

Dear Friends,

This year the SHARP Foundation celebrated two significant milestones—Beswick House’s 25th Anniversary and the starting of our sixth and newest program, Murray’s House. As we reflected on the reasons why starting Beswick House was so important to the people we’ve served and continue to serve, we validated that SHARP has maintained the same beliefs and values throughout its history. It is the belief that each person living with HIV deserves the dignity, compassion, hope and home as everyone else in our community.

Since opening Murray’s House doors on January 22nd, 2018 twenty-two vulnerable Calgarians now call it “home”. This was considered a fast ramp-up by our partners, Calgary Homeless Foundation and HomeSpace Society, but the urgency required it. It is imperative that people who are experiencing chronic homelessness and needing medication and good nutrition are housed. SHARP implemented the same model of compassionate care and harm reduction that it has been using throughout its history. As many of you know, the people SHARP serves have experienced multiple barriers to service and it is our responsibility to break down those barriers. Murray’s House also offers a palliative suite so someone experiencing homelessness or unstable housing can choose to stay with us versus a long-term care facility or hospice. We are thankful to our community partners, CUPS and the Community Allied Mobile Palliative Program (CAMPP), for their support in providing this low-barrier palliative care.

Despite the successful opening of Murray’s House the SHARP Board of Directors continues to seek innovative solutions to the trends confronting the Foundation. The primary trend we are focused on is the impact of aging on people living with HIV (PLWH). Research is indicating that aging PLWH are more likely to have used several different combinations of anti-HIV drugs because of side effects associated with earlier regimens and in some cases HIV’s ability to resist treatment. Approximately 50% of SHARP’s residents are impacted by aging including dementia, chronic disease, decreased mobility and the effects of trauma. Based on 2016 statistics from the Southern Alberta Clinic there are approximately 100 patients 66+ years and over 850 between 46 and 65 years old. Many will be seeking supports from SHARP so we are continuing our efforts with our partners to develop programs that would serve PLWH in the greater community. Some ideas include supporting people to live in their current homes longer, training long-term care providers to decrease the stigma of HIV, and creating a supported housing program for LGBTQ+ seniors.

This is also the year that SHARP lost one of its most amazing supporters for many years, Sylvia Demers. Sylvia was the executrix for the Estate of Kenneth Scott in Memorial to Charles Wilmer Frisby which provided important funds to keep Beswick House open. But Sylvia gave so much more to SHARP with kind words, gifts and other small gestures that she knew made a difference in the residents’ lives. Sylvia will be truly missed.

At SHARP we continually try provide a positive and brighter future for people living with HIV. The people SHARP serves live their lives not knowing what their future holds, but we are inspired by their courage and desire for a better life. We are 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’S FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

We are truly grateful for the generous gifts we receive from our ever-increasing number of supporters, partners and volunteers! We would not be able to do the important work without this incredible support – Thank you!

A Crawford  
Aaron Bowler  
Air Canada Foundation  
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Lisa Hodgson  
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...see next page for more

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Wild Rose Brewery  
William Robertson  
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*... and the many individuals  
and organizations that would  
like to remain anonymous!*

## SHARP'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Lana Bentley, Vice President  
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Nicole Williams, Secretary  
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### The SHARP Foundation

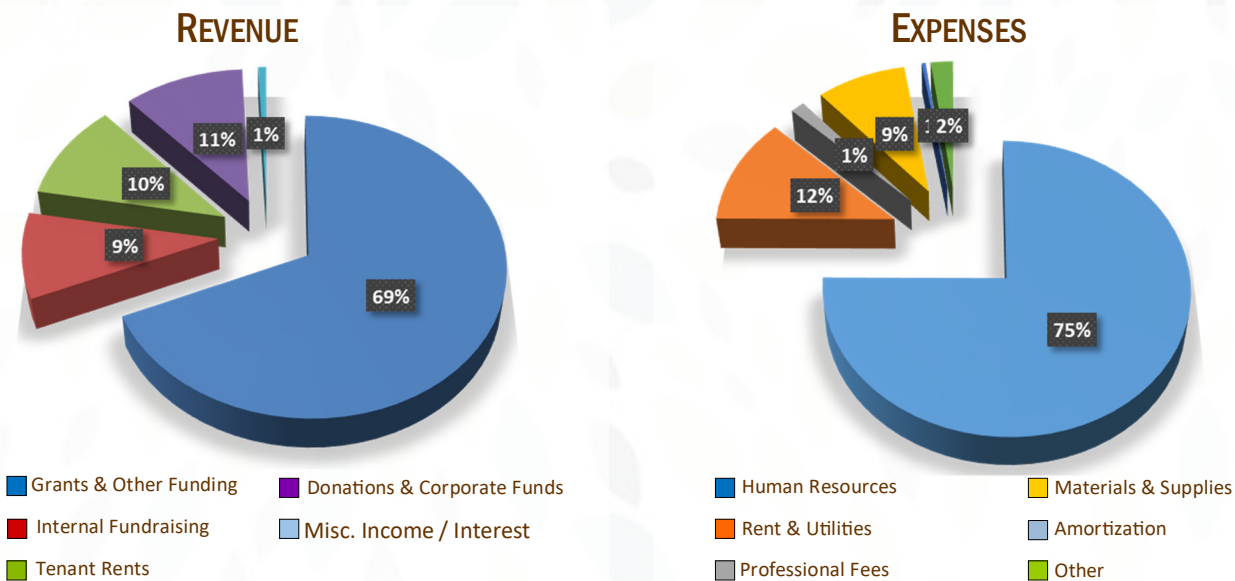
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Charitable Registration No. 897948436RR0001



Annual Report  
**2017**  
**2018**

- 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.
  - Updated the website to better reflect the expansion and excellence of our programs to the online community.
  - Added Instagram to SHARP's social media resources which also includes Facebook and Twitter.

- Goal 6: Secure financial sustainability by increasing our revenue sources and maintaining fiscal responsibility**
- Year-end audited financial statement completed indicating that SHARP realized a modest excess of revenues over expenditures of \$4,622.
  - 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 led the Western Canada Impact of HIV Housing and Supports Study resulting in a common outcomes measurement tool to assess resident progress in health, wellness and overall quality of life; evaluation of tool completed by four organizations in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan developed a program evaluation tool for agencies to determine viability of a program.
  - Partnering with Mount Royal University—Social Work to create an Alberta REACH 2.0 community-based research program.
  - Submitted funding applications for a housing and supports needs assessment for LGBTQ+ seniors including individuals aging with HIV in partnership with the Calgary Sexual Health Centre and the Calgary LGBTQ Elders Group.

## A YEAR IN FOCUS

**SYLVIA DEMERS  
1926–2018**

On Sunday, March 11th, 2018, the SHARP Foundation lost one of its most ardent supporters, Sylvia Laura Demers, at the age of 91 years. Sylvia was the executrix for the Estate of Dr. Kenneth W. Scott in Memorial to Charles Frisby (Scott Estate) and had chosen SHARP as a beneficiary of the trust for its work in providing compassionate palliative care for people dying of AIDS. Until recently the Scott Estate was the SHARP Foundation's single largest donor allowing us to continue Beswick House operations which to this date is still very dependent on grants and donations.

Sylvia was a quiet, unassuming, gracious lady, who extolled the virtues of kindness, thoughtfulness, compassion, tolerance, honesty and loyalty, to those who had the blessing of knowing her and calling her a friend. SHARP's executive director, Floyd Visser, was one of those lucky people; escorting Sylvia to the Scott Estate's annual general meetings, visiting her in the hospital and celebrating her 90th birthday. As Floyd said, "Sylvia didn't like a lot of attention but she put up with those of us who felt it was important to honour her amazing contributions to our community... sitting quietly, smiling, softly thanking us and probably wondering when she could go back to reading her books".

She served for a period of time in the military and thereafter spent the majority of her working career in administration in the oil and gas sector.

What made Sylvia so special was her strong commitment to the community and faith. In fact, one of her greatest joys was teaching English to newcomers to Canada and watching them thrive as they settled into their new home. The diversity of people Sylvia touched was evident at her celebration of life on March 15th, 2018.

Sylvia Laura Demers, will forever be in SHARP's memories, and her dedicated support for the SHARP Foundation will always be greatly appreciated.



## MURRAY'S HOUSE

**"I'm hopeful that those who move into Murray's House will have a better life" - David Bissett, legacy donor**

"In 2006 Malcolm Gladwell wrote an article entitled "Million Dollar Murray" which brought to light what poverty and homeless service providers had been telling government and the public for years. In addition to being humane, it is more cost-effective to provide people with housing than it is to continue to leave them homeless.



Murray Barr was an ex-Marine who lived on the streets of Reno, Nevada, whose alcoholism landed him in jail or the emergency room so often it's estimated he cost taxpayers one million dollars over ten years. By comparison, housing him first, then enrolling him in treatment and work training programs would have cost a fraction of that.



In the spirit of housing first, David and Leslie Bissett named this housing development, Murray's House for "Million-Dollar Murray", as a reminder that it's in our best interests to house our city's most vulnerable first, and then provide them with the support they need to have a better life."

SHARP has proudly served many "Murrays" in its 27 year history and looks forward to serving many more in this wonderful home!



# 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.

*"We believe in the human spirit & its resilience. We provide those of us in anguish with dignity, support & a place to call "home". We show them they are valued & that moves mountains!"*

## Our Goals & Accomplishments in 2017 - 2018

- 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.
- Increased organizational service capacity by 50% (23 units) with the opening of Murray's House.
  - Reached 82 unique individuals (65 in 2017) in six facilities providing services ranging from 24/7 medical and psychosocial supports, to peer-mentored and independent-living; one person passed away in SHARP care.
  - Referrals remained constant; the average number of individuals on the intake waiting list decreased to 17 (28 in 2017) due to the opening of Murray's House; majority of new referrals require the higher levels of supports in the 24/7 staffed facilities.
  - Staff arranged over 2,000 appointments (1711 in 2017) for family physicians, HIV / health specialists, psychologists, probation officers, court visits and other public services.

- Goal 1 (con):** Sustain and build an integrated continuum of care including housing, medical, psychosocial and spiritual supports based on each client's needs and choices.
- SHARP with Manchester Inter-Agencies provided community programs including the LGBTQ/HIV group supports, holiday events, Canada Day 150 community celebration, and food security programs (pantry, bakery and diaper).
  - Distributed over 10,000 pounds of food and household goods from the Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank—Food Link program and Cobs Bakery (Westhills) to SHARP's homes and to 58 households in the Manchester area.
  - SHARP residents continue to engage in monthly meetings, recreation/entertainment activities (movie days, bowling, museum visits, volunteering and educational opportunities).
  - SHARP has developed plans for a dedicated vehicle and support worker / driver to address the significant increase in transportation needs of residents to attend appointments and resident activities, as well as, meeting food security demands.
- Goal 2:** Create and maintain safe, accessible, environmentally-friendly facilities.
- Officially opened Murray's House to residents on January 22nd, 2018; volunteers and staff installed furniture and other home décor items to provide an environment residents would be proud to be in (comments from partners included "I wish I could live here!").
  - Beswick House and Project Kathleen are certified by the Province of Alberta Accommodation Standards for Group Homes; Project Kathleen achieved 3-year certification!
  - Developed plans and budgets to renovate Beswick House to accommodate more residents with wheelchairs including widening bedroom doorways and installing a fully accessible bathroom in the basement.
  - 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.
  - All facilities continue to increase energy and water efficiency with support from the Government of Alberta.
- Goal 3:** Attract, retain and nurture highly skilled and compassionate people to support our clients through the delivery of programs and services.
- Hired and trained 24 new full-time and part-time staff members for Murray's House.
  - Beswick House team lead retires after 16 years of service; new team lead has over 7 years experience at Beswick House.
  - Continue to work closely with CBI Healthcare to ensure good working relationships between homecare and SHARP staff; 85% satisfaction rate with working relationships.
  - Volunteers continue to provide over 6,000 hours of their time for resident support, bookkeeping, fund development, IT support, governance, communications and community tax clinic (tax form completion for lower income Calgarians).
  - 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.