



Kootenai Community Centre Society Quarterly Newsletter

A Message from the Executive Director

As spring blooms and the Easter bunny hops your way, we at Kootenai Community Centre Society send you warm wishes for a joyful Easter celebration. This celebration brings with it, family gatherings, Easter egg hunting, egg decorating and spring! And with the arrival of spring, children in our community are bursting out the doors into the sunshine and warmer weather, transforming from cold winter bundles into budding bursts of energy.

Child care is an essential component of community, and KCCS has made the importance of quality child care a priority through Teddy Bear Daycare and Grizzly Bear Out of School Care. We understand that the early years of a child's life are vital. The care and early learning opportunities children receive in quality child care settings helps them develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially. In order to fulfill the diverse needs of so many families in our community, Teddy Bear Daycare offers \$10 per day child care for children 30 months to Kindergarten. This fully accessible facility is completely inclusive and accommodates children of all levels. The staff consists of highly skilled child care workers, trained specifically for those with special needs or challenges. Additionally, both of our child care facilities are licenced and subsidized, bringing special attention to Grizzly Bear Out of School Care being the only licensed out of school care program in the community! KCCS is proud of our ability to serve the needs of families in our community through our daycare programs and would like to thank our hard-working and dedicated staff for the care and attention that they bestow on each and every one of our children. For more information about our programs, or if you would like to donate to our child care programs, please visit our website at www.kccsociety.org

As we celebrate this Easter season, I'd like to take a moment to express our gratitude for your continued support and loyalty. May your Easter be filled with the warmth of family, the joy of friends, and the blessings of this beautiful season. We look forward to serving you and sharing more memorable moments together in the future. Happy Easter from the KCCS family!



Ending the Violence

As a woman centered society, our focus this year at KCCS, has been on how we can better serve and support the women we work with. In this regard and, as always, with the support and donations from the wonderful community of Creston we have been able to better the lives of many women. Over the past several months we have had a great deal of community support. From regular daily donations to fundraisers on behalf of Kootenai Community Centre through local businesses, we here at KCCS have felt an outpouring of kindness and generosity from all our supporters in Creston.

Wild North Brewing Company just released a new Mimosa Pale Ale created by women, with partial proceeds going to KCCS for our women's programs. The Baptist Church Women's Ministry have run a number of fundraising events for KCCS throughout this year, the most recent being a presentation about organizing your home, life, and mind. The funds raised have allowed us to supply new towel sets and pillows for our 2nd Stage housing and Safe Home.

When women and children enter into our housing programs during likely some of the hardest times of their lives, we do our best to help them feel safe and comfortable. The local Shoppers Drug Mart have fundraised for KCCS every year and thanks to their contribution this spring we have been able to gift a pair of new slippers and a robe to each woman entering into our safe home. Furthermore, we have been able to provide a small welcome basket with art supplies, tea, and wellness products for the women staying in our 2nd Stage housing. KCCS was also awarded \$25,000 through the Shoppers Drug Mart Women's Health grant that has given us the opportunity to finance counselling sessions for our clients, aiding in the betterment of mental health and wellness for women in our community.

Since last spring KCCS has coordinated with both the BC Society of Transition Houses, and Food Banks Canada to provide free feminine hygiene products to our clients as part of a menstrual equity project. This pilot project has been very beneficial in helping local women with the cost of feminine hygiene products, and even allowed women to try new and reusable options which has a positive impact on the environment. We, the ETV (End the Violence) Support Workers, have been actively working this quarter, to improve and expand our relationships with Transition Houses and Women's Outreach Centres in communities outside of Creston. This benefits our clients by providing the opportunity to make new beginnings in supportive environments. Through this pursuit, we have found long term transitional housing for some of our clients who were seeking a fresh start in a new community.



At the end of January, we received an email from the BC Society of Transition Houses (BCSTH) informing us that there would be a chance for one of our clients to be awarded a bursary. The candidate needed a recommendation letter from an ETV Support Worker describing how the funds would improve their present circumstances and their future prospects re: education and/or training. We are so happy to announce that the woman we wrote the recommendation for was awarded the bursary from the BCSTH. The money received will allow her the space to explore her options for her future.

In February, we were contacted by a generous community member who wished to donate a car (in excellent shape) to a woman who would benefit from it, belonging to our society. We agreed that one of our clients, a mother with two young children, would be the ideal recipient for this gift. The generosity and the gift itself has changed her life immeasurably. She said that not only has it made day to day tasks, such as grocery shopping and playgroups more accessible, but that she is now able to visit her family, who live out of town, on a regular basis.

In late March, we came in to office to find 17 Easter baskets had been donated anonymously. These baskets included gifts for a wide age range of children and a grocery gift card for the moms. This generous and thoughtful donation made 9 mother's lives easier and their hearts full. The baskets will also surely bring a smile to the faces of the 17 children who receive them. It is these kindnesses that truly make all of us at KCCS so grateful to the community surrounding us. Thank you so much (anonymous donor?)!

As the year progresses, we intend to continue with the momentum of these first few months in providing exceptional and empathetic service to the women we work with. We aim to continue to explore all available resources and to creatively find solutions that better lives.

Teddy Bear Daycare

We have been busy here playing outside and enjoying what snow has fallen. There is a lot of mud to play with as well!! We have been singing Mr. Sun, Sleep Little Bunnies, There Sleeps Little Mousies and many more favorites. We had a fun Valentine's day pajama party and all the



children exchanged Valentines with their friends. We are anticipating St. Patrick's Day and Easter. There will be Easter egg painting, and a fun Easter egg hunt before Easter weekend! The children that are going off to kindergarten are practicing printing their names, and learning their letters, numbers, shapes and colours.

Grizzly Bear After School Care

The Grizzly Crew has enjoyed the winter season. On days with snow, we had a blast sledding down our hill! It was so much fun!

We are very excited for Spring Break which means 2 weeks of full days at Grizzly Bear. We look forward to building leprechaun traps, having scavenger hunts, making bird feeders, playing outside A LOT decorating eggs, and having an Easter Celebration. Spring Break falls onto Easter this year, so chances are, the Easter Bunny may leave us some surprises to find. ☺

*We hope you all enjoy your holidays
with friends, family, and nature!*

Happy Easter!!