



# 2008 Annual Report

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### Ode to Kookums (Mom)

Not all Kookums are the same,  
some are demanding, goofy, kind  
grouchy, shy, outgoing, independent  
and caring.

Others will tell you like it is...  
others keep to themselves  
Kookums are young & old  
and in between...

The one thing I know  
is that I would not change  
the one I have for any one else.

For even when you are feeling down,

I know that you can  
pull yourself together  
and be that strong, independent,  
loving Kookum (Mom)  
that I grew up with.

Who I love and admire  
with all my being...

May I have the strength  
to go through life  
with even one ounce  
of your courage...

I love you Kookum. Mom!



## THE ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETY OF EDMONTON

### Vision

A community which supports, respects, and empowers all women and girls

### Mission Statement

We foster the dignity and worth of all women and girls who are or are at risk of becoming criminalized.

### Organizational Values

#### WE VALUE:

- Diversity
- The wisdom that all cultures bring
- The whole person

#### WE BELIEVE:

- Knowledge empowers
- In respect for all
- That every person deserves the right to be treated in a non-judgemental way
- A safe environment is necessary for healing and growth
- People are resilient
- There are many paths in life's journey
- Every day is a new beginning
- Hope is essential
- There are systematic injustices that contribute to the criminalization of women
- Every person has the ability to change and grow

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETY OF EDMONTON:

- To provide a supportive environment for individuals, particularly women in contact with the legal system.
- To work in conjunction with other agencies to provide programs and services to women in contact with the legal system.
- To advocate improvements in the criminal legal system.
- To assist with the reintegration into the community of the female offenders.
- To provide education directed toward the reduction of crime to institutional professionals, support groups and the community.
- To increase public awareness of:
  - a. Issues facing women in contact with the legal system.
  - b. The need for programs for female offenders.
  - c. The need for changes in the criminal legal system.



## ELIZABETH FRY: THE WOMAN

Elizabeth Fry (Gurney) was born into a family of Quakers in 1780 in England. Her mother's father, the Scottish theologian Robert Barclay, played an important role in defining early Quaker beliefs.

It was fortunate for all concerned that Quakers believed in the equality of women (250 years before they won the vote), otherwise Elizabeth Fry's unusual talents in the area of prison reform might never have been realized.

Her insight, persistence, organizational ability and her willingness to see a "divine light" in every person resulted in striking reforms taking place in the manner in which women and children were treated in London's Newgate Prison.

She was a strong proponent of humane treatment for prisoners and regarded by many as a leading expert in prison reform.

Most of her life was spent in England, although she did visit Ireland and continental Europe. She also offered advice to the Americas, Russia and Australia. She died in 1845 at the age of 66 years. (Source: [www.elizabethfry.ca](http://www.elizabethfry.ca))



## REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT: SARAH EADIE

As always, this past year has been busy and eventful for the Board of Directors of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton.

This year has seen change and positive development both within our Board and in the Executive Director position. Recognizing that we needed increased numbers to allow us to accomplish all of the work we would like to do, the Board called a Special Meeting in the fall to seek authorization from our members to add seats at the Board table. Consequently, we have welcomed Bonnie Parker, Lori Shortreed, Amy Timleck, and Rachel Posch to our numbers this year. Each of these women brings depth and vision to our Board and we are grateful for their contributions – as well as for the support of all those members who came to our Special Meeting last fall.

Also last fall, our then-Executive Director, Jacqueline Biollo, resigned her position after two years. After a lengthy and thorough hiring process that saw us considering several strong candidates of diverse backgrounds, we were thrilled to announce that Toni Sinclair, former Satellite Courts Coordinator, had been hired into the Executive Director position. While we wish Jacqueline well in her new ventures, we are excited about Toni's depth of experience with E Fry, and we look forward to benefiting from her unparalleled passion, wisdom, and vision for the work of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton for many years to come.

This fall, the Board of Directors will begin work on our new 2010-2012 Strategic Plan, as our 2007–2009 planning cycle is coming to a close. This will be an exciting and revitalizing process for the Board of Directors, and for the Society as a whole, and we look forward to it.

We also know that, as a not for profit Society operating in an economic downturn, we will face fundraising challenges in the coming months and we will be looking at creative ways to thrive and continue to grow in the face of these challenges. The Society has received continued, generous support from a number of core funders and the Board of Directors would like to extend our gratitude particularly to the Alberta Law Foundation, the Edmonton Community Foundation, the United Way of

Alberta Capital Region, the Government of Alberta - Solicitor General, the Wild Rose Foundation, and Family and Community Support Services for continuing to fund our programs as we work to foster the dignity and worth of women and girls who are, or are at risk of becoming, criminalized.

We would also like to thank all of our other funders and individual contributors, and those who have recently joined the Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton through our membership drive.

Lastly, I would like to thank my fellow board members for all of their support, good humour and dedication over the past year. It has been a pleasure and an honour to work with you.

Ay ay,

Sarah Eadie

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## REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: TONI SINCLAIR

A Mosaic interweaves colours with textures, styles, materials and patterns into a beautiful image. In the “EFry Mosaic,” our women are interwoven with community supporters, donors, funders, volunteers, Board members and staff, creating a representation of an agency that strives to support, respect and empower all women and girls.

If you look closely at this mosaic, you will see a true collection of images of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton.

We see women who struggle to find housing, and subsequently to sustain housing, because they have never been taught how to pay their bills or to budget. Money can sometimes be scary and associated with pain from histories of prostitution and drug activity. On the surface we may wonder why a woman places so much importance on her pet cat, and not being separated from her cat even if it means living in horrid and unsafe conditions. When, in reality, the unconditional love that she can give to the cat, and receives back is more than she has ever experienced in her lifetime. And we ask ourselves, how is this possible that no one loves this beautiful woman?

We see women with multiple barriers struggling daily to find balance and happiness, women who live in shame and guilt feeling that everyone out there will judge them. We see women on parole that can't see their potential as we do –yet. And we ask ourselves: Is it no wonder that someone makes bad choices when they've lived a life filled with shame, guilt, remorse and pain?

We see women whose parents lived in the residential school system, and whose culture and lifestyle was sabotaged by this colonization and abuse. This woman might come from a community where it is cheaper to buy a bottle of vodka than it is to buy wholesome foods such as milk and bread, where it is easier and more accessible for children and youth to join a gang than it is to find meaningful after-school activities. And we ask ourselves: How is this ok? How can we live in a country that ignores the fact that we have communities, Aboriginal communities, with standards of living equivalent to 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries?

And we see women who, despite all of these barriers, walk into our humble building and ask for help. And we ask ourselves: How can someone who has been victimized, criminalized and marginalized her entire life and who, despite what popular media and misconceptions say, has never had anything handed to her for her entire life, except a warrant, or an eviction notice, or an abusive word by a supposed loved one or a crack pipe ..... How can she find the strength and courage to try one more time to seek help?

And when we seek the responses to these questions, it is easy to become overwhelmed and to feel helpless. But let the courage and potential of our women help us to always hold on to hope.

Also as a part of this mosaic are some very important faces: our funders, partners, community supporters, volunteers, and staff.

Interwoven together, this mosaic is a moving and motivational picture.

Some highlights of 2008 include:

- Our struggle with high staff turnover. Despite this challenge, we continued to weather this storm, and to focus on positive and effective transitions and programming. Our statistics prove that not only did we persevere, but we grew and expanded our supports to the community.
- The impact of the economic cycle. The beginning of 2008 saw the continuation of our Alberta “boom.” On paper, you’d think that more money would trickle down to support our community’s most vulnerable sector; rather, the rich got richer and the poor got poorer, resulting in HIGHER client volume, GREATER needs, and MORE challenges in offering support. Then, near the end of 2008, the bust cycle took effect, thereby resulting in responses from some long time funders who advised community agencies such as ours to brace for impact. Nevertheless, the community stepped up, as it always has for us, to offer substantial Christmas donations to support our institutional Christmas parties.
- A change in leadership. The Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton said goodbye to Executive Director, Jacqueline Biollo, and wishes her well in her future endeavours, hopefully to take the political atmosphere by storm. I was humbled and honoured to step in to the role in November.
- Quality programming and services. I’d like to take this opportunity to offer my genuine heartfelt thanks to the staff in 2008. Ghandi said, “Be the change you want to see in the world.” EFry staff have always lived by the creed, and in 2008, this was no different.
- Exceptional volunteerism. With a Volunteer Coordinator in place to offer guidance, orientation, and support, our volunteer program was made stronger and even more valuable. It is true that more than 80% of the work we do is supported by our dedicated volunteers and students who give to us because they value our role in the community and view our agency and the work we do as meaningful. To our volunteers and students in 2008, you are an important part of our team with value beyond measure.
- A strong and effective Board of Directors. Our Board in 2008 stepped up to help our agency through some changes and to help keep us focused on our mission. Our Board of Directors remain behind the scenes and do not receive much recognition for their dedication when, in reality, they are our agency’s foundation. We recognize and appreciate our 2008 Board of Directors for providing leadership and forward thinking for our agency.
- Strengthening of core funding, and development of new funding partnerships. To all of our funders, thank you for empowering us to do our good work, and for believing that we can and do make a difference in our community.
- Increased community involvement, awareness and support. To our special donors, including the retail businesses who support our clothing boutique, and the community members who collect travel sized hygiene items and donate them to our Community Resources Program, while some may see these as small acts with little impact, I can advise otherwise. The dignity associated with receiving a hygiene kit, and finding a clean change of clothes makes our community donors and supporters true heroes.

Throughout all of the challenges, changes and successes of 2008, the Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton stayed focused on our mission of “Fostering the dignity and worth of women and girls who are or are at risk of becoming criminalized.” I look forward to continuing this positive momentum into 2009, our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and the start of a new strategic planning cycle.

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*“Oh Lord may I be directed what to do and what to leave undone.” (Elizabeth Fry)*

## 2009/2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **Sarah Eadie (President)**

Sarah is a lawyer currently practicing as a staff litigator at the Edmonton Community Legal Centre, Edmonton's only poverty law clinic. In previous work, she was a criminal defense lawyer and completed an M.A. in English literature. Sarah enjoys spending as much time as she can with her husband and two young children and, if she had any spare time, she would spend it travelling, hiking, and reading.

### **Pam Gill (Vice-President)**

Pam is a lawyer and has practiced in various fields of law with a focus on litigation. She holds degrees in Business from the U of A and Law from the University of Manitoba. She is currently employed with the Legal Education Society of Alberta and teaches Business Law. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family and friends and quite recently she has taken up the cause to ban winter from Edmonton!

### **Bonnie Parker (Secretary and Rep for the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies)**

Bonnie is a lawyer with the law firm of Knisely Shipanoff LLP. She holds a degree in Law from the University of Alberta and has significant criminal and constitutional law experience having practiced as a Crown Prosecutor, criminal defense lawyer and constitutional law lawyer. She is married to Nick Parker, a civil litigator with the law firm of Reynolds Mirth Richards & Farmer, and is actively encouraging her 17 year old son to be a film director.

### **Deborah Wegner (Treasurer)**

Deborah has 15 years of experience in accounting and finance. Before joining the Board for Elizabeth Fry Society, Deborah sat on 2 other boards that focused on promoting and encouraging women in business. In her spare time Deborah enjoys spending time with her family, travelling, reading and walking her dog. She is also an avid clogger!

### **Mark Cherrington**

Mark is a youth worker at heart and as a bonus is employed at the Youth Criminal Defense Office. Mark works in Youth and Family Court, enjoys writing his novel and keeping his wife happy. For Mark a strong community ensures a voice for all, including those marginalized.

### **Melissa Gorrie**

Melissa is a non-practicing lawyer. Along with her law degree, she also holds a Bachelor of Science Degree (Honors) in Psychology from the University of Alberta. She currently works as a Policy Analyst with the Provincial Government Department of Aboriginal Relations. In her spare time she volunteers with various organizations, with a specific passion for environmental issues. She also enjoys hiking, doing stairs in the river valley, and planning her upcoming wedding!

### **Lori Shortreed**

Lori has a long history working with civil society organizations at home and abroad. She has promoted community owned social justice initiatives most recently with the Edmonton Community Legal Centre and Multicultural Health Brokers Co-operative and overseas with UNDP and CIDA funded projects (Slovakia, Albania, Russia).

### **Amy Timleck**

Amy is a Program Coordinator and is currently employed with the Edmonton Apartment Association. She is passionate about volunteering and fundraising and has a special interest in housing initiatives. In her spare time she enjoys triathlons, cooking and spending time outside.

### **Rachel Posch**

Rachel was born and raised in Edmonton, and her academic background includes degrees in Science and Education from the University of Alberta. She currently works with the Edmonton John Howard Society as the Principal of the Adult Transition Learning Centre, a private accredited school for adults.

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

### THE ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETY OF EDMONTON, ALBERTA STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

PERIOD ENDING				31-Dec-08	31-Dec-07
	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Capital Asset Fund	Total	Total
<b>ASSETS</b>					
Current Assets					
Cash - Unrestricted	121,906	-	-	121,906	83,476
Accrued interest - Unrestricted	-	-	-	-	2,051
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	12,857	-	-	12,857	15,673
Goods and services tax (recoverable)	935	-	-	935	1,187
Prepaid expense	6,492	-	-	6,492	7,530
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>142,190</b>			<b>142,190</b>	<b>109,917</b>
Other Assets					
Cash - restricted	-	246,055	-	246,055	167,021
Accrued interest - restricted	-	3,540	-	3,539	-
Capital assets (Note 4)	-	-	29,777	29,777	19,887
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>249,594</b>	<b>29,777</b>	<b>279,372</b>	<b>186,908</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>142,190</b>	<b>249,594</b>	<b>29,777</b>	<b>421,562</b>	<b>296,825</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
Current Liabilities					
Accounts payable	2,881	-	-	2,882	2,785
Deferred revenue	83,332	-	-	83,332	29,627
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>86,213</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>86,214</b>	<b>32,412</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>					
Unrestricted surplus	55,977	-	-	55,977	77,506
Equity in capital assets	-	-	29,777	29,777	19,887
Restricted funds - bingo	-	65,585	-	65,585	63,471
Restricted funds - casino	-	184,009	-	184,009	103,549
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>55,977</b>	<b>249,594</b>	<b>29,777</b>	<b>335,348</b>	<b>264,413</b>
	<b>142,190</b>	<b>249,594</b>	<b>29,777</b>	<b>421,562</b>	<b>296,825</b>

**THE ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETY OF EDMONTON, ALBERTA  
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**

<b>PERIOD ENDING:</b>			<b>31-Dec-08</b>	<b>31-Dec-07</b>
	<u>RESTRICTED</u>	<u>UNRESTRICTED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Alberta Law Foundation	-	282	281,968	186,322
United Way of Alberta Capital Region	-	125,567	125,567	143,504
Alberta Solicitor General	-	109,923	109,923	104,434
Casino Revenue (net)	78,692	-	78,692	270
City of Edmonton	-	69,464	69,464	69,411
Solicitor General of Canada	-	37,500	37,500	49,746
Alberta Human Resources and Employment	-	33,612	33,612	15,673
Wild Rose Foundation	-	17,840	17,840	-
Donations and other	-	16,085	16,085	10,228
Edmonton Community Foundation	-	11,739	11,739	15,459
EFAN for GES	-	10,859	10,859	-
Solicitor General of Canada Core Funding (CAEFS)	-	9,375	9,375	7,500
Summer Career Placement (SCP)	-	7,861	7,861	8,089
Interest	5,811	1,715	7,526	7,927
Fundraising	-	3,778	3,778	3,383
Kristie Foundation	-	1,365	1,365	2,143
University of Alberta	-	800	800	-
Muttart Foundation	-	120	120	-
Health Canada	-	-	-	1,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>84,503</b>	<b>739,571</b>	<b>824,074</b>	<b>625,089</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Salaries	-	540,149	540,149	400,981
Benefits	-	67,218	67,218	52,467
Transportation	-	38,071	38,071	24,154
Office expenses	-	26,017	26,017	27,308
Professional fees	-	14,192	14,192	11,298
Volunteer expenses	-	8,360	8,360	7,203
Telephone	-	6,584	6,584	6,081
Staff development	-	5,770	5,770	4,135
Agency development/promotion	-	5,706	5,706	2,099
Christmas Program and other fundraising	-	5,142	5,142	1,145
Pardon expenses	-	4,240	4,240	2,887
Photocopying and printing	-	3,660	3,660	6,165
Maintenance	-	3,623	3,623	2,912
Client services	-	3,072	3,072	3,162
Insurance	-	2,449	2,449	2,349
AWP retreat	-	1,851	1,851	-
Internet set up and operation	-	1,553	1,553	2,046
Consulting and Elder services	-	961	961	8,362
Kid Kits - United Way Project (recovery)	-	617	617	32,695
Private Home Placement	-	200	200	12,205
Tim Horton's Summer Camp	-	107	107	-
Bad Debt	-	-	-	69
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>739,542</b>	<b>739,542</b>	<b>609,723</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>84,503</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>84,532</b>	<b>15,366</b>

## PROGRAM REPORTS

### COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND STOPLIFTING PROGRAMS

Compiled by Tanya Behm

The Community Resources Program offers women psychological, educational, vocational and practical assistance to address their needs. This program strives to reduce rates of recidivism, and to assist women in our community who are struggling to cope with various situations. Due to the difficulty of making healthy choices if one is marginalized, hungry, struggling with homelessness, or does not have the support they need, this program assists women in their rehabilitation process, and also helps them address concerns surrounding their current situation. The goal of this program is to address the dynamic or criminogenic factors affecting our clients in the community, which includes their basic needs of food; clothing, shelter, and non-judgmental support.

The Community Resources program assists women through one-on-one support, referrals to community agencies, advocacy work, and group programming; through STOPLifting, crisis intervention, and services such as our clothing boutique and drop-in-center. In the drop in center women can read the paper, use the phone, have a snack and/or coffee, practice their typing skills, do laundry, access our mail and fax services, while having the opportunity to gather support from other women at the drop in.

As we know, there are wide-spread social issues which affect the members of our community, for which there is very little support, and even less understanding. This agency offers a Stoplifting Program for women who wish to address the underlying triggers that manifest themselves, and ultimately result in shoplifting behaviors. The Stoplifting Program's goal is for participants to recognize and understand these triggers, in hopes of replacing their shoplifting behaviors with healthier coping mechanisms, and eliminating this behavior from their lives. This program is offered three times a year with each group receiving ten sessions in total. Each group commences with a thorough study of shoplifting as a criminal offence, the consequences of this behavior, and any social or personal concerns that

may be contributing factors to this behavior. Other topics covered in this program consist of: anger, grief, loss, co-dependency, addictions, motivation, relapse prevention, and the change process.

In January 2008, a total of 5 women completed the Stoplifting Program, while in May and August of 2008, 4 women completed this program each month. This program brings together women who have a problem with shoplifting, fraud, and/or theft, and helps them to gain control of their situation – and to stop.

Some of the graduates' comments are:

*"I realized I can control the urges to shoplift and be successful in life"*

*"I know myself better and understand I have choices"*

*"I was skeptical about going to the program at first, but glad I did I learned a lot"*

*"I really enjoyed the whole program I would recommend it for anyone who needs it"*

Here are some additional notes regarding the Community Resources Program in 2008.

- A total of 521 new clients were helped this year, with a total of 1072 returning clients.
- 2014 women accessed the drop in center during this year.
- A total of 1399 services were provided to the women at this agency, who were encountering various situations.
- 500 women accessed our clothing boutique.
- By far the most requested and necessary piece of advocacy work in 2008 was housing. Lack of housing was (and is!) a huge barrier for our clients with respect to their reintegration, and for our clients who are at risk, battling addictions and/or mental health concerns. Stable housing is such an important piece to recovery and reintegration; therefore, the lack of supportive housing in our community certainly concerns our agency.

This program is funded by the United Way of Alberta Capital Region.

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## ABORIGINAL WOMEN'S PROGRAM

### Compiled by Maggie Mercredi

The Elizabeth Fry Society recognizes that a large number of the women who come into contact with the legal system are of Aboriginal descent. Through the Aboriginal Women's Program we hope to make our agency more responsive to the unique challenges faced by Aboriginal women. The program is deeply rooted in the teachings of the Medicine Wheel, the spiritual, physical, emotional and mental aspects of individuals. The Aboriginal Women's Program believes that healing is holistic and when we nurture our own Medicine Wheel we create balance and harmony within so that we are better able to identify our needs and work towards sustaining a healthier lifestyle.

There continues to be a commitment to offer culturally sensitive sessions to community members and to encourage the Aboriginal community of Edmonton to join the Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton as Board Members, Staff, Practicum Students or Volunteers or to partner with us in bringing relevant sessions to help meet the needs and goals of the Aboriginal Women's Program and its participants.

### Goals

- Assist women in breaking the cycle of violence and abuse for themselves and their children;
- Support the efforts of women in reducing the likelihood that they will or will continue to come into contact with the legal system; and
- Encourage women to reconnect with their culture and identify themselves as Aboriginal women.

### 2008 Team

- 1 Program Coordinator – Full Time Employee
- 1 Elder - Contract
- 1 Cultural Advisor - Contract
- 1 Summer Assistant - Contract
- 3 Students (272.5 Practicum Hours)
- 2 Volunteers (61 Hours)

### Sessions (One to One, Life Skills, Creative Circles, Sharing Circles, Traditional Parenting & Cultural Outings)

- 116 Sessions were held in 2008.
- 548 Participants attended sessions in 2008.

### Intakes (Intakes are separate and different from regular scheduled sessions.)

- 130 New Intakes in 2008
- 285 Repeat Intakes in 2008

Funding for the Aboriginal Women's Program is provided by the United Way of Alberta Capital Region, Family and Community Support Services (FCSS), ECALA and private donations.

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## KID KITS PROJECT

### Compiled by Maggie Mercredi

The Kid Kit Project was established in 2002 to promote child development within families living in marginalized circumstances in Central Edmonton. The initial partners in the project include the Success By 6® Community Team, Capital

Health's Community Rehabilitation Program, and the Centre for Family Literacy. Under the Kid Kit Project, a series of five kits that address different developmental age groups (0-5 months, 6-12 months, 13-18 months, 19 months - 3 years and 4-5 years) are made available at no cost to families identified by select non-profit organizations. The kits were developed by a pediatric occupational therapist, a community health nurse, and a family literacy specialist and they were designed to:

- Enhance preschool child development, particularly fine motor, speech and language skills, and literacy.
- Promote interaction between parents and their children.
- Develop, in parents, an understanding of child development.

Research in the past decade that focuses on human brain development cites the importance of stimulation in the early years, particularly prior to age three. During this stage of development, neural pathways and networks are made that are more difficult to form in the years that follow. Programs and projects that provide stimulation to young children, like The Kid Kit Project, prepare children for success at school. Children who are ready to start school are more likely to graduate and less likely to require remedial measures through the education, health, justice and social service sectors.

In 2008, the second phase of the project had one part-time coordinator and one placement student. During the assembly of the kid kits, we partnered with six agencies, **25 volunteers** helped assemble the kid kits over a three day period (**312.5 hours**). Kits were then distributed to the partnering agencies to parents participating in their programs. A demonstration was held during our "Kid Kit Launch" celebration at Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton by displaying the contents of the kits and assisting parents and their children with recommended activities of the kits. To date **28 kid kits** from our agency were given to parents with children meeting the specified ages of each kit.

Results were in bringing awareness and understanding to the parents regarding the different stages and needs of a child's growth. By encouraging and supporting parent and child interaction with the kits on an ongoing basis to promote healthy child development. The impact has indicated that parents are encouraged to seek out other means to help them further develop their child's growth once they have completed all kits and their child is ready for pre-school. The overall response from participating parents regarding the benefit of the kits has been of interest and enthusiasm in helping develop positive parenting skills.

Due to the nature of the work at the Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton, it has been recommended and agreed to by all involved to hand over the Kid Kit Project in 2009 to **another agency** that provides a more focused family support and development program. An inventory has been completed of all supplies in stock and will be kept at Elizabeth Fry until a new agency is agreed upon.

The Kid Kit Project is funded by Alberta Health and Wellness, Alberta Lottery Board and Success By 6®

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## WORK 4 WOMEN PROGRAM

**Compiled by Jocelyn Falk**

The Work 4 Women Program provides employment-related services to women who are disadvantaged. This includes women who are, have been, or have the potential to be, in contact with the legal system. However, the program is not restrictive and accepts women in all circumstances.

There are numerous barriers to employment that exist for certain women. Some women face unique challenges and/or barriers to employment, which may include but

are not limited to: criminal involvement, single-motherhood, poverty, literacy, addictions, homelessness, involvement with child welfare, abusive relationships, limited education, minimal work experience, history of prostitution, lack of marketable skills, lack of transportation, mental health issues, unresolved trauma, ageism, sexism, and cultural/ethnic disparity. Working with other community agencies and the unique requirements of our clients, the Work 4 Women Program aims to reduce these barriers and aid women in

attainment and retention of meaningful employment.

The Work 4 Women Program provides an integrated approach to employment and offers the following services to clients:

- Resume and cover letter development
- Supported job search techniques
- Referrals to external agencies
- Use of technologies including computer/fax machine/telephone
- Supportive one-to-one employment counseling
- Access to the agency clothing bank for wardrobe suitable to employment
- Bus tickets for interview and job search purposes
- Workshops addressing employment-related issues such as resume development, interview techniques, and job retention
- Establishment and maintenance of a network of employers and agencies
- Ongoing support and follow-up

Program participants can access the many other valuable programs offered through the Elizabeth Fry Society, thereby increasing the level of support offered by the agency. This support, including clothing access, financial literacy, life and literacy skills, and community resource information will help to further reduce barriers to employment.

In 2008, the program was accessed by 29 new clients and 20 repeat clients.

- Assessments: 11
- Resume and cover letter development: 75
- Individual counseling services: 34
- Supported job search: 30
- Calls and faxes on behalf of clients: 297
- Job placements/training: 4
- Employer contacts and/or visits: 11
- Agency contacts and/or visits: 11
- Employment-related workshops: 2
- Other services (i.e. clothing): 18
- Referrals: 9
- Students and/or volunteers: 1

Looking to the future, the Work 4 Women Program is anticipating a high level of involvement from clients. Collaborative development of employment and training goals is at the heart of the program. The desirable outcome is the achievement of these goals. In addition, the program aims to maintain and expand its contact with employers and community agencies to better serve the needs of our clients.

Effective October 1, 2008 the Work 4 Women Program was awarded a new two-year contract funded by Alberta Employment & Immigration.

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## GIRLS EMPOWERED AND STRONG, AND GES-FASD PROGRAMS

**Compiled by Brittani Sorenson**

The Girls Empowered and Strong Program concentrates on the issues facing girls between the ages of 13 and 17. The program is specifically designed for girls because we realize that a general Co-Ed workshop cannot adequately cover the issues that girls uniquely face as they become young women. In this gender specific environment where the girls are separated from the boys, they are able to more fully participate without worry of judgment or ridicule, thereby creating a safe and supportive atmosphere which encourages sharing, learning, and participation. This creates a more open environment for discussion of important girl specific issues. The Girls Empowered and Strong program uses a laid back workshop approach to deliver topics such as healthy relationships, body image & self esteem, drugs, alcohol, smoking, healthy me, safety on the internet, bullying and mean girls. By participating in these workshops the girls gain valuable skills to help them make better choices in the future to hopefully prevent them from going down the criminal pathway later in life. The workshops are created in such a way that they can be independent from one another or they could be done in a meaningful series. Girls Empowered and Strong is a special program in that it is designed by younger women and facilitated by younger women to make it more applicable to a younger population. A unique feature of the Girls Empowered and Strong program is that it is mobile; the facilitator presents workshops in a place that the girls are comfortable and familiar with.

The Girls Empowered and Strong program was piloted in January of 2006 and has received endorsements from many agencies in the community and numerous schools. In 2008 there were 6 workshops provided in the community and 5 in the Edmonton public school system. An ongoing struggle with the GES Program in 2008 was the high staff turnover rate. Nevertheless, in late 2008, GES picked up momentum through partnerships with many new schools and group homes as clients due to its comfortable approach to dealing with the issues young girls face growing into young women.

Furthermore, GES has partnered with the Edmonton Fetal Alcohol Network and has developed GES-FASD for girls who are affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Similar workshops are offered, but take into account the unique learning challenges associated with FASD. The Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton sees the connection between FASD and (future) criminal involvement; we are thrilled to offer workshops as 'crime prevention' to address these unique learning needs and to help these girls to make healthy choices in their lives.

GES is funded by the United Way of Alberta Capital Region and The Wild Rose Foundation; GES-FASD is funded by the Edmonton Fetal Alcohol Network.

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## ADULT COURT PROGRAM, EDMONTON

**Compiled by Jackie Horejsi**

2008 was a busy year in Adult Court in Edmonton. 16 volunteers donated 1,729 hours in docket courtrooms, giving information, legal referrals and support to accused, family and friends. We welcomed 2 students who spent 143 hours in the program completing their field placements. Both were from the Correctional Services Program, Grant MacEwan. Thank you, Magda Jaworek and Angela Kotyk. It was great having you with us during your placement.

Monica Melendez joined us for the summer and did an excellent job of providing summer coverage in both Adult and Youth Courts. Thank you, all.

Over 21,000 contacts were made in front of docket courtrooms in 2008. 80% were male and 20% female. Over 80% of these contacts resulted in legal referrals.

Thanks, once again to our committed volunteers and students. The program's existence and success is dependent on your on-going commitment. This program is funded by the Alberta Law Foundation and the United Way of Alberta Capital Region

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## SATELLITE COURT PROGRAMS

**Compiled by Sonja Krug and Michelle Borkent**

Funded by the Alberta Law Foundation, the Satellite #1 Courtwork program commenced in the communities of St. Albert, Stony Plain and Morinville in March 2007. The Satellite #2 Courtwork program launched in February 2008 in the communities of Fort Saskatchewan and Sherwood Park.

The staff, volunteers and students assist the accused, their families, friends as well as victims in adult and youth courts.

Courtworkers ensure persons appearing in court understand the charges they are appearing for, are aware of their plea options and the availability of duty counsel. Courtworkers also provide community and legal referrals as well as offer support to accused and their families.

January through December 2008, the Satellite #1 Courtwork Program had one full-time coordinator, 4 volunteers, one student and one summer staff. Over 7,860 contacts were made in youth and adult courts in Stony Plain, St. Albert and

Morinville. Legal Referrals were made to 54% of these contacts. 4 volunteers and one student donated 397 hours to this program.

In November, 2008 the Satellite #1 program had a change in staff. Toni Sinclair moved on to another position with the agency, and we welcomed Michelle Borkent as the new Program Coordinator. Michelle was quick to fill the gap and is a welcome addition to the Satellite #1 Program.

Sonja Krug is the Program Coordinator in the Satellite #2 courts in Sherwood Park and Fort Saskatchewan. She has done an excellent job in initiating this program and her enthusiasm and energy have had a strong impact, with the program up and running in record time.

February 1 through December 31, 2008, the Satellite #2 Courtwork Program had one fulltime coordinator, four volunteers and one student. A total of 1,755 clients were assisted in Fort Saskatchewan and a total of 977 in Sherwood Park. Both communities benefited from 160 volunteer hours and 70 student hours.

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## YOUTH COURT PROGRAM

### Compiled by Christine Stevens

The Elizabeth Fry Society's Youth Court Program originated in 1990 and assists young persons aged 12 – 17 who are charged under The Youth Criminal Justice Act. This Act highlights restorative rather than punitive measures, and encourages Extrajudicial Sanctions whenever appropriate.

Youth Court volunteers and staff provide practical information, support, and referrals to young people and their families each weekday morning at the Edmonton Law Courts. They provide relevant information pertaining to charges, plea options, procedures, and referrals which include Duty Counsel, Legal Aid, and Native Counseling.

Additionally, the volunteers track statistical information on the daily dockets including upcoming court appearance dates, pleas, legal representation, dispositions, and other relevant data. In 2008, this program utilized 15 volunteers who provided 821 hours of service and assisted 3,612 young people.

In many situations these youth arrive at court feeling intimidated and confused. We are often told how beneficial it is in having these volunteers and staff available to alleviate some of these concerns, and ensure that the youth are aware of their options before entering the courtroom.

The volunteers are able to acquire a better understanding of the Judicial System through their experience in Youth

Court, and know they are providing essential services to these young people.

Volunteer Quote: "While volunteering as a youth court worker with E.Fry Society of Edmonton for almost three years, I have learned a lot about the importance of support for youth during tough times. The entire court process can be extremely confusing and scary and it is at this time that volunteers from E.Fry are present to answer questions and give assistance to them and family members. From my own personal observations I have seen youth who have successfully adhered to the court process when there have been people to provide them with appropriate support and guidance in a timely manner. Furthermore, I believe that when the youth feel that there are people who are concerned about their well-being, they are more inclined to work towards a resolution and to not re-offend. In explaining the court processes the youth has legal representation, and answering any questions, I believe that youth court volunteers display their concern and support toward the youth. The importance of such simple acts is paramount because in the long run they have the ability to have a positive impact in the lives of youth."

This Program is funded by The Alberta Law Foundation

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## LEGAL CLINIC PROGRAM

### Compiled by Christine Stevens

The Elizabeth Fry Society's Legal Clinic Program originated in 1998 and assists incarcerated women at The Edmonton Institution for Women. It provides legal information, referrals, and follow up to those who have a need for access to these services.

In 2008, the Program utilized 10 lawyers who volunteered 58 hours of their time by providing their expertise on various areas of law, which resulted in assistance to 77 women.

The major issues that were addressed –

- Child Welfare matters including custody/guardianship
- Criminal matters which may involve outstanding charges
- Family matters including divorce
- Immigration matters including deportation
- Civil matters including bankruptcy

The lawyers are providing a valuable service to the community by volunteering their time and legal expertise to individuals in need.

This Program is funded by The Alberta Law Foundation

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## COURT ASSISTANTS FOR FEMALE YOUTH (CAFFY) PROGRAM

### Compiled by – Christine Stevens

The Court Assistants for Female Youth Program (C.A.F.F.Y.) originated in 2000 after the need for a gender specific program was proclaimed by the existing youth court staff. The Program operates from the Edmonton Law Courts and works with young women who are charged under The Youth Criminal Justice Act. The Program Coordinator matches volunteers to act as positive role models and work one on one with young girls, providing mentorship, emotional and court support, advocacy, and prison visiting.

The great majority of these young women face serious issues and are involved in high risk lifestyles, abusive relationships, and have dysfunctional families with few supports and resources in place, therefore benefiting immensely by having a mentor. Successful matches have resulted in the building of positive relationships between the mentors and girls. Many of these relationships are ongoing and have a positive impact on both sides.

This past year, the mentors had many positive experiences including participating in review and court hearings, liaising with other professionals and youth workers, and enabling the girls to make healthy life choices and setting attainable goals for themselves. Additionally, several of the CAFFY mentors and I were able to once again host a Christmas gathering for the girls on the Whitesands Unit. Together we ate goodies, crafted gingerbread houses, and sang Karaoke, (always a huge hit with the girls)!

The staff at The Edmonton Young Offender Center work collaboratively with me in ensuring that all young women who request a mentor are accommodated. There have been many positive friendships formed through this program, and allows the positive engagement of the volunteer community to involve themselves in the capacity of assisting these youth at risk.

In 2008, there were 12 mentors who provided 751 hours of their time to assist 23 young girls. The involvement of these volunteers allows for greater community awareness, a better knowledge of the Youth Judicial System, and of the many issues these young women face.

**CAFFY Mentor** – “I have now been a volunteer with the CAFFY program for a year and a half. My experiences within the program have been extremely rewarding on a personal level and for the clients as well. Many of the girls I have worked with do not have much positive influence or role models in their lives, making them extremely vulnerable to living at-risk lifestyles and becoming involved with the criminal justice system. While the needs of every client vary, for most of the girls having a familiar, supportive person in their lives makes a huge difference. From my experience, I have come to see that mentoring programs such as CAFFY are the best method of reaching these young and struggling youth.”

This Program is funded by The Alberta Law Foundation

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## CHILD WELFARE COURT AND FAMILY COURT PROGRAMS

**Compiled by Christine Stevens**

This past year, our court programs branched out into Family Court. We now have staff and 4 volunteers who assist in both Child Welfare Docket and Family Docket Court. In 2008 we assisted 681 people and 4 volunteers donated 237 hours.

### CHILD WELFARE DOCKET COURT

The individuals appearing in this courtroom have applications brought by Children’s Services. The legislation mandates that the least intrusive means are to be taken reiterating the goal of keeping families together. We provide assistance by providing appropriate referrals and resources, including Legal Aid.

The most common applications handled in this courtroom, are

- a) Initial Custody Applications
- b) Supervision Orders
- c) Temporary Guardianship Orders
- d) Permanent Guardianship Orders

### FAMILY COURT

The purpose of this court focuses on the best interests of the child, and the responsibilities of guardian(s), as well as to establish contact and parenting orders and establishing adequate child support.

**Parenting Orders:** Encourages both parents to be actively involved with their child(ren). These orders set out how decisions regarding the child will be made, and how time will be shared.

**Contact Orders:** Allows for a non-parent or non-guardian to have time with the child(ren).

We provide assistance by giving appropriate referrals and legal and parenting resources.

**Volunteer Quote:** “My experience as an E.Fry Family Court volunteer is very rewarding in that I am able to interact with all court participants, to provide information or help them with Duty Counsel. Every week is a learning experience which is very self satisfying to me.”

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## PRIVATE HOME PLACEMENT PROGRAM

**Compiled by Vande Vezina**

The Private Home Placement Program offers women on Conditional Release from the Edmonton Institution for Women (EIFW) the opportunity to reside in a private family dwelling as opposed to a community residential facility. The amount of

time spent with a provider in their home varies on the length of the women's parole but the average length of stay is 6 months. The Private Home Provider offers individual guidance and one on one support to the woman residing in their home. The PHP Coordinator provides training and support to the Private Home Providers and to the women placed in the home to ensure a positive experience and to foster a supportive relationship.

This program has had 2 Program Coordinators for the 2008 year and one student under the Coordinator's supervision for two weeks in October 2008.

For 2008, 1 woman was placed in a home.

- 0 women completed their Day Parole within this program
- 2 matches with providers fell through due to either Parole or the NPB
- 2 providers have been reviewed of their duties from either the NPB or Parole
- 5 new provider applications for the year
- 36.5 hours spent in EIFW doing visits with the women
- 26 one to one sessions ( providing support / information)
- 113 placement consultations ( in person/telephone)
- 213 provider consultations ( in person/ telephone)
- 177 EIFW consultations ( in person/telephone)
- 137 parole consultations ( in person/telephone)

The Private Home Placement program receives it's funding through Correctional Service of Canada, (Edmonton Area Parole-Edmonton District).

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## CHANGING PATHS (FUTURE ROADS) PROGRAM

**Compiled by Karen Carstairs**

The Changing Paths program is a literacy and life skills program for women who are criminalized. Entrance to this particular program is by court referrals, community services, probation orders, fine options, temporary absences or alternative measures, and referrals from parole officers. This program focuses on both literacy and life skills components, which involves more reading, group involvement, and the introduction to journaling. Journaling helps participants to experience and express their thoughts and feelings, and to notice reoccurring event patterns in their lives. The hours of the program have also been increased to three full days a week and two half days. The participants are pleased with the increased hours because it allows them to work through issues in a more in depth way rather than having to cut the sessions short. In addition to the sessions being offered at the Attendance Centre a weekly Friday morning session is offered at EFRY drop in room.

This educational program uses a variety of learner directed approaches to promote personal growth and

effective change. The core focus of this program is to assist the participants into becoming aware of their emotional wellbeing: anger management, addictions, employment, planning skills, proper self care, values, beliefs, and addressing a diversity of over whelming feelings. Other important focuses of the program are volunteering, strengthening self esteem, managing change, relationships, stress, fear, and creating awareness surrounding effective coping skills.

The average age of women attending this program is 36 years of age, but ranges from 19 to 60 years.

Unfortunately, these women have encountered and possibly still are encountering a variety of situations such as poverty, homelessness, unemployment, low literacy skills, low self esteem, addictions, and a history of domestic violence encompassing many areas, including emotional, mental, verbal, financial, sexual, and physical abuse. Women have reported each of these life encounters to be contributing factors to their involvement and conflict with the legal system. These women are

characterized by the strong desire to create healthier lifestyles for both themselves and their loved ones.

The program is operated out of the Attendance Centre and at the Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton. This program is funded by Alberta Solicitor General.

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## PARDONS FOR WOMEN PROGRAM

### Completed by Sherry Ackeral

This program is designed to assist women who want to remove some of the barriers incurred from having a criminal record by obtaining a Pardon. Having a criminal record can prevent a woman from pursuing goals such as employment, education, travel and volunteer opportunities. However, once they receive their pardon, women report feeling free, proud, and better equipped to pursue their goals, thereby allowing them to contribute positively to our community.

Women can access the program by self-referral or by a referral from an outside agency. The majority of the women who have accessed this program over the year have worked with the Society from the beginning stages of the Pardon process. Often, our women struggle with literacy issues and multiple barriers that prevent them from completing the Pardon application process on their own, due to its formal language, and they often struggle with following through to completion, especially since the process can take up to 24 months to complete. Our support is therefore critical. Elizabeth Fry acknowledges that the type of women we work with can be faced with financial difficulties and may not be in a position to help cover the entire cost of the application process, in which case our agency will help finance the cost.

In 2008, 39 women successfully received their pardons, which is an increase of 17 women from the previous year. To date there are currently 4 women waiting to receive their pardons from the National Parole Board with many other women nearing that step of the process. There have been 10 aborted files due to reasons such as no contact or the client did not yet qualify to apply for her pardon. On average it is taking the National Parole Board 8-12 months to review the application and come back with a decision. The Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton has provided 52 women with the funds to apply for the Pardons for Women Program.

In 2008, the Pardon program received funding from the Edmonton Community Foundation.

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## PRISON VISITING PROGRAMS: FSCC AND ERC

### Compiled by Sherry Ackeral

The prison liaison program maintains regular visits to Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre and the Edmonton Remand Centre to establish a community link and assistance with reintegration. The Prison Liaison workers provide the women with the opportunity to make connections, with society outside of prison and most importantly share their experiences and stories.

This past year has seen several staff changes in the prison liaison program at Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre (FSCC) and at the Edmonton Remand Centre. I started providing services at the institution mid September. The work has been extremely rewarding knowing that I am able to provide a community link to the women, as well as impacting the women to make more positive choices once they are released.

### Information being requested by the women

The Prison Liaison provided more than 1800 units of services to more than 1200 women serving a provincial sentence or remanded in custody awaiting bail or sentencing.

- Affordable housing and treatment center info- 566 times
- Programs and services E Fry Edmonton offers- 1360 times
- Government Id forms such as health care, birth certificates and S.I.N cards were distributed a total of 477 times
- General resources and information on how to obtain identification was shared 293 times with the women
- Women needed assistance in making phone calls to their family and support networks for a total of 476

There are many issues that women serving time in the provincial system face, some of which include, and are not limited to: addictions, limited resources, lack of support while incarcerated, lack of affordable housing upon release and the ongoing challenge of community reintegration. The Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton works to address some of these issues, working with women while they are incarcerated and upon release into the community. Advocacy, building bridges to access education, employment, community resources, developing creative problem solving skills and one-on-one support are the key areas of work to ensure successful reintegration for women leaving the provincial correctional system.

Workshops were introduced in August 2008 to the women in addition to the regular 1-1 visits. Some of the issues that were discussed in the workshops have included drug use and harm reduction, sexual health, pregnancy health, prostitution, violence against women and peer pressure. These workshops proved to be very successful and were 94% filled to capacity at each session. These information workshop sessions will continue to be provided as a part of the prison liaison program in the coming years.

Prison visits occur twice a week and average about two hours each visit. There has been an increase in the number of women accessing the services of the prison liaison with continuing follow up service upon release out of the main office at E Fry.

I look forward to an ongoing positive working relationship with the women as well as with Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre and the Edmonton Remand Centre.

This program is funded by Alberta Solicitor General.

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## **VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

### **Compiled by Tosheena Bennett and Toni Sinclair**

The Volunteer Program, supported by a part-time Volunteer Coordinator consists of recruiting and training new volunteers and students, providing Agency Orientation Sessions, recruiting volunteers for special events, and coordinating volunteer-driven projects. Volunteerism is at the heart of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton. We are only able to do the good work that we do because of the dedication and commitment of volunteers and students who believe and see that we are making a difference in our community.

Our Board of Directors consists of community members who volunteer their time to create a future vision for our agency and to provide the important leadership foundation to help our agency remain focused on our mission. We thank all of our Board members in 2008 for their dedication to our agency.

In 2008, the Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton had more than 209 volunteers contribute more than 6,700 hours of service to our agency. For this dedication and commitment, we are eternally grateful. We strive to make our volunteer positions quality learning opportunities and meaningful work in our field.

Thank you to all of the volunteers and students in 2008 who contributed to making 2008 a successful year for the Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton

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## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Each year, the Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton brings the spirit and joy of Christmas to women and girls who are incarcerated and not able to celebrate Christmas with their families, and for women and their children in the community who might not be able to celebrate otherwise.

### Community Gathering:

The Efrey Christmas event was held on December 18, 2008 for clients and volunteers. Approximately fifty adults and eight children attended the event, including eight staff members three volunteers and one board member. Staff members decided to bring in a pot luck lunch, which was enjoyed alongside the food items we received from the Food Bank.

The event started by one of the clients saying an opening prayer, which set the tone for a friendly relaxed atmosphere. This was followed with festive music, good conversation and even a Santa Claus to give gifts to the clients and their children.

Overall it was a very successful event and a memorable one to see the look on some of the children's faces when they received gifts from Santa Claus. It was definitely a magical moment to see the joy of the children showing their gifts to their mothers and the mother's reactions when they also received their own gifts. It was a pleasure to be a part of something so special and memorable.

Efrey would like to thank the Food Bank, Bissell Centre and all the donors who gave so generously. Your contributions helped make this event a huge success.

### Edmonton Young Offender Centre Christmas Gathering:

CAFFY Volunteers celebrated Christmas with the girls on the Whitesands Unit at EYOC. Christmas goodies, crafts and activities were enjoyed by all. The spirit of Christmas was alive and well.

### Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre Christmas Party:

Some of the activities included singing Christmas carols and acting out small plays (Reader's Theatre) put on by the women on each of the Units. In addition to this, the staff and women had a wonderful time socializing with each other as many of the women are isolated away from family and friends at this festive time. The evening ended with Santa Claus visiting and wishing each woman "Happy Holidays" and giving them a gift bag!

An Elizabeth Fry Staff member's church group donated their time to put together veggie and dessert (homemade squares and cookies) plates for the women. This year for the main meal pizza from Pizza 73 and pop were brought in for the women to enjoy. It was a welcome treat for all!

The Unit 1 (Remand) party had 6 staff, volunteers and students who took part in the festivities. We gave out 56 gift bags to the women who were very thankful.

The Unit 2 (Sentenced) party had 7 staff and volunteers that helped serve 48 women the meals and gift bags.

### Edmonton Remand Centre:

Meals donated by generous community members, and gifts, combined with the Christmas Spirit and a visit from Santa made our ERC Christmas Parties a welcome celebration. 48 Women sang carols, shared stories and enjoyed a delicious meal before being surprised by a certain jolly visitor from the North. Once again, we thank the staff at the Edmonton Remand Centre for accommodating us for this party. 6 staff and 3 volunteers participated in this event.

Spending time in the Remand Centre is difficult at the best of times. To be incarcerated during the holidays, and separated from children, family and friends is devastating. We are pleased to bring a moment of distraction and some friendly words of encouragement which just might help to make their time at ERC that much more bearable.

Edmonton Institution for Women:

Volunteers and staff were able to bring the Spirit of Christmas to the women on the Maximum Security Unit at EIFW. We thank the correctional staff for making it possible for us to bring this celebration to the women. 4 staff participated in this event.

Our Annual Christmas Celebrations are made possible due to the generosity of staff, volunteers and community donors. We thank you for your kindness and support!



Elizabeth Fry: "I am seventeen today. Am I a happier or a better creature than I was this day twelve months? I know I am happier – I think I am better. I hope I shall be happier this day than I am now. I hope to be quite an altered person; to have more knowledge; to have my mind in greater order, and my heart too, that wants to be put in order quite as much ... I have seen several things in myself and other I never before remarked, but I have not tried to improve myself – I have given way to my passions and let them have command over me, I have known my faults and not correct them – and now I am determined I will once more try with redoubled ardour to overcome my wicked inclinations. I must not flirt; I must not be out of temper with the children; I must not contradict without a cause; I must not allow myself to be angry; I must not exaggerate, which I am inclined to do; I must not give way to luxury; I must not be idle of mind. I must try to give way to every good feeling and overcome every bad. I have lately been too satirical, so as to hurt sometimes: remember it is always a fault to hurt others." (Pitman, E.R. Elizabeth Fry. London: WH Allen & Co. 1884.)

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton is honoured to have supporters who believe in the good work we do. We offer our sincerest thanks and appreciation for all staff, volunteers, Board Members, and Funders who provide us with the support to foster the dignity and worth of women and girls who are or are at risk of being criminalized.

### **The Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton 2008/09 Team:**

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Socena Ayenow\*  
Tanya Behm  
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Christine Stevens  
Madeleine Summer (Summer  
Placement)  
Vande Vezina  
Esther Wilzewski\*

\*No longer with the Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton

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Correctional Service Canada  
Alberta Employment and Immigration

Alberta Culture & Community Spirit  
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Edmonton Fetal Alcohol Network  
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And Private Charitable Donations

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Angelica Mason	Fran Losie	Kelly Slifka	Rachel Nadler
Anna Pogosjan	Gail Nelson	Kelsi Barkway	Rachelle Holmes
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Don Reid	Kate Bunting	Nancy Sande	William Trofimuk
Dorthe Flauer	Kate Quinn	Natascha Weitzel	Wonji Ha
Eden Daniels	Kathie Reith	Natasha Wildmen	Yodit Ghebrehiwet
Elaine Betchiowski	Kathryn Lynn Walker	Nichole Teske	Zenia Toor
Elly Pauelsen	Katie Gutteridge	Nicole Sissons	
		Ning Ramos	
		Pas Paskaran	

