



WINGS (Women in Need Gaining Strength) is a non-profit charitable society established in 1997 (# 87104 0168 RR0001). The society was born of a common vision to demonstrate responsibility toward the issues of social justice in our society today, specifically in the area of violence against women and children. Statistics Canada has found that one-third of all Canadian women have experienced at least one incident of violence since the age of 16 and that one in four Canadian women are victims of assault by a spouse or partner. The realization of the extent of domestic violence in our society today propelled us to focus our efforts here.

In December 1998 we opened **Monarch Place**, a first stage (emergency, 12 bed, 30 day stay, 24/7 staffed) transition house for women and children fleeing violence. The house, located in New Westminster, BC, serves the entire Lower Mainland and beyond. We have had residents from all over BC, and as far away as Eastern Canada and USA. We have also served many immigrant women who have come from literally around the world.

Over these past 24 years we have seen firsthand the devastating impact of abuse that permeates many relationships. Whether the bruises are visible on their faces or reflected in their eyes, abused women and children are some of the most vulnerable people in our society today. Our goal is to help break this vicious cycle of violence and support women and children to choose to live free from abuse. It has been an awesome privilege to serve in this field.

January 2001 we were given a substantial capital grant from Services Canada to purchase a second house and launch a second stage program, **Chrysalis Place**, currently providing 7 units of supportive subsidized housing for up to one year.

August 2017, we opened **Azure Place**, a first stage 12 bed transition house in Delta BC. This doubled the number of women and children we can support at one time through emergency shelter and support.

In 2019, we opened **Wings Place** in Delta, a second stage program in 2 different sites, providing for 3 families and 2 single women. We also opened a five unit affordable housing complex, **Calisto Place**, in New Westminster. This complex provides long term accommodation at an affordable price for families escaping domestic violence.

Other programs that we have initiated include W.I.S.H.E.S. (Women in Safe, Healthy, Empowering Support) groups, housing and multi-cultural outreach services, a counselling program, and men's peer accountability groups.

**Monarch Place** and **Azure Place** are funded primarily (85%) through a contract with the BC Government. This leaves us with the need to raise at least \$80,000 annually to fully meet our organizational budget expenses as well as raise funds for regular maintenance projects and special program activities. We would like to invite your support this year toward our 25<sup>th</sup> annual fundraising event starting on Saturday, February 11, 2023. We partner with the Rotary Clubs of New Westminster and Burnaby in a gala online event featuring an extensive and diverse selection of auction items.

We would appreciate your consideration of the provision of a gift for the online auction and thereby partner with us to maintain and expand the urgently needed services we provide. Thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,

Lorrie Wasyliv  
Executive Director