

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba



2000/2001 Annual Report

This year's annual report is dedicated to the memory of:
Sarah Frances Blunderfield,
Miengani Wipit Ikwe (Wolf Tooth Lady)
January 5, 1989 - December 6, 2000

"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not be weary, they will walk and not faint." - Isaiah 40:31

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Special Thanks & Acknowledgments.....	Page 1
EFS Staff & Board.....	Page 2
Message from the President.....	Page 4
Executive Director's Report.....	Page 5
Cdn. Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies.....	Page 7
Federal Services.....	Page 8
Community Assessments/Parole Supervision.....	Page 8
Portage Correctional Centre/Remand Centre.....	Page 9
Community Integration Coordinator.....	Page 12
Community Support Coordinator.....	Page 13
STOPlifting Program.....	Page 14
Women for Change Program.....	Page 15
Other Developmental Activities.....	Page 15
Court Support Program.....	Page 16
Restorative Justice Week.....	Page 17
Intensive Counselling Partnership.....	Page 17
Birth Control Outreach Partnership.....	Page 18
Clothing Depot.....	Page 18
Oyate Tipi Furniture Project.....	Page 18
Day of Caring Event.....	Page 18
Prairie Women, Violence & Self Harm Research.....	Page 19
Crossing Communities Art Project.....	Page 20
Volunteer Program.....	Page 21

SPECIAL THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

FUNDERS/SUPPORTERS OF EFS

Our #1 Funder - United Way of Winnipeg
Province of Manitoba - Adult Corrections and Special Services
Solicitor General of Canada - (Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies)
Correctional Services of Canada
Province of Manitoba - Community & Youth Corrections
The Winnipeg Foundation
Manitoba Arts Council - 2000 Bridges Grant Program
Manitoba Community Services Council
Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence
Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
Manitoba Family Services and Housing
Jewish Foundation of Manitoba - Women's Endowment Fund
Government of Canada - VolNet
Margaret Laurence Endowment Grant
HRDC - Summer Career Placement Program
Thomas Sill - Gifts In Kind Program
MB Government All Charities Campaign

AGENCY/PLACEMENT SUPPORT AND OUTSIDE DONORS

Red River - Applied Counselling Program	The Project Group
Le Centre Miriam	U of M Department of Sociology
U of M Faculty of Social Work	Worker's Compensation Board
Ceridan Canada Ltd.	Society for Manitobans with Disabilities
U of W Sociology Department	The Body Shop
Ludwick Catering	CAW Women's Network
St. Mary's Anglican Church	Wpg. Education Centre - Social Work Program
Churchill Park United Church - Senior Choir	MPIC - Community Programming
Wild Thang	

* Thank you to all our private donors, members and supporters not listed!! We appreciate your support.

"We weren't born criminals; the impact of poverty, abuse, racism, inequality, self-esteem, conditioning, and social structure should be considered when looking at crime and deviance."

- Charlotte Lajimodiere

EFS STAFF 2000-2001

Debbie Blunderfield
Tracy Woodard

Bev Ozol
Christine Ludwick
Melanie Neufeld
Margaret Cichon

*Gail Lepine
Cathy Doyle
Darlene Johnson

Executive Director
Community Services Coordinator/
Court Program Evaluator
Program & Development Coordinator
Provincial Integration Coordinator
Parole Supervisor/Volunteer Coordinator
Community Support Worker, Program
Facilitation & Administrative Support
Court Support Coordinator
Community Support Worker
Clothing Depot Manager

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

2000/2001 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charlene Gutscher	President & CAEFS Rep.	Teresa Banmen Gloria Enns	Secretary/Treasurer Vice President
*Naomi May-Rogers	Board Member	Kim Spence	Board Member
Elizabeth Comack	Board Member	Lydia Young	Board Member
*Marlene Bertrand	Board Member	Michael Jerch	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.**

HELLO FROM OUR INCOMING BOARD OF DIRECTORS...

JANET K. NORTEY

Janet is currently the Transition House Co-ordinator for *Operation Go Home*, a non-profit youth service organization who's mandate is to return youth in crisis to their families or to connect them with appropriate agencies that can best assist them. Janet has experience working with youth, families and various agencies. She also works at the *Manitoba Youth Centre* as a counselor and in the admission/release. She has been a volunteer/contract worker with the Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba since September 1995, working in various areas (i.e. Families Program, Breaking Barriers, STOPlifting, Food Bank, Community Assessments, Institutional Activities, Literacy and Office Assistant). Janet also volunteers with the *Keewatin Youth Justice Committee* as Restorative Justice Facilitator, Community Resources Co-ordinator and Caseworker. In addition, she has worked with *Marymound School* as and Educational Advisor for the *Youth*

Emergency Education Service, which worked in conjunction with the Youth Emergency Crisis Stabilization Service. She brings a wealth of experience through volunteering or employment working in group homes, families, the justice system and various agencies. Janet will join the Board as the incoming Secretary/Treasurer. She is especially interested in proposal writing and other fundraising activities.

ELLA CLARK

Ella is the owner of Resolution@Work violence prevention education and training. She is a specialist in violence prevention and recovery, with over fifteen years experience in workshop design and delivery. A skilled facilitator, she works within families, communities and organizations in urban, rural, northern and remote Canada. "I came to Winnipeg as an adult learner, for the degree in conflict Resolution Studies. I still travel to work but this is home." She is the past Executive Director Inuit Health for the **Kivalliq Inuit Centre**; Director of Family Violence Programming for **North Win House Shelter/Transition**; Treatment Plan Staff for **Territorial Treatment Centre**; and Research and Development for **Youth Violence Prevention Project**. Ella also undertook a four year research project sponsored by **YMCA-YWCA/Manitoba Justice/Health Canada** resulting in an educational resource to be distributed to 23 provincial school division in fall 2001. Ella is interested in assisting in the development of a programs, in particular for women who self-harm and other writing projects.

MARY GUILBAULT

Mary is a retired social worker who graduated from the University of Manitoba. From 1954-1999 Mary's input into the Aboriginal Community has been the formation for the **Urban Indian Association** whose group was instrumental in the formation of the **Indian and Metis Friendship Centre (I&MFC)**. Mary served as a founding board member of the I&MFC. She was involved in a housing study pertaining to aboriginal people living in the urban setting. The two areas focused in the study, Shanty Town and Jig Town became known as the **Lord Selkirk Development and Gilbert Park Development**. Mary was also responsible for setting up first the up-grading program which was later adopted by **Canada Manpower** as a national program. She has worked with both Judge Rice and Dubiensi in establishing the **Court Communicator's Program**. Mary also assisted in the beginnings of **Main Street Project**, whose mandate at that time was to assist young Indian & Metis people made adjustments when migrating into the city. Mary was a founding member of the **Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF)**. During her Education Portfolio at the MMF, she established the **Princess Ann Bursary** for Indian/Metis students. Mary was also involved in putting forth a proposal to the University of Manitoba for nursing, teaching, and social work programming for First Nations peoples. She fondly remember receiving help from, the then University of Brandon's Professor, Stanley Knowles to get the groups going. As well, Mary worked at setting up a satellite university in the North. The result of this was the **Assiniboine College and the Keewatin College**. In addition, she served as Board Member of **Manitoba Metis Women's Association** and Past-President of **Kinew Housing**. Mary's experience and networking abilities will greatly assist the agency as it continues to increase its funding and organizational base to better meet the needs of all women who come into conflict with the law.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another year has gone by, new experiences have been had. For the last three years of holding the position of President of the Board of Directors of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba (EFS) and preparing this report, the statement has usually been made in regard to the growth that has occurred over the previous year. That statement could not be more true this year.

On May 7 of this year, our agency held a successful launch of the self-harm report titled "*Prairie Women, Violence and Self-Harm*". This report, which has come to fruition after close to two years of research, spanning 3 provinces, was funded by The Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence. It proves to be an informative and educational review of self-harm relating to women, those incarcerated and those in the community, which will undoubtedly become a useful tool for various service providers, medical personnel and the legal profession. Of important note, this report will be presented at the CAEFS/CASAC Conference held in Ottawa October 1-3, 2001 which will be attended by national and international delegates.

As well, in May, we were pleased to participate in a 3-part series on Women in the Justice System with Global TV. We feel this series was well-made, objective and informative. Debbie continues to do a lot of media work in order to inform the public of the plight that women involved in the justice system face.

A great big pat-on-the-back goes to the staff of EFS. Five days a week, these women wear many hats: advocate; counselor; service provider; program coordinator. These women approach their jobs with a passion and an enthusiasm that is hard to find now-a-days.

And these women perform as a cohesive team. This was more than evident during the first week of December of 2000 when Debbie and her family had to rush her daughter, Sarah to the hospital only to find that Sarah would not be leaving the hospital. The EFS staff pulled together; they dealt with the office issues as they arose and assisted Debbie's family in anyway they could. Sarah passed on December 6, 2000 and is terribly missed by all who knew her.

We bid a sad farewell to two very dedicated, and long-standing EFS employees. Melanie Neufeld has just recently left on maternity leave and Tracy Woodard has moved on to another position outside of our agency. Melanie has been replaced by Jennifer Robinson, Carolyn Murray and Darlene Johnson and Tracy has been replaced by Margaret Cichon. I'd like to welcome these women to our little team; I'm sure they will prove to be an asset to EFS. As well, a giant "Thank you" goes out to our volunteers who allow us to provide our services to our clients.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Gutscher
President, Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2000/2001 continued to be a time of challenge and change for the agency. Challenges included increasing our core funding, continuing our advocacy and accountability efforts and increasing community awareness of the issues facing women and youth who enter the criminal justice system. I also experienced significant loss with the passing of one of my children.

On December 6, 2000, my family said farewell to our daughter **Sarah Frances Blunderfield, Miengani Wipit Ikwe (Wolf Tooth Lady)**. Our daughter lived for 11 years, 11 months and 1 day. I thank the Creator for blessing our family with the gift of her essence and for giving me the strength to see her life come full circle. I will miss Sarah's laughter, her sense of calm and her strength after my hard days of advocating. It continues to be difficult, at times, to *stand like a mountain and flow like water* when you must juggle very personal issues publicly. Special thanks to my staff and Board for forming a circle of love and support for me and my family through our period of transition and loss. Thanks to all the sister agencies, service providers, funders, government Ministers and countless others who took the time to share in our pain. Thanks to all of you from my husband Tom, son Steve and daughter Salena. Sarah lives on in the lives she touched...

Our position paper "Attending to the Needs of Manitoba Women in Conflict with the Law" released in May 2000 continued to be one of the most significant pieces of work for increasing dialogue with Manitoba Justice and other service providers. A historic meeting was held with the Ministers of Justice, Status of Women and representative from Aboriginal and Northern Affairs on June 13, 2000. An interim programming proposal was drafted and funded to provide 20 days of interim programming to women held at the Portage Correctional Centre (PCC) during July - early October, 2000.

The Elizabeth Fry Society (EFS) has worked very closely with Manitoba Justice, particularly Nancy Barkwell who was seconded from the Winnipeg Remand Centre to the **Programming for Female Offender Project**. The six target areas identified for program development are: Substance Abuse, Aggression/Anti-Social Behaviour, Relationships Problems, Education, Employment and Abuse. The agency is pleased to co-facilitate the Relationship Program pilot for female youth who have been sentenced to a period of probation supervision, beginning in August.

EFS continues to advocate for women criminalized by their disability-induced behaviour. There has been an increase in joint advocacy work in this area. An innovative contract was also piloted this year between EFS and Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Family Services and Housing and Manitoba Justice to provide daily living proctoring support to a woman who might otherwise be incarcerated. This contract may expand if the necessary interest and infrastructure is targeted for this area.

The Manitoba Society was very pleased to formally sign another service contract with Correctional Services Canada. The Community Integration Coordinator contract will provide a community integration program for federally sentenced Manitoba women including the areas of budgeting, health, conflict resolution, employment readiness and resource information.

2000/2001 seen an increase in effective networking with a number of key women's groups:

- The Women's Legal Education Action Fund (LEAF) continues to be very supportive of the advocacy efforts of the agency. They have been of particular support in looking at charter right issues surrounding Manitoba women involved with the criminal justice system.
- Staff of EFS were guests of two Manitoba Women's Advisory Council (MWAC) "Lunch N Learn" events on June 28, 2000 (Critical Perspective of Women in Conflict with the Law) and January 16, 2001 (Prairie Women and Violence). The MWAC also prepared briefing notes supporting the recommendations outlined in our position paper.
- The agency also renewed their federate membership with the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba Inc. and addressed both the Provincial Council of Women and the Council of Women of Winnipeg.
- Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence was a wonderful funder/advisor for the release of our first research report entitled "Prairie Women, Violence & Self Harm". This report was three years in the making and is the first exploratory, qualitative research done on women and self-harm (see research heading in report).

The agency was delighted to be nominated by the Manitoba Women's Advisory Council for the 2000 Manitoba Attorney General Crime Prevention Award. We were also nominated for the Community Legal Education Association's Human Rights Award. It was truly an honour to be nominated for our work in these areas. In terms of ongoing advocacy, we are still awaiting the results of a Provincial Ombudsman Investigation and the results from Manitoba Justice of an RCMP Investigation into concerns facing women housed at the Portage Correctional Centre.

The Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies celebrates National Elizabeth Fry Week the week preceding Mother's Day. The Theme: **Women in the Community - Creating Alternatives to Prison** was held May 7 - 13, 2001. We launched our Prairie Women, Violence & Self Harm Report, hosted a client open house, celebrated Mom's Day at the Winnipeg Remand Centre and Portage Correctional Centre and offered a *Moms and Me* art class with Dr. Connie Cohen.

2001/2002 will see its own awards and challenges as we search for a bigger and better space to house the agency, and work to continue our advocacy efforts to ensure that women and female youth who enter the criminal justice system are treated with equality and humanity.

Submitted by:

Debbie Blunderfield
Executive Director

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETIES (CAEFS)

I currently hold the position of Board Member for CAEFS in the Prairie Region. Each region has two Board members and one Regional Advocate. The national Board meets three times per year comprising of two regular meetings and the AGM meeting.

This past year has been quite exciting as CAEFS, in partnership with CASAC (Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centres), is organizing a three-day conference to take place on October 1-3, 2001. The conference will consist of presenters from 5 different categories: academic; legal; practitioner; prisoner; and activist as well as policy makers. Funding has been received from government agencies and individuals within the government sector. We are also looking into getting funding to provide video-conferencing and/or tele-conferencing for women who are incarcerated and unable to attend. Expressions of interest in participating in the conference have been received from individuals in Britain, Yemen, India, Pakistan, Hong Kong, South America, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and throughout Canada as well as from Members of Parliament, several media personalities, the Judiciary and victim's services.

Danette Williams is the new Executive Assistant at CAEFS. She started in her position on November 13, 2000 and will prove to be an asset to CAEFS.

The Cross-Gender Monitors Report has been completed and released. The report should be available on the CSC website.

CAEFS, in conjunction with Osgoode Hall, held a Colloquium on March 9, 2001. It was covered by C-PAC, and has received a lot of positive feedback. In addition, a body of Canadian literature has been developed deriving from the works presented.

Another full year of work and advocacy has passed with little time for our National Executive Director, Kim to take a holiday. There never ceases to be an issue or problem that needs to be dealt with. We thank Kim Pate for all her hard work, dedication, and insight.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Gutscher
Board Member, Prairie Region

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2000 - 2001

FEDERAL SERVICES

FEDERALLY SENTENCED LIAISON - TRACY WOODARD

The Federal Liaison maintains contact and supports Manitoba federally sentenced women through telephone and written correspondence. Pre-release planning, resource referral and release support is also offered. As in the past, the majority of our Manitoba clients are housed in the Edmonton Institution For Women (EIFW) while a few others were at the Okimaw Ochi Healing Lodge (Maple Creek, Sask.), Regional Psychiatric Centre (Sask.), and segregated in the male institution of Saskatchewan Penitentiary. In person service is available through the Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton, Calgary and Saskatchewan.

Throughout this year the following data was collected:

71	Telephone Sessions
17	Clients
82	Follow-up requests

Five EFS federally sentenced clients were released to the Winnipeg community and requested EFS services. The eight clients were serviced while still incarcerated and five were already serving their sentence within the community. One EFS client that has been released in the Edmonton community is still requesting support from our agency. On average four federal clients a month requested EFS of MB service.

Last year EFS federal services were assessed by the Federal Liaison. The results were clear; growing numbers of requests for our service dictates the evident need for a full time worker to meet these needs. Federal and provincially sentenced women do not have adequate community release options, such as half-way houses, substance abuse treatment, counselling and programming. In addition to lack of resources, a federal sentence takes our Manitoba clients to the furthest location possible from their Manitoba home and support resources (i.e.)family.

The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) had also identified a large gap of services for women in the corrections system, as well as the low risk, high needs of this population. Therefore a proposal for funding an EFS Integration Coordinator was given to CSC. The Federal Liaison, Executive Director and CSC delegates worked out programming that was acceptable to both parties. Funding for one year of this position has been approved with the option to renew for two more years.

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENTS / PAROLE SUPERVISION CONTRACT

Since 1996, the Elizabeth Fry Society has provided both Parole Supervision and Community Assessment services to the Manitoba N/W Ontario Region of Correctional Services of Canada. The Elizabeth Fry Society continues to serve women who are either on federal or provincial parole. The agency also provides community assessment services for both men and women seeking private family visitation, day and full parole, penitentiary placement and other. The agency continues to support the safe and successful reintegration needs of women.

PROVINCIAL SERVICES

PORTAGE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE / WINNIPEG REMAND CENTRE

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. It is instructive to note that I have maintained intensive telephone contact with several federally sentenced women who have first come into contact with EFS through Portage Correctional Centre (PCC).

In an attempt to pinpoint a word to summarize this year's activities as the main EFS contact to incarcerated women in Manitoba, I could only come up with one...FLUX. While continuous change is an inevitable, and often welcomed, part of working for a dynamic agency like EFS, this fiscal year stands apart from previous years on several points.

Systemic changes have been notable. Firstly, in recognition of the dearth of programming for incarcerated Manitoba women, Manitoba Justice approved EFS to deliver short-term group programs to residents at PCC in the summer months of 2000. This development was an opportunity for EFS to help women acquire the tools and skills required for their transition to community life. Perhaps the most substantial change that occurred for provincially incarcerated women was the transfer of remanded women to the Winnipeg Remand Centre (WRC) from PCC in October 2001. Throughout the month, remanded women were sent back to the institution located in Winnipeg to a maximum of twelve. Moreover, this year, Manitoba Justice announced that it was initiating a project to study the needs of female offenders in this province, with the aim of designing and implementing appropriate services for this group.

These positive moves were welcomed, and resulted in many changes in my role. In the summer months, I was involved in providing three separate recreational program days at PCC. These events were very well received, and provided me with an opportunity to give enhanced supportive services to our clients. It was an honor and a pleasure to spend some time with the women sharing stories and laughter.

And after many long months, finally there would be forward movements towards servicing remanded women at WRC, as opposed to servicing them alongside sentenced women at PCC.

Additionally, much of the time and energy of EFS staff was dedicated to providing input to the Manitoba Justice Female Offender Initiative. With these major changes, plans were being put in place to have an EFS worker service women directly at the WRC on a weekly basis. Moreover, with regards to PCC, in January 2001 EFS made the bold move of piloting a change in service from mostly one-on-one counseling to a group format. With this plan, I would provide group workshops to incarcerated women at PCC, with workshop content tailored to the women's needs. It was hoped that one-on-one interactions with clients would shift to the community format.

Despite my hopes that these moves would be beneficial to incarcerated Manitoba women, many problematic issues remain. While the movement of some remanded women to the WRC helped bring down the general overcrowding at PCC and began to alleviate many of the problems associated with being remanded in custody to PCC, there are still inadequacies in the system on many fronts. In January of 2001, it appeared that more and more remanded women were being sent to the Portage jail, and the overall population of the institution began to creep back to higher numbers. Moreover, the reopening of the women's unit at the WRC did not benefit many of the women on longer-term remand status, who remained at PCC.

As noted, servicing remanded women directly at WRC, coupled with the Female Offender Project could foster our quest for better service to incarcerated Manitoba women. However, while servicing remanded women at WRC may have many positive outcomes, a lack of provincial funding for this aim continues to pose problems. Hence, while servicing PCC in itself can be hectic and overwhelming at times, EFS is now expected to also service the WRC separately with no substantial increase in funding. Further, my changed format at PCC from a one-on-one to a group basis to enhance the system's changes has been met with mixed results. While the women have been optimistic about the group programs, they have expressed reservations about losing one-on-one contact with EFS within PCC. I too have concerns about not being able to connect with the women individually, as it is often the forum in which women feel safest to discuss sensitive and personal issues.

On a positive note, the annual Mother's Day and Christmas events were very advantageous experiences for the women. For Mother's Day, EFS staff and volunteers joined women at PCC for a day of card making and games to honor the mothers that are affected by being in conflict with the law. A welcomed change for the PCC Christmas event was that we were able to celebrate the season without having to have two separate shifts for each floor. Women celebrated the season with music, dancing, karaoke, a buffet, games, prizes and gifts. This event was an excellent opportunity for EFS staff and volunteers to engage with the women. Additionally, in 2001, EFS gathered with women at the WRC and PCC to commemorate International Women's Day on March 8th. Many thanks to the staff and volunteers who helped to make these events a success.

There are ongoing struggles facing incarcerated Manitoba women, many having being outlined in previous annual reports. Incarcerated females continue to face added frustrations such as telephone access and inadequate visitation facilities at PCC. As well, I am of the opinion that programming at PCC is still in too little supply. Other systemic problems such as a lack of female centered community release facilities and bail programs remain unchanged.

When I look back to my goals in last year's annual report, I have mixed emotions. Some things seem to be changing for the better such as seeing remanded women back at the WRC and more programming for incarcerated women. However, a female centered bail program, plans for the eventual closing of PCC with a new facility for incarcerated women and the development of a female community residential facility have yet to be actualized.

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to the volunteers and placements that have worked very hard with EFS to help service incarcerated women in Manitoba. In particular, volunteer Darlene Letandre and placements Cindy Brass and Megan Ross have been of tremendous assistance to the agency. Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart.

Recorded Data for PCC Visits (April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001):

315 Counseling Sessions out of 360 requests for service

403 Follow-up requests from Sessions

369 Phone Call sessions

365 Requests from Phone sessions

272 Clients

Federal Time Spent:

902:40 Minutes Spent with Sessions with Federally Sentenced Clients

204:48 Minutes of Follow-Up Time Spent/ Federally Sentenced Women

If you have come to help me,
You are wasting your time.
But if you have come because your liberation
is bound up with mine
Then let us work together.
- Lila Watson

COMMUNITY COUNSELLING REPORTS

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION COORDINATOR- CHRISTINE LUDWICK

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 the 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.

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 SUPPORT COORDINATOR - TRACY WOODARD

The community support offered to our clientele was in addition to our community programming. The service offered was short term for EFS clients that did not fall under the mandate of the other EFS staff positions. The community clients were supported through one on one counselling sessions, resource referrals, support, and the other EFS programming available. The community support was a very positive addition to our community programming and institutional services. The clients seen in the community are made up of women awaiting court proceedings, in the community on bail, conditional sentences, recently released from an institution, on parole or probation, at risk of being in conflict with the law, EFS program clients, as well as family and friends of incarcerated clients.

The following data was recorded:

88 Community Clients
348 Phone Call Sessions
88 Office Sessions
212 Requests For Follow-ups

Approximately twenty community clients, when incarcerated in PCC or WRC, were serviced by the institutional worker and at times by the Community Support Coordinator.

The feedback from other community agencies and EFS clients has been extremely positive. Referrals and requests for this type of support is still continuing to grow. Unfortunately, as with many of EFS program areas, the Community Support programming is at a loss for funding. The need and utilization of these services has been clearly demonstrated, although finding stable funding for this program is an imminent challenge.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

PROGRAM & DEVELOPMENTAL COORDINATOR - BEV OZOL

The STOPlifting and Women for Change Programs continue to be two of our core programs offered to our client base. The agency offers these two groups three times yearly, with one afternoon group and one evening group offered. We have found that by offering two time slots, we are able to increase program access and child care opportunities to allow women time they need to participate in the Program(s). There continues to be no fee for women to attend the group. Women need to attend nine out of ten sessions to receive a certificate of completion. Groups that have entered Week 3, become Closed to any groups and additional numbers of women wanting to participate must wait until next session. The Elizabeth Fry Society will ensure that a client's intake has been completed and one-to-one support is provided to those women requiring immediate support.

There has been a steady increase in the numbers for the groups, they are being recognized by Justice and Corrections as valuable women-centered, holistic programming options for women. Many other service provider and social support agencies are now referring women to the programs due to their prevention value to women who are at risk to be in conflict with the law. Due to the limited agency space to run the groups we have to cap the group sizes at 15 women per group. Our hope is to one day have enough room to service all the women who come to us for programming, when they need it.

Special thank you to Lana Maloney and our student placements from the University of Manitoba's Criminology Field Research Course. The agency was delighted to host five students including our own staff member, Bev Ozol. These students evaluated the Women for Change, STOPlifting and Court Support Programs, and continued in the creation a data base for profiling EFS clients. We are also grateful for the sponsorship of Bev who began program development for women who self-harm. We look forward to sharing our results with funders.

STOPLIFTING PROGRAM

The STOPlifting program has been doing very well over the past year. We ran the program six times in 2000/2001 year, during the Spring, Fall, and Winter. There has been a steady increase in the number of women attending the group. Shoplifting, fraud, and breech of trust offences are explored in this group. There has also been women seeking support with problematic gambling and other addictions. For some of the women who are in the Remand Center or in Portage Correctional Centre attending the group is part of their conditions for release.

Below is a break down of the outcome of each of the STOPlifting Groups for the year:

April to June 2000 -	5 women on the waiting list 20 attended group 15 completed group
September to November 2000 -	38 women on the waiting list 25 attended group 16 completed group
January to March 2001 -	23 women on the waiting list 19 attended group 8 completed group

WOMEN FOR CHANGE PROGRAM

The Women for Change Program has become a very well known and respected program by many different agencies. We receive referrals from Probation, Parole, Lawyers, Child and Family Services and the Courts. Women can also self refer.

EFS has seen an increase in women who must attend this program as a direct result of *Zero Tolerance Policies*. The introduction of *Access and SPSS*, as an agency data base system this fiscal year, will assist in tracking specific numbers of those women affected by this policy. Often women report being "counter or double-charged" and have been told they must attend this group as part of their community sentence order. Women are given alternatives to using their anger in more constructive manners. Safety Plans are also developed for dealing with challenging situations. The groups run in the Spring, Fall and Winter with two groups per session.

Below is a break down of the out come of the groups for the year:

April 2000 to June 2000 -	54 women on the waiting list 38 attended group 24 completed group
September 2000 to November 2000 -	61 women on the waiting list 40 attended group 29 completed group
January 2001 to March 2001 -	56 women on the waiting list 42 attended group 26 completed group

OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES

- EFS was requested by Strathcona School to facilitate six sharing circles for their grade six girls.
- Argyle High School hosted an Anger Management Workshop that was attended by nine students. Later in the year Argyle High School hosted a conference for the school and we were asked to present the Anger Management material again. This time the turn out was 58 students.
- We had a booth set up at the University of Manitoba for the Career and Volunteer Symposium and received several inquires for our volunteer program.
- As Developmental Coordinator, Bev sits on two community committees, the Men's Resource Center and the Winnipeg Committee to End Violence.

COURT PROGRAM

COURT SUPPORT COORDINATOR – GAILLEPINE **COURT PROGRAM EVALUATOR – TRACY WOODARD**

The Court Support Program provides emotional support; information on the court process; resource information and referral; liaison with lawyers, judges, the crown; a link for clients to EFS workers; and advocacy for the use of EFS and other restorative programs as alternatives to incarceration. These services are offered to women and girls in conflict with the law as well as their families.

The EFS services in the court have been funded for a part-time Court Coordinator position by the Manitoba Community Services Council. Due to the need for service is extremely high and the Court Coordinator worked on a part-time basis, this program could not function without the dedication and hard work of many volunteers and placements. In addition, Workers Compensation has provided a number of placements to work with this program. **Volunteers/Placements have serviced the Court Program for a total of 1,274 hours this year.** This support makes it possible for EFS to service so many more women. Thanks to all the many volunteers who have devoted their time to this vital program!

As EFS reviewed the increasing need for services in the court system, along with the decrease in funding, focus on the Court Program's efficiency and appropriate services became extremely important. Therefore increased attention on program development was an identified need, most easily met through an evaluation of the existing program. The Executive Director and Board of Directors agreed the current funding dollars would be more efficiently utilized by conducting a full investigative evaluation into the existing Court Program. The Manitoba Community Services Council agreed to appropriating the funding to an evaluation. Tracy Woodard, a EFS staff member, was appointed to evaluate the program with the assistance of an evaluation team. The team was made up of student placements from, the University Of Manitoba Criminology Research, and Social Work Department, Diaconate Ministries Program, Society for Manitobans with Disabilities as well as a few EFS volunteers.

Following an overview of the EFS Court Program the Program Evaluator divided the evaluation into six areas for further investigation. Each area of the Court Program was assessed using a number of evaluation instruments. The six areas of assessment were: Program Services, Data Collection and Reporting System, Training and Supervision Of Staff/Volunteers/Placements, Client Needs, Networking, Program Materials.

The recommendations for the program are mainly focused on program development, in each of the above areas of assessment. The growth and efficiency of the program requires two full time Court Coordinators. The specifics of the Court Program Evaluation are compiled in a comprehensive report.

Within the seven months of the programs operation, (in addition to the forty women the evaluation team serviced within the ten half days of evaluative services), **324 new clients and 256 EFS clients were serviced by the Court Program.** Approximately one hundred women a month were approached through EFS court outreach services.

There is a great need for the agency to continue to work in the law courts, providing service and support to women and girls in conflict with the law. Additional needs include securing funding for the continuation of this program and to assess and develop services for female youth in the courts.

OTHER ELIZABETH FRY ACTIVITIES

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE WEEK

November 12 - 18, 2000, the Society took part in the annual Restorative Justice Week. The Opening Ceremonies celebration entitled "Lamentations" was held at the Manitoba Legislature with special guest Stephaine Coward. Also featured was a visual display of masks created by women participating in the Crossing Communities Art Project (CCAP). This venture involves artists in the Winnipeg arts community and Elizabeth Fry Society clients in an art studio mentorship program designed to provide women access to the arts community and to establish a forum for visual communication. Also held during the week was **Women's Voices: A Sharing Circle** involved two closed sharing circles held at the Portage Correctional Centre. Special thanks to Melanie Neufeld for all her hard work as agency liaison on the Restorative Justice Week Committee.

INTENSIVE COUNSELLING PARTNERSHIP

This year, a hand full of women continued to benefit from this project that provides intensive therapy by the counselling staff of Jewish Child & Family Services. This project has provided the opportunity for participants to address the source of their maladaptive behaviours and/or self-destructive coping mechanisms that can be effectively dealt within a more intensive therapeutic milieu. This longer term support is not currently available through the Elizabeth Fry Society and offers participants more than the short term counselling available at the agency.

BIRTH CONTROL OUTREACH PARTNERSHIP

We are pleased to continue to partner with the Women's Health Clinic in a Birth Control Outreach Program. Condoms and foam are provided to community clients free of charge. Essential information is also available regarding STD's and AIDS.

CLOTHING DEPOT

The Clothing Depot is available to agency clients and referrals from Probation Services. Approximately 25 - 35 women and their families are assisted through our services every month. The depot is managed by Darlene Johnson who plans the layout and sorting of all donations in an orderly fashion. Advertisements are placed in community papers, yard sales and by word of mouth. Merchandise is picked up and delivered to those clients in need. We store clothes, couches, tables, chairs, blankets, glasses, toys, jackets and shoes in our basement and selected garages throughout the North End.

Special thanks to Sister Gilberte and staff from Miriam Center for their support and the bulk of the regular donations. We couldn't do it without you! Our excess donations and items that would benefit others are also delivered to Andrews Street Family Centre, Main Street Project, Salvation Army and Ikwe Widdjiitwiin.

Darlene personally ensures that the clothing depot is a safe, clean and welcoming environment for our clients. The clothing depot provides other opportunities for services by offering peer support and a safe and supportive introduction to other program areas. We strive to empower women and give assist them to acquire those basic items they need most. The depot is open Wednesday mornings every week and appointments can be scheduled if necessary. **A big bouquet of thanks to Darlene who gave an additional 1,500 hours of volunteer service.** The clothing depot provides a wonderful outlet for Darlene to demonstrate her passion and caring of the women we work with and for.

OYATE TIPI FURNITURE PROJECT

The EFS continues to participate in the Oyate Tipi Furniture project, a vision created by EFS and many of its sister organizations. This initiative will provide our women and families with a one-stop shop for good quality used furniture and household items. Groups involved have clients transitioning from institutions, shelters and other systems to community living. We are delighted to have both the North End Renewal Corporation and the United Way take the lead role in developing a business plan for funding this much needed initiative. Approximately 15 organizations are now involved in the project and hope to establish a program by Fall 2001.

DAY OF CARING EVENT

The Elizabeth Fry Society was pleased to be paired with Ceridan Canada Ltd during the United Way's Day of Caring Week. For a day and a half, staff from Ceridan worked hard transforming our back yard and parking lot into an area for both clients and staff. A new fence was built, flower beds created, weeds removed, and the picnic table and wheelchair ramp were stained. Thanks to Ceridan for their donation of time and money. We were delighted to again partner with Ceridan for this year's Day of Caring. More paint was applied and flowers planted. We were also donated a Refurbished computer and Ceridan will assist in the creation of the agency's Web page. Thank you to all those who come out in Year One and Two. We had a fun getting physical with you.

RESEARCH

PRAIRIE WOMEN, VIOLENCE & SELF-HARM

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba in conjunction with researchers Cathy Fillmore (University of Winnipeg) and Colleen Anne Dell (Carleton University) released their research report entitled "Prairie Women, Violence & Self-Harm" on May 7, 2001. This Phase 1 research project took almost three years to complete and demonstrated how community and academic communities can work together to produce timely research.

Self-harm among women in conflict with the law is a serious health concern in Canada. In recent years there has been an alarming increase in the number of women who identify themselves as self-harmers. Drawing upon the narratives of incarcerated women, women released into the community and institutional staff, this study provides insight into and understanding of the needs, supports and services to women who self-harm while incarcerated and re-integrating into the community. Both helpful and unhelpful responses to women's self-injury are reviewed. Addressed as well is women's creative ways of coping and surviving.

The underlying theme of our findings is that resources for self-harm among women in prison, which can range from topic specific programming to informal peer support, must center upon women's agency and empowerment. The definition of self-harm evolved to:

"Self-Harm is any behaviour, be it physical, emotional, social, or spiritual, that a women commits with the intention to cause herself harm. It is a way of coping and surviving emotional pain and distress which is rooted in traumatic childhood and adult experiences of abuse and violence. It is a meaningful action which fulfills a variety of functions for women in their struggle for survival."

The research team has been overwhelmed by the interest generated by this report. A number of presentations have been made to Manitoba Justice, Carleton University, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, American Society of Criminology, Manitoba Women's Advisory Council, and the Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence - "Our Health In Our Hands Conference".

The team is pleased with interest received from federal Justice Minister Anne McClellan's office, Senator Sharon Carstairs, Minister Alan Rock and our own Manitoba Justice Department. We will continue on work on the area of self-harm by next forming an inter-sectoral committee of service providers, medical, community and women themselves to begin developing program options for women who self-harm. We will also look to Phase II of this research which will be more quantitative in nature.

Copies of various forms of the findings including an Executive Summary and Plain Language Summary and are available through the Elizabeth Fry Society office or by calling 589-7335. Full copies of the report are also available for \$10.00 by calling the EFS office.

CROSSING COMMUNITIES ART PROJECT

The Crossing Communities Art Project (CCAP) is currently wrapping up its pilot year in the Winnipeg community and will complete its first year with an exhibition of artwork at the Plug-In Gallery in the Fall of 2001.

The CCAP is rooted in the Passing Pictures with Prisoners mentor by mail program and the Portage Art Studio Program. Both of these programs were developed as umbrella projects of Mentoring Artists for Women's Art (MAWA) and involved making artwork with women in the Portage Correctional Centre. The collaborative artwork from the Passing Pictures with Prisoners was exhibited at the Urban Shaman Gallery. MAWA is also sponsoring an upcoming publication of the Passing Pictures with Prisoners Project.

CCAP combines the methods of these two programs and is offered to women and girls when they are recently released from prison or are serving a community sentence and works in partnership with EFS. The CCAP has been funded in its development by the Manitoba Arts Council since 1997 through Access Grants and through the 2000 Bridges Grant Program.

Special thank you to the following artists for their Collaborative Explorations Workshops:

- **Aganetha Dyck - Honeybee Sculpture** - Women met with this sculptor to explore communicating visually with bees. Workshops participants and Aganetha chose ordinary found objects and altered them into works of art with the bees as the intermediary. Participants visited the apiary and placed objects into the hive, and then spent studio time painting and sculpting with beeswax.
- **Diana Thorneycroft - Mapping the Body** - Women joined performance photographer Diana to create a body map. Through a series of drawings and writing exercises the women moved towards creating physical and psychological maps of their bodies that explore interior and exterior sites of pain and pleasure. In addition to drawing on paper, collage and photography was also used.
- **Grace Nickel - Ceramic Mural Motifs** - Women experienced with Grace the joys and challenges of working with clay. Participants created a clay model from which a plaster mold was made. With the mold as a starting point, participants had the opportunity to produce tiles and add text to the image. Once the tiles had been fired, women selected tiles for a collaborative wall piece as well as individual pieces.
- **Shawna Dempsey and Lori Millan - Performance Art** - Women explored the art of performance and used the human body to create pictures and meanings in space. This workshop drew upon improvisation, play and storytelling to develop group and individual performances that talk about their experience as women.
- **Reva Stone - New Media Investigations** - Women discovered the potential of making artwork on the computer with Reva. This new media program is designed to investigate the potential of computer software as both a creative and expressive tool. Students experimented with basic image editing and simple animations.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR – MELANIE NEUFELD

The 00/01 **YEAR OF THE EFS VOLUNTEER** was comprised of many volunteers and placements committed hours to our agency. 54 volunteers and placements contributed to the work of the Elizabeth Fry Society over the months for a total of **4472 HOURS** which is equal to 3 full time employees working 48 weeks per year with 4 weeks holidays.

Many thanks to the fantastic placements from the Winnipeg Education Centre, Red River Community College, the University Of Manitoba Criminology Research and Social Work Department, Diaconate Ministries Program, Society for Manitobans with Disabilities, University of Winnipeg - Menno Simmons College and Sociology Departments.

Special thank you to Cathy Fillmore who spent her Sabbatical year working very, very long hours as part of our Self Harm research team. Your wisdom, editing and eternal patience in working with EFS in their first research project ensured we did it right this first time.

OUR MANY THANKS TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Andrea Baigrie	Tasneem Henry	Nicole Neault
Lisa Barker	Tiffany Hogue	Jonathan Neufeld
Lorraine Birsebois	Charlene Houle	Janet Nortey
Gina Blaire	Leanne Howard	Christianna Page
Cindy Brass	Darlene Johnson	Dalia Pereia
Margaret Cichon	Glen Johnson	Connie Pilon
Jamie (Santa) Carrasco	Sheena Jones	Talia Potash
Dr. Connie Cohen	Robynne Kazina	Brenda Roper
Carol Crawford	Christine Kolba	Ann Ross
Debra Daniels	Laura Larson	Megan Ross
Lourdes De Andrade	Darlene Letandre	Shannon Rudolf
Shauna Doerksen	Daidrie Ludwick	Pam Smith
Catherine Doyle	Sheri Lysy	Jackie Squires
Loni Earle	Elizabeth Marsh-Mondor	Lisa Stashko
Sheila Evans	Colleen Martens	Suzanne Trudel
Cathy Fillmore	Mollie McVey	Maureen Thomas
Filiz Guhadar	Theresa Morin	Lori Thompson
Jennifer Gurke	Carolyn Murray	Kate Vermette

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MALE COMPONENT AT THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR MAKING IT EXTRA ENJOYABLE FOR THE WOMEN AT PCC.

**PREMIER VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD / FLARE MAGAZINE &
GOVERNOR GENERAL'S VOLUNTEER AWARD NOMINEE**

Darlene Johnson was nominated by the agency this year for her many hours of contribution to the clothing depot. Darlene has kept the Clothing Depot running from our basement by picking up donations all over the city. Women attend the agency every Wednesday morning to pick up free clothing and household goods. We are pleased that she will be the new volunteer/PEER Support coordinator at EFS as Melanie goes on maternity leave. Darlene was also nominated for the Flare Magazine and Governor General's Award for Volunteerism. Way to go Darlene!

"People must know what is happening. They must care about what is happening. They must begin to do whatever they are capable of doing, individually and collectively. Somewhere in the human organism there is an ear that will listen, a mind that will open, a heart beat that will listen, a mind that will open, heart beat that will quicken and a voice that will clamour for the conversation of an order which exhorts "business as usual" over one which honours concern for others. And when enough people realize this and organize themselves to act upon their convictions, it will change."

-Claire Culhane, 1972