



THE TRELIS SOCIETY

Soirée

IMPACT REPORT

OCTOBER 28TH 2023

Thank You!

A MESSAGE FROM TRELLIS CEO, JEFF DYER

As I reflect on the exceptional evening of our Soirée, it is with deep gratitude and appreciation that I acknowledge your incredible impact and generosity. This year was an inspiring demonstration of what can happen when caring people come together for a shared purpose and your support made it a resounding success.

Together, you raised a record-breaking \$1,005,474 for housing, education, community and mental health supports! You are empowering lasting change for over 7,000 individuals in our community and your remarkable generosity plants the seeds of generational change for years to come.

This impact could not have been possible without the extraordinary families who, in honour of and inspired by the Beddoe Family, came together to match donations not only for the evening but for years to come. This commitment is a testament to the enduring spirit of generosity and community that defines Trellis Society.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to:

- Aeonian Support for Humanitarian Charities Foundation
- David and Nancy Forbes
- Hunter Family Foundation
- Leslie and Gary Peddle
- Murlyne Fong and Shawn Freeman
- The Byler Foundation
- The Shaunessy Family Foundation
- Viewpoint Foundation



Jeff Dyer and wife, Kristy Gauld-Dyer

To everyone involved with making this year's Soirée such a success: a sincere thank you! You are, ultimately, our Trellis – the strong, unwavering support that ensures the impact of our work will grow. My commitment to you is that we will humbly serve and wisely leverage your kindness to support the young people, families and community members who walk through our doors every day.

Thank you for being such an important part of the Trellis community. Because of you, the future is bright with hope, determination and a renewed sense of purpose. On behalf of Trellis Society, and all those impacted by your support, we are deeply grateful. Together, we are growing a community where everyone can flourish.

Sincerely,

Jeff Dyer (He/Him)
Chief Executive Officer



\$1,005,474

raised to end homelessness in our city

Supporting Growth Across Generations

THANK YOU FROM THE SOIRÉE COMMITTEE

To our family, friends and community of supporters: thank you! Over the last year we embraced the challenge of reimagining Trellis' annual fundraising event and because of you – it was an incredible success!

In gathering together at this year's Soirée, we were inspired by the wave of generosity you created. You made an unmeasurable impact in the lives of thousands of children, youth and families in our city and we were deeply humbled by the presence of Calgary's most generous philanthropists, some of whom have been with us since the '90s. Your commitment and dedication continues to be the foundation of our ability to support people and families in need, transforming uncertain times into opportunities for growth. You are the driving force behind Trellis, shaping it into an organization that supports growth across generations.

Thanks to your overwhelming support, we are thrilled to announce that we've raised \$1,005,474 for over 7,000 children, youth, and families affected by homelessness, poverty, mental health barriers and intergenerational trauma.

On behalf of the entire Soirée Committee, please accept our genuine thanks for each one of you. Your contributions made this year possible, and your support is making a tangible difference in countless lives. We are so excited to continue this journey together and can't wait to celebrate with you next year.

With gratitude,



Murlyne Fong
Soirée Committee Chair



Soirée Committee pictured left to right: Barb Gosling, Holly Goulard, Murlyne Fong, Sara Shaak, Barb Shaunessy, Debra Hurd (missing: Stacie Carrigan, Teri Buckley)



Save the Date

Saturday, October 19th, 2024

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The Trellis Society Soirée

AN UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT

In the heart of our vibrant city, the historic Hudson Bay Building was brought to life through compassion and community as 250 guests gathered for Calgary's best party with a purpose. The night was a time of celebration, featuring live music, food and drinks, silent and live auctions, fun photo opportunities and Trellis stories of impact made possible by your support.

Throughout this incredible evening, people's hearts were opened as they beat to the rhythm of live musical performances by the LWC Standards Jazz Trio Band, DJ Moni and our headliners, the Canadian Folk Music Awards nominees, The Hello Darlins. Their music brought the spirit of generosity to life, keeping people dancing through our wildly popular silent and live auctions. A highlight, for one lucky winner, was the sold-out WestJet Gift of Flight raffle which made their travel dreams a reality.

The Trellis team was also honoured to share a heartwarming tribute to Ruth Beddoe and The Beddoe family, recognizing them for decades of service and outstanding contributions. Their commitment has been integral to Trellis' success and their dedication to making a difference in the lives of others is an inspiration for those who will follow in their footsteps.

However, the evening's most powerful moment was the story shared by Constable Penny Dunlop, whose experience with Trellis transformed her life and the lives of countless individuals in her community. "Without Trellis, I would have been a broken child with no hope for a future." Her story served as an important reminder of the resounding impact we can make for generations to come; far beyond the people we may support today.

This year's Soirée, and the impact Trellis is making, would not have been possible without the support and contributions of people like you: our incredibly generous sponsors, donors, friends, volunteers, talented artists and dedicated businesses. Your collective efforts made this year our most successful year ever and we are looking forward to 2024 with great excitement!



Guests enjoying the Soirée photo booth



The Hello Darlins with an encore performance

"Calgary stands together as a force to be reckoned with, and I couldn't be prouder of the remarkable impact that we created for youth and families through the Soirée."

Murlyne Fong – Soirée Committee Chair

Generational Impact

HOW THE IMPACT YOU MAKE TODAY HAS RIPPLE EFFECTS LONG INTO THE FUTURE

Penny had a tough start in life – far from her poised presence witnessed on stage at this year’s Soirée. Her childhood was marred by physical and emotional abuse from her mother and when her parents separated in 1982, Penny chose to remain in Calgary with her dad. This change brought some welcomed relief, but not long after, things took another distressing turn with the introduction of her stepmother, Gladys.

In this new family dynamic, Penny suffered further abuse, including assaults by her stepmother, neighbourhood boys, and others ‘welcomed’ into the house. After bravely telling her dad about what was happening to her, he tried to protect her by sending her to live with her grandmother in Ontario. However, this attempt at safety led to further abuse in a place where she thought she’d be cared for.

With few options left, Penny returned to Calgary. Once again, she found herself living with Gladys but was eventually kicked out. At the time, Penny was just 15 years old.

Miraculously, she found her way to the doors of Avenue 15 – Trellis’ Emergency Youth Shelter.

With the support of Trellis, her journey to healing began. Unbeknownst to Penny, Gladys had actively worked to keep her dad from knowing where she was. But Trellis staff worked tirelessly to reunite her with him and this marked the turning point in their lives.

Once reunited, Penny and her father moved into a basement apartment – just the two of them. They created a new life, a home and a community. After



Constable Penny Dunlop shares her experience with Soirée attendees

graduating high school, Penny relocated to Ontario but continued to grow from the foundation that’s built when you know you are loved and cared for by the people in your life.

In 1996, Penny achieved her dream of becoming a police officer, breaking barriers as the first female officer for the Rama Police Service. She pursued higher education, earning a Bachelor of Human Services and a Master’s in Public Safety, with honours. Throughout her remarkable career, Penny has specialized in investigations related to human trafficking, sexual assault, murdered and missing Indigenous women and crimes against children. For her service, Penny has been honoured with two Distinguished Service Medals as well as an Order of Merit.

Today, Constable Penny’s proudest achievement is being the mother to seven children and foster mom to one more. Her family is flourishing, with her children pursuing university education and growing into their full potential. Her children were given the chance to thrive, benefiting from the nurturing environment that was absent in Penny’s own upbringing, thanks to her resilience and the support of Trellis. This is generational change.

Penny acknowledges that the impact she is making would not have been possible without the support she received at Avenue 15 all those years ago. Trellis’ presence during her darkest days put her on a new path, empowering her to help transform the lives of others. Penny’s journey is a testament to her strength and the impact that Trellis and people like you can have for generations to come.

Watch Penny’s Story Here



Your 2023 Impact

Because of you, \$1,005,474 was raised to help end homelessness for youth and families in our city.



250
Guests



8
Youth Employment
at Event



12
Sponsors



8
Matching Families



12
In-kind Sponsors



8
Committee
Volunteers



Media Reach
1,259,200



Media Impressions
1,385,120

Trellis' Work in 2022-2023



437

youth experiencing homelessness were served through Trellis housing programs

325

youth and adults gained employment through work experience and readiness supports

10

new mental health therapists hired

140

times youth were diverted from homelessness

3,114

counselling sessions provided

Your generosity creates generational change for over 7,000 children, youth, and families affected by homelessness, poverty, mental health barriers and intergenerational trauma.



THANK YOU

Join us in 2024 for Calgary's Best Party with a Purpose.
To get involved, contact Valerie Lazicki at
vlazicki@growwithtrellis.ca

