



Alice Housing

*Proven Success,
Worthy of Support*





Topics for discussion

- Introduction to Alice Housing
- Alice Housing at Work
- Supporting DVP Strategy
- Our challenge
- Sustainable Funding



Introduction to Alice Housing





Mission

To provide safe second-stage housing and supportive counselling for women and children leaving domestic violence

"My greatest wish is that many women will find the joy and peace we have experienced and the growth we have received though the many services offered by Alice Housing" ~ Client





Core programs

- Safe housing
- Counselling
- Support services
- Advocacy services
- Developmental programs



"There are many outstanding organizations that offer services to a specific clientele. However, there are none who do so with more professionalism and respect than Alice Housing." ~ Cecil Wright, Regional Program Officer, National Crime Prevention Centre



Non-core programs

- Healing the Bruises
- Food bank and donations room
- Auricular acupuncture
- Christmas Angel, back to school
- Outreach

"Talking to your counsellor is like writing in your diary. You can say anything." ~ Justice, age 11





Alice Housing at Work



"This year I am going
to overcome my fears."
~ Patrick, age 8

"I am now equipped to move
forward in strength and self
confidence" ~ Client



Direct benefits

- Alice Housing is building the community – one person at a time
- Outcomes show:
 - Women and children are safer
 - Women and children do not return to violent and abusive households
 - Children's coping and life skills increase
 - Women develop an action-oriented life plan
 - Women learn and implement positive parenting skills
 - Children can recover from witnessing or experiencing abuse



Societal benefits

- Money invested in Alice Housing has a significant impact on the community
- Alice Housing has provided refuge to about 950 families, resulting in:
 - Reduced policing
 - Enhanced family income
 - Reduced health care costs

Over \$45,000 in affordable housing provided each year



11,539 bed nights in
2010



10,583 bed nights in
2009



11,086 bed nights in
2008



Alice
Housing

Counselling

Intakes 76

- Number of visits to Drop In Centre - 909
- Phone Admin Support - 2446

Womens Counselling sessions - 297

- Womens' Personal Development Workshops - 54
- Participants - 281

Child/youth Counselling sessions - 270

- Child/youth/parent workshops - 33
- participants - 296
- Youth outings - 10



Community Partnerships

- Transition House Association of Nova Scotia
- Metro Interagency on Family Violence
- Feed Nova Scotia
- Federation of Community Organizations

*"God Bless and keep Alice Housing,
who I call "Family", who work so hard
to make so many women and their
children heal on the inside and out"
~ Client*

Proven Success Worthy of Support

“It just amazes me that your organization is providing probably the best chance of breaking the cycle of violence and poverty for the women you're able to accept of almost any other program that I know of in this province, and you're able to provide safe, affordable, quality housing with support services. That's as close to an ideal situation for women coming from family violence and poverty that I can think of.”

Marilyn More, December 15, 2005

Hansard

Standing Committee on Community Services





Supporting the Domestic Violence Action Plan

"I seriously believe if they had not been here to help me I would have gone back"
~ Client





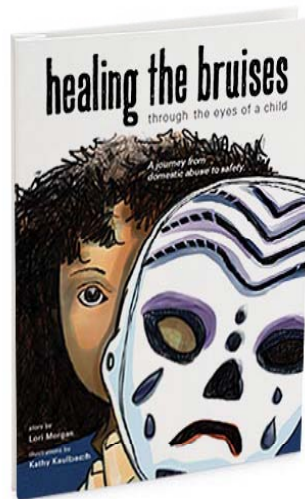
Supporting DVP Strategy

Alice Housing:

- Is a partner in the community
- Is a proven success
- Was an active member of the DVP committee
- Looks forward to working together to ensure women and children feel and are safe at home
- Is well qualified to help achieve outcomes of 20+ recommendations

Our Gift to the Community

“Healing the Bruises: Through the Eyes of a Child” launched on October 20th, 2011





Alice
Housing

Public Education

- 3000 copies printed, Alice Housing absorbs majority of production costs
- 900 copies given to 300 schools province wide
- 500 copies given to every organization under DCS umbrella province wide
- Copies given to 14 libraries in HRM
- Copies given to parents, doctors, teachers, police, VON, Family Law Courts, Dalhousie Legal Aid, Dept of Justice, and many more



Sustainable Funding

"Don't feel trapped, feel free! This means that when you move into Alice Housing, you don't feel like you still need to hide. You're free!"
~ Mackenzie, age 10

"Alice Housing is crucial for not only the support but the very survival of women and their children who have struggled with abuse and come from every walk of life" ~ Client



The challenge

- Violence is increasing
- Demand for our services is increasing:
 - 16% increase in phone support since 2006
 - 36% increase in intakes in 2010
 - Wait list being maintained for family units
 - 11,539 bed nights in 2010-2011
- Our ability to respond has decreased – loss of 7 units or 28% of our housing stock since 2005 because of sustainability issues

We must sustain our commitment to women and children, especially at times of most need



Financial situation

- \$430,000 annual operating costs
- Government funding for per diems supports < 9% of budget
- We receive no core funding from government
- Steps taken by Board of Directors to reduce costs:
 - Sold a property
 - Reduced a full-time position to part-time
 - Cut costs during budget process

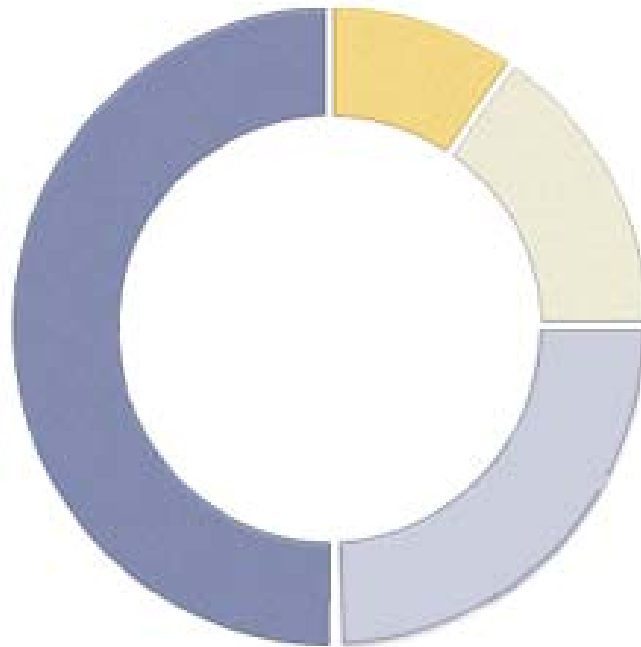


Further Challenges

- Current funding arrangement with DCS only \$9.75 per day only for clients on Income Assistance
- Fluctuated funding since 2005 from a high of \$51,000 to projected low of \$33,000 for 2010/2011
- Heating, electricity and water costs rising each year
- Aging buildings with rising maintenance costs
- Property taxes increase each year in spite of tax exemption
- No ability to raise rents to cover costs



Funding sources



2011 -2012 Breakdown
of Funding Sources
for Alice Housing

- Fundraising - 52%
- Rental Income - 25%
- United Way Grant - 12%
- Government Funding (DCS) - 11%



Sustainable funding benefits

- ✓ Immediate safety of women and children
- ✓ Focus on Alice Housing priorities:
 - Programming
 - Service enhancements
 - Client outreach services

A long term sustainable funding plan is critical to continuing the work of Alice Housing



Government Relations

- Representatives from Alice Housing met with Minister Peterson - Rafuse on June 7, 2011 and presented our Strategic Plan and request for ongoing dialogue.
- Request for ongoing dialogue concerning our funding needs denied on November 1, 2011



Why now?

- To maintain current services for existing clients and increase the housing stock back to 2005 levels to meet increased demand for family units
- To provide outreach support to ensure women stay strong and are successful after leaving

"With the programs, supportive counselling and the help other women in the program, I am now learning to live independently and believe in myself again." ~ Client



Funding vision

To sustain the programs, which are valuable and cost effective, Alice Housing is pursuing government commitment to core funding to ensure the organization has long term sustainability, and can offer services to women and children in the community for years to come

We are requesting \$250,000 annually for the next three years



Questions/Discussion

Thank You

Joanne Bernard
Executive Director

Catherine Sanderson -Board Co- Chair
Michelle Kelly – Board member

www.alicehousing.ca

