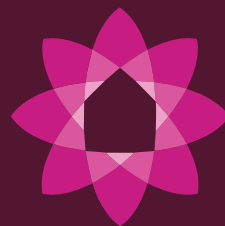


STAND TOGETHER: Support Choice

**This holiday season,
you can give someone
the gift of choice.**



WISH Drop-In
Centre Society
Winter Newsletter 2022

Choice means having options and agency. How often are you able to access choice in your life?

Choice is a loaded word. Access to choice must be a right.

Have you ever thought about what lack of choice looks like?

Many of those who walk through the doors at WISH have experienced targeted, gender-based, and sexualized violence. They have been impacted by the criminalized nature of Canada's laws surrounding sex work. They face significant discrimination and are hesitant to engage with the support services they need.

Being able to access one-to-one, longer-term support is vital to participants' ability to build agency, make free choices, and gain stability in their lives.

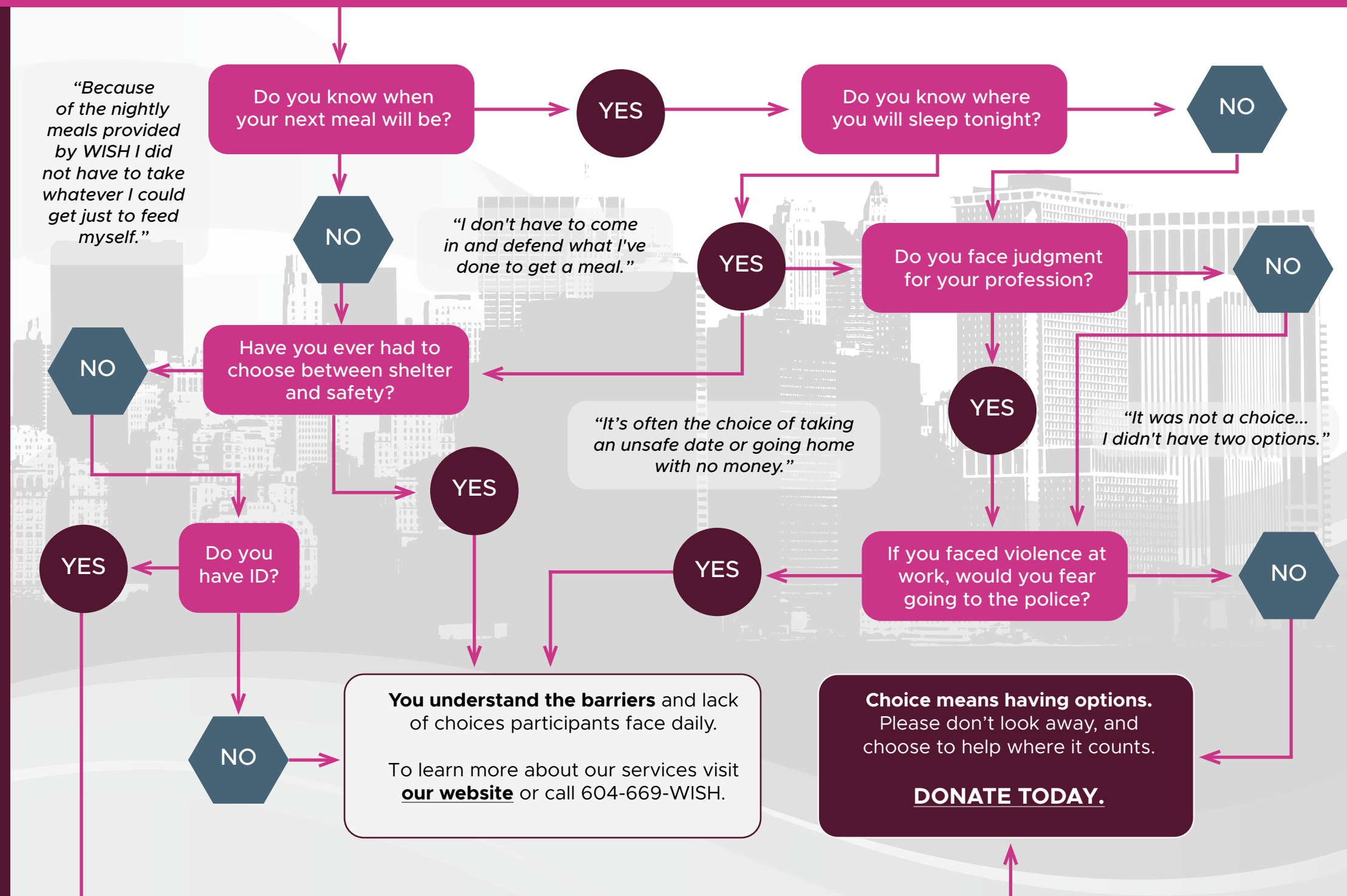
This support is provided by WISH's Inreach team — which now includes our first-ever dedicated Housing Support Worker — as well as our Indigenous Health and Safety Program, Music Therapy, and Supportive Employment Program.

On the back page of this newsletter, you will read about a former WISH participant, who now holds a management role in the organization. Read what she has to say about the importance of support and the ability to choose.

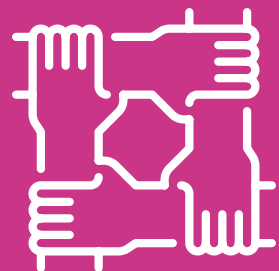
The types of barriers and lack of choices that participants face daily can feel insurmountable.

Street-based sex workers have never been more vulnerable. **Conditions have never been worse for the population we serve.**

Today you can give someone the gift of choice.



**All quotes by WISH participants*



Stability through solidarity.

Will you stand together and help us raise **\$240,000** so street-based sex workers can have access to life-saving choices?



DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

You can help twice as many participants! **From Nov. 29 to Jan. 6, all eligible donations of \$250 or more will be doubled** thanks to our amazing matching donors!

"I HAD NO CHOICES"

Hear directly from a
WISH Supervisor

Avery Gray* had no idea what WISH was all about when she was first invited into our drop-in for a hot chocolate on a cold night three years ago. "I didn't share any details of the work I did at all because I just felt that if I, you know, made enemies with even my closest friends, **that they would somehow rat me out to the ministry and it would go against me and my kids, right?**"

Experiencing homelessness and living in addiction severely limited her options, **"I had no choices at that time,"** and even now she says, "I don't really know what got me through it to be honest with you. Things kinda just started slowly day by day, increasingly getting better and better and a lot of that is because the support I got from here."

After a few years of coming to WISH, Avery Gray joined

the Supportive Employment Program. She began with a low-barrier position and has since become a program supervisor at WISH, overseeing nearly 40 employees.

"I guess I'm the first one that's kind of gone from participant into management and that is my dream to have every participant here just succeed so much that these are options for them."

Having staff with personal experience of what it's like to access services at WISH is immensely valuable to those depending on WISH. "It takes somebody to feel welcome before they feel that they have choice or options to do anything else," Avery Gray adds.

To do this, we need to create opportunities that meaningfully engage street-based sex

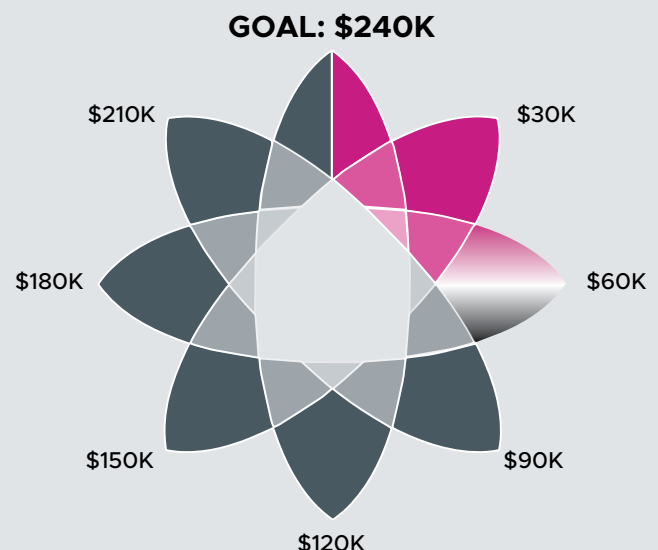


workers, while prioritizing their safety, autonomy, and self-determination.

"I definitely am starting more and more to feel like, 'oh, I could be this somewhere else too. It's not just here. I'm valuable everywhere, right?... I can do it, so I think everybody else can.'"

**Alias used to protect confidentiality*

Will you stand with
street-based sex workers?
Help where it counts.



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WISH is located on the unceded, stolen lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations.



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