jarvis's Death Exposes a Failure in BC's Public Safety Framework (December 19, 2025), https://www.bwss.org/crime-is-down-but-women-are-being-killed-pamela-jarviss-death-exposes-a-failure-in-bcs-public-safety-framework/

Ishtar & Libra Transition Houses

Program Overview

Since 1973, Ishtar Transition House - and since 1993, Libra Transition House - have provided confidential support to women and children fleeing violence in Langley and Aldergrove. Our trauma-informed, culturally responsive, woman-centered services prioritize safety, dignity, and healing through crisis intervention, safety planning, advocacy, parenting support, and connections to longer-term resources. Libra House also welcomes pets, helping families remain together during times of crisis.

The relocation of Ishtar House to its new home has expanded our capacity to support women and families. The new facility offers more spacious accommodations and spaces that provide greater comfort, privacy, and support for residents and their children.

Transforming moments of displacement and fear into secure, supported transitions - offering holistic care to help women and children heal and thrive.



94
Women & Children Received Transition Housing



1,415
Crisis Calls Answered



PEACE Program for Children & Youth

Program Overview

PEACE stands for Prevention, Education, Advocacy, Counselling, and Empowerment. It is designed to help children and youth understand and cope with the effects of witnessing or experiencing violence in their homes, particularly domestic violence against women.

The PEACE program empowers families to build positive connections and heal relationships through educational and recreational activities. A key highlight was the Summer Horse Camp; despite exceptionally hot weather, the program was a resounding success—so much so that popsicles became a mandatory part of the daily routine. In addition, two Family Fun Day Camps offered meaningful bonding experiences, including excursions to the Greater Vancouver Zoo and the Otter Co-op Outdoor Experience. These family-focused activities are carefully designed to rebuild and strengthen bonds strained by intimate partner violence.



1,007
One-on-one Psychoeducational Support Sessions



46*
Family Sessions



899*
Child and Youth Sessions



79%
Increase in Service Delivery



62*
Caregiver Sessions



112
New Referrals

*These values are included in the 1,007 one-on-one psychoeducataional support sessions.

Domestic Violence Liaison

Program Overview

Through a close collaboration with the Ministry of Children & Family Development (MCFD), the Domestic Violence Liaison (DVL) Program supports survivors in understanding and navigating the expectations of the child welfare system while keeping the safety and well-being of both parents and their children at the forefront. By bridging the gap between survivors and the systems they are working with, this program helps reduce barriers, strengthen self-determination, and support families in moving toward safer, more stable futures. This collaborative, trauma-informed approach ensures that survivors are better equipped to navigate complex systems while their voices, choices, personal safety, and family relationships remain central to the process.

The DVL worker provides module-based learning as one form of support and works collaboratively with MCFD staff, service providers, and community resources to ensure families receive coordinated, compassionate support.



66
Women Served

29%
Increase In Women Served From 2024-2025

Guiding survivors through complex systems with immediate support, trauma-informed advocacy, and pathways toward lasting independence.

STV Counselling Services

Program Overview

The Stopping the Violence (STV) Program provides counselling for women and gender-diverse individuals who have experienced violence or abuse. Counsellors use a feminist, trauma-informed, and strengths-based approach that recognizes the impact of abuse while supporting clients to draw on their resilience, strengthen their sense of safety and choice, and move toward healing and well-being.

During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, demand for STV counselling services remained significant. To help meet this need, the clinical internship program expanded the program's counselling capacity, resulting in a meaningful reduction in the waitlist. As a result, women were able to access trauma-informed counselling within approximately four months, compared with seven months in the previous year.



1,804
Total Individual Counselling Sessions



919*
Individual Counselling Sessions delivered by Interns



55
Group Counselling Sessions



58*
Individuals Counselled by Interns



96
Client Intakes



*These values are included in the 1,804 total individual counselling sessions.

Community-Based Victim Services

Program Overview

Community-Based Victim Services (CBVS) continues to provide vital support, advocacy, and assistance to individuals impacted by crime and trauma. The program remains committed to ensuring that clients receive ongoing, individualized support tailored to their unique needs as they navigate the impacts of traumatic incidents and the justice system.

Through this direct support, staff stood alongside clients as they navigated the justice system, providing reassurance, advocacy, and a compassionate presence during what can be a challenging and overwhelming process.



191
Referrals Processed

189
Clients Actively Engaged (+3.9%)

927
Court Updates (+44.8%)

215
Crime Victim Assistant Program Applications Completed

107.5 Hrs
In-Person Court Accompaniment (+53.6%)

Walking alongside survivors through complex systems, providing practical support, advocacy, and a sense of safety.

Community Outreach Program

A New Approach

The Outreach Program underwent important restructuring during the fiscal year to strengthen its ability to support women and families. The program has shifted toward a more intentional approach focused on clear goal setting and comprehensive support rather than primarily triaging immediate needs.

This restructuring reflects the team's commitment to improving the quality and continuity of services provided to women and families. Moving forward, the Outreach team aims to expand group programming, deepen community partnerships, and deliver more holistic and responsive support.

59

Women & Families Housed

1. CONDUCTING CLIENT INTAKES

GATHERING PERSONAL & FAMILY INFORMATION TO UNDERSTAND NEEDS

2. BUILDING TRUST & RELATIONSHIP

CREATING A SAFE, EMPATHETIC SPACE FOR COMMUNICATION

3. CLEAR GOAL SETTING

WORKING TOGETHER TO DEFINE REALISTIC & ACHIEVABLE STEPS FORWARD

4. PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT

ADDRESSING WIDER NEEDS LIKE HOUSING, FINANCES, LEGAL AID

5. ADVOCACY & SYSTEM NAVIGATION

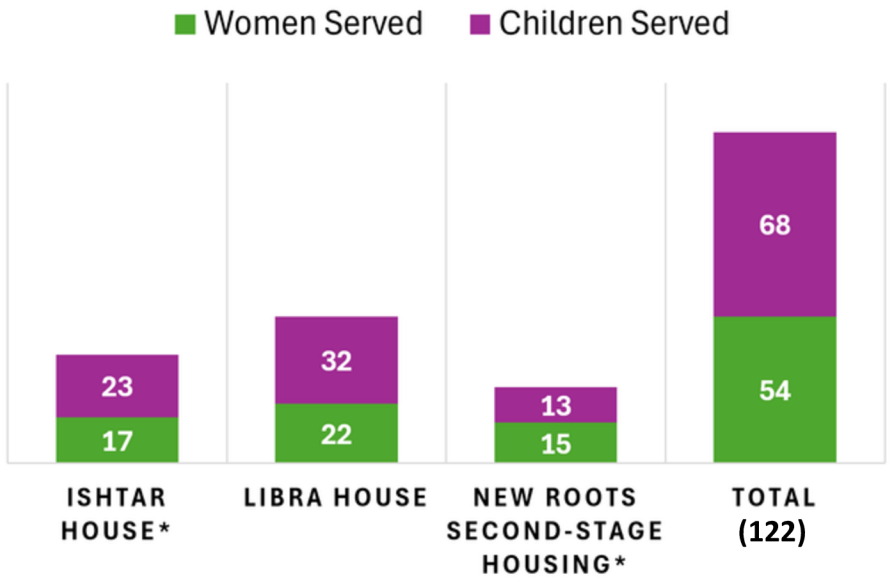
GUIDING CLIENTS THROUGH COMPLEX SOCIAL & JUSTICE SYSTEMS

6. GROUP PROGRAMMING & PEER SUPPORT

FACILITATING GROUP SESSIONS, REDUCING ISOLATION, BUILDING SKILLS

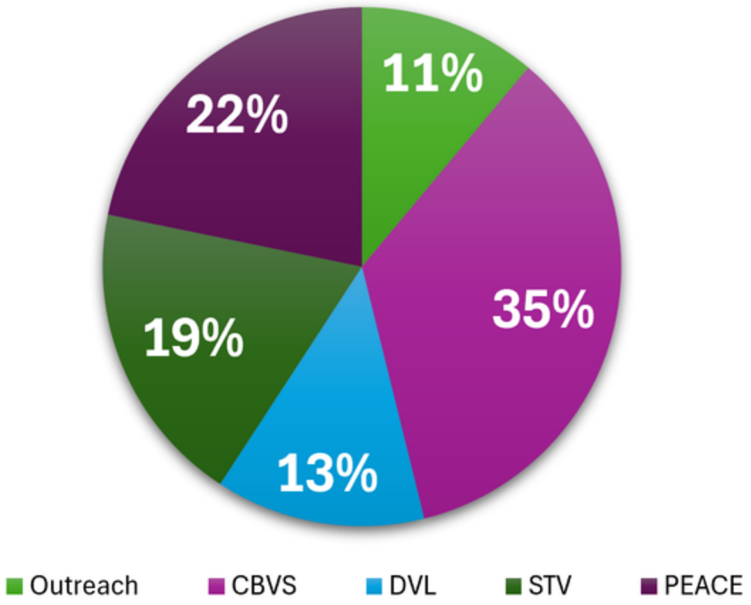
Impact by the Numbers: 2025-2026

122 Women & Children Served in Our Houses



*Ishtar House was closed for relocation and renovations for a portion of the year. New Roots House started accepting residents in March 2026.

395 Women & Children Served In Other Programs



Client Impact Story

In the summer of 2022, when I first reported the sexual abuse I experienced as a child, I was overwhelmed, frightened, and unsure of what came next. The staff at Ishtar were instrumental in helping me take those first steps. Through their support, I was able to access counselling services when I needed them most, navigate the CVAP application process, and eventually connect with the therapist who continues to help me heal today. Looking back, I truly do not know how I would have navigated those early days without the guidance, compassion, and advocacy that Ishtar provided.

In the late spring of 2026, I received the verdict on my birthday. The man who abused me was found guilty on all counts.

As I reflect on the nearly four-year journey between reporting and verdict, I find myself incredibly thankful for the people who helped me along the way. There were many moments when I felt overwhelmed by the process, but I never felt alone. Knowing there were people in my corner made all the difference.

Thank you again for everything you did for me. Your guidance, advocacy, and compassion helped carry me through one of the most difficult chapters of my life. I will always be grateful that Ishtar was there when I needed help the most.



If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, help is available

You can call these numbers 24/7:

Ishtar Transition House
604-530-9442 or
Libra Transition House
at 604-857-5797.

You can also contact:

🔗 Visit VictimLinkBC.ca or
📱 Call/text 1-800-563-0808
📧 Email VictimLinkBC@bc211.ca

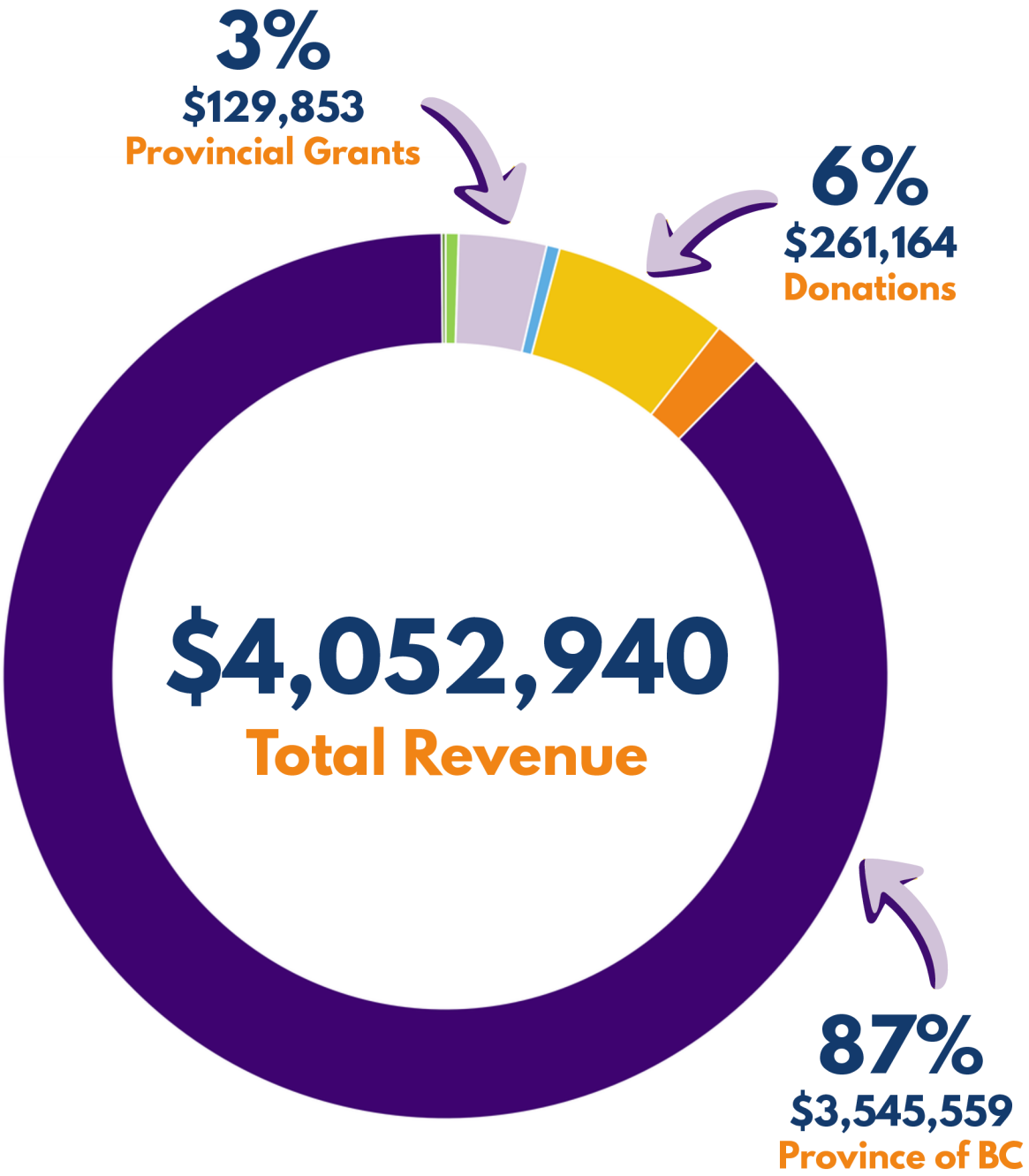
If you are in immediate danger call 911.

We see you.

We believe in you.

You are not alone.

Financial Overview



Donor Story: A Gift That Came Full Circle

This year, Ishtar Women's Resource Society had the privilege of welcoming the executor of a legacy gift made by an elderly couple who had recently passed away. She visited our office to personally deliver the donation on behalf of their estate.

During her visit, she gently shared, with deep emotion, a fragmented but meaningful story from her early childhood. As a very young child, she and her mother fled domestic violence. They found refuge in a women's transition house during a deeply traumatic period in their lives. It was there that her mother formed a connection with a couple who offered kindness and support at a time when it was needed most.



The effects of those early experiences stayed with both her mother and herself. In time, they took the steps they needed to rebuild their lives by entering protective custody. She grew up and and went on to find success in a creative field, while many of the details of those early difficult years faded into memory. Then came the news of the couple's passing and their legacy gift to Ishtar.

She described her shock at learning of the inheritance and the profound emotion of a chapter in her life she had not thought about in many years. The personal inheritance will now support the care of her elderly mother, bringing the story, in many ways, full circle.

While we will never know all the details of the circumstances or connections that led this couple to include Ishtar in their estate plans, their gift stands as a powerful reminder that an act of compassion can reach far beyond the moment in which it is offered.

A moment of safety and kindness, given decades ago, has echoed forward into a legacy of care - one that will help provide safety, support, and hope to women and children seeking refuge today.

To support our work

and help more women and families find safety, consider donating at

🔗 **ishtarsociety.org/how-to-give/**

Donors and Funders: With Gratitude

Ishtar Women's Resource Society is deeply grateful to the donors, funders, foundations, businesses, community organizations, and individuals who supported our work throughout the 2025–2026 fiscal year.

Your generosity helps make it possible for women and children affected by abuse to find safety, support, and hope. Whether through government funding, grants, corporate and community partnerships, individual donations, or in-kind contributions, every form of support strengthens our ability to provide compassionate, responsive services to those who need them.

This year, your support helped us continue providing safe housing, counselling, advocacy, outreach, and other essential services across our community. It also contributed to the growth of our housing capacity and the opening of New Roots Second-Stage House, creating additional opportunities for women and families to move forward on their journeys toward safety and independence.

We recognize that behind every contribution is a choice to stand with women and children experiencing violence. We are honoured by the trust placed in Ishtar and grateful for the many people and organizations who continue to believe in the importance of our work.

Thank you for standing with us, investing in our community, and helping create safer futures for women and children.



With Deep Appreciation to our Community Partners:

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Supporting Organizations

- BC Society of Transition Houses (BCSTH)
- Beem Credit Union
- Canadian National Christian Foundation
- CBM Lawyers LLP
- CEFA Daycare & Early Learning Centres (Campbell Heights & Morgan Crossing)
- Club Pilates Willowbrook
- Costco RTV
- Dave and Sandy Wallace Foundation
- Ending Violence Association of BC
- Engel & Völkers West Vancouver
- ET Group
- First West Foundation
- Fred & Judy DeVries Fund
- Gateway Casinos & Entertainment Limited - Head Office
- Great Big Solutions
- GYBO - Get Your Books Outsourced
- Habitat for Humanities
- Helping Hearts Youth Foundation
- Hydrist
- Jeremy's Memorial Foundation Against Domestic Violence
- Langley Loafers Hot Rod Club (Race Account)
- Langley Quilters Guild
- Langley Rotary Clubs Charitable Foundation
- Latimer Road Elementary School
- Law Foundation of British Columbia (UVic)
- Lindsay Kenney LLP
- Living Waters Church
- Meme Brooks Design Inc.
- Nightshift Street Ministries
- Orangewood Homes
- Provincial Employees Community Services Fund
- Rack Fashions & Colin McWhinnie
- Raymond James Canada Foundation
- Re/Max Treeland Realty
- Reitmans (Canada) Limited
- Rejuva Medispa & Laser
- Roofing Contractors Association of British Columbia (RCABC)
- Rotary Club of Langley Sunrise
- Royal LePage Shelter Foundation
- Royal LePage Wolstencroft
- SCR Golf Group
- Shoppers Drug Mart, 208th & 80th
- Shoppers Drug Mart, Aldergrove Village
- Shoppers Drug Mart, Brookwswood
- Shoppers Drug Mart, Langley Crossing
- Shoppers Drug Mart, Murrayville Square
- Shoppers Drug Mart, Thunderbird Village
- Shoppers Foundation for Women's Health
- Southridge Dental
- Stonehaus Realty Corp
- The Fort Ladies
- Tops BC 2800 Port Kells Branch (Jane Donohoe)
- Township of Langley Professional Firefighters Local 4550 (Murrayville), Charitable
- United Churches of Langley Women
- USC Utility Supply (West) Corp.
- Vancity Savings Credit Union
- Vancouver Police Department
- Verosimile Design
- Wellden Fitness Inc
- Westland Insurance Group Ltd
- Westminster Lodge of Freemasons No 174 A F & A M
- WSP Engineering

Looking Ahead to 2026-2027

The 2025-2026 fiscal year ushered in transformative growth for Ishtar, highlighted by the opening of New Roots House, a beautiful 33-unit second-stage housing facility, and the relocation of Ishtar Transition House from an aging facility to a bright, modern new home. In its new location, Ishtar Transition House includes a lock-off second-stage unit, expanding our Second-Stage Housing Program across two locations.



These new beginnings also require ongoing program design, evaluation, and fine-tuning. Ishtar is guiding its staff and programs through a vital learning phase to ensure program policies and practices are practical, complementary, and sustainable. In the year ahead, Ishtar will focus on testing its new Second-Stage Housing Program and identifying ways to adapt its services to achieve the greatest impact. These efforts will also include reviewing how to wrap our Outreach, Victim Services, and STV and PEACE Counselling Services around our new housing programs and residents. We are excited for this next phase as it further elevates our mission of advocating for, supporting, and empowering women and children who have been affected by violence. We are grateful to our funders and generous community members for supporting the launch of these two new housing facilities. We are particularly grateful to donors who recognize that launching a new program is just the start of a financial project and partnership. As we transition from the start-up phase into general operations, we will continue to lean on our community members to help make New Roots and Ishtar House a success. Together, we lift the Langley community up by creating safe, supportive environments and programs for women and children to heal from violence and abuse.

We would be grateful for your ongoing support of our new Second-Stage Housing Program.

Every gift helps us provide immediate safety, healing, and long-term support for families escaping violence. Partner with us to empower our community – donate to Ishtar today.

To make a monetary, legacy, car, or in-kind donation, please visit
🔗 **https://ishtarsociety.org/how-to-give/**

Acknowledgements

An organization like Ishtar does not grow through the work of one person or one team. Our work is made possible through the dedication, compassion and commitment of many people who contribute in different ways.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our staff, whose knowledge, care and dedication support women, children and youth every day. Whether providing direct service, maintaining our homes and facilities, supporting our programs, or keeping the organization running behind the scenes, each person contributes to creating safer spaces and stronger futures.



We are grateful to our Board of Directors for their leadership, governance and commitment to Ishtar's mission. We also acknowledge the many individuals who give their time, resources, encouragement and expertise to strengthen our work throughout the year.

We are also deeply grateful to our donors and funders whose financial support makes our programs and services possible.

Most of all, we honour the women, children and youth we have had the privilege of supporting. Thank you for trusting us to be part of your journeys. We recognize the courage it can take to seek support, to make changes, and to imagine a different future. Your experiences remind us every day why this work matters.

As we look back on 2025-2026 – a year of growth, new beginnings and challenges - we are grateful for everyone who continues to stand alongside Ishtar. Together, we are helping create a community where women and children affected by violence can find safety, support and the opportunity to build lives of their own choosing.

Together, we lift the Langley community by creating safe, supportive environments and programs for women and children to heal from violence and abuse.

Generously Funded By:

BC HOUSING

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Children and Family Development

604-534-1011, Option 1

communityrelations@ishtarsociety.org

Ishtar Women's Resource Society