

# Change

2019–2020

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

pearl

Life Renewal Society

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**“For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.”**

**Isaiah 43:19**



# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Change is an appropriate theme for our world, and the work done at PEARL Resource Centre in 2019/20. Viruses, injury, disease, closures, financial insecurity, homelessness, drug addiction, poverty, and abuse – new changes for many, and long-standing ones for some of the most vulnerable women on our streets. Yet debilitating problems can be an impetus for good change.

Good change begins with a changed mind and one step forward. From “I can’t,” to “I think I can,” to “I will” was the experience shared alike by staff, volunteers and the record number of women who came through our door this past year. PEARL offered support, education and Jesus’ love to more 100 prostituted women in Chilliwack in 2019/20. Some of this year’s highlights at the centre are included in this annual report.

Another opportunity to help bring good change in vulnerable women’s lives was training in February to offer an Ending the Game group at PEARL - a proven and powerful curriculum to help women understand the “hooks” that keep them stuck in “the game” of sex trafficking and prostitution and how to get out and stay out. In March we made the difficult decision to temporarily close the centre in an effort to minimize the spread of the Coronavirus, but continued our support by transitioning to street outreach and virtual support.

Change, globally and locally seemed overwhelming in 2019/20. Yet it’s often in the darkest and hardest places where new life and hope spring from. Many women at PEARL made some good changes this past year. As a faith-inspired ministry, I’m deeply grateful we serve a God who does not change, and that lasting positive change happens as we partner with and become empowered by the Source of life and love!

Sincerely,

Joan Goosen



# 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.*

# Vision

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

## 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 acknowledgement 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

## **Board of Directors**

*Gerry Goosen – President and Chair*

*Sandy Mathies – Vice President*

*Deborah Woelders – Secretary-Treasurer*

*Gail Derksen – Board Member*

*Charlene Stintson – Board Member*

*Dan Tielmann – Board Member*

*Susan Chalkias – Advisory Board Member*

## **Staff**

*Cindy Sommerfield – Program Coordinator*

*Karin Baer – Administrative Assistant*

*Tracy Kucey – Intake & Care Coordinator*

*Joan Goosen – Executive Director*

**“Your word is a lamp to guide my  
feet and a light for my path.”**

**Psalm 119:105**



# Highlights



How we offer support changed after COVID 19, masks and bagged lunches to go.



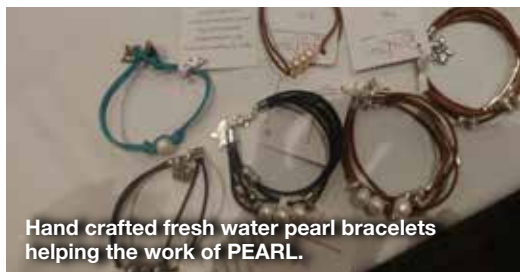
Celebrating birthdays was an important way to be seen. Thank you volunteer cake bakers for making that possible!



Exploring the Steps to Recovery classes were held weekly, meeting the participants where they were at.



Comfort journals proved to be a great way to relax and connect.



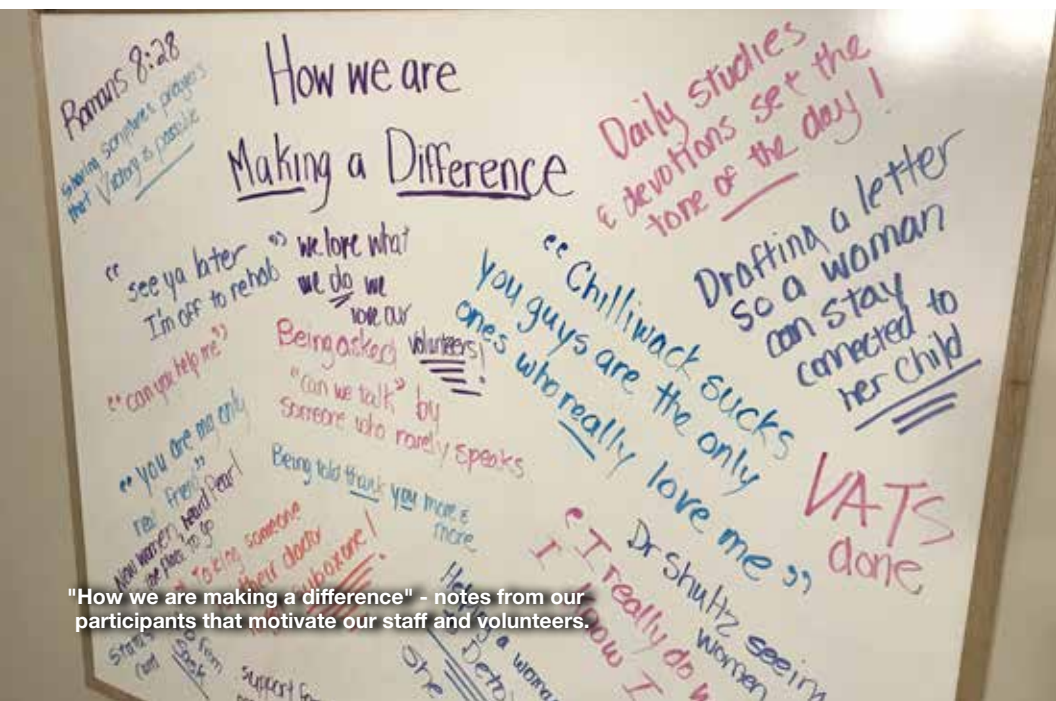
Hand crafted fresh water pearl bracelets helping the work of PEARL.



"Together" - Fundraiser and awareness event 2019.



Our dedicated event volunteers.





# Highlights

June 2019 – March 2020  
(Centre closed April & May 2020 due to COVID-19)



**2,047**

Visits were made by 100+ different women



**2,700+**

Hours spent by the women participants at the centre



**37**

New centre intakes were completed



**950+**

Hours given by our amazing volunteers: cleaning, organizing, serving meals, connecting with the participants and more!

## STAFF FACILITATED



**31** housing applications  
**4** housing placements



**43** recovery referrals with  
**14** attempting recovery



**17** instances of legal support  
**65** legal inquiries



**25** medical supports  
**74** medical inquiries



**40** identification documents



Some of our staff and volunteers at PEARL Resource Centre



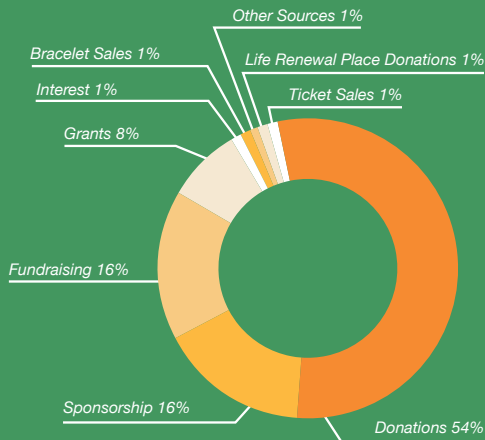
# RESOURCES & FINANCIALS

(June 2019 – May 2020)

## Income

Donations	\$97,494
Sponsorships	\$29,600
Fundraising	\$28,408
Grants	\$14,999
Interest	\$2,654
Bracelet Sales	\$1,910
Other Sources	\$1,842
Ticket Sales	\$1,810
Life Renewal Place Donations	\$1,810

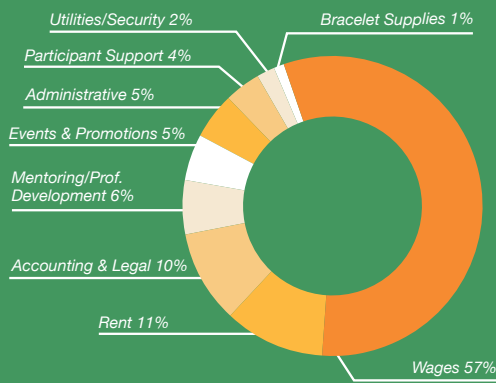
**TOTAL: \$180,527**



## Expenses

Wages	\$92,776
Rent	\$17,835
Accounting & Legal	\$16,028
Mentoring/Prof. Development	\$9,174
Events & Promotions	\$8,571
Administrative	\$8,202
Participant Support	\$5,672
Utilities/Security	\$4,273
Bracelet Supplies	\$946

**TOTAL: \$163,477**



# Why I Give

**W**hy do I support PEARL financially? Well, it wouldn't be honest if I didn't say it was first because Jesus loves me. In my past, I was at a place where I was lost and in a dark pit, and the Lord reached down and pulled me out. He did this by using people in my life. People who saw value in me loved me and put up with me until I could stand alongside them in the Lord. When I look at PEARL, I see exactly that! People who are reaching out to people.

God is using PEARL to reach these beautiful women who have lost their footing and are helping them to stand. And, they are doing it on the front lines! I have never seen a charitable organization in my life that is SO INTIMATELY connected with the people they are helping! There are no middlemen (or women), and I love that!

In Christ ,

Rob Lee





# Why I Serve as Staff

I originally began my journey with PEARL as a volunteer, believing I had been called to serve in the trenches – those tough places that people tend to shy away from. I had little professional experience to apply for work in this sector, but did have some life experience that could possibly allow me to offer compassion and comfort, and my experience as a missionary in a foreign country had taught me to be flexible and remain open to learn. What I did have, was a heart for the broken.

I have come to learn that there are tremendous blessings and the reward of unexpected growth when we step out in faith. I am learning what a unified force of love looks like, and the security that it can provide both for us and the women we serve. I am learning that sincere love and truth can move mountains and soften hearts, and I am coming to understand the courage it takes to walk that out.

I am learning that the humility to see others as equals and not with eyes of pity makes people receptive to hear you speak. The words we speak have power. How we speak them reveals our heart. I have learned that it is possible to love unconditionally and how powerful that is, and how it is not without testing or cost. Perseverance always wins. I am learning that to wait patiently with expected hope is often a catalyst for change. Believing the best in someone helps them to see it for themselves. I have learned how amazing these women are! They are so much more than what we see. Each one a tremendous gift, filled with talents and abilities that astound me daily. I have learned that success is measured by many small steps.

This is just a beginning, and moving from fear to faith, taking the opportunity I had been given as a volunteer has turned into a job I love. Not only do I get to work here but I have grown in a deeper understanding of our human condition which is rich beyond any education I could ever have received. I came to PEARL in hopes to effect change in the lives of women, but I can testify that the greatest changes have occurred in me.

Cindy Sommerfield



# Why I Serve as Volunteer

I recall the first PEARL fundraiser. I had volunteered to help with set up, greet visitors and potential sponsors, and clean up after. That evening I heard stories that broke my heart and also stories that made me cry for joy. As I listened, I sensed God speaking to me and saying, “these women could be you or your daughters,” and that is what urged me to get involved. Little did I know that God would work in my heart for over a year before I made the phone call to PEARL to ask if they needed me.

I had no idea what I could offer, but I knew that God would lead the way. As a nurse, I knew that I could help them with medical services, but I also thought that perhaps I could touch them with God’s love in a way that might prevent their further need for medical care and keep them out of the hospital. And, maybe I could help others in my workplace see them through a different lens or find ways to love them in small and simple ways that would make their lives better.

We are a team at PEARL, and I am a very small part, but I know that the Lord wanted me to come and be God’s hands and feet. He wanted me to love these beautiful ladies as I love my own daughters. I now see my role in the hospital very differently when my path meets up with the ladies in my department, and I know that volunteering at PEARL has allowed me to have very open conversations with my daughters, which has allowed them to see another side of the world around us. They now have a softer heart toward those I care for at PEARL and in the hospital. They can see the beauty within that I see, and they now understand why I volunteer.

Kimberlei Dool





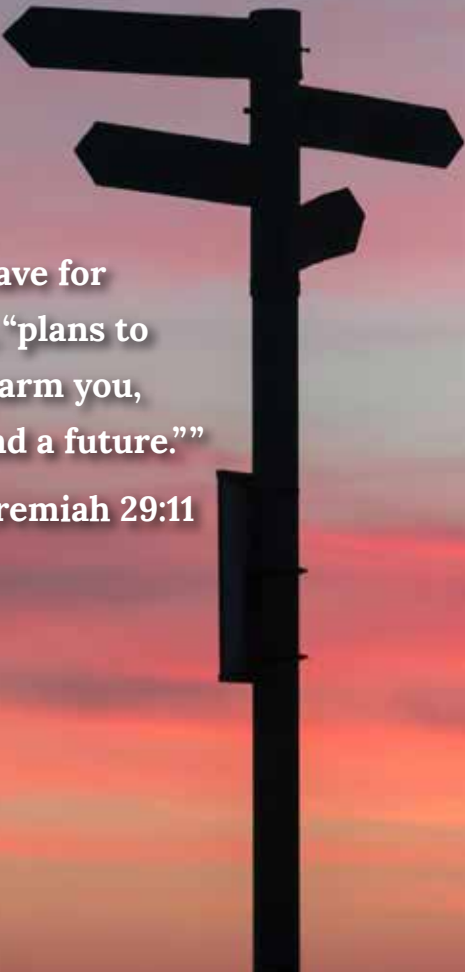
# Participant Story

**T**oday, May 30, 2019 I stand in my own home safe and clean, in my own oh so cute bachelorette pad! No more cold, scary, damp, lonely nights spent hungry and shivering with icy sneers of passer as they walk by. I can sleep safely without the fear of being maced and randomly attacked for being simply homeless.... I have a place to wait out of the down pour. I'll never again be forced into any unwanted arms. I'm free, I can now choose.... I can find out if I want to go to work or go back to school. I can now think and plan an actual future for myself and not of my next meal or place. I can finally sleep safely. I can now further my growing interest in God's work, maybe he wants me to guide others out of the dark and silent violent streets into God's gift, into the unconditional love and support that the women of PEARL have unfailingly shown me.... But now as I sit on a wonderfully soft bed with warm and pretty blanket I'm dying to snuggle down into, I whisper "Thank You"....

J.

# Next Steps

**W**ith a business plan in place, and board approval to develop the curriculum, we need \$250,000 annually to open Life Renewal Place in 2021. Life Renewal Place will offer cisgender women survivors of sexual exploitation a therapeutic and peaceful place to live for up to two years. A place where they can experience a transformative, sustainable recovery through life-changing programing that includes health care, counselling, employment and community building skills – a place to equip women for success!



**““For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.””**

**Jeremiah 29:11**



# Thank You

**W**e are grateful to the gracious and faithful care of our God and for your generous prayers and financial partnerships, which made the work we do at PEARL with sexually exploited women possible this year! We are also grateful for funding in 2019/20 that provided for our new file and data tracking system, and for the completion of our new space. You have been a part of helping vulnerable women contemplate, and move towards change this past year and we thank you!



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SOCIETY  
prostituted women exiting and renewing life