

Artemis Place for Girls Year End Report 2014

Artemis Place for Girls is an integrated counselling and educational program which provides a unique alternative to traditional school for 15-19 year old girls in our community who are overlooked by existing programs. Girls are able to work on completing their high school while learning critical life skills in conflict resolution, and in building self-esteem and successful relationships. This program is for girls who are not pregnant or parenting.

Artemis Place Society established the independent school Artemis Place Secondary in September 2010 to allow the program to provide self-paced, individualized academic programs to the girls in Artemis Place for Girls. This is an accredited independent school that can lead to a BC graduation certificate. Course selection, placement, and delivery are individualized to the needs of each girl.

At Artemis Place for Girls (often called Artemis Place), girls can get help with serious life issues and progress with schooling in a supportive setting emphasizing relationship, belonging, respect, and safety.

We began the year with 23 girls, and added two additional girls over the program year. Our attendance averaged 54%, which was down from the previous year. One student graduated with an Adult Dogwood. A total of 30 courses were completed.

Youth were supported in 1000 (30-45 minute) individual counselling sessions over the year, with girls averaging two and a half hours of individual counselling each month, and six and a half hours of group counselling/life skills. Two hundred and one different life skills groups were offered in Wellness and Personal Development, Community Building and Life Skills.

For the second year in a row, a group of girls trained for and completed the Times Colonist 10K. Ten girls trained for the event and 5 completed the 10K. This was a huge commitment and accomplishment, and girls and staff were rightfully very proud!

“Science Ventures” came from UVic weekly so that girls had a chance to take part in fun and fascinating hands-on science experiments – a huge hit! Seneca (a former GAP student) came in from Surrounded by Cedars to run a series of workshops called “Strong Women’s Group”. The girls worked with an artist in residence to create an array of art pieces, including performance art, writing, photography and other visual art. The Fifty Fifty Art Collective donated the use of their studio, and the girls held a very powerful and successful showing of their work. We continued to receive wonderful support from Central Baptist Church, who brought individualized cakes for each and every girl on her birthday, and helped in many other ways, as well.

Artemis Place for Girls has been a part of the Victoria pilot project of Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA) a validated instrument designed to evaluate the quality of youth programs and identify staff training needs. This tool is a very good fit with our philosophy, and helps us to measure and self-assess using indicators that are actually important to us. As part of this pilot, we were trained in using this valuable tool, and also received free quality staff training. We completed our 2nd year using this tool. For many years we have been trying to find a building where we could house both Artemis Place for Girls and our Artemis Young Parent Program. The size of the building

and zoning/school/child care licensing requirements made this impossible before this time. The former Girls' Alternative Program building became available quite suddenly in the spring, and the final months of the year were a blur of packing and moving the school. The new facility is a huge improvement over our cramped, dark space in an area that became increasingly run down. The new space meets all our requirements, is bright, spacious, on good transportation routes, and has a lovely outdoor play area for our child care centre. The down side is that the new building is enormously expensive at \$90,000 a year and at least \$50,000 in expenses.

WHO ARE WE WORKING WITH?

	2013-2014
Indigenous descent	13
Involved with Criminal Justice System	3
Pregnant	1
Designated "Special Needs"	19
MCFD involvement/open file (May not be in care)	13
Were homeless at some point during the year	5
Living in foster care/care home	5
Living independently	13
Living with single parent/relative	10
Living with 2 parents	6

INPUTS

Number enrolled over program year	25
Average number enrolled at one time	23
Meals served	1488
Monthly bus passes distributed	194

OUTPUTS

Total # of individual counselling/life skills sessions	1000
# of other supports (integrated case meetings, accompaniment to appointments, etc.)	585
Average hours a month of individual counselling per girl	2.42
Average hours a month of group life skills or counselling	6.7
Number of life skills groups offered	201

OUTCOMES

Attendance average overall	54%
Average # of girls in attendance at one time	12.4
Course completions	33
Graduates	1

Prepared by Lisa Ellis, Executive Director