

PROGRAM REPORT
JUNE 30, 2018

No great achievement - NOT ONE - started on the front page. No, every creation of significance ever acknowledged began when a "small group of people came together and stood together and believed." And, stayed together and continued to believe. Women of Value is endeavoring to provide a service that is NOT available anywhere to any women in any of our communities. When you educate a woman you change a generation - and THAT is the distinguishing service Women of Value Education and Support Society is building.

This summary report is an acknowledgement that Women of Value Education and Support Society is a reality. As a team we have made the announcement; we exist; we launched our first What's Next program in 2016 and in 2017/18 this has resulted in considerable attention coming to our work and the beginnings of realizing a growth in our services.

Growth is not easy, and funding is a major consideration going forward for every non-profit reaching out to improve quality of life for the "least among us". 2017, began with a 2 month review of the costs associated with implementing the 2018 service delivery plan. The review process brought the Board of Directors to review many values and principles associated with creating and finalizing the final budget costs of launching programs and being able to support any participants successfully and with integrity.

Throughout the 2017/18 year we stayed committed to proceeding with offering a total of 6, 2 day workshops and with an average attendance of 10 at each workshop. All educational services came to fruition and were offered through part time rental at Bear Creek Church. A friendly and affordable space for the relational health programs we offered. The year behind us has been dedicated to achieving this first step: while, holding out the vision and staying committed to continuing this service to women and adding a second service of meeting monthly with women survivors of PTSD.

Once we completed the budget we again reviewed and developed the financial values that will carry Women of Value Education and Support Society into a lasting future. We have set before ourselves, as the pioneers and founders, a vision to build a lasting service that will serve, protect, advocate and educate the girls and women of Surrey and the surrounding world who are being exploited and human trafficked and suffering PTSD.

We have served over 100 women this year. Women of Value provided information and hope by continuing Seminars on P.T.S,D. in women's lives and adding 2 seminars to men who are supporting women with PTSD. The seminar to men also included education on how to prevent sexual exploitation in the lives of their daughters. These presentations were part of the direct delivery of greater and in-depth services in the form of 2 day workshops that provide skills in developing relational health to women overcoming PTSD and the affects this has had on their relationships.

For one woman, we are certain our commitment to a future of service was the hope she needed.

" If they can build from scratch, so can I." For another participant, she left an emotionally abusive relationship, slept in a tent for two months (!) to escape and now is living on her own and routinely contributes to Women of Value groups by being an inspiration and hope to everyone.

Furthermore, the children, grandchildren and families of the workshop participants as well as our community are stronger for these efforts. We have continued to reach out to women who live on subsisting wages; many have had careers, raised families and yet they suffer the after effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. And, one of the affects of their PTSD is debilitating poverty!

Perhaps the most startling learning this year is how seriously the lives of women in survival are suffering extended trauma as they face the uncertainty of homelessness and the reality of having NOWHERE to go. Over and over in our outreach efforts women were paralyzed in their thinking because they don't have homes; or the meager homes they rent were under assault, resulting in no ability to move forward, heal, improve their lives because everywhere they turned they have no where to go; and little hope of actually finding somewhere to live. This often interfered in their ability to come for a 2 day workshop. However, we have stayed in touch and this contributes to our desire to offer a monthly get together to talk and support one another through the after-affects of PTSD.

In this state of hopeless homelessness, they are surviving an epidemic social trauma in isolation and silence because our world is not yet aware of the challenges that are unique to women's experiences with the trauma associated with long term and persistent homelessness arising from their PTSD!

In closing I want to thank the significant and substantial support of the local Surrey/Delta Soroptimist Society and the Women of Worth Foundation. Without their determination to make a difference in the lives of women and girls across Surrey/Delta, Women of Value could not have made the inroads we've made this year in helping women change their lives and those of their children. We are able to proceed and expand our services as a direct result of the 2017/18 contribution of Soroptimist International and Women of Worth Foundation.

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