

YWCA  
Lethbridge & District Harbour House - Wings of Providence - Peace River Regional Women's Shelter - Unity House Fort McMurray Family Crisis Society - Columbus House of Hope St. Paul and District Crisis Centre- Rowan House Emergency Shelter - "A Safe Place" Strathcona Shelter Society - Dr. Margaret Savage Crisis Centre Crossroads Resource Centre - SAGE Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton - Yellowhead Emergency Shelter for Women Society - Wellspring Family Resource & Crisis Centre - YWCA Sheriff King Home - Pheonix Safe House - Musasa House - Hope Haven Society - Safe Haven Women's Shelter Society - Brooks and District Safe Shelter Society Cantara Safe House - Pincher Creek Women's Emergency Shelter Association - Odyssey House

**41 shelters in Alberta** recorded their facts, thoughts and experiences on **November 25, 2009** - as part of the first ever *Global Shelter Data Count day*

The Brenda Stafford Centre for the Prevention of Domestic Violence - Lurana Shelter - Grande Cache Women's Transition Society - Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter (CWES) - Discovery House Family Violence Prevention Society - Mountain Rose Women's Shelter - Sonshine Community Services - Brigantia Place - Awo Taan Healing Lodge Society - Community Crisis Society - Kerby Centre - Lloydminster Interval Home Society - Lloydminster Dolmar Manor - YWCA of Banff - Safe Home - La Salle "A Safe Place for Women and their Children" - Ermineskin Women's Emergency Shelter Society - Edmonton Women's Shelter Ltd. (WIN House) - Mikisew Cree First Nation Paspew House - Sucker Creek Emergency Women's Shelter - Eagle's Nest Stoney Family Shelter - Bigstone Cree Nation Women's Emergency Shelter - Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter



# in one day...

## 693 Women and 617 children seeking safety from domestic violence were helped by Alberta shelters

*On data count day, shelter staff said:*

“Each time we hear a woman’s story, we are reminded how strong and how much courage they have to survive everyday.” LETHBRIDGE

“It can be difficult to find safe and affordable housing for seniors, and government subsidy programs for single adults under 65 is not sufficient to afford market rental (plus basic needs).” EDMONTON

“It’s shocking how much children internalize the family violence they have experienced.” HINTON

“Today I helped a woman get a restraining order, after 33 years of abuse. This is the women who said she felt like her soul had been raped. She looked at me today and said, ‘things are good.’” CALGARY

“A worker transported a client and her child to an interview for second stage housing. The client was filled with excitement and the hopes of what might be a better life. Unfortunately before she was able to enter the program her family convinced her to return to the reserve.” WHITECOURT

“Today required a lot of collaboration between Children’s Services and staff. The issues needing to be addressed were regarding the parent-child relationships and the effects of family violence.” EDMONTON

“A client came here to discuss her housing situation. She’s just over one year in Canada, with no friends, no family, no supports. She has furniture at home, but she can’t move them to a second stage shelter, so she has to abandon everything she owns. Her partner has threatened to kill her if she comes back, but she said she’ll just trust god to protect her, she’ll face danger.” CALGARY

“One of our counsellors drove her client to the lawyers to pick up some of her belongings that have been left there by her former perpetrator. Things were packed into broken bags and (were) very distasteful, pitiful and difficult for the client to experience.” CALGARY



## Of the 693 women helped, 29 were pregnant

"I saw a fourteen year old at (her) home. She had previously stayed at the shelter. I was helping her write a letter to her mom. We were talking a lot about the positive change she has made in terms of being able to know what's in her best interests and her needs." CALGARY

"Today the RCMP brought us a woman (and her daughter) being discharged from hospital. Her common-law had been released from jail and was back in the community waiting for his court date. The extent of her injuries was disturbing." LAC LA BICHE

"We have a repeat family. We've had the mother in here and now we've had the daughter come in with the grandchildren - so we are seeing an intergenerational thing. We have seen so many women in the family." CALGARY

"We have had a success story! One of our repeat clients (many, many admissions) has broken the cycle! She has rented an apartment and stated she, "can't believe how good life can be!" LLOYDMINSTER

"A young pregnant client with limited resources, financially dependent, feels that her only option is to return to her abusive boyfriend who left her to live with his ex and their 4 month old baby. " WHITECOURT

"(My client) lives with subtle but concrete death threats everyday. Every single group night, I wait for her to come to group, because then I know she is okay." CALGARY

"Clients find it very difficult to "get around" to secure housing, etc., since our town has no public transit." LLOYDMINSTER

"An immigrant family stayed with the shelter over the 21 days before securing housing, however her four children are not wanting to leave the shelter due to the comfort and safety level that has been provided during their stay." LETHBRIDGE

"A client was so overwhelmed, down and angry at the whole process of finding housing. She really had a breakthrough moment and was so proud of the work she had accomplished when she received notice of approval of subsidized housing. With the support of staff the client realized that she has done the work for herself." WHITECOURT

"I love the work we do helping the women and their children." FORT CHIPEWYAN

16 women and 20 children seeking  
shelter in Alberta were unable to be  
accommodated ...in one day

## On the data count day, women in shelter shared:

"We know what violence is and we know there are people that can help." EDMONTON

*"All the staff listened to my stories whenever I needed to vent. It helped with building my boundaries."*  
PEACE RIVER

"I value the support that was offered to me. I spoke out when I was deeply afraid. I wanted to feel better, I was driven to see this program through. Support was offered - and it was FREE!" CALGARY

"I like the idea of having someone that you build a relationship with connected with the woman's shelter (outreach worker) so that you don't have to go back to square one on (the abusive home)."  
PINCHER CREEK

"Helpful, guiding and meaningful. Comforting. Very helpful." HIGH LEVEL

"If it were not for the shelter I would have no place to go and my children would be sleeping who knows where." HINTON

*"I am able to move at the end of the month to a place of my own and live in peace for once in my life."* CALGARY

"Every worker met my needs. They were all very helpful and kind. I have both humility and gratitude and a warmest thank you to all." RED DEER

*"One thing I learned from this session was I can get through all this and feel better."* MEDICINE HAT

"I'm beginning to see a different journey." HOBBEEMA

## in one day...

## Over half of the shelters received help from Albertans:

EDMONTON: Clothing and household items, Christmas gifts, 20 hours volunteer offsite for fundraiser

FORT MACMURRAY: Food, clothing, furniture, appliances, dishware

ST. PAUL: Bread & buns

BLACK DIAMOND: Cash, gifts and 10 hours of volunteer help

SHERWOOD PARK: Food, gifts for women and children

FAIRVIEW: Cash

EDMONTON: Dishes, Christmas Gifts, Volunteer help for income taxes

HINTON: Offer of Christmas Gifts

CALGARY: Toiletry items, blankets, 13 hours of volunteer help

MEDICINE HAT: twelve different instances of support

LAC LA BICHE: Used clothing and toys

TABER: Food, clothing, furniture, appliances, dishware

PINCHER CREEK: Case of soup, clothing, cot and cash

CALGARY: 3 hours of volunteer help

CALGARY: Microwave, food, 3 hours of volunteer time

CALGARY: Table and chairs for client moving out

CAMROSE: Shoes, cash, clothing and household items

CALGARY: Community group came in and volunteered to organize donation room

LLOYDMINSTER: Cash

STRATHMORE: Cash

LLOYDMINSTER: Used clothing, household goods and toys

BANFF: Clothing, gifts

HIGH LEVEL: Clothing for women and children

HOBBEEMA: Food, furniture

EDMONTON: Toiletries, household items and clothing

FORT CHIPEWYAN: Clothing

WABASCA: Clothing

GRAND PRAIRIE: Clothes and 8 volunteer hours