



the
SHARP
foundation

hope | dignity | compassion

Annual Report 2018-19

*Building A Culture
Of Respect And
Inclusion*

Dear Friends,

First we would like to express our gratitude to everyone for making 2018 - 2019 another banner year in SHARP's history! It was the first complete year of operations for Murray's House which taught us a great deal on how we need to maintain our beliefs and values of hope, dignity and compassion for everyone in our community yet continue to create innovative and accessible programs. We are reminded that providing housing is only the first step in helping someone heal; we need to care, listen and just be in the moment with each individual – no judgement!

Murray's House continues to be a model for other permanent supported housing in Calgary! Over 50% of the residents have been there for one year or more and are truly making their home in this building. The City of Calgary provided funds to introduce the Calgary \$s program which adds incentives for residents to participate in making the building and community a great place to live. Thanks to the Calgary Foundation, Imperial Sovereign Court of the Chinook Arch and the Harry and Martha Cohen Foundation for making our new mini-van and driver a reality so that we can ensure that there is always plenty of food and that residents can attend their medical appointments. A poem by one of the residents was highlighted in a CBC article about how the SHARP Foundation supports the people we serve.

In an effort to build a more inclusive and respectful community for all SHARP implemented a community relations process for Murray's House. Through this process neighbours can learn more about the work we do, address concerns and explore new ideas on working together. A primary concern was the increase of emergency services in the community for the residents. We shared with our neighbours that a higher than usual need for emergency services is expected due to the highly-compromised health of the residents coming from long-term homelessness. As we build the relationship with each resident, connect them with health services, provide nutrition and create a less stressful environment the need for emergency services continues to decrease.

SHARP has remained focused on the needs of people who are aging with HIV so they thrive and remain vibrant in our community. Recognizing that a large portion of HIV survivors also identify as LGBTQ2S+ we are leading projects to learn how they can age in place successfully for as long as they can. SHARP was the project lead on the recently completed Calgary LGBT+ Seniors Needs Assessment with our partners- Rainbow Elders Calgary, Mount Royal University (research lead), Centre for Sexuality, Alberta CBR Collaborative and HABITUS Consulting Collective (project coordinator). This project informed us to continue our work to develop three training modules: 1) *Building a Culture of Respect and Inclusion* targeted at front-line service providers and policy makers to understand the concerns of aging LGBTQ2S+ community members; 2) *Building Resiliency* targeted to build resiliency and supports. This outcome informed SHARP to acquire funding to not only develop supported eLearning modules on building community and building resiliency but also specifically on the issues (stigma, discrimination and health concerns) relate to HIV and aging. This work will begin later in 2019.

We are so proud of the staff, volunteers and community partners who continually strive to improve the quality of life people we serve. It is the courage and strength of each resident that galvanizes our efforts to provide dignity, hope and compassion. We are also indebted to all the people that support us by volunteering their time, money and effort. Again, thank you for your support and for helping us get to where we are today!

Sincerely,

Joshua Sadovnick, Board President

Floyd Visser, Executive Director

SHARP Board of Directors 2018–2019

Joshua Sadovnick, President	Troy Gibson
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SHARP'S FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

We are truly grateful for the generous gifts we receive from our diverse community of supporters, partners and volunteers! Thank you!

A Little More Interesting
Air Canada Foundation
Alberta Community Council on HIV
Alberta Community HIV Fund
Alberta Health Services—Harm Reduction, Homecare & Southern Alberta Clinic
Alanna Sherman
Alexander Gysen
Ali Zaidi
Andrew Espiritu
Aoife Cunningham
APOLLO - Friends in Sport
ATB Cares
Beverly Schilling
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Barbara Ross
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Brent Oliver
Bow Valley College
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Broken City
Bryan Birn
C Brow
C Hogan
Calgary Homeless Foundation
Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank
Calgary Pride
COBS Bread Bakery (Westhills)
Community Natural Food
CTV Calgary
Carmen Cymbalisty
Cathy Thoms
Chad Anderson
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Christopher Sensabough
Cora Remoroza
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Etienne Noumen
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Floyd Visser and Tim Leal
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Global Television
Green Bean
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Harvey Kell
Holy Spirit Charitable Foundation
HomeSpace Society
Intact Insurance
Imperial Sovereign Court of the Chinook Arch-(ISCCA)
Jacob Hendriks
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Jason Schulz
Jay Peterson
Jeffrey and Georgia Vallis
Jesse Doenz
Jessica Wilkinson
Jo-Ann Visser
Joanne Powell
John Larsen
John Salazar
Joseph Fogal
Joshua Sadovnick
K Hall
K Ma Rosso
K Wilkes
Kantor LLP
Kara Exner
Katherine MacPhail
Kenti Truong
Kerri Treheme
Kevin Britton
Kim Schamp
Kyle MacQuarrie
L Kirkhope
Last Best Brewing and Distilling
Lauren Turnquist
Laura McGregor
Leanne Zee
Lisa Taylor-Robins
Little Shop of Pleasures Calgary
Liz Furo
Lou and Charlotte Mitchell
Louise Jones
Lynda Poissant
Lynn Dudley
Lynn Jessiman-Perreault
MAC Cosmetic/ AIDS Fund
M Hockley
M Jess
M Schafer
Marco Sarro
Marda Loop Brewing
Margaret Iverson
Maria Bourne
Mark Jeronic
Mary Cameron
Matt Zedde

Matthew Macdonald
Matthew Sonntag
Michael Hudye
Michael Shoup
Metro Ford
Mount Royal University
Palmer Family Foundation
Patrick Keeler
Patricia Conway
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Plowshare
Progressive Alternative Society of Calgary
Rainbow Elders Calgary
Reena Mistry
ReMax House of Real Estate
Renata Colic
Rod Rudolph
Steve Forrest
S Sikorski
Sandra Van Biezen
Scarpetta Italian Eatery
Scotiabank
Sean Jiang
Sharon Martens
Slade Rieger
Step Forward
Stephanie Hudema
Stuart & Vicki Reid
Stephanie Sikorski
Suncor
Superior Gas Liquids
Suzanne Visser
Symon's Valley United Church
T Fieber
TD Bank
Temple B'nai Tikvah
TELUS Corporation
Texas Lounge/Goliath's
The Calgary Foundation
The Backlot
The Estate of Kenneth Scott
Toren Walker
TransCanada Energy
Twisted Element
Tri Steven Van
Tyler Kroening
Tyler Wruck
Usman Alam
Valerie Seaman
Varun Bindal
Vencer Group
Vicki McPhee
Wendy Oddie
Wentworth Family Dental
Westjet
William Robertson
Wild Rose Brewery
Went Worth Health Group
Wine Collective

"Thank you for everything you do at SHARP and for including me in the organization and fun. I really enjoy it and it gives me a sense of purpose and pride, so thank you very much."



SHARP'S STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Our Mission: To provide quality, holistic care for the community's vulnerable persons with complex health and social needs who are living with or are at highest risk of contracting HIV.

Our Vision: Every person living with HIV will have a home and compassionate care to meet their needs.

Our Mandate: To develop, implement and support innovative programs to provide integrated care for persons living with HIV, which reduces risk behaviours and prevents further transmission of HIV in the community.

Our Values: SHARP provides compassionate care by:

- Respecting the inherent worth, identity and dignity of each person without regard to ethnicity, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation or socio-economic status.
- Believing in the whole person and supporting the physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual needs of each person in an integrated manner.
- Supporting each person in a non-judgmental environment.
- Promoting innovation, creativity and professionalism.
- Developing effective partnerships and collaboration with diverse communities and organizations.
- Sharing our expertise and learning from others.

"Big win yesterday. A client passed away in his own home, surrounded by people, listening to stand-up comedy (his choice). His friend told me that CAMPP and the staff at the SHARP Foundation's Murray's House had allowed him to trust healthcare again. #dignity"



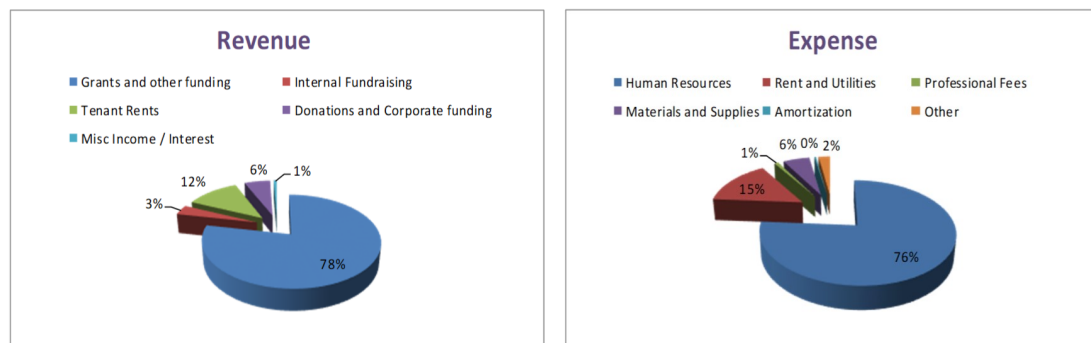
Goals & Accomplishments in 2018—2019

- Goal 1: Sustain and build an integrated continuum of care including housing, medical, psychosocial and spiritual supports based on each client's needs and choices.**
- Murray's House: over 50% of residents have been living in the building for over a year; developed a neighbour engagement process; palliative program in partnership with Community Allied Mobile Palliative Program (CAMPP); recognized in a CBC article.
 - Reached 96 unique individuals (82 in 2018) in six facilities providing services ranging from 24/7 medical and psychosocial supports, to peer-mentored and independent-living; four people passed away in SHARP care.
 - Referrals remained constant; approximately 50% increase in self-referrals from individuals aging with HIV.
 - Staff arranged over 3,000 appointments (2,091 in 2018) for family physicians, HIV / health specialists, psychologists, probation officers, court visits and other public services.
 - Implemented a transportation program including a mini-van and a dedicated driver/support worker to assist residents to attend health/social services appointments and pick-up donations; funding provided by the Harry & Martha Cohen Foundation, Imperial Sovereign Court of the Chinook Arch and The Calgary Foundation.
- Goal 2: Create and maintain safe, accessible, environmentally-friendly facilities.**
- At the end of March 2019, all residents who have been with SHARP for six months or more have an undetectable viral load.
 - Beswick House and Project Kathleen are certified by the Province of Alberta Accommodation Standards for Group Homes with zero non-compliances.
 - Developed fund raising campaign for Beswick House upgrades including new hospital beds, another fully-accessible washroom, new emergency call system and widening bedroom doors.
 - SHARP hosted 89 volunteers from 5 corporations to improve the facilities with paint and construction as part of the United Way of Calgary's Day of Caring program.
 - The Calgary Dollars program and other reward programs are engaging Murray's House residents in the overall maintenance of the facility.
- Goal 3: Attract, retain and nurture highly skilled and compassionate people to support our clients through the delivery of programs and services.**
- Continue to work closely with CBI Healthcare to ensure good working relationships between homecare and SHARP staff; 85% satisfaction rate with working relationships.
 - Volunteers provided over 6,500 hours of their time for resident support, bookkeeping, fund development, facility maintenance, IT support, governance, communications and community tax clinic (tax form completion for over 300 lower income Calgaryans); 50% increase in volunteer hours to host events during Calgary Pride.
 - SHARP's Occupational Health and Safety Committee developed processes and training to support staff to meet the diverse needs of the people we serve.
 - Provided opportunities for practicum students from Calgary's post-secondary educational institutions.
- Goal 4: Develop and nurture our strategic partnerships to maintain and enhance the quality of life of all persons living with HIV.**
- Work closely with Calgary Homeless Foundation and HomeSpace to develop and maintain the programming at Murray's House.
 - Ongoing relationship with Calgary Housing Company to ensure safe and affordable homes.
 - Developing partnerships with Kanas Corporation and Calgary Sexual Health Centre to diversify programming including housing for HIV and LGBTQ+ aging populations.
 - Partnering with CUPS, Community Allied Mobile Palliative Program (CAMPP) and Alberta Health Services Community Paramedic Program to provide services to residents at Murray's House.
 - Ongoing partnership with Street CREDD and Calgary Allied Mobile Palliative Program (CAMPP) in order to provide a palliative resident support for clients who are approaching end of life.

"I was invited to come stay at Beswick House. My first month there I gained 14 pounds. My health has improved considerably, both physically and mentally. The staff here has been remarkable."

- Goal 5:** Communicate the excellence of our programs and services so they are clearly recognized by our Stakeholders across Canada.
- SHARP represents LGBTQ+ seniors and individuals impacted by HIV and aging on the Ministry's Senior Advisory Forum.
 - Informed Government of Canada Members of Parliament of SHARP's programming.
 - SHARP Social media platforms have seen an increase following as Facebook has 530 followers and Twitter 645 followers and Instagram which was implemented a year ago now has 386.
 - Over 9,000 unique individuals have accessed Caring for Individuals with Complex Health and Social Issues eLearning on SHARP's website.

- Goal 6:** Secure financial sustainability by increasing our revenue sources and maintaining fiscal responsibility
- Year-end audited financial statement completed indicating that SHARP realized an excess of revenues over expenditures of \$12,269.
 - Funding for Murray's House operations provided by the Calgary Homeless Foundation.



- Beswick House continues to be SHARP's only program without full sustainable operational funding.

- Goal 7:** Assess and align our strategic directions to best meet the current and future needs of individuals living with HIV and their family and friends.
- SHARP Board of Directors continues to review the goals, objectives and policies of the Foundation to ensure its programming reflects the current and future care needs of people living with complex health and social issues living with HIV or at high-risk of contracting HIV.

- Goal 8:** Improve and enhance the quality of health outcomes and lives of persons living with HIV through research, evaluation and knowledge transfer.
- SHARP presented outcomes of the Western Canada Common Outcomes Measurements study at the North American HIV and Housing Research Summit in Washington D.C. on August 3rd, 2018
 - Community Chair of the Alberta CBR Collaborative (A program of REACH 2.0) established in partnership with Mount Royal University to support community-based research development in Alberta and Northwest Territory.
 - Alberta Community Chair for the national HIV Stigma Study.
 - Completed the housing and supports needs assessment study for LGBTQ+ seniors including individuals aging with HIV in partnership with Mount Royal University, Rainbow Elders Calgary, Centre for Sexuality and HABITUS Consulting Collaborative; funded by the Calgary Homeless Foundation.
 - Received funding to lead the development of three supported eLearning modules to foster a culture of respect and inclusion including one module discussing HIV and aging.



AGING IN THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

Over the past 29 years, the SHARP Foundation has gained recognition across Canada for its model of holistic compassionate care for people living with HIV. Throughout this time we have provided dignity and hope to over 500 people; stabilizing their health, strengthening their resilience and improving their quality of life. Due to the advent of anti-retroviral therapies many of the people we've served and others impacted by HIV, have been living successfully in the community.

Unfortunately, long time survivors living with HIV face a daunting future due to the stigma and discrimination they face due to their HIV status and, for over 50%, their sexual orientation or gender identity. As a result SHARP is witnessing an increase of referrals from survivors who are impacted by aging and struggling to find seniors supports that are safe, respectful and inclusive. Based on our environmental scan there is currently a lack of seniors' facilities which provide supports to individuals aging with HIV or in the LGBTQ+ in Canada.

With the SHARP Foundation's deep rooted history in the LGBTQ+ community and supporting vulnerable population, we have taken a leadership role to learn what needs to be done in Calgary so people aging in the LGBTQ+ community can continue to live successfully in their own home for as long as possible. We started by forging a cross sector coalition of stakeholders including Mount Royal University, HABITUS Consulting Collective, Rainbow Elders Calgary, Centre for Sexuality and the Alberta CBR Collaborative: A Program of REACH. With funding provided by the Calgary Homeless Foundation we implemented the Housing Needs Assessment: Aging in the LGBTQ+ Community.

Just how many seniors identify as LGBTQ+ is not evident. Estimates range from 2% to 13% of the aging population – that's as many as 780,000 Canadians or 19,890 Calgarians who are over 65 years and identify as LGBTQ+. Many individuals from the LGBTQ+ senior population lived during an era when non-mainstream sexual and gender expressions were stigmatized, condemned, and criminalized. Some may have limited social networks, unaddressed trauma, or remain 'closeted' as a result. A key concern for LGBTQ+ seniors is fear of discrimination and stigma.

Survey respondents were asked to identify their top three concerns about moving into a senior's facility. This was an open-ended question they were:

- 1) Fear of discrimination and stigma – this includes from peers, caregivers, staff or institutional policies. As one interviewee stated, "there is a general lore in the LGBTQ+ community about people having to return to the closet".
- 2) General comfort: This includes concerns related to comfort, location, access to resources, availability of activities, cleanliness, independence, and privacy.
- 3) Affordability: Cost was the third most common concern noted by survey respondents.

A common theme from qualitative interviews was that housing concerns are amplified for low-income earners. An individual may not be able to move, even if they face discrimination or otherwise feel unsafe, if finances limit choice. Only 16% of LGBTQ+ Seniors wanted housing community reserved for LGBTQ+ Seniors. Respondents were more likely to support an allied model or LGBTQ+ 'aware' model of housing. The most important thing for respondents was that there were on-site social activities that make LGBTQ+ residents feel included (66%). On a personal level that the participants relationships are respected (80%) and that they can share a room with their partner (92%).

Respondents indicated that they prefer to stay in their home and/or their community for as long as possible. recognizing the strength, resilience, and knowledge within the LGBTQ+ aging population that can be shared with other members of the community is critical.

It's imperative the SHARP Foundation continues to support long sustainable health outcomes for our aging population of clientele we currently support in order to ensure the quality of life our residents have been accustomed! The outcomes of this study will inform the next steps we are leading—supported eLearning modules to build inclusion and digital-storytelling research to capture the experiences of individuals impacted by the HIV epidemic and LGBTQ+ in the and LGBTQ+ activism in the 1980s/1990s.

You can view the full report at www.thesharpfoundation.com.

"Many of us are survivors of the AIDS epidemic. We lost so many of our community members. We also lost friends, family, jobs due to the stigma at the time"

"Every time I enter a new space I have to ask myself, 'is it safe?' Coming out is a continuous process."