

“BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL,  
FOR THEY SHALL OBTAIN MERCY.”  
(MATTHEW 5:7)



## OUR FAITH IN ACTION

A Project Funded by TIA in 2016

### *Next Step Ministries (NSM) - Sparrow House*

First of all, thank you so much for your support! It has allowed us to keep going and increase our capacity and sustainability. Amazing things have happened here as we have work with women exiting sexual exploitation in Calgary. Specifically, in Sparrow House, we had 19 women go through the house in 2016. Every day has been different as these women work hard to break the cycles of addiction and abuse in their lives, but we have seen some amazing successes and changed lives.

One of the young women in Sparrow House grew up without her mother and then lost her father. The staff stayed up all night with her at the hospital when her father passed away, and then walked alongside her as she grieved and resisted going back to using drugs over the following months. She persevered and moved out of Sparrow House and attending our Day Program after being with NSM for about 8 months. NSM helped find her a basement suite to live in with a wonderful family living upstairs to support her and she got a great job working at a local business. Her plans are to save up enough money to go to Bible College in the fall.

Another lady in the program relapsed and was found to be using drugs again. She was so devastated and angry with herself, but she accepted the consequences and went to the Alpha House Detox Centre. When she was finished there, she was welcomed back into Sparrow House with open arms and is still with NSM working on her recovery and moving forward with her life.

One lady came to NSM after being out on the streets a long time and had fought hard to get through detox and staying clean for 30 days. When she entered Sparrow House, she hugged the walls and laid down on the floor expressing over and over how glad she was to be there.

Life at NSM and in Sparrow House never has two days that look the same. Some of the women will stay for 6 months or more, and others are with us for only a short period of time. Some come from detox/recovery centres and we have had a few women with us on House Arrest within the corrections system. They are all with us out of choice and can stay as long as they follow the few simple house rules and are working on their recovery. We don't have 'graduations', but work with them to transition out. Through our Follow Care Program, the NSM team support them even if they move on and go back to their old lifestyle and ask us for help.

We have been so blessed over the past year to have two amazing *volunteer live-ins* at Sparrow House with the women as their roommates and many *intentional friends* who have walked alongside these women as their friends. We average over 500 volunteer hours / month between the live-ins and the intentional friends. They give so much in helping the women move forward in their lives. We could not do this without them.

Submitted by Cliff Wiebe, Strategy Officer

