

ANNUAL REPORT



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the
SHARP
foundation

Dear friends,

This year marks a time filled with opportunities for the SHARP Foundation. It has also been a tumultuous time, with the peak of the economic downturn felt along many of Calgary's non-profit organizations. Through it all, SHARP has pushed through and continues to provide exemplary care to our residents.

The beginning of the 2016-2017 fiscal year proved to be difficult for many non-profit organizations within Alberta. SHARP was not immune to these effects and as a consequence, the Board of Directors created an aggressive plan to mitigate the any deficits. This plan included SHARP board members and staff meeting with external partners, as well as, municipal and provincial government members to seek support so no resident care would be impacted. SHARP is grateful to the City of Calgary Emergency Resiliency Fund, MAC AIDS Fund and the Alberta Community HIV Fund for allowing us to continue our programs for a further year with no lapse in services.

In its search for future sustainable funding, SHARP was able to develop a strong case for support to the Alberta Community HIV Fund to provide additional support for Beswick House operations throughout 2017 - 2020. Knowing that the current operations were adequately funded the Foundation began seeking opportunities to expand its operations to meet the increasing demand for its unique services. One of those opportunities was to apply to the Calgary Homeless Foundation and HomeSpace for a new building targeted at supporting 23 people experiencing chronic homelessness and other complex health and social issues. We are now happy to announce the opening of Murray House in December 2017. Murray House will provide 24/7 supports and programming similar to Beswick House and Project Kathleen in apartment style housing. This program influenced the Board of Directors to revise the mission statement - "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".

Internally, SHARP's Board of Directors underwent further training though Alberta's Board Development Program. This two day workshop helped identify areas of growth in the organization's policies which had not previously been addressed as well as helped streamline processes for future projects.

SHARP has endeavoured into further programming, becoming a key member of the city's LGBTQ seniors group. This group aims to provide quality safe housing and programs for our LGBTQ community members, now entering into their senior years. The work in this sector will support the SHARP's efforts to offer options for people impacted by HIV and aging. We look forward to continue this innovative work with our partners and the community.

As we close SHARP's 26th year, we have learned much and continue to move forward into 2017-2018, never losing sight of the original vision set out by Walter Beswick, Gary Krauscher and friends to provide compassion, dignity and hope.. However, their vision would not be possible without the continued support of our volunteers and partners. We extend our grateful appreciation to all our residents who trust us to keep their best interests at heart and inspire us in wanting to make a difference. For this, we thank you.

Sincerely,

Philippe Boilard, Board President 2016–2017

Floyd Visser, Executive Director

Artwork designed by David Simpson

SHARP'S IMPACT

To provide a better indication of the work we do and its impact, we would like to share these letters from a former SHARP Board President and SHARP healthcare advocate.

I have been part of The SHARP Family since 1996 when my brother lived at Beswick House and I will never forget the compassion and support my family received. That is one of the reasons I became a board member in 1997 until 2005 and why my family continues to attend events, as we see SHARP as a pivotal organization in the HIV community. The holistic care and compassion SHARP provides to people living with HIV is outstanding considering it is such a small organization. If SHARP was not a resource to people living with HIV I think society would have seen more deaths in Calgary as many of SHARP's previous and current residents would have had to live alone, without professional support and on the street. In my many discussions with Walter Beswick (founder of SHARP) he always shared his main commitment for SHARP, which was to ensure no one living with HIV died alone or on the street. I believe SHARP continues to fulfill that commitment by compassionately supporting people living with HIV holistically.

Being part of the SHARP family in both capacities (family & volunteer) allows me to see the growth of the organization as it reaches beyond the HIV community. The partnerships with Calgary Housing, United Way, Alberta Health Services, Mount Royal University, University of Calgary, Calgary Homeless Foundation, etc. allows SHARP to reach out to all people living with HIV regardless of gender, culture, addictions, socio-economic disadvantages, disabilities and more. SHARP is home to their residents and home is what each SHARP location feels like. Because SHARP staff and volunteers engage with residents and assist them in every aspect of their life. My family would have struggled in 1996 if SHARP had not opened their doors to my brother, as he lived with the stigma of HIV from his family and within his community.

My philosophy of SHARP is it supports everyone and is committed to ensuring people living with HIV are loved and given a chance to live a life without shame.

Bonnie Lewin, SHARP Supporter

Several years ago, I had the privilege of caring for a chronically homeless individual who had severe frostbite of his feet. He had been living on the streets for many years, and was suffering the usual sequelae: illness, injury, trauma, mental health issues, and early death. Burdened by layers of vulnerability in a culture of stigma and indifference, his life was a constant struggle with scarcity and suffering. I lost track of him for some time, and when he returned to my care he was on the edge of death, very ill and wasted with cancer and HIV/AIDS, and suicidal.

Working closely with palliative care and the SHARP Foundation, this gentleman was placed in a comfortable home with a supportive roommate and incredible staff. He warily stepped from refusing treatment to engaging with his health care providers, and has lived a year and a half. Although he is still palliative, he is facing the end of his life with pride and dignity, and has taken the opportunity to be well enough to reconnect with estranged family. He has even gone on a few trips to visit with family and spend time in nature, enjoying his love of gardening and fishing.

Without the philosophy and approach of the SHARP Foundation, this individual would likely have died alone on the street a year or more ago, without having reconciled with his family or found dignity and peace.

I trust the SHARP Foundation with my most vulnerable patients. I believe that Beswick House provides comfort to those where nobody else is able, and for that reason is an extremely valuable component to the system of care for Calgary's most vulnerable individuals.

*Bonnie Larson MD MA CCFP DTM&H
Director, Global Health Enhanced Skills Program
Clinical Assistant Professor
University of Calgary Department of Family Medicine
CUPS Family Physician*

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'.*

Our Goals & Accomplishments in 2016 - 2017

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.**

- Reached 65 unique individuals (74 in 2016) in five facilities providing services ranging from 24/7 medical and psychosocial supports, to peer-mentored and independent-living; two people passed away in SHARP care.
- Referrals remained constant; the average number of individuals on the intake waiting list is 28 (35 in 2016); majority require higher levels of care similar to Beswick House (24/7 supports) which may be addressed in upcoming South Calgary/Beswick House 2.0 project with Calgary Homeless Foundation.
- Staff arranged 1,711 appointments (1605 in 2016) for family physicians, HIV/health specialists, psychologists, transportation, 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 building of a playground, LGBTQ/HIV group supports, holiday dinners, stampede breakfast, and food security programs (pantry, bakery and diaper).
- Picked up over 7,000 pounds of food and household goods from the Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank—Food Link program for residents of the Lumino Building (home for Carlyle Commons) and other homes.
- SHARP residents continue to engage in monthly meetings, recreation/entertainment activities, volunteering and educational opportunities; created over 1,650 pin buttons for a variety of events & agencies, 3,000 condoms packages, 500 safe consumption packages and “Welcome Home” packages for new residents.

Goal 2: Create and maintain safe, accessible, environmentally-friendly facilities.

- Beswick House and Project Kathleen are certified by the Province of Alberta Accommodation Standards for Group Homes.
- Twenty-four Imperial Oil volunteers built a new fence at Scott House, created a new outdoor sitting area at Beswick House and substantial garden clean-up at both homes as part of the United Way of Calgary's Day of Caring program.
- Initiated and managed the Re-Imagineering Manchester project funded by The Calgary Foundation; community residents in came together to paint a mural with the guidance of Calgary community artist, Dean Stanton, and begin a community garden.
- Residents are actively engaged in the maintenance of their homes including gardening, snow removal, cleaning and caring for dogs (our best friend at Project 2011, Yoki, passed away).
- All facilities continue to increase energy and water efficiency.

Goal 3: Attract, retain and nurture highly skilled and compassionate people to support our clients through the delivery of programs and services.

- SHARP continues to pride itself on the dedicated staff throughout the organization as they continue to adapt to the changing needs of the people we serve.
- Introduced a Transitional Support Worker (funded by The Calgary Foundation) to encourage and support residents in activities to increase resiliency when transitioning; early outcomes are excellent
- Successfully retained Beswick House care staff for over 4 years.
- Continue to work closely with Alberta Health Services (Public Health, Southern Alberta Clinic, HomeCare) and other medical professionals to ensure continuity of care.
- Over 125 volunteers completed a total 6,139 hours of resident support (6 residents had one-to-one companions), bookkeeping, fund development, IT support, governance, communications and community tax clinic (tax form completion for lower income Calgarians).
- Provided opportunities for practicum students from the Mount Royal University Social Work program and Bow Valley College Health Care Aide program; high rate of success for future recruitment.

Goal 4: Develop and nurture our strategic partnerships to maintain and enhance the quality of life of all persons living with HIV.

- Continue to build on the strong relationship with Calgary Housing Company to ensure safe and affordable homes for residents.
- Partnering with Street CCRED (Community Capacity in Research, Education and Development), Community Allied Mobile Palliative Program (CAMPP) and Alberta Health Services Community Paramedic Program to bring services to residents in their home.
- Actively participated in the Calgary Recovery Task Force – organizations (representing community service, health, homelessness, research, government and service users) working towards shared goal of improving health supports and outcomes for vulnerable homeless individuals in Calgary; final report presented to the community in January 2017; members of Health Services and Harm Reduction Working Groups resulting from Calgary Recovery Task Force.

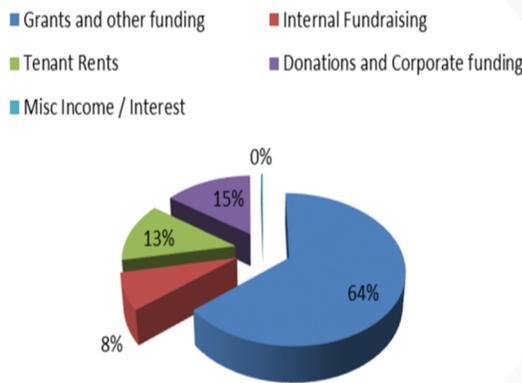
Goal 5: Communicate the excellence of our programs and services so they are clearly recognized by our Stakeholders across Canada.

- Met with City of Calgary and Government of Alberta (Health, Finance and Seniors & Housing) officials to discuss SHARP’s contribution to care in Calgary and Alberta.
- Completed the seventh eLearning module on “Trauma-Informed Care” with other community partners assisting people with complex health and social needs in our community; over 1000 people viewed the module; overall evaluation by users is “excellent”.

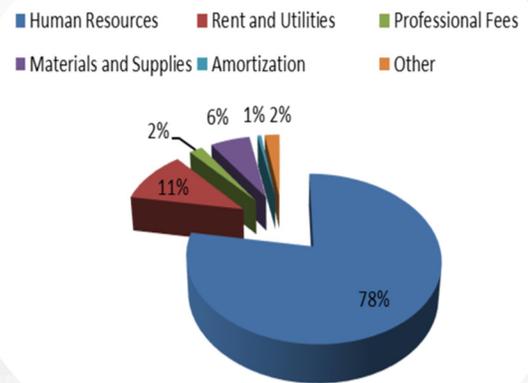
Goal 6: Secure financial sustainability by increasing our revenue sources and maintaining fiscal responsibility

- Year-end audited financial statement completed indicating that SHARP was able to overcome its early fiscal year challenges with support from the City of Calgary Emergency Resiliency Fund, Alberta Community HIV Fund (Alberta Health) and MAC AIDS Fund; this funding was imperative to maintain the operations of the Beswick House program.
- Alberta Community HIV Fund has approved funding for one-third of Beswick House annual operations for the 2017–2020 term.

Revenue



Expense



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 revises the mission of the organization to reflect its strength in caring for people 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 leads the Western Canada Impact of HIV Housing and Supports Study resulting a common outcomes measurement tool to assess resident progress in health, wellness and overall quality of life; developed a program evaluation tool for agencies to determine viability of a program; pilot to begin Fall 2017.
- Co-Principal Investigator on the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Catalyst Grant: Provincial Gay Men’s Health Study with Dr. Brent Oliver, Mount Royal University—Social Work, and community partners throughout Alberta.
- Calgary Men’s Wellness Initiative Study (SHARP is Co-Principal Investigator) created fact sheets and journal article; presented outcomes at the 2016 Guelph Sexuality Conference.
- Knowledge User with the REACH 2.0 National Stigma and Resilience Study.

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!

Air Canada Foundation
Alberta Community Council on HIV (ACCH)
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Barry Yee
Peter Zajiczek
Kory Zwack

*... and the many individuals
and organizations that would
like to remain anonymous!*

hope
... is in all of us!

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