

# ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

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# 2023



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**PREPARED BY:**  
Home Horizon



**Home Horizon**  
BARBARA WEIDER HOUSE

[www.homehorizon.ca](http://www.homehorizon.ca)

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*Transforming the Lives of Youth!*

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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We acknowledge that we are on stolen land of the Anishnabek, Huad-neh-show-nay, Mississaugas peoples bound by the Dish with One Spoon treaty. This treaty was originally between the Anishnabek, Haudenosaunee (Huad-neh-show-nay), and Mississaugas, and bound communities to share the territory and protect the land. The land is also treaty 16 territory, a treaty signed in 1815. We and all non-Indigenous were invited into the treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect. We recognize the deep, systemic and ongoing violence faced by Indigenous peoples across Simcoe County and our country and are committed to the indigenization of spaces.



*"We cannot do great things on this Earth, only small things with great love" Mother Teresa*



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Charitable #: 86284-8389-RR0001  
53 Campbell Street  
Collingwood, ON L9Y 2L1  
[www.homehorizon.ca](http://www.homehorizon.ca)



# WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

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Our mission is to transform the lives of youth at risk of homelessness by providing them with the opportunity to rebuild their lives and unlock their full potential. These young individuals are in a pivotal stage of transitioning into adulthood, and often due to challenging circumstances, they have not yet acquired the essential health, personal, social, and life skills necessary for independent living.

To achieve this mission, we offer a comprehensive array of programs and services aimed at empowering youth to successfully rebuild their lives and make the challenging transition into independent living and adulthood. Our support programs are multifaceted, addressing acute instances of homelessness, facilitating the acquisition of crucial life skills, fostering positive relationships with peers and adults, re-engaging with educational opportunities, progressing towards higher learning, and gaining and maintaining employment.

Our approach begins with the identification of youth who are at risk of homelessness. In taking this vital first step, we closely examine the factors that have pushed these youth from stability to instability, leading them to be at risk. These situations encompass a wide spectrum, ranging from issues such as drug and alcohol addiction to various forms of mental illness and intellectual inability.

Above all, the safety and well-being of these youth remain our paramount concern, driving our commitment to creating a brighter future for each of them.

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# CHAIR REPORT



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**“Transitional housing refers to a supportive – yet temporary – type of accommodation that is meant to bridge the gap from homelessness to permanent housing by offering structure, supervision, support (for addictions and mental health, for instance), life skills, and in some cases, education and training”.**

**“Transitional housing is conceptualized as an intermediate step between emergency crisis shelter and permanent housing. It is more long-term, service-intensive and private than emergency shelters, yet remains time-limited to stays of three months to three years. It is meant to provide a safe, supportive environment where residents can overcome trauma, begin to address the issues that led to homelessness or kept them homeless, and begin to rebuild their support network”.** *The Homeless Hub, York University*

Home Horizon’s Transitional Housing and Outreach Services strives to meet the standards set out in the definition, set out by the Homeless Hub. Under the direction of Executive Director, Steven Pelletier, the staff at both the Barbara Weider House and Outreach Services have developed and deliver programming to youth to support them in their journey to prepare for permanent housing.

Youth are given the opportunity to access mental health and addiction counselling through funds provided through Bell Let’s Talk, the Collingwood General and Marine Hospital Grant, as well as private donations. Programming has been developed to nurture the needs of the youth – mind, body and soul, to ensure they are well prepared for success when they are ready to move on to permanent housing.

Home Horizon has had many successes this year. Some of our residents have gone on to post-secondary education after earning their high school diplomas while residing at Barbara Weider House.

Several others have transitioned to permanent housing because they were able to secure employment with the support of Home Horizon staff.

Those youth who are homeless in the community are being supported through our Youth Outreach Services. Through partnerships with organizations in our community, many are connected to other resources to help support them while they wait for transitional housing placement.

The Board of Directors wishes to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the staff. The Board works very hard to ensure that programming and operational funds are available so we can continue to offer the much-needed services both through the Barbara Weider House and the Youth Outreach program. Our generous community continues to financially support Home Horizon which allows operations to continue, and in fact expand on the programming that benefits the youth. Home Horizon is part of the new Coordinated Access system that is being introduced throughout Simcoe County. As this system rolls out, our youth will benefit from the increased partnerships that are being fostered through Coordinated Access.

This year the Board of Directors has introduced education to all staff and Board members in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion so that youth know that Home Horizon is a safe space for them.

I will conclude by thanking Home Horizon Board and staff for their dedication to the meaningful support offered to the most vulnerable youth within our community. We would like to give a big thank you to the community for their ongoing support to Home Horizon. Without your overwhelming generosity, Home Horizon could not provide the essential support needed for the vulnerable youth in the community.

**Gail Michalenko, Chair**

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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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Dear Community Members,

I'm pleased to provide an update on Home Horizon's journey during the 2022/23 fiscal year. This year marks another that has been filled with growth, challenges, and meaningful transformations. Our steadfast commitment to addressing youth homelessness in South Georgian Bay has paved the way for progress and resilience. Our dedication ensures that the essential services we provide remain flexible for the most vulnerable members of our community.

A significant achievement this year has been the expansion and development of programming at Barbara Weider House. A key figure in this effort is Nicole Laidlaw, whose contributions to our Youth Outreach Program have been invaluable since 2018. It brings me great joy to announce her well-deserved promotion to Barbara Weider House Program Manager. Nicole's dedication and understanding of our mission have made her ascent a true testament to our values. Her enthusiasm and expertise inject fresh vitality into this phase of our journey.

Looking at recent accomplishments, a compelling narrative of progress unfolds. One of our long-term residents has successfully transitioned to independent living, a significant milestone in their personal journey. With collaborative efforts, we secured staff housing through their employer, a pivotal step towards self-sufficiency. Similarly, another client is preparing for a transformative experience in full-time post-secondary education. Guided by our devoted team, we've supported them through applications, housing solutions, and even a campus tour. Their journey embodies the spirit of possibility, paving the way for an inspiring future.

Our mental health program continues to thrive, with around 60% of current residents actively participating in counselling services. This comprehensive support not only enhances emotional well-being but also addresses past traumas that may have contributed to their experiences of homelessness.

These achievements are a testament to the collective commitment of the Home Horizon community. From our dedicated staff to the generous donors, volunteers, and the broader community, each contribution weaves a fabric of positive change. With each modest victory, we illuminate the path ahead, casting a bright light on a future that will resonate through generations.

In closing, I extend sincere gratitude to our visionary Board of Directors, whose leadership has paved the way for this year's remarkable accomplishments. With their unwavering support, we continue to write a compelling narrative of change. As we look towards the horizon filled with possibilities, let us remember that unity, resilience, and compassion are the true agents of transformation in the lives we touch.

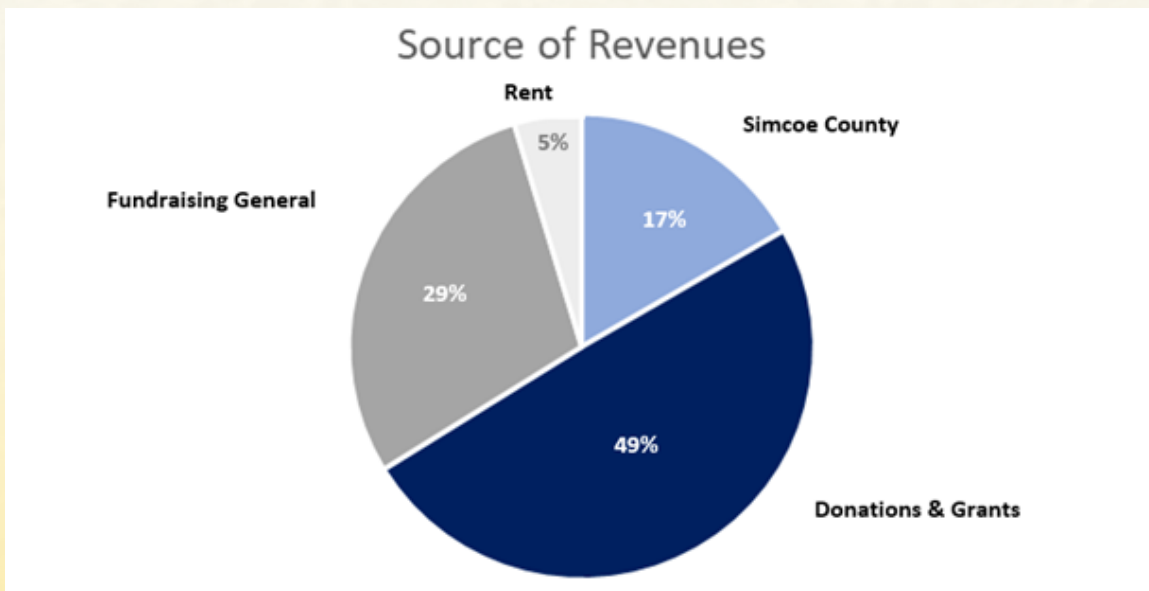
**Steven Pelletier, Executive Director**

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# FUNDRAISING REPORT



Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors, sponsors and event participants we had another successful fundraising year. Donors contributed 78% of total revenues which enabled us to deliver life-changing programs and services to youth experiencing homelessness in our community. With the expansion of the house in 2022 from 6 to 10 beds, and the expansion of the programming we offer to both youth living at the Barbara Weider House and the youth we assist through our Outreach Program, our expenses have increased year over year. Despite the increase in expenses, we ended our fiscal year in a strong financial position with a surplus. As noted in our financial statements, surplus funds are allocated to reserves that are available for emergencies, program enhancements, building our capital fund and funding our strategic initiatives. These reserves are critical for the long term sustainability of our operations and our ability to expand our services and the number of youth we serve.



We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all our donors, sponsors and event participants. Youth facing homelessness in South Georgian Bay need our services and supports more than ever, particularly with the sky-rocketing cost of living and lack of affordable housing. Thanks to your generosity we were able to expand our programming this past year and increase the number of youth we served. We can't thank you enough and hope that you will continue to support Home Horizon and the Barbara Weider House.



# FUNDRAISING REPORT

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## **Signature Events and Community Support**

Home Horizon depends on three major signature events every year which generate approximately 30% of our total revenues. We owe a debt of gratitude to our corporate sponsors, participants, donors and volunteers for the success of these events. Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to our success. A special thank you to our event Chairs, committees and volunteers who dedicate hundreds of hours of their time to ensuring the success of our events!! We could not do it without you!

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff and the Board of Directors of Home Horizon who are always more than willing to be involved in the various fundraising events and initiatives. We could not do it without them! And lastly a special thank you to Deb Piggott our Fund Development Manager for her tireless efforts and incredible passion and dedication to our fundraising and the youth we serve!

## **Looking Forward**

We are already close to half way through our fundraising year for 2023. Thanks to this community, our dedicated volunteers, the amazing school children and local artists who painted bowls, our virtual Bowls for Beds event was very successful. We are in the process of kicking off the Spirit of Collingwood Tour taking place on October 28th. For tickets and additional information [CLICK HERE](#), or [contact us](#).

We are always looking for new event committee members and fundraising volunteers – if you or someone you know are interested in a volunteer opportunity, please contact Home Horizon's office at 705-888-2149. Thank you again for an amazing year!

**Joan Schatz, Fundraising Chair**

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# NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

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**Home Horizon AGM  
September 20, 2023**

**The Nominating Committee  
recommends that the following  
slate of Directors  
be elected by the Members  
for the year 2023-24**

Gail Michalenko  
Deb Keep  
Karyn Baker  
Joan Schatz  
Jamie Bibby  
Diane Marshall  
Diana Kurvers  
Sahibdeep Singh  
Vanessa Locicero

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Michalenko  
Chair, Home Horizon

**Home Horizon's volunteer  
Board of Directors is  
responsible for the  
safeguarding of its mission  
by overseeing its operations  
and strategic directions.**

## **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

**Home Horizon's mission  
is to transform the lives  
of youth at risk of  
homelessness by  
providing them (with)  
the opportunity to  
rebuild their lives and  
achieve their full  
potential.**

# COMMUNITY IMPACT

## Remarkable Results

*Helping youth rebuild their lives and integrate back into society brings meaning back to their lives and directly benefits our community. Here is some of the success we have seen by investing in our youth; our future leaders.*

**\$35**  
Provides  
Breakfast & Dinner  
for a Youth each  
Week

**\$50**  
Provides a  
Grab & Go  
Package for  
our Outreach  
Youth

**Over 4000  
Meals Served**

**\$750**  
Provides  
Supplies|Transportation  
Special Events  
Clothing|Gift Cards  
And More...

### Your Funds in Motion...

#### Barbara Weider House: (fiscal 2022-2023)

- 2 youth graduated from BWH program
- 2 youth started post-secondary education
- 1 youth has been reunited with their family
- 47 residents housed at the BWH (cumulative)
- 25,74.4 hours of one-on-one support delivered to BWH residents in 2022/23
- 3,520 meals served to the residents 2022/23
- 130 hours of direct one-on-one counselling provided to BWH residents

#### Youth Outreach: (cumulative 2020-2023)

- 327 youth served by youth outreach program
- 458 meals provided to outreach clients
- 3,010 unique youth outreach service interactions
- 124 adult referrals
- 12 youth from the local community on our warm list and many more out there in need of our services

With your help we can reach more youth in need.  
Consider a donation today. We thank you!!

*"Home Horizon has been strongly managed and has provided wonderful support to disadvantaged youth. Congratulations to the leaders of Home Horizon and staff, volunteers and above all the many generous donors." George Weider*



# HOME HORIZON PROGRAMS & SERVICES

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## **Barbara Weider House - Youth Transitional Housing Program**

The Barbara Weider House is a ten-bedroom facility that provides a secure and stable transitional housing option for youth at risk of homelessness in South Georgian Bay. We have created an environment where our residents receive dedicated support from our staff teams, enabling them to find the necessary space to cope, adapt, and heal. Our primary focus is to maintain a positive forward trajectory by assisting them in identifying and working towards their goals.

At the BWH, we have integrated our Youth Thrive program, allowing us to customize our services to meet the evolving needs of our residents. We offer round-the-clock supervision and have a team of skilled and dedicated staff who guide them through both highs and lows, help them acquire essential life skills, foster positive relationships with peers and adults, support their re-engagement with school and family and provide a wide range of enriching experiences.

## **Youth Outreach Services**

Since 2020, our Youth Outreach Program has played a vital role within Home Horizon's offerings. During the pandemic, we witnessed a surge in demand for our services, prompting us to extend our support to homeless youth beyond the Barbara Weider House. This program is designed to aid youth in their current living situations, focusing on supplying essential items like meals, hygiene products, tents, blankets, gift cards and clothing. Furthermore, we facilitate access to community resources, facilitate health support, and offer a wide range of additional assistance to homeless youth within our communities.

## **Youth Thrive**

At Home Horizon, we strive to offer more than just transitional housing. Our goal is to equip youth with essential life skills for independent living through a comprehensive program. Youth Thrive provides integrated support in various areas, including mental health counselling, education, employment, physical well-being, life skills development, and socialization. This program empowers youth in their personal growth journey, fostering a balanced and thriving lifestyle. We adhere to the principle of "nothing for us, without us," valuing the expertise of youth in their own lives. Their voices, opinions, and choices actively guide decision-making and program planning, ensuring its relevance and alignment with the unique needs and aspirations of the youth we serve.

## **Homelessness Diversion**

Our approach to tackling youth homelessness emphasizes early intervention. We assist youth by examining the factors that transitioned them from stability to instability and put them at risk. Our strategy involves employing a range of support services to proactively address the risk of homelessness at its earliest stages.

## **Program Interaction**

Home Horizon's programs are intentionally interconnected, forming a cyclical structure where each program complements the others. Often, our initial client interactions occur during outreach activities, allowing us to identify residents who would benefit from the Barbara Weider House program. During their stay at Barbara Weider House, youth set goals and engage in a spectrum of services and experiences coordinated through Youth Thrive Programming. As they prepare to transition to independent living, our cycle concludes with our outreach program, enabling us to monitor their progress, offer support as necessary, and ensure their ongoing wellbeing.

# FINANCE



## Treasurers Comments

Greetings from Home Horizon's treasurer. It is with immense pride that I present this year's treasurer's report, a testament to the incredible achievements and dedication of our organization and its remarkable team members. Throughout the past year, our team has demonstrated unwavering commitment to our mission, resulting in outstanding accomplishments that have exceeded expectations.

Financially, our prudent management and resourcefulness have ensured the organization's continued stability and growth. Thanks to the collective efforts of our Executive Director, Fund Development Manager, and the entire team at Home Horizon, we have not only met but surpassed our fundraising goals, enabling us to invest in transformative projects that will have a lasting impact in our community.

Equally commendable is the spirit of collaboration and innovation that defines our Board of Directors. Our Board Members' passion and creativity have led to the successful execution of various initiatives, leaving an indelible mark on the communities we serve.

In conclusion, this year's achievements are a reflection of the dedication, hard work, and remarkable synergy within our organization. With gratitude, we look forward to building upon these accomplishments in the coming year.

**Jamie Bibby, Treasurer**

## What our Youth are saying...

### Recent BWH graduate, summer 2023

"It's bittersweet leaving Home Horizon, I've learned so much living here and I'm going to miss having the support of the staff, but I never thought I'd be able to be where I am today. Thank you so much."

### Recent BWH graduate, summer 2023

"I appreciate how much Home Horizon has done for me, the staff have helped me in so many ways and feels like family to me."

### Newest BWH Intake

"I've been couch surfing for months and it starts to get uncomfortable, so I'm so thankful that places like you guys exist to help out young teens like me, struggling for a place to live."

# FUNDRAISING EVENTS



We are incredibly grateful to you and this community for the generosity and the commitment to Home Horizon and the Barbara Weider House! We continue to be extremely appreciative for the amazing support from people and businesses, who help to ensure that our services continue to be available to vulnerable youth who are at risk of homelessness in the Southern Georgian Bay area. Thank you to our corporate sponsors, our individual donors, the Foundations who support each year, to our volunteers and to the participants of our signature events for supporting us in 2023!! We could not do this without YOU!!



The Coldest Night of the Year is a national fundraiser that raises money and awareness for the hungry, homeless and hurting. Traditionally our community gathers and embarks on a 2km/5km walk followed by an Apres-Walk celebration.

*bowls  
for  
beds*

Create, Educate, Advocate

Bowls for Beds brings together the community where local elementary school children are given the opportunity to paint bowls and learn about homelessness. Once again this year, we showcased and auctioned off bowls painted by local professional artists.

*Spirit of  
COLLINGWOOD*

Community members come together to celebrate the spookiest day of the year to sample a selection of local spirits and gourmet tastings supplied by local restaurants, there are great live and silent auctions and finally a fabulous dinner and dance all while generating greater awareness and raising much needed funds for Home Horizon.



**Get In Touch**

**Deb Piggott**

**Fund Development Manager**

(705) 888-3636

[debpiggott@homehorizon.ca](mailto:debpiggott@homehorizon.ca)