

sign of hope

DONOR NEWSLETTER



CATHOLIC
SOCIAL
SERVICES

SPRING/
SUMMER 2022



Dr. Troy Davies, CEO

*"Build a bridge
by extending
your hand."*

KEN POIROT

Message from the CEO

A safe place to call home is something many of us are fortunate enough to take for granted. Unfortunately, it is not a gift that everyone receives. Whether facing war or domestic abuse, sometimes a house becomes a place of violence, rather than a place of safety.

At Catholic Social Services (CSS), we believe a home is the foundation for a happy family. For the almost 300 women and children served by our Lurana Shelter last year, CSS became the bridge from a home filled with fear, to a home filled with hope.

If CSS is the bridge, then you – our donors – are the pylons, the girders, and the pillars upon which we stand.

Through the generosity of the Downtown Edmonton Rotary Golf tournament - now enjoying a second year in support of Lurana Shelter - the families of Elk Island Catholic School Division, the staff and customers of Shopper's Drug Mart, and the hundreds of individual donors like Dr. Randall and Nancy Yatscoff - CSS is able to be that bridge.

In the words of Pope Francis, *"Peace builds bridges, whereas hatred is the builder of walls. ... always look for a way of building bridges. Take each other by the hand. I want to see lots of human bridges. ... This is the plan for life: make bridges, human bridges."*

I am so grateful to each and every one of you for helping us build bridges of hope, and I look forward to seeing what more we can do together.

Please also consider purchasing a ticket to our annual Evening at the Mac event, scheduled for August 25. It is a wonderful chance to gather with other supporters in celebrating the life-changing work that we accomplish together! Hope to see you there.

Faithfully,

Dr. Troy Davies

**We want
to connect
with you...**

*Follow us on
social media!*



@cssalberta

CELEBRATE WITH US



TICKETS: \$60
TO PURCHASE TICKETS, CALL 780-439-4673,
GO TO bit.ly/EATM2022 or scan QRCode.



CATHOLIC
SOCIAL
SERVICES

*Sign of
Hope!*

EVENING AT THE MAC!

TICKETS ON SALE!
August 25, 2022
**FAIRMONT HOTEL
MACDONALD**
5:00 - 7:30pm





Leave a
LEGACY
of Hope

BECOME
A LEGACY
DONOR
TODAY!

DONOR SPOTLIGHT



Originally from Ontario, **Dr. Randall and Nancy Yatscoff**, have lived in Alberta since the early 1990s, raising their children Michael and Christopher in Edmonton. The Yatscoff's are now proud grandparents to six granddaughters, and are heavily involved with the Catholic community, volunteering time, treasure, and talent.

The Yatscoff's have donated to Lurana shelter for many years.

"We've been very blessed and it's a responsibility to give back. The need out there is just unbelievable," says Nancy. "There's a lot of good agencies in town but we want to support the Catholic ones that are doing good work."

Randall retired from a series of successful careers, including at the University of Alberta. In retirement Randall serves as President of the Edmonton St. Vincent de Paul Society, which has close historic ties to Catholic Social Services (CSS).

"You've got to put your Catholic faith into action," says Randall. "And to me, that's the way the Lord calls me."

The couple have added CSS in their wills as part of their legacy giving and they encourage others to do the same. Legacy gifts made to Catholic Social Services will have an impact on the lives of those most vulnerable for years, and decades, to come.

Thank you, Nancy and Randall, for your generosity to Catholic Social Services and those we serve!



Dr. Randall and Nancy Yatscoff

PRESENTED BY
VOLVO
VOLVO EDMONTON
MILLION DOLLAR
HOLE-IN-ONE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Rotary Club of Edmonton
Rotary Club of NE Edmonton

HIGHLANDS GOLF CLUB

REGISTER HERE
bit.ly/Lurana_Golf

AUGUST 8TH

PROCEEDS FOR LURANA SHELTER

Putting Women's Health First
LOVEYOU
by **SHOPPERS**
DRUG MART

Staff from Shopper's Drug Mart present a cheque for \$29,372 raised through their LOVE YOU Campaign, to CSS staff.

Lurana Women's Shelter: ONE YEAR UPDATE

A woman entering Lurana is in a moment of crisis. Around 60% of those who seek refuge at Lurana face a high risk of being murdered by their intimate partner.

CSS provides a full range of care to women and children facing abuse from the 21-day emergency supports of Lurana, through the second stage supports of La Salle Shelter, and into the transitional housing supports of St. Katherine Drexal Place. In Red Deer CSS also operates the Morning Star drop in-centre for women in crisis.

Last year, 145 women and 144 children received care at Lurana Shelter. Thanks to donor support CSS has renovated the second-floor units and basement, to create an even more welcoming environment.



FINDING SAFETY: Zara's Story

Zara arrived at her sister's home in Edmonton with her two young children, after spending 15 years in a refugee camp.

She was hoping to find peace and comfort at her sister's home, however this was not the case at all. Zara's sister was often angry, and the situation soon became abusive. Her sister would yell, fight, and withhold the finances Zara needed.

With no other support or income, Zara knew she needed to leave so she and her children could start over. She arrived at Lurana Shelter desperate, alone, and afraid.

The situation was even more dire as her youngest son had a rare autoimmune disease. CSS staff worked with Zara to create a healthy routine for her children, including registering them

for school. The staff provided free childcare so Zara could take her son to medical appointments. They also helped her secure subsidized housing, where she moved into her first real home in years. Zara's confidence in herself and her abilities grew so much as a result of the support she received that she registered herself for school and has begun dreaming of a career of her own.

Zara and her children still receive regular visits from their CSS' Outreach Worker and today they are thriving. Zara has found the safety she dreamed of when coming to Canada, and has created a happy home for her children to grow up in.

***CSS' Lurana Shelter is funded
through your generosity.***

**Thank you for bringing hope today,
tomorrow, and beyond.**

LEARN HOW YOUR DONATIONS CHANGE LIVES!
VISIT [CSSALBERTA.CA](https://cssalberta.ca)

**If you would like to receive
this newsletter electronically
call us at
780-439-HOPE (4673)**

Elk Island Catholic School Division Gives Support to Lurana Shelter

Elk Island Catholic School Division (EICSD) partnered with Catholic Social Services (CSS) recently, to support women and children in Lurana Shelter. Staff and students raised \$15,000 to purchase “Baskets of Blessings” for those who stay at the Shelter.

Everyone arriving at Lurana, receives a Basket tailored to their specific needs.

“A financial donation allows our staff to work with women to get the right clothing, children’s shoes, or makeup. Women are given the dignity of choosing what they need, which is an integral part of their healing journey,” said Eoin Murray, Director of Development & Community Relations. “Our partnership with EICSD is breathing hope into the lives of vulnerable women and children. We are so grateful to them.”



\$50,000 raised for the ‘Market at Gianna’

NEW SOCIAL ENTERPRISE PROVIDES JOBS FOR MOTHERS IN NEED

Farrah was pregnant when her mom died. She didn’t have any other supports in her life. This, her lowest point, is when she found CSS’ Gianna Centre.

In the Gianna Centre, Farrah found kindness, friendship, and even a new career, as she raised a newborn.

“I received support while grieving,” says Farrah. “But the Market opportunity also came along, and I learned how to run my own business.”

Last summer a group of Gianna’s moms formed a new Catholic Social Services’ (CSS) social enterprise, selling crafts and food to the passing public. And in doing so, the *Market at Gianna* was born.

The Market allows women to earn an income from what they create and what they sell.

In December 2021, the Grey Nuns of Montreal pledged a matching gift of \$25,000 to Gianna Centre, to be unlocked when an additional \$25,000 was raised.

For Mother’s Day in 2022, CSS invited donors to raise the matching funds. In just three weeks the goal was reached!

“Our Gianna Centre journey is made easier because you are walking alongside us, thank you for your support!” says Vera Fischer, Gianna’s Program Manager.

Market at Gianna is open Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., from June 24, Assumption Parish, 9040 95 Ave NW, Edmonton. Or shop online: www.themarketatgianna.ca

CSS IS PROUD TO BE A LEADER IN PROVIDING SETTLEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES TO UKRAINIAN ARRIVALS

Information for Ukrainians arriving in Alberta

GO TO: bit.ly/CSS_Ukraine

