

Annual Report 2025



Boundary
Family
Services
Society



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Our Vision, Mission, and Purpose:

Our Vision:

Together, we the citizens of the Boundary area can create a culture of health and well being for ourselves and for our communities.

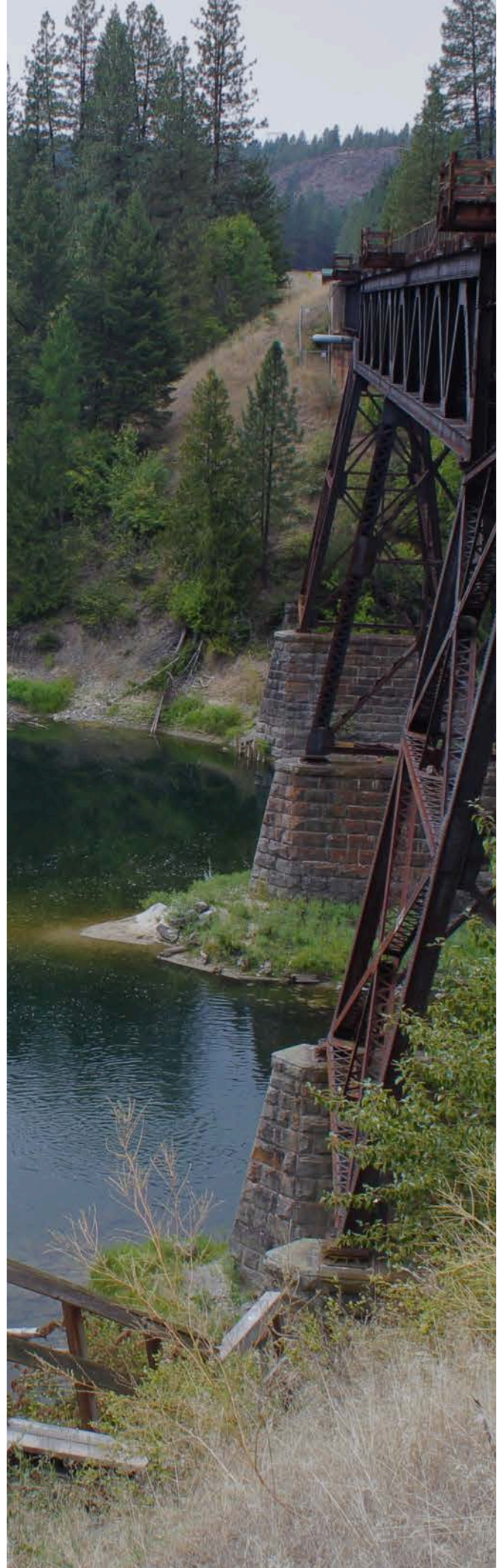
Our Mission:

We build partnerships and collaborations with families and community by delivering a range of services that enrich lives and transform our future for generations.

Our Purpose:

The purpose of Boundary Family Services is to provide services that promote and develop healthy communities in the Boundary area.

In total BFS served 1239 individual participants in our 2024/2025 fiscal year. 936 were in the Grand Forks and Christina Lake area and 303 were in the West Boundary.



Executive Director Report

The 2024-2025 year at Boundary Family Services has been one best defined by the term “keep calm and carry on”.

As we know, forces outside of the immediate control have made funding sources as well as service needs become mildly unpredictable at best and capricious at worst. The entire Team has leaned into the “sense of the unknown” and continued to do the work that needs to be done for our participants and community.

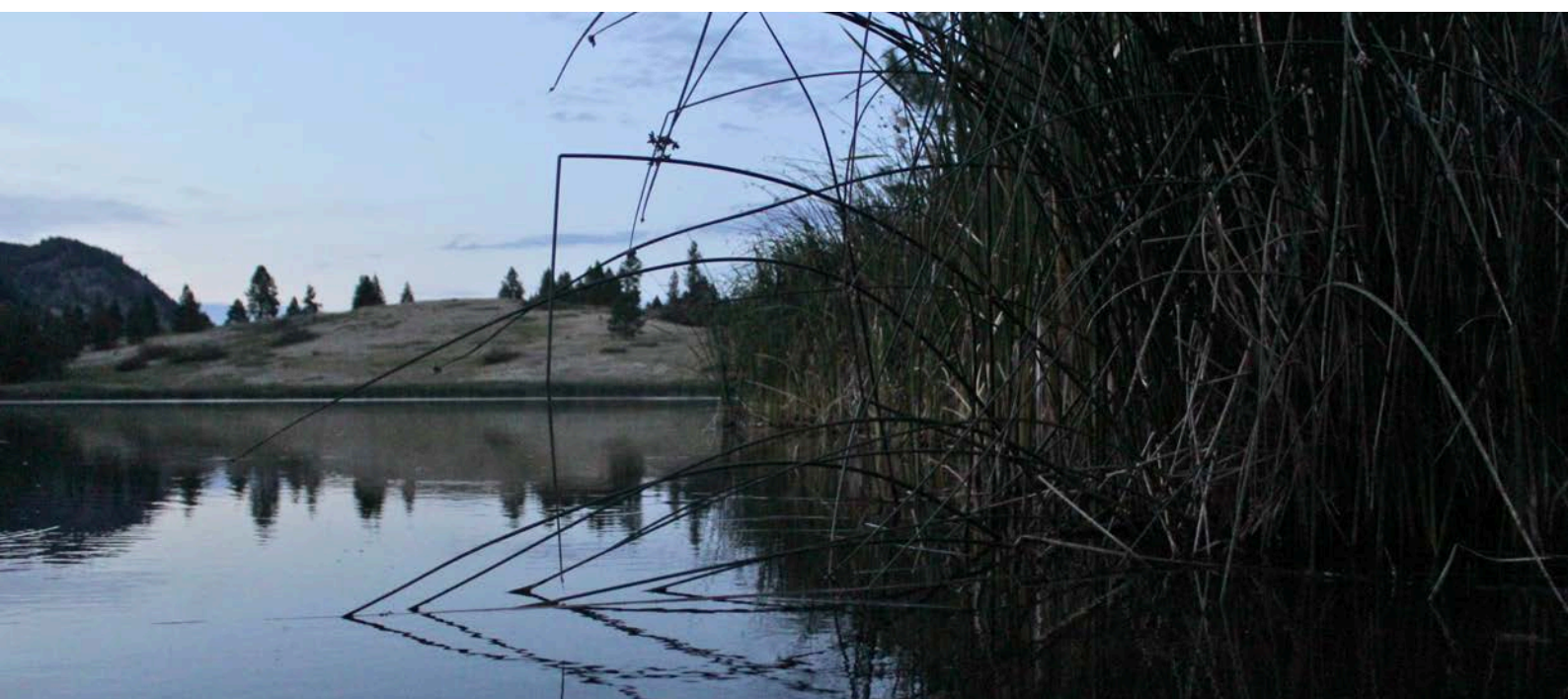
The large growth in the delivery of services to seniors coupled with an overall increase in service needs have meant that our service locations have been utilized to their maximum capacity and moving forward this is an item to be addressed.

Funding stream expectations from several funders have shifted and caused quick pivots in reporting, budgeting and service delivery. These changes have been met with a fluid and reasoned response supported by the Leadership Team.

The ongoing legacy of collaborative community practice is being protected and nurtured by the next generation of front-line service providers, and it bodes well for the health and wellness of the Boundary. This includes commitment to wrap around care through the integrated case management model and the ongoing gathering of community partners to consistently address shortfalls in services.

As we move into our 50th anniversary year in 2026, I cannot be prouder of the Board, Leadership Team and all of the individual front line practitioners that lean into this work with passion, resolve, grace and commitment to excellence.

Darren Pratt
Executive Director





Administration Report

My name is Linda Stooshinoff and I am the Operations Officer for Boundary Family Services. My main roles at BFS are to help ensure that participants are served in a welcoming and efficient manner, BFS staff have the resources that they require to be successful in their work, and that the Agency meets CARF Accreditation standards in its policies and procedures.

This has been an exciting year with significant growth in Seniors Services and a greater focus on achieving the strategic goal of having a larger presence in the West Boundary. It has been inspiring to watch programs grow and reach a larger portion of the demographic of the Boundary. With growth in programming comes growth in knowledge about all the other amazing programs that the Boundary has. We truly live in an amazing area that has so much to offer its citizens.

The main floor admin team of April, Emma and myself is always hopping as the BFS reception area has become busier with in-person and telephone inquiries. It is an absolute pleasure to be part of such an amazing team that all have the same goal, and that is to serve participants in the kindest and most beneficial way possible. BFS also had the opportunity to employ a summer student through the Canada Summer Jobs Employment grant. Alexandra was a lovely addition to the Agency for the 3 months that she was at BFS.

I am looking forward to new adventures and continued growth as part of the Boundary Family Services Team.

My name is Emma Wiebe and I have been working at BFS for a year and a half now as Admin Support and the Board Secretary. My role for Board Secretary is to put together the Agenda and take minutes during the Board meetings. My role for Admin Support is to answer phones and help out participants and staff wherever needed. It has been a great year with a lot of exciting things happening in the Agency and it has been a pleasure to be a part of such a great team!

Laura / Financial Officer – I have been with BFS for over 20 years. I am a member of the Management team and responsible for financial surveillance, budgeting, financial reporting and human resources support for the Agency. I am very proud of all that we have done and continue to do in our community.

April Anderson - As a financial assistant since 2021, I am responsible for tracking accounts receivable, processing accounts payable, payroll recording for both of our companies, administration support of our housing tenants, submitting applications for various BC Housing rental support and affordable housing programs. In 2024/25, payroll fluctuated between 42-58 employees depending on the active programs. I continue to create more streamlined processes especially for the annual tasks like our financial audit and the annual reviews for the tenant subsidy applications. I'm happy to support and contribute to the BFSS mission in serving our communities in the multiple ways we do.

Children, Youth, and Families Supervisor Report

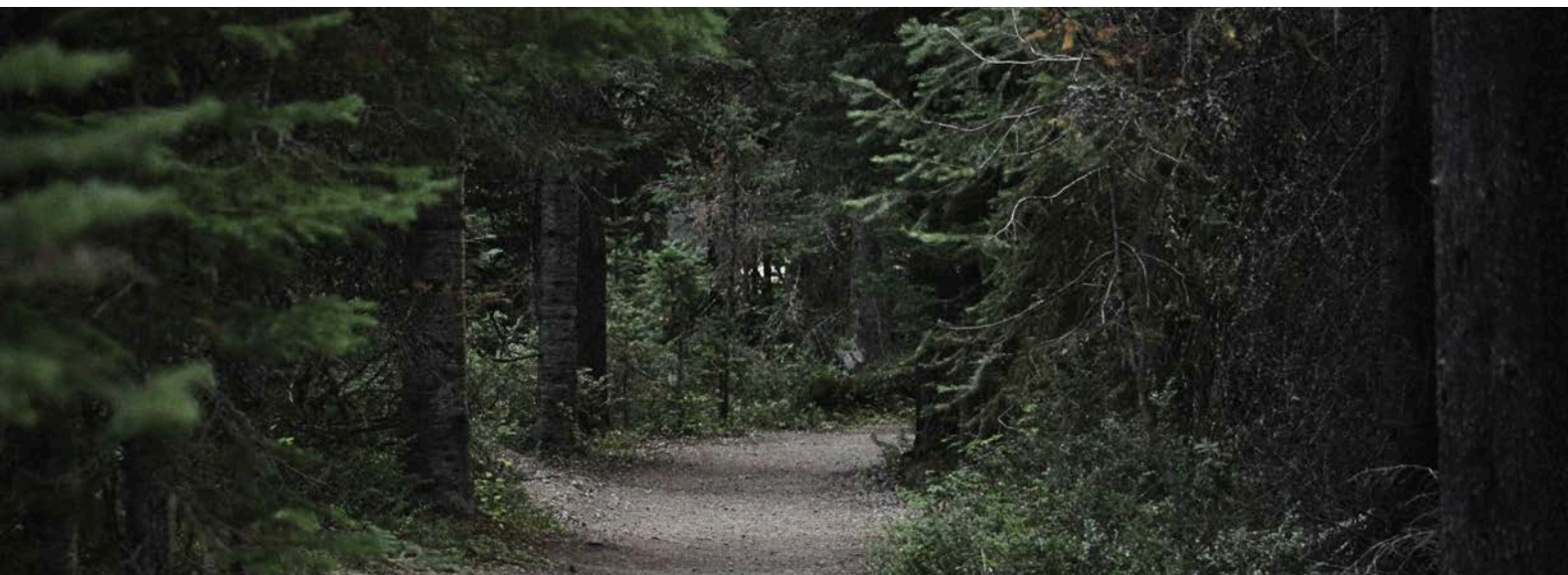
This past year the Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) team has had a year marked by both growth and challenge. I am incredibly proud of what our team has accomplished in support of children, youth, and families within our community. Our Team is committed to supporting families through a holistic, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive approach. In the past year, we have continued to deliver the following core services:

- Family Support Services
- Youth Outreach and Support Programs
- PEACE Program
- Parenting Programs
- School-Based Partnerships
- CYMH and SAIP supports
- Community Integration groups
- ASSAI groups throughout the Boundary
- Legal Support Services

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated CYF team, whose compassion and commitment to children, youth, and families make our work possible. I also want to thank our community partners, funders, and most importantly, the families and youth who allow us to walk alongside them in their journeys.

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude and optimism. The strength of our community lies in its people, and the CYF team remains steadfast in our mission to support and empower children, youth, and families of the Boundary.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel Warriner
Program Administrator
Children, Youth, and Families Team



Family Support Program Report

Mission/Purpose: The Family Support Worker plays a vital role in strengthening family dynamics by assessing challenges related to family functioning and developing tailored intervention plans in alignment with program guidelines. This position provides comprehensive support through referrals, guidance, and problem-solving strategies to help families navigate complex issues.

Key responsibilities include:

- Delivering parenting skill-building sessions
- Offering emotional support and constructive feedback
- Facilitating communication, routine development, co-regulation techniques, conflict resolution, and co-parenting strategies

What sets the Family Support program apart is its individualized approach. Services are thoughtfully adapted to meet the unique needs of each family, ensuring that support is both relevant and impactful.

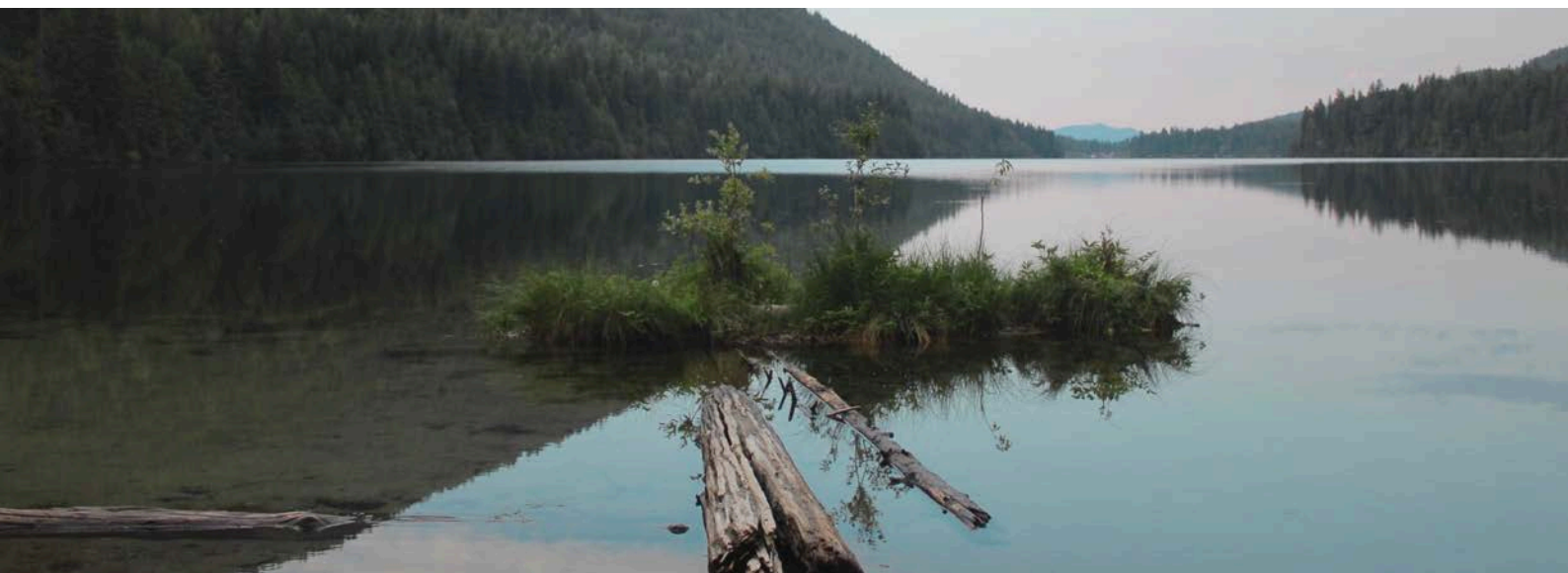
One of the most rewarding aspects of this role is the opportunity to nurture the parent-child bond. By fostering healthy attachment and promoting positive relationships, Family Support Workers help lay the foundation for resilient families. Our goal is to have parents leave the program feeling equipped, supported, and confident in their abilities.

Strategic goals met or highlights of the year: Helping single mom's learn to cook in an environment that felt safe and welcoming.

Key achievements or milestones during the year: Clients were able to meet and achieve goals for themselves and their family

Barriers that were faced: Transportation issues were overcome, and ideas were brought forward so transportation wouldn't be an issue in the future.

Rebecca Mattick



My name is Nathan Ball, and I am a part of the Family Support program at Boundary Family. The Family Support program caters to helping parents be the best they can be for their families! We are able to provide parents with strategies and resources to help in most aspects of parenting! From regulation strategies, sleep routines, and communication skills all the way to helping build a budget and becoming more organized with the family's schedule. Recently we have been able to help participants with building a support network within the community, fostering relationships and resiliency for their family. Highlights over this last year for me are when parents come through our program and leave feeling more confident in their ability to parent their children and gained tools to help move forward, as well as seeing that spark of hope when they realize they CAN DO THIS! Some barriers that we are facing within the Boundary is the lack of broader resources and “specialists” around certain needs, but we are usually able to help make connections and bridge people to supports where we can. I appreciate the mission that Boundary Family stands by to provide quality services and their forward movements to ensure that staff continue relevant training and professional development. We continue to do our best to lower barriers to all people, regardless of their geographic location or economic standing, we are committed to be available and accessible to all families within the Boundary!

Nathan Ball

I have had my role as a Family Support Worker for nearly four years. The program continues to change in new exciting ways each year. The focus of the program is to connect with families where they are at and help them to learn new skills, connect with resources and community partners, advocacy and secure tangible things such as housing. The delivery of these change all the time, as different families have vastly different needs. In addition, the needs of a single family can change quite drastically over the service period. I am grateful to be able to partner with community resources and organizations such as Boundary Mental Health, MCFD, Community Futures, Food for Families and many more in order to help families achieve their goals. This year has brought about an opportunity to pilot a brand new, temporary supported housing program. This has allowed for more intensive service, in a stable, secure environment. I look forward to continuing with this project, and to learn along the way how to improve the program for future families. This has been a great year of growth as a program, as well as for my participants and even myself. I hope to be able to continue this growth in the years to come.

Damon Sutton

A total of 39 individual families were served during the 2024/2025 fiscal year



PEACE Program Report

My name is Tayden Woods, and I am a PEACE support worker for the PEACE program at Boundary Family Services. PEACE is an acronym for Prevention, Education, Advocacy, Counselling, and Empowerment. My role is to have 1 to 1 session with kids ages 3-18 who have witnessed or experienced violence in their families and communicate with parents before and/or after the sessions to ensure we work collaboratively as a team for the best interest of the child. During the sessions I work with the kids to develop a space where they feel comfortable working and sharing their experiences with me so that they can develop skills, tools and healthy outlets that support their mental well-being. Specific things we may work on include but are not limited to, self-esteem, safety skills and strategies, managing emotions such as anger or sadness, responsibility, identifying and creating healthy relationships, and creating change and awareness of abuse to stop the cycle. PEACE is unique in that the program allows me and participants to get creative with how and where we conduct our sessions and work towards the unique individual goals they may have. We may be outdoors, we may play sports, we may do arts and crafts, we may play board games, or we may simply be inside the designated PEACE room we have in our building. This flexibility allows me to fully cater the session to the participants which is key to helping and supporting them to the fullest extent as each kid has unique strengths and challenges. I feel privileged to be a PEACE worker, striving to make positive change for the youth in the community ranging from Christina Lake to Big White. My coworkers and bosses at BFS are incredibly supportive and truly do work as a team, which allows me to do my job, while feeling supported and in an environment where I'm eager to learn and make positive changes every day.

A total of 23
individual
participants were
served in the
2024/2025 fiscal
year.



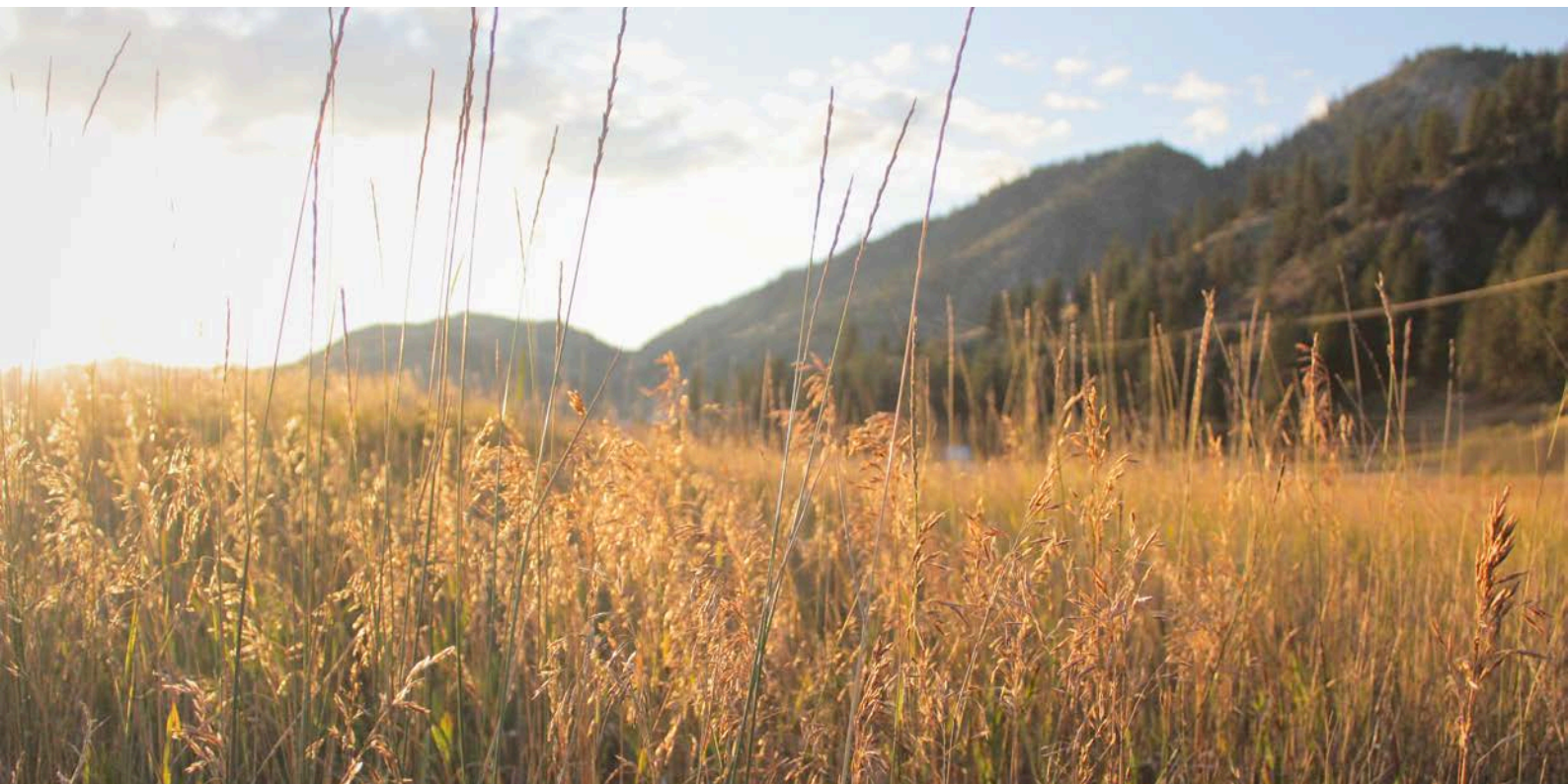
CYMH/SAIP Program Report

The Community Based Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) Program supports children and youth under the age of 19 who would benefit from mild to moderate mental health interventions such as psycho-education and skill building, navigating interpersonal relationships, and with identifying and building natural supports; as an outreach counselling program, it supports families from Christina Lake to Beaverdell and Carmi, which includes travel to those communities for appointments. This year, there has been a focus on being more present with children and youth in the West Boundary, in which I have been able to attend the Rock Creek Medical Clinic on a monthly and bi-monthly basis for both scheduled and drop-in appointments.

The Sexual Assault Intervention Program (SAIP) is an outreach program that connects with children and youth under 19 who have been impacted by sexual abuse and exploitation. A key part of this program is meeting participants where they feel comfortable and providing them and their caregivers with resources, strategies and safety plans as needed and working with them to connect with and create a supportive, wrap around care-team which often includes long-term counselling services.

Tamara Schiesser (MA, RCC)
Child and Youth Mental Health Counsellor
Sexual Assault Intervention Program Worker

A total of 25 individual participants were served in CYMH and 12 individual participants were served in SAIP during the 2024/2025 fiscal year



Community Integration Program Report

The Community Integration Program specifically works with children with support needs to strengthen life skills, social skills, emotional regulations and other support needs. We hosted groups throughout the week which included going to town, farms and different places in community. I provided 1-1 support for some of the participants, summer groups, spring break groups and participated in swimming at the local pool and beaches.

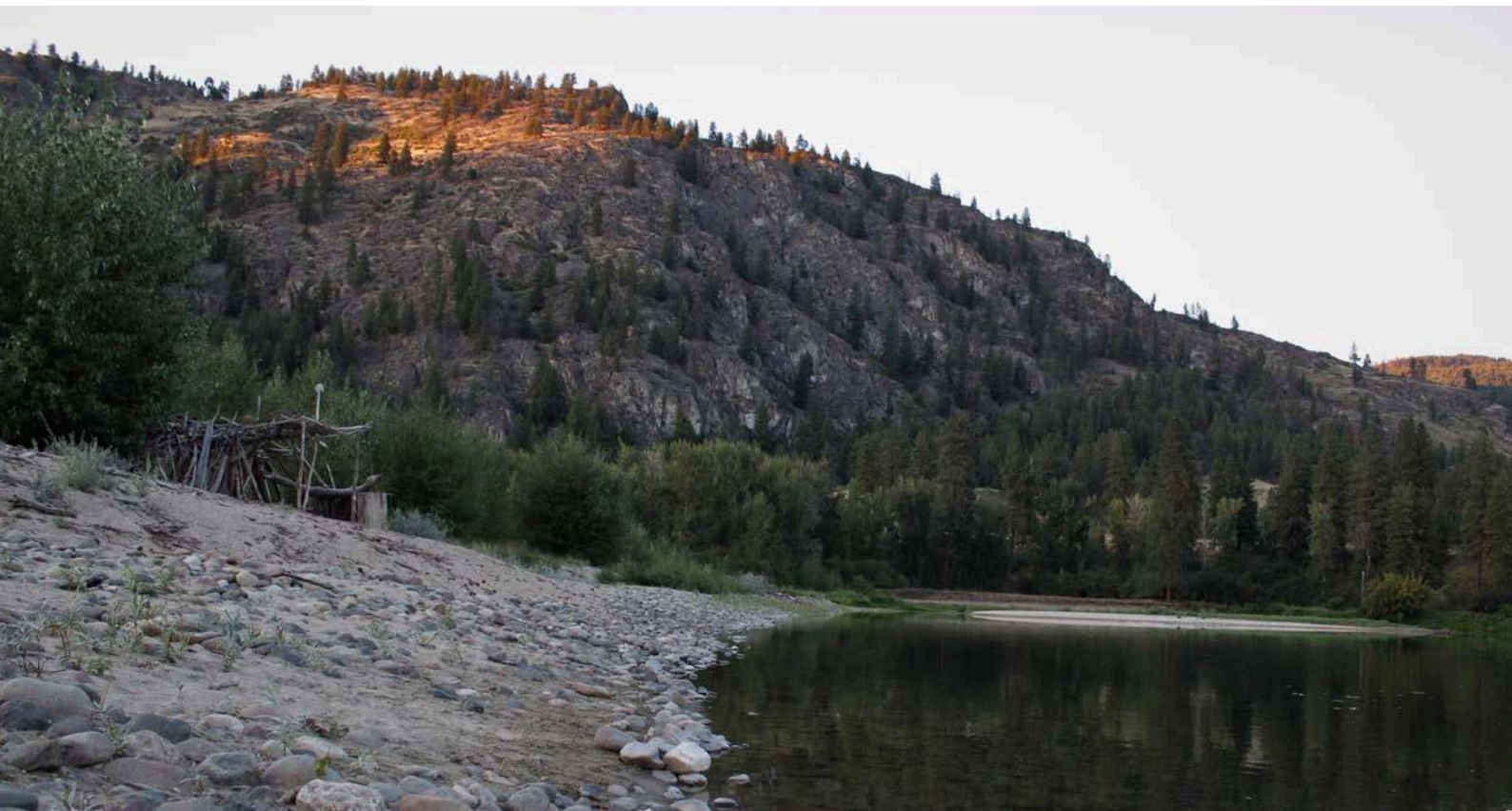
We had the opportunity to have a summer student with us and a practicum student join us for groups through out summer.

Due to the program not running for a time, a challenge we faced was lack of engagement. Once March came along we saw numbers increase and now we almost have full groups with room to create more if needed.

Goals for next year would be to have more places to visit with the group where possible.

Sherri Havig

A total of 39 individual
participants were served in
the 2024/2025 fiscal year





ASSAI Report

Coordinator and Art Leader – Carol Mitchell

This amazing program has been running since 2011. This year we ran programs in every elementary school from Christina Lake to Big White. The goal of the program is to increase connectivity with school and community, through fun and inclusive groups that build on strengths and support challenges.

The focus of sports group is moving your body and being comfortable in the gym, as well as building fundamental movement skills and practicing fair play. In art group the focus is on taking creative risks, exploring a variety of art mediums and finding individual creativity. We run many more art groups than sports groups.

The youth that join are “targeted” as space is limited. The program strives to create opportunities for students that might not otherwise be able to attend groups. The reason youth are invited varies; it might be that a youth is anxious, neurodivergent, or simply new to town.

We had the most participants ever this year, approximately 165 students attended. We hire local artists and sports leaders to enhance our programming.

We try to support all the children that want to attend group, at the larger elementary schools we run lunch hour groups for the younger students. We have a grant for youth with diverse abilities who require more support.

The Fabulous ASSAI Team 2025

Sports- Damon Sutton, Rebecca Mattick, Megan Gorman, Student Tao Kuromi West : Tanya Dagg and Trisha Paseka

Art- Leta Bak, Rocio Graham, Carol Mitchell, Lena Holmes, Sabrina Rougeau, Rebecca Mattick, West: Nora Curiston

2025 Highlights

- We now have three staff that live in the West, which helps to build relationships. Several staff are artists; their skills are invaluable to hanging and installing the annual art show.
- We added a “Water is Life” project to the program. The youth made art about conservation of the riparian zone in the local water shed. We also had the young artists participate in “Festival of Trees”.
- We ran our 14th annual Art Attack at Gallery 2, in Grand Forks. Over 100 youth had art in the show. Two bus loads came for the opening party, one from the West and one from Big White.
- We had our largest crowd for the opening celebration. We ran out of cake! The show ran for three weeks while multiple classrooms and community toured the exhibit.

A total of 348 individual participants were served during the 2024/2025 fiscal year

Legal Support Services Report

The mission of the Legal Support Services Program is to confidentially connect people of the Boundary who are dealing with legal issues and questions with LSS resources and promotional materials. As well as, meeting potential service users where they are at in their life and assisting them in accessing relevant legal and community resources. Furthermore, reaching out to and building relationships with community partners across the Boundary to assist program participants to access sustainable, satisfactory solutions.

In the last three months the primary goal has been to connect with people and community partners, by being present and speaking to people across the Boundary. This goal is not only to promote LSS and our services but also to create growth and educational opportunities for myself and the program. This growth expanded the ability of the outreach position to find applicable resources, answer question and assist clients to access services and meet their needs.

The last three months have provided an opportunity to attend community events, speak, and build relationships with community partners and businesses across our area on behalf of the legal services program. In doing so, I see increasing number of service users and an increased ability to meet their needs.

Over the next year I hope to expand connections and attend more events.

Lexi Braun



Youth Support & Youth Outreach Report

I have been a Youth Support Worker for the last year and a half. The program focuses on connecting with youth in need of support under a wide umbrella of things. This extends from teaching basic life skills, regulatory skills and relationships to things like connecting with community resources, helping with post-secondary applications and other practical items. I have been able to partner with Grand Forks Secondary School to serve in an outreach role for participants who don't necessarily need long-term supports. This is a partnership I aim to expand to more schools in the next year. The flexibility of the program has allowed me to lean into group work, as meeting one-on-one becomes more difficult for youth over the busy summer months. In particular, I was able to start a new Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) based skills group and expand my ongoing efforts in Dungeons and Dragons groups. All groups had increased attendance compared to last year, and I hope to be able continue this momentum going forward.

Damon Sutton

A total of 17 individual participants were served in the 2024/2025 fiscal year.



Seniors Services Program Manager Report

Hi, I am Susan Proudman, the new Seniors Services Program Manager and a member of the Leadership Team. I was the new Community Connector last year, but I am excited and honored to be given an opportunity to serve in my new role with the growing seniors services team here at Boundary Family Services.

We have, thanks to our United Way funders, been able to add 2 new programs for seniors in our area and to also keep our current programs running. We added the Navigator and Peer Support position and the TAPS Coordinator position (Therapeutic Activation Program for Seniors) to our team. These 2 new positions have doubled the programs that we are able to offer the seniors in our communities. We now have 4 programs running at BFS and each comes with their own unique way of helping our seniors with their everyday life needs, concerns and connections to help them age comfortably and independently at home. Some of the services we offer are housekeeping, friendly visits, transportation, day programs, form assistance, social prescribing and many more that my team will explain in their descriptions of their programs to follow.

It has been so rewarding to see our seniors participate in our new and current programs and to hear the comments from them on the difference our services have made in their lives.

The goal moving forward is to reach as many of our vulnerable seniors as possible and to expand our programs to be able to help with as many things as possible as the needs of our seniors change.

Thanks to the great team we have here at Boundary Family Services that truly care for and are deeply concerned with the wellbeing of our seniors. It takes some very special people to make all of this happen and I am lucky to have them on my team.

Melanie Leslie - Better@Home Program Coordinator
Ruth Neveau - Community Connector West Boundary
Christina Werry - Community Connector East Boundary
Christina Werry - Navigator and Peer Support
Diane Barker - TAPS Coordinator
Ariel Hlookoff - Housekeeper
All our awesome volunteers
Thank you. ♥



Better At Home Report

Our Better at Home Program supports adults aged 65+ in maintaining independence by providing a range of services, including friendly visits, grocery support, transportation for medical and social needs, and a no-fee housekeeping program. These services are funded by the United Way and designed to help isolated, frail and low income seniors age in place safely and with dignity.

In 2024, we served 79 seniors with the help of 22 dedicated volunteers—an increase that has significantly expanded our reach. In volunteer services alone, this team provided:

- 252 friendly visits (in person or by phone)
- 85 personal grocery shops
- 78 grocery deliveries for online orders
- 61 transportation rides

These “Service Moments” reflect the care and consistency our volunteers bring to the program. Whether it’s a long drive to a medical appointment or a weekly check-in call, their time and compassion make a real difference.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on volunteer recruitment and retention, as well as addressing the growing demand for transportation, particularly for out-of-town medical travel.

Melanie Leslie, Better At Home Coordinator



Community Connector Report

Hello, I'm Christina Fay Werry. Born in Grand Forks and a longtime resident with deep cultural roots here. I'm passionate about giving back to my community that has helped me so much throughout my life. I'm in my second year working for Boundary Family Services. I am truly excited and honored to be the new Senior's Community Connector for the East Boundary (Christina Lake, Grand Forks and Greenwood areas). Working with seniors in this role has been such an amazing experience. Funded by United Way, the Community Connector works with seniors providing service referrals and promoting "Social Prescribing". What is Social Prescribing? You may ask! It's a means for healthcare professionals and other trusted individuals in health and community settings to connect participants to a range of non-clinical services in the community to improve their health and well-being. Instead of treating symptoms of illness, social prescribing can help address underlying causes of health and well-being issues. Social prescribing is a holistic, person-centered, community-based approach aimed at addressing the social determinants of health. My goal in this role is to encourage and uplift older adults to realize that health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, not solely the absence of disease!

Christina - East Boundary Community Connector

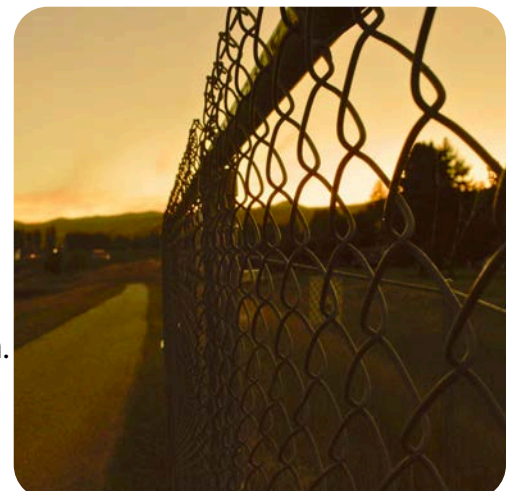
United Way BC (UWBC) partnered with the BC Ministry of Health to implement social prescribing across the province. Designed to connect seniors with non-medical community services and activities to improve their health and well-being, the provincial social prescribing model adopted the Community Connector program. Community Connectors (CC's) are individuals who help seniors access resources like music and exercise programs, nutritional support, and social opportunities, to reduce social isolation and improve their quality of life.

CCs are instrumental in building community networks and strengthening relationships between the seniors, healthcare providers, and local gov't services. West Boundary Community Connectors are actively involved in:

- *Coffee/walking groups-Willow Springs Ranch, Westbridge KR Junction, McMynn's Midway
- *Coffee/tea social, thrift store, Greenwood
- *Community lunch, Beaverdell
- *Music Jam at the Seniors Centre, Midway
- *Ice skating arena Midway
- *Line dancing social hall Westbridge
- *Seniors Being Seen Riverside Centre Rock Creek
- *Christian Valley horse connections
- *Home visiting
- *Many more community collaborations

The main barrier for seniors in the West Boundary is transportation.

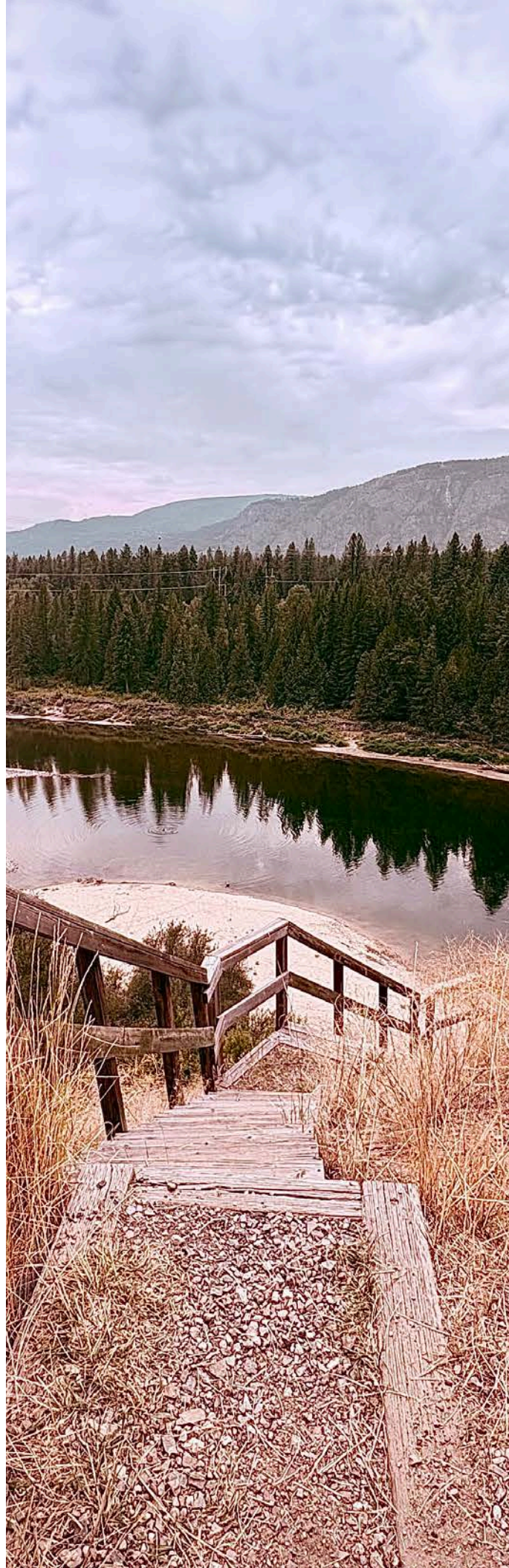
Ruth Neveau - West Boundary Community Connector



Seniors Navigation and Peer Support Program Report

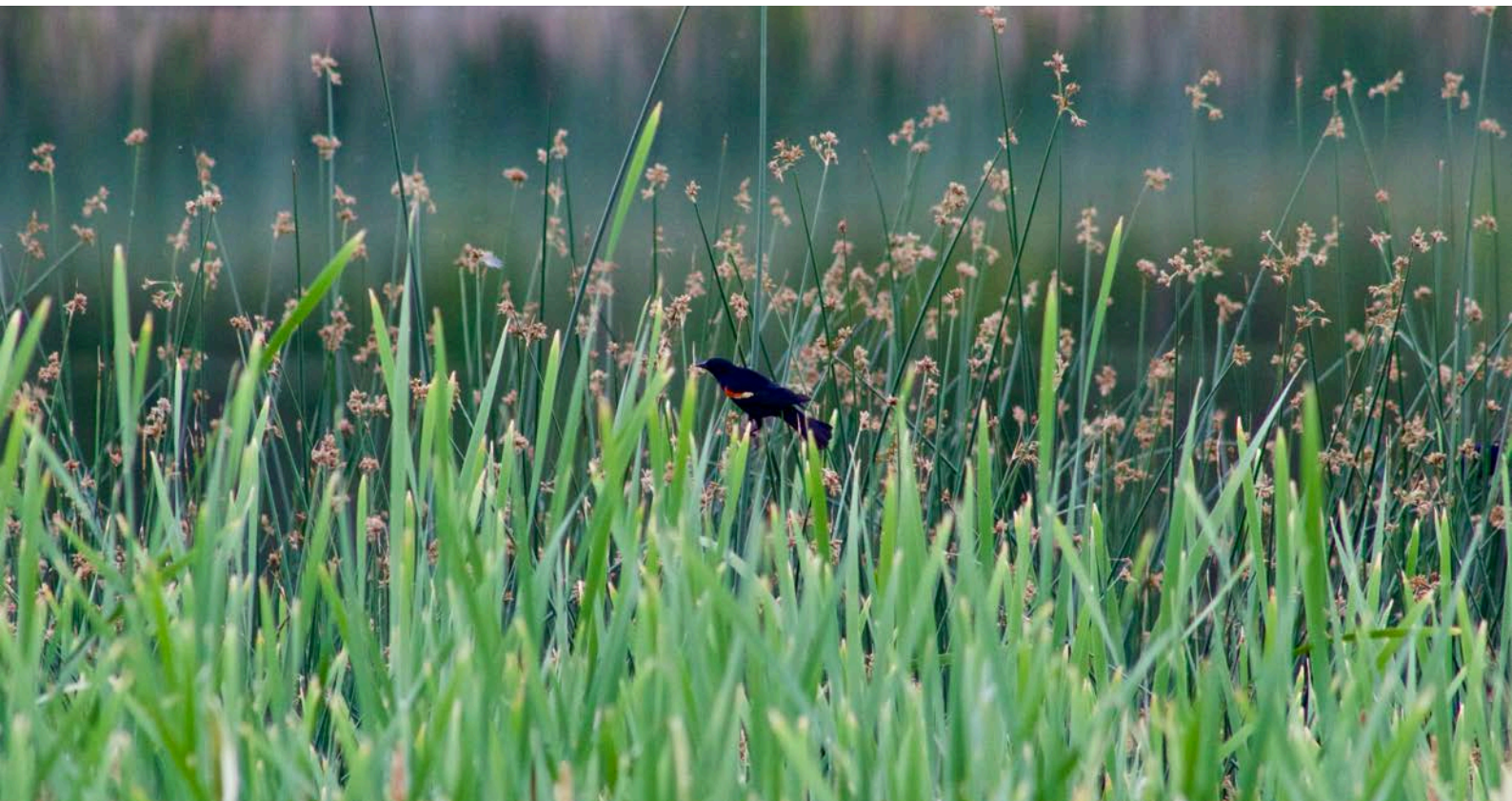
Hello, I am Christina Fay Werry. Born and raised in Grand Forks, BC. My family has been here through many generations. In recent months, Boundary Family Services has given me this new exciting role, in which I am so “Over the Moon” about as the new Seniors Navigation and Peer Support Program Coordinator for the whole of the Boundary area. A steam line under the Better At Home Program, this wonderful and life changing program is funded by United Way. The program provides localized information, and referral support for higher needs, low-income older adults in the Boundary area, who need one on one support to access much needed services and government benefits. As a Seniors Navigator, I work with seniors in our communities by providing information and education to ensure they receive the support they need to build a strong bridge between them and their community. Providing access to resources, services and government benefits are key aspects of The Seniors Navigator program. Access and knowledge of support helps build confidence, improve quality of life and provides a sense of empowerment for our seniors. My goal in this role is to make every senior I encounter feel comfortable and confident about the services they receive. “What is Important to You is Important to Me!”

Christina Werry



Therapeutic Activation Program for Seniors Report

Hello, my name is Diane Barker, I'm excited to be a member of the Seniors team. I've been lucky to call beautiful Grand Forks home for over seven years. My journey with Boundary Family Services began more than two years ago when I started volunteering with the Better at Home program—a role I found deeply fulfilling and rewarding. Now, I'm thrilled to step into my new position as the TAPS Coordinator (Therapeutic Activation Program for Seniors). I'm especially excited to help launch this brand-new program funded by United Way, which is all about bringing together isolated and lonely seniors to connect, make new friends, participate in activities, and enjoy a nutritious meal in a warm and welcoming space. TAPS is designed to be flexible and responsive to what seniors truly want—whether that's playing cards, going for walks, or simply sitting together to reminisce. I know starting something new can feel a bit daunting, but I'm genuinely looking forward to getting out into the community, meeting seniors, encouraging them to join TAPS, and helping the program grow in Grand Forks, Greenwood and Rock Creek



Early Years Supervisor Report

I have the honor of supervising all our early year programs at Boundary Family Services. Our early year programs range from pregnancy to families with children up to six years old. The programs and services are cost-free and we offer drop-in programs with an exception to our closed six-to-eight-week preregistered groups. The early years programs consist of the Baby's Best Chance Program (Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program), Parents of Young Children (Community Action Program for Children), Family Connections (West Boundary Community Action Program for Children) Infant Development Program, Just Call Me Dad, Li'l Explorers, Motherwise and Parenting programs such as Nobody's Perfect and Circle of Security. I am very grateful for our dedicated early years team who work together to identify community needs and work wholeheartedly to provide wrap around care from pregnancy to early parenting to meet the needs of the families in our community. A highlight for me is the community events we attended throughout the year; Early Years Fair, National Children's Day and Founders Day. Attending community events is a way to connect with more families, strengthen partnerships and foster a sense of community.

Our Wonderful Early Years Team for 2024 2025

Kristy Kuromi - Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program Baby's Best Chance Program (CPNP BBC), Family Navigator

Melanie Shenstone - Parents of Young Children, Li'l Explorers, Nobody's Perfect Parenting Program

Haley Proudman - Infant Development Program Consultant, Circle of Security

Mary-Ann Dennis - West Boundary Family Connections Facilitator, West Boundary Li'l Explorer

Nathan Ball - Just Call Me Dad program

Lentina Kujala - Childminder for Boundary Family Services early year programs

Cecile Horkoff - Food Security cook for the Baby's Best Chance and Parents of Young Children Thursday group

Sandy Podmoroff - Early Years Program Supervisor





Baby's Best Chance Report

Program Synopsis

The Baby's Best Chance (BBC) program at Boundary Family Services provides individualized pre and postnatal support for families from early pregnancy until their youngest child is two years old. The program ensures that families have access to the knowledge, resources, and emotional support they need for the healthiest and most enjoyable parenting journey possible.

Overview

BBC serves families across the Boundary region, offering group-based and one-to-one support tailored to individual needs and preferences. Families can engage with the program at any point in their parenting journey, from a positive pregnancy test through to toddlerhood. Services are guided by evidence-based information and include support around healthy pregnancy, labour and delivery, breast/chestfeeding, attachment, and early parenting skills, with referrals to additional community supports where appropriate.

After a thorough intake process, participants can access services in multiple formats, including:

- Weekly drop-in groups
- Private, registration-only groups (e.g., Motherwise Mental Health Groups, Prenatal Classes, Circle of Security Parenting Program)
- Individualized support in the location of their choice
- Cooking clubs
- Breast/chestfeeding support
- Parenting education and skill-building opportunities

This flexible and person-centered approach ensures that families can engage in ways that feel safe, comfortable, and meaningful.

Highlights of the Year

- The Early Years team worked collaboratively to successfully complete the program renewal process.
- Results from the Community Needs Assessment were very positive. Participants surveyed reported that attending BBC programming improved:
 - Personal connections with others and community building
 - Ability to find information from a trusted source
 - Understanding and development of parenting values
 - Awareness of, and connection to, other community services and programs
 - Knowledge of infant care
- Partnerships with community organizations remain strong, allowing families to confidently access wraparound support services.

Participant feedback reflects the deep impact of the program:

- “I have no parents, no one taught me or prepared me for a baby, but the BBC did! They guided me through every step and walked alongside me when I had no support.”
- “These programs made me a better, less anxious parent.”
- “Just Soo thankful this program has helped me to be a better mama to my kids and find the support I needed and didn't know I needed .I avoid community especially when I am struggling and it made an avenue to connection much easier I hope to continue these supports and try new parts of the program as I am not as scared to attend Thank you so much to the program and employees that make my family successful.”

Kristy Kuromi

A total of 143 individual participants were served during the 2024/2025 fiscal year



Community Action Program for Children and Li'l Explorers

Mission/Purpose:

This is a facilitated program that aims to promote the healthy development of young children from birth to age 6 and help families through their parenting journey by learning new skills, making community connections and creating relationships with other families.

2024/2025 Highlights:

I was able to bring in presenters to 13 of my groups this year. I believe that making these partnerships not only strengthens our community connection but also allows families to see what is available to them in our community. Putting a face to a service allows them to feel more comfortable seeking those services out when they are needed.

Barriers that were faced:

The all-day Thursday dynamic which included Parents of Young Children and Baby's Best Chance has struggled with attendance since the pandemic. Low numbers have always been an issue for afternoon programming which is usually most young children's nap time. One reason for this is the program being at the same time as most young children's nap times, but I also believe that it is easy to just stay home, and getting your children out of the house is hard. Especially when you have gotten into the routine of staying home.

In an effort to make programming more accessible to families and hopefully increase attendance we are planning to divide the programs into two separate days instead of the all-day Thursday group starting in September 2025 to help reduce this barrier.

Li'l Explorers

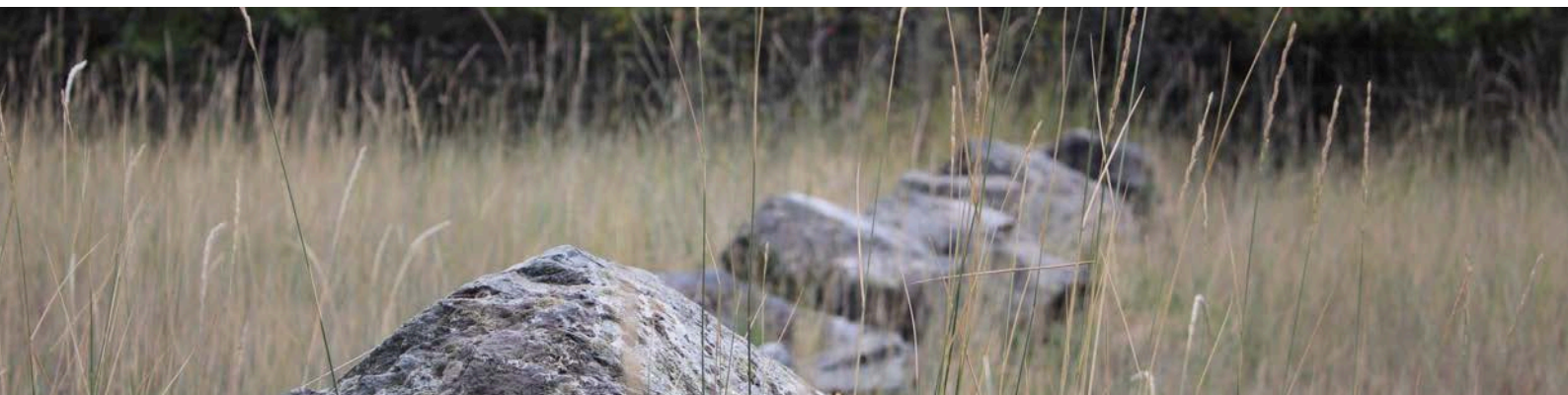
Mission/Purpose:

To have fun and show families that you can be active together and connect outside in all seasons and all weather through singing, activities and learning.

2024/2025 Highlights:

This program is always well attended with multi-generational family members participating. Thanks to more funding we were able to run the program through all of the seasons in 2024/2025. Families really enjoyed getting out there all year, and it was neat to see that I had different regulars in different seasons.

Melanie Shenstone



Infant Development Program Report

My name is Haley Proudman and for the last 4 years I've been working for Boundary Family Services Society through the Infant Development Program. This program is for children between the ages of birth and 6 years old, with a focus on children from birth to 3 years old. IDP works collaboratively with families to develop goals for their children and create steps to reach these goals. The program connects families with other services such as Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Pathology, and more. We run parent education classes in a group setting such as Circle of Security and Infant Massage. We also provide one on one parent education, offer resources through our lending program, assist with advocating for families, and offer assessments that focus on developmental domains. Our services can be accessed through the Glanville Centre in Grand Forks or through home visits. You can also access our services in the West Boundary, through virtual or myself traveling to the area, as well as Christina Lake. The program has been focusing this last year on educating families on the importance of attachment and how to build healthy attachment with your children. Circle of Security and Infant Massage have been two great ways that the program has been able to reach more families with this information. The feedback from families is that they are better able to understand themselves as well as their child's behaviour. I'm looking forward to working with more families this upcoming year!

A total of 46 individual participants were served during the 2024/2025 fiscal year



West Boundary Community Action Program for Children and Li'l Explorers

I have been a member of BFSS for a couple of years. I came to BFSS with various experiences including being a mother and grandmother. Since my time with BFSS, I have been able to continue growing in experience and training which I have the privilege sharing with the families I work with. I completed the Nobody's Perfect training and became a facilitator. This coming year, I will be facilitating Nobody's Perfect programs in the West Boundary. I was able to meet my goals of my commitment to competency and cultural awareness and being more proficient at planning my programs for the whole year.

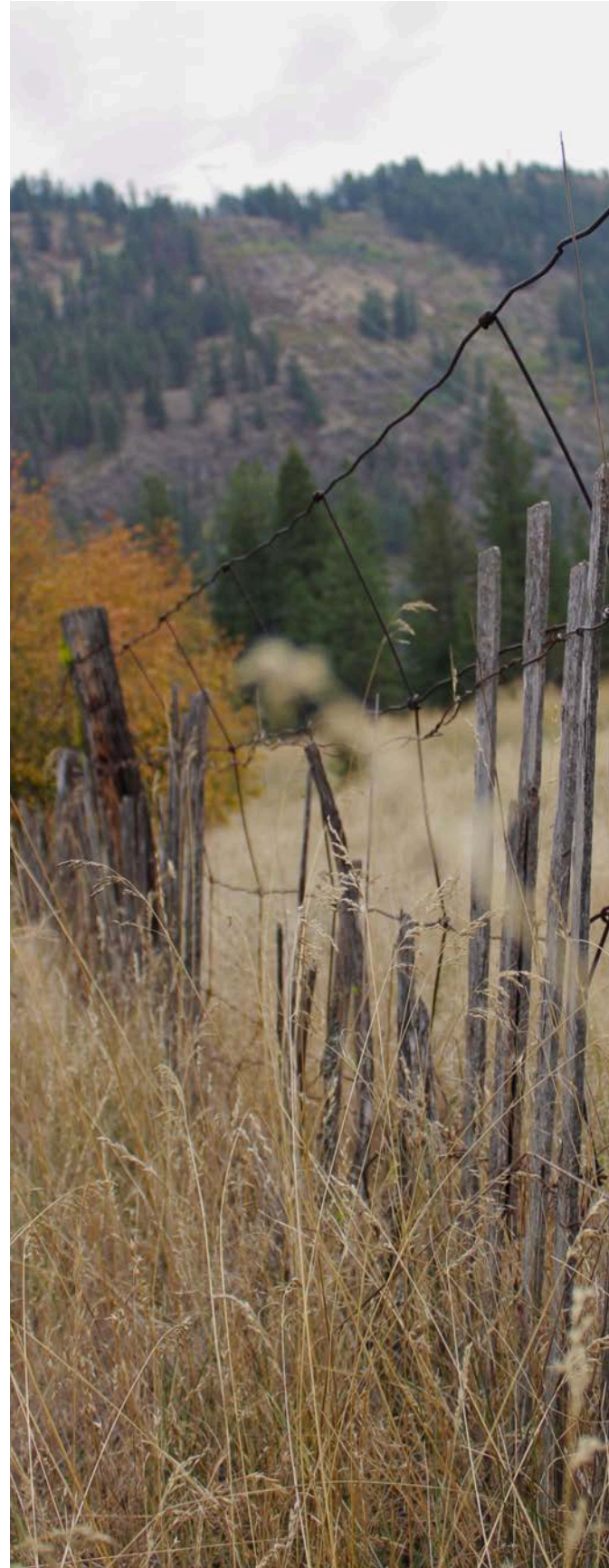
West Boundary Family Connections (WBFC)

There are families attending this group that really connected and have become friends. Most have moved from the city to live in a small rural community and some live quite remote and isolated. Since coming to the group, they are becoming more familiar with community partners and various resources available to them. The children are always excited to come and play with their friends and to meet new ones.

West Boundary Li'l Explorers

The Li'l Explorers outdoor playgroup was very well attended. The same families that came to the WBFC also attended along with more from surrounding communities. There were comments made on liking the child-led activities and how much fun everybody had.

Mary-Ann Dennis





Safe Stay Shelter Report

Grand Forks Safe Stay Shelter provides a safe, supportive, and consistent environment for individuals experiencing homelessness. Our mission is to meet immediate needs, foster dignity and safety, and connect clients to resources that promote long-term stability.

Strategic Goals & Highlights:

This year, we focused on building stronger systems, improving safety, and strengthening staff capacity. Key highlights include:

- Staff completed Mental Health First Aid and De-escalation Training, enhancing our ability to respond to crises with compassion and skill.
- Improved organization and consistency of rules, creating a safer and more predictable environment for clients.
- Strengthened communication between management and staff, resulting in more cohesive teamwork and improved client care.

Volunteer Contributions

Our number one volunteer this year has been Alex, who first came to the shelter as a client and has since dedicated countless hours to giving back. Alex's journey reflects the strength and resilience within our community — showing how support, stability, and opportunity can empower people to thrive and, in turn, help others.

In addition to Alex, several other volunteers helped with meals, donation drives, and daily shelter operations. Together, their contributions have been invaluable in keeping the shelter running smoothly.

Key Achievements & Milestones

- Provided safe shelter and kept clients alive during challenging circumstances.
- Saved lives by responding to overdoses and administering emergency support.
- Staff completed training on how to properly use naloxone, ensuring preparedness in case of opioid-related emergencies.
- Established more consistent operations through clearer rules and expectations.
- Increased staff training and preparedness for mental health and crisis situations.

Facility & Program Improvements

- Repaired bathroom toilets, ensuring better sanitation and accessibility.
- Installed a fence around the courtyard to enhance safety and privacy.

Use of Grant Funds

Thanks to community support and grant funding, we were able to provide essential winter gear and supplies to clients, including:

- Boots, jackets, and long underwear
- Gloves, toques, and mugs

These items ensured that individuals had warmth and dignity during the cold months.

Barriers & Challenges

A major barrier this year has been the lack of affordable and second-stage housing in our community. Without transitional or affordable housing options, clients who are ready to leave the shelter often have nowhere to go. This shortage increases the length of shelter stays and creates a cycle where individuals struggle to move forward, despite being ready for greater independence. The lack of housing also places additional pressure on shelter resources and limits our ability to serve more people in need.



How We Overcame Challenges

Through stronger communication, new management, and a renewed focus on teamwork, we overcame many operational challenges this year. Staff and volunteers worked together to adapt quickly, improve consistency, and create a more supportive environment for clients.

Special Partnerships & Recognitions

This year, we were deeply grateful for the generosity and support of our community partners.

- BC Housing provided vital support that made it possible for the shelter to operate and serve those in need.
- Grand Forks Food Bank provided essential food donations that helped us serve nutritious meals to clients.
- The Food Recovery Program out of Grand Forks Gospel Chapel contributed generous donations that supported the shelter's daily needs and strengthened our ability to care for clients.
- The community of Grand Forks showed ongoing generosity through donations, and advocacy for the shelter.

We also want to recognize the invaluable support from our service partners, whose collaboration helps us provide more comprehensive care: RCMP, Paramedics, Interior Health, Mental Health Services, Coins, ANKORS, Boundary Transit, Public Health, Service BC, and Whispers of Hope.

The ongoing support of these partners has been essential in ensuring the shelter's success and the well-being of those we serve.

Insights for the Future

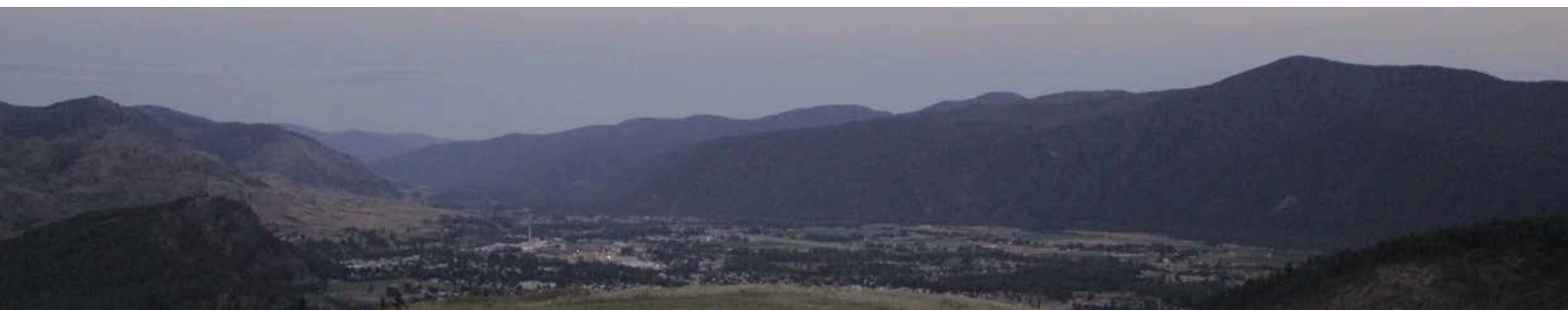
This year has shown us that efficiency and education are key to strengthening our impact. By streamlining operations and improving communication, we can serve clients more effectively. Continued staff education — from crisis intervention to trauma-informed care — ensures our team is equipped with the tools they need to provide compassionate, professional support. Building on these lessons will allow us to maintain safety, consistency, and dignity for all clients while using resources wisely.

Goals for Next Year

Looking ahead, our goals include:

- Expanding volunteer involvement and community engagement.
- Continuing staff training in trauma-informed care and crisis response.
- Further improving shelter facilities to enhance safety and dignity.
- Strengthening housing pathways and partnerships to help more clients transition into permanent housing.

Jason Greaves



Raven Place Manager Report

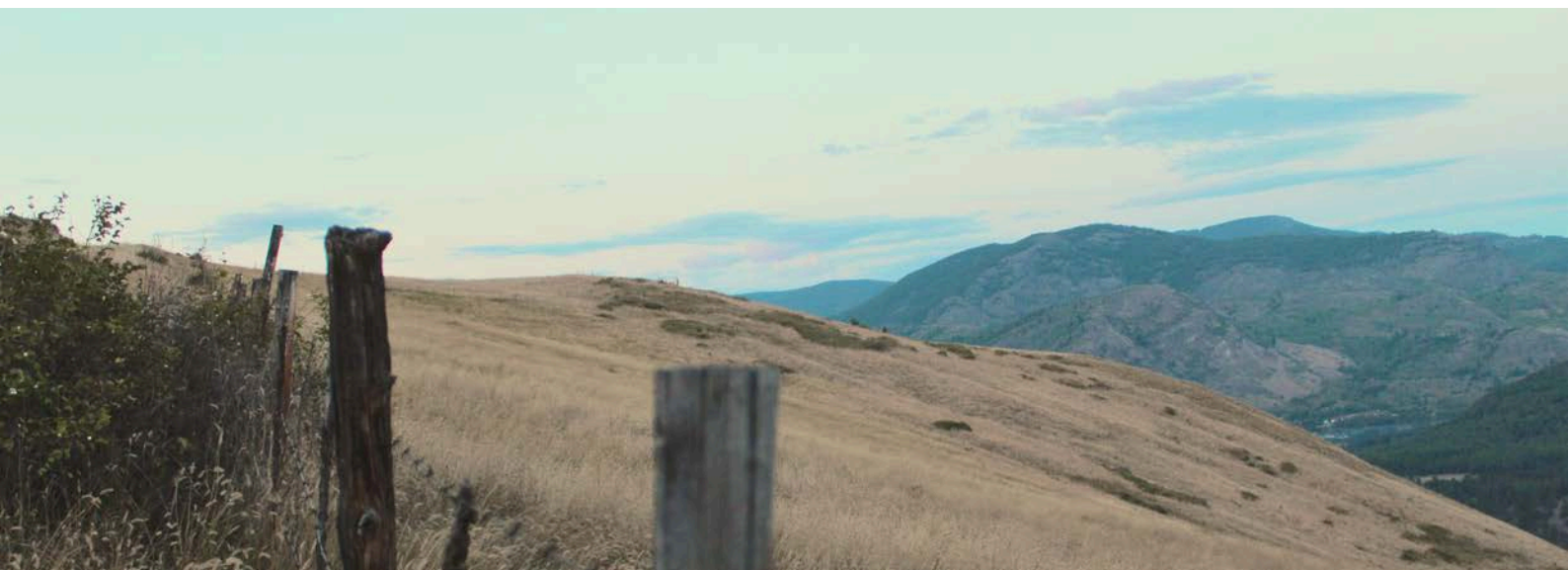
This year Raven Place has undergone a lot of maintenance on the building. Our boiler room had extensive work done to ensure all tenants are getting hot water consistently. Many of the failing lights in the hallways have been replaced. The heat pumps in all the units have undergone many repairs and a few of the units have been replaced with an entirely new model. The parking lot has been repainted so the cross walks are visible and all tenants now have a designated parking space. Our camera system has been upgraded with a whole new and improved model. The Garden Grant was applied for early in the new year to have more garden boxes put in the back since many in the building have a green thumb. Unfortunately our building wasn't chosen out of the many other BC Housing buildings in the interior. My goals for the future is to work on maintaining the grounds as the weeds have been taking over. We have some great ideas for this in the coming year!

I have been approached on many occasions by tenants saying how Raven Place has given them a sense of peace, they feel as if a weight has been lifted off their shoulders. They no longer have the stress of finding and securing a safe and affordable place to live.

The atmosphere I would love to continue for the building is that of family. Many people within the building have created wonderful friendships with each other. I've seen some looking after each others pets when away, offering rides to one another in need, sharing meals and extra goodies from their gardens, going shopping and taking care of each other when sick, inviting each other over to meet their family that visits and when people are grieving or going through tough times the gentlest hugs and gestures to make sure they are doing ok. It's beautiful to witness the kindness from people who were once complete strangers that have now become dear friends. I've lived in apartment buildings before and have never experienced the close knit bonds and sense of community that Raven Place holds.

I feel very fortunate to work with such a diverse group of people ranging in ages and needs and am so grateful to be a part of this building that has a wonderful thriving energy.

Alicia Unsworth



Community Outreach Report

As an Outreach Worker, my mission is to meet people where they are at, without judgement and provide compassionate support to individuals experiencing homelessness and other forms of vulnerability. I strive to build trust through consistent respectful engagement, and to empower individuals by connecting them with essential services, resources and community support. As well as build stability and aim to empower individuals to access services, and reduce barriers, promote dignity and support each person on their path toward stability, safety and self-determination.

We haven't had much opportunity for volunteer time in this position as it requires trust with entering encampments, more for safety purposes. We have a new annual event called Haircuts and Hamburgers partnered up with Adult Mental Health & Substance Use and with free haircuts from me. This second year I had another girl help me and we were busy all day. I'm excited for next year as the event is getting bigger with lots of community support and partners.

I was asked to speak and share last year and this year for Overdose Awareness Day in support with ANKORS to remember those we have lost.

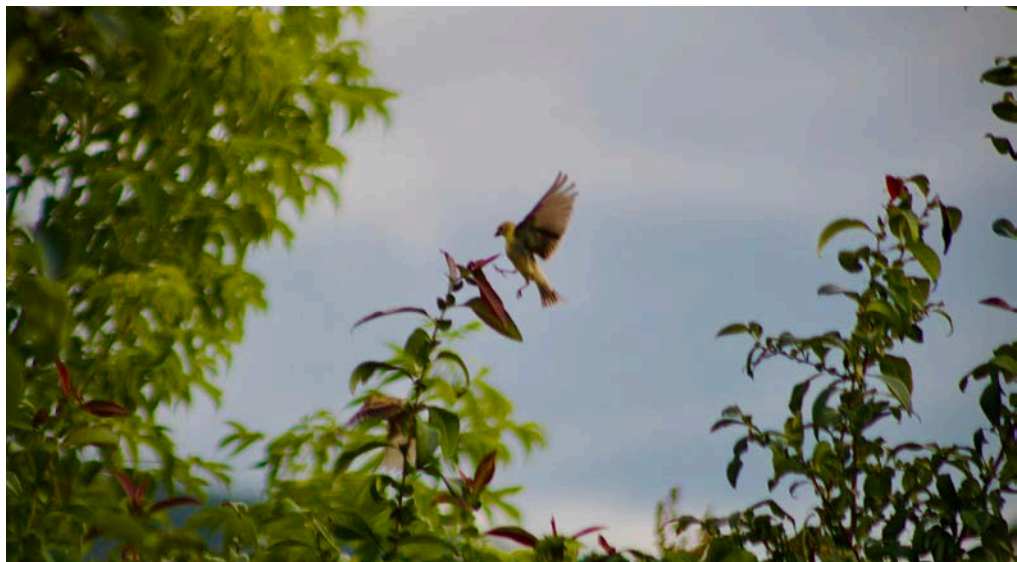
Grants have been extremely helpful in helping with extreme weather over the last 5 years we have had everything from water, sunscreen, cooling mats, flashlights, solar chargers, fans, spray bottles, hot paws, winter gloves, winter boots, winter jackets and personal hygiene products, as well as air conditioners to cool our Safe Stay Shelter.

I'm working my best to get individuals housing, or any support they need. I'm hoping in the new year to help some longer-term clients find housing and help connect clients to any resources they need.

For the most part there aren't any issues, it's important to just support those affected by addiction and loss and to make sure that we talk and communicate with other staff that are working at the Safe Stay Shelter, and no one is left to struggle on their own. This job requires trust and I have built a lot throughout the 5 years. Working alone sometimes can be heavy when you hear bad news or even dealing with someone's really bad day, or a loss. I feel I have good support with the leadership team, and I'm excited for the future I have with Boundary Family Services.

Thank you for your time.

Alyssa Humphries
Outreach support worker





Our Funders

Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

Ministry for Children and Family Development (MCFD)

School District #51

Ministry of Justice BC

Kootenay Kids

KBCSKoop

Interior Health Authority

United Way

Legal Services Society of BC

BC Housing

