

John Howard

SOCIETY OF THUNDER BAY & DISTRICT

Annual Report 2017/2018



Fostering Genuinely Safer Communities

Message from the President

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to recognize and acknowledge the work the staff of the John Howard Society Thunder Bay has done. Effective teams have been developed and partnerships in the community have been strengthened.

Financially, the agency is in a strong position allowing us to continue to invest in the building and to expand existing programs and develop new programs. We have been able to replace the flooring on the main floor and continue to do necessary repairs and maintenance to the upstairs units and common areas. In February, the mortgage was paid in full which reduced the agency's debt and saved interest expense.

The agency has experienced growth and many positive changes have been made including the change in hours of operation to enable staff to offer programming to clients in the evening and on weekends. A Recreational Therapist has been hired to provide new opportunities and activities to clients.

In February, the Board and Senior Management team participated in a strategic planning session using Lego serious play to work through the process which focused on outcomes for the next three years. An important goal is to increase communication between the Senior Management Team and the Board. To begin to work toward that goal, staff members will be invited to Board meetings to provide more detailed information about the programs they are responsible for.

The Restorative Justice Peer Mediation Program began in April 2016 at Westgate High School and has received an annualized funding increase of \$18,000. A short video was produced to promote and market the program and the John Howard Society of Thunder Bay sponsors a \$500 bursary for graduating students going on to post-secondary education. Dom Barbiero was at the heart of the program and helped to make it the extraordinary success it is. Dom's tragic and unexpected passing in April has had a profound impact on everyone.

A special thank you to Kevin Haynen, Acting Executive Director, and the Senior Management Team for their leadership and commitment. I'd also like to thank Board members for their insight and dedication to the important work being done every day at the agency.

We are grateful to our funders and donors for their continued support which makes it possible for us to provide transitional housing and programs for individuals in conflict with the law.

Sandy Lychowyd
President, Board of Directors

Message from the Executive Director

2017/2018 was another year of positive growth and development for the John Howard Society of Thunder Bay and District. In contrast with the previous two years where we observed significant expansions in our court and youth programs, we have focused our resources this past year on improving our existing programs and services. Throughout the development of our 2018-2020 strategic plan, the concept of *growth from within* resonated as we worked to identify the goals and priorities of the agency over the next three years. This has translated to an increase in professional development opportunities for staff, ongoing enhancements to our facility and a greater focus on engaging with community partners to increase support and reduce systemic gaps for our client population.

In partnership with the John Howard Society of Ontario, we were successful this year in attaining funding from the Local Poverty Reduction Fund to evaluate our Residential Reintegration Program here at the John Howard Society of Thunder Bay. Through this 3-year project funding, we have been able to hire a full-time Recreational Therapist that will further enhance the experience for people accessing our residential services. Since implementing the position in April of this year, the increase in recreational programming opportunities for our residents has already had a positive social impact within the program. As we move forward with the evaluation component of this project, we are looking forward to gaining more insight into how we can continue to improve our services to better meet the holistic needs of the diverse population of people that access our services.

The work that is done at the John Howard Society of Thunder Bay is some of the most challenging in the field. It requires a great deal of patience, awareness, understanding, empathy, skill, knowledge and self-care to walk with and support people on their journey toward well-being. I am thankful every day for the wonderful team of staff that are committed to doing their best to help our fellow community members. Each day presents a unique set of challenges. We are very fortunate to have people that regularly go above and beyond to help meet the needs of our programs and the people we serve.

Leadership and dedication are essential for an organization to grow and thrive and we are so fortunate to have a Board of Directors that embody both of these qualities. It is my privilege to work with people that are committed to sharing their knowledge, skills and time with us to further advance the mission of the John Howard Society of Thunder Bay and District. Thank you to all of our Board members for their ongoing support and for being there to see us through our challenges and successes.

Thank you to all of our generous donors, funders and partners that truly make everything possible. We are very grateful for these relationships and we remain committed to working together to foster genuinely safer communities.

Kevin Haynen
Acting Executive Director

Change Happens Here

This section is dedicated to our clients' success. Each story speaks to the positive impact JHS has had on their lives and how change became a reality. Client names have been changed for confidentiality purposes. These stories are a reflection of how Change Happens Here!

Success Stories from our Case Managers



Karen arrived at JHS after approximately 30 years of homelessness, addiction and mental health created a barrier for her in reaching her goal of permanent housing. Karen was open to meeting with our staff and quickly developed relationships while attending programs. Karen loved to bead and shared her talents with other residents. After working closely with our Social Navigator for several months, Karen found housing in the community. She was able to access funds for furniture and received a bundle of housing supplies from JHS after moving into her apartment. Karen continues to attend JHS to connect with staff and attend programming. She is currently connected to our Social Navigator who makes monthly check-ins to determine how housing is going and if there are any other necessities required. Karen has been clean for several months, is managing her mental health and is maintaining her housing in the community.

Derrick came to the JHS as a client of our Bail Bed Program. Derrick was a young individual that struggled with addiction. He continued to struggle with this addiction after he was released from incarceration. A traumatic event happened in Derrick's life and following this event, Derrick turned to staff for support. He accessed programming, resources and kept in close contact with his case manager. Derrick successfully completed the Bail Program and is now working with his Case Manager to find housing in the community. He continues to attend meetings and programming while maintaining his sobriety.



Adam had been a participant of our Bail Bed Program for several months and completed the program in early 2018. Upon Adam's arrival at JHS, he appeared to be quiet and difficult to engage. Adam stayed far away from staff at times because he felt as though he could not trust staff. After months passed, Adam connected with a staff member to discuss a family member's medical issue that was causing him a great deal of stress. Adam struggled at times with addiction as well and felt like connecting with staff was going to keep him accountable to his sobriety. Adam began participating in programming. Not long after, Adam completed the Bail Bed Program. He continues to engage with staff while working on his goals for the future. Adam is a great example of how programming can make a huge difference.

Change Happens Here

Highlights from the Team

The JHS team got into the spirit during the Halloween season! Many staff and residents dressed up, carved pumpkins, and roasted pumpkin seeds.



In April, John Howard Society staff updated the programming room to better meet the needs of our residents. Couches, an area rug, television, coffee tables and décor was added in order to enhance the space and encourage residents to spend more time on the main floor. We also provided the room with new paint in order to make the space more comfortable. This has made a big difference to this room, as it is where many of our programs take place.



In May 2018, Angela Gollat worked with our residents on a mural for the main floor common area. The mural represents things that are important to our residents and staff, while incorporating the values of John Howard Society. The mural provides a visual for our clients to appreciate, as many are involved or have interest in the arts.

The building has undergone many upgrades this past year such as air conditioning, new flooring, new showers and new paint. A closet system was installed for our community clothing donations in order for residents to have access to clothing. This partnership was built between our agency and Value Village.



Not only has the inside of our building undergone improvements, but our staff and residents also built new garden beds for the plants that have been grown during programming. We're hoping to grow some delicious vegetables to supply our community kitchen programs!



Change Happens Here

Social Navigator

Meet Lindsay!

Lindsay, our Social Navigator, provides support for people ready to transition from our residence back in to the community. She provides life-skills programming while fostering new partnerships within our community. Recently, a new partnership was created between Elizabeth Fry, Thunder Bay Counselling Centre and John Howard Society. The program, New Horizons, provides continuous relapse prevention supports for people after leaving corrections. This group is open to all community members.

Lindsay fosters community relationships to help create awareness about the residential program offered through the John Howard Society. She provides housing support services to our most vulnerable sector while maintaining partnerships that include the Crime Prevention Council, SWAN (Supporting Women through Adversity in the North), Value Village (Give to Get program), among many more.



This position has adapted to focus more on the housing needs of our residents, as well as community members. Lindsay frequently attends home visits to help ensure that clients are able to maintain permanent housing and that their connections to supports are being made. Lindsay has created a landlord partnership brochure to pass along to potential landlords, outlining the support each potential tenant from John Howard Society will have as part of the program. The wrap around services are for up to 18-months after leaving the residential facility, and it has proven to be a successful working model. This new approach has kept Lindsay busy!

Change Happens Here

Recreation Therapist

Meet Sheena!

Participating in recreation and leisure activities has proven to help people manage stress, increase positive social interactions, develop creativity, enhance independence and generally speaking, improve wellbeing.

Sheena started her position as Recreation Therapist in March 2018 and has already implemented some unique and life enriching programming opportunities for John Howard Society residents and community clients; some of which are her own and some in partnership with volunteers and organizations that include Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre, Compass North, Cooperative X, Thunder Bay Public Library, Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre and Cultural Teacher Mel Legarde.

The Build a Bike Program in partnership with Cooperative X has proven to be incredibly popular. The program helps people be independent through bike building while also providing the opportunity for residents to experience positive interactions out in the community.

Cultural programming is something Sheena feels is very important for the community. Sheena has partnered with the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre for a monthly program to learn about Indigenous culture and practices. So far, people have been able to make their own tobacco pouch, learn about the four sacred medicines, make their own smudge kit and create dreamcatchers.

Sheena has also worked with Cultural teacher Mel Legarde for monthly storytelling and sharing circles. When Mel starts talking and sharing his stories that have been passed to him over many generations, residents get the opportunity to reflect on their life and learn life lessons from a cultural perspective. Mel is engaging and a great storyteller and residents have really enjoyed his visits.

Meditation is a program that people said they wanted on a regular basis. Sheena holds it weekly every Monday morning and it continues to grow in popularity. People undergoing a lot of stress and anxiety share that it is helping them.

This is really just the beginning, but Sheena is already seeing improved wellbeing and support for making social connections and friendships.



Change Happens Here

Remote Community Intervention Program

Since 2007, the John Howard Society of Thunder Bay and District has been working in partnership with the remote northern communities of Webequie, Weagamow, and Eabametoong. In 2013 Long Lake #58 First Nation was added to our program, as well as a Youth Counselor (Tracey Sauls).

Connecting with other programs and workers who support youth is part of our goal of working together to support the youth. Change can happen sometimes smoother and quicker if we are part of a team. North Western Ontario is a large region and working together is important.

The key to our program is the Remote Community Intervention Workers (RCIW). They face many challenges with the youth and working together with others in their communities. The Community Intervention Workers presently are Glenda Adams (Weagamow), Bob Wabasse (Webequie), Don McLeod (Long Lake) and Bessie Ooshag (Fort Hope). We also have back-up workers, if needed, in three of the communities. One of the back-up workers (Olive Harper, Weagamow) has been working with us for ten years. The workers are the support/advocates for the youth and their families, the right hand for the probation officers and their case management plan, and also very involved in programming and as community members. They all have been involved in events, presentations, ceremonies, cultural and traditional activities, celebrations, and other activities with the youth and their communities. The workers may be facilitating a Sweat Lodge Ceremony, delivering presentations at the school, coordinating events, attending court, meeting with the youth and their families, arranging Community Service hours for the youth and supporting the youth and community during a loss of a loved one. They have many job duties and a fast paced schedule. The Youth Counselor has also enhanced support and services for the youth. She travels regularly to the communities and also youth custody centers. The main reason for our program is the youth, and we never forget that. We have received positive feedback from the youth, probation officers, other organizations, and the communities themselves. We at John Howard Society of Thunder Bay and District are grateful and want to thank the Remote Community Intervention Workers for their hard work and dedication to supporting the youth.



Change Happens Here

Aboriginal Student Support Worker – Geraldton Composite High School

Since 2007, the John Howard Society of Thunder Bay and District has been working in partnership with Geraldton Composite High School. In 2016, working together with the school and the Ministry of Children and Youth, we switched to the Aboriginal Student Support Worker Program. Erica Cormier has been the worker since it began. She has done a great job in developing and implementing the program.

The program began Fall 2016. The worker maintains liaison with teachers, counselors, administrators, Aboriginal students, their families, and community agencies as an advocate for Aboriginal students. Counseling, advocacy, and supporting the students are the main part of the worker's job. Activities have also included daily drumming sessions, drum making, beading, moccasin making, access to Elders and being part of native education curriculum in classes. The program has been a great support to the students, families, and staff.



Change Happens Here

On-Track – Peer Mediation Program – Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute

Since 2016, the John Howard Society of Thunder Bay and District has been working in partnership with Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute. In 2016, working together with the Westgate CVI, Lakehead Public Schools and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, we started the On-Track Peer Mediation Program.

Peer mediation is problem solving by youth with youth. It is a process by which two or more students involved in a dispute meet in a private, safe and confidential setting to work out problems with the assistance of a trained student mediator. Peer mediators can deal with relationships, misunderstandings, disagreements and related issues. Students, teachers, and administrators can request peer mediation.

There have been over 900 mediations at the school in the two years since the program began. We have received positive feedback from the students, school and school board regarding the program. Dom Barbiero had been the worker since the beginning of the program and was a major contributor to the success of the program. It is with great sadness that we share that Dom passed away in April 2018. Our thoughts and prayers are always with Dom's family and the staff and students of Westgate CVI. We will never forget the passion that Dom had for helping people and we will make every effort to carry on the amazing work that he has done for our community.



Fundraising & Community Involvement



In May 2018, John Howard staff went up 20 feet in the air to support and fundraise for the 26th Annual Great Billboard Rescue. Each year, up to four of our staff members go up in the scissor lift to support the United Way fundraiser. While up in the air, staff contact anyone who will donate to the cause!

On 15 May 2018, John Howard Society partnered with EcoSuperior and the Thunder Bay Crime Prevention Council to facilitate a community clean up. John Howard Society hosted refreshments after the clean up. Many staff members attended the event, as well as some mascots such as Trixie!



Join us for a
South Core Neighbourhood Clean Up
(Let's show the South Core Neighbourhood some love!)



Tuesday May 15, 5 PM

Meet at City Hall, 500 Donald St. E.

Join members of the South Core Public Safety Task Force, Crime Prevention Council, John Howard Society, StandUp4CleanUp and other community partners.

Refreshments will follow at John Howard Society-315 Syndicate Ave. S.

Part of the City of Thunder Bay's Spring Up to Clean Up

Contact: Lee-Ann Chevrette at lchevrette@thunderbay.ca or (807) 625-2554



Board of Directors 2017/2018

Sandy Lychowyd	President
Paul Carr	Vice President
Afton Brown	Secretary
John Allen (AJ) Johnson	Treasurer
Shirley DeWilde	Director
Clifford Mushquash.....	Director
Jennifer Duncan	Director
Bill Liggins.....	Director

Staff 2017/2018

Kevin Haynen	Acting Executive Director
Maryann Bilenki	Manager of Finance and Administration
Rory Bellin	Program Manager
Sean Tresierra.....	Youth Services Manager
Colleen Peters	Training and Development Manager
Chantel Randell	Residential Rehabilitation Program Coordinator
Gabrielle Leonard.....	Acting BVSP Coordinator / Community Justice Worker
Colleen Aiken.....	BVSP Coordinator
Shayna Larson.....	BVSP Coordinator
Chantal Petit.....	BVSP Case Manager
Alex Petrynka.....	Residential Case Manager
Lindsay Martin.....	Social Navigator
Sheena Campbell.....	Recreation Therapist
Tracey Sauls	Remote Community Youth Counsellor

Staff 2017/2018 Continued

Emily HowieBVSP Case Manager

Bob Wabasse Remote Community Intervention Support Worker

Gen BeardyRemote Community Intervention Support Worker

Bessie OoshagRemote Community Intervention Support Worker

Renee WesleyRemote Community Intervention Support Worker

Olive Harper...Remote Community Intervention Support Worker

Marcy LemieuxRemote Community Intervention Support Worker

Donald McLeod.....Remote Community Intervention Support Worker)

Erica Cormier.....Indigenous Student Support Program Coordinator (Geraldton)

Domenic Barbiero.....On-Track Student Support Program Coordinator (Westgate)

Kylie Marion.....WASH Court/Mental Health Case Manager

Jeffrey Krueger.....Maintenance/Custodian

Larry Leochko.....Residential Services Night Staff

Doug Mawhinney.....Residential Services Night Staff

Taylor Bond.....Residential Services Night Staff

Ryan Ritchie.....Residential Services Night Staff

Tara Hahkala-Crawford.....Residential Services Night Staff

Celine Leger.....Residential Services Night Staff

Sheikh Harun-Or-Rashid.....Residential Services Night Staff

Kayla Knapp.....Residential Services Night Staff

Pauline Fogarty.....Residential Services Night Staff

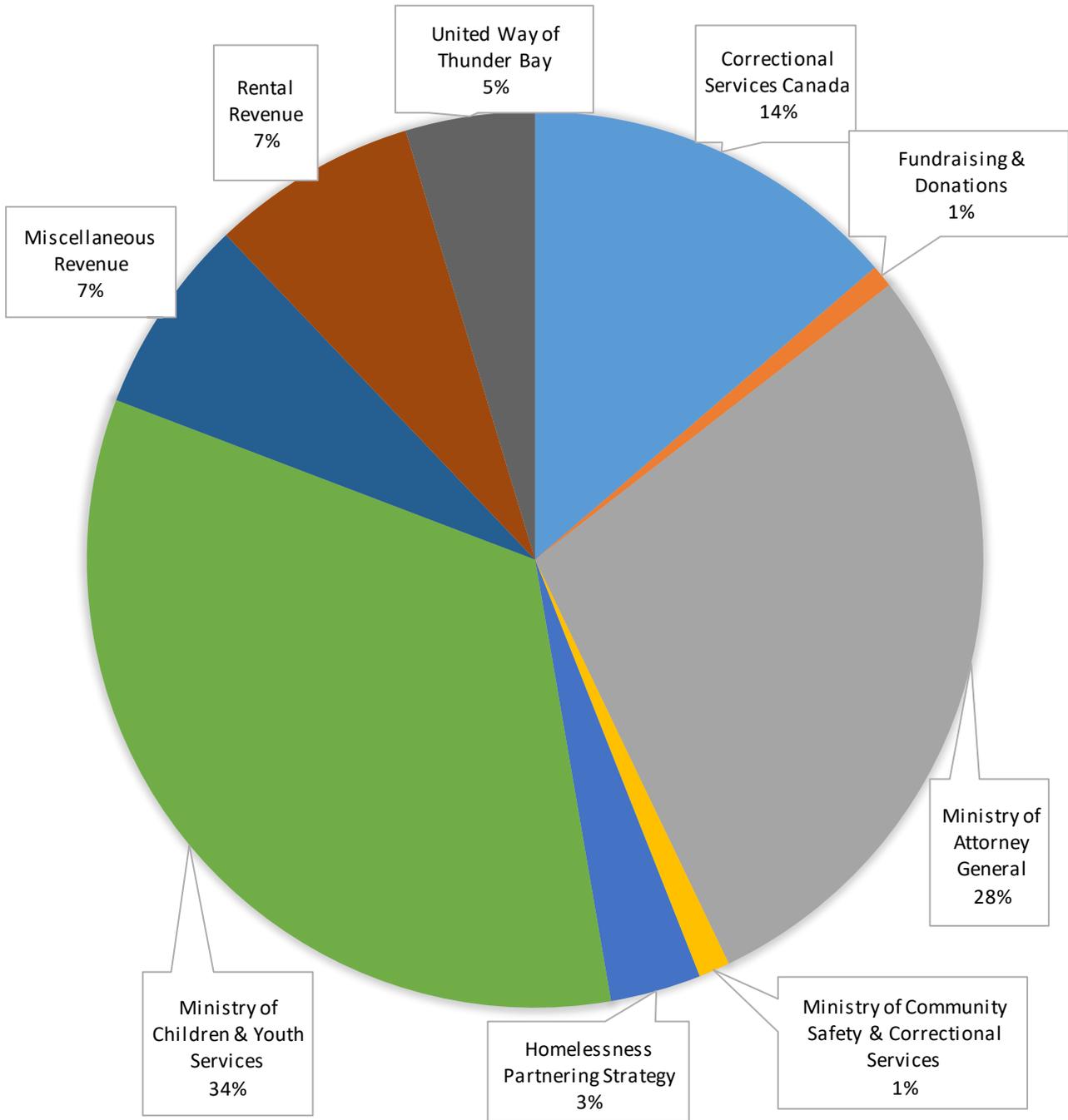
Kelly Sokoloski.....Residential Services Night Staff

Jaimin Patel.....Residential Services Night Staff

Aniruddh Vaghela.....Residential Services Night Staff

Thank You To Our Funders

Revenue Summary



Thank You To Our Funders



United Way
Thunder Bay
Change starts here.

Ontario
Trillium
Foundation



Fondation
Trillium
de l'Ontario



Canada



Ontario

Ministry of Attorney General

Ministry of Children & Youth Services

Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services

Métis Nation
of Ontario 



Human Resources and
Social Development Canada

Ressources humaines et
Développement social Canada

Service
Canada

JohnHoward

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