

DONOR IMPACT

"I didn't realize I was in an abusive relationship"

This is the real statement of Sarah (name changed for privacy), who fled an abusive relationship and found the support, comfort and aid from the Lloydminster Interval Home Society. Her words are no different than most women fleeing violence, many do not realize the severity of the situation; some do not ever get the chance to even have that realization.

Sarah had to wait until her abuser went back to work before she and her children could leave. In the time leading up to her decision to flee, she eventually (with the help of a friend) began to pick up on the pattern of abuse that was happening.

When her husband was home on days off, he was becoming more aggressive and would bully her for small things. Over time, the bullying turned physical and eventually violence took over. So why didn't she leave sooner, when it first began?

Sarah loved her husband. She would think back to the reasons she fell for him and how good he made her feel. He was also the father of their two children; leaving would mean taking them away from him and if nothing else, she thought he was a good father.

In between the bouts of abuse, her husband would often come to his senses and ask for forgiveness; often with flowers in hand. By the time he would go back to work after having days off, things would be back to normal, and all was forgiven. She always made a point of not looking in the mirror and would cover the bruises that were on her body; if she didn't see them, then she could put the abuse out of her mind. Surely next time he came home, everything would get better.

But it didn't get better. Physically and emotionally, the scars only worsened. It was only when a friend questioned the situation that she realized she was in an abusive relationship. Up until then she made up excuses, there was no way that she would ever tie the terms of "domestic violence" or "abusive relationships" to her marriage. As she processed the situation, she knew she had to get out before her kids would become the next target.

But how would she get away? He was home and wouldn't be back at work for another four days. Right before he would go back to work, he was always happy, so it was hard not to fall back into the pattern of just forgetting the violence that had happened days before. This time was different though; this time she looked at the scars and bruises and remembered.

As soon as her husband was on the road to work, Sarah fled with her children to the emergency shelter. Once they arrived, she knew they were going to be ok; they were not only sheltered, but they were safe. The shelter staff were able to help her get on her own two feet and begin, pretty much from scratch, a new life.

Sarah's story does have a happy ending, thanks to the services provided by the Lloydminster Interval Home Society, which is made possible by donors like you! Eventually, her husband also decided to seek help and part of that included the "Strength to Change Men's Program" that is provided by LIHS Community Programming.





Ken Hrubeniuk, a Wainwright Real Estate Agent, embarked on a transformative journey last November: a 90-kilometer, 5-day trek up Mount Pasochoa in Ecuador.

What drove him to undertake such a challenging endeavor? Domestic violence. Motivated by the mission of the Royal Lepage Shelter Foundation, Ken joined the *Ecuador Challenge for Shelter*, where participants raised funds for women's shelters. With a personal connection to the cause and a desire to raise awareness, Ken took on the mountain, facing physical and emotional challenges along the way.

During the trek, participants read letters from survivors of domestic violence, reinforcing the purpose of their journey. Despite exhaustion and adversity, the group's solidarity propelled them forward. Ken's efforts didn't stop there. With community support and contributions from the Royal Lepage Shelter Foundation, he raised \$10,335.50 for the Lloydminster Interval Home Society, directly benefiting their emergency shelter and programming.

Ken's dedication to combatting domestic violence is an inspiration to us all!



Thank You!



We want to take a moment to extend our deepest gratitude to all our donors. Your generosity and support enable us to continue our mission of providing safety, support, and hope to those affected by domestic violence in our community.

Thank you for standing with us as we work to create a world free from violence and abuse. Your compassion inspires us every day, and we are profoundly grateful for your ongoing support.

Want to become one of our amazing donors? Give <u>Here</u>.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK

April 14 - 20

This week we're taking the time to thank all of our wonderful volunteers. Your dedication and compassion make a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve. Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment!

If you're interested in joining this community, visit intervahome.org/volunteer

HAPPENING IN APRIL at the Lloydminster Community Youth Centre:

"Heads Up"

Marijuana Talk

"Youth Let's Talk"

Racism Talk with Shamile from Lloydminster Sexual Assault Services

SPCA visits & Bowling

Fun after-school activities



You are invited to the

SEEDS OF HOPE GARDEN PARTY MAY 13 | 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Lloydminster Community Youth Centre

This special occasion is designed to bring together our community to learn more about the Lloydminster Interval Home Society & the Seeds of Hope program.

LEARN MORE & RSVP HERE

