

Press Release

FOR MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2020

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The local charity receives part of \$1M donation from Japan-based app founder during COVID crisis.

Calgary, April 27, 2020 – The founder of an app called FamilyAlbum, based in Japan, Kenji Kasahara, donated \$1 million to help our most vulnerable groups, women and children, around the world including the US, Canada, Australia amongst others, during this COVID-19 crisis.

Discovery House Family Violence and Prevention Society was one of several Canadian charities to receive part of this donation, with \$5,000 of the total sum being donated directly to Discovery House.

“To be internationally recognized as a Canadian charity of choice is such an honour for Discovery House and our team,” says Monique Auffrey, CEO of Discovery House. “With the hard work of our staff, our volunteers, and through the support of generous donors such as Mr. Kenji Kasahara, we can respond to the domestic violence crisis facing us nationally, which is further exacerbated by COVID-19's forced isolation. In the last month, we have seen an increase in femicides in Canada, which is linked to family violence. These victims need our help to provide a safe place where they can receive food, shelter, as well as trauma informed support. Our message is now reaching a global audience, and we are grateful for companies like FamilyAlbum, who are leading the charge in helping women and children in dangerous and violent situations find refuge during this pandemic.”

Discovery House operates as a second stage shelter and offers community housing programs while providing a continuum of care to women and their children fleeing domestic violence; their mission to end the traumatic cycle of domestic violence for women and children. Alberta women are facing the highest risk of domestic violence in decades, with that number rising even higher during times of isolation, financial loss, and emotional distress.

“In times of uncertainty, Discovery House must remain that stable and reliable shelter that our community has to come to depend on,” says Jennifer Cummings, Fund Development and Communications. “We are currently facing a higher demand for our service, and donations such as these is what is going to help us in adapting quickly and being able to continue to provide the support needed to our clients.”

For further information or to make a financial donation to Discovery House, please visit www.discoveryhouse.ca/covid-19 for more details.

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For interview requests, please contact Jennifer Cummings, Fund Development and Communications at 403-869-4999 or jcumings@discoveryhouse.ca

Discovery House is a social-profit organization providing a continuum of care to women and their children fleeing domestic violence. We facilitate transitional housing, offering longer-term, safe places for women and children to call home while they begin rebuilding their lives. We provide mothers access to counselling, support and programs to ensure they never return to abusive partners. We work directly with children, to mitigate the effects of trauma and prevent the cycle from repeating. To learn more or donate, visit discoveryhouse.ca.

ABOUT FAMILYALBUM

FamilyAlbum is a free, all-in-one resource for parents to share photos and videos of their children in a secure, invite-only album. The app includes unlimited storage, automatic organization, and special features to make communicating with the entire family easy. Released in 2015, FamilyAlbum has over 7 million users worldwide. To learn more, visit <https://family-album.com/>.