

Your Gift at Work

March 2016

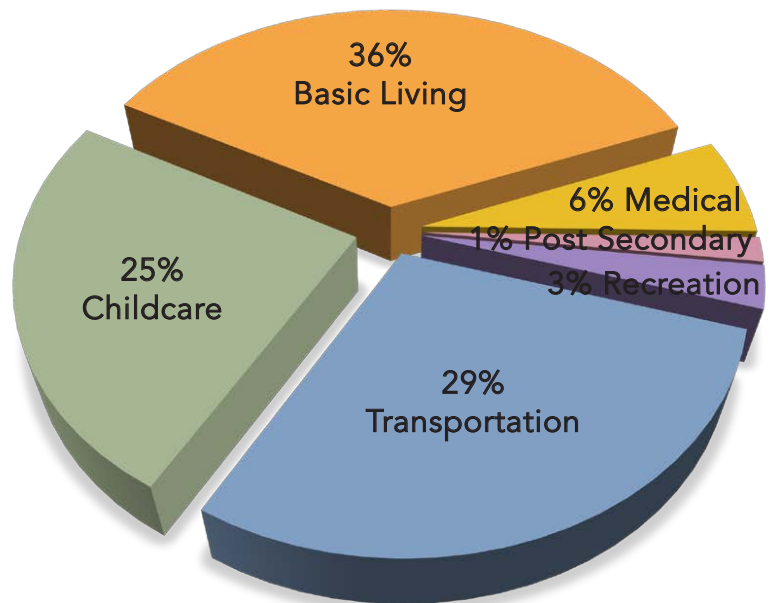
Last Resort Fund

Impact Report: 2015



Child of student, Louise Dean Centre

Distribution of Last Resort Fund 2015
Total Funds Dispersed: \$12,727.08



Each year, more than 400 young mothers come to Louise Dean Centre to complete their high school education. For many of these courageous women, becoming pregnant was a catalyst for positive change in their lives. Young parents want the best for their children, and they deeply desire to be independent adults and the capable, loving parent their child deserves.

Completing high school while parenting is a long, hard road. The experience of living in poverty further complicates the challenge of getting to school each day with a baby in tow. More than 50% of the young parents served at Louise Dean Centre report finances as a significant stressor and 30% are at risk of homelessness. It's hard to imagine doing homework in a shelter, and yet that is what a number of Louise Dean Centre students do to build a better life.

Thanks to donors like you, the Last Resort Fund is there to ensure that financial hardship doesn't get in the way of young parents completing high school. The Fund provides bus tickets and grocery gift cards, as well as support with rent, utilities, child care and post-secondary application fees. The only requirement for accessing the Last Resort Fund is having nowhere else to go. The Fund is exclusively supported by community donors who believe in the potential of young parents.

In 2015, 20 young mothers received support from the Fund to keep their housing, access medical treatment not covered by Alberta Health Care, and access child care. Hundreds more received transit tickets so they could take the bus, with their strollers, to school. For the first time this year, the Fund was utilized to take the babies and toddlers in our specialized child care centre to the zoo while their mothers wrote diploma exams.

