



hope | dignity | compassion

The SHARP Foundation (Society Housing AIDS Restricted Persons) is a Calgary-based non-profit organization established in 1990. We are committed to providing a holistic continuum of care and support to those individuals infected and affected by HIV / AIDS in an effort to improve quality of life for our clients. We also work to prevent further transmission of the disease, homelessness, and the need to care for patients in acute health care faculties in hospitals.

From 1993 until 1998 The SHARP Foundation was providing primarily palliative care, with the focus on controlling symptoms and maximizing the quality of life in a caring, non-judgemental environment.

With advancements in medications and treatments in recent years, people with HIV infections are living longer and more enjoyable lives, however they are still marginalized by society because of the disease or lifestyles typically associated with the disease (ex. gay, substance abuse, sex trade, and similar). These factors make it difficult for clients to access other support facilities in the community.

More than Housing...

There is an increasing need for The SHARP Foundation to provide 24 hour long-term, end-of-life/palliative, and transitional care and support to individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Since 1993 over two hundred unique clients have lived, or are currently living, at Beswick House, Scott House, and the recently opened 2011. The total number of client days of care has increased by 45% since 2000, and a 33% increase has occurred in the past two years. The average length of an individual's stay in the house has almost doubled from 95 days in 1998 to 206 days in 2006 – currently seven clients have been with the Foundation for one year or more.

Clients are assessed to be unable to live independently by the client's community care team which includes the Foundation's case management team Alberta Health Services which includes Southern Alberta Clinic, Transitional Services, Palliative Care Services, and/or Harm Reduction, and other supports such as AIDS Calgary and AADAC. Care includes maintaining a medical regimen (medication administration; booking and accompanying clients to a physician, HIV-specified doctor, psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, and others, including arranging transportation), nutrition, personal care, safe and secure housing, and providing individualized psycho-social and spiritual supports. The greatest need for clients on an ongoing basis is emotional support which varies significantly dependent upon the mental health of the client.

Target Population – Clients

The SHARP Foundation's programs and services are offered to any individual living with HIV or AIDS and over 18 years of age who require assisted living supports to improve health and / or quality of life. In most cases clients are referred by agencies including Alberta Health Services, AIDS Calgary Awareness Association, Calgary Drop-In Centre, Alpha House (AADAC), Safeworks, and other care facilities in the community. However there have been inquiries from PLWHAs from across Canada to access services;

family members who want to bring loved ones closer to home. We also provide short-term support to PLWHA (Persons Living With HIV/AIDS) travelling to Calgary for medical appointments (subject to space availability).

Our target population includes individuals who are unable to support themselves and:

- Require support to stabilize on their medication regimen
- Require long-term care
- Require HIV palliative or “end-of-life” care
- Are economically disadvantaged (i.e. dependent on social service for income)
- Persons living with mental health issues, and
- Do not meet admission criteria for hospice care or other support services.

Stigma and discrimination is the largest barrier our clients face. Client diversity is not a barrier to accessing our services. We have a non-discriminatory policy to respond to all populations within the community, ex. sexual orientation, gender, aboriginal, persons of colour, disabilities and age. The Foundation’s clients come from diverse communities or backgrounds (i.e., socio-economic, behavioural/lifestyle, religious/spiritual and cultural characteristics). Client history or lifestyle choices may include: homelessness, street involvement, illicit drug use and / or criminal activity. The Foundation prides itself on its staff which provides compassionate, non-judgemental care.

Throughout the past five years the profile of our client has become much more complex which has increased the barriers for accessing suitable support services within the community. We have seen an increase in the number of individuals with co-morbidities including Hepatitis C, mental health issues, addictions and criminal backgrounds. Throughout the past three years the client profile has been:

- Females (15 – 30 %)
- MSM (men who have sex with men) (40 – 60%)
- Heterosexual Male (30 – 40%)

These individuals fit with one or more of the following:

- First Nations (up to 30%)
- Over 50 years of age (40 – 50%)
- Substance Abuse (60 – 75%)
- HIV-related Neurological Disorders (up to 50%)
- Mental Health (80 – 100%)
- Sight Impairment (10%)
- Below the Statistics Canada poverty line (income of less than \$13,000 per year) (100%)

Funding Sources

The SHARP Foundation is largely funded through the generosity of others – 58% through donations, fundraising, and corporate funding. Approximately 25% of the Foundation’s revenue is received from the government sources including the Alberta Community HIV Fund and the Alberta Lottery Fund.

Information provided by CentrePoint and Simpact May 2007 Social Return on Investment Study

Client profile:

- marginalized individuals living with AIDS
- often with financial problems
- Other significant stresses

Investment per year:

- \$350,000/year, 14 at a time = \$25,000 year/per person
- Already MINIMUM value of \$60,800 - \$36,500 = \$23,300 per person
- \$23,300 x 14 = \$326,200

with AIDS Hospice	w/o AIDS Hospice
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14 people housed and supported at a time• Supported through stress, alternative living arrangements made• Cost = 100 per client per day (max 36,500 per person)• Average stay = 3 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Live on the street• Regular interactions with police & EMS• 10 times emergency admission / year• 38 hospital days @ \$1,600 / day = \$60,800/person