JohnHoward
SOCIETY OF ONTARIO
Annual Report 2014

Mission

Effective, just and humane responses to crime and its causes.

Methods

In furtherance of its mission, the society:

1. Provides for the effective integration into the community of those in conflict with the law, and provides, or encourages others to provide, services to those in contact with, or affected by the criminal justice system;

2. Promotes changes in the law and the administration of justice which will lead to the more humane and effective treatment of individuals;

3. Promotes citizen awareness of the problems of crime and its causes, acceptance of responsibility to respond to these problems and involvement in the delivery and management of justice related programs;

4. Promotes the fair and humane treatment of all incarcerated persons and seeks to ensure that all forms of detention and imprisonment comply with relevant legal and human rights standards.

Description

The John Howard Society of Ontario is an organization of citizens who accept responsibility for understanding and dealing with the problems of crime and the criminal justice system.

Bruce F. Simpson
President
John Howard Society of Ontario

As President, I am honoured to have the opportunity to write this annual report on behalf of all of the members of the Board of Directors of the John Howard Society of Ontario, as well as our hardworking staff, the many local Affiliate staff members who have contributed to the work of the provincial Society, and, of course, our supporters throughout the province.

This past year, the Centre of Research, Policy & Program Development at JHSO released a very well researched report entitled, "Reasonable Bail?" which has deservedly received considerable media attention and generated discussion. It is important to follow up. It seems to have been forgotten that people are presumed to be innocent. Unless there is a good reason for doing otherwise, people charged with offences should be released on a promise to appear in court, without conditions.

As Winston Churchill, among others, has pointed out, the way in which a nation treats its accused persons and prisoners is the test of that country's civilization. The restriction of the liberties of a citizen prior to conviction should be seen as abhorrent, unless absolutely necessary.

The overuse of extensive conditions and of sureties requires that individuals usually be held until the following day so that they can appear before a Justice of the Peace, and often a further day until a surety can be lined up. From the accused's point of view, the option is to accept what may be totally unjustifiable conditions or remain in custody until he can have a hearing. The current system also results in myriad charges of breaches of undertaking, taking judicial and police resources from more urgent needs.

The Society continues to be concerned about people who are harmed by the disclosure of non-conviction information. The disclosure of non-conviction information was initially designed to protect children and other vulnerable persons. However, any employer can insist that a job applicant give consent to the disclosure of this information. The problem can only be fixed with regulation, and likely statutory changes.

I want to welcome those members who have joined our Board since our last annual meeting and to express my thanks to those members who had to leave us in the last year, namely Stan Dudzic, Camille Hannays-King and Lisa Heslop. I wish in particular to express my gratitude to Richard Beaupre, who served for many years as the Sudbury representative and as a member of the Executive as well. I always found his contributions to debate and his advice helpful.

I want to thank all Board members for the courteous and helpful way in which they contribute to Board meetings. Few things are easier than chairing a meeting when the persons attending the meeting treat each other with respect. I also want to thank those members who have agreed to sit on committees. Committee work makes possible the completion of tasks which would otherwise be difficult to complete. Of course, the committees could not function without the able assistance of staff, and I am certainly given to understand from the committee members that staff contributions have been all that could be asked for, and more.

We are very fortunate, I think, to have the excellent staff that we have at all levels. I know that my fellow Board members agree with me on that score.

Finally, but most importantly, I wish to thank the various donors and supporters of the Society and its Affiliates across this province. Without your interest and support, the Society could not function.

Paula Osmok
Executive Director
John Howard Society of Ontario

In this final year of our current Operational Business Plan, the John Howard Society of Ontario activities continue to be driven by our five targets: producing leading edge research; making meaningful contributions to policy matters; developing evidence led programs; strong support of our local John Howard Society offices; and strengthening our collective organization.

In September 2013, the Centre of Research, Policy & Program Development released a report entitled, *Reasonable Bail?* which found that bail in Ontario has drifted far from its legislated purpose. The Report highlights how current bail practices challenge both the legally enshrined presumptions of innocence and reasonable bail. The report received considerable attention and JHSO Centre staff continue to engage in public education efforts on the Report and its findings.

On May 17th, 2014, JHSO released its report *Help Wanted*: Reducing Barriers for Ontario Youth with Police Records* which received extensive media coverage and interest from the broader community. Additionally, JHSO, in partnership with the Canadian Civil Liberties Association has engaged in a cross-Ontario public education series on the disclosure of non-conviction information on police record checks.

Our Centre of Research, Policy & Program Development also launched a public education series called *the Counter Point*. The series demystifies common myths around crime while making often complex topics more accessible, especially for those who have never had any contact with the criminal justice system.

We provided significant support to our local John Howard offices in the areas of program evaluation, proposal development, human resources, fundraising and other financial matters. In conjunction with the Executive Director Committee members, an Operational Plan, was developed focusing on building our capacity as a provider of leading edge social and criminal justice services across Ontario.

Additional deliverables include outputs of the newly established Ontario-wide Marketing Governance Committee with agreement to proceed with a consolidated web presence in Ontario.

We are also pleased to report that we recently purchased an older building on Queen Street East and following substantial renovations, we will be relocating to the new quarters by the end of 2014.

I would like to express my gratitude to my talented and energetic colleagues at the JHS Ontario office and our local offices across Ontario who make significant contributions to the health and safety of our communities. I would like to give special recognition to Vanessa Rhodes, who is the recipient of the Society's Volunteer of the Year Award and thank the members of our Research Ethics Board who ensure that ethical standards are maintained in our research projects. A special note of appreciation to our funders and donors who are committed to helping the Society carry out its mission. As always, we are mindful of the ethical and operational standards established by Imagine Canada and our commitment to meeting or exceeding each and every one. Finally, a special thank you to the individuals on our Board of Directors who provide a strong vision and stewardship of the Society.

We look forward to an exciting year. With our new Business Plan, we will build on the momentum of the past year and continue to contribute in a very tangible way to public policy debates, provide research-led solutions to social and criminal justice problems as well as inspire public discourse on justice issues that impact lives of individuals and families in our communities.

Board of Directors Executive Committee

Bruce Simpson	President
Ken Doan	Vice-President
Brian Cavanagh	Treasurer
Rob MacLellan	Secretary
Jim Preston	Executive Committee Member-at-large
John Rives	Executive Committee Member-at-large

Directors

Sheila Arthurs	Robert McMenemy
Jim Bradfield	Paul Mundra
Ron Cuthbert	Christina Ninham
Steve DeForest	Michael Sabo
Abb Gilbert	Victor Satzewich
Paul Legacy	Trisha Simpson
Joseph Lerner	Diane van de Valk
Sandy Lychowyd	Pauline Wainwright
Hermon Mayers	

Our Staff

Paula Osmok	Executive Director
Maureen Zuniga	Human Resources & Administrative Coordinator
Shanno Fairfield	Development and Communications Coordinator
Rob Baltovich	Records Coordinator

Centre of Research, Policy & Program Development

Michelle Keast	Director
Jacqueline Tasca	Policy Analyst
Reza Ahmadi	Researcher and Program Evaluator
Mark Trumpour	Program Evaluator
Colin D'Amelio	Volunteer
Sabrina Dinicolantonio	Volunteer
Ben Levin	Volunteer
Fraser McGuire	Volunteer
Vanessa Rhodes	Volunteer
Jessica Sutherland	Volunteer

Research Ethics Board Members

Anthony Doob
Nathan Innocente
Amy Klassen
Voula Marinos (Chair)
Marianne Quirouette
Kim Varma

2013 Award Winners

Donna Read	Dykstra Award
Sonia Meerai	MacFarlane Award
Vanessa Rhodes	JHSO Volunteer of the Year Award

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website: www.johnhowardyorkregion.on.ca

Ms. Christin Cullen
Executive Director

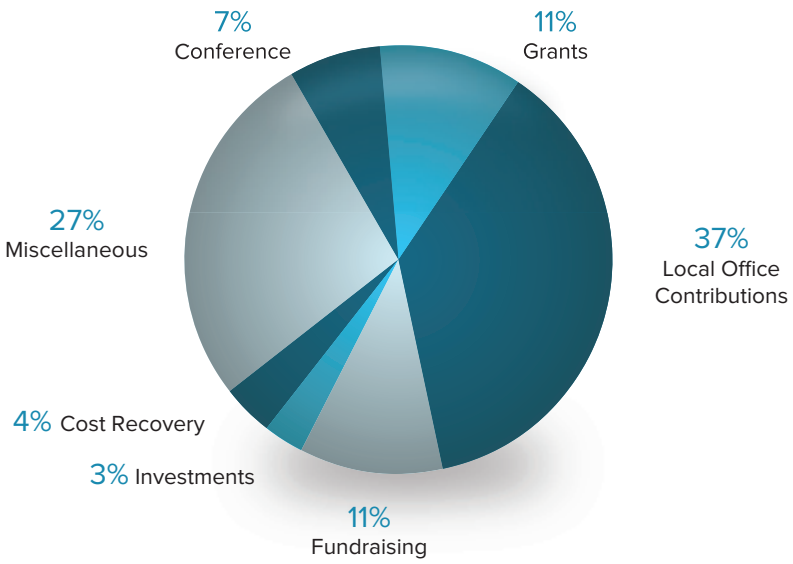
1. Jeff Vidler, 2012 Volunteer of the Year award recipient with Bruce Simpson, JHS Ontario Board President.
2. Christin Cullen (Executive Director, JHS York Region) and David Lane (Executive Director, JHS Hamilton).
3. EDC presentation regarding Parole in Ontario.
4. Donna Read receives the 2013 Dykstra Award from Paula Osmok, Executive Director JHS Ontario.
5. JHSO Centre Staff and volunteers at the U of T Bake sale, December 2013
6. Brian Cavanagh and Sheila Arthurs, JHSO Board Directors.

7. Ron Cuthbert and Abb Gilbert, JHSO Board Directors.
8. Bruce Simpson (JHS Ontario Board President), Paula Osmok (Executive Director, JHS Ontario) and Pauline Wainwright (JHS Ontario Director).
9. Pauline Wainwright, Diane van de Valk and Judy Webb at a JHS Ontario Board Meeting.
10. Jim Bradfield, JHS Ontario Board Director.
11. JHS Ontario staff.
12. Andrew Grenville, 2012 Volunteer of the Year Award recipient with Bruce Simpson, JHS Ontario Board President.

2013 Revenue & Expenditures

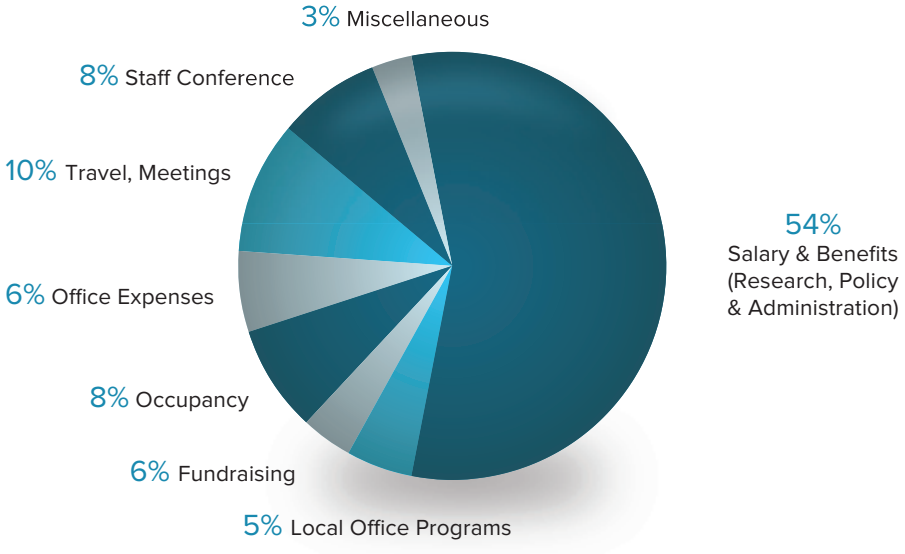
Revenue

$1,140,995



Expenditures

$1,012,146

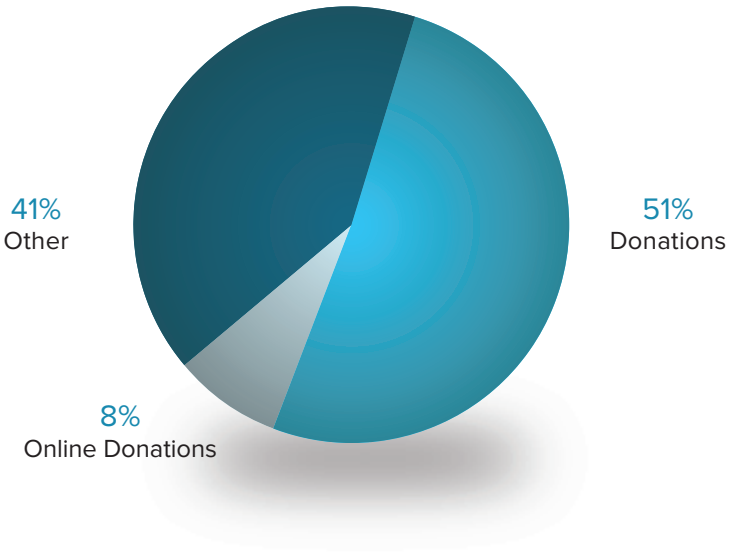


Complete audited financial statements are available at **www.johnhoward.on.ca** or upon request

2013 Fundraising Revenue & Expenditures

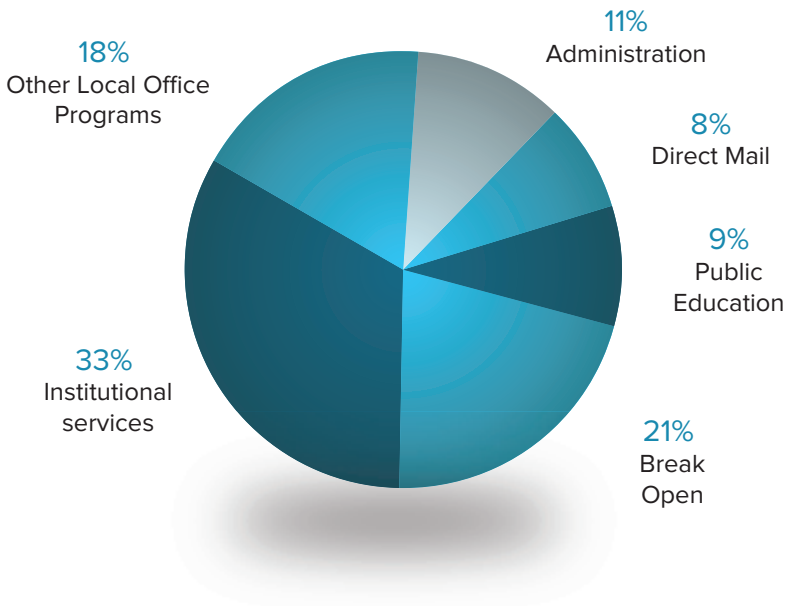
Fundraising Revenue

$129,388



Fundraising Expenditures

$129,388



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