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IMPACT REPORT 2023





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ELVA KIM
Chair

Introduction

The year marks a pivotal moment in Atira’s herstory – it underwent transformative changes, survived a very public organizational crisis, and came out the other side aligned and stronger as an organization, an Executive team, and as a Board. An unrelenting dedication to the mission, and a continued commitment to serve and support our province’s most vulnerable and marginalized women, children, gender diverse individuals and mixed gender folx, with 1253 employees managing 2500 units of safe(r) non-market housing. Today, Atira’s work is more essential than ever because of the overlapping crises in British Columbia – domestic violence, racial and gender targeted violence, safe housing amidst a housing crisis, a toxic drug supply, and worsening mental health as a result of these compounding crises. The issues for Atira and those in this sector are complex as are the issues that target the people they serve – it cannot be defined as an isolated issue, or politicized as one - it is at its core a human issue, where Atira serves on the frontlines.

Atira’s herstory was built and carried on the strong shoulders of many women leaders. In May 2023, the organization lost their leader of 32 years when Janice Abbott stepped down. During her leadership Atira became BC’s largest housing and social services agency. In July 2023, Catherine Roome stepped in as the Interim CEO, tasked with leveling and leading the organization through the hard and necessary work to reset, renew, and restore stakeholder confidence through operational excellence in health and safety, strong governance, and financial integrity, while ensuring Atira’s important work continued unfaltered.

In April 2024, Donnie Rosa joined Atira as CEO through an extensive and national executive search. They are a proven, strong, and visionary leader that believes in the power of community, and is passionate about Atira’s mission. In this new chapter, the Board and I are confident in Donnie’s capacity and commitment to continue to lead with integrity and passion and carry on Atira’s commitment to open, transparent and proactive communication and collaboration with Government, BC Housing and all key stakeholders – to guide the Society towards a successful, sustainable long-term future.

Donnie leads Atira with an exceptional executive team, including Sarah McIntosh, Chief Operating Officer; Hajar Masoud, Executive Director, Operational Excellence; Mamta Dhillon, Executive Director of People & Culture; Jose Velazquez, Executive Director, Residential Operations; Deepak Sharma, Executive Director, Finance & Controllor; and Anita Stepan, Executive Director, Internal Systems & Audit. Donnie is also in the process of searching for Atira’s new permanent CFO. The immense dedication that this leadership team has shown in creating new organizational governance-based practices has been nothing short of exceptional.

To date, some significant accomplishments in financial overview and operational excellence have been achieved, and are highlighted in Donnie’s 200-Day CEO Report Card. Further, the Board has achieved substantial progress which includes:

- Developed a 12-18-month bridge strategic plan, laying the groundwork for a longer-term strategic plan that will guide and fortify Atira’s future.
- Strengthened Atira’s governance by developing a new phase of best practices – with a continued commitment to restore stakeholder confidence in the organization’s integrity, mission and values prioritizing transparency and accountability.
- Implemented a lobby reporting system for Atira leadership and staff.
- Introduced a code of conduct into Atira’s policies, reinforcing that conflicts of interest would not be tolerated and emphasizing accountability in daily practices.
- Introduced a Whistleblower Policy with a regular report out to the Board of Directors.
- Conducted a thorough organizational-wide risk assessment, engaging staff at all levels through a participatory and inclusive process. This assessment identified operational risks and introduced mitigation strategies, setting a new standard for risk management within the organization.
- Reviewed all applicable statutes and regulations, ensuring that Atira remains compliant with legal and regulatory requirements.
- Initiated a board governance review with an independent third-party consultant to

update Atira’s governance practices, strengthening oversight and accountability at the leadership level.

- Welcomed a B.C. Government independent representative to attend Board meetings, ensuring external oversight and transparency.
- The newly elected Board of Directors is committed to implementing 100 per cent of the recommendations from the third-party governance review that was commissioned by Lawson Lundell LLP.
 - o Third-party governance review released. [Click Here](#)

The Board has also undergone significant changes.

- Onboarded 12 new Board members that adhere to a robust skills matrix and successfully transitioned the offboarding of several Board members who carried many years of service and made significant contributions, especially in this past year.
- Created and near completed a robust governance manual and best practices with the support of K. McLaughlin and Associates, including terms of reference and bylaws – intended to be shared with our peers in the sector to reinforce transparency and to serve as a reference for others.
- Anne Kinvig has joined me as Board Co-Chair and will succeed me as I prepare to step down.

It is with honor, pride, and gratitude that I reflect on the impact and progress this past year. As Atira evolves and drives forward through the complex issues that impact this sector - I leave with confidence knowing the organization will continue to prioritize the necessary strategic initiatives, execute with passion, and work in partnership with Government and BC Housing to remove barriers in pursuit of its mission. It has been my privilege to serve Atira, and the Board.



DONNIE ROSA
CEO - Atira

Introduction

In the first 6 months as CEO for Atira, I have been inspired by the level of passion and commitment this team and Board have demonstrated. Atira has been at the center of intense scrutiny by the media, levels of government, and the public. Throughout this, it has upheld its integrity and commitment to those most vulnerable in the community as its guiding principle. While experiencing a challenging time, this organization has worked tirelessly and at an impressive pace to scale capacity, implement new policies and develop best in class governance practices. This has been a transformative time for Atira, and we remain strong and fiercely focused on continuing to build on our 40+ year legacy of a women-led, feminist organization doing the work that is needed, for the women, children and gender diverse folx in our communities.

In my discussions with leaders and government responsible for delivering housing, there is a clear consensus that Atira is delivering essential, life-saving services with a “Housing to Hope” approach. Atira is applauded by the sector for being able to house and support folx in the most marginalized, vulnerable and precarious situations. We walk alongside folx at the hardest times in their lives and we do not abandon them – when many in society have. It is abundantly clear to me that the grass roots delivery of housing and wraparound services provided by Atira is the model in which government must continue to invest. The need in this sector has significantly outpaced the funding and capacity for too many years.

During the pandemic, the rate of gender-based violence against women drastically increased. Gender-related homicides against women and girls increased by 14%, and reports of violence against women in relationships increased by as much as 30%. Gender-based violence is an epidemic, and we ask the Government of British Columbia to name it as such.

Women who are trans, racialized, First Nations, Metis and Inuit, who are disabled or older, are disproportionately impacted. We stand with all these women and I hold such gratitude for each of you who continue to create safer spaces for women children and gender diverse folx who access services at Atira.

The true success stories which define the resilient spirit at Atira lie in the individual testimonies of staff with lived experience and community who have called Atira home, and today can hold space for hope. Carrying the weight of these complex intersecting social issues, while experiencing their own life challenges, and carrying trauma for so many, the staff in this sector show up every day to witness our community’s most vulnerable. I find myself becoming acutely aware of the limited worldviews that dictate what is “acceptable”, and I feel an unrest in my core, a transformation and conviction to make space for voices that will lead us to a better, kinder, way of being. A way that knows that we are all connected and when we reach out to hold our most at risk, we also hold ourselves.

It is this that inspires me. It is this that I will carry. It is this that requires us to move forward. I am encouraged today by external partners’ interest in understanding the complex work we do as a housing operator, although bringing funding, advocacy and interest into alignment is no small endeavour. My intention in this next chapter is to build on the steps taken in the last year to re-centre Atira on the mission of the organization

and to continue to build appropriate systems and structures to facilitate our essential frontline work. Our 1253 employees supporting over 2,500 units of housing and providing over 434,682 hours of service delivery, while powerful, is not sustainable. We must collaborate with sector partners, engage with decision and policy makers, and keep our voices strong and consistent. Turning away even one woman, child or gender diverse person who is fleeing violence due to capacity constraints is not acceptable.

I am humbled by the trust from the Board, the staff team, the community partners and the folx we serve, and I will act on my responsibility to be a part of breaking down the colonial constructs that inhibit and oppress the very people we are here to support. I will continue to prioritize meeting our team where they’re at, and building relationships in the community. It has been a privilege to hear the stories, as complex as they are, of joy, celebration, and pain – each story unique and raw.

Click here to see **CEO Report**

About Us

For the past 41 years, Atira has been committed to building a staff that reflects the people we serve. Today, we are as amazing and as diverse as the communities in which we work. Among us, we speak **49** languages and dialects, we range in age from **19** to **75** years, and three-quarters of us share life experiences with our tenants, residents, and program participants. And we aren't done yet. This is a forever commitment. We can and will do better.





Critical Incidents

Atira is in the final stages of publishing its FY2023/2024 Critical Incidents Analysis, which highlights key insights and achievements. Notably, our dedicated staff successfully prevented 234 deaths through effective overdose response and the administration of naloxone. This report underscores the meaningful, lifesaving work being carried out by Atira every day.

“

At approximately 14:40, a guest entered the office and asked for harm reduction gear. A few minutes later, a tenant alerted staff that the guest was unconscious in the using room. Staff rushed over and found the guest unconscious and unresponsive. The guest had a strong pulse but was only breathing once every 16-20 seconds. Staff called 911, administered four doses of intramuscular naloxone, and began CPR. Paramedics arrived roughly 10 minutes later, administered oxygen, and provided additional naloxone. The Vancouver Fire Department (VFD) was called to the scene and continued providing oxygen. About 10 minutes later, the guest regained consciousness. The guest refused to go to the hospital despite being advised by paramedics and staff. Staff agreed to monitor the guest for the next few hours as he was extremely drowsy. Staff sat in the using room and watched over the guest for an hour and a half until he became more alert. The guest was okay. Staff continued to monitor him until he was fully alert. Staff advised the guest not to use any more of the drugs he had previously used and to avoid using alone.

-Atira's Staff, Anonymous-

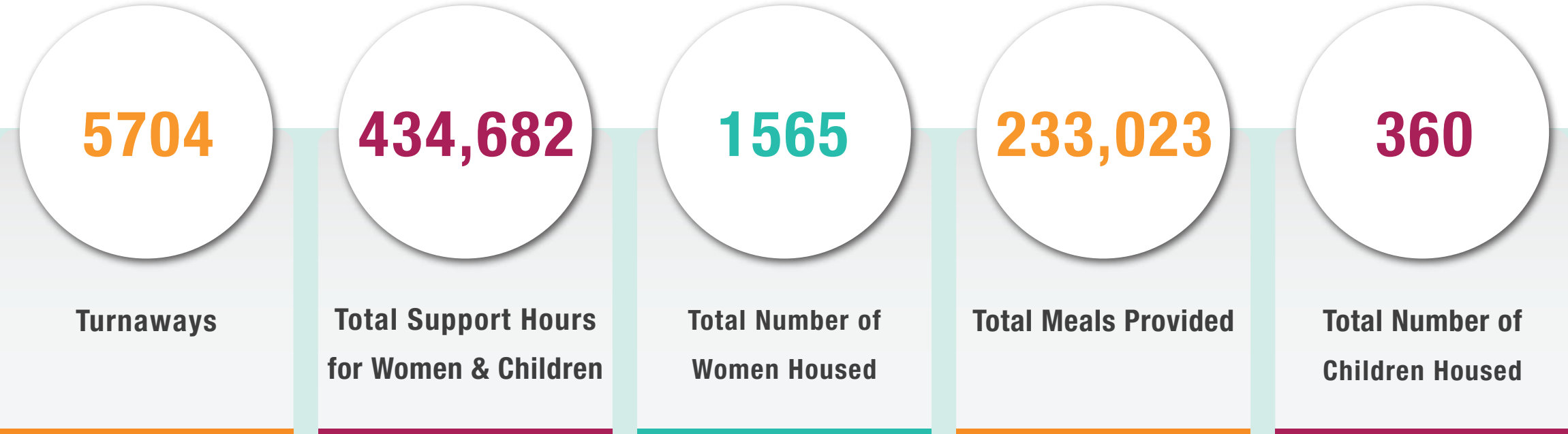




Statistics

All Programs

April 2023 - March 2024

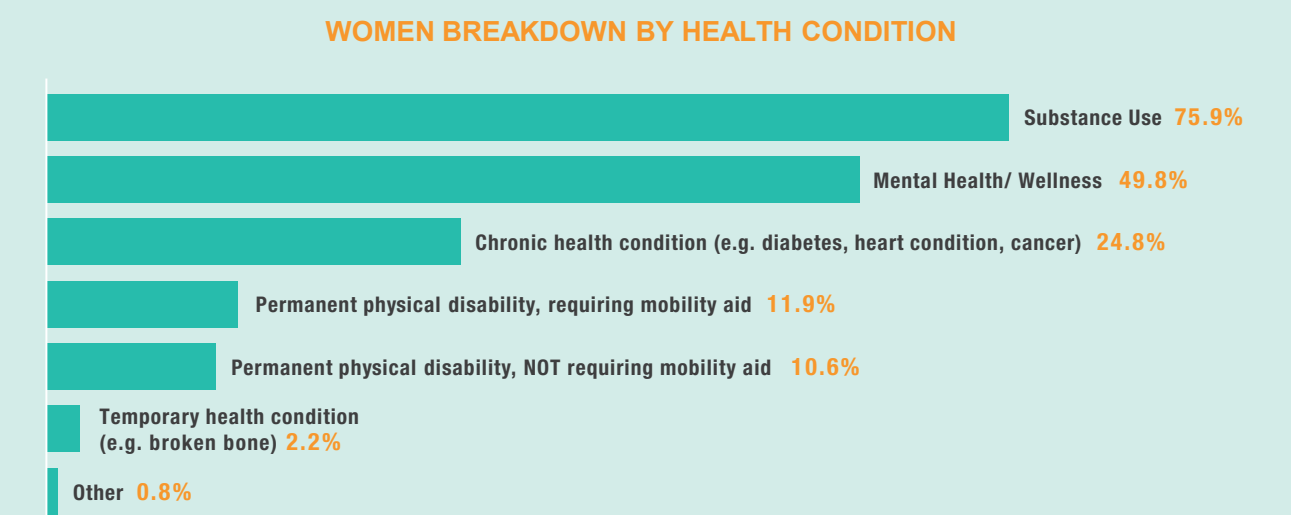
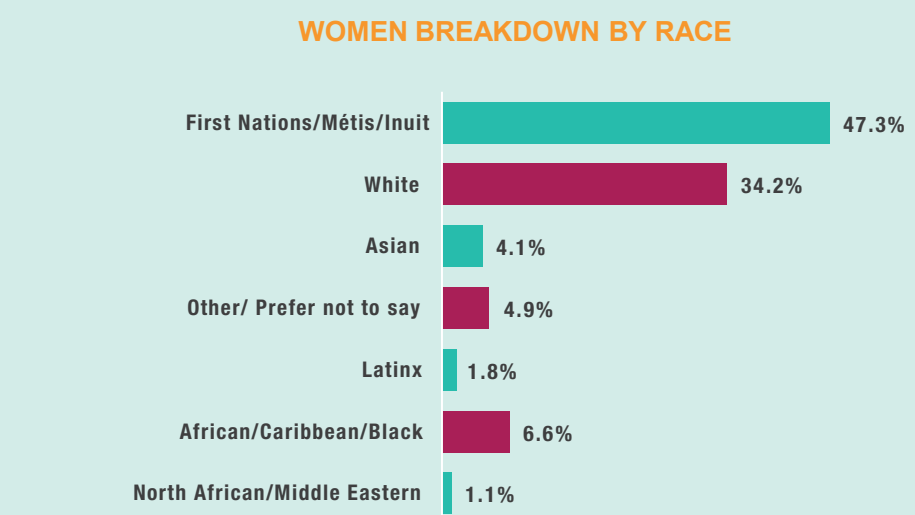
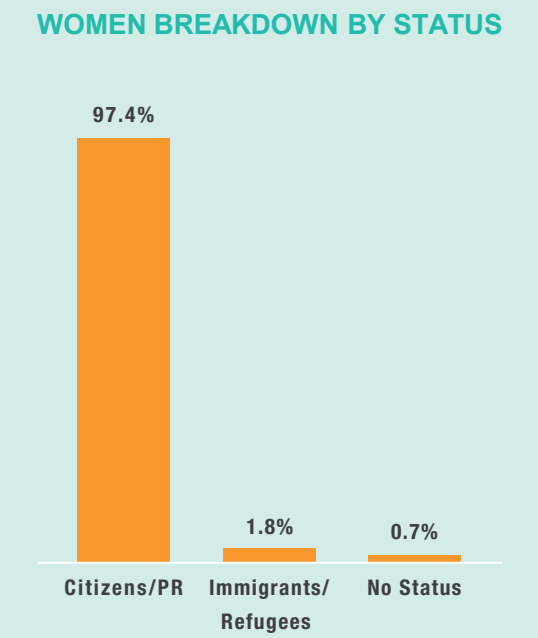
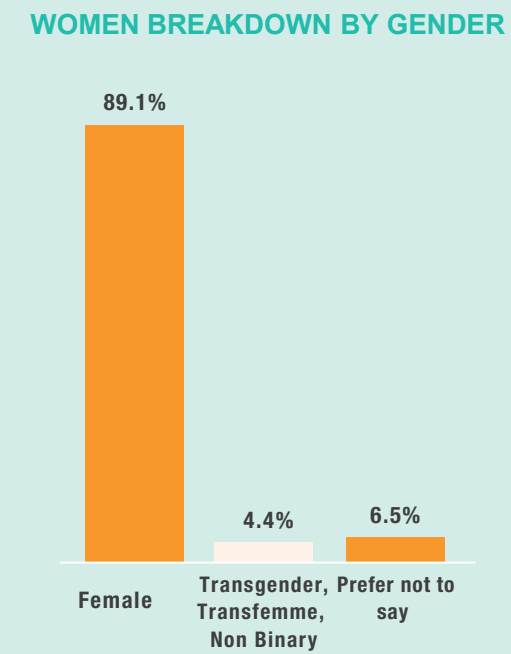
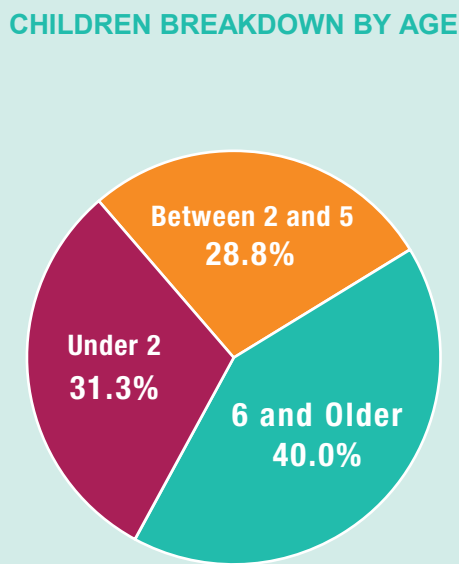
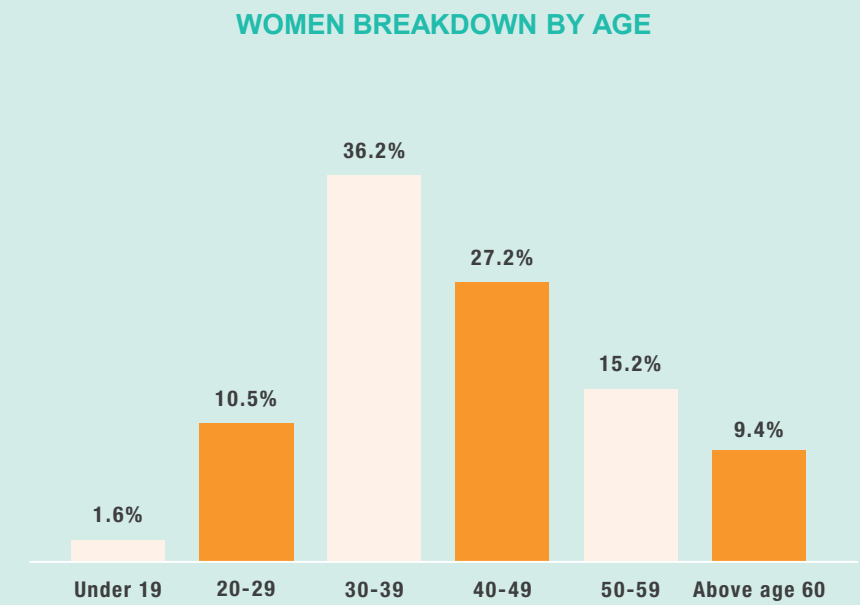
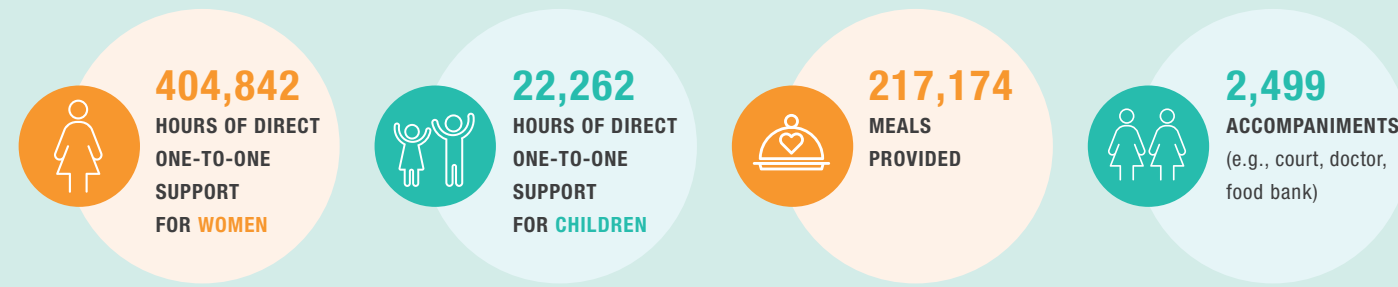
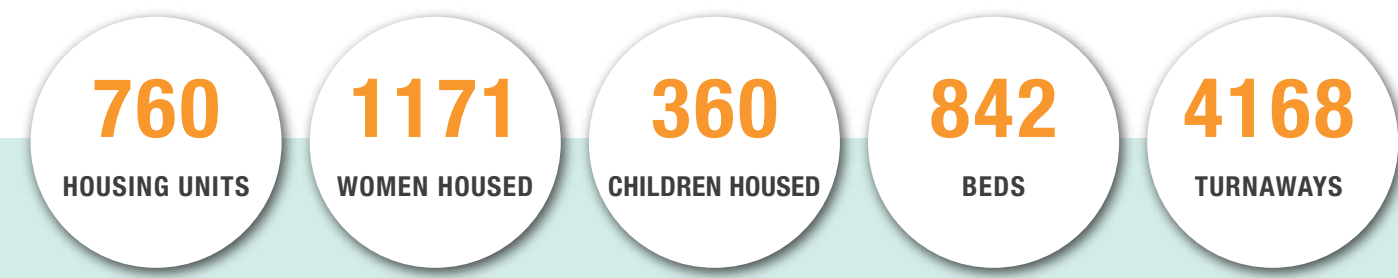




Statistics

Residential Programs

April 2023 - March 2024





Statistics

Non-Residential Programs

April 2023 - March 2024

1,066

WOMEN PARTICIPATED IN ACTIVITIES

278

CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN ACTIVITIES



5,362

HOURS OF DIRECT ONE-TO-ONE SUPPORT FOR WOMEN



2,216

HOURS OF DIRECT ONE-TO-ONE SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN



15,849

MEALS PROVIDED



1,258

ACCOMPANIMENTS (e.g., court, doctor, food bank)



3,215

NUMBER OF VISITS/DROP-INS



1,536

WOMEN AND CHILDREN TURNED AWAY



511

WOMEN ACCESSED HOUSING OUTREACH



394

WOMEN SUCCESSFULLY HOUSED



110

GROUPS AND/OR WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED



978

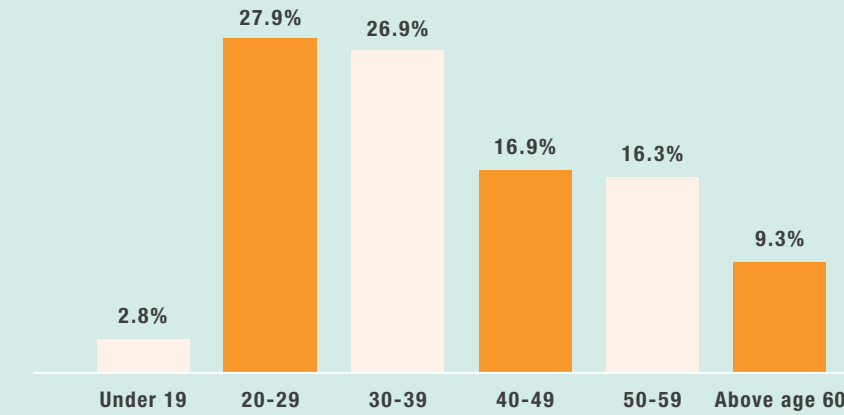
WOMEN PARTICIPATING IN WORKSHOPS OR GROUP ACTIVITIES



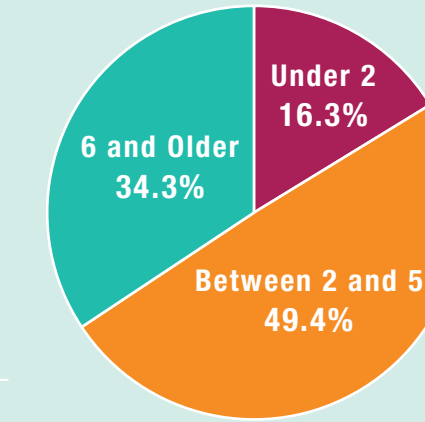
263

WOMEN ACCESSED LEGAL ADVOCACY

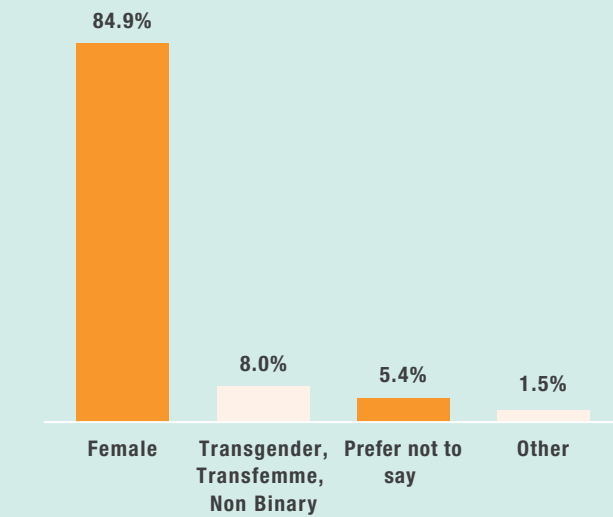
WOMEN BREAKDOWN BY AGE



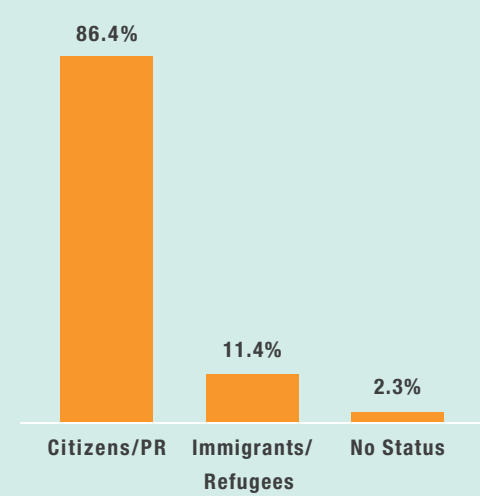
CHILDREN BREAKDOWN BY AGE



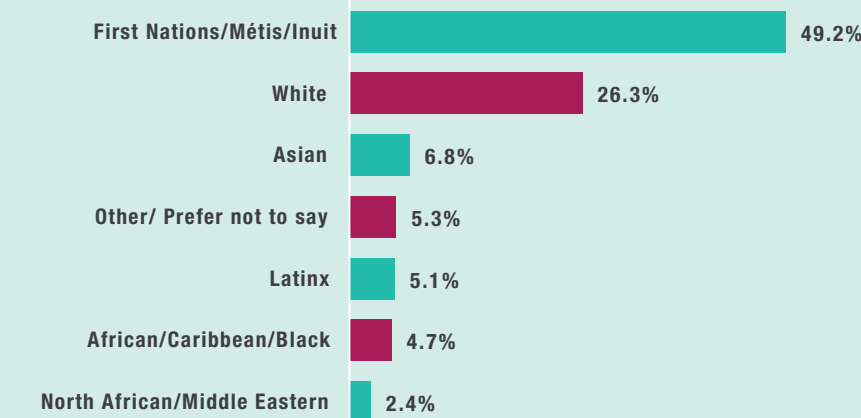
WOMEN BREAKDOWN BY GENDER



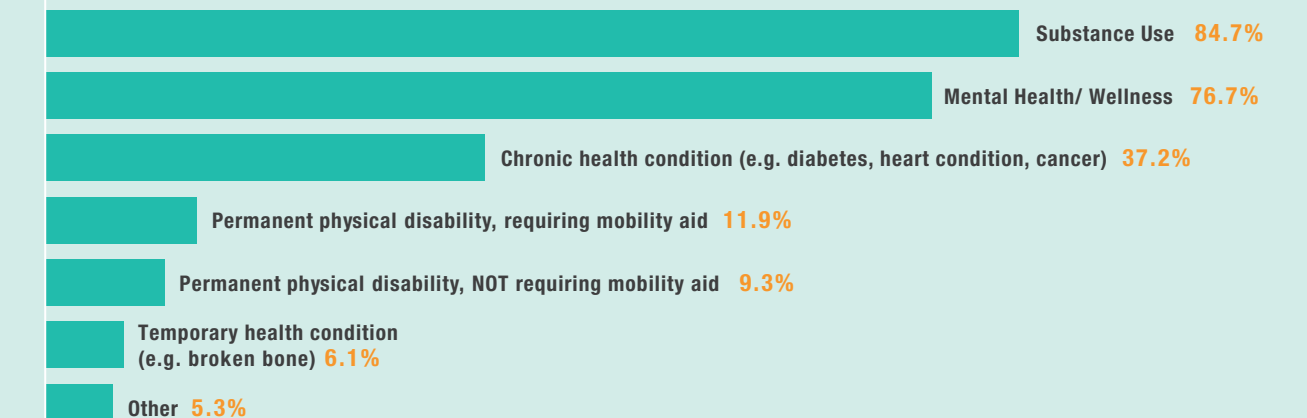
WOMEN BREAKDOWN BY STATUS



WOMEN BREAKDOWN BY RACE



WOMEN BREAKDOWN BY HEALTH CONDITION



Financial Overview

AWRS

For the year ended March 31, 2022

After a public RFP process, Atira's Board of Directors appointed MNP as the successful firm to complete Atira's FY2023 and FY2024 audits. MNP has been working diligently alongside our dedicated team to complete these statements.

For Atira Women's Resource Society's full report, including Atira Property Management Inc.'s SRO portfolio, please [click here](#).

For Atira Development Society's full report, please [click here](#).

ASSETS

ASSETS	2022
CURRENT	
Cash	\$ 7,785,085
Term deposits	\$ 275,208
Accounts receivable	\$ 5,661,237
Sales tax rebate receivable	\$ 585,967
Prepaid expenses and deposits	\$ 394,601
	\$ 14,702,098
RESTRICTED CASH	\$ 1,184,294
INVESTMENT IN RELATED PARTIES	\$ 2
ADVANCES TO RELATED PARTIES	\$ 8,326,021
CAPITAL ASSETS	\$ 77,403,894
Total Assets	\$ 101,616,309

REVENUE

REVENUE	2022
BC Housing Management Commission	\$ 51,500,995
Rent	\$ 8,389,792
Donations and grants	\$ 1,687,995
Ministry of Children and Family Development	\$ 1,391,310
Federal funding	\$ 1,347,240
Administration charges and other income	\$ 974,273
Lu'ma Native Housing Society	\$ 950,075
Vancouver Coastal Health Authority	\$ 611,845
Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General	\$ 347,054
Parent fees childcare	\$ 339,932
Law Foundation of BC	\$ 157,976
Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation	\$ 119,320
Gaming	\$ 105,000
Fraser Health Authority	\$ 66,152
Interest income	\$ 43,776
Total Revenue	\$ 68,032,735

LIABILITIES

LIABILITIES	2022
CURRENT	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 10,053,853
Government remittances payable	\$ 134
Accrued payable - BCHMC	\$ 3,583,120
Vacation payable	\$ 726,173
Security deposits	\$ 450,723
Deferred revenue	\$ 731,312
Deferred contributions	\$ 7,727,737
Current portion of long-term debt	\$ 11,952,104
Advances from related party	\$ 443,323
	\$ 35,668,479
LONG-TERM DEBT	\$ 21,179,644
FORGIVABLE LOANS	\$ 16,275,702
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO CAPITAL ASSETS	\$ 15,985,398
	\$ 89,109,223
NET ASSETS	
ACCUMULATED DEFICIT	\$ (17,784)
INVESTED IN CAPITAL ASSETS	\$ 12,011,046
REPLACEMENT RESERVE	\$ 513,824
	\$ 12,507,086
Total Liabilities	\$ 101,616,309

OPERATING EXPENSES

OPERATING EXPENSES	2022
Wages and employee benefits	\$ 39,708,842
Repairs and maintenance	\$ 9,919,012
Food and kitchen supplies	\$ 3,387,868
Rent	\$ 3,290,792
Restoration	\$ 2,854,954
Utilities	\$ 2,418,847
Property management fees	\$ 1,712,456
Direct client expenses	\$ 1,018,215
Rent supplement	\$ 560,461
Legal and accounting	\$ 529,622
Interest on long-term debt	\$ 522,688
Insurance	\$ 498,223
Computer services	\$ 335,398
Security	\$ 319,640
Telecommunications	\$ 311,227
Bad debt	\$ 305,171
Professional fees	\$ 277,834
Other administrative	\$ 229,482
Replacement reserve	\$ 140,040
Training and education	\$ 91,107
Travel and mileage	\$ 75,897
Property taxes	\$ 60,561
Fundraising	\$ 51,139
Advertising and promotion	\$ 45,285
Dues and memberships	\$ 19,245
Interest and bank charges	\$ 15,379
Memberships, licences and permits	\$ 6,792
Employment reserve expense	-
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 68,706,177

PROJECTS HIGHLIGHTS



The alex

Inspired by the 2013 report published by the Tri-Cities Homelessness & Housing Task Group, titled 'The Housing Needs of Women and Their Children in the Tri-Cities,' the alex (Th'aalice) was created in part to address the significant lack of permanent affordable housing for women and their children in the Tri-Cities. In January 2023, the alex opened its doors to provide 83 units of affordable housing for women-led families. This was done in partnership with Metro Vancouver, who leased the site to Atira on a long-term basis, with support from the City of Port Coquitlam, and with funding from the Province's "Building BC: Community Housing Fund," and ChildCareBC's New Spaces Fund. The development is located in the residential Glenwood neighborhood, near Port Coquitlam's Northside commercial area. The corner site faces Flint Street and Prairie Avenue, an arterial road well-served by public transit and a designated bicycle route. École Kwayhquitlam Middle School is located immediately to the east, and James Park Elementary School is just a 15-minute walk away.



Little's Too

Atira Women's Resource Society opened the doors of Little's Too in the summer of 2022. In partnership with federal, provincial, and municipal levels of government, the 44-unit modular housing program provides 24/7 supportive housing for women. Co-located with Little's Place in Surrey, both Little's and Little's Too were named in honor of Santanna Scott-Huntinghawk, who died from an overdose in a tent in November 2016. Scott-Huntinghawk's nickname, "Little," was given to her because of her petite stature.

For more information [Click here](#)

Aerie

In May 25, 2022, Aerie Early Care & Learning Centre opened as part of a housing initiative funded by the Province's Building BC: Community Housing Fund and the ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund. Pacifica Housing, in partnership with the City of Langford, provided 152 new affordable rental homes for low- to moderate-income individuals, families, seniors, and people with disabilities. Co-located with the family housing project, Aerie provides 36 childcare spaces for children ages 0-5 years. The centre is easily accessible to the surrounding community and many young families who commute into Langford for work.

For more information [Click here](#)



PROJECTS HIGHLIGHTS



Seksik

Located in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside, Seksik Early Care & Learning Centre (ECLC) is a community passion project. Atira first became involved with the ECLC after the DTES community expressed concern over the lack of accessible childcare spaces in the area. With support from the City of Vancouver, Atira invested in the space, which is co-located in Affordable Housing Society’s Princess Place. Atira officially opened Seksik on September 1, 2021, and continues to provide an environment that inspires and supports children’s growth and development.

For more information [Click here](#)



EmpowerVAX (PHAC)

In May 2024, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) approved Atira’s 'EmpowerVax: Peer-Led Immunization through Storytelling, Arts, and Trust Building' project, funded with \$280,000 under the Immunization Partnership Fund. Building on the success of the previous two phases, this phase will continue supporting residents of the Downtown Eastside (DTES) and the wider Lower Mainland, focusing on developing and implementing community-centered vaccination education, promotion, and outreach activities to enhance vaccine literacy, boost confidence, and reduce barriers to vaccination among priority populations.

Enhancement of Perinatal Substance Use Support Services (PHSA)

Atira has received its first grant of \$150,000 from the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), on behalf of BC Women’s Hospital & Health Centre. This funding will be used to enhance Perinatal Substance Use Support Services at Veronica Block, Empress Rooms, New Beginnings, Sorella, and Miyotehew. This funding supports the Provincial Perinatal Substance Use Project, which aims to establish a comprehensive blueprint for a continuum of care for perinatal substance use across the province. The project’s focus is to enhance community-based service delivery for pregnant and parenting women using substances, providing improved support from community settings to acute care.

Pan-Canadian Voice for Women’s Housing (PCVWH)

The Pan-Canadian Voice for Women’s Housing (PCVWH) is a national project focused on ensuring that housing policies across Canada include- and prioritize- women, children, and gender-diverse people. We host an annual symposium to provide a space for participants to discuss changes they’d like to see in local, regional, and national housing policies. Since our first symposium in 2017, we’ve successfully facilitated urgent and timely discussions, inspiring our Calls to Action. Updated at each symposium, these Calls to Action are recommendations that are needed to ensure women and gender-diverse people have access to housing justice. At the 2023 PCVWH, these calls were presented to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). In July 2024, the symposium was successfully renewed for an additional two years with a total budget of \$837,062, thanks to funding and support from Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE). This funding will enable the PCVWH to continue advancing housing equality for women and gender-diverse people, bringing them one step closer to full participation in housing policy and the broader housing sector.

For more information [Click here](#)



PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

177 W Pender

177 West Pender is a 77-unit housing project that is currently in development by Community Land Trust. In partnership with the City of Vancouver and BC Housing, Atira will manage the project as operators for 20 years. To prioritize women's housing, an operational proposal is being developed, focusing on intergenerational, women-led seniors' housing. Inspired by successful programs like Imouto and Oneesan, the initiative aims to foster a community that accommodates seniors from diverse backgrounds alongside children and families. The program will emphasize community engagement to combat social isolation among seniors, and will feature communal spaces, a shared kitchen, and extensive outdoor gardens. The operational proposal for 177 W supports the City of Vancouver by providing some priority placement units for Chinese seniors displaced in Chinatown, and upholds Atira's mission to provide permanent housing for women aged 45 and above. 177 W has garnered strong support from community stakeholders, with occupancy expected by summer 2025.



The Buchan

The Buchan Hotel stands at 1906 Haro Street in Vancouver's West End. Recently purchased by the Province through BC Housing, the 60-room hotel is currently under renovation. Once completed, Atira Women's Resource Society will step in to manage program operations and offer a housing program for First Nations, Métis, and Inuk women. Amenities will include communal cooking, eating, and gathering spaces. It is our intention to provide a community of safety, healing, and connection where Indigenous women can thrive.

PARTNERSHIP/ SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Food Security Project with Washington Community Market

In April 2023, AWRS partnered with Washington Community Market to launch a Food Security Project at Bridge Housing for Women. A DTES staple, Washington Community Market (WCM) has provided affordable, right-sized groceries to residents and community organizations for over 20 years. For over a year, 32 women in Bridge's supportive housing program have received a WCM Food Security Bag twice a month, delivered straight to their doors by Bridge staff. Women work with Bridge's Community Kitchen Organizer to choose from WCM's extensive grocery catalogue, building a "menu" that considers their nutritional needs and personal preferences. There are many food providers in the DTES, however many offer ready-made meals from a set menu. This project allows women to become directly involved with the food provision process, giving them the autonomy to choose what they want to eat, prepare it how they like it, and grow their cooking skills. Based on the project's success at Bridge, we have implemented this model at Veronica Block, a 30-unit specialized transitional housing program for First Nations, Metis, and Inuit women seeking to reduce or eliminate their substance use. We are grateful for WCM's support in allowing us to extend the benefits of food security and empowerment to women in the DTES.



EWMA / VFW

As a social enterprise, Enterprising Women Making Art (EWMA) has consistently empowered and uplifted individuals through art, fashion, and community. In 2024, EWMA proudly celebrated a decade of collaboration with Vancouver Fashion Week (VFW), marking a significant milestone in EWMA's ongoing journey. Most recently, in October 2024, the talented artists of EWMA showcased their VFW Spring/Summer 2025 collection, captivating audiences with bold, vibrant streetwear inspired by the styles of the '90s. Each piece told a personal story of creativity, inclusivity, and empowerment through fashion. At the previous show in April 2024, EWMA launched a powerful pink VFW Fall/Winter 2024 collection, showcasing the resilience and hope of breast cancer survivors—who also walked as runway models—and resonating with so many in our community. We can't wait to see EWMA's next runway, and how they will continue transforming lives through art and collaboration.

For more information [Click here](#)



East Van Roasters Peer Partnership with Coast Mental Health

East Van Roasters, Atira's bean-to-bar chocolate bakery, coffee roastery, and café, provides economic opportunities and skill development for women experiencing barriers to employment in the DTES. We are working closely with other like-minded social enterprises, such as Coast Mental Health's Social Crust Café, to find innovative ways to cross-advertise, train, and support initiatives that are working to increase career opportunities for women in our community.

For more information [Click here](#)

AUTHENTIC COURAGE GALA

Authentic Courage Gala

We are honoured to reflect on the remarkable success of our inaugural Authentic Courage Gala, a distinguished fundraising event dedicated to advancing housing initiatives for Two-Spirit, Trans, and Gender-Diverse (2STGD) individuals. The Gala was held on November 23, 2024, at the Pan Pacific Vancouver, where legendary drag mother Jaylene Tyme treated guests to a drag performance before sitting down for an evening of unforgettable speeches from Directors, community members, and Aoki Ross residents. Over 120 attendees, including city officials, business leaders, sector partners, and Atira staff stood together to uplift the trans community. Funding raised throughout the evening went towards Aoki Ross House and other 2STGD-serving programs. The trans community faces multiple barriers to finding safe housing, including discrimination, harassment, and violence, and faces a higher risk of homelessness than cis people. In response to the growing need for trans-inclusive spaces, Atira partnered with the City of Vancouver and BC Housing to open Aoki Ross House in 2021.



As the first housing program of its kind in Western Canada, Aoki Ross House has provided 23 units of safe and accessible housing to approximately 50 residents. Currently, the waiting list for Aoki Ross has over 100 names. We have seen the triumph that comes from creating spaces where people can be their true selves, and we will continue developing innovative programs that give people this freedom.

For more information [Click here](#)



NEXT STEPS

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE WITH YMCA METRO VANCOUVER

Following the lead of the Ontario municipal governments who supported the Call to Action, Atira collaborated with YWCA Metro Vancouver to launch an initiative to declare gender-based violence (GBV) an epidemic in British Columbia. GBV is any act of violence centred on a person's gender, gender expression, gender identity or perceived gender. It can include emotional, physical, financial and sexual violence, and its impacts can span generations. Acknowledging GBV as a public health issue of epidemic proportions is a critical step in recognizing its severity and coordinating efforts to address its root causes. At least one woman or girl is killed every two days across Canada and in BC, with nearly 30% of women having experienced physical or sexual intimate partner violence. YWCA Metro Vancouver has convened coalition meetings with community organizations to discuss possible asks to the government, ensuring any declaration goes beyond a symbolic gesture. As a housing provider, Atira recommends:

- Increasing the income-assistance shelter rate and homelessness prevention funds
- A rapid rehousing program for women, youth, and gender-diverse people fleeing violence
- Increasing safe spaces that meet the needs of specific communities, including 2STGD people
- Increasing specialized transition and safe house locations
- Increasing coordinated housing services, consider a centralized intake line for transitional housing
- Increasing support services like short-term rental options, moving supports, wraparound support services, safety planning, and employment programs
- Flexible housing benefits that provide people the independence to find safe and stable housing that they choose
- None of these supports should be contingent on immigration status





Click Here to Donate to Atira

THANK YOU For all your support

Thank You for Your Incredible Support: Reflecting on 2023/2024

We are overwhelmed with gratitude as we reflect on the incredible generosity that has fueled our work in the past year. In 2023/2024, thanks to your unwavering support, Atira was able to make a significant impact in the lives of those who need it most.

\$187,167.68 in Cash Donations & \$18,092.37 in In-Kind Goods

These donations—whether monetary or in-kind—have been the cornerstone of our ability to serve the community. From nourishing meals to critical program resources, your contributions have touched every aspect of our work.

In addition to these incredible figures, we received remarkable support from individuals and groups who went above and beyond to make a difference. Whether it was hosting community barbecues, preparing home-cooked meals, donating fresh produce and meat, organizing fundraisers, or running donation drives—each effort has played an essential role in sustaining and expanding our programs.

A Special Thank You for the Holiday Drive

We would also like to give special recognition to those who participated in our Holiday Drive. Thanks to your generosity, countless individuals and families in our community were able to experience the joy and warmth of the season, with meals, gifts, and essential items delivered right to their doors. This holiday initiative was a testament to the power of community spirit and solidarity, and we are deeply grateful for your support. Thank you to each and every one of you for being a part of our Atira family and for lifting up those who rely on our services. We are humbled and continuously inspired by the tremendous support we receive. Your kindness fuels our work, and together, we are making an undeniable impact.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our generous funders for their invaluable support in driving our mission forward.

We look forward to continuing this journey with you in the year ahead—your support ensures that our vision for a stronger, more compassionate community is always within reach.

Notable Funders 2023/2024:

- BC Housing
- Lu'ma Native Housing Society
- City of Vancouver
- City of Surrey
- City of Richmond
- Ministry of Health
- Correction Services Canada
- Law Foundation of BC
- Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE)
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Provincial Health Services Agency
- Royal Bank of Canada
- Vancity Community Foundation
- EMBERS
- University of Victoria
- Canadian Red Cross society
- Childcare BC New Spaces Fund
- Canadian Association of Community Health Centres
- Community Foundations of Canada
- Exchange Inner City
- Food Banks Canada
- The Greater Vancouver Food Bank
- Ministry of Infrastructure and Communities
- Ministry of Health
- Spirit of the Children