

Annual Update 2020



THE DOORWAY
MAKING CHANGE POSSIBLE

With Gratitude from Leadership

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support of The Doorway.

It's been a privilege to witness the resolve and determination of our community to ensure The Doorway is, and will continue to be, an option for young people in Calgary.

We now look back to the start the year when we announced the retirement of our Society's founding Executive Director, Marilyn Dyck. It was a time of celebration and uncertainty. We were invited to listen, and we did so with the intent to hear. This led us through a thoughtful and intentional recruitment process which brought us to our next leader, Jennifer Stacey.

One of our Doorway principles is 'Life is such that things do not always work'. This year did not come without its challenges. Despite this, our ability to overcome these has shone a light on our unwavering belief in young people and the power of hope. We now enter the next year with gratitude.

Gratitude for the young people who had the courage to allow us to participate in their lives. Gratitude for dedicated staff and volunteers whose adaptability and creativity through this executive transition and pandemic allowed our process to continue for your people. And for our donors and community partners who continue to make investments into the lives of young people.

For this we thank you,
Andrew Hunter
Board Chair

"No one ever got to the top of a mountain in one giant jump. Challenges can be overcome, and goals can be reached, but it can only happen one step at a time" - Doe Zantamata

It is an honor to have this opportunity to express gratitude to our community on behalf of The Doorway. A few short months ago, I was given the chance to lead and work alongside a dedicated team of individuals to contribute to sustainable change in the lives of young people in our city. To me, this was a chance of a lifetime and a challenge I was ready and prepared to take on.

I have learned so much in a short time about Marilyn's legacy and the history of our work. It is a privilege to be here and I look forward to honoring the legacy of more than three decades of her commitment to young people. This past year has certainly come with its challenges. However, within these challenges we have found opportunity and within these opportunities we have found immense success.

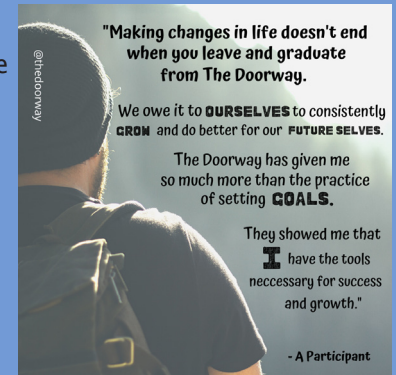
As you will see throughout this update, our team has continued to be innovative in their engagement with, and support of, young people as they forged ahead with their goals despite the challenges that came with the pandemic. Our hope is to share these stories of success and inspiration as we continue to work together as a community to get to the top of the mountain.

With gratitude,
Jennifer Stacey
Executive Director

[Read more about Jennifer Stacey](#)

About The Doorway

- The Doorway supports young people (17–24 yrs.) in moving off the streets by changing the way they view themselves and the world around them.
- We are a community here to **listen without judgement**. We give young people a safe space where they can tap into their innate wisdom and chart their own path forward.
- We commit to them for a two-year period. Young people learn lifelong skills like problem solving, goal setting and planning. For every goal they set they earn \$15 and 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.**



Why it Works

- **Self-determination:** Young people are responsible for writing their own goals. They know themselves best, take ownership over their goals and know all of their successes are because of themselves.
- **Community:** Young people begin to understand how to live in mainstream society and feel an invitation to join by talking to, observing and learning from community members at The Doorway.
- **Our Space:** We offer a calm environment where young people can think and breathe when they walk through our doors. We also provide access to phone, computer/internet and home cooked meals.

Participants were asked

Why do you participate?

**#1 Answer:
I wanted to change**



**Was The Doorway
helpful in you
reaching your goals?**

97% said YES



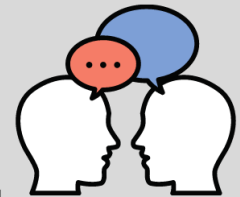
How was it helpful?

- Writing, keeping track and doing goals
- The staff
- Support
- Talking
- Belief I am important
- Hope to change
- More financial security



What are The Doorway's strengths?

- Non-judgmental
- Empathetic
- Listening
- Talking
- Support
- Planning / Goal setting
- Safe safe / the space in general
- Food, clothing, hygiene supplies
- Financial incentive



Highlights

"My transition from the street is more apparent on the inside rather than, as some would assume on the outside."

| Success identified by young people in their monthly reflections this year | Outside | Inside |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| "It's finally happened. I got a job. The efforts of working on my resume, obtaining certificates and working with employment agencies paid off." | Employment | Self-accountability |
| "I appreciate all that my group home has done for me but I have been in the system for far too long and it's time for me to finally move out on my own" | Independence | Trust in oneself |
| "I never would of seen myself getting my high school diploma. A year ago, I didn't care. But now I do. I passed Chemistry 20 with a 90% today. I think this is the first 90% I've ever received in a class, it feels pretty good." | Education | Possibility |
| "I used to be a really bad drug addict. Now, I am a kitchen manager, I have a home, I have a credit card, savings in my bank account and am going to school. I guess now I'm doing something right." | Stability | Autonomy |
| "I used drugs..many lies told, hearts broken, people hurt. I have many people I have hurt, I've spent the last year of my life repairing a lot of that damage. Today I have many of the people I have hurt happy for me, and want to see me do good." | Repairing Relationships | Sense of Belonging |

61
Participants

1738
Visits

2006
Goals
Set

60%
OFF THE
STREET
IN 2 YRS

61
VOLUNTEERS

2771
Volunteer
Hours

COVID - 19

No matter the challenges the pandemic brought, yours and our commitment to young people continued, **and their commitment to themselves shined through most.**

March brought a three month closure to our space, the second closure in our 33 year history. The first was in 2009 when a fire in our strip mall left our space smoke damaged and in need of repairs. At that time, participants business processes were paused while community members and businesses joined together to get our space back up and running.

This year the pandemic highlighted the difference a decade can make. Advances in technology and accessibility to cellphones, internet and online banking allowed us to continue facilitating our process for over 80% of our young people. They continued thinking, planning, problem solving and stayed in touch with people who care and know them really well. And much like 2009 community members and businesses joined together, to prepare and deliver care packs filled with food, hygiene supplies, diapers, baby formula etc.

Though we found an innovative way to connect with our young people during the lock down, us and our participants agree our space and face to face relationships are the magic of The Doorway. We were grateful to re-open in June and be back together.



Follow us @thedorway
for regular posts from
our space!

#community #strongertogether

"I realized I need to keep myself busy during quarantine and that is what I've been trying to do.

Either drawing or making things or trying out new recipes. Just anything that can keep me away from the idea of relapsing.

I know I'm better and more clear minded when I am away from substance abuse and that's the way I want it to stay.



- A Participant

@thedorway

"I've been dealing with getting another job and packing to move this month.

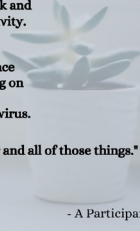
It's been crazy, but I remember to keep positive and focus on what's more important, like keeping my mental health in check and staying away from negativity.

I am keeping my hygiene up and keeping my distance from people. I am focusing on what I need to do and not panicking because of the virus.

I need to buy toilet paper and all of those things."

@thedorway

- A Participant



"This is a very scary and intense time.

It is very important that we all do our part so that we can limit the spread and so we can all get back to our normal lives and be able to continue to make **POSITIVE CHANGES.**"



- A Participant

@thedorway

"I got a job during Covid-19 for a purpose that is from my heart.

I do housekeeping in a senior care facility.

I am aware during this pandemic how much others rely on housekeeping during a worldwide crisis. I love saying hello to the seniors.

It's giving me a sense of purpose during a time of need and a sense of accomplishment.

It's a benefit to everyone in the building knowing they can continue their tasks without worry.

Trust in the housekeeping.

I will carry this story knowing I gave a piece of me in this crisis for a purpose of being a support to the most vulnerable & front line workers."

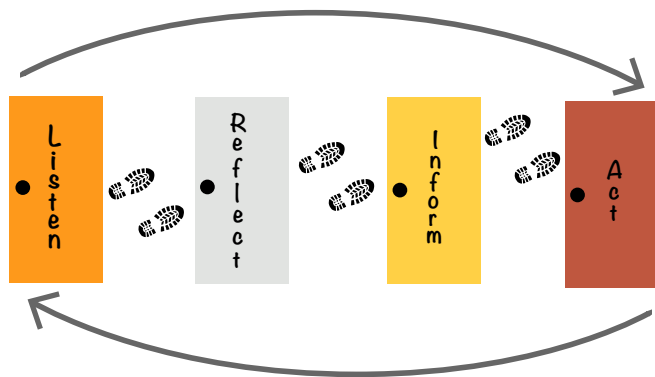
@thedorway

- A Participant



Looking Forward

Participatory Action



Summer 19': Read archives and **listened** to current participants.

Fall: **Reflected** on how to strengthen our my plan process.

Winter: Participant Advisors worked with staff for 6 months to **inform** and create a new End of Month Reflection Tool.

Spring: We launched our new End of Month Reflection Tool into **action** with all participants.

Looking Forward: We are creating an evaluation tool to regularly **listen** to participants, with **reflection** they **inform** our process and **actions**.



“If you want to move forward, often look back, otherwise you’ll forget where you came from and where you need to go.”

- Anonymous

Finances

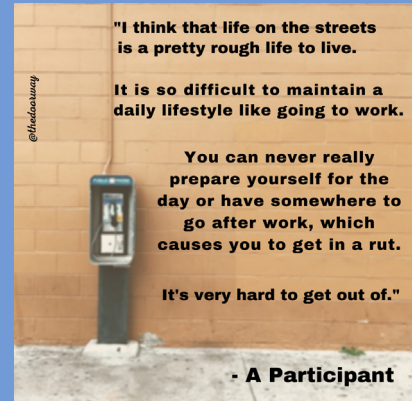
- Surina

"It's **FINALLY** happened. **I GOT A JOB.**
The efforts of working on my resume,
obtaining certificates and working with
employment agencies has **PAID OFF.**

However, **THIS IS JUST THE START** and the road
ahead still has obstacles. While I've paid back
the bank accounts overdraft, I still need to
make use of this new job to tackle my
LARGEST DEBT to my old landlord as well as
smaller debts I owe to a friend and the library.

Once I have these done,
then **I CAN FINALLY GET PASSED**
this point and start saving the
DAMAGE DEPOSIT for the
apartment complex
I plan to move into. -A Participant

Its all starting to come together."



Thank You to Our Board of Directors

Andrew Hunter, Calgary Board of Education

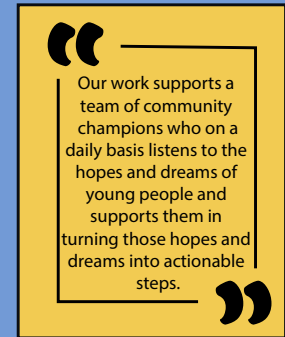
Jim Empey, The Bodtker Group of Companies

Eric Dahl, Dahlars Inc.

John Leduc, Entrepreneur

Brent Olynyk, Lead 2 Perform

Eva White, STEM Learning Lab Inc.



The Doorway is not trying to solve all of the issues that come with poverty and homelessness. But we enable young adults to move beyond them. Are you a compassionate, non-judgemental listener?

The Doorway needs you!



Donate



Volunteer

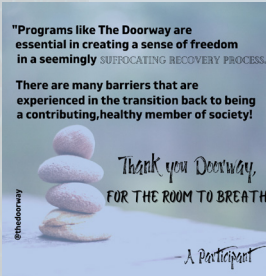


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Your support changes the life of a young person on the street, forever.

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Salden Foundation
St. Luke's Church
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Telus Corporation
The Shawana Foundation
Tuscan Benevolent Society
Vogel LLP Lawyers

Thank you to the Grandparents, Retirees, Mothers, Fathers, Professionals, Caregivers, Siblings and Compassionate Community Members for Making Change Possible.

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