

2020/2021 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



WCS 2020/2021

mir.a.cle
noun

"an amazing
achievement,
or an
outstanding
example of
something"

If 2020 taught us anything, it's that we never know what the future holds but if we **expect a miracle** we will get one. Every day since March 2020 our team and those we work to keep safe never knew what the next restriction, roadblock or symptom would be. People all over the world began to worry about their health, their children and their futures. These are the same worries and fears that many of the families coming to stay with WCS have been facing for years.

The COVID-19 pandemic cast a shadow over our ability to remain hopeful. Parents had to make the heart-wrenching decision between staying in an unsafe home or leaving to stay in a shelter, where the fear turned from their abuser to a virus. Living through the COVID-19 crisis has had a serious impact on us all, but especially those who need a shelter for safety. We saw new tactics of power, control and isolation happen within these families.

WCS never closed our doors and continued to persevere and keep individuals and families fleeing abuse safe. We remained hopeful and miraculously the shelter and our programs were able to continue to be a stable and consistent reprieve for those who had nowhere to turn during the most uncertain time in recent history.

You will find direct quotes from shelter clients sprinkled throughout this years report as a way to help our supporters understand the impact that a shelter can have on an individual and family. Thank you to all of our supporters for allowing us to make these miracles happen.

Sincerely,

The WCS Board of Directors & Staff



WHO WE SERVE 2020/2021



WE ARE ONE OF THE FEW SHELTERS THAT WELCOME ALL INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING ABUSE REGARDLESS OF GENDER IDENTITY OR GENDER EXPRESSION. THIS INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, INDIVIDUALS WHO IDENTIFY AS MALE, GENDER FLUID, NON-BINARY OR FEMALE.

WCS Outreach &
Public Education
Programs serve over

20

communities!

The WCS Emergency
Shelter Program is
available to those
fleeing abuse
regardless of their
geographic location



OUR IMPACT 2020/2021

89%

**OF THOSE ACCESSING
THE SHELTER WERE
FIRST TIME USERS**

1560

**CALLS TO OUR CRISIS
LINE**

These calls resulted in 25,258 minutes spent
by Crisis Intervention Workers providing
direct services

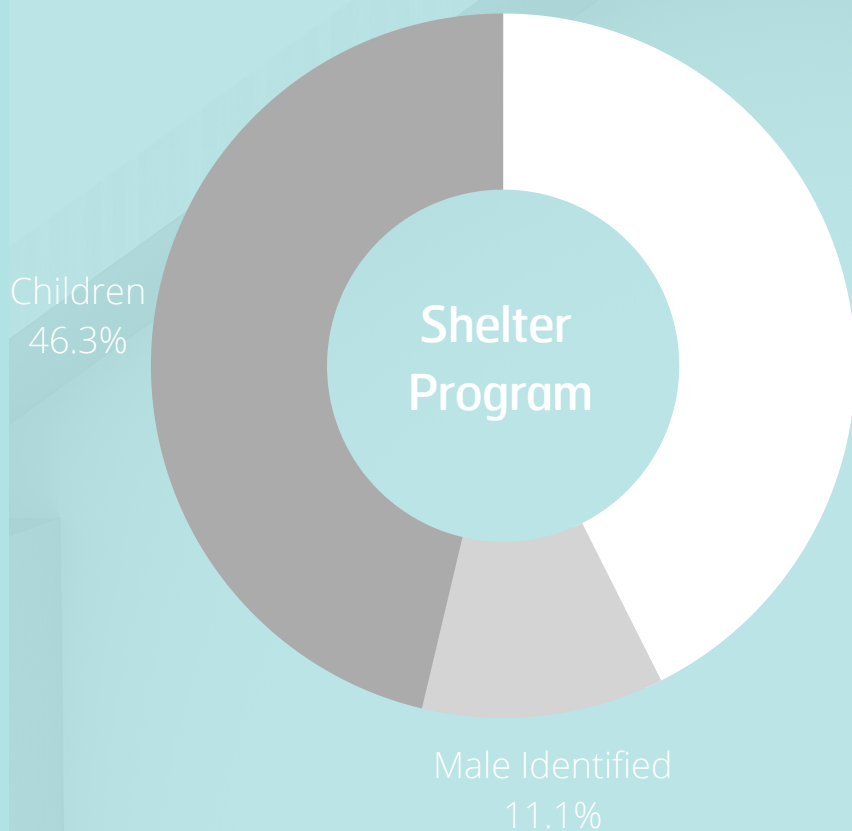
— “

I have learned to listen to my instincts – the red flags.
Now, I listen to myself and to my gut more and what I
tell myself.

” —



OUR IMPACT 2020/2021



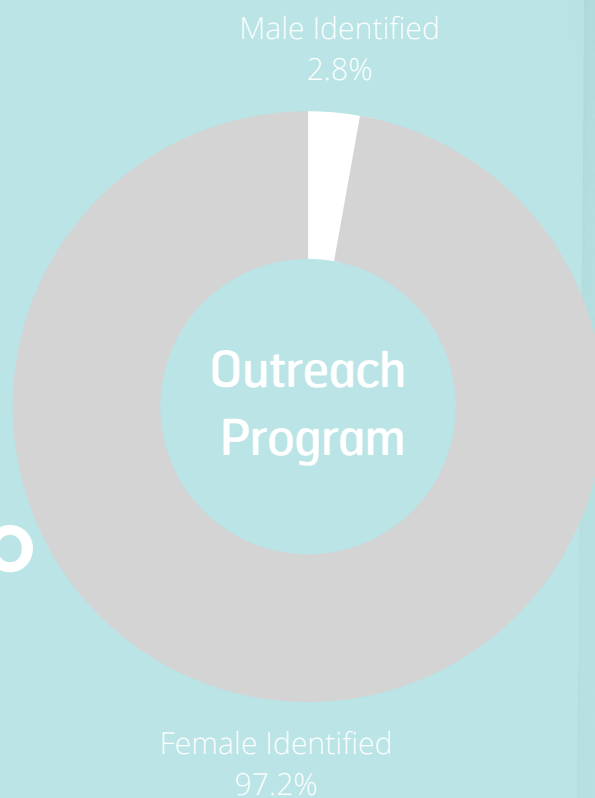
Female Identified
42.6%

Children
46.3%

Male Identified
11.1%

COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO COURAGEOUSLY SOUGHT SUPPORT

159 adults and children accessed WCS shelter and outreach programs this year.



Male Identified
2.8%

Female Identified
97.2%



2020/2021 CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

658

Hours of direct Child &
Youth programming
provided

283

Visits to the Child &
Youth Program

— “ —

I have more patience with myself and with my kids. Anxieties were an issue, not so much now. I am more consistent with how I parent – children need consistency.

— ” —



PANDEMIC RESPONSE 2020/2021

The Wheatland Crisis Society has and continues to remain dedicated to helping all people experiencing abuse. Due to public health regulations our capacity has been temporarily reduced but together with our team and public health partners, WCS has remained adaptable and nimble during these uncertain times. Just a few of the changes that were made to be able to continue to offering programming are:

- **ENSURED TESTING WAS AVAILABLE ON AND OFFSITE**
- **INCREASED & MANDATED SANITATION AND PPE USAGE**
- **BROUGHT IN ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR FOOD PREP & SANITATION**
- **CREATED UNIQUE & ADAPTIVE NEW SPACES FOR CHILDREN TO PLAY**
- **MET & EXCEEDED ALL OF AHS PUBLIC HEALTH REQUIREMENTS**



*WCS will return to prior capacity when public health guidelines allow shelters to resume normal operations



PROJECT IMPACT 2020/2021

In 2020, 21 shelters across the province were assembled by the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters to define and evaluate their impact and respond to what they discovered in the data.

This research project found 7 key findings in the impact of the work that WCS does.

These findings will be used to improve the way we collect data and statistics to help WCS, and shelters across the province achieve our goals, vision and mission.

1 Clients know self-care will keep them strong and help them through the difficult times. They will make time for themselves.

2 Clients have the tools that they need to help them to accept that it is okay to not be okay.

3 Clients are able to build a space where they can trust people to be kind and caring.

4 Clients learn to trust themselves to recognize and respond to the things that pose a threat to them.

5 Clients understand the importance of being an unconditional safe person for their children.

6 Clients have a network who support them and believe in them and they know they are resourceful and will seek help when needed

7 Clients have built a learned language of empowerment that they use to reframe lived experiences and shape who they are.



WHAT WE DO 2020/2021

WHAT COMMUNITY MEMBERS WE HAVE SUPPORTED HAVE TO SAY

“Some of the most helpful services I received was goal setting, safety planning and access to other resources.”

“I feel free to speak my true thoughts and encourage [my] kids to do the same. As well as being more open with my kids.”

“I know how to set my boundaries. I am more comfortable around friends and have learned to not let people take advantage of me. I have honoured myself in all of the changes in myself. I am more content with myself and accepting of myself.”



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Box 2162, Strathmore, AB T1P 1K2



24 Hour Crisis Line: 1.403.934.6634 Toll Free: 1.877.934.6634

www.strathmoreshelter.com

CRA Charitable# 13742-2135RR0001