Building a safe, healthy, and caring community for all Bow Valley residents.

SUMMER 2019
**Vision**

The Bow Valley is a safe, healthy, and caring community for all residents.

**Journey to Higher Ground**

YWCA Banff has helped women and families across the Bow Valley move forward from abuse; has provided a stable home for many individuals; and has raised awareness and generated action to prevent sexual and domestic violence. As community needs evolve, the YWCA has the experience and networks to lead a transformative approach to addressing domestic and sexual violence in the Bow Valley.

**A Purpose-Built Facility**

The 2018 Data Release from the Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters found that—across the province—more women, children, and seniors are accessing shelter than ever before. YWCA staff are seeing individuals and families presenting with more complex needs; this, along with a shortage of housing in the Bow Valley, means these clients are staying in shelter for longer periods of time. The Higher Ground Project will bring a new purpose-built facility to Canmore to respond to these evolving demands with services that address domestic and sexual violence in the Bow Valley including shelter and transitional housing, counselling, supports for children, and violence prevention programs.

**Housing Solutions**

The Bow Valley Higher Ground Project will feature client-centered housing solutions focused on meeting the unique needs of individuals and families experiencing violence and associated vulnerabilities.
Guiding Principles

- **Client-centered:** Addressing people’s unique needs
- **Innovative approach:** Embracing leading edge, sustainable service models
- **Well-being:** Creating a sanctuary for healing
- **Connected to community:** Integrating into the fabric of the Bow Valley

Social Wellness Hub Model

We envision that the Bow Valley community will benefit from the ongoing formation of a Social Wellness Hub, which will include the Higher Ground facility. This Hub will invite other local agencies and the broader network of service providers to locate in proximity to Higher Ground, evolving over time into a neighbourhood that is supportive of the Bow Valley community and its more vulnerable residents.

Bow Valley Context

In 2018/19, the YWCA supported 77 clients experiencing domestic or sexual violence through emergency shelter, transitional housing, and outreach counselling; 60 clients were turned away from shelter for capacity reasons. They saw a 91% increase in emergency shelter clients over the previous year.

In 2017/18, the Bow Valley Victim Services Association responded to 179 occurrences of domestic abuse—up 19% from the previous year.

Canmore RCMP reported 118 domestic violence files in 2018, an increase of 51% from 2017; they have seen a 247% increase in occurrences over the past 5 years. Banff RCMP responded to 76 occurrences of domestic violence in 2018; they have seen a 17% increase in occurrences over the past 5 years.

70% of domestic violence goes unreported to the police.

YWCA Banff is deeply grateful for the generosity of the individuals, businesses and organizations whose investment has been instrumental in launching the Bow Valley Higher Ground Project.

Rotary Club of Canmore
Fairmont Banff Springs
Ron and Norma Westcott
VINEart Gala Auction
Slats & Friends Charity Golf Tournament
100 Holes of Help

To donate or connect with us about how you can support the Higher Ground Project, contact:

Connie MacDonald
Chief Executive Officer
connie@ywcabanff.ca
403.760.3215

Stephen Crotty
Chief Operations Officer
stephen@ywcabanff.ca
403.760.3214

BOW VALLEY HIGHER GROUND PROJECT
by YWCA Banff

**Proposed Project Timeline**

- **2016-18**
  - Conduct Community Needs Assessment
  - Secure Seed Funding from Rotary Club of Canmore
  - Complete Service Model Research and Literature Review
  - Host Community Consultation

- **2019**
  - Acquire Land
  - Secure Funding with Government and Private Donors

- **2020**
  - Establish Agency and Business Partnerships
  - Define Business Plan
  - Design Program Model

- **2021**
  - Secure Funding (Capital Campaign)
  - Begin Construction

**Target Opening**

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Early Investors

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bowvalleyhigherground.ca