



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

We believe in building agency—supporting young people as they recognize their strengths, make confident choices, and take meaningful actions towards making change. By nurturing their resilience, critical thinking, and adaptability, they are empowered to overcome challenges, seize opportunities, and actively shape the future they dream of.



# A Note from the New Executive Director

This past year has been one of meaningful transition and renewed enthusiasm at The Doorway. As I reflect on my first months in this role, I am deeply grateful for the foundation that has been laid by those who came before me and want to extend my deepest thanks to Floyd Visser, whose footsteps it is a privilege to follow. Floyds steady leadership and commitment to providing opportunities to young people remained at the center of our work. It is the contributions of the incredible leaders that came before, that will ensure The Doorway will live on for decades more. Stepping into this role, I am continually inspired by the history of The Doorway and the uniqueness of its process, one that has remained grounded in trust, integrity, and the belief that young people have the power to direct their own lives.

What happens here is special, and unlike anything else in our sector. At The Doorway, participants are welcome to come, think, plan, take meaningful steps towards change, and earn clean money for the work they do. Being paid for the investment they are making in themselves acknowledges their effort, restores a sense of dignity, and reinforces that they are building something real.

As young people continue to write their own futures, I see not only individuals moving off the street, but the next generation of leaders and advocates emerging. I see young people who understand their own power and who will help shape a different path for future generations. Now more than ever, we are focused on ensuring The Doorway's process can live on. By protecting the integrity of our approach, listening to participants, and investing in the community around them we can ensure that we remain an essential part of shifting perceptions about youth homelessness and shape a more compassionate, equitable response in Calgary.

As we look ahead to the new year, we are committed to empowering young people by honouring their lived experiences and ensuring The Doorway remains a place of learning, trust and real-world change.

Thank you to our participants, volunteers, donors, partners, supporters and our extraordinary staff team for your incredible investment in self and community. Together, we continue to make change possible.



Laura Kathler  
Executive Director,  
The Doorway



# A Note from the Board Chair

First and foremost, on behalf of the Board, I extend our sincere gratitude to Floyd Visser, whose steady leadership as Executive Director helped guide the organization through a time of significant change. His dedication to young people and to the process that supports them has strengthened the foundation on which we now build.

With new leadership and fresh energy, this is a moment not only to sustain the impact of our day-to-day work with young people, but also to expand our influence across the broader sector. The Doorway's long-standing philosophy of trusting young people, removing unnecessary barriers, and honouring their autonomy offers a powerful alternative to traditional models often seen in social services. We believe this perspective has much to contribute to conversations happening across Calgary and beyond.

As a Board, we are committed to seeking opportunities to challenge entrenched social norms, to share what we have learned through decades of practice, and support innovation that places dignity and self-determination at the center of service delivery. This work is not only about helping young people leave the streets, but also about strengthening the systems around them, encouraging critical reflection, and demonstrating that meaningful change is possible when we trust young people to lead their own lives.

We are encouraged by the momentum of this past year and inspired by the vision ahead. To our community of supporters, volunteers, partners, investors and young people. THANK YOU! for contributing to this evolving chapter. Together, alongside our dedicated staff team, we will continue shaping a future in which more young people have the opportunity to thrive.



Athena Pulzoni  
Chair, Board of Directors  
The Doorway

## The Doorway Board of Directors

**Athena Pulzoni**  
Chair, Director of HR & Payroll  
St. Mary's University

**Kim Bourque**  
Secretary Executive Assistant to the President  
St. Mary's University

**Louise Dimmell**  
Clinical Coding Specialist  
Alberta Health Services

**Annelies Calnan**  
Treasurer CPA  
FYI Doctors

**Wendy Oddie**  
Director Addictions & Mental Health Diversion Team  
Alberta Health Services

**Olusolu Abejide**  
Project Manager  
Capital Asset Restoration, Calgary Airport Authority

# Life Skills Workshops

In partnership with



The Doorway hosted its first Money Management workshop series presented by our partners at Momentum. Over a dozen participants braved the cold weather to attend the sessions held at The Doorway.

Momentum's Financial Empowerment Facilitators presented on various topics including banking, credit, assets, budgets, and consumerism. Over the course of the 5 weeks, participants were empowered to unlock the transformative power of credit, grasping its potential to both uplift and hinder, and discovered how financial literacy can be a beacon of hope in prevention.

Participants were invited to attend as many workshops as possible, without obligation. The majority of participants completed the sessions with just one or two workshops away from earning a certificate that can be completed online at The Doorway, and highlighted on their resumes or housing applications.





I now understand how important it is to pay off your debt by paying the minimum payment every given date.

~ John. Y

"I learned about credit card planning, interest, compound interest, and credit score, and I won't touch credit unless it is to profit or solely to build credit."

~JL

"My biggest takeaway is that money is very complex in a way. Like your relationship with it, how it's involved with everything, how it gets you to spend more money. I also learned more about credit. I think this workshop is important because it helps people learn more about money and see if there's a way to not fall into fraud or even debt."

~CM



I have learned that the way my mind and body feel at the moment of consumerism can greatly affect my spending choices. To make sure that this won't happen often I will eat food before I go outside to spend on food. When I shop, I will wait 24 hrs before buying something. Everything I spend from coffee to clothing to bills I will track and spend on the most important stuff first.

~AJ

I am going to stop impulse buying because of how I feel about my life. I am going to start reflecting on what I buy and how it effects my life and the world around me. I am going to change what I choose to spend my money on because of my reflections.

-MS

point of view  
**Plan**  
steps to be

# Making Changes

## Small Actions, Significant Results

"I focus on small, manageable steps that build momentum overtime, allowing for sustainable transformation. I try to start small, not trying to change everything at once. Picking one small habit to focus on and gradually add more as I get comfortable. I tried to set realistic goals, ensuring my goals are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and being able to track the progress, also staying motivated. Knowing consistency is key, I know small actions done consistently overtime can lead to significant results. Not letting occasional slipups derail your progress- learning from them and getting back on track. Positive self-talk always to encourage oneself."

-N.I

**"I focus on small,  
manageable steps that  
build momentum  
overtime"**

Over the past few years, I have faced significant struggles that have shaped who I am today. One of the most important lessons I have learned is that struggle is not something to fear, it is an essential part of life that allows us to grow and fulfill our potential. Life's ups and downs are natural, and it is important to remember that struggle does not discriminate. At some point, everyone on earth will face challenges of their own.

During periods of struggle, it becomes more important to focus on what you can control and let go of what you cannot. By doing so you save more of your energy for the things that truly matter.

Each birthday reminds me of my impending doom and that every moment matters. Being intentional with how you spend your time is one of the most meaningful choices you can make. Because once time is gone we cannot get it back.

Perhaps the most valuable lesson I have learned is that no one can get through life entirely on their own. Some challenges are too difficult to face alone, and having the support of others is essential. Even for those who lack natural support, it is possible and necessary to seek out people and build connections that help us deal with life together.

- Brandan

# I Want To Feel Like I Have A Future


What motivates me to make changes in my life is the desire for something better, even when everything around me feels like it's falling apart. There are days when I feel completely overwhelmed by my circumstances- dealing with mental health struggles, homelessness, and the constant stress of finding steady work. But even on the hardest days, there's a small part of me that believes I can do better, that I deserve better. That belief is what pushes me to keep going, even when the road ahead seems unclear.

I think about having a place to call my own, where I don't have to worry about where I'll sleep or what I'll eat. And long for stability, something to hold on to, and a chance to build a life where I'm not just surviving, but truly living. Part of me wants to prove to myself that I'm capable of change, that I can rise above the difficulties I face right now. I want to feel like I have a purpose again, like my work matters, and like I'm contributing to something larger than myself.

When I struggle with my mental health, it's easy to lose sight of these goals. But I remind myself that healing is a process, and sometimes progress isn't linear. It might take time, but that doesn't mean it's not worth pursuing. I know that if I don't take small steps towards improving my situation, nothing will change, and I'll just stay stuck. Even though it feels like I'm fighting an uphill battle, I've learned to take it one day at a time and celebrate the small victories. Every time I reach out for help or try to take care of myself, even just a little, it's a step forward.

I want more than just survival- I want to feel like I have a future, like I'm building something positive for myself. And while I know it won't happen overnight, I find motivation in the belief that if I keep pushing, I can create a life where I'm stable, fulfilled, and free from the constant weight of worry. That vision of a better life, no matter how far away it seems, is what keeps me going.”

-Madison



What motivates me to make changes in my life?

Two little lights that guide my way  
with tiny hands and hearts so gay  
Their laughter lifts the darkest ~~dark~~ skies  
Their dreams reflected in my eyes  
For them I rise and break the chain  
and face every fear, embracing the strain

... anonymous



# Community Corner

by Mariana Damen

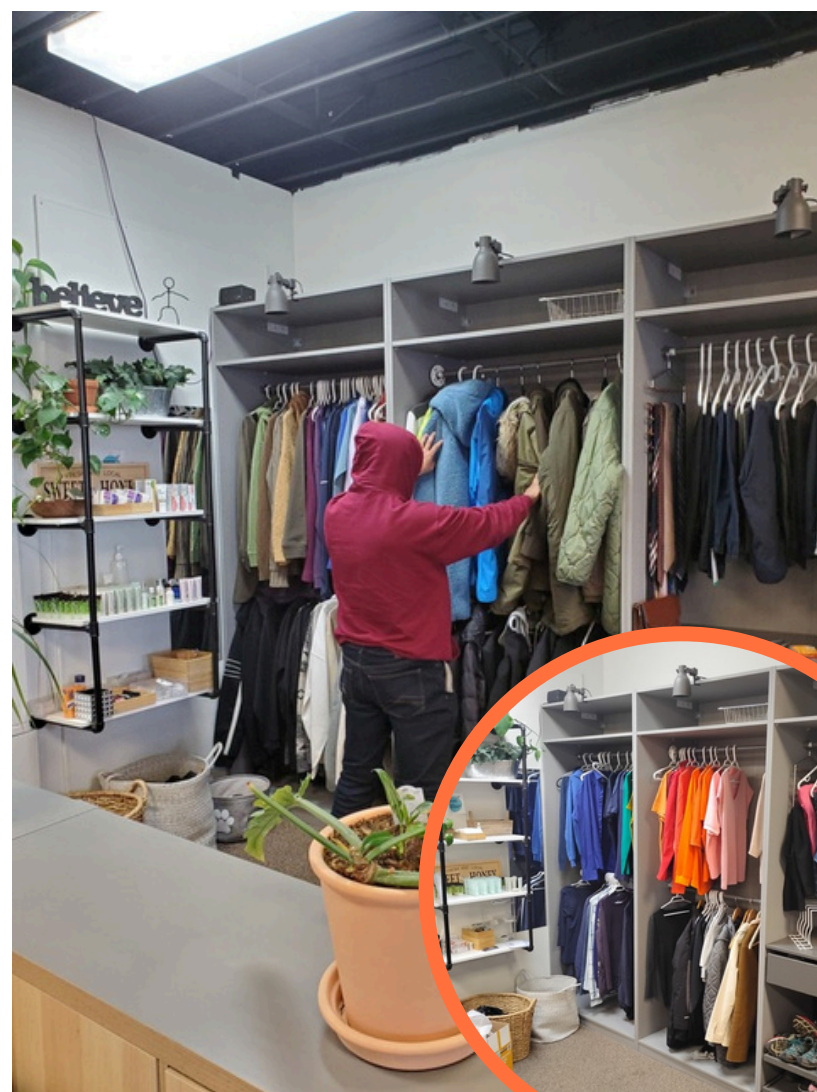
The Doorway's Community Corner is not just a community donation space, it is more than just a place to drop off goods—it's a hub of generosity, connection, and shared responsibility. Aptly named the *Community Corner* is located in the corner of the communal space at The Doorway. Intentionally created and displayed as a retail location, where the goods have no cost but their value is massive. "We support flexibility and compassion, but also sustainability. The goal is balanced access for everyone over time — no one is "more deserving," and we all work to make sure essentials reach those who need them most." says Krista, Youth Engagement Coordinator with The Doorway. "Donations are collected year-round to prepare for seasonal changes, jackets and hoodies are consistently low in the winter, and socks are usually gone by midweek."

The central and accessible location offers a unique assortment of most needed items where participants can determine what they need, when they need it and choose the items that will suit their preferences. "The goal is for the Community Corner to look inviting-more like a small store than a giveaway table. The shelves are wiped down regularly and displays are kept neat. This helps participants feel respected and encouraged to care for the space in return," said Krista. From toothbrushes, to new underwear, the Community Corner ensures resources are redistributed with dignity to those who need them most, reducing waste and fostering sustainability.

The space strengthens the community bonds with participants, as community members are able to support one another directly, empowering individuals to contribute in meaningful ways, no matter the size of their donation. "This is an important project for me, because I am a high school student and don't have a lot, but I know that when we work together we can make a big impact." says Belle, Founder of The BHive, a community group organizing and collecting new and used goods for the Community Corner and other Calgary non profits. "Everyone can do a little something," she highlighted.

No longer just a space to access goods that are needed, the Community Corner has transformed into a space that is the materialization of a communities values- their hopes, dreams, support and love for each and every one of The Doorway's participants, turning giving into a collective act that uplifts the entire community.

## Thank you to Our Community Corner Supporters





# Making Change Possible

Every milestone made, every goal achieved is made possible because of you, our amazing donors and supporters. These achievements would not have been possible without the generosity, trust, and commitment. Whether you contributed time, resources, or your expertise, you have played a vital role in helping us create meaningful change. Your belief and passion in our mission is the fuel of our work and inspires us all to reach higher every day. To every individual, family, business, and organization who stood beside us — thank you for making this journey together, and reminding us that together, we are building a stronger community with a brighter future.

Anonymous Donors	Lecia Buys Prof Corp
Alberta Gaming Liquor and Cannabis	Lily Street Foundation
Alyth Shopping Centre - CMS Realty	Maunder McNeil Foundation Inc.
ARC Resources Ltd.	Miss Rainbow Pride Canada 12
ATB Financial	Miss Rainbow Pride Canada 13
ATB Financial Uplift / Benevity	Optimist Club of Calgary
Bearspaw Benevolent Foundation	Ovintiv Canada ULC
Benevity	PETRONAS Canada
Calgary Foundation	Prosser Charitable Foundation
Calgary Shaw Charity Classic Fdn	Ptarmigan Charitable Foundation
CanadaHelps	Race Roster Calgary Marathon
Chinook Foundation	RBC Foundation
Enbridge Inc.	Rotary Club of Calgary East
Gatzsch Family Foundation	Servus Credit Union Ltd.
Government Of Alberta - CIP Grant	Sproule
Greene Family Charitable Foundation	TD Bank Group
Imperial Sovereign Court Of The Chinook Arch	TOTEM Charitable Foundation
Junk in the Trunk Inc.	Workiva Canada ULC

# Thank You!

# Cause to Celebrate

*Reflections from The Doorway volunteer, Laureen*

The Doorway's compassionate approach to encourage participants to set goals meaningful to them provides a pathway to a more purposeful, manageable lifestyle. In my chats with participants, as a volunteer, I learn of their realization that their efforts to achieve their goals, no matter how small or large, are helping them gain control over their daily lives. That is the basis of their newfound hope, often touched with a tinge of optimism for the future. That is cause for all of us to celebrate!

I love witnessing our participants' discovery of the star within. We need all our young adults to embody and exhibit confidence and hope. I am grateful for the opportunity, as a volunteer, to help them get there. The Doorway's determination to work with those in a non-judgmental manner, with those who face abuse, addictions, mental health challenges, or are involved in risky behaviour that puts them in conflict with law enforcement agencies has touched me deeply. Can we really afford, as a society, to ignore the issues that almost 20% of our homeless population are experiencing?

Celebrating each step that participants make to take charge of their future is the mission of this organization. I applaud The Doorway for its vision. I feel fortunate to be a small part of an organization that recognizes the value in mentoring young adults in general, and the need to provide a safe environment for those who require more support as they examine the possibility that they might be able to live rich, useful lives. They, the participants, frequently share this desire when speaking with me. They are grateful for the unwavering, compassionate support they receive from the staff and volunteers throughout this process of setting goals and attainable plans to move towards a brighter future.

*Laureen has been volunteering with  
The Doorway since January 2024*

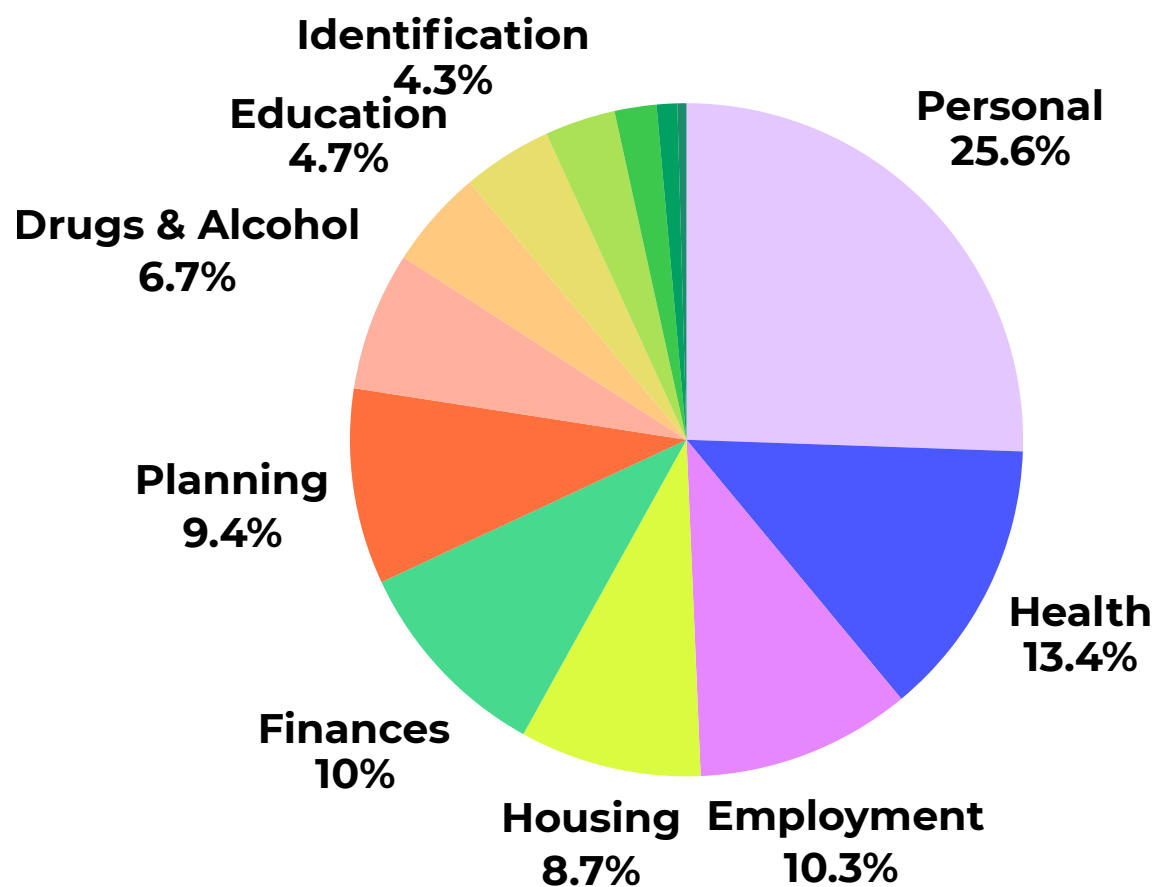


# Steps to Make Change by Area of Life

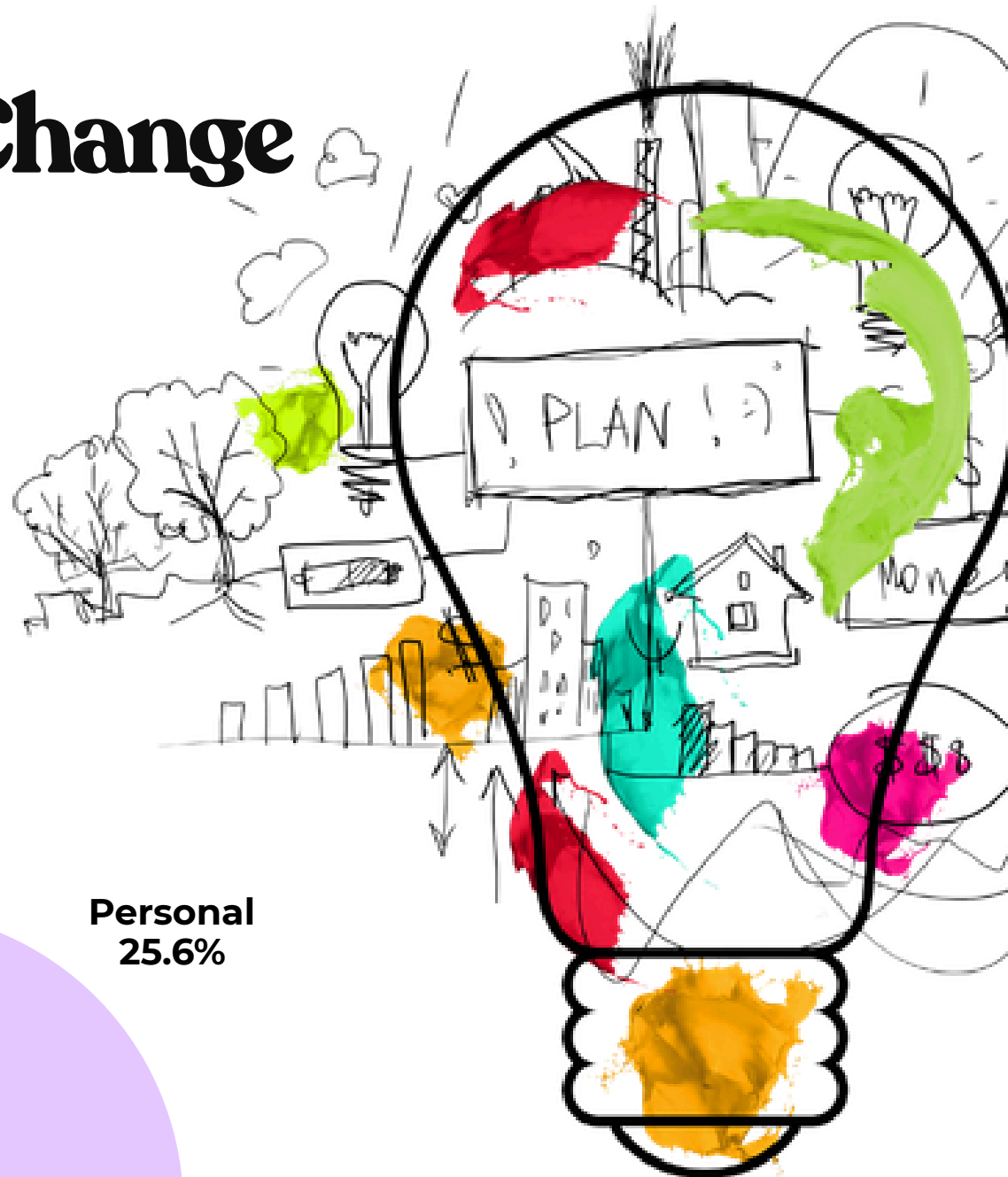
Participants may choose from 13 different areas of life for goal planning

# 2532

Total Goals Set



Breakdown of Goals Planned by Percentage (%)



# Community Impact: TOP 5 as ranked by Participants

The following resources were ranked by Participants  
from most important to least important

1. Food
2. Hygiene Products
3. Clothing
4. Bus Tickets
5. Phone/Internet

Top 5 most important or meaningful experiences  
at the Doorway as identified by Participants

1. Staff Interactions
2. Goal Setting & Achievement
3. Emotional Support
4. Motivation and Empowerment
5. Self Acceptance

Top 5 qualities Participants appreciate about  
The Doorway Volunteers

1. Volunteer Personal Conversation
2. Intellectual and Knowledge Exchange
3. Personal Sharing and Growth
4. Volunteer Listening Skills and Emotional Support
5. Encouragement

A skill that would have the biggest impact on the  
changes Participants want to see in their lives

1. Interpersonal Skills
2. Productivity and Self Discipline
3. Personal Resilience
4. Financial Management
5. Emotional Regulation

2034

Participant Visits

141

Participants

373

Surveys Completed

*This information and themes were obtained from an  
internal participant survey conducted within our  
organization. 373 surveys were completed.*



# In Our Community



## **Birdies for Kids** Calgary Shaw Classic Foundation

The Doorway is very grateful to have been chosen as a Rogers Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink charity, changing the lives of children & youth in Alberta.

Generous individuals and organizations submitted their donations directing them to The Doorway and the foundation matched up to 50% using the Foundation's matching pool.

## **Extravaganza**

Presented by Servus Credit Union

The second annual fundraiser, celebrating over 35 Years of The Doorway, Extravaganza was held on May 29 at Festival Hall. Hosted by Calgary-based comedian Amy Edgar the fabulous line up that kept the crowd entertained all evening long included Sandra Sutter and Rob Ing, Denver Venoit, Jennie Harluk, and Danny Nix. Live art was created by Calgary based artist Dean Stanton and was auctioned off at the event

The Extravaganza was a chance to reflect on our shared accomplishments and look ahead to the exciting possibilities that lie before us. \$17, 250 was raised at the event.



## **100 Women Who Care Calgary**

100+ Women in Calgary

Big impact can happen when you bring together 100 (or more) women in Calgary who care in support of a local community cause. The Doorway is very grateful to have been chosen as a recipient of the 100 Women Who Care Calgary. The organization knows that together they can improve the lives of their neighbours and their collective action creates profound change as young people learn lifelong skills like problem-solving, goal setting and planning at The Doorway.



## Stay Warm for the Holidays

Presented by The Doorway and Friends

The third annual holiday fundraiser event “Stay Warm for the Holidays” which was held at Dickens in Calgary. Hosted by one of Calgary’s finest drag performers, Shauna Starr and other local drag celebrities presented a fun holiday-themed show in support of The Doorway.

\$12, 085 was raised at the event which included a raffle of Air Canada airline vouchers as well as a fabulous silent auction.

## THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS, EVENT SPONSORS & DONORS

Joe Average

Len Collins

Floyd Visser & Tim Leal

Miguel Lopez

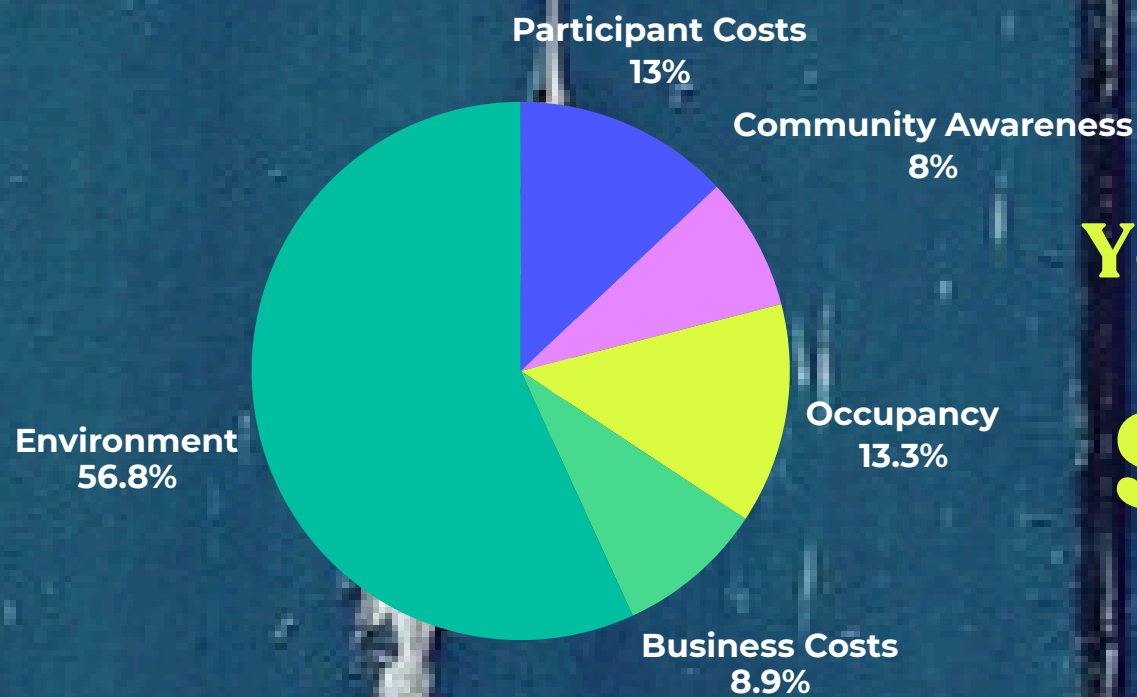
Anonymous Elves

Dean Stanton

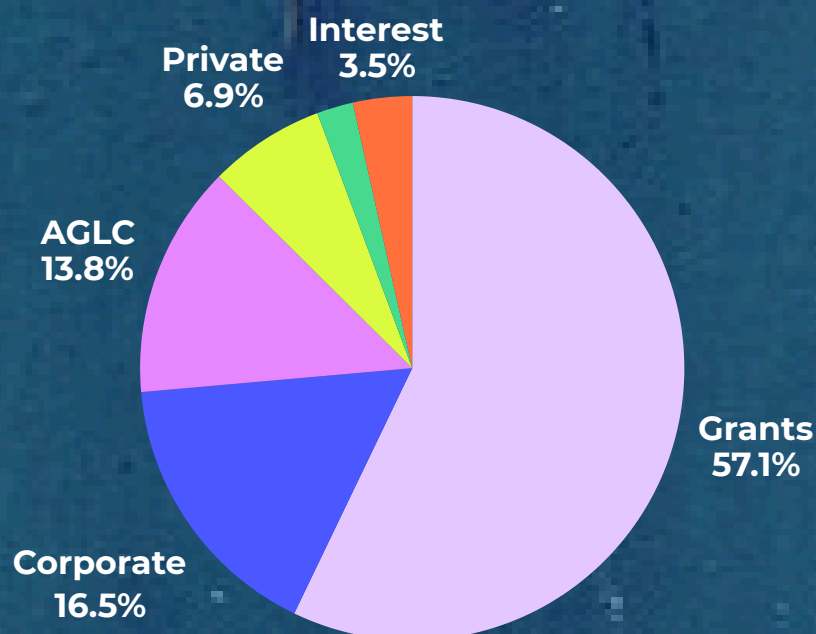
Georgia Vallis



# 2025 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



**Investment in  
Young People at  
The Doorway  
\$641,192**



**Community  
Investment in  
The Doorway  
\$613,402**



# Learn More & Stay In Touch ...

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Website [www.thedoorway.ca](http://www.thedoorway.ca)  
Address Bay 10, 2808 Ogden Road S.E.,  
Calgary, Alberta, T2G4R7

Follow Us



The Doorway has helped me be me again,  
and that's something I will forever be grateful for.

Jonathan P.  
The Doorway Participant