

# PEARL LIFE RENEWAL SOCIETY

*Annual Report June 2018 – May 2019*

## *Steps Forward*



*pearl*

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# MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR

**B**ig and small **STEPS FORWARD** was the theme at PEARL for 2018/19! We more than doubled our team of staff and volunteers this past year, allowing for much needed one-on-one support for a growing number of women coming through our doors each week. We offered volunteers and staff more skills and trainings to equip and prevent burn out. We also connected with more service providers and resources in our community enabling us to better support the women at PEARL. We also moved from being open three days a week to five days a week!

Another big step forward was seeing some of the women at PEARL gain housing through staff's support! Housing leads to other big steps like increased self-worth, leading to recovery and employment readiness training. Some women also completed a recovery program!

We also grew our weekly life skills classes offered at the centre this year! PEARL welcomed nursing students who offered foot and hand care and general health information for participants. We also offered boundaries, faith exploration and spiritual 12 steps classes. Life skills classes encouraged a deeper connection with staff and steps forward for participants to gain new insights, challenge and finding renewed courage and hope.

We also grew in physical size! Remodeling is underway behind PEARL for more office, storage and classroom space!

We were also deeply grateful for more new ministry partners and fundraiser event sponsors this past year! God's continued faithfulness and care for vulnerable women, through you as donors and supporters is both humbling and exciting. God's redemptive love is truly life changing, and we are grateful to sit on the front lines and see the impact of that love as women make steps forward in their lives. We invite you to participate in some of those steps forward through this annual report.

Sincerely,

*- Joan Gooren*



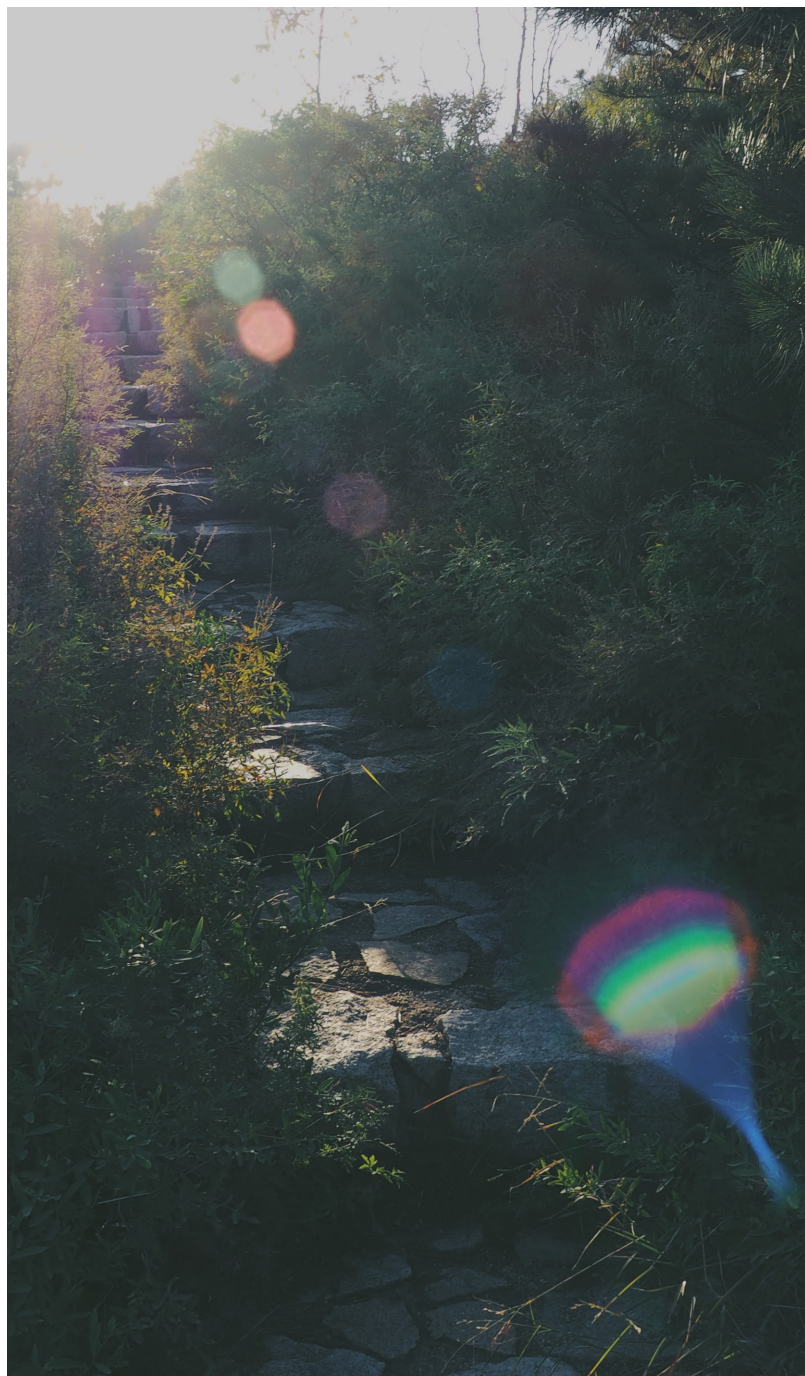
# WHAT WE BELIEVE

## *Vision*

We envision girls and women safe, protected from sexual exploitation and prostitution and experiencing wellbeing.

## *Mission*

PEARL empowers girls and women who are sexually exploited, trafficked and in prostitution, through support, education and Jesus' love, to embrace hope and renewal.



# CORE VALUES

## *Christ Centeredness*

Because Jesus' love and words are foundational and transformational, we attempt to live those out in the promotion of truth and justice for sexually exploited and prostituted girls and women.

## *Caring*

Extending respect, grace, confidentiality and compassion to sexually exploited and prostituted girls and women in the acknowledgment of their experienced traumas.

## *Excellence*

In services offered and with integrity in using resources.

## *Holistic Transformation*

Encouraging sexually exploited girl's and women's renewal and wellbeing in body, mind, spirit and relationships.

## *Collaboration*

Encouraging community involvement in the continuum of care to facilitate sexually exploited girl's and women's access to services and resources.

# OUR TEAM 2018/19

## *Executive Leadership*

**Gerry Goosen**

*President*

**Sandy Mathies**

*Vice President*

**Deborah Woelders**

*Secretary Treasurer*

**Susan Chalkias**

*Director*

**Dan Teilmann**

*Director*

## *Staff*

**Joan Goosen**

*Founder and Executive Director*

**Cindy Somerfield**

*Program and Administrative  
Coordinator*

**Tracy Kucey**

*Intake and Care Coordinator*





# OUR IMPACT

SUPPORT • EDUCATION • JESUS' LOVE

## *In the last year:*

- \* 1749 visits were made by 130+ different women
- \* Women participants spent 3200+ hours in the center
- \* 37 centre intakes were completed

### Staff facilitated

- 31 housing applications
  - 13 housing placements
  - 43 recovery referrals - with 9 attempting recovery
  - 46 instances of legal supports
  - 61 medical referrals
  - 7 referrals to Triangle job readiness program
- \* Our amazing volunteer team gave over 1,400+ hours cleaning, organizing, serving meals, connecting with the participants and more!

*"Does he not see my ways and  
number all my steps?" (Job 31:4)*



# OUR IMPACT

SUPPORT • EDUCATION • JESUS' LOVE

## *Boundaries:*

Some women regularly attended our boundaries class. They learned that “no” is a complete sentence, and that Boundaries are about respect for self and others.



## *Spiritual 12 Steps:*

Participants in the 12 Steps class began to look at the steps of recovery and examined what their current obstacles were in moving forward.





# OUR IMPACT

SUPPORT • EDUCATION • JESUS' LOVE

## *Health:*

UFV 4th year Nursing Students came during their school semester and supported the participants in foot and hand care and answered general health related questions.



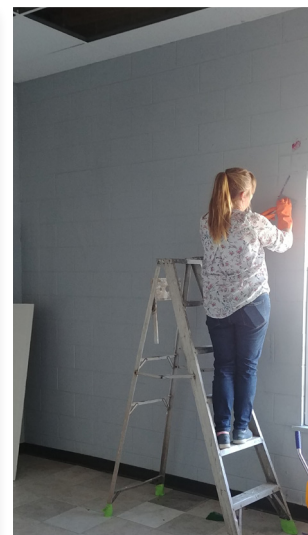
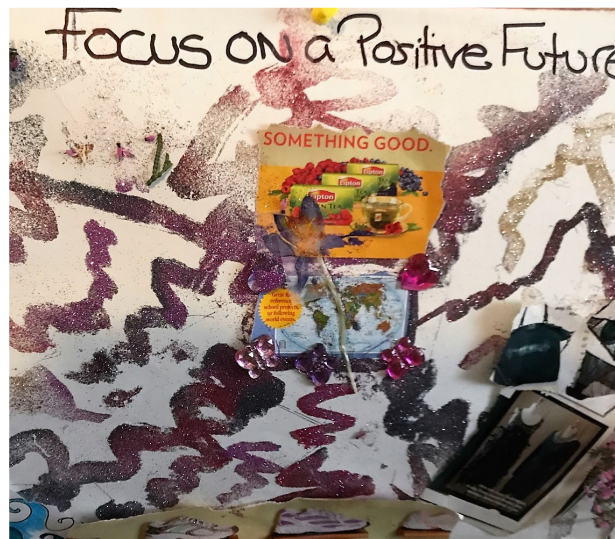
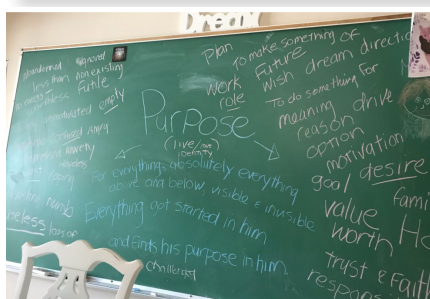
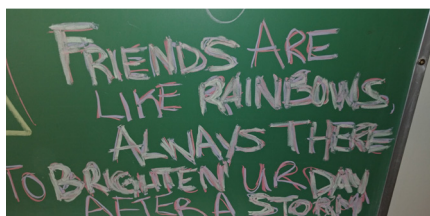
## *Faith Exploration:*

Some women discovered for the first time that God has a plan and purpose for their lives that is motivated by His love for them. Many considered that what they understand about God might be wrong. This opened doors to the beginning steps of faith.



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2018/19

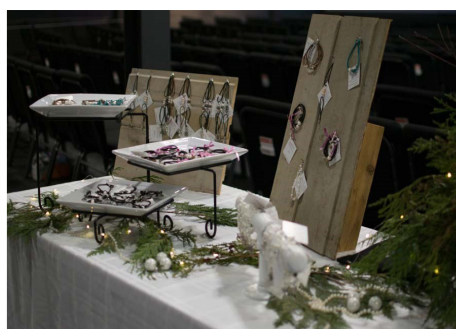
## *Centre activities and renovating the new space.*



## *Community Awareness & Fundraiser Event.*



The Chilliwack Rotary Club awarded PEARL a grant for Life Skills Classes



PEARL's Celebrate Fundraiser 2018

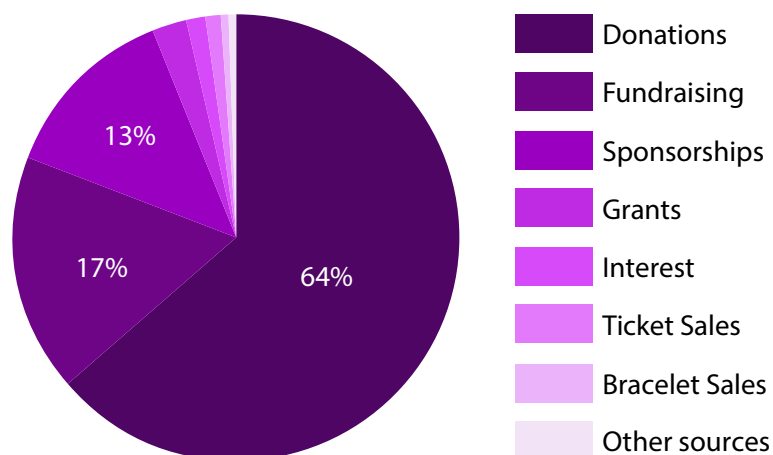
# RESOURCES & FINANCIALS

## (June 2018-May 2019)

### *Income*

Donations	\$105,058.84
Fundraising	\$28,416.13
Sponsorships	\$21,385.00
Grants	\$4,160.00
Interest	\$2,148.40
Ticket Sales	\$1,982.58
Bracelet Sales	\$1,187.81
Other sources	\$478.75

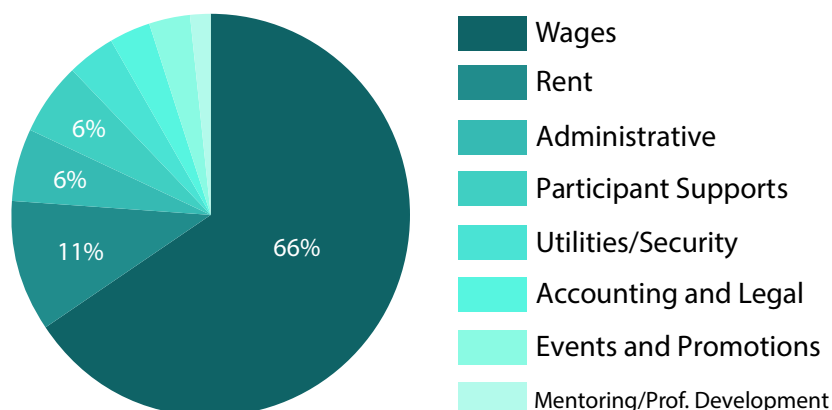
**TOTAL: \$164,817.51**



### *Expenses*

Wages	\$83,781.82
Rent	\$13,633.75
Administrative	\$7,487.77
Participant Supports	\$7,414.00
Utilities/Security	\$4,816.00
Accounting and Legal	\$4,385.04
Events and Promotions	\$4,204.56
Mentoring/ Prof. Development	\$1,981.00

**TOTAL: \$127,703.94**





# WHY I GIVE

**W**e choose to financially support PEARL because we believe that God loves the prostituted and trafficked women of Chilliwack. PEARL offers physical support for women on a daily basis. A hot cup of coffee, a warm shower, filling out detox, recovery and housing applications, and learning practical skills to better themselves are some of the services offered. Women are met wherever they are at in their journey, and encouraged to move forward with their lives through the gentle and loving approach of the staff and volunteers.

Most importantly, PEARL offers emotional and spiritual support to women who are in desperate need of the healing and power of Jesus. A listening ear, a word of encouragement and an offer of prayer all have the ability to plant the seeds of change in a woman's life. PEARL is working as the hands and feet of Jesus in action, and PEARL is making a difference in Chilliwack.

*"For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked and you gave me clothing. I was sick and you cared for me. I was in prison and you visited me.... I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters you were doing it to me!" (Matthew 25:35-40).*

- *Anonymous donors*



# WHY I SERVE AS VOLUNTEER

**M**y reasons for volunteering at PEARL are first and foremost to follow Christ who is a friend of sinners. My second reason is I have a deep-felt empathy for those who are hurting so much, and have such high needs.

What I expected when I first went there was not this: On a beautiful September afternoon I stepped into PEARL and there was a young woman there with tattoos all over her neck. We started chatting and she spontaneously told her story. Her upbringing was difficult and then a rough life followed: prostitution, addiction, crimes and jail. But that was her past. Since I had a very sheltered upbringing myself I was shocked by her story, almost overwhelmed. What could have caused the change in her life? So I asked her “what changed you”? Her answer was simple: “God.” But how I asked? She answered that she had a bible with her when she was in court and out of boredom started to read it and has read it ever since. And so with God’s help she turned her life around. I was in awe and realized again that nothing is impossible with God. It showed me right at that moment that I would not only hear sad stories, but also stories of immense beauty.

I am volunteering at PEARL for almost a year now. Being a volunteer means being there for the girls and women that come in. I serve them lunch, show them where they can do their laundry, have a shower or just be a listening ear and have a conversation. I sometimes still feel overwhelmed by the things I hear. A child gets taken away from the mother as a result of addiction, makes me want to cry.

So with the help of PEARL I see women trying to get out of the unhealthy cycle they are in and in some cases a willingness to read the bible and learn how God can change their lives. The things I do feel small, but the small things we do, God can use and bless it for the women. I feel privileged to work here and do it with joy!”

- *Marja Van Ruitenburg*

# WHY I SERVE AS STAFF

“A kind gesture can reach a wound only compassion can heal.” This simple quote summarizes both my testimony and my journey with Christ. It is now my life work.

Testimony is a powerful tool to share hope and is essential to my ongoing recovery and renewal. My work began through Life Recovery and led me to PEARL. Step by step different opportunities arose where I could participate in sharing my journey of recovery and wholeness to those wanting recovery as well as those wanting to reach vulnerable women. I first heard about PEARL while in recovery. Joan came to speak. Although new in my recovery I felt God nudging me to pay attention that there was something about PEARL that was drawing me despite my skepticism.

My sobriety and spiritual wellness are dependent on giving back and has been a huge part of my growth. To stand where I am today, walking with God day by day in sobriety and to have a job where I get to live out sharing faith, hope and the love of Jesus Christ is a dream that I could've never imagined.

Our day begins in surrender through prayer and the study of the word. This sets the tone of how we minister to each woman who walks through our door. Basic needs such as food and water become metaphors for how Christ said He is our bread and water.

Teaching workshops like Exploring the Steps, and supporting the Boundaries and Exploring Faith classes has been exciting to see the women begin to see possibilities for themselves through mutual sharing. My cup is full, participating in the vision of PEARL living out a life redeemed. I am so grateful.

- Tracy Kucely





# PARTICIPANT STORY

I want to thank you so much for what you have done for me.

I was struggling and did not know where or whom to turn to. When I entered PEARL I felt love, Security and at Peace. I am so grateful you lead me in the right direction. Now I am on my way to a happier life with love and Peace of mind.

Thank you Ladies and thank you “Pearls.” Without you there would be no me.

With love,

- M.



# NEXT STEPS

## *Looking Ahead*

**1** We need to upgrade our file and data tracking systems for an estimated cost of \$3000.00 per year.

**2** We want to open an e-PEARL Boutique, selling gently used items online, to support the ministry of PEARL. We need expertise in set up and maintenance for this project.

**3** We want to establish a faith inspired live - in Next Steps program of learning and renewal for sexually exploited women. We need to secure a facility and an estimated annual budget of \$250,000.00 for this project.



# THANK YOU!

**W**e are so grateful to God for providing for PEARL in 2018/19!

To everyone who has partnered with us in supporting, educating and sharing Jesus' love with vulnerable and sexually exploited women at PEARL this past year, we thank you!

You are offering hope and helping women to take steps forward in their lives!

*“... O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)*

## **PEARL Life Renewal Society**

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