

Report to the Community 2008

To find out more about Home Front, its partners and community resources, please visit our website

www.homefrontcalgary.com.

Calgary's coordinated, collaborative justice and community response to domestic violence.

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Calgary, Alberta T2P 0Y8

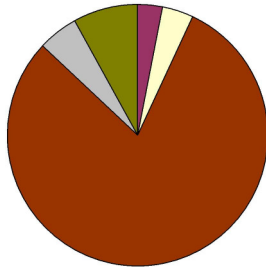
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HOMEFRONT
UNITED IN BREAKING THE CYCLE
OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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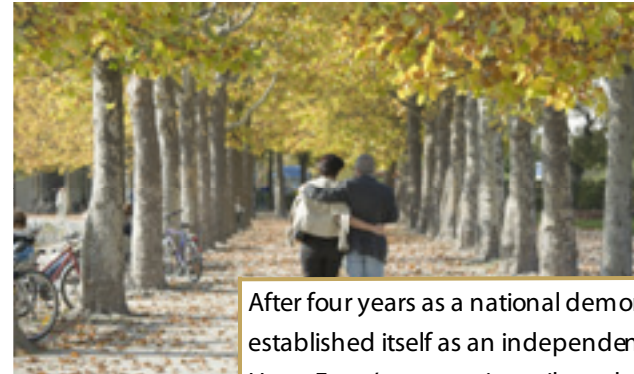
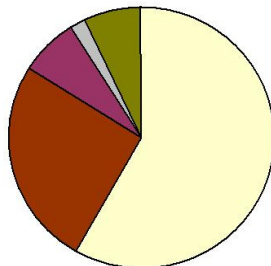
Revenues (\$1.86 million)

1. The City of Calgary Crime Prevention Investment Plan	3%
2. Donors	4%
3. Government of Alberta	80%
4. Jerry P. Selinger Memorial Fund	5%
5. United Way of Calgary and Area	8%



Expenditures

1. Salaries & Benefits	58%
2. Specialized Treatment (Offenders & Children)	26%
3. Administration	7%
4. Professional Fees	2%
5. Promotion/Communications	7%



After four years as a national demonstration projection, HomeFront established itself as an independent agency in March 2004. HomeFront’s success is attributed to ongoing collaboration and partnerships across law enforcement, the criminal justice system and community social service agencies. With the implementation of HomeFront, a specialized domestic violence docket (first appearance) court was established in Calgary in May 2000. A trial court was later opened in March of 2005 with specialized early intervention and partner support programs instituted thereafter.

HomeFront’s Vision

Communities whose social relationships are free from violence.

HomeFront’s Mission

- To free domestic relationships from violence through coordinated community action.
- To effectively work together in assisting victims of domestic violence throughout the specialized court process while ensuring their ongoing safety.
- To ensure effective offender accountability treatment and eventual incorporation into positive social roles and responsibilities.

It has been our honour to co-chair the Board for the past eight years. Over that period, HomeFront has grown and flourished from an idea to an energetic and successful organization dedicated to reducing domestic violence. The specialized domestic violence docket court and trial court were established as key parts of a comprehensive program, which has now resulted in a reduction of the re-offence rate by over 2/3. Proudly, but humbly, that success has been widely acclaimed, here and abroad. No doubt, such success has only been achieved because HomeFront is truly a collaborative community effort of extraordinary groups: the domestic violence agencies, the Courts, judiciary, police, Crown, probation, Bar, treatment providers, and government at all three levels. As well, we have been blessed with dedicated staff who work tirelessly for this important cause.



Also, we are most grateful for the tremendous support of our funders, both private and public, particularly the Alberta government. With the success and growth of HomeFront comes increased responsibilities, challenges and opportunities. This means we must increase our fundraising in order to expand and deepen our work. With your continued support we will meet those challenges. Yes, together, with our partnerships, our relationships and funders, we will succeed. Together we will continue to find better ways to help both victims and the perpetrators of domestic violence, (while holding them accountable), to help rebuild lives, to keep our homes and communities safe.

Sincere thanks to you all.

Brian Felesky Bev Longstaff
Co-chair Co-chair

The Annual Selinger Awards Luncheon is proudly organized by HomeFront to honour frontline workers and volunteers working to end domestic violence and abuse.

This year's award winners, selected by an independent judging panel, were:

Justice/ Law Enforcement

Patti Knott, Calgary Police Service, Domestic Conflict Unit

Patti is the glue that binds many of the agencies and community members providing service to victims of violence together with the justice system. Her ability to provide skilled, compassionate and concise assistance every single day is a testament to her quiet strength.

Community Frontline

Pol N., Calgary Immigrant Aid Society/The Khmer Canadian Buddhist Cultural Centre
Pol has been providing supportive counselling to individuals clients, their families and groups of refugees and immigrants for over six years in the area of cross-cultural/family violence prevention.

Community Volunteer

Harjeet Jugdev, Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter (CWES)

Not only has Harjeet contributed more volunteer hours than any other volunteer at CWES, she has demonstrated a compassion for victims of domestic violence that far exceeds what one would expect for someone not in a "professional" role.



Luncheon Sponsor



Community Volunteer Award





The 7th Annual Selinger Invitational Golf Tournament was held in mid-September at the Earl Grey Golf Club. Despite rain showers, golfers' spirits were high as they raised over \$82,000 for HomeFront.

HomeFront directed the proceeds to victim support and to funding bursaries for two frontline practitioners granted at the Annual Selinger Awards Luncheon, permitting the award winners in the Law Enforcement/Justice and Community categories to pursue professional development opportunities.

HomeFront thanks all the individuals and businesses who made the tournament possible and, in particular, the event's sponsors.

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Staff Sgt. Rosemary Hawkins	Karen Walroth, M.S.W.
Inspector Dan Jahrig	Gordon Wong, Q.C.
Bev Longstaff (Co-chair)	Shawn Young

Management Team

Kevin McNichol, Executive Director
Isabel Piggott, Manager Fund Development
Laura Ducharme, Manager Court Team
Maggie MacKillop, Supervisor, Early Intervention & Outreach
Laura Woollard, Coordinator, Partner Support Program

Volunteers

HomeFront wishes to express our gratitude to our volunteers.

Perry Bloxom	Yvonne Hanson	Kaylee Parsons
Mal Brown	Allan Hargreaves	Janice Pillipow
Maria Chan	Quinn Kuefler	Larry Pillipow
Greg Clark	Andrea Lauder	Erin Selinger
Brenda Crumb	Gordy Lindquist	Terry Selinger
Margaret Dabreo-Dunn	Lisa Lindquist	Ruth Skinner
Hon. Judge Sean Dunnigan	Willy Lindquist	Karla Spilsted
Gail Fischer	Jennifer Lundgren	John Szekeres
Doug Frenette	Debbie McKenzie	Victor Vogel
Nora Habafy	Sheila O'Brien	

Grow With Us

2007 was an eventful year, marked by much growth and adaptation.

Staff capacity in all three programs increased and became more flexible allowing us to maximize our abilities to serve our clients within and across our programs.

Staff have proven to be resilient as they worked through a series of changes in leadership due to unexpected illness and time off. They are commended for having performed admirably under difficult circumstances.

A number of projects have made major gains in the past year moving from concepts to pilots, including rapid development of the Calgary Collaborative Services Center and the coordinated response to elder abuse. These pilots will significantly enhance the overall coordinated response to domestic violence.

We have seen the Calgary circuit court points, along with several other sites in Alberta and in Moncton, New Brunswick adopt coordinated responses patterned after the HomeFront model. Our continued dialogues with various representatives in other provinces, notably Saskatchewan and BC, have resulted in their successful development of coordinated responses.

HomeFront has reached a mile stone in its development as an

organization and has entered the world of multifaceted fundraising efforts. These efforts are vital to HomeFront’s ongoing success and are aimed at improving our ability to keep victims safe, hold offenders accountable and strengthen partnerships with our key stakeholders.

The future promises to be full of activity with several major new initiatives underway including efforts to improve our response to high risk domestic violence cases, spread the coordinated response across the entire justice process and draw several key stakeholders more tightly into the coordinated response (including Child Welfare and Health).

With change happening on a number of levels, including the court agenda, board membership and key stakeholder foci, HomeFront has embraced these challenges as opportunities for conversation, re-evaluation and improvement to the overall response.

So with a cleansing breath, I wish to thank all of our key stakeholders, board, volunteers and staff who made 2007 successful. I look forward to an exciting and fruitful 2008.



Kevin McNichol
Executive Director

“I found that it gave me peace of mind to know that someone was looking out for me.”

2007 was an exciting year for growth and development in the Partner Support Program (PSP). After its first full year with a complement of three skilled paid part-time staff working each 20 hours a week and four devoted volunteers lending two to three hours a week to the program, PSP has begun to realize its full potential and benefit to its client base.

The Program can proudly declare that it has cleared the backlog of files waiting for follow-up, completely re-structured its administrative systems and strengthened its relationships with its closest working partners including the Domestic Court caseworkers, Probation, the Domestic Conflict Unit of the CPS and Children’s Services.

PSP hosted in-house educationals with HomeFront’s own Court Team, Probation, Calgary Legal Guidance and SeniorConnect. PSP also cross-trained with HomeFront caseworkers and is now able to provide back-up services to the Court Team as required. In turn, PSP provided program and domestic violence information to multiple organizations and systems.



The Program’s success is reflected in its numbers for 2007:

- New Referrals – 908**
- Clients Served - 872**
- Attempted Contacts – 7431**
- Client Contacts Made – 2757**
- Intervention/Emotional Support – 1136**
- Volunteer Hours – 292.75**
- Community Resource Referrals – 750**



“We are so thankful for getting our family back together.”

Early Intervention & Outreach (EI&O) continues to provide early intervention and education services to individuals/families impacted by the initial cycle of domestic conflict. Due to the diligence of the Calgary Police Service Domestic Conflict Unit’s Analyst, the double risk assessment and referral process has been fast-tracked and the program is now receiving a much more consistent and higher rate of referral than in the past. Additional HomeFront staff have been successfully cross-trained in order to meet the program needs.

With the success of EI&O in decreasing the escalation of domestic conflict, reducing the number of repeat phone calls for police service as well as negating the need for these individuals/families to enter the justice system, HomeFront is committed to continue seeking funding for this program on an ongoing basis.

Program Activities:

503 individuals served (236 adults and their 267 children).

Outreach Workers provided 254 home visits, 67 community visits and 127 telephone consultations. Safety plans were developed and/or revised as needed.

“Being given ideas and suggestions by my outreach worker on how to handle tough situations was invaluable.”

“The most helpful part of this program was that I had someone to talk to, without being judged first.”



In the past year, HomeFront has seen some wonderful developments in Aboriginal communities and within the city of Calgary through the work of the Strengthening the Spirit Committee.

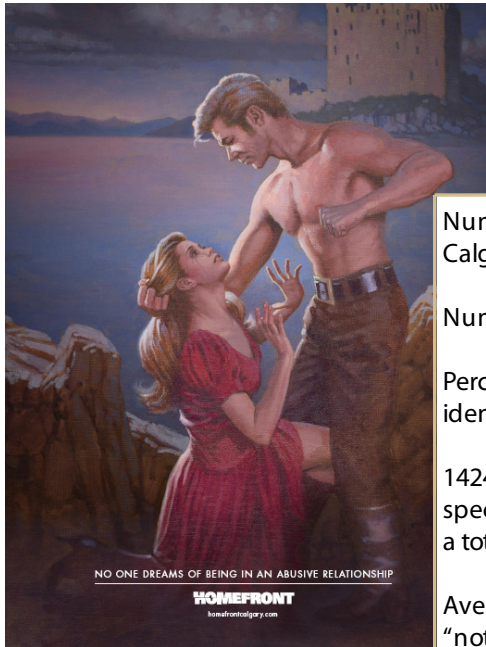
To highlight, the Aboriginal Men’s Domestic Violence Program supported by the United Way of Calgary and Area and the Alberta Mental Health Board was piloted on the Morley Reserve with fourteen participants completing the treatment based program. Partners from the domestic violence sector including HomeFront, collaborated with the justice system, shelters and Health services, specifically the Forensic Assessment and Outpatient Service (FAOS) to develop counselling tools and a culturally appropriate treatment model that facilitated and encouraged completion of the program by Aboriginal male offenders.

The success of the pilot illustrates the ongoing need and desire for services amongst members of the Reserve and has encouraged support for further development by the Aboriginal community to address the issue long term.

Funders

HomeFront wishes to graciously thank our funders for their continued support.





Number of domestic violence phone calls to Calgary Police Service in 2007: 12517

Number of domestic offenders in 2007: 3564

Percentage of assaults reported to police that are identified as domestic: 32%

1424 individuals appeared in Calgary's specialized domestic violence court charged with a total of 1606 offences.

Average time for case to get to trial court from "not guilty" plea at docket court is down from 180 days to 90 days.

Domestic Court Caseworkers

Docket court caseworkers contacted 74% of all complainants

Trial court caseworkers had contact with 78% of trial complainants.

Four docket court caseworkers made 24,901 collateral contacts, up more than 3 contacts per client. (14.1 in 2006 to 17.5 in 2007)

44% of offenders received domestic violence treatment; 30% substance abuse treatment; 23% substance use prohibition.

The "romance novel" idea was based on this insight: Even the perpetrators of domestic abuse often wonder how they've arrived in an abusive relationship. No one plans to be in it. Obviously no one dreams of being in it. And those who find themselves in one often just don't know how they got to that point. Or how to get out

This ad was designed to trigger the first step in escaping from that abusive situation.

Phil Copithorne
Creative Director
KARO Group

"My HomeFront Caseworker was very sensitive to my needs and fears. She always responded quickly and thoroughly. She really did an outstanding job; listening, documenting, keeping me informed and honestly caring and understanding. In the course of my case no one else seemed to grasp the gravity of the situation like she did. I can't say enough about how grateful I am that she was assigned to my case and gave it the attention she did."



2007 for the specialized domestic violence Court Team was a year defined by commitment, hard work and a collective desire to overcome adversity.

During the past year, HomeFront and the domestic court caseworkers struggled with the long-term illness of the Court Team Manager. One of the more senior caseworkers stepped up to fill the gap as best she could while still carrying a full caseload. When it was determined that the incumbent Court Team Manager would no longer be able to fulfill her duties in that position, Maggie MacKillop a long-time HomeFront employee with both experience in casework and program management was assigned to the position of Court Team Manager.

Since taking on that role, Maggie has increased the relief casework roster to ensure appropriate coverage for vacations and has secured program volunteers who have extensive experience within the Calgary Police Service's Victim Assistance Unit.

HomeFront's domestic court caseworkers form an integral part of the collaborative response to domestic violence. By sharing information with the Court Team (Legal Aid, Crown, Police & Probation) HomeFront's caseworkers successfully handled 1590 cases in 2007/08. Remarkably, four domestic court caseworkers made over 24,000 collateral contacts, resulting in more calls to the complainant, increased casework and an emphasis on including Child and Family Services (Child Welfare) input on files.