



Home Horizon
Transitional Support Program
Annual Report
2015

Welcome

To

Home Horizon's

2016 AGM

Serving the community for over 10 years!

From homelessness to permanent home

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we celebrate our 10th anniversary of service to the homeless, it is time to reflect on what we have achieved as well as to look to the opportunities ahead.

We have grown in service both in capacity and scope. We have reached new annual levels of service and have expanded the scope of our service to include youth. We have kept abreast of our financial needs, although typically just barely, thanks to creative fundraising activities such as the Coldest Night Event which was successfully introduced this past year. For that financial success we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the many volunteers who work tirelessly to plan and implement our fundraising events.

We've also had some growing pains. We have outgrown our office space and desperately need new and accessible quarters without adding to our administrative costs. That is not easy to find in Collingwood. We have also been unsuccessful in finding a new home for our Youth Program due to a very tight rental market and the reluctance of some property owners to rent for a youth program. But, we are looking at an exciting opportunity that may solve both of these problems.

In previous AGM's we have alluded to our vision of acquiring a permanent home for Home Horizon in which we could combine additional housing units with service delivery and office space. Lack of capital has always been the obstacle.

We are pleased to announce that that has changed. We have received a pledge of \$50000 toward the purchase of a residential home to house Home Horizon operations and our Youth Program. We estimate that we will require about \$200,000 in capital to acquire a suitable facility but we are about half way there with this pledge and some reserve funds. The Board of Directors is pursuing property availability, acquiring the balance of funds required for a down payment and approval of a mortgage to complete the purchase.

This is all very exciting. Our vision is within reach! We welcome any assistance any of you are able to provide to help us raise the additional capital.

Thank you for your continued support of the important and effective services Home Horizon provides.



Garth Martin

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This year celebrates our 10 year mark of providing support in an affordable housing unit to the homeless in South Georgian Bay. During the 10 years our program has grown to 6 housing units that can house up to 10 families and 30 individuals.

In 2015 we had 14 families with 22 children, and 15 youth taking part in our program. We opened a new youth program that has grown to assist the youth in the area with place to call home.

We have housed 380 individuals over that time. Families that need support and life skills, children that need a place to feel safe, counselling to enable moms to accept the past and build on the strengths to move forward, create networks and move into independent living. Home Horizon provides a hand up not a hand out. Our families are in our program for up to a year. Quite often, families need a full year to work through tasks that are overwhelming to them.

A good example:

Jen comes from a 2 income home, 2 children and she is forced to leave the home due to unforeseen circumstances. Jen now has many tasks to achieve before she will feel stable again.

Jen is unable to work as her stress level is extremely high; Jen has to get a Doctor's note for her employer; Jen has 2 children that are unsure of why they cannot go home; Jen has to comfort her children; Jen cannot stop crying; Jen has no food; Jen has court papers to fill out; Jen has to apply for EI; Jen has to get her children enrolled in a different school; Jen has police reports to fill out; Jen has to figure out how she is going to feed her children until her EI comes in; Jen goes back to work; Jen has to leave work as she cannot do the job; Jen has to rent a storage unit and move her furniture; Jen has to go to court to get an order to get her furniture..... the list goes on and on and on.

During this time Home Horizon provides support to Jen and helps her to prioritize what needs to happen next.

Home Horizons program of support help Jen and so many families that are in a similar situation to positively move forward and set goals for the family's future.

Thank you for your support, Doris Sensenberger



Doris Sensenberger

TREASURER'S REPORT

We show a small surplus for the year 2015, which is an improvement of the year before. It continues to be difficult to stay in the black: 2016 promises to be a challenge.

One major change is the youth programme which is supported by a grant from Trillium, and which go underway in 2015. this is an addition to our regular programme and the extra funding is great. Of course there is an expectation here that we increase our fund-raising there as well.

A new project in fundraising this year is "The Coldest Night", which will be showing up in the income for 2016, since that did not take place in the financial year we are reporting on . Fundraising is an ever increasing portion in importance. We have a great team that is working on that and which continues to look at new ways to improve our income.

Doris continues to look for government grants, as we certainly cannot work without that source of income, which adds to her workload.

We thank all or our supporters for coming across for us where it is needed.

John Devries

*Thank
You*

FUNDRAISING REPORT

I recently took over from Darlene Cole as Chair of the Fundraising Committee. First off I would like to thank Darlene for her many years of service as Chair and her ongoing support of Home Horizon.

This past year we were able to hire a fundraiser as part of the funding we received from the Trillium grant. Suzanne Prosser was hired and was with us up until a few weeks ago when she received a job offer that was closer to home. I would like to thank Suzanne for her support of our events this year, particularly our newest event the Coldest Night, as we achieved some great success.

In 2016 we held three large fundraising events:

The 2nd Annual **Spirit of Collingwood Tour** which is an event organized by Janice Atkinson and Sherry Rioux with support from a committee and the Board. Participants boarded buses and set off for a tasting and tour of some of Collingwood beer establishments and hops farm followed by dinner at the Bear Estates. We raised over \$16,000 and feedback was it was a huge success! Stay tuned for the 3rd Annual Spirit Tour coming this fall!

On February 20th, Home Horizon hosted the **Coldest Night of the Year**, a 2, 5 & 10 km winter walk hosted in 80+ cities across Canada in support of Home Horizon. This was a first for Collingwood and thanks to our amazing committee chaired by Suzanne Prosser and Mary Ellen McNaught, we raised over \$34,000! This is incredible for our first year. Congratulations to all participants, volunteers and committee members! We are in the process of looking for a co-chair for next year so please let us know if you are interested!

Lastly in April we hosted our largest event of the year – **Bowls for Beds** chaired by Dana Calder and supported by an amazing committee! We were fortunate to be back again this year at the newly renovated Georgian Bay Hotel and Conference Center. Close to 600 participants came out to sample delicious soups from local chefs in the Georgian Triangle area. Thanks to all our sponsors, volunteers, committee members and participants we raised \$22,630!

Our mail campaigns are also an important component of our annual fundraising so thank you to everyone for your ongoing generosity. Every dollar counts!

Lastly I want to thank the staff of Home Horizon who always are more than willing to be involved in the various fundraising events. We could not do it without them!

Fundraising is critical to the ongoing support and success of Home Horizon and we need your help! We are looking for volunteers to help us organize our events. There are lots of opportunities from helping find sponsors, selling tickets, organizing media support or helping the day of – if you are interested please contact the Home Horizon office and we will be sure to call you!

Joan Schatz

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