



A Message from the Executive Director

It always seems so far off – summer and all it offers. Yet here we are! Sunshine and warm weather brings so much fun! July and August are the months for camping, hiking and travelling, long evenings at home or by a lake, and spending time with family and friends. With the warmer weather and longer days, we tend to stay out later during the summer months than any other time during the year. With that in mind, please ensure that you take the necessary precautions to be safe when you're out at night. This includes avoiding dark alleyways, areas bordered by thick vegetation, places with few or no people around, and areas with low levels of light. If you can stay away from these areas whenever possible, the likelihood of you being a victim of crime drastically decreases.

This summer KCCS will be busy planning a "Take Back the Night" awareness event that will take place in late September. "Take Back The Night" honors the historic 1970s stand of those who first advocated for the essential right of women to walk alone at night without fear of being harmed or harassed. Additionally, KCCS' Board will be hosting our annual fundraiser in early October, so watch for additional information around the community and on our social media.

In order for KCCS to offer our services to the Creston community, a Board of Directors is an important and necessary requirement. Our services are essential not only to the women and children who are experiencing domestic abuse and trying to rebuild their lives, but to the families in the community who entrust their children to our care through our child care programs. We, as an organisation, have an opportunity to strengthen the sense of community through these programs and the work that is done at KCCS and you can help! The Board of Directors are currently looking to fill three Director positions this fall. If you have any experience with media/marketing, governance, fundraising, legal, finance or administration and would like to serve on a Board that is dedicated to serving the women and children in the Creston and area community, I encourage you to fill out our Board Member Application form on our website and submit it to our Administrator at admin@kccsociety.org.

Board members are expected to attend monthly board meetings, either in person or virtually. There are 10 meetings throughout the year and no meetings are held during the summer months. We ask board members to be prepared to serve on at least one board committee, as well as helping out at events whenever possible.

In the past year, KCCS has provided child care to over 65 families with children aged 30 months to 12 years through Teddy Bear Daycare, Grizzly Bear Out of School Care and the Grizzly Bear Summer Camp. Our Safe Home, Outreach Services and 2nd Stage Housing programs have provided over 1,150 bed stays, 3,285 meals, 1071 outreach hours and our office has received over 1500 telephone calls in that time.



We would like to express heartfelt appreciation to all of our donors, funders and supporters who make it possible for us to support vulnerable women and children in our community. Whatever your summer offers, stay safe and enjoy!

End the Violence Program

Our support workers, who are the heart of our End the Violence initiative, continue to work tirelessly to provide advocacy, resources and empowerment to all women and specifically to the women who access our programs. Our goal has been to create new beginnings for the women we work with and to bring awareness to the issues women face as a result of domestic violence to the general public.

Our End the Violence Program encompasses our Safe Home, Lela's Place (2nd stage housing), and our ever expanding Stop the Violence Outreach program. Our Safe Home, which is available on a first come first serve short term basis consistently houses women in need. Our Support Workers aim to find all women who access Safe Home accommodation and/or resources that continue to ensure their safety and security in the future. At this time both of our 2nd stage suites are occupied and we work with the women who live there to work toward independence. They are able to stay for up to 18 months at an affordable rate and with the ongoing advocacy and encouragement of our Support Workers. Our Outreach Program provides support in a vast number of ways. We assist, support and advocate for women going through the court process by helping them to fill out and file documents such as Protection Orders and Family Law Applications and by attending court with them if they request it. We try to liaise with all relevant agencies in order to make the process smoother and less traumatic. We help our client's apply for housing and income supplements and with any other referrals or resources that may improve quality of life. Our food support program has increased substantially over the summer months and we are pleased that we have been able help to meet the needs of our clients in this regard. We were able to renovate and upgrade our suites providing a clean and organized atmosphere for the women staying in them. We were assisted by the services of the Junk Bros (a local junk removal/moving company). They spent the day loading up junk and moving several couches. Thank you to Rhys and Ethan for their professional and friendly service.

On September 20, 2024 at 7:00PM we will be hosting an event masterminded by our Admin. The event is Take Back the Night and is intended to illuminate the impact that domestic and sexual



violence has on each and every one of us. We will be gathering at Millennium Park for an evening starting with speeches from community organizations and testimonies from survivors.

This will be followed by a march down Canyon street and will end back at the park with a moment of silence. Refreshments and interactive projects will be provided. Please join us in solidarity on this evening for this important event.

We continue to receive generous donations from the community of Creston that have not only enhanced the lives of our clients but also all of the women of Creston. Our Admin had the brilliant idea to open up a Pop Up Shop each Wednesday for a month this summer and we will continue to operate it monthly. The Pop Up Shop showcases the many donations we have received and welcomes the women of our community to browse, get to know who we are, and take what they need free of charge.

We have had the privilege of getting to know a member of our community who, while downsizing, decided to donate many pieces of local art from her personal collection. Our Suites, Safe Home and office spaces now boast these gorgeous pieces created by local artists. Wild North Brewing Company continued their promotion of our organization with their Beer It Forward initiative and presented with a generous cheque as a result. The Baptist Church Women's Ministry also continue their support and we have received a further donation of brand new kitchen towels for all of our suites. We are so grateful. Thank you to all of donors! We couldn't do what we do without you.

Teddy Bear Daycare

Everyone here at Teddy Bear has been enjoying the warmer weather and the rainy days as well!

We are preparing for our graduation that will be June 21st, at 12.30pm. We have 19 graduates going off to school, which is very exciting! We are also looking forward to our summer months. There will be water play, outdoor games and so many adventures!



Grizzly Bear Out of School Care

Summer is just around the corner and we can't wait! We will be running full time hours for July and August.

We will be spending the summer with weekly themes, special guest and field trips! We can't wait for all of the summer fun!

We are preparing for our graduation that will be June 21st, at 12.30pm. We have 19 graduates going off to school, which is very exciting! We are also looking forward to our summer months. There will be water play, outdoor games and so many adventures!