



**WHITECROW**  
VILLAGE

**Dear Community Partner -**

Please help! Whitecrow Village needs your assistance in gathering the financial resources that will enable us to provide, and continue to provide, our core Live-In FASD Education & Training Sessions - affectionately known as “camps” - this summer and beyond. Due to procedural changes within our funding organisations and their planning timelines, for the first time ever - in the 12 years since our initial programs began - we have not yet been able to schedule or confirm even one of our internationally renowned L.I.F.E. Sessions for families, friends, professionals, and persons affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) this summer.

As you may know, our 7-8 day L.I.F.E. Sessions offer participants a unique opportunity to learn, work, and play together as a community, and to gain what many describe as a life changing – even life saving – understanding of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Participants of these sessions have the opportunity to interact with each other; to engage in classroom and experiential activities which offer them an understanding of the support needed for individuals who are affected by FASD; and to experience an environment where the contributions made by those with FASD are recognised and appreciated. Many professionals who attend these sessions claim that the unique learning gained by their experiences at Whitecrow Village has changed the way they approach their professional work.

So far this year, more than 80 families in need from every region of British Columbia have contacted us with an interest in attending a L.I.F.E. Session in 2008. These requests have been echoed by numerous professionals, service providers, agencies, and communities such as yours throughout the province.

In past, Whitecrow Village has been blessed with significant financial assistance from government ministries and agencies that have subsidized the cost of our programs. Although we have recently received a generous multi year financial commitment from the Victoria Foundation FASD Action Fund for our subsidiary programs and demonstration projects in areas of Addictions Recovery Support, Education, Interdependent Living, and Employment for persons affected by FASD – the foundation of which rests in our L.I.F.E. Sessions – we have been unable to secure funding for our unique L.I.F.E. Sessions beginning this summer and continuing forward.

Whitecrow Village has never - in our entire 12 year history - had to turn away a family in need for reasons of financial shortfall. We have always managed to find a way. We so hope to not have to deny participation to anyone this year - or ever.

## **PLATFORM FUNDING**

The average cost of a L.I.F.E. Session ranges from \$60 000 to \$80 000 - depending on such factors as location, facility rental fees, and staffing requirements. Funding for these programs is Two-Tier.

### **Tier One: Commitment from Partnering Agencies in Regional Areas**

To schedule a session in any community or region of the province, Whitecrow Village requires a minimum commitment of at least \$35 000. This enables us to:

- find an appropriate host facility and secure a booking
- find and confirm catering services
- arrange staff and volunteer availability
- get session information and registration packages out to participants
- engage supplemental funding

As an initial deposit, this \$35,000 provides a secure foundation or “platform” from which preparations for a L.I.F.E. Session can begin.

Further, a commitment of \$35,000 provided by a regional agency (or group of agencies) will guarantee up to 20 spaces at a L.I.F.E. Session for participants who have been referred to us by the primary funding agency or agencies.

**Please note:** Our preference is that at least 4 of these 20 persons be community service providers or community professionals. In recognition that families and professionals often find it more convenient to attend a session in a region where they have family or other commitments, it is not necessary for these participants to attend in the specific region of the agency, nor is it necessary for them to attend a pre-prescribed session.

### **Tier Two: Supplemented through Additional Resources of Whitecrow Village FASD Society**

Once a commitment of the initial \$35 000 has been acquired from local agencies and preliminary arrangements for facility, catering, and other have been secured, the Whitecrow Village team will proceed to invite additional participants and to obtain supplementary funding to fill each session and to make it financially viable. Financial resources to meet the remaining \$25 000 - \$45 000 will be obtained (often on a per family basis) through ministry affiliates, First Nations’ Band offices, private donors, and other.

**Important Note:** In keeping with our vision for creating environments that support and promote success for everyone involved, Whitecrow Village screens all potential participants prior to confirming registration. Final groupings for L.I.F.E. Sessions are developed by our experienced team of professionals to ensure that every L.I.F.E. Session brings together a community of people who can share in a positive, rewarding, and enriching experience.

## **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

Whitecrow Village L.I.F.E. Sessions can have an incredibly profound affect for everyone touched by an FASD and, together, we are working hard to find ways to meet these requests. If you or your agency are able to pool your resources and to find a means of committing the initial \$35 000 toward helping families and communities with persons affected by an FASD achieve successful living and learning experiences through the unique opportunity of hosting a Whitecrow Village L.I.F.E. Session in your area, please email [admin@whitecrowvillage.org](mailto:admin@whitecrowvillage.org) or call Kee at (250) 716-3231.

For more information and to learn more about our L.I.F.E. Sessions, subsidiary programs, and the unique Whitecrow Village vision and philosophy for designing success-engendering environments for persons who are affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, be sure to visit our website ([www.whitecrowvillage.org](http://www.whitecrowvillage.org)).

On behalf of the Whitecrow Village Team and of families in our community and in yours, thank you in advance for your interest in and support of Whitecrow Village FASD Society.

Sincerely,

Kee Warner, Executive Director