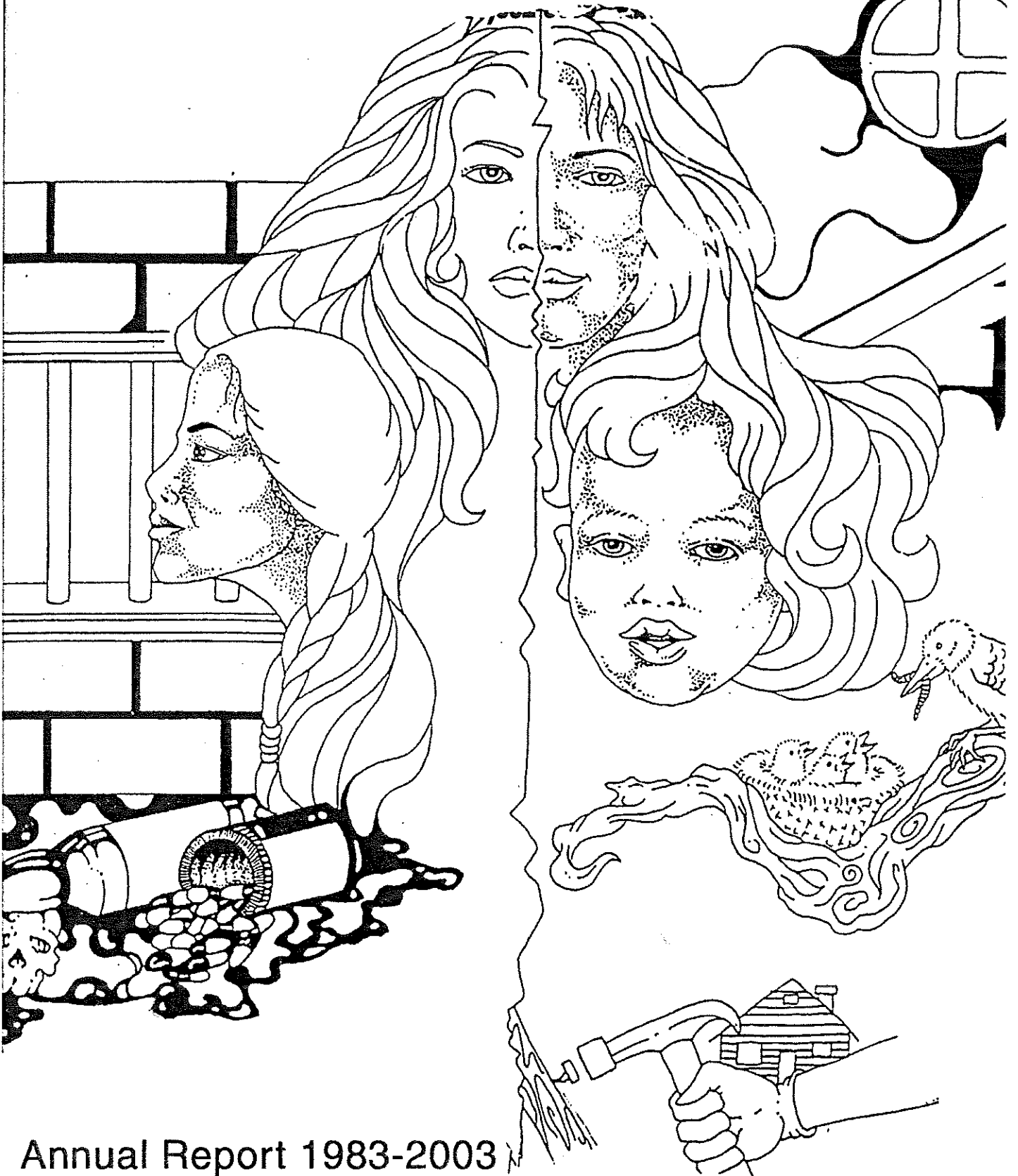


The Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba



Annual Report 1983-2003

This 20th anniversary edition of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba annual report is dedicated to the memory of our sister, Lydia Young who joined the spirit world this past summer...

Lydia was one of the most empathic, loving souls that we have ever known. She worked many years assisting men and their families in finding the tools they needed to make positive changes in their lives. Lydia brought this knowledge to the Elizabeth Fry Society and worked for over six years on the Board of Directors. 70 - 90% of women held in custody at any given time in Manitoba are Aboriginal. She witnessed the challenges women face when separated from their families. She supported the women we work with by giving voice to their struggles around poverty, abuse, violence, addictions and advocated in the community with leaders about the inequities facing women in the system compared to men.

Lydia Jane Young
April 26, 1938- June 25, 2003



Lydia also served on our Personnel/Nominating Committee. She also attended the consultations on the restructuring of the Child Welfare System based on recommendations from the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry Report. She never let the pain she felt divert her from the work she believed needed to be done. We know she looked forward to receiving her monthly Board package to see what challenges now lay ahead and what successes we had achieved.

Lydia celebrated when she heard the announcement by the Honorable Justice Minister, Gord McIntosh last year on National Aboriginal Day that the Portage Correctional Centre would be closed. Although a new facility will likely be built, the advocacy work of Board members like Lydia will ensure that increased alternatives to incarceration are utilized for women in Manitoba. We continue to reach out to the community with the support of women like Lydia. Thank you sharing your strength and teachings with us.

We will miss you Lydia, our sister, friend, and grandmother. May the spirit world rejoice in your arrival. Thank you Creator. On behalf of the rest of the Board of Directors, the staff of Elizabeth Fry Society and the women with work with, thank you for your lasting contribution.

Megweetch

EFS STAFF 2002-2003

Debbie Blunderfield	Executive Director
Cindy Brass	Provincial Reintegration Coordinator
Margaret Cichon	Federal Reintegration Coordinator
Cathy Doyle	Community Support Coordinator
Jennifer Robinson	Parole Supervisor/Volunteer Coordinator
Carolyn Murray	Parole Supervisor/Community Support Worker
Darlene Johnson	Outreach Worker
*Wendy Singleton	Justice Liaison Coordinator
Anita Walker	Administrative Assistant
Rita Eisbrenner	Community Support Worker
Jill Hodgson	Community Support Worker
Marcie Raines	Community Support Worker
*Joey Jacobs	Research Assistant - Summer Student
*Bev Ozol	Program & Development Coordinator
*Christine Ludwick	Community Integration Coordinator (Provincial)

***Special Thanks to past dedicated Staff Members**

2002/2003 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charlene Gutscher	President & CAEFS Rep.	Janet Nortey Debra Parkers	Secretary/Treasurer Vice President
Gloria Enns	Board Member	Mary Guilbault	Board Member
*Gillian Balfour	Board Member	Lydia Young	Board Member
Ella Clark	Board Member	Sarah Inness	Board Member
*Wendy Singleton	Board Member		

***A very special thank you to board members who served the agency in various capacities for a period of time over the last year. Thank you to Wendy Singleton who joined our staff briefly in the paid role of Justice Liaison Coordinator and continues to do so on a volunteer basis.**

Women make up half the world's population, perform two-thirds of its work-hours, receive one-tenth of the world's income and own less than one-hundredth of its property. Women will never be able to play a full, balanced role in the economy until men do too – by taking on their full share of childcare and domestic labour!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2003

Another year has gone by and there is light at the end of the tunnel. We have now achieved one of our goals - namely, purchasing a new home for our agency. Planning is still in its infancy, but we intend to move into our new location at 544 Selkirk Avenue by next year. This is proving to be an exciting and somewhat anxious time.

Our Manitoba Human Rights complaint is still on the table. The complaint and investigation process is a very long, slow one but we remain steadfast in our resolve to see it through in hopes that appropriate and required recommendations will be made. Changes are needed in the arena of women's corrections. We are grateful for the support of our partners in this complaint.

Once again, I would like to thank our primary funder, the United Way, for their support of our agency and their ability to see the value in the programs, support and services that we provide.

We were also very excited to hear Justice Minister Gord Mackintosh announce the closure of Portage Correction Institution. Although we did not hear of this announcement from the Department of Justice, we are anticipating the Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba (EFS) will have a voice in the discussions regarding the future of corrections for provincially sentenced women.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the staff at EFS. They truly believe in the rights of the women and girls involved in the criminal justice system and it shows in their tireless efforts and advocacy.

Debbie Blunderfield, the Executive Director of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba, is truly an asset to this agency. She continues to keep the agency running smoothly, which equates to a very satisfied Board of Directors. She continues to provide stability to the agency as well as playing a role in the public education on the state of corrections and (in)justice for Manitoba women.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I look forward to another exciting year for our agency, its new building, the progression of our Human Rights complaint, and the fight for the rights and substantive equality for Manitoba women in the criminal justice system.

Respectfully,

Charlene Gutscher
President, Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It's been 20 years since the Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba incorporated as an independent agency to better service the needs of women and female youth. As we mark our 20th anniversary, this is a time for reflection and examination of those pieces of the struggle worthy of celebration. I have been blessed to part of this unique organization over the last thirteen years of my life, five as the agency's Executive Director. EFS MB embodies working with and for a segment of the most marginalized, racialized and impoverished portion of the population. I have witnessed wonderful success stories of women who came to EFS broken, imprisoned inside themselves, angry yet strong and determined. I have cried at the loss of life, of women's and youth self-harm, of cycles of abuse, of generational crime and systems less than perfect.

At the annual LEAF Breakfast, Kim Pate, B.A., B.Ed. (P.D.P.P.), LL.B., Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies, and President of the Canadian National Associations Active in Criminal Justice Women addressed the morning crowd and shared her passionate and thought provoking speech entitled Women & Girls in Prison: Canada's Alternative to Equality & Justice. Kim stated that "Women are the fastest growing prison population worldwide. Recent global trends are seeing the increased criminalization of women and girls especially those who are poor and racialized. Here in the Prairies and in Winnipeg in particular we have seen some of the worst examples of increased trends to criminalize women and girls. Aboriginal women continue to suffer the shameful and devastating impact of colonization, from residential school, to child welfare seizure, to juvenile and adult detention. Aboriginal women and girls are vastly over represented in institutions and under state control. Indeed even as we work to de-institutionalize and de-carcerate, we are fearful that 'treatment' will be the next colonial control of choice. Most women in prison pose the greatest risk to themselves not others - **the best jail in the world is no jail!**" The Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba shares this core belief.

It has been year and nine months since the Manitoba Elizabeth Fry Society (EFS MB), with the support of our partners, filed two complaints with the Manitoba Human Rights Commission. The complaints allege discrimination on the basis of sex, race, and disability in the treatment of women who come into conflict with the Manitoba criminal justice system. We have provided our two investigators with a point-by-point response to assist in their investigation. The ultimate question for the Commission is whether Manitoba Justice has reasonably accommodated the needs of women in the Corrections system, including the needs of Aboriginal women, women with physical and mental disabilities, and women as mothers and caregivers. Answering that question requires an equality analysis that considers women's experiences and needs. Our work with incarcerated women and our knowledge of the facilities, programs, and overall approach to women's Corrections, reveals a failure by Manitoba Justice to meet the legal standard of reasonable accommodation and substantive equality. Thank you to our human right partners: Women's Legal Education Action Fund (LEAF MB), Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre Inc., Red River Michif Women's Council Inc., Mothers of Red Nation, Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba

Inc., Council of Women of Winnipeg, the Canadian Mental Health Association (Manitoba Division), the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies and Kali Shiva Aids Services.

On National Aboriginal Day, June 21, 2002 the Attorney General Gord Mackintosh announced that Manitoba's Women's Jail will be replaced with a modern female correctional centre. "The consultation process on location and other aspects of the project is beginning now. The safety and security of the public is a key priority as we move forward on consultations with Aboriginal governments and other service providers on the development of this new facility," said Mackintosh. "While this project may take several years to complete, we will move immediately to improve programming." We were pleased by the announcement but dismayed to have received notification from CBC and not Manitoba Justice. We see this as a major victory and are thrilled to know that our National postcard campaign and other advocacy efforts have gotten women who are criminalized on this government's agenda. Thank you to all our Provincial Government supporters, individuals like Bob Stephens, Nancy Barkwell, Denise Lemoine and Ken McKenzie have made our partnerships a pleasure.

Those of you who have visited our office know that our little house is bursting at the seams. Our current staff of thirteen has been great at using every square inch. We are excited to report that the Board recently approved the purchase of a new building for the agency. Yah! Our new building is located further down the street at 544 Selkirk Avenue. The building has two stories: 2,400 square feet on the main floor, the 2nd floor consists of two suites and more meeting space and the building has a great big, clean basement! We will also have parking for 10 cars. We will be creative in our use of the two suites and plan some form of release space for Manitoba women. We have the next year and a half to raise the necessary acquisition and renovation dollars. We were pleased to recently receive \$30,000 from the Community Places Program. Phase I will consist of renovations of the two suites and basement. Phase II consists of the main floor and remaining second floor agency space. We anticipate moving agency operations in September 2004. We look forward to working with Jacqueline Jasinski of Gaboury Prefontaine Perry architect.e.s. as we design our new agency home.

We continued to offer a number of community based programs. This past fiscal year there were three *STOPlifting*, six *Women for Change* and three *Kids Are Wonderful* groups. We are providing one-to-one daily living skills support for four clients through our Community Support Worker Program. We continue to offer a birth control outreach program in conjunction with the Women's Health Clinic and Sage House. We have seen an increase in the numbers of women accessing our free gently used clothing, house wares and furniture depot. Our Court Program has been reactivated utilizing volunteers.

We have renewed two contracts with Correctional Services Canada. The first is a two-year Community Assessment and Parole Supervision Contract. The second is a one-year contract for Federal Reintegration Coordination with the addition of a women substance abuse program vs. group programming. We will offer the maintenance component of this program in the community.

EFS MB has partnered with Native Women's Transition Centre and Iskwewak Leadership Development Institute to establish transitional housing resources and supports to women exiting and recently released from correctional institutions. We are currently in the development stage. A recent joint application submitted to the Winnipeg Housing and Homeless Initiative has been successful and the work continues. We would like to construct a continuum of emergency and transitional housing resources for twenty adult women and up to 30 children. Alternatives keep developing thanks to partnerships with our Aboriginal sister organizations.

National Elizabeth Fry Week's theme: Women in the Community - Creating Alternatives to Prison was held May 5 - 11, 2003. We held a kick off and organized both a Winnipeg Remand Centre and Portage Correctional Centre for Mother's Day Events. We hosted a client/volunteer open house on the Friday and spent the afternoon barbecuing in the sunshine. We also launched our web-site, which can be found at www.efsm Manitoba.com. Thank you to Ceridian Canada for their two-years of support in the development of the site. A special thanks to our Margie Cichon for her attention and development of the web-site project. We are still under construction so watch for ongoing changes and additions.

Research continues to be an increasingly important tool in the advancement of social reform. We benefit immensely thanks to the organizational and research directional hard work of the Inter-Sectoral Committee for Women and Girls Who Self-Harm. Professor Cathy Fillmore, University of Winnipeg's Sociology Department and Dr. Colleen Anne Dell, National Research Advisor, Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse continue to support the project by co-chairing the committee with myself. Ongoing support from the National Crime Prevention Centre - Community Mobilization Program allows EFS MB to offer ongoing knowledge generation, educational training, policy development and a Self-Harm Summit to occur in the Spring of 2004.

This year EFS was pleased to host an Occupational Therapy student who assisted our agency in defining our needs to enhance our work with women affected by FAS/E. It is estimated that 60% of those with FAS/E may face issues within the justice system. Much of the focus on FAS/FAE is gendered, classed and racist in approach and we must venture forth carefully.

EFS MB also looks forward with our growing community partnerships. Edith Regier and Reva Stone of the recently incorporated non-profit organization Crossing Communities Art Project are to be applauded for their tenacity and believe in the philosophy of communication through art. We continue to build our partnership with them as we look at how art can work towards reparative justice.

We are also pleased to be part of the ongoing development of the Oyate Tipi Cumini Yape Furniture Project, Birth Outreach Program and Women's Books to Prisoners. Our community knows how to come together, share and care!

As we continue our work we must be mindful that in the Prairie Region most of the women are aboriginal contributing to a situation where they represent the majority of the women's provincial jail population. We know the increasing numbers of women in prison is clearly linked to the erosion of health education and social services. We also know that the cycle intensifies in times of economic downturn. It is very clear where we are sending the people who are experiencing the worst in the downturn in the economy and social trends. Jails are our most comprehensive homeless initiative.

I am grateful for the wonderful, giving staff we have been blessed with. Thank you for your qualities, skills and heart. Together we have continued to shape and strengthen our agency's capacity to respond to the ever-changing needs of our client base. Thank you to my terrific Board of Director's who give freely of their time. Your attendance at meetings, many phone calls and visioning for a more just system for women is to be commended. Thank you to our national Director, Kim Pate. Time spent with you always recharges me for the battle ahead.

We celebrate as our women and girls move from victimization to criminalization to healing. We celebrate as the voices of our women and girls grows stronger... We celebrate the announced closure of the Portage Correctional Centre... We celebrate our continued capacity growth... Much of this work would not be possible without the support of all our members, partners, families, and funders...

Together we make a difference!

Respectfully Submitted by:

Debbie Blunderfield
Executive Director

WALKING

I walk down the street
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk
I fall in
I am lost...I am helpless
It wasn't my fault
It takes forever to find a way out

I walk down the same street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk
I pretend I don't see it
I fall in again
I can't believe I am in the same place
But, it isn't my fault
It still takes a long time to get out

I walk down the same street
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk
I see it there
I still fall in...It's a habit
My eyes are open
I know where I am
It is my fault
I get out immediately

I walk down the same street
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk
I walk around it

I walk down another street



*When thee builds a prison,
thee had better build with the
thought ever in thy mind
that thee and thy children
may occupy the cells.*

Elizabeth Fry
1780-1845



Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies
Association canadienne des sociétés Elizabeth Fry
701-151 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P5H3
Telephone : (613) 238-2422
Facsimile : (613) 232-7130
e-mail : caefs@web.ca
Home Page : www.elizabethfry.ca

September 10, 2003

Ms. Debbie Blunderfield
Executive Director
Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba
773 Selkirk Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2W 2N5

Dear Debbie:

Re: 20th Anniversary of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEFS), it is my profound pleasure to be forwarding this congratulatory note to you, your staff and the Board of Directors of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba, on the occasion of your 20th Anniversary. You are to be commended for providing twenty years of vital, relevant and excellent services and programs for women and girls in Manitoba.

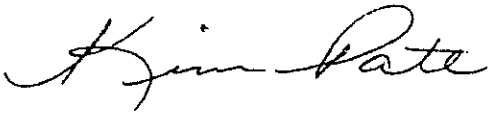
We also wish to congratulate you, your Board of Directors, staff and volunteers for your incredible commitment to our network, as demonstrated by the hours, days, weeks, months and years -- much of it unpaid -- of devotion to women and girls with and on behalf of whom we work. The Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba has demonstrated extraordinarily energetic and enthusiastic commitment to the ideals of our namesake, Elizabeth Fry. In addition to demonstrating great flexibility and resiliency in the face of increased demand for your services and deficiencies in resources to meet the great need, your work is a tremendous benefit and credit to you and the entire CAEFS' network.

Your strength and tenacity have served well your organization, our network, and, most significantly, the women with and for whom we exist. The list of exemplary accomplishments is long and includes an ever-growing list of comprehensive services designed to assist the most marginalized, and too often criminalized, women in your community. We wish you and all of the women who will pass through your services and programs continued success and all the best always.

To work with and for Elizabeth Fry societies in these times can be no mean feat, yet you and your staff, along with your many policy and program volunteers are to be commended for tirelessly and enthusiastically continuing to ensure that the best possible services, policies and laws exist to protect all women, regardless of their circumstances or station in life. Thank you once again for all you do and for the wonderful example you set for women everywhere.

It is always an honour and a privilege to work with your organization. The manner in which you embody the spirit and traditions of Elizabeth Fry herself are a credit to all of us. Thank you for continuing to inspire others to advocate with and on behalf of women who face the discriminatory impacts of poverty, racism, sexism, criminalization and others forms of oppression and marginalization. Have a wonderful and well-deserved celebration of this important event and thank you once again for all that you do to further the work of Elizabeth Fry locally, provincially and nationally.

With heartfelt thanks and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Pate". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Kim Pate
Executive Director
Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETIES (CAEFS)

At the 2003 CAEFS AGM held at the beginning of June, the membership moved to adopt a new mission statement. It now reads: "CAEFS is an association of self-governing, community-based Elizabeth Fry Societies that work with and for women and girls in the justice system, particularly those who are, or who may be, criminalized. Together, the Societies develop, implement and advocate the beliefs, principles and positions that guide CAEFS. The association exists to ensure substantive equality in the delivery and development of services and programs through public education, research, and legislative and administrative reform regionally, nationally and internationally."

March 8, 2003, International Women's Day, marked the second anniversary of CAEFS' complaint to the Canadian Human Rights Commission. Within the coming year, the Commission will issue a special report in regard to the systemic review of the manner in which the Human Rights of federally sentenced women are violated. Our claim is rooted in the fact that all federally sentenced women are discriminated against on the basis of their sex, and that women who are racialized and women with disabilities are further marginalized and discriminated against in prison. Our very own Board member, Debra Parkes, will edit the book that is being compiled of all the submissions developed by the women's and equality seeking groups that were consulted for the complaint.

CAEFS continues to rally against the lack of minimum security beds for women, the (over) classification of women classified as maximum security prisoners, the criminalization of women with mental and cognitive disabilities. CAEFS continues to address the issues of community release strategies across the country, the rights of Aboriginal women prisoners and the YCJA, among many others.

Kim Pate continues to be recognized and regarded as an expert in the field of women in corrections nationally and internationally. She has been invited to speak on these issues abroad, including the United Nations, as well as at inquests and continues to amaze others with her unwavering dedication to the women that we serve and the boundless energy she puts into her work. We, the Board, admire and respect Kim for the work that she does so tirelessly and thank her for her infectious passion.

Charlene Gutscher
CAEFS Board Member

PERSONNEL AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ella Clark, Committee Chair

Our agency *thank you* list for 2002/2003:

- ♥ Staff, Director and Board welcome the Manitoba Government Employees Union to E Fry. We are committed to continued growth – in service and programming, and in all our relationships.
- ♥ Bev, best wishes and thanks for your contributions to the work we do.
- ♥ Lydia, fond farewell and remembrance, deep respect and honour. Gloria, welcome back and Gillian, congratulations on your new position.
- ♥ Human Rights Partners, *slow and steady progress. We have achieved the declaration that PCC will be closed.* Now, how about some alternatives to incarceration, not just a new jail.
- ♥ Michael, we have a new building. Thanks for the crossed T's and dotted I's.
- ♥ Staff, volunteers and placements are our core strengths and resources. Your continued professional development and on-going personal wellness make our agency accessible and truly helpful.
- ♥ Kim Pate and our Canadian association of sister agencies, a privilege and a responsibility to be part of something so vital and human.
- ♥ The women and children, who in the complex circumstances of their lives find themselves criminalized and marginalized, and find effective tools and respectful support through our staff.
- ♥ Darlene, one provincial award is not enough. Congratulation on receiving the John Rodgers Community Service Award and thanks for making E Fry part of your journey.
- ♥ Congratulations to Jennifer Robinson on her certification as a Canadian Red Cross RespectED Prevention Educator in Relationship Violence.
- ♥ And, a warm welcome to our incoming board members. Roll up your sleeves and enjoy yourself.

"None of us knows what the next change is going to be, what unexpected opportunity is just around the corner, waiting a few months or a few years to change the meaning of our lives." -Kathleen Norris, Hands Full of Living

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2002 – 2003

FEDERAL SERVICES

Federal Reintegration Coordinator – Margaret Cichon

The year 2002/2003 was the second year for the Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba's contract with Correctional Service Canada to assist federally or provincially sentenced Manitoba women on conditional release through the Community Reintegration Coordinator (CRC). The CRC's position entails the following: initiating and maintaining contact with incarcerated women through institutional visits and telephone, assisting women during their transition back to their communities through pre-release planning, counseling, Community Reintegration Program, referrals, communicating with Parole Officers and other service providers.

The program developed and grew even more in its second year. More Manitoba women were aware of and comfortable using the service. The CRC assisted women more in the community, especially around issues of welfare, housing and employment. Additionally, more requests came for assistance with parole board hearings. All women on conditional release were given the opportunity to meet one-on-one with CRC within the Community Reintegration Program's context.

Throughout the year the following data was collected:

- 24 - institutional federal clients (long-term or before release)
- 12 - women on parole (from federal inst.)
- 6 - women on parole (from provincial PCCW)
- 230 - phone sessions
- 180 - requests

The Coordinator visited all Prairie federal penitentiaries: Edmonton Institution for Women, Okimaw Ohci Healing Lodge (for aboriginal women), Saskatchewan Penitentiary - Women's Unit, Regional Psychiatric Centre - Women's Churchill Unit. Contacts were made with Manitoba women, Case Managers, institutional Parole Officers, Older Sisters and Team Leaders. The level of cooperation from institutional staff varied from institution to institution and ranged from very good to none at times.

The experience of assisting women in their journey has been wonderful and rewarding. The barriers to reintegration have remained the same for women, especially with the recent budget and program cuts. But great thanks go out to those who made the transition easier, even in the smallest way.

Parole Supervision and Community Assessments – Jennifer Robinson and Carolyn Murray

The Elizabeth Fry Society provides both Parole Supervision and Community Assessments to the Manitoba N/W Ontario Region of Correctional Services of Canada. The Elizabeth Fry Society services women on Federal or Provincial Parole. The contract began in 1996, since that time we have witnessed a steady increase in the amount of women that we have serviced on parole. The average number of women on parole that Elizabeth Fry supervises per month has been twelve.

The Elizabeth Fry Society provides Community Assessment services for both men and women seeking Private Family Visiting, Escorted/Unescorted Temporary Absences, Day and Full Parole, Supervision Transfers and others. This service allows for women to maintain connections with family while they are incarcerated. The Elizabeth Fry Society averages seven to ten Community Assessments per month.

On Behalf of the Manitoba/NW Ontario District Parole office of the Correctional Service of Canada, allow me to say congratulations on this, your 20th Anniversary. Our office has had a long-standing relationship with your agency. We have watched you expand your program and services, and watched our women offenders thrive on those services. You have assisted our women offenders to reintegrate, both into their families and ultimately into the community, with everyone reaping the benefits. For that, we thank you. We are excited about your plans for the future and look forward to our continued relationship with you. - Gord Holloway, District Director

PROVINCIAL SERVICES

Provincial Reintegration Coordinator – Christine Ludwick, Cindy Brass

The role of the Provincial Integration Coordinator is to provide in-person support, counseling, pre-release planning, follow-up services and advocacy to remanded and sentenced women incarcerated at this institution. Women may also contact me through our 1-800 toll free telephone line for these services.

This year I have seen community clients coming from a wide range of situations and experiences. The community clients I see may be provincially or federally sentenced to community, remanded to the community or otherwise recently released from institutions. Often many women wish to continue with the counseling, advocacy and follow up services of EFS that began when they were incarcerated once they have entered the community. Women recently released from institutions may be met at the bus depot in Winnipeg immediately after release, given a release package of toiletries and other basic items, and supported when making initial contacts with family and community agencies. Other women have come into contact with EFS via referral by other community agencies or are self-referred. In the community, in general I attempt to assist women with becoming connected with positive social networks and help them develop positive personal

resources. Many of our clients require advocacy with systems such as Child and Family Services, lawyers, Legal Aid and Income Assistance. In this respect, I provide in-person and telephone advocacy and support, and act as a liaison for community clients. In addition to one-on-one counseling, many of our clients have found the EFS Clothing Depot and Group Programs as essential aids in their healing journeys. Women are able to access all of these services as part of their plans for personal growth and development.

Women coming into the community from incarceration have priority in community counseling services. However, when time and energies allow, women in conflict with the law can access this service even though they have not currently come out of an institution. Community Clients may be serviced through the help of trained volunteers and student placements, under the supervision of EFS staff. Our experiences at EFS have shown that a counselor dedicated solely to community counseling is warranted.

Thank you to Wendy Singleton, Justice Liaison Coordinator who serviced in this role for a few short months and continues to provide mentorship supports to Cindy now in the role of Provincial Reintegration Coordinator. And thank you ever so much to our student placement Katherine Tarapaski. She did it all from court support to visiting the remand centre and provincial jail to group facilitation. You will already of the makings of a terrific social worker.

Recorded Data for Community Clients:

- 165 Counseling sessions with community clients
- 301 Phone sessions with community clients
- 595 Follow-up requests from community clients
- 736 Phone calls regarding PCC and Community Clients
- 242 Total Community Clients
- 375 Resource Referrals Regarding PCC and Community Clients

COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

Community Support Program- Cathy Doyle

The Community Support Program was created to provide one-on-one support to high risk/high needs women. Currently we are servicing four clients through the program. Two of these are full-time (seven hours a day, seven days a week), and two are part-time. Our support staff now includes Carolyn Murray, who wears several hats around the office, Rita Wilzer, Jill Hodgson, and Marcie Raines. We are very fortunate to have such a strong group of women working with our support clients. I can not say enough good things about how supportive and committed they are to the women they work with.

Though all four clients have similarities they are a very diverse group. This keeps us forever looking for new ways of dealing with the ever rising challenges they present. Becoming more

* Elizabeth Fry Society Annual Report 2002/2003

knowledgeable about the community resources that will meet the needs of each woman has been very important. Our focus has always been to support our clients in the community, but because of the unique needs of these women it is not always an option. As a result we have had to become very involved in the development of community release plans to meet the special needs of each individual client.

Having one day in the office to specifically deal with the coordination of the Community Support Program has given me the opportunity to get to know the clients I don't work with individually in the community. Increased contact with case managers has enabled me to meet needs that otherwise weren't being addressed. It has also given me the chance to be involved in some mental health related training. In September Carolyn and I attended a very informative workshop on Dual Diagnosis: Co-occurring Mental Illness and Mental Disability. The two days covered Diagnostic and treatment aspects of several disorders and disabilities. I also attended a two-day training in Brandon on Dialectical Behaviour Therapy. This new knowledge will be particularly helpful in understanding some of the concerns that need to be addressed when working with clients who are receiving this type of therapy.

Over the last year the program has continued to strengthen with the development of new policies and procedures, increased contact with case managers, as well as from the many challenges and experiences we have been faced with. The growth in this area of our agency has proved to be both exciting and challenging and I look forward to exploring how far this program can take us.

Congratulations to the Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba on 20 years of providing crucial services to the Winnipeg community! We are a better city by having the agency offer a voice to women, girls and their families in their times of need. The Elizabeth Fry Society has also proven indispensable in questioning our social institutions on issues of racism, sexism and discrimination. With the current leadership of Debbie Blunderfield at the helm, and a steadfast Board and dedicated staff, the agency has entered this millennium with its largest ever goals and the necessary spirit to achieve them. May peace and justice continue to pave the agency's way.

Colleen Anne Dell, Ph.D., National Research Advisor, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse

Women for Change Program – Cathy Doyle

The Women for Change program teaches women the tools and knowledge to cope with their anger in a positive, non-violent manner. It remains our most needed and attended program. Groups run three times a year with two groups per session. Though the content of the program has remained very much the same over the last few years, it has benefited greatly from being evaluated by students and the women themselves. Increases in self-esteem and confidence are the most frequently mentioned changes for the women as a direct result of taking the program.

Referrals are received from various groups and organizations including Probation, Parole, Lawyers, and Child and Family Services.

April 2002 to March 2003, 94 women attended the program

Kids are Wonderful Program – Cathy Doyle

The Kids Are Wonderful Program is a parenting program developed with the input and recommendations of the women who have attended other programs at The Elizabeth Fry Society. The program has been designed to address the specific needs of women who are in conflict or at risk to be in conflict with the law. Since the first time this program had been run at the agency, it has been a work in progress. Changes in the length of the program, content, and participation have been made to further benefit the unique needs of our clients. Because the groups have remained fairly small, we have had the chance to see in what situations the program works best, as well as in what ways the program needs to be developed to meet the needs of different sized groups. Participants for this program have been referred by word of mouth, Child and Family Services, as well as through the courts.

April 2002 to March 2003, 25 women attended the program.

STOPlifting Program – Carolyn Murray

The STOPlifting Program confronts the issues of Breach of Trust, Fraud and Shoplifting offences. It looks at the underlying issues affecting women who are committing these offences. The program runs three times a year, Spring, Fall, and Winter. The program has been revised in the past year to better suit the needs of the women attending. The recommendations came from the women themselves and through the evaluations completed on the program by university students. The program now includes a money management session, which teaches budgeting techniques and how to create spending plans. The comments from the women attending is that the money management session was needed and they learned things about budgeting that they are planning to incorporate into their lives.

From April 2002 to March 2003, 30 women attended the program.

Outreach Worker – Darlene Johnson

The clothing depot is my favorite part of my position with Elizabeth Fry Society. The depot is available to clients every Wednesday mornings. Referrals can be made from Parole/Probation, shelters, Child & Family Services, other agencies, the Winnipeg Remand Centre and Portage Correctional Centre for Women.

In 2002/2003, a total of 596 women and their families or 51 clients per month utilized the clothing depot. We continue to provide a wide variety of clothing and house wares to help the women and families. A lengthy waiting list continues to exist for women who need furniture.

As part of Oyate Tipi Cumini Yape Project we have seen progress since last year. A building had been purchased on Selkirk Avenue (the old Bank of Montreal building) to house the project. The building is now 90% renovated. An elevator has been installed and a wonderful PATH tool has allowed the development work and future of Oyate Tipi to become clearer. I will spend one day per week between October 2003 to March 2004 assisting the development of EFS specific referral services.

Special thanks go out again to Miriam Centre who closed its donation doors but Marie Helene has continued to assist us through her Provencher location. We appreciated the support of Second Sensations for their plus size donations, Sophia Joy for her endless donations of books, Thomas Sill - Gifts In-Kind Program for their wonderful deals on release package items, Alpha House for their twice monthly donations, the University of Manitoba's Rehan Dokari for the large furniture donation, Angie Baron and our anonymous retail donors.

We also appreciate the regular donors who must have the cleanest closets in town. Sherry LaChuta, Gloria Pearn, Christine & Deidrie Ludwick, Darcie Hall, Angie Baron, Board members, Ella Clark, Janet Nortey (& family), Lydia Young, Western Glove, Ursula (ISSP) and my personal, extra special helper Lynda Sopha. To my family, thank you for always picking up donations, sorting, delivering and working on weekends. Isn't this fun?!

Your outreach makes my outreach possible. Keep on donating. I am only a phone call away.

Court Program – Jennifer Robinson

The Court Program began offering services to women again this past year thanks to the hard work of Bev Ozol and Jennifer Robinson. Our Court Worker manual was revised and a number of volunteers participated in weekend training. Our court office is located in Room 306A of the law court building. Requests for services include advocacy, basic legal questions, and referrals to community resources and assistance in locating a lawyer. We will seek funding to continue to grow this area. Thank you to all our hard working volunteers.

Database Administration

Our Database continued to improve with excellent help from Teri Olafson, Criminology Field Experience placement through the U of M. The Database was transferred from Microsoft Access to SPSS, which allowed for a better analysis of the information gathered from nearly 700 cases. The next step in this endeavor is to disseminate analyzed data and to draw conclusions in terms of needs and possible gaps in services our clients receive at the agency and in the community. We are pleased to offer have had this work continue with Angela Bhatia, this year's summer student. Angela has worked hard creating all kinds of pie charts, graphs and producing a report bound to assist in our ongoing community education. Thank you to Margaret Cichon who regularly maintains the database.

Day of Caring Event

On Friday June 21st we held our annual United Way Day of Caring in Kildonan Park. We were partnered with a lively group from Gage Marketing and together we arranged an afternoon Picnic complete with lots of food, snacks, games, and fun. One of the highlights was a very talented face painter/clown who just happened to be an employee from Gage Marketing. Of course the biggest event of the day came from something we couldn't plan but have worked very hard for - the announcement of the Portage Correctional Centre - and what better way to celebrate than with staff, friends, clients and family!

The Crossing Communities Art Project

Edith Regier, Director/Artist in Residence

The Crossing Communities Art Project offers art studio mentorships to women and girls in conflict with the law. We have worked together with our long-term partner the Elizabeth Fry Society and we are very grateful to the dedicated women at E. Fry who have been so open to exploring art as a means of reparative justice. I use the term reparative justice to describe our goal of artists engaging visual creative energies to assist women and girls in conflict with the law, to know their positive self-identity and place in their community. Also reparative justice through art that connects with the community at large and explores how we can re-visualize our conceptions of imprisoned women and alternatives to incarceration through our imaginations.

The artists in Crossing Communities Art Project have much to celebrate in our partnership with Elizabeth Fry Society. First and foremost are the close relationships between the artists, the E. Fry staff and the women and girls who are clients of E. Fry. Some of these women and girls have been a part of the Crossing Communities Art Project since it began under the name the Portage Art Studios in 1996.

Pat Aylsworth is one long-term mentee who I first met during those initial art studios in the Portage Correctional Centre in 1996; she has developed as an artist and has entered university to pursue a career in the fine arts. Pat has mentored with many artists in the Crossing Communities studios and all of them have a high regard for her integrity and creativity. Pat's image that is included in this report was developed in a computer residency with Reva Stone. Pat was exploring her family history and how it impacted on her life in Canada and her desire to return to be with her people in Papua New Guinea.

One of the highlights of our partnership with the Elizabeth Fry Society is the "*Conditional Sentences/Reparative Pictures*" that was held in Gallery 1C03 at the University of Winnipeg. This exhibition was the outcome of a yearlong series of workshops where artists offered Collaboration Exploration Workshops to the clients of the E. Fry Society.

857 people visited the "*Conditional Sentences/Reparative Pictures*" exhibit during the 10 days that it was open. This exhibit was very empowering for the participants from E. Fry. They were congratulated on their artwork during the opening event and some of them presented a talk to university students on their art experience and their experience in the correctional system. The students listened and responded with questions that showed empathy and concern and the presenting participants of Crossing Communities expressed that they felt validated by the opportunity to be heard.

The artwork created for the "*Conditional Sentences/Reparative Pictures*" exhibit was the outcome of workshops with the following Winnipeg artists, Grace Nickel,



Pat Aylsworth
In mentorship with Reva Stone
Crossing Communities Art Project, 2003

ceramic artist; Shawna Dempsey and Lorri Millan, performance artists, Aganetha Dyck, mixed media artist; and Reva Stone, new media artist each conducted a workshop. We met in our studio on the second floor of the Bate building at 221 McDermot in the exchange district for week long mentorship studios as well as Wednesday nights for open studio. The one on one relationships that grew between the artists and women and girls in conflict with the law during this studio year verified the concept that: the experience of making artwork together, over an extended period of time, engendered a communication where each woman quickly became empathetic to the others circumstance. During this year friendships developed that continue today.

"Conditional Sentences/Reparative Pictures" exhibition ended with a day-long forum to create dialogue about art rooted in community – *New Genre Public Art*, co-hosted by Plug In Institute of Contemporary Art. The invited speakers were: Suzanne Lacy, California based performance artist and author of *Mapping the Terrain - New Genre Public Art*, Dr. Jeanne Randolph, Toronto based psychiatrist and art theorist, author of *Symbolization and Its Discontents*, Kim Pate, the National Director of the Elizabeth Fry Association, Debbie Blunderfield, Manitoba Director of the Elizabeth Fry Society, and me as, Director of CCAP. Catherine Mattes an independent curator moderated the forum. More than 50 people, artists, social workers, lawyers, women in conflict with the law, students, professors gathered to dialogue about art and its potential to initiate communication between women in the justice system and the community in general.

The *"Conditional Sentences/Reparative Pictures"* exhibit and *New Genre Public Art Forum* were an opportunity for E. Fry directors Debbie Blunderfield and Kim Pate to speak about the circumstances of women and girls in conflict with the law and the justice system to the arts community, for all of the artists in the *Crossing Communities Art Project* to dialogue about art as social engagement and listen to issues of the imprisonment of women, and so importantly for the women and girls who participated as mentees to speak about their art work and experiences from a place of power to an empathetic audience of concerned citizens.

Darcie Hall is one mentee who first came to the *Crossing Communities Art Project* in 2000 through the recommendation of her counsellor at the Elizabeth Fry Society. Darcie had recently been in the remand centre and was looking for ways to find a place in her hometown, Winnipeg, where she could experience her self in a supportive and stimulating environment.

A lot of people don't know about my past and just last night I pulled out the newspaper article from our exhibition in 2001 and read it straight to a woman from my church. I want people to know what's happened to others and me because I figure the more that's known, the more likely things can change.

I think back to that exhibition when my name started to change plus my voice started to come out. For that particular exhibition the voice it gave me was just so incredible. I remember Edith and I talking in front of university students and people who had no clue that the restraint chair, shackles and suicide gowns were being used. Crossing Communities has enabled me to get my anger out about the treatment I received in those places, in a productive way.

Right after the exhibition, I was at the hospital. They previously knew me as "Darcie's here – better get security". I walked in and there was the newspaper clipping and then it was "oh Darcie, are you doing any art work?"

Through artwork I have found other ways to stop cutting myself. It's a way of dealing with my memories and coping with my present. I have something to look forward to no matter what crap is going on in my life.

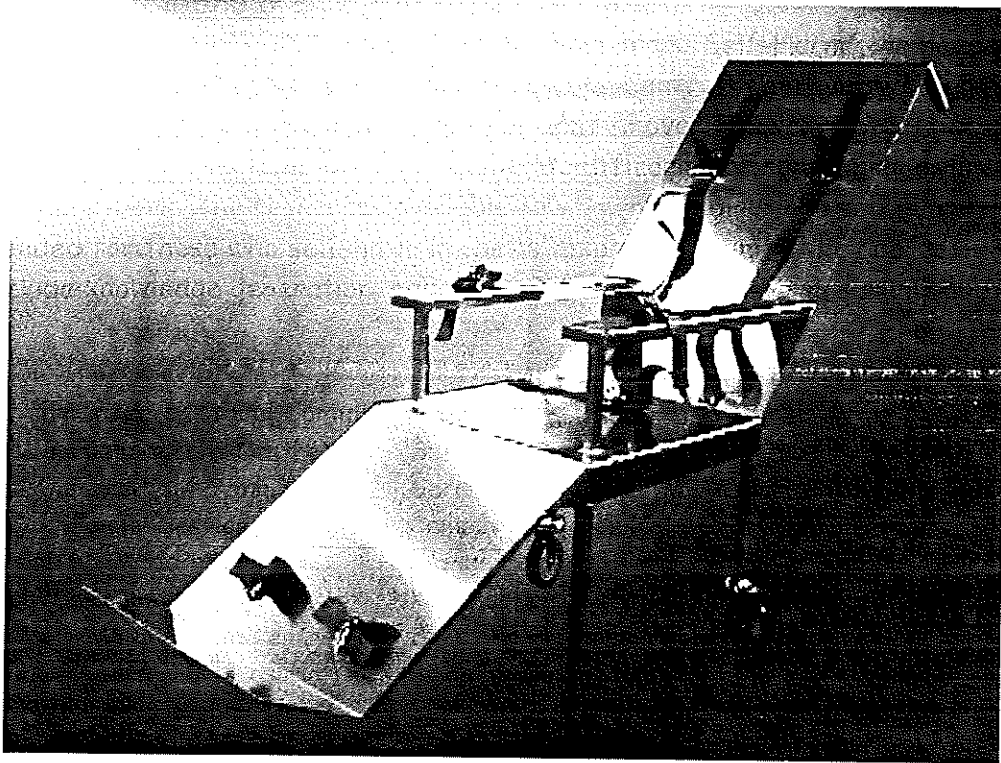
This is the beginning of my fourth year. It's a place I can just be. Everyone has seen me through various physical and emotional crises – just crying is okay, doing stuff - it's great. I don't have to put on an act. It's a place where I can build trust and relationships and grow. Sure, I have been dealt the crappy family hand – biological family –now I have many families –crossing communities being one of them.

Edith has always been there for me no matter what. She is a very caring woman who is dedicated to building a community of people who are part of the Crossing Communities Project.

Reva and I are going to have a monkeying around exhibition – someday, somewhere, somehow. We have been working together to make art that incorporates my incredible monkey collection. The last thing we did was turn me into a monkey. Reva is very good at humouring my love for monkeys.

From my experience, Crossing Communities has been a life changing experience.

Darcie's experience has touched all of us at the Crossing Communities Art Project and she is very close with Reva Stone a new media artist who has found time in her busy exhibition schedule to share her incredible knowledge of computer and video art with the participants in the studio.



2/3 of women prisoners are moms

78% of provincially incarcerated women are survivors of violence

70+% of women prisoners in Manitoba are Aboriginal

Most women who are imprisoned are low risk, high need

Women self-harm in prison as a way of coping and surviving emotional pain and distress

Provincially imprisoned women have an average education of grade 10 or less

Post card collaboration, 2001: Debbie Blunderfield, Darcie Hall, Edith Regier

Debbie Blunderfield and I have a warm friendship that I value and together we meet to brainstorm about how art can work to build a community that is supportive of the women and girls who are the clients of E. Fry. An example of how Darcie, Debbie and I collaborated to visualize the concerns of imprisoned women is in the postcard that was distributed by the Elizabeth Fry Society as a petition to the Manitoba government.

Darcie talked to me about the restraint chair at the Winnipeg Remand Centre and I drew pictures of what she was describing to me. At the same time she described to me how she felt to be strapped into that chair on Christmas day for 23.5 hours. I approached a design firm with the drawings and asked them to build a restraint chair out of aluminum based on the sketches. The finished chair was a part of the "*Conditional Sentences/Reparative Pictures*" Exhibition and later became the front image for the postcard that was part of the E. Fry campaign to close the Portage Correctional Centre. Debbie asked me to design the postcard for E. Fry, I chose to use the restraint chair for the front image together with the E. Fry quote "*I dreamed I visited the women's prison and no one was home*" I asked Debbie to list out statistics of women in prison and placed these together with the restraint chair image. The postcard is an example of how we three women combined our different experiences and skills to create an image of what needs to change in the response of our community to women and girls in conflict with the law. More than a thousand of these postcards were distributed to the office of the Manitoba Premier, Gary Doer.

Last fall the Crossing Communities Art Project incorporated as a non-profit organization. Reva Stone works with me to build the groundwork for the art mentorship studios to have a permanent studio space. From this space we continue to build our partnership with the Elizabeth Fry Society and their clients and to look at how art can work towards reparative justice.

Research & Education

A Place for Research in the Community

A relationship between community service providers and academic research institutions is anything but ordinary. In fact, the likelihood of a research relationship between these two groups is so new that there are not a lot of 'lessons learned' to draw upon. What does exist, though, is an exciting opportunity to trek through new territory and document the process along the way. Those who have undertaken this journey in the social scientific field commonly refer to it as community-based participatory research.

Being associated with the Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba for over a decade now, first in the role of a front-line worker and now as a researcher, I can attest to the challenges of integrating these two distinct lines of work. There is an overarching commonality between them however, and I have learned that capitalizing on this is a useful beginning point to establishing a mutually beneficial research relationship. This common ground is most notably that the end goal of both is, at least in this case, assisting women and girls in trouble with the law, and more generally pro-social change. Once this is established, the possibility of generating a research project involving both groups becomes more feasible.

Drawing on my experiences working with community groups such as the Elizabeth Fry Society as well as being a researcher at a university, I offer some suggestions for community service providers and academic researchers to assist them in establishing a research relationship and considerations for why they may want to.

Suggestions for community service providers

- Appreciate that research plays an important role in the provision of community services. This can range from identifying client demographics to the evaluation of programs so that clients receive the most helpful services possible. It can also assist in further establishing the credibility of the agency in the view of funders.
- Do not assume that because a university researcher has a PhD they know more about the topic area. In fact, they may have little understanding of the intricate, everyday workings. Both partners bring equally unique and important experiences and skills to the research project.
- Provide your academic partners with reference letters and other forms of support because partnerships of this type, which are time intensive and wonder beyond the 'typical' laboratory setting, are not always supported or understood by the university.
- Choose a doable first project, in particular if research is entirely new to the community organization.
- Encourage community mobilization around the research findings in addition to peer-reviewed journal articles. The former can be achieved, for example, through translation of the original research into a plain language summary or hosting a community summit to disseminate the findings and raise community awareness. The findings need to be made accessible to the community at-large so they can be turned into action.

Suggestions for academic researchers

- Recognize that research project timelines should accommodate for the often-unpredictable world of community service providers. Researchers may want to forewarn their institutions about the likelihood, for example, of needing to extend their project's ethics clearance.
- Remember that at the end of the day this project is being done *with* the community and *for* the community. In fact, transferring research skills is an important part of the project so that one day the research can be led *by* the community.
- If your community service provider finds themselves amidst a crisis, be sure to assist in whatever way you can. More generally, get involved in community activities, as you are likely viewed as more than 'just' a researcher.
- Learn from service providers about how they deal with heavy or sensitive topics (e.g., interviews on family violence). It is seldom recognized that researchers go through some of the same experiences as front-line workers in conducting research projects, and so there is an implicit need for self-care.
- Choose a topic you believe in as a researcher and a person because the community will likely sense if you are not genuine.
- Understand that incorporating community service providers in the research process further ensures that no harm will occur to the participants, with additional safeguards such as access to an agency's 1-800 number, counselling services and community resources.

Suggestions for both

- What happens in the community raises research questions and vice versa. With this understanding, social needs (a.k.a. research questions) will be more quickly addressed.
- Be open, willing and excited to learn from one another. Both community service providers and academic researchers are experts in their areas.
- Do not speak in different languages, that is, do not use jargon and terminology specific to your work environments. Do not assume that the other is aware, and likewise, do not be afraid to ask for clarification.
- Recognize that the mandate and protocol of the agency and ethical guidelines of the university can significantly alter the course of the research. Review these upfront and re-visit them throughout the project. Also explain to the other partner exactly what they mean.
- The relationship between the two groups is novel, and so it must be nurtured. Expect bumps along the way. Take baby steps. Agree to disagree. Respect one another. And celebrate your accomplishments, however small they may be.

My experiences working together with the Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba and a research institution have shown me that their partnership is beneficial to the community service provider, the university, the front line worker, the researcher and most important, the individuals we are all trying to assist. I encourage others to look into community-based participatory research.

Colleen Anne Dell, PhD, is an Assistant Professor at Carleton University and holds a joint appointment with the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse as the National Research Advisor for the Canadian Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use.

**Women, Justice and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome / Fetal Alcohol Effects:
Defining the Needs of the Elizabeth Fry Society to enhance work with women
affected by FAS/E (2003)**

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAS/E) are lifelong disabilities. Each baby that is born with FAS/E faces a life time of struggles to function in our society. Advocates for people affected by FAS/E propose that a life span approach to care and a continuum of community supports are the best way to meet the needs of the person born into this world with brain damage she had no control over.

It has been estimated that approximately 60% of those with FAS/E may face issues within the justice system. The key to providing support to the woman affected by FAS/E is to understand that she has a cognitive disability that is invisible to the eye but demonstrates itself in behaviours. This disability requires practises that provide her with external brain structure, supportive environments, creative supervision, and advocacy. There is a needs for realistic expectations for the person and an understanding of the origin of her behaviours.

Women face different challenges, different opportunities, and carry a different view point than in life than men. Due to many factors in our society, the reasons women may come in conflict with the law often differ from the men's causes. The Elizabeth Fry Society (EFS) is a community based organization that specializes in providing individual and group support to women who have issues with the justice system.

As part of a role-emerging fieldwork placement in the University of Manitoba's Occupational Therapy program a needs assessment of the EFS and their ability to meet the needs of their clients who may be affected by FAS/E was undertaken.

Key themes encountered in this project include the need for the diagnostic process to be open to adults, the vulnerability of the adults affected by FAS/E, the challenges people face as they facilitate these adults, the need for restorative justice practises when working with these adults through the legal system, and the importance of recognizing the person and her goals first and the behaviours or disabilities later.

One of the main problems encountered by other service providers, and supported by the literature, is the lack of availability of the diagnostic process for the adult. Today's adult was born prior to 1975. That year was one of the first in the formal process of diagnosing babies and children. As a consequence of many factors the adult may never have received a diagnosis of FAS/E and therefore does not have an understanding of why her dysfunctional behaviours may be repeating and forming her life's patterns. In Manitoba there is currently no diagnostic service available for adults who may be affected by FAS/E. There is a recognition by many community agency and medical workers that there is need for an emphasis on an appropriately paced diagnostic process that allows the adult to come to terms with the consequences of the diagnosis. Time is needed to process and come to terms with the fact that his/her mother drank during the pregnancy. There is also a grieving of what could have been and an acceptance of self. With a

* Elizabeth Fry Society Annual Report 2002/2003

diagnosis comes the identification that this person will require the use of special techniques and compensatory strategies for the rest of her life. The diagnosis is seen in the literature as allowing a person to identify and name that difference she has always felt is there. The diagnosis also supports staff as they work with the person to understand or look for reasons behind resistant or odd behaviours and it facilitates development of appropriate interventions to meet the needs of the individual.

An occupational therapist could provide services to EFS on both an individual and an organizational basis. Individual facilitation could include cognitive and environmental assessment, goal setting and adaptive technique provision. On an organizational basis, the occupational therapist may provide assistance with advocacy, research, collaborating with other community agencies, policy development, staff training and education, and specialized group or program development.

Recommendations

1. The Elizabeth Fry Society should discuss the relevance and level of support of the organization to provide collaborative advocacy for the proposal of an adult diagnostic clinic in Manitoba.
2. The Elizabeth Fry Society pursue connections identified to community agencies to allow appropriate referrals to programs, collaboration on advocacy, and sharing of information.
3. Follow up with Manitoba Justice Department to ensure inclusion in any programming for staff and/or clients with regards to FAS/E issues.
4. A strategic plan for developing skills and supports for working with women affected by FAS/E should be developed. This plan would allow the women and the staff of EFS to define their needs and chart a course for enhanced and effective interventions.
5. As part of the advocacy role EFS plays, on going exploration of successful justice programs, literature, and projects from other areas could bolster program development and grant proposal activities.
6. The Elizabeth Fry Society may wish to consider the use of an occupational therapist for individual and organizational consultative purposes.

Conclusion

The data has shown there is a need for evidence based treatment and outcomes research to guide the practise of those in the field trying to support adults affected by FAS/E. There is an identified need for female based research to support the particular needs of women affected by FAS/E. There is also a need for research and sharing of knowledge on what works for women affected by FAS/E who are involved in the justice system. The women serviced by the Elizabeth Fry Society require access to a continuum of care within their community that meets their unique needs. Workers need to be supported by gaining knowledge of FAS/E and how it affects the adult. The occupational therapist may be ideally suited to facilitating both the client and the organization as the issues surrounding adults affected by FAS/E evolve.

Prepared by Gina DeVos, Occupational Therapy Student, University of Manitoba, June 2003.

Prairie Women, Violence & Self-Harm

Since the release of our April 2001 report "Prairie Women and Self-Harm", we have been pleased to receive ongoing support the National Crime Prevention Centre - Community Mobilization Program. A provincial-wide environmental scan was sent to over 180 service, justice and women/female youth organizations to assist in the identification of community awareness and perceptions of self-harm, the resources available to women and girls who self-harm and the resources needed for those who self-harm in the Winnipeg community. Key objectives of this Phase will include knowledge generation, educational training, a self-harm summit and policy development.

Thank you to our Inter-sectoral Committee Members:

Paula Benson (Winnipeg Remand Centre)	Sue Barnsley (MB Women's Advisory Council)
Cathy Fillmore (University of Winnipeg)	Gerri Thorsteinson (MB Women's Advisory Council)
Pat Alphonso Cox (Family Services)	Colleen Anne Dell (Cdn. Centre on Substance Abuse)
Diane Bairstow (Ikwe-Widdjiitiwin)	Wanda Ferland (Native Women's Transition Centre)
Karen Mitchell (Community Services)	Ken MacKenzie (Provincial Special Needs Program)
Josie Hill (Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre)	Sandy La Fontaine (Probation Services)
Marilyn Hoffman (Misericordia Hospital)	Brian McLeod (Ndaawin)
Sharon Taylor (Wolseley Family Place)	Edith Regier (Crossing Communities Art Project)
Cindy Wenzoski (Eastman Region Probation)	Eleanor Robertson (New Directions)
Gloria Enns (Sage House)	Dr. Wakeman (Clinical Psychologist)
Debbie Blunderfield (Elizabeth Fry Society)	

A national resolution was proposed and accepted by the membership of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies. Our definition of self-harm is based on the voices of women and accepted. Each of the 24 sister societies committed to promoting awareness about helpful and non-punitive responses to women and girls who self-harm.

I walked across an open field at winter's break as the sun danced on the last few drifts. I imagined my fears would melt one by one as I learned to love myself. - Laurel Lewis

Volunteer program

The 02/03 year of the EFS volunteer was comprised of many volunteers and placements committed hours to our agency. 33 volunteers and placements contributed to the work of the Elizabeth Fry Society over the months for a total of over 4000 hours.

Many thanks to the fantastic placements from University of Manitoba, and Red River Community College, your help has been valuable and meaningful to the staff and women and girls with whom we work with.

This year marked the reopening of our Court Support Program. A special thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who have shifted this program into full force. Thanks to you, women and girls are now receiving the much-needed support during their court process.

Special thanks to our dedicated board that work tirelessly on the many concerns that face Elizabeth Fry Society. Our many thanks to all our volunteers!

Dr. Gillian Balfour
Lori Beckstead
Salena Blunderfield
Tom Blunderfield
Steve Chubaty
Ella Clark
Carla Cochrane
Kelleigh Coombs
Lucy Dean
Dr. Collen Dell
Sara Dias
Gloria Enns
Shauna Fay
Cathy Fillmore
Mandy Fraser
Valerie Goulet

Mary Guilbault
Jennifer Gurke
Charlene Gutscher
Nadine Herda
Sarah Inness
Darlene Johnson
Glen Johnson
Chantel Jones
Sheena Jones
Yvonne Johannson
Jennifer Kostyshyn
Charlene Kerr
Marnie King
Kristi Loeb
Heidi Mohammed
Janet Nortey

Tasha Novick
Shaylene Nong
Martha Neguse
Terri Lynn Olafson
Agnieszka Palichleb
Debra Parks
Shelley Poiron
Larissa Ragbir
Lynda Sopha
Nailini Sookhoo
Jackie Squires
Katherine Tarapaski
Julie Wiebe
Lydia Young
Ashley-Dawn Zallack

*Special thanks to our male component at this year's Christmas party for making it so enjoyable for the women at PCC.

Our many thanks to all our volunteers!