YWCA
LETHBRIDGE
& DISTRICT

annual
REPORT



2025



YWCA Lethbridge & District acknowledges that Sik-ooh-kotoki, the City of Lethbridge, resides on the traditional lands of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains, and pays respect to the Blackfoot people past, present, and future while recognizing and respecting their cultural heritage, beliefs, and relationship to the land.

We acknowledge that Lethbridge is also home to the Métis Battle River Territory.

who we are.

YWCA Lethbridge & District began in 1949 with a singular goal; to provide young working women and students a safe place to stay in the city.

By 1951, the organization was incorporated as a society, and in 2024 we celebrated our 75th year as a nonprofit.

We are striving to be a resilient and thriving leader, committed to delivering impactful services and fostering meaningful community partnerships.

We are ...

A YWCA built and sustained by the community.

A YWCA that evolves with the needs and desires of the community.

A YWCA that is well-positioned to serve Southern Alberta.

A YWCA that serves thousands of individuals each year.

mission.

We are a charity facilitating the empowerment of women, children, and families by providing safety, support, and informed advocacy.

vision.

YWCA Lethbridge & District reshapes gender-based power structures and paves the way for a future where women, children, and families thrive through inclusive and accessible services.

values.

These elements not only define who we are but also ensure that every program, partnership, and initiative reflects our commitment to supporting and creating opportunities for those we serve to strengthen their own agency and autonomy.

community.

We foster a sense of belonging and collaboration by building strong partnerships and ensuring all voices are heard, respected, and valued. We commit to cultural safety by recognizing and addressing power dynamics, ensuring that those we serve define what safe and meaningful inclusion looks like.

health & wellbeing.

We prioritize the physical, emotional, and mental health of those we serve and our team members. Through holistic support we create environments that promote resilience, safety, and self-determined healing.

compassion.

Guided by empathy and understanding, we approach every individual and situation with kindness and care. We support and facilitate the agency of those we serve, ensuring they have the tools and opportunities to lead their own paths forward.

This past year has been one of purposeful momentum. At YWCA Lethbridge & District, we have continued to lean into bold ideas, strategic growth, and the deep responsibility that comes with being a trusted community anchor.

We have made real progress. From developing new programs like the Hope Program to strengthening internal systems and sharpening our strategic direction, this work has been intentional. It reflects our focus, our purpose, and the collective commitment of an incredible team.

We have also been willing to ask hard questions. What needs to change? What is working? Where are we getting in our own way? That kind of honest reflection has helped us grow not in size, but in depth and impact.

This year also marked 75 years of YWCA service in Lethbridge. That legacy carries weight. It reminds us that the work we do today is possible because of the many people who came before us—women who led with vision, courage, and a relentless drive to build safer, more equitable communities.

I am especially proud of our staff. Across every program and role, their dedication, adaptability, and compassion continue to shape how we show up for the community. They lead with heart and purpose, and it shows.

To our funders, partners, and donors, thank you. Your trust and support provide the stability to do hard things and the flexibility to respond when it matters most.

Looking ahead, our path is clear. We will continue to build systems of care that put people first. We will keep investing in our team, pushing for equity, and doing the work with both urgency and care.

There is more to do. We are ready.

Jill Young
Chief Executive Officer

from the ceo.



Our 2025 Women of Distinction: Dr. Carly Adams, Anna Campmans, Dr. Bev Muendel-Atherstone, Dr. Sayeh Zielke, Maral Kiani Tari (left to right)



YWCA Women of Distinction are leaders, mentors, facilitators, communicators, supporters, and listeners.

49th annual women of distinction.

Whether recognized as trailblazers in their fields or young women on the rise, all are pathfinders, bringing forth the key issues facing Canadian women.

As a women's organization, we are committed to increasing public recognition of these incredible women who call Lethbridge home.



Jill Young, CEO





Emily Tilleman-Gatz
Board Chair



Blaine Badiuk
Vice Chair



Catherine Filgas
Treasurer



Echo Nowak
Director



Taylor Bourret
Director



Julie Lutz
Director



Ally Keith
Director



Kimberly Manning
Director



Cyndi Crane
Director



Renée Scotland
Director



Shaye Paull
Director



Cindy Rendall
Director



2024-2025 board of directors.

greetings from the board of directors.

On behalf of the YWCA Lethbridge & District Board of Directors, we want to sincerely thank you all for your commitment, and support of the organization.

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude and pride for all that we have accomplished together as a community. This year has been one of growth, responsiveness, and meaningful progress. As a Board, we have remained committed to listening, learning, and leading with integrity and purpose. We've embraced change where needed, and ensured that the YWCA Lethbridge & District continues to evolve in ways that are both strategic, as well as aligned with our mission and vision. Our systems and governance have been strengthened to better serve our purpose and our people. We have worked diligently to position the organization for long-term success.

The Board would also like to express our gratitude to our CEO, Jill Young. Her visionary leadership and passion for empowering women has continued to guide us through important programming initiatives. Among these, the opening of the Hope Program stands out as a significant achievement. This long-term transitional housing program marks a critical step forward in the YWCA Lethbridge & District's efforts to better support women, children, and families in our community.

We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to the front-line staff and managers across all YWCA Lethbridge & District programs. Your unwavering dedication to the organization, compassion for the participants, and tireless efforts are truly valued and appreciated.
We are proud of all that has been accomplished and deeply appreciative of the trust and commitment of our membership. Thank you for your continued support and belief in our shared vision. We look forward to the year ahead with optimism and determination, knowing that, together, we can continue to make a profound difference in the lives of many.

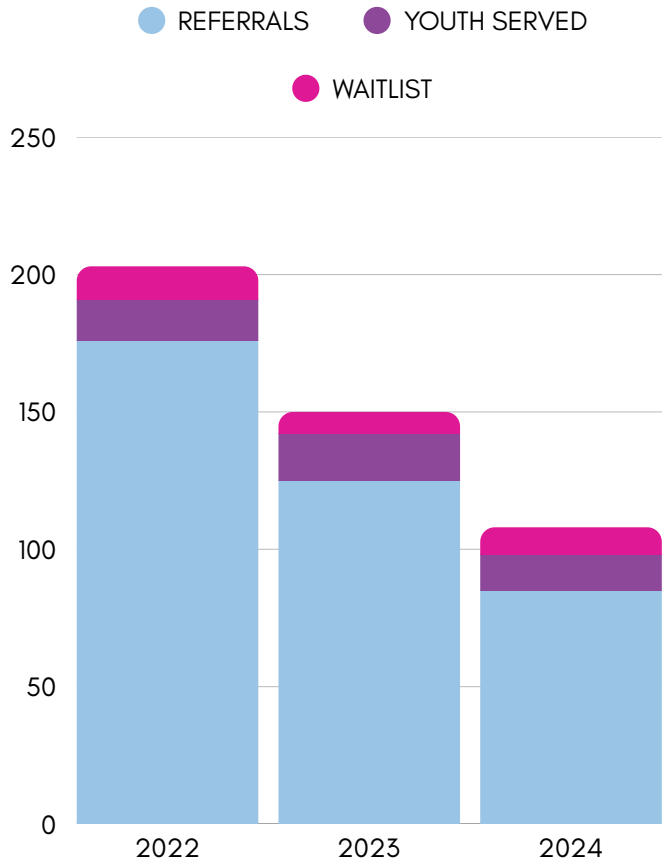
Emily Tilleman-Gatz
Board Chair



hestia youth homes.

In August 2024, Hestia Homes saw its highest percentage of youth employed either full-time or part-time: **55.5%**

The Hestia Homes Program works to break the cycle of domestic violence, dangerous or damaging behavioural patterns, and unhealthy relationships with the goal of setting youth up for success as they grow into adults, forming their own familial units.



Homelessness Data Snapshot: Youth Homelessness in Canada

Lethbridge is one of the 87 Communities that participate in the PiT count annually.

- Youth in this study is considered those 13-24 in age
- Youth represented 12% of all survey respondents
- Approximately 44% of all respondents experienced homelessness for the first time when they were less than 25 years of age
- 26% of youth surveyed identified as being a part of the 2SLGBTQIA+
- 51% of youth surveyed stated interpersonal issues being the cause of homelessness (interpersonal issues being defined as conflict with or abuse by a parent/guardian, spouse/partner, or other personal relation)

In families where there is a history of domestic violence and the parents are separated, it can be very stressful for children to visit with the absent parent. The Safe Visitation Program provides a safe, child-friendly space for non-custodial parents to have a visit with their children that promotes or rebuilds a healthy relationship.

COMPLETED VISITS
355

FAMILIES SERVED
136

CHILDREN SERVED
331

safe visitation.

neighbourhood play program.

The YWCA Lethbridge & District Neighourhood Play Program (NPP) provides quality programming to children aged six to twelve in various neighbourhoods & outdoor spaces throughout the city of Lethbridge. The program encourages "learning through play" by providing an environment for children to develop their social, physical, and cognitive skills through participation in various activities.

6 park locations.

1665 children visited.

16 staff employed.

membership.

Your $20 annual voting membership does more than just provide you with YWCA member benefits; that $20 is enough to provide a woman coming into shelter with a welcome package that includes basic items to make her feel more comfortable.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

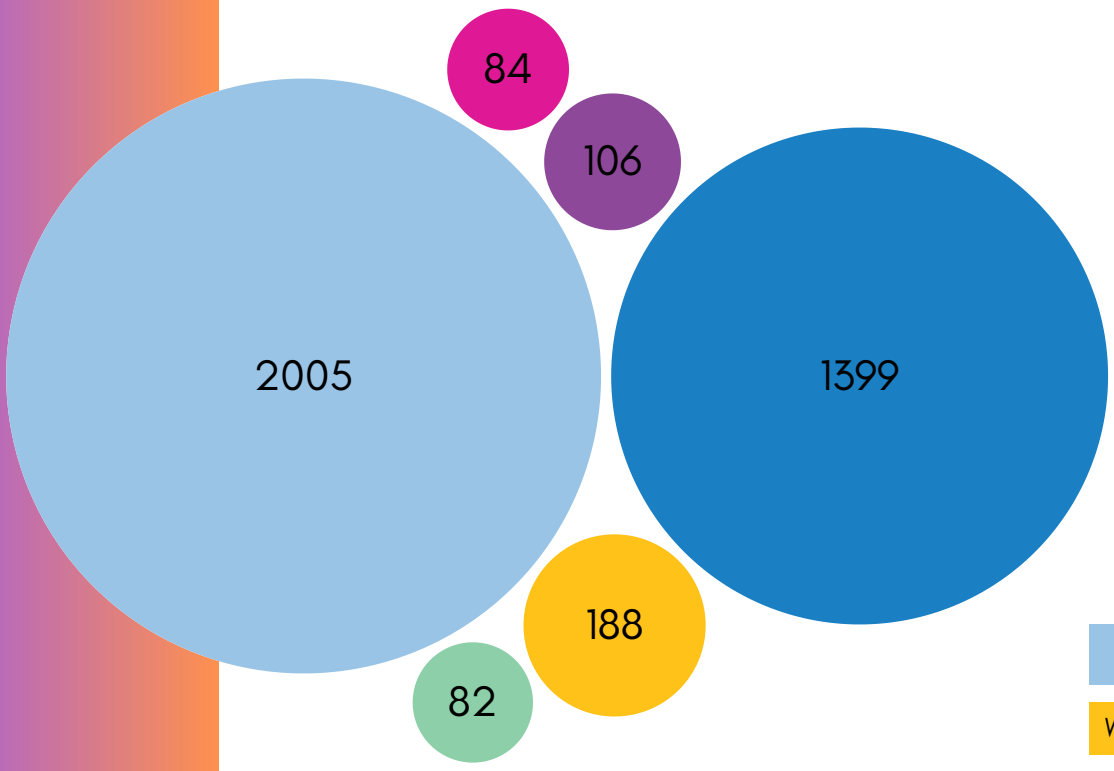
1. Exclusive access to members pricing on event tickets
2. Receive our quarterly newsletter
3. Vote at the Annual General Meeting
4. Join the Board or a Committee to help guide the organization
5. Be the first to know about events, opportunities, and achievements

MEN, BOYS, GIRLS UNDER 18 WELCOME!
$10 ANNUALLY

harbour house.

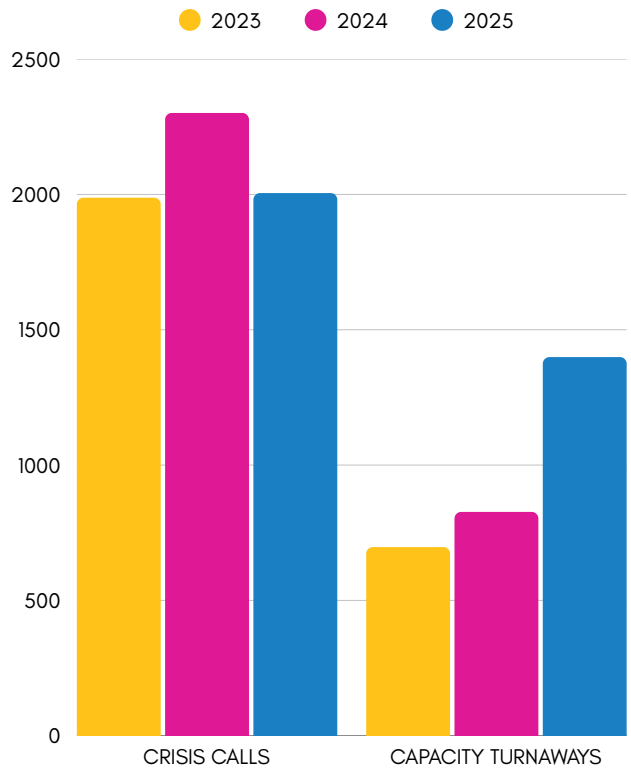
YWCA Harbour House Women's Emergency Shelter is a short stay, 24-bed facility, for women and children fleeing abuse. We provide 24-hour crisis support, educational and self care programming, safety planning, referrals to community agencies, and basic needs.

Additional services are available through Harbour House Support Services, which provides on-going support to individuals during their stay in the shelter, as well as after their exit. Child Care staff and an in-house school are available to provide support, programming, ongoing education, and child-minding services for the children in the shelter.



in 2024, Harbour House recorded over 2000 crisis calls.

harbour house.



1 in 3 women will experience a form of sexual violence in their lifetime.

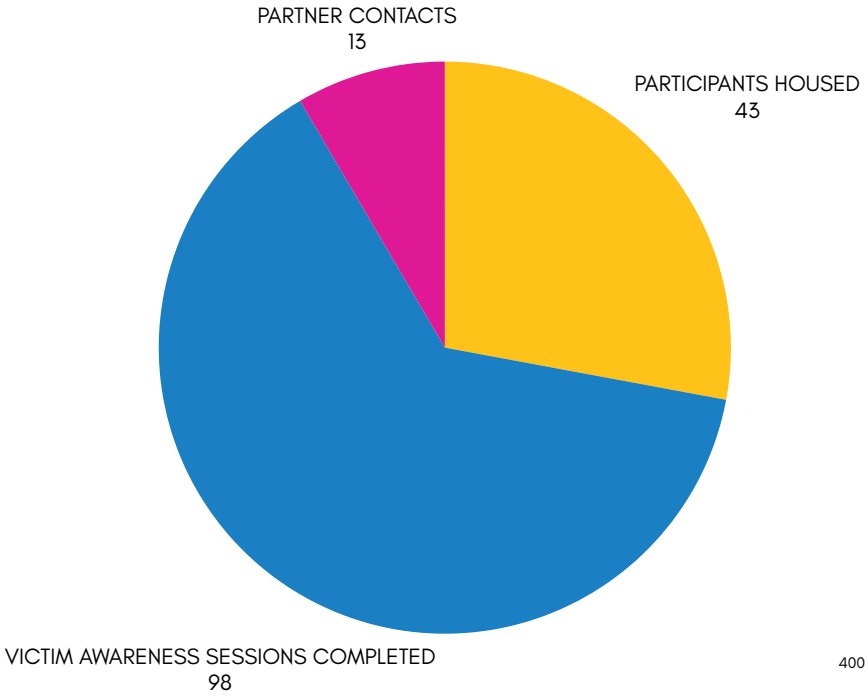
Over a quarter of women have been assaulted by a spouse.

Half of Canadian women have suffered at least one act of physical or sexual violence since the age of 16.

DEMOGRAPHICS SERVED	TOTAL FOR YEAR
FIRST NATIONS	91
MÉTIS	7
CAUCASIAN	64
VISIBLE MINORITY	26
IMMIGRANT	24

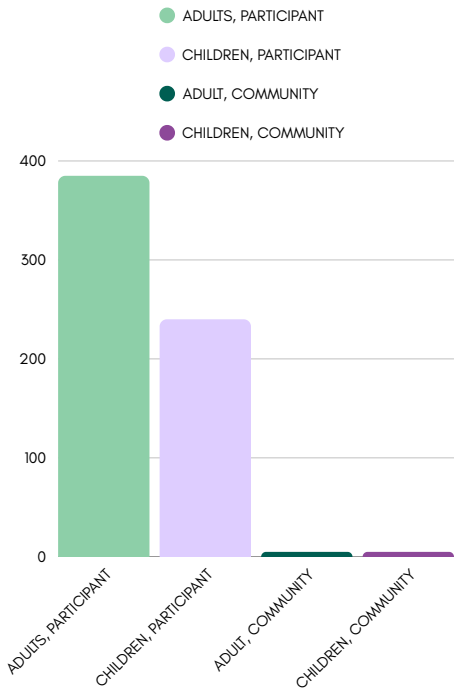
harbour house support services.

Members of this team include Intensive Case Managers, a Child Trauma Informed Specialist, Child Care Workers, and a Client Education Specialist; all of whom provide individualized outreach services to YWCA Lethbridge program participants, and community members.



Our team helps clients work through an immediate crisis and navigate the legal systems. They provide support for police intervention, medical appointments, and social services issues such as obtaining stable housing and supports them in all aspects of their lives.





Offering various supports, staff also assist clients in applying for income, health, and housing programs, facilitate community referrals, develop safety plans, and much more.



During F2025, YWCA Lethbridge & District laid the foundation for a new transitional-style housing initiative: the Hope Program, which is set to launch in spring 2025.

Created in response to a critical gap in the housing continuum, the Hope Program is designed for women, families, and gender-diverse individuals who have accessed emergency domestic violence shelters but need more time and support before moving into permanent housing. Survivors are often expected to transition before they are truly ready, without the stability, resources, or supports in place to rebuild.

Throughout the year, our focus was on thoughtful program design and operational planning. The model centers around communal living with access to skill development workshops, educational and therapeutic sessions, justice system navigation, household management training, and pathways to employment or post-secondary education.

Participants will be supported by a dedicated Case Manager and encouraged to work toward personal goals while building independent lives rooted in safety, connection, and long-term wellbeing.

The Hope Program reflects our ongoing commitment to creating systems of care that support individuals through every stage of recovery and growth.

coming soon.

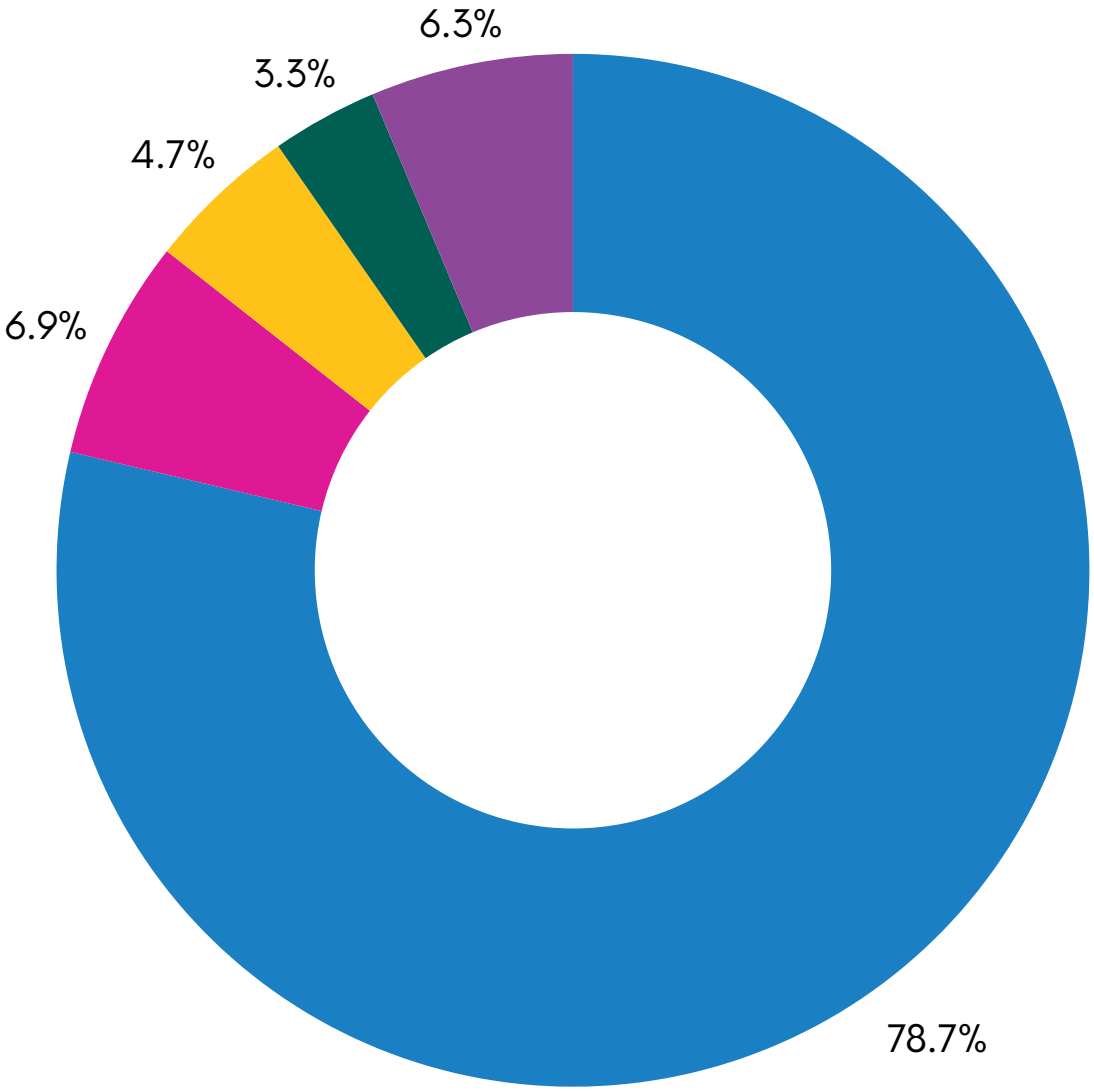
Hope will feature 13 bedrooms, 5 communal living spaces, restrooms & laundry facilities, and storage lockers.



Funding provided by the Government of Canada's Reaching Home program, the City of Lethbridge's Community Social Development (CSD) department and guided by the Community Wellbeing Advisory Board

This project is funded by the Government of Canada.
Canada
CITY OF Lethbridge

financials.



Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances

- Grants
- Fundraising
- Donations
- Fees For Service
- Other Incomes

total. $2,924,620

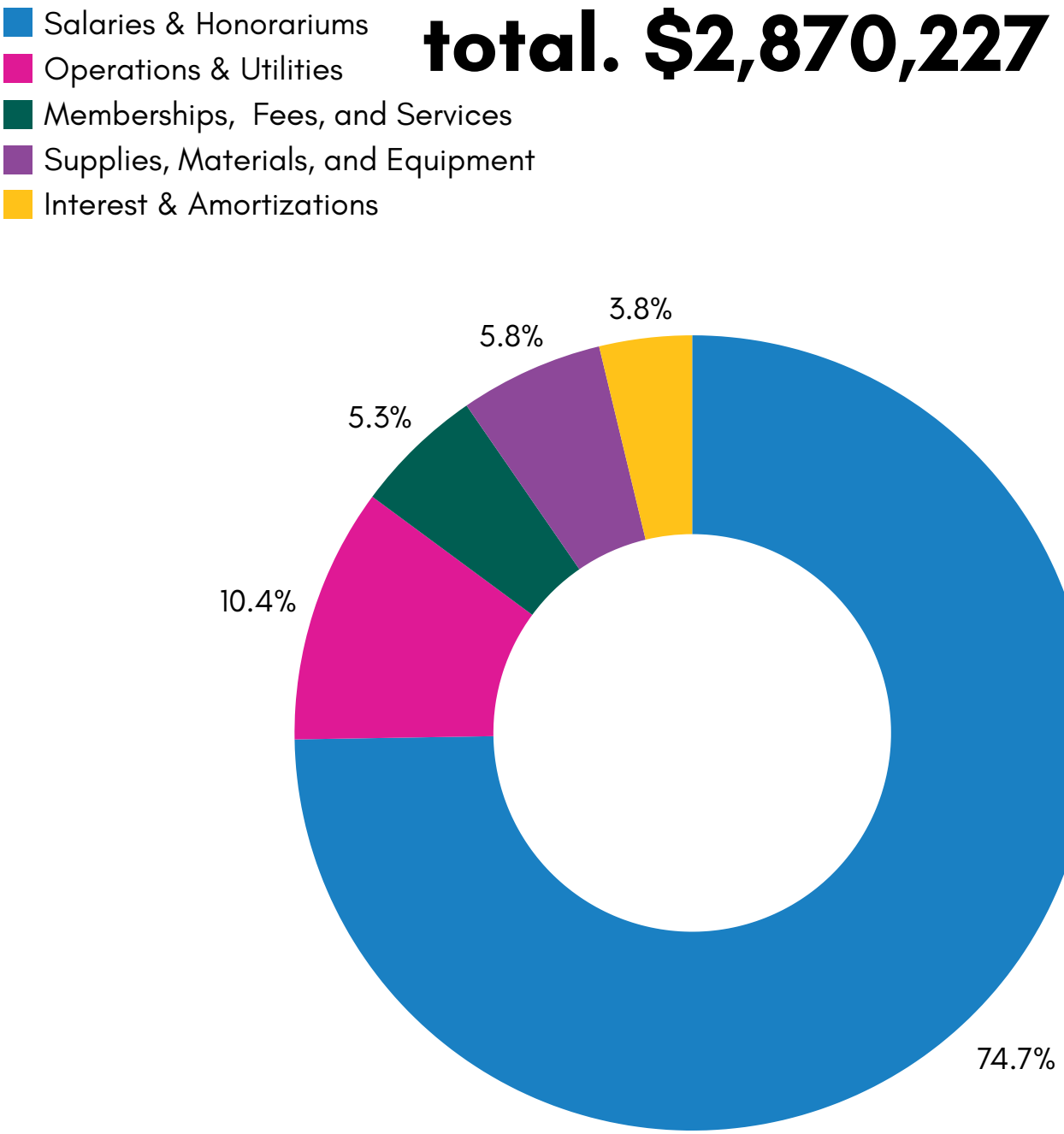
revenues.

financials.

expenses.

Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances

total. $2,870,227



To view the complete audited financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2025, visit our website at https://ywcalethbridge.com/annual-reports-financials/


Jill Young
17
WITNESSES
TÉMOINS




YWCA

advocacy.


FROM HOLDING THIS SIGN
SINCE THE 1970


YWCA LETHBRIDGE & DISTRICT - WEEK WITHOUT VIOLENCE
TAKE BACK THE NIGHT
FRIDAY OCTOBER 18TH 2024
CREATING CONNECTIONS FOR A VIOLENCE-FREE WORLD







partners.



THE LETHBRIDGE HELPERS
Community Tutoring Program

donors.





looking forward.

Awareness & Advocacy

Using our platform to further strengthen the public awareness of our cause, and lending our voice to empower changemakers at every level.

Engagement & Educational Opportunities

An ability to spend more dedicated time connecting with members of our community, individuals, organizations, donors & funders, and volunteers through special events, conferences, and involvement.

Continued Focus on Excellence in Programs & Services

Proactively forging new partnerships with other service providers in Lethbridge, we will strive to break down barriers to access, and bring all voices into the conversation of ending gender-based violence.

YWCA lethbridge and district.

2024 has been a year of transformation, both internally and in the community.
As a team, we have grown and developed, learned new ways of being, and brought our differences to the table in ways that make us strong.

To our staff, the Board of Directors, and community supporters: our gratitude is matched only by your passion and dedication. This work that we do remains vital to the health & wellbeing of our society, and our goals are achievable through collaboration, partnership, and purpose.

thank you.

YWCA
LETHBRIDGE
& DISTRICT

a history of service.



1949 - 2025.

..and here's to another 75 years ahead!