BRIDGING
Towards the Achievement of Functional Zero

Calgary Homeless Foundation

2020 Report On Progress
WHAT CAN WE LEARN IF WE START SHARING DATA ACROSS PROJECTS?

In May each year, researchers from across Canada gather in Calgary to discuss the data they are collecting to support various projects related to homelessness. We have learned that our data can and should be shared to support new, better and more impactful analysis. How can we use our collective data to produce better, more accurate results to inform the allocation of resources and end homelessness in our communities?

In short, how can we use our data to make a difference?

Keynote Speakers:

Dr. Gabrielle Lindstrom (nee Weasel Head) - Assistant Professor in Indigenous Studies with the Department of Humanities, Faculty of Arts, Mount Royal University

Dan O’Flaherty - Professor of Economics at Columbia University

May 2021
Message From Leadership

Dear stakeholders, employees and clients,

The unprecedented environment of COVID-19 marks a turning point in our journey. We held a table-top exercise to develop a formal Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plan and completed a cybersecurity review, implementing key recommendations, training and drill-through tests with staff.

Enhancing performance and solidifying trust with improved indicators

We expanded our sector logic model to add system key performance indicators (KPIs) to our measures of success, and our enhanced evaluation of outcomes with updated KPIs aims to continuously earn community trust. We’ve made ourselves more agile with the development of our Continuous Learning and Evaluation Framework to better understand outcomes and initiated 12 program evaluation projects to assess the effectiveness and scalability of CHSSC programs. To enable more effective outcomes for these programs, we developed a decision-making framework to facilitate funding allocation decisions.

Fulfilling our role as a CHSSC System Level Leader

System level collaboration was a rallying cry for us this year. We engaged with the 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness to develop a strategic framework toward ending homelessness for the Ministry of Communities and Social Services, and are working with a cross-ministerial team to develop a new plan for ending homelessness in Alberta. Advanced research collaboration with the University of Calgary School of Public Policy to cross-reference Calgary Police Services, Alberta Health and Children’s Services data with Housing First data will allow us to better identify other system level insights.

Our philosophical shift to applied research led to the development of a research framework to advance new studies of and for CHSSC, including a peer-reviewed study on public health and housing First data programming. We developed a new data quality strategy focusing on more comprehensive and automated data quality checks, reducing 75% of data errors. The implementation of Microsoft Teams has enhanced our collaboration and enabled more efficient remote work processes. We employed a new financial software system resulting in enhanced automation, as well as detailed reporting tracking - all creating efficiencies in payments to funded agencies.

As we lean more heavily on technology infrastructure, security remains our top concern. We held a tabletop exercise to develop a formal Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plan and completed a cybersecurity review, implementing key recommendations, training and drill-through tests with staff.

Implementing new technology infrastructure to harness data and evidence

To support our backbone obligation as the CHSSC System Planner, we designed, selected, and implemented automated Homeless Management Information System data flow, implemented a data warehouse, and began to utilize business intelligence reporting tools. We developed a new data quality strategy focusing on more comprehensive and automated data quality checks, reducing 75% of data errors. The implementation of Microsoft Teams has enhanced our collaboration and enabled more efficient remote work processes. We employed a new financial software system resulting in enhanced automation, as well as detailed reporting tracking - all creating efficiencies in payments to funded agencies.

We are continuously creating opportunities for staff and board exposure to Indigenous culture and truth to foster greater self-awareness, such as the incorporation of Talking Circles into staff town halls and incorporating oral submissions into our Request for Proposal process. Using Indigenous ownership, control, access and possession (OCAP) principles, we completed the second year of research into understanding the flow between Treaty 7 First Nations and CHSSC. This knowledge will be shared with the community over the coming year to help inform enhancements, prevention efforts and responses to Indigenous homelessness in Calgary.

Shaping a future

Over the coming year, the first year of CHF’s next 3-Year Strategic Blueprint, CHF will take multiple actions to advance these themes, including: implementing new technology infrastructure for data analytics; inspiring Ecosystem shared accountability and investment in achieving Functional Zero and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic; enhancing CHF’s organizational capacity; continuing to grow CHF’s knowledge and understanding of Indigenous world views, and initiating the transformational shift in data culture with the CHSSC to better harness data and evidence.

In summary, 2019/20 was the next step on our journey to transform CHSSC into an agile, responsive system that places the client at the centre of our services. This year held some tough choices, and we have some challenges ahead, but we continue to show up, every day, for the sake of our mission and for those we serve.

We would like to thank our colleagues, partner agencies, front-line staff, volunteers, donors and clients for their continued dedication and trust. This support is vital as we continue our journey towards a better Calgary, with proven outcomes for all stakeholders, and ultimately, a home for everyone in Calgary.

Gail Boehm, Acting CEO

Gerald Chipeur, Board Chair

COVID-19: A System level Response

The pressure COVID-19 placed on our sector and its clients is palpable. Those at risk of homelessness are in a precarious position in an already overburdened health and housing system. Average rent has increased 1.7% to $1,181, which continues to remain unaffordable for at-risk and vulnerable Calgarians. Just over one in five Canadians now live in households reporting difficult to meet financial obligations, and as a result of COVID-19 shutdowns, 3 million Canadians lost their jobs and millions more had reduced hours. Calgary’s unemployment rate increased sharply to 10.8% by the end of April. Calgary’s unemployment rate was 13.4% by the end of April.

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Parting Thoughts From Our Outgoing CEO

6 years ago, I accepted the role of President and CEO of the Calgary Homeless Foundation. I did so with an unwavering degree of passion, commitment, and belief that ending homelessness is possible. This remains true today.

Fortified by local research evidence, knowledge gained, and extraordinary collective community successes achieved, it is evidenced that by caring for our most vulnerable—those experiencing homelessness—we are creating, sustaining, and fostering the wellbeing of our entire Calgary community.

It has been a privilege to serve in community as CHFs CEO. CHF and the Calgary Homeless Serving System of Care (CHSSC) have been nationally and internationally recognized, as exemplars of evidenced informed leadership, systems thinking and design. But more work is required. Each of us being in the right place at the right time, needs to bring our best work forward while supporting and trusting others to do the same. By my stepping side, space has now been created for CHPs next CEO and community leader, to leverage, advance and build upon our collective strengths, to innovate, to influence further transformation, and to compel greater impact.

Together, we will end homelessness in our community.

Sincerely,

Diana Krecsy RN, BN, ME.

Forever committed to the mission and to helping ALL people, through transformative leadership.
The issue: In a 2019 survey, front-line staff in our funded agencies requested advanced training to support their work with individuals with complex needs.

The response: CHF provided 65 training opportunities for 2,191 attendees, working with Toronto’s Crisis & Trauma Resources Institute and the Attachment and Trauma Treatment Centre for Healing, as well as Calgary’s Westside Harm Reduction and more.

The result: 2,191 participants accessed 40 returning and 25 new training sessions.

TRAINING TOPICS INCLUDE:
- Trainings from Crisis & Trauma Resources Institute (CTRI), to support front line staff work with clients who are experiencing addictions and mental illnesses
- The Attachment and Trauma Treatment Centre for Healing (ATTCH) - a two day training on trauma and attachment assessment for front line staff.
- Training by Westside Harm Reduction: “Harm Reduction and Substance Use: Strategies to Engage with People Using Stimulants & Signs and Symptoms of Psychosis”
- Training by Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness: “Effective and Ethical Documentation, Charting, and Note Writing” and “Effective Team Leader Practices”
- Integrative trauma and wellness treatments to calm the mind, brain, and body

The Rough Sleepers Pilot

The issue: Individuals who feel vulnerable accessing shelters – including women, LGBTQ youth, and couples who are separated in emergency shelters – often resort to sleeping outside year round, including during the sub-zero temperatures of winter.

The response: Individuals who have accessed an emergency shelter for at least one year are normally prioritized in CHSSC triage to receive placement in housing programs. From December to February, outreach teams met with rough sleepers to place them in earmarked spaces and out of the cold.

The result: 5 youth and 23 adults were successfully entered into a housing program.

The response: Unique and collaborative information sessions to inform Alberta Health Services (AHS) partners and the CHSSC about each other. Five AHS audiences presented and learned from CHSSC partners.

Partners: SORce, AHS Regional Housing, CAA, AHS Community Rounds, AHS Managers Meeting, Sunridge Mental Health and Addictions, Peter Lougheed Centre Social Work Services, Safeworks

Going Deeper With Front-Line Training

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CAPACITY BUILDING THROUGH TRAINING PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED IN 2019/20:
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- 2,191 TRAINEES

Road Show Presentations:

Accelerating success by aligning system experiences

The issue: The crossover that occurs between the health system and the homeless-serving system of care is deep. People experiencing homelessness are vulnerable to health challenges and often face barriers to quality healthcare. As a result, we needed to bridge knowledge gaps and promote cooperation between the health system and Calgary’s Homeless-Serving System of Care.

The result: The process for referring individuals in hospital to the CHSSC and CHF-funded housing programs was streamlined. Practices to divert individuals from the CHSSC and to create plans more suitable to their needs were increased.

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The issue: The current system of care for individuals experiencing homelessness is deeply flawed. They need more than a roof over their head. People experiencing homelessness need ongoing access to support in order to maintain housing stability and pursue personal goals.

The result: 48 individuals graduated from the program, with all clients expected to graduate by December 2023. 113 are active in the program as of the end of March 2020.

The response: The CHF-funded CUPS Graduated Housing Program (GHP) offers a rent subsidy to qualified individuals. They connect clients to employment or government income support and enrich their lives through the employment, education and training programs. On site and online courses include First Aid and CPR classes, computer literacy, food-service certifications, and high school upgrading.

Partners: CUPS Calgary, Prospect, SAIT, Momentum, Catholic Family Service

No One Left Behind:

With the Graduated Housing Program

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The Youth Advisory Table (YAT) has a similar purpose to the CAC and offers guidance to the sector from the perspective of youth experiencing homelessness. YAT members, who range from ages 14 to 25, provide valuable insights that influence policy, improve services, and raise awareness about youth homelessness in Calgary.

This year, they hosted a barbeque in Inglewood to raise awareness about the YAT and to bring together the community of youth experiencing homelessness, along with youth-serving agencies in the sector. Thanks to a donation from University of Calgary’s Haskayne Commerce Undergraduate Society, the 50 youth who attended the barbeque received a drawstring bag filled with essential care items: facecloth, toiletries, and hygiene products.

“As we shape policy and design programs to serve youth in need, we must ensure our ears are open to those who are serving – the youth.”

The training educates staff about the Charter and teaches them how to reference it in a practical way, so they can uphold the rights and dignity of their clients based on an understanding of the physical, social, and emotional impact of trauma on their lives.

This year the CAC also hosted the fifth annual Longest Night of the Year, a night where the community honours those whose lives have been lost to homelessness. The CAC is pursuing a permanent memorial and is seeking an artist to design the concept based on the winning submission from the design competition last year. CHF is proud to contribute $20,000 to the project. The City of Calgary contributed the land, and the Beltline Community Investment Fund has also contributed $45,000, in addition to the $7,290 raised by the CAC.

“Always say that homelessness is a community,” says Nigel. “These are human lives we are talking about.” He says he looks forward to the day when the community has a place to mourn and remember, and a future where no names are added to the memorial.

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Calgary Homeless Foundation (CHF) is a registered charity with a vision and mission to end homelessness in our city. As neutral and effective stewards of funding, CHF invests in community and in Calgary’s Homeless-Serving System of Care (CHSSC) to achieve desired outcomes and impacts (population, program, system) in a cost-effective manner. Providing System Level Leadership to CHSSC, CHF leverages research, data, system planning, coordination, and funding to address gaps and define best practices to improve outcomes and optimize client success. CHF leads with a collective impact framework and is committed to moving forward in partnership with all orders of government, public systems, homeless-serving agencies, the private sector, faith-based communities, foundations, and all Calgarians, to achieve Functional Zero2 homelessness in Calgary.

The Year in Review 2019/20

BY HOUSING PROGRAM:

- Adaptive Case Management: 96
- Assertive Community Treatment: 185
- Place-Based Supportive Housing: 337
- Supportive Housing: 1,640

Current Housing Stability Rate: 94%

Public System Usage Reduction: 50%

In 2019/20 CHF Funded:

- 52 Programs in 22 Agencies

735 Residents Placed in Housing*

By Population:
- 479 Singles
- 196 Families
- 60 Youth

By Ethnicity:
- 47% European Descent
- 42% Indigenous
- 11% Diverse

By Housing Program:

- Assertive Community Treatment: 44
- Other: 43
- Adaptive Case Management: 166
- Place-Based Supportive Housing: 469
- Supportive Housing: 44

By Primary Residence Prior to Intake:
- Emergency Shelter: 37%
- Other: 36%
- Couch Surfing: 16%
- Outside: 11%

By Gender:
- Female: 44%
- Male: 55%
- Spectrum: 1%

By Immigration Status:
- Canadian Citizen: 95%
- Permanent Resident: 4%
- Other: 1%
What influences the flow of people between Treaty 7 communities and Calgary’s Homeless-Serving System of Care?

We are closer to answering this question, thanks to a generous five-year donation from Jenny Belzberg and the Belzberg family to support applied homelessness research. 2019/20 saw the unfolding of our first major Belzberg Research project. CHF contracted four researchers with expertise in Indigenous studies, housing policy, public policy, economics, and political science to study the homelessness of people from Treaty 7 in Calgary.

They examined this central question from the perspectives of housing, income assistance, and jurisdictional barriers. The research was first framed in Treaty 7 world views, and an engagement strategy guided the researchers in working with the communities to ensure joint ownership.

Despite an overall reduction in homelessness in Calgary and a general improvement in the city’s capacity to serve Indigenous clients, Indigenous over-representation in homelessness persists.

Key findings of the research include:

- Indigenous homelessness is about more than a physical structure; it is a condition that encompasses world views, and it continues to be affected by colonialism.
- Factors on reserve that may push people from Treaty 7 into homelessness in Calgary include poor housing conditions, lack of sufficient housing, unemployment, gang activity and violence.
- These are exacerbated by a notable lack of affordable, appropriate Indigenous housing options, the high cost of housing, and unscrupulous landlords.
- The landscape of Indigenous homelessness is marked in Calgary by scarcity and competition for funds; a growth of Indigenous service institutions in recent decades; and poor coordination between, and even within jurisdictions.

Recommendations include actions for CHF, the City of Calgary, Treaty 7 communities, and the federal government, and encompass education, training, policy, and dialogue.

The final papers will be compiled into a single volume which we will formally launch together with Treaty 7 partners in 2020.

The surrounding Treaty 7 Nations have been closely engaged in the research, and CHF looks forward to enhancing these partnerships as we develop programs that more effectively address the well-known overrepresentation of Indigenous people in homelessness.

Watch the CHF website for the full report, summaries of findings and recommendations, and CHF’s next steps in addressing Indigenous homelessness.
Data & Learning Revolution

CHF has unveiled a revolutionary approach to collecting and understanding data that will allow us to be more responsive and sensitive to the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

The Continuous Learning and Evaluation Framework changes how we gather, use, and share data drawn from the network of agencies that comprise Calgary’s Homeless-Serving System of Care (CHSSC).

While we excel at promoting learning across the homeless-serving sector, how we approach quantitative data, or numbers, can create a culture of competition and doesn’t capture the true effect a program has on a person’s life. The three core values of how CHF will approach evaluation and learning include accountability, innovation and strategy, and this framework will explicitly support the collective capacity and integration of the ecosystem.

To address these challenges, this framework will focus on three pillars: Measurement, Open Learning and Sense-Making.

**Measurement**
- **How we measure program success**
  CHF will re-examine the criteria it uses to monitor the success of the programs it funds, while introducing system effectiveness indicators. These broader metrics are the first of their kind, because they measure the achievements of the entire CHSSC, particularly those relating to client well being and health.
- **How we process data**
  The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) collects data on who is experiencing homelessness and accessing the system of care. Data processing will become automated, reducing the likelihood of human error, and making it easier to share information across agencies.

**Opening Learning**
- **How we improve learning across the homelessness sector**
  CHF shares knowledge about practices across the CHSSC through our Communities of Learning. We will create cohorts that will meet regularly to discuss a specific issue and introduce reflective practices, so that agency staff across the homeless-serving sector have an opportunity to reflect on and share their experiences.

**Sense-Making**
Every six to eight weeks, cohorts will produce learning bulletins, or short communications sharing their insight on a specific issue.

On the data front, we will use a tool called system mapping to understand the connections between different entities in the CHSSC, and outcome harvesting – a technique used by the United Nations in international development – to collect data about the effect of the CHSSC and its programs on the community.

Over the course of 2020/21, we will implement the framework to better learn and lift our work internally and externally.

Cost Effectiveness Study

CHF has funded a study to explore the cost-effectiveness of Housing First in Canada, strengthening its advocacy for the model and encouraging governments to take action.

*The Cost Savings of Housing First in a Non-Experimental Setting* is the first study to use observational data to examine the amount the Canadian public system saves by utilizing Housing First programs. The data, drawn from CHF’s Homeless Management Information System, covers a period of four years.

Researchers Jadidzadeh, Falvo, and Dutton estimate that for each dollar spent on a Housing First program, between $1.17 - $2.84 is saved in hospital and ER visits and interactions with the police, resulting in a savings of $105 million for the 2018-19 fiscal year. In addition, $12,240 is saved each year when an individual does not use a shelter.

Returns are also higher when there is a triage process that prioritizes individuals who frequently use public systems, rather than randomly assigning individuals to housing programs.

The Housing First model increases housing stability for people who are chronically homeless. Economic evaluations like this study are one tool among many that offer powerful insight into the effectiveness of the approach, helping CHF advocate for our compassionate and humane approach.

AGILE CHSSC Planning

Maintaining faster and leaner cycles of development will require a system planner approach with neutral system planner organizations to drive the integration and coordination efforts among both Calgary’s Homeless-Serving System of Care, and public systems partners such as Health and Justice.

This kind of agile system planning is more than setting targets and monitoring performance - it requires lead system planner organizations to develop nimble and iterative approaches and continual improvement.
3-Year Strategic Blueprint

Calgary Homeless Foundation's (CHF) 3-year Strategic Blueprint for fiscal 2021-2023 (3YSB) was developed through a multi-stage engagement with our Board, our staff, and Community members, and provides a framework that can be adapted to respond to an ever-changing landscape. This 3YSB, along with our vision, mission, core values, and annual business plans, will guide our work over the next three years.

In 2015 we developed our first strategic blueprint, which ran from fiscal 2015-2020 (5YSB), and defined our vision, mission, and core values and our role as the system planner for Calgary’s Homeless-Serving System of Care (CHSSC). It also incorporated our role as implementer of Calgary’s 10 year Plan to End Homelessness (Calgary’s Plan) that concluded in 2018.

At the conclusion of Calgary’s Plan, we led a consultation process with Community to identify key accomplishments (Our Living Legacy: Calgary’s 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness Collective Impact Report (Nov 2018)) and determined the strategic directives necessary to move Calgary forward in Together to Zero: Charting Calgary’s Path to the End of Homelessness (Dec 2018).

Together to Zero set the intention for the next phase of work and is driven by our sector’s public value statement:

Together, we will achieve Functional Zero homelessness in Calgary and in doing so, we will improve the quality of life for individuals, families and communities.

Functional Zero is the new direction determined by community, and refers to reaching a point where there are enough services, housing, and emergency shelter beds for everyone who needs them. Functional Zero demarcates the achievement of an Ecosystem balance between the CHSSC and across all public systems (i.e. Health, Justice, Seniors and Housing, Children’s Services, etc.) such that the necessary resources are in place to meet the needs of vulnerable people, and that homelessness, when it occurs, is a rare, brief, and non-recurring event.

No strategy is complete without a consideration of the environment in which we operate. While we have made tremendous progress over the past 10 years towards reducing, and ending homelessness, our environment continues to change and apply both direct and indirect pressure on the CHSSC and those that are at risk of, or experiencing homelessness. Current headwinds include COVID-19 and the sustained economic downturn in Calgary, government fiscal constraints in ministries such as Community & Social Services, Seniors and Housing, and Children’s Services, and an increase in opioid and methamphetamine use.

All of these trends will increase the demand for services.

Our mandate, given the environment and the CHSSC consultation process, has evolved. Our role is to provide system level leadership to the CHSSC in order to facilitate ecosystem coordination with public systems and progress toward the achievement of a Functional Zero end to homelessness in Calgary.

To meet this evolved mandate, we identified the strategic shifts necessary for the organization, and an overall goal for the 3YSB that:

At the completion of 36 months, CHF’s capacity will support the Ecosystem’s achievement of Functional Zero.

Next Steps:

Our Strategic Directions for 2020/21

1. Implement new technology infrastructure to advance the effectiveness and efficiency of Calgary’s Homeless-Serving System of Care

2. Inspire ecosystem shared accountability and investment in achieving Functional Zero

3. Enhance our organizational adaptive capacity (people, process, culture) to thrive in a changing world

4. Continue to grow CHF knowledge and understanding of Indigenous world views and take actions towards becoming a better ally of Indigenous peoples

5. Initiate transformational shift in data culture with/in Calgary’s Homeless-Serving System of Care to collectively harness the power of rigour and the potential of evidence
In 2019, CHF partnered with the 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness: Edmonton, Calgary, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Red Deer, Grand Prairie, and Wood Buffalo (7 Cities), in the creation of a refreshed strategy to end homelessness in Alberta. While it is not completed yet, working in collaboration we have laid the necessary groundwork and strategic values that will guide the province towards an end to homelessness.

How does the province need to optimize our collaborative efforts moving forward to end homelessness in Alberta?

In examining the answer to this question, the 7 Cities took a values-based approach and grounded itself in the following:

**Strategic Coordination and Leadership:**

**The Spectrum Approach** - Person-centered homelessness solutions grounded in a spectrum of services. If an Albertan reaches out for help, there should be no wrong door to receive and support them.

**Community-Driven Decision Making** - A collective impact model where local systems leadership collaborates with lived experience, homeless-serving agencies, and local business.

**Operational Execution:**

**Evidence-Based** – Continuous learning and subsequent agile adjustment must be informed by evidence-based, data-driven decisions.

**Leveraging Resources** – As system planners focus on root causes and respond to symptoms within the local homeless-serving systems of care, public systems need to examine horizontal strategies and solutions based on shared outcomes.

From these values, 7 Strategic Directives were created to drive Alberta towards an end to homelessness in our province:

**Coordination of Data Management**

We know that our capacity to end homelessness relies on greater data integration between our homeless systems of care and primary public systems such as Children’s Services, Health, and Justice. We need to develop new solutions to support more seamless coordination and data integration between the 7 cities’ homeless management information systems and the primary public systems.

**Person-Centered**

We need to explore a culture of innovation with the voice of people with lived experience at its core. Embedding their input at key points in the program development-delivery continuum will enable Alberta to better meet the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness, and the people who care for them.

**Governance and Leadership**

Governments’ trust and enabling approach to local leadership through the Community Based Organization and Community Entity models has been a critical factor in Alberta’s success over the past decade. The Government of Alberta must continue to support directions that develop system planning approaches appropriate to solving complex social issues at a local level in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

**Geographic Lens**

Homelessness must continue to be examined and understood not only within the broader macro-context, but also within the unique differentiators of rural, local, and municipal contexts.

**Accountability (Shared)**

No single agency, system or service can end homelessness alone. It’s no longer sustainable to care solely about one’s own municipal or organizational mandate and associated initiatives. To achieve transformational change, we must drive for shared accountability and identify ways to coordinate within the ecosystem at a political, strategic, and service delivery level.

**System Planning**

A system planning approach with neutral system planner organizations to drive integration and coordination efforts among the homeless-serving systems of care and public system partners such as Health and Justice is required to maintain faster, leaner cycles of development.

**Horizontal Strategic Planning**

To move system planning forward, efforts to enhance coordinated service delivery are critical, and this includes having better visibility into all components within the system, and appropriate information sharing around shared outcomes.
A SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF CHF STEWARDSHIP

Ending March 31, 2020, revenues were just over $61 million and expenses were $57 million. Surplus was generated due to the receipt of emergency COVID-19 funding at the end of the year. These funds were spent for COVID-19 response in the first two months of 2020/21.

FUNDING SOURCES:
- 68% GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA $41,337,442
- 20% GOVERNMENT OF CANADA $12,345,728
- 11% DONATIONS & GRANTS $6,977,769
- 1% INVESTMENT INCOME $417,726

TOTAL: $61,078,665

FUNDING USES:
- 90% DISBURSEMENTS (EXTERNAL) $52,064,646
- 10% ADMINISTRATION (INTERNAL) $4,959,767

TOTAL: $57,024,413

Ending homelessness requires the engagement of all Calgarians, each contributing in a manner that fits their capacity. By lending public support and encouraging community action on homelessness, many have contributed to the successes we’ve had over the past year.
The Power of Philanthropic Partnerships

No matter what form their support takes – from the Trail Blazer Breakfast, annual and monthly donations to investments in special projects such as applied research – every donor helps us get closer to a world that provides the opportunity for all people to live safe, healthy lives in communities that support them. Where they can live with hope for the future. Over the past year, CHF has been the grateful beneficiary of several unique donor partnerships, each one born out of a desire to combine creative thinking with a sincere desire to make Calgary a better place to live for our fellow citizens experiencing homelessness. The partnerships featured here are all innovative in their own right; some are longstanding, and some are new; some are visible and some operate behind the scenes. But all of them make a difference.

Country Song Helps Calgarians Experiencing Homelessness

In 2019, CHF became the beneficiary of the proceeds from a new song by Backroad Traveler Band. The song, called “A Day in the Country,” honours the band’s love for chuckwagon races, and features the voice of the late Joe Carbury, a renowned sports announcer in Western Canada and a Calgary Stampede chuckwagon race caller for 45 years.

“We approached the family and asked for permission to use his audio, which they were honoured to give us,” singer Sandy McRae says. The audio comes from the last races Carbury called in 2007.

When the band learned that Carbury’s daughter, Coleen Hutton, was CHF’s Director of Human Resources, they chose to donate all proceeds from the song to CHF: “Being able to include Joe Carbury and his family – it just made the song,” McRae says.

The band held a reveal party for the song and music video in May 2019, donating all proceeds to CHF. CHF continues to receive all proceeds from the sale of the song on iTunes, Spotify, Google Play Music and Deezer.

The gift of a home is not only life changing – it is lifesaving. We know now, more than ever, that housing is vital for health. We are grateful that the Visionary Homebuilders understand the significance of a home and are dedicated to making home a reality for Calgarians who need it most. Their collective contribution of $15.4 million to CHF through the RESOLVE Campaign has made it possible to open 153 doors to date for Calgarians who now have a place to call home.

Over the course of the past six years, six buildings funded by Visionary Homebuilders have opened.

- Stepping Stone Manor, Cedarglen Living Inc.
- Providence House, Morrison Homes
- Aurora on the Park, StreetSide Developments: A Qualico Company
- Prelude in Radisson Heights, Shane Homes Ltd. and NUVO by Shane Homes
- The Maple, Homes by Avi Group of Companies
- The Clayton, Jayman BUILT

Additional buildings are currently under construction and slated to open later this year.

- The Triveri House, Calbridge Homes
- The James House, Cardel Lifestyles and Logel Homes

HomeSpace Society, CHF’s housing partner, is securing additional sites for future builds, made possible by Hopewell Residential Limited Partnership, Brookfield Residential Properties Inc. and ALBI Luxury by Brookfield Residential.

Thank you to the Visionary Homebuilders for their unwavering dedication to ending homelessness in our city.

David and Leslie Bissett have provided generous support as the lead contributor to a new building in downtown Calgary, in addition to philanthropic funding for Murray’s House in South Calgary.

The Bissett build – the first midrise and concrete build for housing partner HomeSpace Society – is an impressive testament to the power of philanthropic gifts and their ability to leverage resources from various levels of government and other donors.

The Bissetts’ donation to CHF through the RESOLVE Campaign was complemented with philanthropic support from Suncor Energy Foundation, funds from the Government of Canada (through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation) and a land donation from the City of Calgary.

Greengate Garden Centres and CHF growing hope together since 2003

During the holiday season, greengate rallies their customers to provide winter wear, toiletries and grocery gift cards. In the spring, it sells Hope for Humanity roses and donates the proceeds to CHF.

“We would never have been able to do all that we do without community support,” Harrington-Telford, Vice-President of Marketing at greengate, says, citing it as a reason greengate continues to support CHF. He adds, “As long as we work together and do the best we can, we will all be ok.”
While government funding is paramount to CHC’s strategy to integrate and strengthen Calgary’s Homeless-Serving System of care, private philanthropy is vital as well, as all have a role to play in ending homelessness, and Calgary Homeless Foundation donors are doing their part.
Calgary Homeless Foundation is proud to present the 2021 Trail Blazer Breakfast - a unique opportunity for you to connect with Calgary's innovators, risk-takers and change makers in the goal to end homelessness.

Keynote Speaker:
Lieutenant-General The Honourable Roméo Dallaire

Join us and be inspired by our keynote speaker as he shares his personal insights and wisdom gained over his military, political and humanitarian career, and his thoughts on the need for trailblazing leadership in Canada, specifically in the area of mental health and homelessness as Canadian health crises.

Wednesday May 12, 2021

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