



SAGE
HAVEN

Understanding the Past,
Building Futures

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



Art credit to our Drop-in Clients in honour of Red Dress Day



NUU-CHAH-NULTH TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES

We acknowledge the Traditional custodians of the unceded lands and waters of the Tseshaht and Hupačasath on which we live and work.

We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

We respect the cultural strength, knowledge and richness of the Tseshaht and Hupačasath peoples.

We embrace diversity and are committed to working collaboratively with Tseshaht and Hupačasath peoples, organizations and communities.

We acknowledge your right to self-determination and we will stand beside you.

Red Dress Day, also known as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit People . It is observed on May 5 every year. It is a day of remembrance and activism, honouring the lives of MMIWG2S and raising awareness about the crisis of violence faced by Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people in Canada.



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A MESSAGE FROM SUZANNE DUBÉ CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It was a privilege to serve as the Chair of the Sage Haven Society Board this year. I appreciate our board members who help provide an effective governance structure, strategic vision and set a positive and professional tone for our work together. We are grateful to our many volunteers for their time, leadership in board committees and fundraising events. Sage Haven is also fortunate to have a strong and capable staff management team to oversee our day-to-day operations.

You will see in this annual report that Sage Haven had another successful, and extremely busy year. We continue to increase our impact on the lives of women, children and towards our bigger vision of ending gender-based violence in our community.

We achieved many new milestones and strategic objectives. Our new Second Stage Housing facility completed its first year of operations with a balanced budget. The program is filling an urgent and critical need for supportive housing that goes beyond our emergency 30-day shelter. We are pleased to report many early successes for the women and children benefiting from this new program.

We continue to discuss with the City of Port Alberni and BC Housing our interest in building and managing more supportive and affordable permanent rental units in our community.

Thank you to everyone who supported Sage Haven with time, talent and treasure! Together, we made the accomplishments in this report possible.

Suzanne Dubé

Chair, Sage Haven Society Board



A MESSAGE FROM ELLEN FROOD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Understanding the past, building new futures!

It is with some sadness that I am writing this, my final AGM report. In December 2025 I will be retiring after almost ten years with Sage Haven Society. As I embark on my retirement journey, I thank each and every one of you for your friendship and support throughout the years. I have truly enjoyed my time here, working with so many creative minds.

In a world where the complexities of life can often feel overwhelming, it is with great pride and purpose that we present the Sage Haven Society Annual Report. As we close out another year, I wish to take a moment to reflect on our shared journey, acknowledge our progress, and to set our sights on the road ahead. We find inspiration in the stories of resilience and transformation that have unfolded within our walls. Guided by our unwavering commitment to the work we do, this report stands as a testament to the profound impact of how we are working with women and children to *understand the past and build new futures*.

Join us on a journey through the pages that follow, where we share not only program statistics and achievements but also information on our programs and services where individuals have found solace, strength, and hope through the power of therapeutic support.

Our impact goes beyond numbers. It is about the connections we make, the networks we build and the lasting change we help foster in the lives of women and their families. As we grow to impact more women, the heart of our work remains the same. Whether it is helping to remove financial barriers, connecting women to affordable housing or helping build pathways that will enable them to support their futures and families we will continue to help every step of the way.

We know these support services are critical to removing barriers and supporting the success of the women we serve. We look forward to influencing and empowering positive change for more women and their families.

Our vision of all individuals living free from violence and abuse may seem impossible when faced with all the violence, anger, and pain in this world. But every day at Sage Haven we see how change is possible. We witness the courage of those connecting with our supports and services as they work to build safer and happier lives. Many are breaking cycles of violence that have existed for generations. We are honoured to be a part of their journey, and part of an organization like Sage Haven that makes a safer, flourishing future possible.

At Sage Haven, we work diligently to ensure we are not only providing a safe place to land in a world of violence and fear, but also an environment of refuge and peace.

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A MESSAGE FROM ELLEN FROOD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our deep thanks go to staff, the Board, supporters, and collaborators in the sector for their perseverance and dedication. As always, our heartfelt thanks go to our participants who have shared their lives with us and allowed us to walk beside them on their journey towards inclusion, wellbeing and independence.

We extend our thanks to our donors, sponsors, and funders who have supported Sage Haven Society. Your generosity and belief in our mission makes everything we do possible. My deepest gratitude goes out to all who have walked with us this year.

I am immensely grateful to our staff for their unwavering commitment and hard work. Your efforts are the heart and soul of Sage Haven and our achievements over the year are due to our extraordinarily talented, creative and passionate team. Because of your help we are showing clients how to *understand the past and build new futures*.

This report is dedicated to my staff! I could not have done my work without them!



Ellen Frood
Executive Director

In 1955, Emma "Grandma" Gatewood told her children that she was "going for a hike in the woods" - little did they know that this hike would be the entire 2,190-mile Appalachian Trail (A.T.), the longest hiking-only footpath in the world. Through hiking the entire A.T. is already an impressive feat, Gatewood's trip was even more remarkable for a number of reasons; she was 67 years old at the time, a mother of 11, a grandmother of 23, and a survivor of more than 30 years of domestic abuse.



SECOND STAGE HOUSING

Second Stage Housing is now in its second year of operation, with continued funding and support from BC Housing. This program is designed to provide women, with or without children, who are at risk of or have experienced violence, with private, secure, and affordable housing. It offers a safe and independent living environment where families or single women can reside for a period of 6 to 18 months.

Throughout the year, Second Stage Housing has offered a variety of programs aimed at empowering participants and helping them rebuild their lives. For example, participants have had access to financial literacy and budgeting sessions led by Suzanne Dube, and self-defense training facilitated by Warren Lee. In partnership with Island Health, Narcan training and a flu clinic were also offered, providing essential skills for participants. A BC Housing registry clinic was held with the assistance of CMHA homeless outreach workers, and a Women's Wellness Support Group, led by STV counselor Sarah Henshall, covered important topics such as boundaries, stalking, legal rights, self-care, and personal safety. In addition, an employment program called Deva training, facilitated by Sharon Marshall, taught virtual assistant skills, allowing individuals to work from home or promote their own business. This 20-week program was highly successful, with 67% of graduates securing employment upon completion.

This year, staff also took on one of the studio units to expand their workspace. This addition allowed for the creation of office and storage space for the maintenance worker, as well as a staff meeting area, lunchroom, and washroom. Having this space has greatly improved the efficiency of staff operations. There are two support staff members available from Monday to Friday offering support and options to participants and managing any issues that arise. Additionally, personal care plans are developed with each participant and appropriate referrals are made to community services as needed. Newsletters are distributed regularly, keeping participants informed about upcoming events, housekeeping issues, and community services and resources.

The staff has also worked hard to foster a sense of community among participants by organizing family-centered events throughout the year. These included activities such as pumpkin carving at Halloween, decorating cookies for Santa at Christmas, and an Easter egg hunt. These events not only provide fun for the children but also help strengthen the bond between participants and staff. Regular emergency drills are conducted to ensure the safety of both the building and the participants.

A maintenance and janitorial worker plays a critical role in maintaining the building and grounds, ensuring that everything remains safe and pristine. The Transition House is also available to take calls from participants during off-hours should any urgent issues arise. In such cases, they alert the on-call management staff to address the situation.

more on next page....


SECOND STAGE HOUSING

In partnership with Loaves and Fishes Community Food Bank, the program receives food deliveries every second Friday to supplement participants' budgets. These deliveries include essential items like laundry soap and toilet paper. To date, more than \$21,000 worth of donated products have been provided to Second Stage Housing participants, significantly alleviating financial strain on the families.

Another successful initiative this year has been the garden program, which has been driven by participant involvement. The program yielded an abundance of fruits and vegetables, and a garden club is already forming for the upcoming season. This program has not only helped provide fresh produce to the participants but has also promoted a sense of community and accomplishment.

We are deeply grateful to the Coulson Group for their continued generosity and support. Their contributions have been instrumental in supporting both the families in the program and the overall success of Second Stage Housing.

Currently, Second Stage Housing is at full capacity, with 21 women, 15 children, and 14 pets residing in the facility. The program continues to thrive, providing a safe and supportive environment where participants can live independently while receiving the resources and care they need.



In conclusion, the second year of Second Stage Housing has been an incredibly successful one. The staff's dedication, along with the support of community partners, has made it possible to offer vital services that empower women and children at risk of violence. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Second Stage Housing staff, the Transition House team, and the Management staff for their unwavering dedication to the success of this program.

CINDY BLAKE
MANAGER OF HOUSING

SECOND STAGE HOUSING



Building Futures

TESTIMONIALS



"The last five years of my life have been some of the most difficult — I faced homelessness and had to make the painful decision to leave an abusive relationship. Those experiences left deep emotional scars, and for a long time, I struggled to find a safe and stable place to heal.

Being at Wiiksaq'U?it Second Stage Housing has been a turning point. It's the most stable and secure environment I've had in years. Here, I've been able to focus on my recovery, prioritize my sobriety, and rebuild my life for the sake of my family. Gardening, which has always been a passion of mine, gives me a sense of peace and purpose.

Thanks to this supportive space, I'm creating a future rooted in healing, stability, and hope."

I have been staying at Wiiksaq'U?it Sage Haven's Second Stage housing since December 2023 with my 2 children (now 10 & 11) and my cat and dog. Due to a house fire in June of 2023 my children and I were left homeless as our insurance was canceled and a new policy could not be made with a forest fire (Cameron Buffs) burning within 50kms of our home. I have been a single mom since February 2017 when I fled a domestic relationship with my children's father, but unfortunately because we owned a home together, I never fully was able to flee the violence until August 2023 when I was granted a protection order as my ex had fallen back into addiction and was going down a dangerous path. In January of 2020 I decided to start going back to school in hopes to pursue a Bachelor of Education to become a teacher. It was extremely hard work, and during the last 2 years of my program my children and I faced many hardships and trauma (the house fire, homelessness, losing my father, and my children's father being in an accident that almost took his life which has resulted in an extended stay in hospital due to neurological deficits and mobility problems). I was able to push through and complete my degree thanks to the security and support I received through Second Stage Housing, and I will forever be grateful to Sage Haven and other organizations that have programs and safe places for individuals to stay and thrive when they are going through some of the hardest times of their lives.

- Melissa Harle





TRANSITION HOUSE

The Transition House continues to serve a vital role in providing support to women and children who are at risk of or have experienced violence. Our core funding for eleven beds is provided by BC Housing, but we are also grateful for the continued support of service organizations and private citizens who contribute to our mission. These funds allow us to offer safe, confidential, and supportive services that assist women in making informed decisions and finding a path to safety.

Our mission at the Transition House is to provide women and their children with access to safe and secure shelter, support for decision-making, and referrals to appropriate services. Regardless of their background—whether it be ethno-cultural, religious, or social context—our program is open to all women in need. We ensure that everyone, regardless of their physical ability, health status, mental wellness, sexual orientation, or gender identity, is eligible for our services.

For those women who are referred to our services but do not stay at the Transition House, we provide immediate support. This includes conducting a safety assessment, developing a short-term safety plan, offering emotional support, and providing referrals to other relevant resources. While many of the women we serve come from difficult situations, they are empowered through the support we provide to take control of their safety and decision-making.

This year, our efforts to support women and children have been strengthened through our collaboration with the Sexual Assault Response Program (SARP) and Second Stage Housing. Together, we provide an essential response to after-hours calls, with SARP volunteers assisting forensic nurses or responding to urgent situations at Second Stage Housing. This partnership has proven invaluable in ensuring that our clients have access to immediate and comprehensive support during times of crisis.

One of the ongoing challenges we face at the Transition House is the high cost of living and limited access to affordable housing. These issues continue to affect our clients, many of whom are staying longer than the recommended 30-day program duration due to the lack of affordable housing options. Unfortunately, this situation also creates an additional barrier for some women, as the inability to secure stable housing can discourage them from leaving their abusive situations.

While this challenge persists, our team remains committed to supporting women in any way we can. The need for affordable housing is critical, and we are constantly working with our partners to explore solutions for this growing issue.

Despite these challenges, we are continually inspired by the strength and resilience of the women we serve. One particularly moving story is that of a woman who was forced to live in her car with her dog for more than six months after losing her housing due to intimate partner violence. During this time, she relied on friends for support when they were able to assist. Once she came to the Transition House, we were able to provide a safe and secure space for both her and her dog. This support gave her the stability she needed to regain her confidence, find permanent housing, and secure employment. Today, she is a self-supporting member of the community, and her story is a powerful reminder of the difference we can make in the lives of those who need it most.

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TRANSITION HOUSE

To ensure that we are providing the highest standard of care, we have prioritized ongoing education and professional development for our staff. This year, staff attended the “Reducing Barriers” training through the British Columbia Society of Transition Houses (BCSTH). This training offered valuable insights on best practices for serving women and children who experience violence. It has helped enhance our team’s ability to offer compassionate and effective support, ensuring that we are always improving and adapting to meet the evolving needs of our clients.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere gratitude to our funders, board members, and the Executive Director, Ellen Froot. Their dedication and tireless efforts make it possible for us to continue offering these vital services to those at risk of violence. We are thankful for their support, which allows us to carry out our mission and make a positive impact on the lives of the women and children we serve.

The Transition House remains committed to providing safe, supportive, and life-changing services to women and children experiencing violence. While the challenges we face are significant, particularly in the areas of affordable housing and the high cost of living, we remain hopeful and focused on making a difference. We are proud of the progress we’ve made, and the success stories that emerge from our work are a testament to the dedication of our staff and the power of community support. We look forward to continuing our work and exploring new opportunities to improve the lives of those we serve.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

CINDY BLAKE

MANAGER OF HOUSING



ANNUAL STATISTICS

TYPE OF OFFENSE REFERRED TO OUR AGENCY

125

INTIMATE PARTNER
VIOLENCE / ASSAULT /
ABUSE

27

SEXUAL ASSAULT /
EXPLOITATION

25

OTHER ASSAULTS/
CRIMINAL HARASSMENT

28

NON-CRIMINAL

11

OTHER CRIMINAL
INCIDENTS

9

CHILD AND YOUTH ASSAULT
BY FAMILY MEMBER

225

TOTAL

CLIENTS BY GENDER

183

FEMALE

41

MALE

1

NON-BINARY

225

TOTAL

COMMUNITY-BASED VICTIM'S SERVICES (CBVS)

Understanding the past is essential in providing compassionate and effective victim services. By acknowledging the trauma and experiences of victims, we lay the groundwork for healing and empowerment.

This understanding shapes how services are delivered—ensuring they are trauma-informed, culturally sensitive, and survivor-centered. Building futures means offering more than just support; it means fostering resilience, restoring hope, and creating pathways to justice and recovery. Through this dual focus, victim services not only address immediate needs but also help individuals and communities rebuild stronger, safer lives.

Community Based Victim Services play a crucial role in guiding individuals through the often complex and intimidating judicial system. By providing emotional support, legal information, court accompaniment, and advocacy, they help victims of crime navigate each step of the legal process with confidence and clarity. Understanding each person's unique experience and trauma is key to offering tailored assistance that respects their voice and choices. This support not only helps victims seek justice but also empowers them to reclaim control of their lives. Through compassionate guidance, Community Based Victim Services ensure that the path through the legal system becomes a bridge to healing and a safer, more hopeful future.

In mid-July, Community Based Victim Services underwent a significant role transition. Despite the staffing changes, the team remained committed to ensuring uninterrupted support for those in need. Staff members stepped up to continue providing vital assistance—offering advocacy, guidance through the justice system, and emotional support—while the vacant role was being filled. This period demonstrated the team's resilience, adaptability, and deep dedication to victims' well-being. By maintaining services during the transition, Community Based Victim Services upheld its mission of empowering survivors and ensuring no one faced their journey alone.

SARAH HENSHALL
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

P.E.A.C.E. PROGRAM

Children's Supportive Counselling

This year, the PEACE (Prevention, Education, Advocacy, Counselling and Empowerment) Program continued to provide compassionate, trauma-informed support to children and youth who have experienced abuse, as well as to their caregivers. Guided by the theme *"Understanding the Past, Building Futures,"* we remained committed to fostering healing, resilience, and hope in every session.

Through a combination of play therapy, expressive arts, and one-on-one supportive counselling, we helped children safely explore their emotions, express their experiences, and begin to rebuild their sense of safety and trust. Many children reported feeling "less scared," "more confident," and "more in control of their feelings" after participating in the program. We witnessed children develop stronger coping skills, increased self-esteem, and the ability to identify and communicate their boundaries.

Caregivers also experienced meaningful growth. By engaging in supportive sessions, caregivers reported a better understanding of how trauma affects their children's behaviour and emotional world. We worked together to develop strategies for responding with empathy and consistency, helping to strengthen the parent-child bond and create a more stable, nurturing environment. Several caregivers shared that they felt "more empowered to support their child" and "less isolated" as they navigated complex emotional landscapes.

While the program was not fully staffed for a portion of the year, we focused on maintaining continuity of care and supporting our clients to the best of our ability during that time. We are pleased to report that the program is now fully staffed. Our new Program Coordinator has joined the team and is actively learning the program while beginning to serve clients. By using passion, skill, and dedication we have already made a positive impact, and we are excited about the renewed energy and direction we bring to the work.

As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded that healing from abuse is a journey—often nonlinear and deeply personal. Through every session, every shared story, and every small breakthrough, we witness the incredible strength of the children and families we serve. Together, we are not just addressing the impact of the past—we are nurturing the foundations for brighter, safer futures.

HARRENA GILLIS
PEACE SUPPORTIVE COUNSELLOR

256

INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS
FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

52

INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS
FOR CAREGIVERS

66

CHILDREN & YOUTH



Participants of the
PEACE Program
help create their space

STOPPING THE VIOLENCE PROGRAM

Women's Supportive Counselling

STV Supportive Counselling program provides free and confidential individual and group psycho-educational supports to women in Port Alberni area and as far out as Anacapa, who have experienced or are experiencing emotional, physical, sexual, psychological, social and/or financial abuse.

In July 2024, the Community Based Victim Services Coordinator transitioned to STV-Counselling while assisting in both programs to maintain continuity and support to survivors.

A variety of counselling approaches are identified using women-centred, holistic perspective based upon the identified goals and outcomes of supportive counselling. Recognizing historical experiences is essential for creating a supportive pathway for individuals who have experienced trauma. If we are able to ***Understand the Past we can Build Futures.***

Our goal is to:

Honour women's strengths

Develop functional coping mechanisms

Establish healthy boundaries: physical, psychological, and sexual

Create personal space and empowerment

Develop tools for self-care and healing

When women are able to identify and use their own strength through empowerment, they are more capable to build a successful future.

During 2024 STV-Supportive Counselling was honoured to deliver a group at the new 2nd Stage Housing WIKSAHIQU?IT – A SAFE PLACE to the residents. It was well received and turned into a time of gathering and support. It was a time to establish boundaries and foster trusting relationships, where discussions centred on attachment styles and trauma bonds. The focus was on recognizing and transforming lateral violence into lateral kindness, as well as identifying intimate partner violence. Efforts were made to enhance self-esteem and cultivate healthy relationships while also prioritizing the reintegration of joy and fun into the lives of women who are trauma survivors. All the women looked forward to this time together which we formally called Taco Tuesday as we created a meal together each week!

The Stopping the Violence Supportive Counsellor received 110 New Client Referrals and provided 360 direct Counselling sessions, which did not include the no-shows, rescheduled appointments or late cancellations. In addition to maintaining a counselling case load, STV-C supported 353 brief clients with services such as providing cell phones, sims and minutes for safety, grounding supports, fluid referrals, debriefing, forms such as victim safety unit, crime victim assistance, corrections Canada, handing out personal hygiene items, clothes, pregnancy tests or bus tickets.

For the 2025 year we are developing a group called TAKE IT BACK TUESDAY to be delivered with a high level of safety allowing for women to connect with other women, discover their personal strengths and to take back their power.

SARAH HENSHALL

STOPPING THE VIOLENCE SUPPORTIVE COUNSELLOR

SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE PROGRAM

ANNUAL STATISTICS

SUPPORT FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS

20
FEMALE

3
MALE

0
NON-BINARY

23
TOTAL

SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVOR'S AGE

1
0-12 YEARS

8
13-18 YEARS

7
19-34 YEARS

5
35-54 YEARS

1
55+ YEARS

1
UNKNOWN

"Understanding the past, building futures."

Sexual violence is a pervasive issue that requires a compassionate and coordinated response. The Sexual Assault Response Program (SARP) continues to provide immediate crisis support, bridging service gaps and ensuring survivors receive the care they need. By reflecting on our past efforts, we are committed to strengthening our services and forging a future where survivors feel empowered and supported.

In the past year, 23 survivors utilized SARP's services, receiving emotional support, safety planning, and advocacy from our dedicated team of 8 trained volunteers. This 24/7 hospital accompaniment service ensures survivors are never alone when seeking medical care after an assault. Our volunteers undergo a comprehensive, trauma-informed 20-hour training program, grounded in a feminist perspective, equipping them with the skills to provide informed and compassionate care.

While fluctuating call volumes present challenges in maintaining volunteer engagement, our team remains deeply committed to this work. Through regular communication and appreciation events, we foster a strong sense of purpose among our volunteers, ensuring they remain connected to the mission of SARP.

A Message of Hope & Support

Looking to the past reminds us of the resilience of survivors and the unwavering support of our community. Moving forward, SARP remains dedicated to fostering hope, healing, and empowerment for all those affected by sexual violence.

Janice Butler, SARP Program Coordinator, wants survivors to know that they are never alone. She is committed to ensuring that everyone who reaches out feels safe, supported, and heard.

"more on next page"

We are committed to supporting survivors in their journey toward a brighter future.

SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE PROGRAM

Survivors are heard, seen, and believed."

"I want every survivor to know that I am here for them. Whether someone is seeking guidance, crisis support, or simply someone to talk to, I will listen without judgment and offer unwavering support. No one should ever feel like they have to go through this alone."

One survivor shared the profound impact SARP had on their healing journey, saying:

"Thank you for everything you are doing—it gives me hope."

These words serve as a reminder of why SARP exists—to provide survivors with the support, care, and reassurance they need to move forward.

The Ongoing Need for Support

Understanding the past also means recognizing ongoing barriers. Sexual violence remains severely underreported—only six out of every 100 sexual assault incidents are reported to the RCMP (Stats Canada, 2019). Survivors face numerous obstacles to seeking support, including stigma, fear, and gaps in services. Through continued community engagement, education, and collaboration, we are committed to building a future where survivors feel safe, heard, and empowered to access the care they need.

As SARP moves forward, we honor the lessons of the past while focusing on what's ahead—a future where every survivor has the support they deserve, and where our communities stand together in solidarity against sexual violence.

There is hope, there is healing, and there are safe spaces where survivors will always be met with understanding and support.

JANICE BUTLER
PROGRAM COORDINATOR



"Survivors are heard,
seen, and believed."

COMMUNITY RESOURCE DROP IN CENTRE

Sage Haven Society Drop-in Centre is a crucial resource for individuals facing systemic barriers, including homelessness, substance use challenges, domestic violence, and poverty. As a harm reduction site, the drop-in centre provides a safe and supportive environment where individuals can access essential services, connect with community resources, and build relationships rooted in trust and respect. The drop-in centre is not only a place of immediate relief but also a space where the past and present intersect to shape a better future.

Understanding the Past

The challenges faced by many Sage Haven Society drop-in patrons are deeply rooted in historical and systemic issues, including colonialism and intergenerational trauma. By acknowledging these histories, Sage Haven Society drop-in centre works to provide holistic services that meet people where they are, reducing harm and creating a nonjudgmental space where healing can begin.

The drop-in centre's programming also reflects an understanding of these past challenges. Events such as International Women's Day and the 16 Days of Activism shed light on issues such as gender-based violence, systemic inequities, and the need for empowerment. These initiatives not only raise awareness but also foster a sense of solidarity and resilience among those who attend. Additionally, the generosity of the community through public donations plays a crucial role in addressing past and current inequities, ensuring that those in need receive essential items such as clothing and personal care products.

Building Futures

Beyond acknowledging historical struggles, Sage Haven Society actively works toward creating a more hopeful future for its patrons. The drop-in centre provides access to crisis support, referrals, and resources that help individuals take steps toward stability. The art and knitting classes, made possible by our generous donors and dedicated volunteers, provide therapeutic outlets for self-expression, skill-building, and meaningful community connections. These activities contribute to a sense of belonging and purpose, critical components of well-being.

In 2024, we saw an increase in demand for harm reduction supplies highlighting the ongoing challenges faced by the community. The need for crisis intervention and resource referrals also surged, reinforcing the drop-in centre's role as a frontline service provider in times of hardship. 2024 was also the third year we partnered with the Farmers Market program, which runs from June to October. Through this program, low-income individuals received coupons to purchase

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ANNUAL STATISTICS

SUPPORTS PROVIDED TO
CLIENTS

2654

FOOD & CLOTHING PROVIDED

3009

HARM REDUCTION &
NALOXONE KITS

1984

REFERRALS / COMMUNITY
SUPPORT

2349

SUPPORTS PROVIDED TO
CLIENTS

.....
9987

CLIENT VISITS

COMMUNITY RESOURCE DROP IN CENTRE

fresh, locally grown produce, produce, promoting food security and overall health. This initiative exemplifies how the drop-in centre not only addresses immediate needs but also encourages individuals to make healthier choices, reinforcing the importance of long-term well-being.

In essence, Sage Haven Society Drop-in Centre embodies the principle of "*Understanding the Past and Building Futures*". By recognizing the historical and systemic challenges faced by its patrons, the centre fosters an environment of support, advocacy, and empowerment. The events of 2024 demonstrated Sage Haven Society's adaptability and commitment to addressing emerging needs while maintaining a focus on long-term well-being. As Sage Haven continues its mission in 2025, it remains dedicated to bridging past struggles with future opportunities, ensuring that every individual who walks through its doors finds hope, dignity, and the resources needed to create a brighter future.

ALANA FERNANDEZ-PARENT | ALEXIS VAN HOUTTE
PROGRAM COORDINATORS



These beautiful pieces of art were created by people who frequent our Drop-in Centre. Amazing talent!

ANNUAL STATISTICS

35

ADULT WOMEN CLIENTS

31

YOUTH CLIENTS

71

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
HOURS

OUTREACH SERVICES FOR YOUTH & WOMEN

This year, the Youth and Adult Outreach Program remained a vital bridge between individuals facing trauma, violence, or marginalization and the supportive resources they need to move forward. Grounded in safety, trust, and relationship-building, we offered confidential, non-judgmental support to both youth and adults navigating complex life challenges.

We are proud to have supported 35 adult clients and 31 youth clients through individualized outreach services that prioritized emotional safety, empowerment, and connection to community. In addition, our team dedicated 71 hours to community engagement—strengthening our partnerships, raising awareness, and reaching those who may not yet feel ready to seek help.

Outreach support was offered weekly at Alberni District Secondary School (ADSS) and Eighth Avenue Learning Centre, with additional sessions provided at other local schools as needed. This flexible, client-centered approach allowed us to meet youth where they are—both physically and emotionally—ensuring that support was accessible, consistent, and meaningful.

Although staffing transitions presented challenges earlier in the year, we remained committed to maintaining availability and consistency in service delivery. Our current outreach team continues to grow into the role with care, compassion, and professionalism, and is now fully equipped to respond to client needs across a wide range of settings.

As we reflect on this past year, we celebrate the courage of those who reached out and the power of being met with respect, understanding, and hope. Through this program, we have seen clients take meaningful steps toward healing: from setting boundaries and advocating for themselves, to reconnecting with education, health, employment, and community. Together, we are helping individuals not only understand their pasts—but build futures filled with possibility and resilience.

HARRENA GILLIS
YOUTH AND ADULT OUTREACH

Thank you Port Alberni

Each year, our community's support for the Coldest Night of the Year Event amazes me. This year, we raised over \$50,000 thanks to our dedicated volunteers, fundraisers, and sponsors. Despite rising costs and uncertainties, you helped the hungry, homeless, and hurting in our community. The funds support our Transitional Housing programs and Drop-in Centre, addressing significant needs.



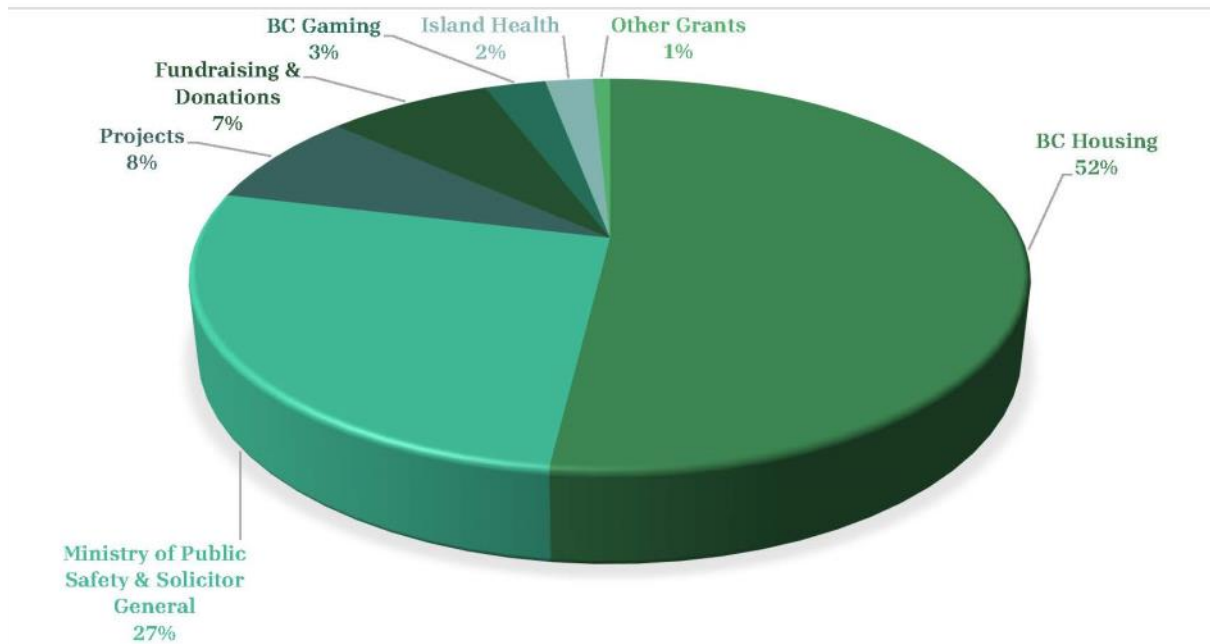
We are grateful for the continued in-kind and monetary support from individuals and businesses. Thank you for your unwavering dedication. Together, we are making a difference.

CAROL HANSON
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

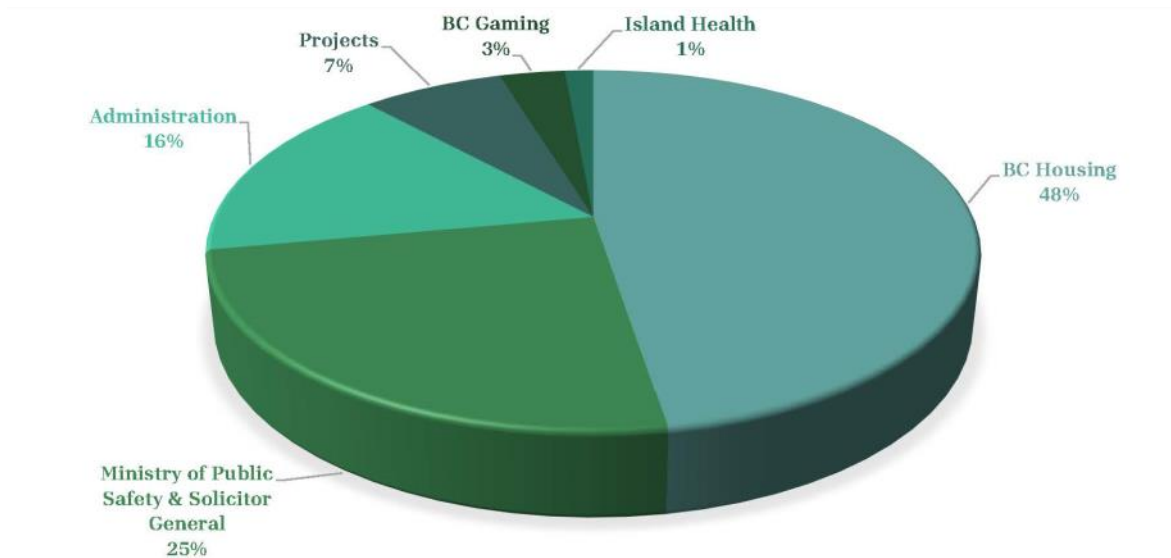
FINANCIALS

APRIL 1, 2024 TO MARCH 31, 2025

REVENUE



EXPENSES





BC Housing

Ministry of Public Safety
& Solicitor General

Island Health ~ Aboriginal Health

BC Community Gaming

City of Port Alberni

Alberni-Clayoquot
Regional District

Individuals, Businesses &
Non-profit Organizations



Understanding the Past, Building Futures



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