



Hope
Rising

pearl

ANNUAL
REPORT
2022-2023



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Who We Are

2017

the year we opened

Our 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.

Our Vision

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

251

women have
accessed PEARL since
2017

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 girls 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 girls' and women's access to services and resources.

Message from the Director

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. ~Romans 15:13

There have been so many changes this past year, not all good or easy. Much of the restoration work we hoped to do in the lives of vulnerable women and girls turned into hospice situations where we quietly saw precious lives fall through the cracks in the system. At times it felt utterly hopeless. . . BUT GOD. Despite the seemingly countless situations of women spiraling into addiction, God was and is on the move.

Sometimes the most bleak of conditions can be the opportunity to look up.

So that is what we did. In our futility, we started each day on our knees. Our resolve was to love one another well and to sincerely love the women who entered the Centre with His heart. To shift our eyes from the problem and our human understanding to the wisdom and infinite possibilities available with God.

This one small shift in our perspective began a move in the lives of women as hope. Hope begins by looking up, it manifests in asking for help, it is built on taking steps of faith, and it grows and is established in community through connection. It rests on the greatness of God.

Cindy Sommerfield

ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Message from the Treasurer

Hope does not disappoint but sometimes it takes a turn not anticipated. It is with this thought, and financial report, that I share a few words of clarification regarding our year-end.

It was with great hope that we opened Life Renewal Place (LRP) in 2021. We planned, we saved, we collaborated, we prepared as well as we could and yet the hope we had for the program was complex and stretched our resources beyond what was anticipated. We ran an excellent program and all the women who attended are still connected and in recovery paths. All of them have expressed their gratitude for their time at LRP. God is still at work in their lives.

Through the charity of many we had furnished the home beautifully and it was well set up for our purposes. When it was determined that a shift was needed regarding LRP the board sought out others to assume the home. This was not met with success as many other providers are also dealing with staff stretched to capacity, empty beds and increasing complex mental health needs. With all of this combined, it was with heavy hearts that we made the difficult decision to close LRP early in 2023 and not incur further expense.

All of the items generously donated to LRP are being used to support the work of recovery and renewal through Pearl's existing programs. The Centre was blessed with updated laptops and computers. A mini-van purchased for LRP has proven to be invaluable to the Centre staff and participants so we have decided to keep it for their daily use. The lovely furniture was gifted to Life Recovery in Abbotsford. Some of the art pieces, and other items, were auctioned at our annual event. We strived to be the best stewards of the love shown to us through your support of LRP.

Thus, we continue to do well what we do well. Articles shared throughout this report speaks to the God honoring, loving service of our staff and volunteers given daily to our community through Pearl Life Renewal Society.

Pearl has become something most cherished to many of our participants. A place that is true to its WORD, which is God's. Thank you for your continued support.

Deborah Woelders

TREASURER

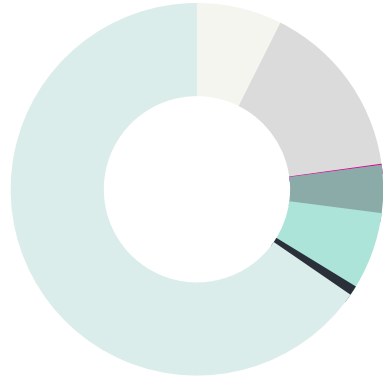
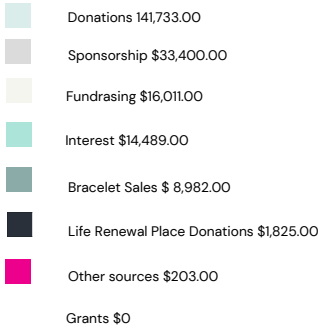


Financial Report

INCOME

JUNE 2022 - MAY 2023

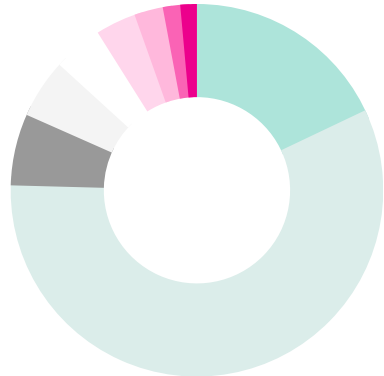
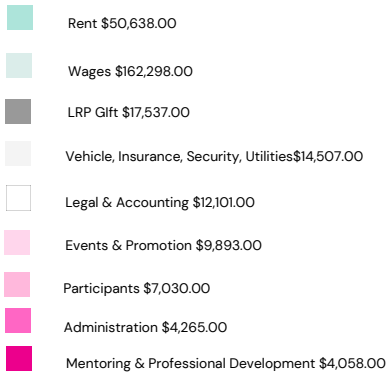
Total Revenue
\$218,233.00



EXPENSES

JUNE 2022 - MAY 2023

Total Expenses
\$282,324.00



“With organizations like PEARL, women can see that there is a chance at a better life and an opportunity to never have to return to prostitution. Leaving can be incredibly difficult regardless of the reason and to have a place where one is not judged is incredibly important.” -K

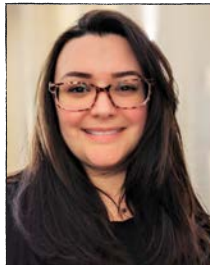
God has raised up an amazing team to be His hands and feet at PEARL, and we are blessed to share His heart:



STAFF & VOLUNTEERS



Our PEARL Family



Centre News

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Matthew 25:35-37

Of the 882 visits, **all were welcomed and received food, clothing, referrals, support, compassion, and prayer.**

- 22 new intakes
- 7 women housed
- 58 different women being mentored & disciplined
- 10 participants maintaining sobriety
- 49 Recovery Steps
- 281 Government/Legal/Medical support
- 0 Overdoses in the Centre
- 5 active with Centre chores “Responsibility program”
- 2 currently volunteering in the community
- 100+ gospel tracts given
- 6 Bibles, 7 Gospels of John
- 27 faith-based workshops/devotions
- 2 professions of faith
- 60 Van transports to appts, hospital, shelter, housing
- 686 meals served

882

882 visits by participants

406

406 hours donated by our incredible volunteer team

Community Impacts

Increased:

- minors in addiction and prostitution
- reports of violence, sexual violence
- mental health crisis including severe psychosis and violence
- drug toxicity
- drug overdoses

Deficits:

- Lack of bed-based medically supported detox options.
- Safe housing and or shelter options for women fleeing violence

Centre News

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Of the 882 visits, **all were welcomed** and received food, clothing, referrals, support, compassion, and prayer.

- 22 new intakes
- 7 women housed
- 58 different women being mentored & disciplined
- 10 participants maintaining sobriety
- record number of recovery applications
- record number of referrals
- Overdoses in the center 0
- 5 active with Centre Chores
- currently, 2 volunteering in the community
- 100+ gospel tracts given
- 6 Bibles, 7 Gospels of John
- 27 faith-based workshops/devotions
- 2 professions of faith

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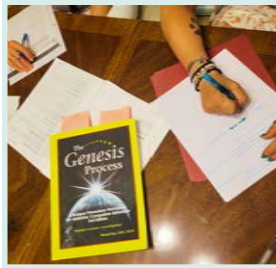
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Engagement with Social Services



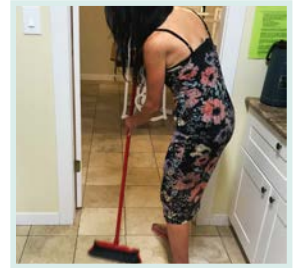
Exploring Recovery



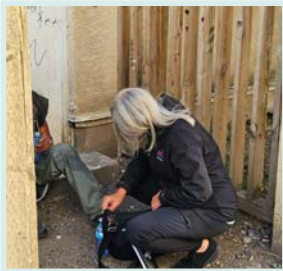
The PEARL Van



Work ready preparation.



Taking responsibility



Outreach



Gifts of gratitude



Foot care



Dream team - these ladies have such huge hearts!



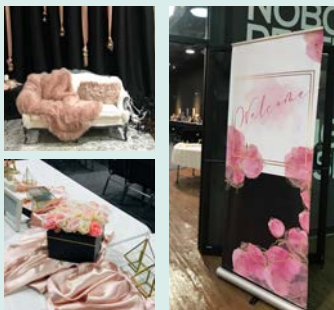
Creative Expressions



In home housing supports

Annual Fundraiser "Hope Rising"

An incredible Survivor Story was shared at the event as well. This was a powerful testimony of a life redeemed. Her message soared and touched many hearts that night – that "no one is too far gone for God to reach." Amen!



The event was held at Mainstreet Church in downtown Chilliwack and included delicious desserts and a HUGE Silent Auction!

Our Annual Awareness and Fundraiser Event was a huge success. Although the topics and current trends were heavy to hear we were able to connect supporters to the lives we are impacting. A new feature this year was "Survivor Voice", where posters were shared around the event hall. These images included heart-wrenching testimonials and shared perspectives offering unique solutions for real healing.

Survivor Voice

“When a girl makes the decision to **“get out”** it needs to be addressed **immediately**. Making someone in active addiction, daily sex trauma or homelessness, be accountable to call daily to ‘check in’ to maybe, possibly, get a bed is incredibly unrealistic. The other gap I notice is the **availability** of detox, treatment, and supportive resources specialized in dealing with complex sex trauma specifically. My personal experience and knowledge SCREAMS out for government to focus less on enabling and more on healing. **PEARL is doing this**. They reach hearts. They provide safe, clean, non-judgemental space. Their values have not wavered. The women see that. They do not provide safe injections, condoms, methadone or harm-reduction products. The girls will come. I believe our government needs to stop deciding what’s best, without consulting Survivors. **I was healed by love, counselling and compassion**. Not synthetic opiates and clean needles”

Survivor Voice



"I think the biggest misconception is that we are all on the street corners with overdone makeup and boots up to our thighs. I have found that in the last few years the majority of prostitution has been online. There are many, many websites where you can sign up to meet people and get "dates" in your area. There are not many barriers to using these websites so underage girls are able to sign up easily as well which is greatly concerning. Another large misconception is that prostitution or sex work is done by choice. Much more often than not, it is done out of necessity. Necessity due to addiction, disability, lack or resources, poverty and more. I think in order for women to exit they need a safe place to go. A space where women are safe, not judged, shamed or left to feel guilty or traumatized by the stigma of what they had to do in order to survive.

PEARL gives women options, opportunities and hope." -A

"Exiting 'the life' at 15 was only made possible because of interventions from my parents and child and out-of-province family services rescuing me out of that situation. I was too naïve and scared to have ever made that move myself.

In BC, it would be helpful if parents, guardians, law enforcement, and agencies trained in this area could step in and intercede on behalf of underaged girls. That, combined with having treatment and more resources available could make such a difference. My treatment was not optional (involuntary) at the time, and I am thankful for that now. It would not have been something that I chose for myself, but I would have never moved forward without it." -J

Why I Volunteer at PEARL

I see God's Hand at Work at PEARL:

PEARL is an amazing place to serve in our community, where girls and women of all ages **can come and experience the love of God in action**. PEARL is a safe place for them – an opportunity to move past where they are – be cared for, offered food, medical care, and rest from the street life. Best of all, **we can talk to them about Jesus, and love them like God does – unconditionally**.

All of the women who work and volunteer at PEARL support each other and the bond of love exhibited among them is shared and passed on to the women who come into the Centre.

Last year, when I first heard about PEARL I was immediately moved by the Holy Spirit with a deep desire to serve Jesus in this way as I probably would not have considered it on my own efforts. I was delighted to be accepted to train and began volunteering at the Centre.

I am inspired each week to come to PEARL – it is a privilege and joy to see the hope there is for each woman who comes to the Centre.

Marlene Horkey
PEARL Volunteer



Why I Serve as Staff

I began working at PEARL in January as a social work practicum student. I came in with little expectation other than gaining experience that would stretch me to comprehend God's heart within a place of unfamiliar brokenness.

The learning curve at PEARL is steep. The nature of the work is unpredictable, even messy, but it is profoundly meaningful. We see women who are in dire places, sometimes facing the darkest moments of their lives. **Yet this painful trench is where I saw hope and why I felt called to work here.** The bondage of addiction and trauma is substantial – and the burden of shame is heavy. But neither can stand against the grace and mercy of our Savior who has the final word. We must depend on Him who is seated at the right hand of God interceding for us. He has prepared a table for us in the presence of our enemies and **this reality pulls us forward with passion and faith** to invite in those who will take up the empty seats.

We are here to offer His invitation back to them – the testimony of Christ's love and offer of redemption. Together, we long for the women to know that they are genuinely seen. **We fix our vision on the eternal value of who each one is** – beneath complex stories and circumstances. Healing is possible. Wounds may cut deep, but His mercy runs deeper. In our flawed humanness, we will certainly fall short in the work at hand. But we refuse to lose heart when the Author of Hope is alive and moving with power.

In the tension of this age and the discomfort of remaining in the trench, we are being propelled deeper into the heart of God. I believe we will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Heidi Walters
Client Care Coordinator



Why I Support PEARL as a Donor

As a family business, family has more meaning than just one's own family. We have the privilege of employing people from this community who support their own families by working with us. And then we look at our community and how we might collectively make some difference. Community is important to us. And a healthy community offering opportunities for those that live within it is also very important to us.

We are also aware that there are those in our community who for various reasons come to a place in their lives of great difficulty and challenge. Some of those people are the vulnerable women that PEARL seeks to serve. **We believe that opportunity and hope for a better future need to be made available for all.** We're grateful that PEARL staff and volunteers are there for those who are looking for a way out of the challenging lifestyle that they find themselves in. It is our hope and prayer that those who have come to a place in their life where they realize they can't go on will discover PEARL, the staff and volunteers who are so ready and willing to offer that help.

Having heard and read testimonials of women who have discovered hope and a brighter future through PEARL, we gratefully support PEARL, to enable the Christ-centred life-changing work to continue.

Bill Boesterd
Denbow Transport Ltd.
and PEARL Board member

A Parent Perspective

It was a shock when our family realized that our daughter had a drug problem. It incites terror into your heart because you feel like the next “hit” will be the last one.

We had no idea where to turn or what to do. Everyone was talking about drug use and the overdose numbers so we figured it would be simple to find someone to help. Unfortunately, that was not the case. Every place we looked had some sort of barrier. The most common problem was that I kept leaving my name and phone number and nobody was calling me back!

Everything changed with PEARL. Cindy and the other staff were responsive, knowledgeable and willing to help us in whatever way they could. **I learned more about addiction and street life in the first day of meeting at the PEARL Resource Centre than I had learned in months of reading and research!**

We were invited in, and my daughter was immediately surrounded by kindness and support. There was no judgment about the hole we had sunk into, and our daughter knew that! The staff and volunteers spoke simply and clearly. The facts were laid out for us both. Within a few days after our first visit, Cindy was able to put everything in place to help us. We filled in applications, completed forms, and saw doctors and SDPR*. The best part was that every question we needed to ask was answered! **My daughter was empowered to do what needed to be done to get the help she needed.**

When a person makes the decision for recovery things have to fall into place quickly, before hopelessness sets in again and they fall back into addiction.

I so deeply appreciate the knowledge and skill that was shared at Pearl. We were in a dark place, with very little hope. The support was invaluable and the prayers were the only thing holding us together.

Esther King
Regional Network Coordinator – Fraser Valley
Family Support Institute of BC

*SDPR is the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

Founder's Final Remarks

Stepping out in faith *one day at a time*

Life can be compared to a tapestry. When you look up too close, you can only see one thread or colour at a time. When you flip it over, it looks incredibly messy, with threads of all colours all over the place. Regardless of where life finds us, be it in a happy cozy home, in illness, brokenness or on the street, all of us get to see only a few strands of our own "tapestry" now.

Life circumstances and choices, of our own making or of others, can determine the color and pattern of our tapestry, but so can hope. It's been rightly stated that "it's not so much what happens to us as how we respond" – wise words. PEARL is one of those places where life can look really messy, hard and broken. But this past year PEARL offered the women who came through its doors a new chance at life, to change the tapestry of their lives.

I had to step away from PEARL in January 2023 due to my own tapestry taking on some dark colors after my MVA. But God is good all the time, as the work at PEARL carries on through capable staff and volunteers who continually offer women hope for this life, and ultimate hope and eternal life, through faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, to all who call upon him in truth. Someday soon the tapestry of our lives will make sense, even when it seems messy now, because then we will see it in the hands of the capable and caring Tapestry Master who was at work all along – it's only when you stand back that you get to see the complete picture. This is Hope Rising.

Joan Goosen MA,
PEARL Life Renewal, Founder

Joan Goosen
PEARL'S FOUNDER



Leaning on the GOD who goes before us, stands beside us, and hems us in. The GOD who never leaves us or forsakes us. The GOD who loves us with an unending love. No one is beyond the reach of our GOD.

No one is too far gone.

Thank you!

to all of our prayer and ministry partners,
volunteers, generous donors and 2023
Sponsors!





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Want to donate to PEARL?
Our Registered Charity # is: 760269092RR001