



LIFE Recovery Association Annual General Meeting

“Reviewing the past and planning for the future”

May 9, 2022 7:00 pm

Clearbrook MB Church
2719 Clearbrook Road
Abbotsford BC V2T 2Y9



Reviewing the Past

Chairman's Report

I've been blessed to serve the past four years on the board of LIFE Recovery, and have been amazed by this mission that embodies Living in Freedom Everyday (LIFE). The dedication of our staff and volunteers is readily evident, faithfully showing God's love to our clients as they seek a life free from the bonds of addiction.

In the past 22 years over 2,000 women have received life changing support from LIFE Recovery. Our success is rooted in the message that everyone is a special and unique child of God, and through our home-like atmosphere our clients learn (many for the first time in their lives) about Jesus unconditional love and compassion. If you as a staff member, volunteer or donor ever feel your efforts don't make a difference, take 40 minutes and treat yourself to the testimonial videos posted at www.liferecovery.ca.

Here's a brief preview of what you will hear:

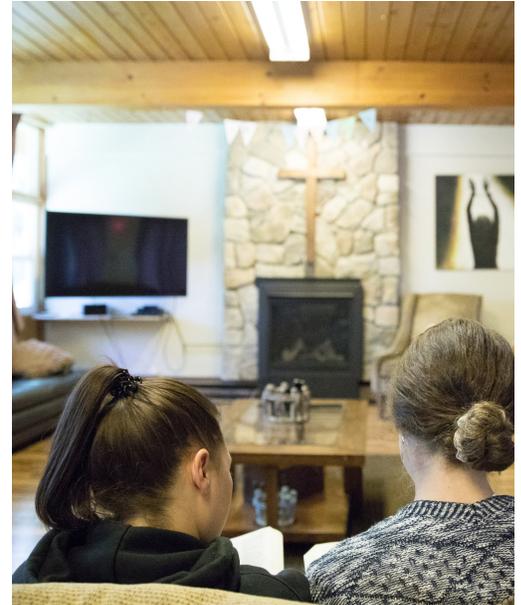
"I was sick of being messed up every single day";

"I love being sober - I thrive in this environment"

"I heard I didn't have to live my life this way anymore"

"I finally love myself again",

and finally "Life Recovery taught me how to love myself, to love God again, how to forgive myself and to teach other women the power of God, and the power of recovery and reconciliation in their lives"



You can't help but feel uplifted and affirmed by these stories of God's grace triumphing over drug and alcohol addiction.

As we look back, we recognize we've all been through a tough, trying couple of years. It appears we're finally on the winning side of the pandemic even though some challenges may remain. Over the past year the Board approved a new Personnel Policy manual as well as a new Statement of Faith. We have continued work on strategic planning regarding our facilities, and have spent considerable effort responding to flood damage at two of our homes last November.

We remain thankful for our committed community and for all our staff, volunteers and faithful donors. I urge you to continue to uphold LIFE Recovery in your prayers and the women that we serve. In closing, we would like to thank Tim Williams and Gary VanRy, whose terms on the board have completed and welcome Danielle Hill who will be joining the board upon Society approval.

Chuck Poelman,
on behalf of the board of LIFE Recovery

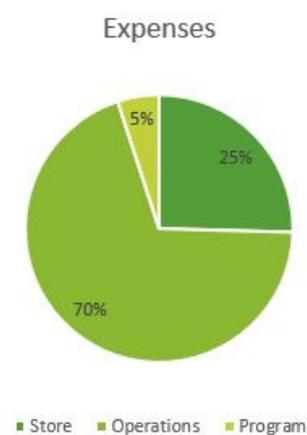
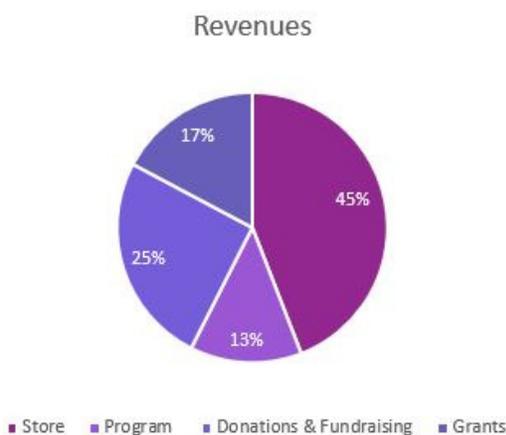
Treasurer's Report

It has been a privilege to take on the treasurer's role this year. While the gifts and talents of LIFE Recovery's staff and volunteers are the true resources in this community, LIFE Recovery would not exist without the generous donations from its donors.

We understand it has been a challenging year for our donors, and yet, this ministry has been blessed by what has been received. While our excess of revenues over expenses is 21% lower than 2020, it is 15% higher than the 2021 budget.

Here are some highlights:

- A thank you to our 2021 Gala planners and volunteers and their ability to dream big and differently in the midst of COVID. In total, the virtual Love for Life campaign last February netted \$111,000.
- Life's Second Chance thrift store profits were up by 22% from 2020. These profits covered 45% of LIFE Recovery's 2021 operating expenses.
- As with every year, we are grateful to all workers and volunteers who gave of their time to keep the store open and running, especially during COVID restrictions.
- We were again able to make a principal repayment on our mortgages of \$116, 850. This reduces our mortgage balances by approximately 16%. Overall, there is \$147,718 of long term mortgage payments left of the original \$913,014
- We were again able to participate in the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy for a total of \$134,863.



Shirley Mauger,
Treasurer, LIFE Recovery Association

Executive Director's Report

2021 was a year of challenge and change but in all of it, God's faithfulness was evident.

The early part of the year focused on our fundraising and a shift of our Gala to a month-long campaign. This blessed everyone! Those who wouldn't normally attend, now had an opportunity to participate and many commented that it felt more "personal" – how ironic given that Love for LIFE boxes were delivered masked and distanced!

In the spring, the renewal of our insurance led to an operational review. COVID in health and community care settings created many new concerns for insurance companies from both a liability and litigation perspective. Our Personnel Policy Manual had to be vetted by an employment lawyer with recommendations made to the Board for the latest in best practices. In the end, we had everything in place when we faced our largest claim ever in November.

The summer brought an easing of restrictions and a return to in person meetings and training. In August, after being with LIFE for 9 months, I was finally able to meet all the staff at an outdoor meeting and dinner!



Employee wellness was an important goal in 2021. A grant received from HealthCare Excellence Canada allowed us to offer one to one counselling and group sessions with a therapist. This was beneficial personally and professionally for all who participated.

In August, we held our first International Overdose Awareness Day event. Over 60 people attended to celebrate lives lost to overdose death and addiction. We cried together and comforted one another, walked in memory and heard a message of hope from Telecare Crisis and Caring Line. It was a beautiful time.



Fall brought our first COVID “outbreak” and 2 weeks of Enhanced Monitoring from Fraser Health. Each day felt like a week but at the end of 14 days, we were cleared for regular operations. And even better, when our second outbreak hit in January 2022, we knew what to do and managed it without incident.

Fall also brought devastation to our community and many of our supporters. It was a surprise to everyone that two of our homes, one on a hill, would have water flowing through our basements. A major renovation project is now taking place at Westerly, and one is planned for the second location. Even in this, God’s favour has been evident. A decision to end a rental agreement with a market-rent tenant provided a home for our displaced clients, and the renovations to both houses will add bedrooms allowing us to house more women. Every change and challenge bring opportunity. Through 2021 we looked at changes in addictions – substances and treatments and the need for trauma informed practice. We considered how a changing world and its rules challenges us on



how to develop resiliency in the unknown. Looking back at the Gala, our insurance renewal, the pandemic and flood, none were what we planned or expected. All were challenging and uncomfortable but every single one was known to God before it happened, and He used it for His purpose leading us to an outcome that was better than we’d imagine. How great is our God!

Coletta Holmes
Executive Director, LIFE Recovery Association

LIFE's Second Chance Thrift Store Report

Many new volunteers started at the store in 2021. We are grateful for their willingness to share their time and appreciate how the team has welcomed them. It is great to have more hands to help keep up with incoming donations, pricing, organizing and covering the sales floor.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!!



Our store will remain closed on Mondays as a lot of work is done then, both in the sorting and sales areas. This allows us to set up new displays, add inventory and do the cleaning without bothering customers.

In March 2021, one of our full-time volunteers, Bill vanTol, died. Bill was a jack-of-all-trades at the store, knew where everything was and how it worked. This January, Dan Vanderhorst also passed away. Dan was a long-time supporter, former Board member and store volunteer. Both men are missed yet their memory does carry on as part of LIFE's Second Chance history.

Thank you,
Lily Bergen
Manager, LIFE's Second Chance Thrift Store

Planning for the Future

Gosh, it's hard to ask for money! The natural disasters in BC and the crisis in the Ukraine call to us, as do so many worthwhile causes, making it difficult to know who to support. For us, seeing women freed from addiction is one of the most important. It isn't just about the individual or a special interest group. Addiction impacts children and families and all the accompanying systems. Recovery reduces pressure on government funding and services like policing and health care and contributes to a healthy, healed community. It provides hope to the lost and restores the broken. For this, we need your help.

If you've watched the testimonies on our website or have heard our clients speak in person, you know of the transformational work that has taken place in people's lives. And you don't have to look hard to find success – former clients go back to their families, participate in local churches and ministries, rebuild their lives, continue their education, and return to LIFE Recovery as staff! Collectively, 7 on our team represent 66 years of sobriety and 6 of them found it at LIFE!!



This ministry is dependent on donor dollars and our thrift store. While we are grateful for government grants, it isn't enough and to be honest, we don't want to depend on the government as our funder. Rarely do we have a private pay client, all others are subsidized, and we want to continue to offer that. This year's Gala was postponed, and we are encountering many challenges in hosting something similar. The Gala is our main fundraiser usually netting close to \$100,000.00. In 2022, it is likely that we will host several smaller fundraisers and will be reaching out with more information in coming months.



As you will hear at our AGM, LIFE Recovery Association is entering into a capital phase. Although we were able to make a claim for one of our flooded homes, the other was denied. All 4 properties require major updates: perimeter drainage, plumbing and electrical updates, a roof and in time a new First Stage facility. We've done very well with the properties we have but they were built as single-family dwellings, not for 24 hour programs.

We are also entering into a program expansion phase. Relapse prevention is part of a recovery plan and we believe that ongoing support with trusted counsellors is part of that. Our 90 day program arrests the addiction but there is so much more work to be done to stay the course. Wrap around services through a day program are needed - for moms who won't leave their babies to enter a residential program, or graduated clients who live independently but still need a recovery community.

To make a donation to LIFE Recovery, please visit liferecovery.ca/donate
Donations are accepted by Debit/Credit, e-mail, phone or by cheque.

And finally, 2024 will mark the 25th anniversary of LIFE Recovery Association. To commemorate this occasion, Annette Hoekstra is interested in writing a book on LIFE Recovery and it's journey in the past 25 years. Her focus in writing this book would be to emphasize God's provision, His guiding hand, and His faithfulness from the very beginning to where the Association is at present.

Once completed this book will be sold as a means of raising funds for LIFE Recovery Association. If you have been involved and have a story to share or photos of your time with LIFE, please email director@liferecovery.ca and we will connect you with Annette. We look forward to the reminiscing and the celebration and thank Annette for her heart for this project.



LIFE Recovery Association
PO BOX 2652
Abbotsford, BC, V2T 6R4
604-855-4440
www.liferecovery.ca
