



Staff of the John Howard Society of Toronto

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JohnHoward
SOCIETY OF TORONTO



Our Mission : Supporting New Beginnings The John Howard Society of Toronto supports new beginnings by providing support to people in conflict with the law and adults at imminent risk of coming into conflict with the law, in order to facilitate positive change and achieve positive community reintegration.

Message From the President

It has been another year of unprecedented growth for the John Howard Society of Toronto. The highlights include:

In February 2008, JHST undertook our first foray into provision of Transitional Housing Services. This year we operated two 4-bedroom houses in partnership with CAMH and the Toronto Drug Court. These houses allowed men who were facing addictions issues to live in a harm reduction environment as they work through their challenges. Completion of the program allows graduates to avoid a jail term by meeting all the conditions set by the court. We have had our first graduate with more due to complete the program this fall;

Expansion of our Post-Incarceration Housing Services to include a permanent full-time worker in Scarborough. This was made possible by the United Way of Greater Toronto and we are very grateful;

The large growth of our Choices program. This program works with men charged with domestic assault and their victims. The program expanded to permanent delivery in Scarborough and in the Jane & Finch corridor;

The successful introduction of our Anger Management and Substance Awareness program as a vital part of the Community Justice program offered to first time offenders at all five Toronto courthouses;

The operation of regular scheduled bus transportation services for families of inmates in federal and provincial institutions. This had been operated by John Howard Ontario for years before we took over its service in April 2007; and

The creation of a new organization set-up with five Team Leaders. This allows more direct supervision and involvement with programs. It also clearly shows the quality and growth-potential of our staff.

I would like to make special mention of Amber Kellen. Ms. Kellen started as a volunteer with John Howard Toronto and moved up through the staff ranks to eventually become our Supervisor of Community Services. Ms. Kellen was invited to join John Howard Ontario through a secondment in July. Her list of accomplishments at JHST are many and perhaps highlighted by the research paper she co-authored with the University of Toronto that identified the direct link between incarceration and homelessness in Toronto. It was because of this study we have worked in partnership with the City of Toronto in our very successful Post-Incarceration Housing Supports program. Ms. Kellen was one of nine Toronto residents awarded the distinguished 1997 Vital Persons Award by the Toronto Community Foundation. She also was awarded the 2008 Tomas Dykstra Award as the individual who best reflected the values and objectives of the John Howard Society. She was chosen from among 600 John Howard staff throughout the province.

Of course the most important people to us are our clients. In 2007/2008 our staff worked with over 14,000 different individuals. We assisted more men in accessing permanent housing than ever before. We increased our weekly presence at the provincial and federal prisons. We developed strong partnerships with the Toronto Police Service, various government agencies and an increasing number of social service organizations in Toronto.

Next year will again be challenging. The changes in the Criminal Code of Canada will result in more individuals going to prison and serving longer sentences. This will result in increased institutionalization and more difficulty in making the transition from prison to the community. Project funding is always difficult to secure so we must continue to be vigilant in building the trust of our funding partners.

There are many people to thank. Let me start with my fellow Board members. We have had a very successful year as we completed our three-year strategic plan for 2005-2008. I am very pleased that we met most of our objectives. I would like to thank our tremendous staff for their daily commitment, compassion and professionalism. Our staff work with some of the most disenfranchised individuals in Toronto and I am always amazed by their dedication and energy. I would like to thank our funders. We were very pleased to receive an increase from the United Way of Greater Toronto for the next three years. This tells us that our work is respected by an agency that has the best interests of our community at heart. We are very honoured to work with all our funding partners and view our relationship as one of trust and responsibility that we take very seriously. I'd like to thank the ever-increasing number of volunteers that help us out. This year saw the largest increase in volunteerism at John Howard that we have ever experienced. Thank you for giving of your time. And finally, I'd like to thank our clients for trusting us, for allowing us to work with them and for making the commitment to make the changes necessary to successfully reintegrate into our community. In many cases, our clients face challenges that most of us would not understand. Yet so many succeed and become assets to our city. Everybody deserves a second chance and to have somebody believe in them

Robert Maclellan (Board President)

The Presidents Award

The Presidents Award honours a staff member who has made a significant contribution to our clients, our agency and our community. The award is peer driven as the nominees are put forward by staff and voted upon by staff.

The winner for 2007/2008 is Vanessa Abel who served as the coordinator for our very successful Volunteer and Incarceration Supports programs. Her commitment, innovation and dedication to these programs have resulted in a large increase in service to those incarcerated at Toronto's three detention centres. As well, we have seen a growth of about 100% in our volunteer program. Vanessa was recently promoted to Team Leader for Institutional and Volunteer services.

We congratulate Vanessa and thank her for all her hard work. Job well done, Ms. Abel!!



2007/2008 AGENCY PROGRAMS

The dedicated and professional staff and volunteers of the John Howard Society of Toronto provided support to 15,540 individuals in 2007/2008 through our agency programs, which are listed below. In order to meet the specific needs of clients and the communities we serve, our programs are client and community driven. We provide professional counselling services at our office and at various community settings to ensure we are reaching those in need.

Clinical Programs

Choices

Choices is a 16-week court accredited Partner Assault Response Program (PARS) for men who have been abusive in their intimate relationships. The objective of this program is to provide the intervention necessary to end abusive behaviors. Counselors work with clients to encourage them to make positive changes that will enhance the quality of their intimate relationships. The partners of the men in the program are contacted on a regular basis and provided with information on community resources and a personalized safety plan. As a member of the Woman Abuse Council Roster and court advisory committees, Choices actively participates in the development and delivery of the Domestic Violence Courts' Coordinated Intervention Model. We are the only agency in the city to offer specific delivery for Caribbean clients. We offer the Choices program in Scarborough, downtown and in the Jane & Finch area

First Things First Program

In partnership with the Community agencies, which include the Keele Centre and the Toronto Jail, counselors provide pre-treatment and aftercare addiction counseling to clients. In addition to this partnership, counseling is also provided at our location to encourage harm reduction and/or abstinence based recovery. It is our objective to provide counseling that is holistic so that the diverse needs of our clients are met. We recognize that any plan of treatment must be client driven in order for any success to be achieved. We provide a Drug Awareness Program at the Toronto Jail which focuses on relapse prevention strategies and development of positive coping strategies. We also provide a weekly Relapse prevention group at our office. Clients in this program are also provided with housing counseling and referrals.

Somali Community – Healthy Relationships

In partnership with the Somali Youth Association of Toronto, the second year of this project provided training workshops for staff, volunteers and teen mentors of SOYAT. This program focused specifically on developing and delivering information to youth on positive communication in order to encourage healthy relationships. This program was offered at Secondary Schools in the Toronto area where the need was identified by both SOYAT and school staff. This program provided specific support to parents and families to better understand the Justice System and to develop the ability to deal with the stigma associated with this often-oppressive system. The overall focus was to provide information and resources to create safer environments for Somali youth and their families.

Alternatives, Associates and Attitudes (AAA)

AAA is a 20-session group program for federal parolees. The program teaches that maintaining criminal attitudes and beliefs is a risk factor for re-offending. In order to reduce risk of harm to self and others, cognitive behavioral strategies are provided to participants in this program. Individuals are assisted with problematic criminal thinking and replacing these beliefs with pro-social attitudes.

Moderate Intensity Family Violence Program

The Family Violence Program is a 24-session group program for federal parolees. The goal of the program is to eliminate violent and abusive behaviour by male federal offenders against their intimate partners. The program addresses the following areas: violence and abusive behaviour in the family, developing insight into factors related to abuse, an awareness of the range of abusive attitudes and behaviours toward partners and children and the negative effects of these attitudes and behaviours in relationships.

Positive Parenting

This program is offered in partnership with the Children's Aid Society of Toronto for parents who have been identified as being at risk of abusing their children or who have already caused harm to their children. This 10-week program utilizes the anger management curriculum integrating it with child development and effective parenting techniques.

S.T.A.R.T – Scarborough Treatment Addiction Resources Team

Clients in the Scarborough area are provided Addiction counseling in their community. The services offered through this program are provided at the Scarborough Hope Shelter, Scarborough Housing Help Centre and the Metro East Detention Centre. In its second year this program continues to build on and develop networks, which are enhancing the treatment needs of individuals living in the Scarborough community. It has received positive feedback from both the community and clients served. Individuals at the Metro East Detention Centre are able to access treatment in the Institution and upon release as a result of this program.

Managing Anger Positively

In partnership with the Children's Aid Society, therapy groups are provided to children in care to help them process and express their feelings of anger. Many of these children are experiencing difficulties in school and are reminded constantly of the stigma of being in care by other classmates. Art and Music Therapy are provided in this program. The feedback from participants to date has been positive.

Anger Management

We offer both individual and group counseling to assist individuals develop positive strategies of expressing their anger. The feedback from individuals attending this program is that they develop skills to deal with stress and express anger assertively rather than with aggression.

Anger Management Professional Training

Our staff has extensive experience in the area of Anger Management programs and provide training to community agencies and professionals on the development and implementation of Anger Management programs. This program is designed to meet the specific professional learning needs of the participants. This training is provided at our location, in the community and at the Toronto Hostels Training Centre

The A.S.A.P. (Anger/Substance Awareness Program)

This program is for individuals referred through Community Justice/Adult Diversion offices in the five Toronto area courts that have been screened for Anger and Substance Use issues. A.S.A.P. is an Interactive Program that is both educational and experiential with emphasis on experiential to enhance participant's interpersonal skill development. This program is designed to meet the individual needs of participants through a dynamic, three session intervention that explores the lifestyle issues that contribute to participants Anger and/or Substance Use.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Native Inmate Liaison Program and Native Outreach Work

We recently completed our second year of delivery of the Native Inmate Liaison Programs at the Toronto East and West Detention Centre and at the Toronto Jail. Weekly, our Native clients receive traditional programming through the provision of traditional teachings, circles and ceremonies. Relevant referrals within the Native Community are made for those clients wishing to remain connected culturally, upon their release. We also continue to work closely with community based partnerships, especially with local drop-in centres where we offer Traditional sharing circles to address the many issues facing the Native population, both inside correctional facilities and within the community as well.

Institutional Services Program

Institutional services are offered at the Toronto East Detention Centre, Toronto West Detention Centre and Toronto Jail on a twice-weekly basis. Visits take place every six weeks to Maplehurst Correctional Complex and at varying times at Mimico Correctional Centre as well. Counseling is provided to assist individuals in adjusting to incarceration, planning for their release, and coping with addictions. At this time, almost each service delivered at JHST includes an institutional component. The Society also visited several federal institutions and was able to connect with clients and offer pre-release planning and reintegration into the community, with a specialized emphasis on housing. In addition, we have pen pal services through our Mail Bag program, which has been designed for incarcerated inmates who have minimal family or community support. Volunteers correspond as pen pals to individuals at various federal and provincial institutions throughout Ontario. For many inmates this program provides a chance to develop a relationship that fills a void in their life and keeps them connected to the community.

Drug Awareness and Alcohol Prevention Program

The primary focus of the drug awareness program is to meet the needs of people with addictions who are incarcerated at the Toronto Jail. On a weekly basis, group sessions are facilitated by two of our staff persons in order to assist clients in both the general population and within Protective Custody at the Toronto Jail to address the risk factors that contribute to their substance use, and to work with them using various philosophies. Links to treatment options are also available for clients both during their incarceration and upon their release.

Community Justice Program

This program is offered at the Metro West Provincial Court as well as at the Metro North Provincial Court (in partnership with the Elizabeth Fry Society of Toronto). In conjunction with the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Crown Attorney's Office, it provides an opportunity, primarily for first time non-violent offenders, who accept responsibility for their actions, to make restitution to their community by completing a diversion agreement. Our Community Justice Workers liaise with the courts and key stakeholders to build contacts in the community that permit participants to fulfill sanctions that are meaningful and restorative in nature. When this agreement is successfully completed, the Crown withdraws their charges.

Volunteer Programs

Volunteers provide positive role models, a listening ear and a caring heart. They make an extremely valuable contribution to the community in terms of both services and personal commitment, whether working directly with clients or with the Society as members of the Board of Directors. Volunteers are a critical part of our programs - through one-on-one supportive counseling, literacy tutoring, and facilitation of groups and in discharge planning. Our volunteers are provided with ongoing training sessions and direct supervision to ensure they feel confident and inspired to carry out their duties. Over this past year our volunteers also assisted staff to distribute Winter Relief clothing to those of our clients who were in need.

Housing Support/Resettlement Programs

This program, made up of a Housing Team of five staff members, assists homeless and under-housed clients to find and maintain housing, offering ongoing support to landlords and tenants through the provision of eviction prevention work and mediation. Our workers are well versed in the Ontario Human Rights Code and in relevant Tenant legislation as well. Our housing contacts for clients are both in the private and social sectors, while additional referrals are made on an individual basis for specialized, supportive, or transitional housing options. Our efforts in Scarborough continue in partnership with the Scarborough Housing Help Centre where a Housing Counselor works full time, four days each week in the Scarborough community, at the East Detention Centre to assist clients with discharge planning, resettlement and housing needs upon their release. In addition, members of our Housing Team visit other local jails as well as court houses to meet with, and support clients in terms of resettlement support. We also send a housing worker weekly to the Keele Centre Halfway house. This program receives its primary funding from the City of Toronto's Streets to Homes program.

In-Touch Bus Transportation Program

Families and friends of those incarcerated in Federal and Provincial Prisons in southern Ontario utilize this important service to stay in touch with their husband, father, partner, etc. The program is available at a very affordable cost and operated five times weekly.

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Did you know

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That total offences in Canada in 2006-2007 was 372,084 and those found guilty was 242,194

In 2007-2008, the John Howard Society of Toronto assisted more than 14 thousand individuals, and helped more than 125 men secure housing in the GTA

Partnerships

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)
The Children's Aid Society of Toronto
Centre for Urban and Community Studies – University of Toronto
CKLN Radio
Dixon Hall
Elizabeth Fry Society of Toronto
The Good Shepherd Ministries
The Hope Shelter, Scarborough
The Meeting Place
National African Integration and Families Association
PARC Community Centre
Prisoners with HIV/ Aids Support Action Network (PASAN)
Queen West Community Health Centre
Scarborough Housing Help Centre
Scarborough Storefront
Scarborough Probation Office
Seaton House
Somali Youth Association of Toronto (SOYAT)
St. Christopher House
Toronto Bail Program
Toronto Drug Court
Toronto East Detention Centre
Toronto Hostels Training Centre
Toronto Jail
Toronto West Detention Centre
Woman's Abuse Council of Toronto

Acknowledgements

We wish to acknowledge the following for accepting Community Service orders:

York Community Center
Elizabeth Fry Society
Learning Enrichment Foundation
Salvation Army
Daily Bread
Street Light Services
CAMH (Centre for Mental Health and Addictions)
Dixon Center

Funders

Aboriginal Healing Foundation
BLG Foundation
Canadian Auto Workers
Canadian Race Relations Foundation
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Children's Aid Foundation
City Of Toronto
Correctional Services Canada
Grace Church on the Hill
Homeless Secretariat (HPI)
J.P. Bickell Foundation
John Howard Society of Ontario
F.K. Morrow Foundation
Ministry of the Attorney General
Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services
Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment and Training
National Crime Prevention Centre
Province of Ontario
Samuel Rogers Memorial Trust
United Way of Greater Toronto
Urban Aboriginal Strategy

Coalitions

John Howard Societies of Canada
Housing Advisory Committee on Homelessness
Alternative Housing and Services Committee
Rooming House Working Group
TB Subcommittee for City of Toronto Board of Health
Prisoners Justice Action Committee
Detox Closure Coalition
Toronto Drug Strategy
Problem Gambling Committee (CAMH)
Housing Action Now

Thank you to our many donors whose generous gifts have helped us better serve our clients.

Corporations/ Employee Trusts:

Canada Helps.Org
Cardinal Mechanical
Harris Steel Limited
Micropath Technologies
Techsoup
Ontario Power Generation Employee's & Pensioners Charity
Stanton Press

We would also like to thank the following Individuals/ businesses for their generosity:

Axmith McIntyre Wicht Ltd.,
The Bargains Group
Borden Ladner Gervais
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Mike Brigham
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Shannon Stark
Martin Wills
Tom & Elly Kaas
Dave Windfeld
Steve Hilditch
Mairi Cowan
Sylvia Sadoff

A special thank you to all the landlords - both private and public sector - that assist our clients in securing housing.

JohnHoward
SOCIETY OF TORONTO

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Statement of Operations

The John Howard Society of Toronto

Statement of Operations Year Ended March 31

	Ministry of the Attorney General Programs (Schedule A)	General Programs	2008 Total	2007 Total
Revenues				
United Way	\$ -	\$ 502,544	\$ 502,544	\$ 509,578
City of Toronto	-	412,288	412,288	360,547
Ministry of the Attorney General				
- Programs	549,368	-	549,368	373,131
- Fee for Service	36,756	-	36,756	26,896
Government of Canada	-	194,052	194,052	94,307
University of Toronto	-	5,000	5,000	5,951
Foundations and other agencies	-	136,365	136,365	37,235
Province of Ontario	-	75,053	75,053	-
Fee for Service	-	31,570	31,570	35,236
CAMH	-	32,201	32,201	46,776
Other - Donations and fundraising	-	127,679	127,679	142,781
- Sundry	-	52,341	52,341	21,454
	586,124	1,569,093	2,155,217	1,653,892
Expenses				
Staff salaries, benefits and professional fees for programs	485,174	998,827	1,484,001	1,114,232
Building occupancy	33,271	205,311	238,582	183,047
Office supplies and services	15,411	18,291	33,702	28,553
Equipment rental and maintenance	7,421	8,277	15,698	27,338
Telephone	3,000	25,233	28,233	21,450
Professional fees	13,000	37,259	50,259	38,453
Program expenses	18,184	263,473	281,657	190,208
Staff development	5,060	14,857	19,917	16,451
Promotion and publicity	2,014	7,175	9,189	8,074
Provincial dues (Note 5)	-	6,000	6,000	6,000
Fundraising	-	-	-	910
Insurance	4,000	14,760	18,760	5,536
Amortization of equipment	-	3,972	3,972	5,035
	586,535	1,603,435	2,189,970	1,645,287
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year	\$ (411)	\$ (34,342)	\$ (34,753)	\$ 8,605



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