



Dignity | Equality | Opportunity



2017 has been an active year for EFry. As we take time this holiday season to think of those who are important to us, we'd like to thank all of you for your support. Together we're helping marginalized women build better futures for themselves and their children.

Christmas Time is Here

The holiday season can be a difficult time for our clients, virtually all of whom live in poverty. We work hard to provide all the women and children we support with a reason to celebrate over the holiday season.

One of our most popular, donation-driven services is a new-toy Toy Bank. Most often, mothers shop alone. Sometimes, they bring their children, as in the case of one young boy who arrived with great excitement pick out his gift. When he saw there was wrapping paper, he asked if he could have some so his mother could wrap his toy. Even though he already knew what the present would be, he wanted to experience the joy of opening a present on Christmas morning.

We also host unique celebrations for each of our programs and keep Santa very busy with visits and handing out presents. From our in-prison programs with gift bags and a party for everyone to our JustKids lunch with Santa, no one is left out. Current and former clients gather together with staff to share a meal and some companionship over the holiday season. To all whose donations have helped make these festivities happen, we thank you. Your generosity means so much to our clients.



Emergency Weather Relief Shelter

EFry's emergency weather relief shelter in New Westminster has opened for the second winter to offer homeless women a safe respite from dangerously cold temperatures. Our first night of operations in early November saw a queue of six women seeking shelter from the cold for the night. Last year, we supported up to five women each night for three months with warm drinks, something to eat and a dry place to sleep overnight. With the winter this year forecasted to be even colder, we're anticipating a strong need for this service in the community.

Growing Great Kids Out of Homelessness

EFry's Growing Great Kids (GGK) is a program that helps keep families together and provides mothers with the tools they need to raise healthy and happy children. We are pleased to share the news that we will be working with UBC's Collaborating Centre for Prison Health and Education (CCPHE) to conduct a study of on the impacts of GGK and how community-based homelessness services in BC can further assist criminalized women in keeping their families together during their transition back into the community.

Through this project, we will bring together and engage stakeholders from across the province with the aim of helping to improve services for all.



The Costs of Child Poverty

First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition has released their 2017 BC Child Poverty Report Card. At the launch, EFry's executive director, Shawn Bayes, spoke to the lifelong effects of child poverty and the impossible position faced by poor mothers who are also struggling with homelessness or addiction. According to the report card, the child poverty rate in BC is 18.3% which represents 153,300 children. You can watch Shawn Bayes' speech on our website <https://elizabethfry.com/news/> or go to <https://still1in5.ca/report-card/> to read the full report.



2017 BC CHILD POVERTY REPORT CARD

Looking Ahead

The coming year promises to be an eventful one. Our latest and most significant undertaking, construction of a 55,000 square foot multi-purpose support building in Surrey, The Rosewood Centre, is fast becoming a reality. The Rosewood will bring together long-term affordable housing, an emergency shelter for women, a multi-disciplinary health clinic, a community kitchen and garden, and community amenity space all under one roof. This first-of-its-kind project will help vulnerable women better navigate the often-complex web of support services that they rely on to meet the needs of themselves and their children.



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