

SUMMER 2018

THE ROSEWOOD UPDATE



The Rosewood is an innovative project from the Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver that will bring together housing, health care, and support services for marginalized women and children.

Located in Surrey, BC, The Rosewood will provide the most vulnerable women in our community and their children with a central location where they can access a myriad of supports to help change their lives for the better. EFry's gender-responsive, trauma-informed approach to services will help clients break the cycle of poverty, addiction, mental health needs, homelessness and crime.

With the generous support of our donors, EFry will break ground in spring 2019 and The Rosewood will welcome its first residents in fall 2020.

HOUSING

The Rosewood will provide **57 permanent long-term homes** for women, their children, and youth. These suites are for women with extremely low-income and include 15 suites for young aboriginal women operated by our partner, the Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association. The Rosewood will also provide year-round access to temporary accommodation with a 20-bed emergency shelter for single women and another 20-bed emergency shelter for women and their children.

CARE & SUPPORT

So much more than housing, The Rosewood's main floor will be the hub of our community care programs, providing residents and vulnerable women in the community with medical and dental care, doula services, child care, community kitchen, drop-in centre with showers, laundry and meal programs, computers and telephones plus a range of counselling, parenting, and children's programs.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Elders, peers, volunteers, professional staff, and residents together will build a community for the most vulnerable, isolated, and poverty-stricken women and their children in Surrey.



INSIDE THE ROSEWOOD

The Rosewood will be a place for new beginnings. More than just housing, it will provide the most comprehensive support possible for vulnerable women, girls, and children. Surrounded by support and with access to services, healthcare, and programs for their children, each Rosewood resident will have the best chance for a positive path forward.

Most of the women we serve are among our poorest neighbours, earning less than \$5,000 per year. They often have histories of violent victimization, addiction and mental health challenges, and very little social support. Growing up in poverty, these women and their children often have development, emotional, and behavioural challenges.

At The Rosewood, each resident will have a long term home to call their own. Fifty-seven suites are designated for extremely low-income individuals, including 15 suites for young aboriginal women (to be operated by Fraser Valley Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association).

To support each woman and her children, The Rosewood will provide 24-hour staffing and support through our main floor community care hub, with:

- A free dental clinic provided by the University of British Columbia, providing some of the only dental care that our residents will have had in their lifetimes.
- Health care with an onsite nurse, a doula to support pregnancy and newborn care, counsellors, and an addictions medicine specialist.
- A community kitchen with vegetable gardens, a meal program, plus Sunday and holiday family meals, all to increase food security and improved nutrition.
- A drop-in centre with social programs, clothing, toiletries, showers, laundry, and income security program.
- Children's and parenting programs to give kids a better start and develop their potential.
- Women's and children's emergency homeless shelter with 40 beds.

Our goal is to provide women and their children with the resources they need to maintain stability, break the cycle of crime and poverty, and develop the potential of their children.



INVESTING IN CHILDREN



"I was overwhelmed at the beginning but it reassures me that there are other moms like me and there is someone who cares. I look at life so differently now."

— Kendra

Breaking the Cycle

The Rosewood will provide a permanent home for our JustKids initiative to grow. These specialized programs support children whose parents have been incarcerated, homeless or struggling with addiction. One of these, Growing Great Kids, was launched as a pilot by EFry and has had such a positive impact on mothers and children that we look forward to offering it from this vibrant centre where families will be able to access all The Rosewood has to offer.

GROWING GREAT KIDS is a unique, curriculum-based, one-on-one support system for women and their children, up to age three. Through the program, they work with a support worker, to:

- Develop secure attachment between mom and baby.
- Foster strong and empathetic parenting skills.
- Build strong support networks in the community.
- Reduce the need for government intervention.

Through the program, moms are supported to provide strong early childhood development by helping babies feel safe and valued, encouraging curiosity and problem solving, building identity and independence, and healthy mental and physical development.

In 2018, the program will be adding a peer support worker component and a UBC longitudinal study will begin looking at how the program reduces involvement with government services and the number of children in government care.

A GREAT START

Kendra was incarcerated as a teenager, and in her words, she "would not be here if it wasn't for EFry." Kendra participated in numerous programs that helped her leave behind her previous life and make a new start for herself. And, at age 23, when she was expecting her baby at, EFry was there to help again.

Beginning during the pre-natal months and since her baby was born nearly a year ago, Kendra has participated in Growing Great Kids. "Learning about nutrition was really important to me," she says, "but I have also learned about brain development and milestones so I can help my baby grow. Kirsty, my facilitator, provides guidance for raising my child, for reading my baby's cues, dealing with challenges in a patient way. Communication is really key."

"Kendra has done really well as a mom," says facilitator Kirsty. "I am really proud of her."

Growing Great Kids is one of the primary programs that will be provided at The Rosewood, supporting women like Kendra to raise healthy children.



MORE JUSTKIDS PROGRAMS COMING TO THE ROSEWOOD

Growing up in poverty or with a parent who has been incarcerated is hard and children yearn for normalcy. Through JustKids, we provide after-school and weekend activities that empower kids to create their own norms through routine and social connection as well as a chance to meet peers with a similar experience. Together, they can share their thoughts and build protective factors that have the potential to last a lifetime.

17-year-old Trinity shared the opportunity the program has provided for her family. "My two stepbrothers were living in a shelter with their mom when they were invited to the program," she explains. "I was living with my sister, who was six, and my mother. They invited us to come so we could spend time with our brothers. My favourite thing about Saturday Club is that it welcomes us as a whole, big family."

Children and youth at The Rosewood can participate in Saturday Club, a day-long activity program as well as Blue Sky Summer Camp, Canada's first summer camp for kids with a parent involved in the justice system. As youth age, they can join the Councillor-in-Training program to help prepare for their future.

With Heartfelt Thanks

We are grateful to our many supporters for believing in women and the power of this project to change lives, including:

- City of Surrey
- Government of Canada
- BC Housing
- Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association
- Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society
- University of British Columbia's Health Sciences
- Lilli & Jerry Luking



SEPTEMBER 2020
Building complete.

MARCH 2019
Shovels in the ground.

NOVEMBER 2018
Working drawings complete.

JUNE 2018
Ventana Construction hired as project Construction Manager.

The Road to Completion



For more information or to make a donation, please contact:

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