



▶ SHARP PARTNERS WITH CMHA 1



▶ SHARP DEVELOPING ONLINE TRAINING 2



▶ EVENTS 2

Spring 2014

SHARP *focus*

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY'S MOST VULNERABLE

"Where we love is home—home that our feet may leave, but not our hearts"

~ Oliver Wendell Holmes, American Poet



Carlyle Commons: Independent Living with SHARP



Inside an apartment in the new Carlyle Commons building

Carlyle Commons is the SHARP Foundation's newest program, with tenants moving into 8 units in the new building in November 2013.

Some of the primary objectives of the program were to provide independent living to SHARP clients while decreasing isolation and improving health outcomes.

SHARP's Executive Director Floyd Visser says the program satisfies a need for the SHARP Foundation by providing the kind of independent living that wasn't previously available to clients.

"It's what we considered that missing cog in our support services," says Visser "So it's great that we can now offer everything from 24/7 medical or behavioral support right through to independent living."

Clients living in Carlyle commons have expressed a high level of satisfaction

with their homes, enjoying both where they live and being independent.

"The clients really have built their home and have taken real pride and are going that extra mile to make it theirs," says Visser.

In addition to the client apartments, SHARP has relocated its main office to the first floor of the building. And the move has helped create a convenience of accessibility for the SHARP staff.

"We always take an opportunity to go say hi to people in the building, see how they're doing and those kinds of things." Says Visser "The fact that we're downstairs is easy because (clients) can come down and visit us any time."

SHARP Partners with Canadian Mental Health Association

The SHARP foundation has recently partnered on several initiatives with the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) in Calgary, as both groups aim to provide the best support possible to their clients and learn successful practices from one another.

The partnership began when CMHA wanted to use SHARP to guide certain policies and approaches for supporting clients. Through the partnership CMHA was able to use SHARP as an example to improve its use of the Harm Reduction model in its homes.

SHARP and CMHA have since worked on several additional initiatives together including the Calgary Action Committee on Housing and Homelessness (CACHH), peer support networks

for clients of both organizations, and informal partnerships benefits such as sharing feedback and assistance on each other's work.

Currently both the CMHA and SHARP are working alongside other CACHH member agencies to develop a 24 hour operational map for Calgary. The map will help to identify the operating hours of services available in Calgary and identify gaps in availability which may exist.

CMHA is also helping SHARP to develop its own peer support network, following the example of CMHA's Peer Options program. The program is designed to support clients with mental health conditions by setting them up with peers in the community to talk with whenever needed.

Following the guidance of CMHA's experi-

ence with such programs, SHARP is planning to bring similar networks to some of its own homes in the near future, and hoping the networks will help foster a community atmosphere within them.

SHARP and CMHA have each been able to learn from one another through their partnerships and as a result both organizations are able to validate and guide each other's work and assure that different perspectives are considered in serving their clients.



Canadian Mental Health Association
Calgary



Board Member Profile:

William Peters, SHARP Board member

William to work with people who have been down a similar path.

William credits SHARP's multi-dimensional care approach as one of the reasons he volunteers with the organization.

"I like the comprehensive nature of SHARP, treating people, body, mind and spirit. I just like the overall comprehensive approach to dealing with whatever the challenges are."

As head of the Fund Development Committee William has been focused on developing innovative ways to raise the profile, raise additional funding for the SHARP Foundation, and broaden the focus of potential donors.

Some of the challenges William believes must be overcome in fund-raising for SHARP centre on reducing the stigma associated with HIV and getting the broader community to openly talk about the disease.

"It's a matter of getting to the point where people realize it does

affect everyone. It's not yet at that place where we can have an open dialogue."

In addition to his involvement with several different SHARP committees, William seeks to lend a hand wherever help is needed.

"I'm just really looking to personally give (SHARP) myself and give them my time in whatever way it takes shape, wherever there's a need I'm just trying to help fill it."

Growing up in a large family of 14 brothers and sisters, William attributes his desire to assist SHARP to the large community of family and friends that he comes from.

"Being there for one another is very important, and that's probably the driving force behind me trying to do what I do."

William Peters joined the SHARP Foundation in 2013 and sits on the board of directors and finance committee while serving as Chairperson for the Fund Development Committee.

William joined SHARP because of what he saw as a good fit, as well as a desire to make a difference in the community.

After going through a period of time with a terminally ill partner, William lost his spouse in 2003. The experience has made supporting those living with HIV a lifelong endeavor, and joining SHARP has allowed

SHARP to Help Develop Online Training for Frontline Workers

SHARP is currently working on developing online training for frontline workers in community service and public service roles who come into contact with or work with individuals with complex health and social needs.

The training is being developed alongside several other Calgary agencies including Alberta Health Services' Harm Reduction unit, Calgary Mental Health Association and Calgary Scope Society.

The aim of the online training is to educate workers on how to work with individuals with complex health behavioral profiles and will consist of modules including physical, social, emotional and mental health

issues, as well as instruction on assessment of clients, harm reduction and dealing with stigma.

In addition to training on how to work with individuals with complex profiles, the online modules will help frontline workers understand the breadth of services available in the city if a client's needs are outside their scope of work.

As a result of this instruction workers will be better equipped to handle the handoff of clients the appropriate agencies, and better suited to connect with agencies and facilitate this process.

Giving Made Easy

Did you know that you can donate to SHARP through the United Way? If your workplace participates in an annual or ongoing campaign where funds are directed to the United Way, you can designate your dollars to SHARP by quoting our Charitable Registration Number (897948436RR0001) in Section 2, Option C on the form your employer provides. The SHARP Foundation is not a recipient of direct United Way funding.

There are many other ways to give to SHARP as well! To make a monetary contribution, visit www.canadahelps.org or contact us directly. To purchase an item for one of our houses and/or programs, check out our wish lists on our website or www.amazon.ca/gp/registry/wishlist/ref=wish_list. Items range from measuring spoons to washer and dryer.

Volunteer

Of course your time is one of your most valuable assets, especially to SHARP! There are many volunteer opportunities in every part of this organization and therefore something of interest to almost everyone! Do you have any skills, abilities or talents that you'd like to share? We would love to hear from you! Contact us to discuss ways you could share some of what makes you special with SHARP!

Do you have other ideas of how you would like to give? We welcome your feedback! You can call 403.272.2912 or email info@theSHARPfoundation.com.



hope | dignity | compassion

A023, 5717 -2nd Street SW, Calgary AB T2H 0A1
Phone: 403.272.2912 | Fax: 403.453.2468
www.theSHARPfoundation.com
Charitable Registration #897948436RR0001

MARK YOUR CALENDAR Upcoming Events



Wednesday, April 23, 2014

A Taste For Life

Coming to a restaurant near you! Have dinner at one of our participating restaurants and 25% of the bill is donated to SHARP. It's fun and easy so why cook?

To see participating restaurants visit www.atasteforallife.org/calgary

Sunday, May 25, 2014

SHARP Kickoff to Summer

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Meet your fellow volunteers and supporters for a bar-b-q & fun!

RSVP @ 403.272.2912

Sunday June 1, 2014

Scotiabank Calgary Marathon

Run, walk or roll for the SHARP team and raise funds.

Visit calgarymarathon.com/charity-challenge/sharp_foundation.html to join!

June 27-29, 2014

Canadian Rockies International Rodeo and Music Festival

Strathmore, AB

Volunteer with SHARP and enjoy a fun rodeo!
Contact Lisa at 403.272.2912

More information at:
www.theSHARPfoundation.com
Or follow us on

