

2023

ANNUAL UPDATE



THE DOORWAY
MAKING CHANGE POSSIBLE

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR:

FLOYD VISSER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE PAST YEAR HAS BEEN ONE OF GROWTH AND CHANGE. WE'VE CONTINUED TO MAKE THE COMMUNITY SPACE MORE COMFORTABLE AND INCLUSIVE WITH THE SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE FRIENDS. WE'VE CREATED NEW PARTNERSHIPS, AND PROVIDED PARTICIPANTS WITH FREE TAX FILING SERVICES WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE SHARP FOUNDATION AND THE CANADA REVENUE AGENCY'S COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PROGRAM. THIS YEAR WE EXPLORED THE IDEA OF A PEER PROGRAM. IT WAS MET WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM BY PARTICIPANTS, AND WE ARE NOW RAISING FUNDS TO HIRE A COORDINATOR AND CREATE A PEER LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM.

THE WORK WE DO COULD NOT BE DONE WITHOUT THE AMAZING STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, FUNDERS, YOUNG PEOPLE WHO CONTINUE TO INSPIRE US, AND YOU! IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WE CONTINUE WALKING ALONGSIDE THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY, LISTEN TO THEIR STORIES AND IDEAS, AND HELP THEM NAVIGATE THE CHALLENGES THEY FACE EACH DAY.

ANDREW HUNTER
BOARD CHAIR

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE STAFF, DIRECTORS AND SOCIETY MEMBERS FOR MAKING ME FEEL WELCOME AS I RETURNED TO CHAIR THE DOORWAY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS FISCAL YEAR. IT WAS GREAT TO SEE THAT THE DOORWAY HAS CONTINUED TO GROW FORWARD BY ADJUSTING THE ELIGIBLE AGE RANGE FOR PARTICIPANTS TO ALIGN MORE DIRECTLY WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S DEFINITION OF YOUTH.

THE DOORWAY HAS HELPED ADDRESS AND IDENTIFY THE GAP IN SERVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE AGES OF 24-30. THIS IN ADDITION TO STAFF OUTREACH, HAS RESULTED IN OUR PARTICIPANT NUMBERS REACHING CAPACITY WITH A WAITLIST FOR OUR SERVICES THAT GROWS EVERYDAY. ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR ENDURING SUPPORT OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE WE SERVE EACH DAY.

MISSION: Making change possible by empowering young people to take steps toward a better quality of life.

VISION: An equitable world where young people have the tools to thrive.



WHO

WE

ARE

- The Doorway supports young people (17-30 yrs.) to move off the streets by changing the way they view themselves and the world around them.
- We commit to a young person for a two year period. They learn lifelong skills like problem solving, goal setting, and planning. For every goal they identify they earn \$15. For many, this is the first chance they've had in life to make money legally.
- As young people continue to step through our door, set and track goals and build relationships with staff and volunteers, impactful changes happen. They become more confident, hopeful and resilient.



"You can't reno a building by destroying it, that's just building a new house. You've got to start at the foundation and work your way up. These people are living with their issues. They've got some ways to cope and you can't just throw it all away. progress isn't linear."

- Tim, A Participant

PARTICIPANT

Insight

At The Doorway, we believe that stories have the power to ignite change. They inspire empathy, and action. In our mission to support unhoused youth, and to help build a bridge of understanding between mainstream and street culture, we often turn to participants lived experiences.

We are privileged to share with you a unique perspective straight from the heart of someone who has faced these challenges head-on. This Q&A with a participant offers us a glimpse into their journey, their hopes, and insights.

Q: Being un-housed can affect people in so many different ways. What do you think your own personal strengths were in order to get you through these tough times?

A: I think regardless of an individual strength, being un-housed is just f****d. I'm sorry to use that word but that's the only way I can put it. Especially in places like shelters. It's awesome that they exist to help individuals and keep them off the street, but it's not a good place to be. It doesn't help you mentally. Getting out of there; I think it's very sneaky on how it can keep you in. I have friends who around the same age who are still in there. They say when you put a frog in water and slowly turn up the heat, it just stays there because it gets used to the temperature. For me, I had to really hate being there, and that's when I started working.

It helps if you've had a life before and if you have an imagination; to really believe that this is not the life for you and you know that you deserve better. Then again there are a lot of people who don't have that. Doorway helped a lot because you start setting goals. For me, the best part is the way it's structured. You look forward at the things you want for yourself. No body else in street culture is asking you those things. That's one of my favourite parts about coming here.

Q: Is there something you would like the general public to better understand when it comes to un-housed folks?

A: At the end of the day, I think everyone's choices, whether conscious or subconscious, brings them to where they are. And so just as their choices got them there, they can also take them out of there (street life).

Q: Since your time at The Doorway, what's the biggest change you've seen in yourself?

A: Definitely looking ahead. There's something powerful with writing things down and having your focus and attention on your goals. People will talk a lot, but writing your goals down locks it down in your memory.



COMMUNITY IMPACT: OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

THROUGH OUR OUTREACH EFFORTS AND INCREASING THE ELIGIBLE AGE IN 2021-22, WE HAD A LASTING IMPACT BECAUSE OUR INQUIRIES AND PARTICIPANT NUMBERS CONTINUED TO GROW THROUGHOUT 2022-23.

93 YOUNG PEOPLE MADE INQUIRIES AND 38 FOLLOWED THROUGH WITH SIGNING UP TO BECOME A PARTICIPANT. THAT'S A 93% INCREASE FROM LAST YEARS INQUIRIES, AND A 30% INCREASE IN PARTICIPANTS.

72

PARTICIPANTS

38 NEW!

2170

VISITS

251

CARE PACKS
HANDED OUT

2506

PLANNED
STEPS

71%

MONTHLY
PARTICIPATION

83%

ACHIEVED
SUSTAINABLE
LIVING

THAT'S A 158%
INCREASE FROM
LAST YEAR!

\$62,624

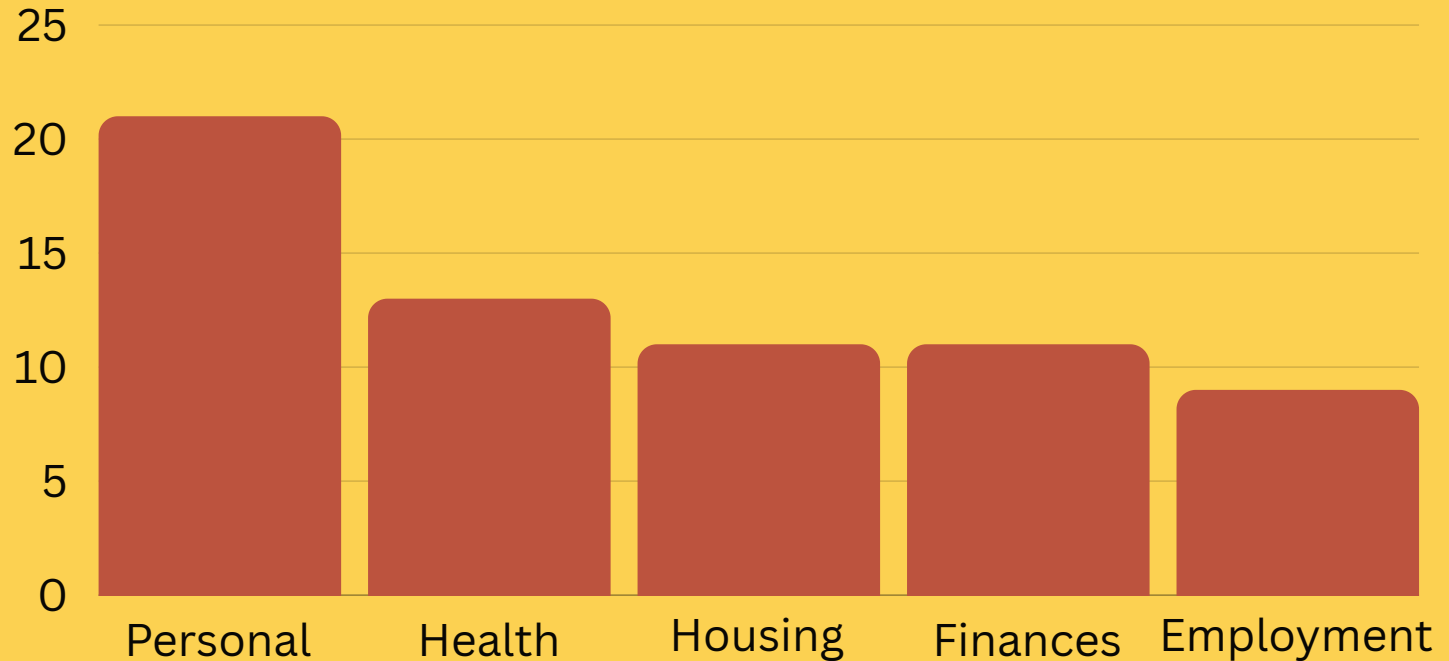
INCENTIVES
PAID

322

OUTREACH
INTERACTIONS

GOAL SETTING: MY PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

Participants may choose from 13 different areas of life for goal planning. Most frequently chosen areas of life were:



Participants seemed to easily transition to coming back into The Doorway space after pandemic restrictions lifted, opting for coming in person as opposed to engaging in the online MyPlan process. Participants wanted to have human connection and a place to “be seen”. They have talked about The Doorway as a service quite different from many others in the homeless sector; there is a pride and dignity in coming to a place where they earn their income.

USING THE HOPE SCALE TO SEE CHANGE:

We use a tool like the Adult Hope Scale which asks six questions about the present moment to measure both self-efficacy/confidence and goals/actions. A horizontal timeline plotting a young person's monthly scores provides a visual overview and offers an opportunity for the young person to reflect on patterns and changes. Higher hope consistently relates to better outcomes of academics, physical health, psychological adjustments including optimism, control perceptions, problem-solving, positive affect, and self-esteem and attachments to others. Snyder, C. R. (2002) & (Snyder, Cheavens, & Sympson, 1997).



This is the hope scale belonging to a participant who has been with The Doorway for 13 months. You can see the peaks and valleys this individual has been through, and demonstrates their consistent improvement throughout their time here at The Doorway.

“What motivates me to make change is the opportunity to get better in my life, like here at the doorway, or the prayers. I can see how my strengths affect my ability to see myself, how I can work towards reflections, make steps to change and help myself for the better.” - A Participant, Kim



VOLUNTEER *Insight*

WHY THE DOORWAY?



"GOOD COFFEE.

GOOD FOOD.

SILENCE TO THINK.

ADVICE AS NEEDED.

WE WILL LAUGH WITH YOU.

WE WILL CRY WITH YOU.

WE WILL HELP YOU GET TO WHERE YOU WANT TO BE."

2135

**VOLUNTEER
HOURS**

72

VOLUNTEERS

-Richard, Cultural Interpreter

- Our Cultural Interpreter volunteers continue to support the MyPlan process by lending a supportive ear to those working through their goals.
- Our Community Corner volunteers sort donated goods and display them in-space for our young people to choose from.
- Event volunteers play a crucial role in ensuring the seamless flow of the day, from our casino to our special fundraising events.

EVENTS

FINAL STEPS OFF THE STREET EVENT!

2023 was the last year for Steps Off the Street, our annual run/walk held at Confluence Plaza on St. Patrick's Island.

Presented by Servus Credit Union, we had a total of 35 participants, and raised \$23,295. It was a perfect day to hold a run/walk, and recruited **14 volunteers** to get involved, who graciously donated **42 hours** of their time. This year we also connected with new local businesses whom generously donated gifts-in-kind. This helped our fundraising efforts and also gave us the opportunity to say thank-you to our volunteers and participants.



STAY WARM FOR THE HOLIDAYS



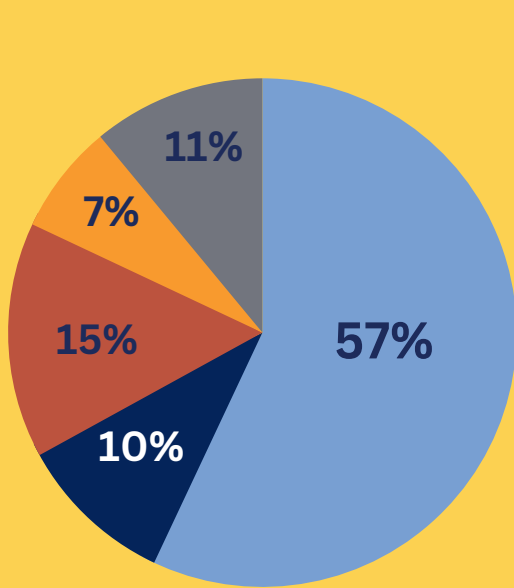
A new event for The Doorway, Stay Warm For The Holidays was successfully held for the first time at The Unicorn on Stephen Avenue. The Doorway raised a net of \$8,098 and had the support of 4 volunteers that donated 24 hours of their time. The holiday-themed event featured local drag celebrities, an **Air Canada** raffle, 50/50, and a silent auction!

SHAW BIRDIES FOR KIDS presented by AltaLink

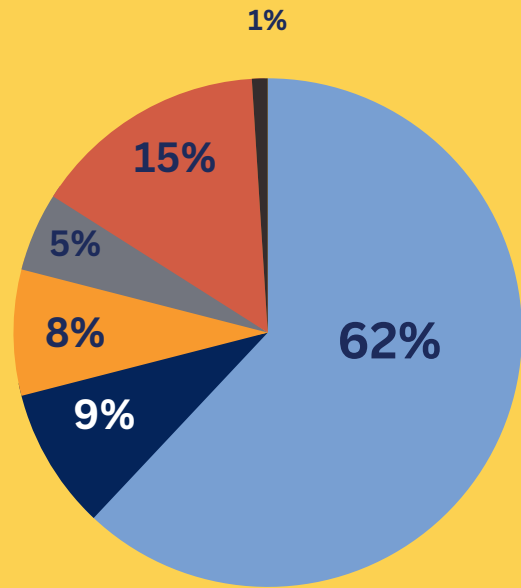
\$89,193 was received from Shaw Birdies for Kids presented by Altelink in November 2022! This included proceeds from the 2022 Steps Off the Street which we submitted for the match, additional donations from generous individuals and organizations, a special donation from Shaw Communications for their 10th Anniversary and to recognize Kaitlin O'Grady, as a Community Champion.



2022 - 2023 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



Investing in
Young People
\$597,191



Community
Investment
\$561,909



THANK YOU!

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of our donors and community for their unwavering support in the work of The Doorway. We couldn't do it without you!

1033581 BC Ltd.

343634 B.C. Ltd.

Air Canada Foundation

Alex and Wendy Campbell Flow Thru Fund at
Calgary Foundation

ARC Resources Ltd.

Armstrong Land Corp

ATB Financial

ATCO Group EPIC

Bears paw Benevolent Foundation

Blue Spruce Investments Ltd.

Calgary Flames Foundation

Calgary Shaw Charity Classic Foundation

CanadaHelps

Chinook Foundation

connectFirst Credit Union

Enbridge Inc.

Gatzsch Family Foundation

Glasswaters Foundation

Greene Family Charitable Foundation

Imperial Sovereign Court Of The Chinook Arch

Inter Pipeline Ltd.

International Drag Queens And Friends

Johansen-Larsen Foundation

Junk in the Trunk Inc.

Magnum Cementing Services (Operations) Ltd.

Maunder's McNeil Foundation Inc.

Nickle Family Foundation

Optimist Club of Calgary

Ovintiv Canada ULC

PETRONAS Canada

Private Giving Foundation

Prosser Charitable Foundation

QV Investors Inc.

RBC Foundation

Rotary Club of Calgary Sarcee

Rotary Club of Calgary West

Servus Credit Union Ltd.

Sharkys International Inc.

Students' Union, University Of Calgary

Telus Corporation

The Georgina Foundation

The Home Depot Canada Foundation

TOTEM Charitable Foundation

Vogel LLP

Workiva Canada ULC



THANK YOU



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