

**HISTORIC
GROWTH
DYNAMIC
IMPACT**



ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014



**Message from the
Executive Director and
President of the Board**

Fife has never stopped growing to meet the housing needs of men, women and families living with HIV/AIDS in Toronto. From one home opened in 1990 serving five persons, and still operational today, we now encompass five different residential programs that house 210 residents. The impact of stable, affordable housing on the health and wellbeing of our residents has been proven through community based research over several years (Positive Spaces, Healthy Places).

But we can't provide supportive housing to all of those that need it. So our Homeless Outreach Program (HOP) was established in 2000 and served 25 people in its initial year. Today, HOP works with almost 400 individuals and families annually. Workers assist in finding accommodation in an ever-shrinking rental market, especially challenging for people on fixed incomes, well below the poverty line.

Additionally, Fife House has focused on addressing priority populations in the HIV community identified in the last few years by the Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network. Collaborative partnerships with other agencies and service providers have resulted in initiatives that seek to address the complex issues of people aging with HIV and those with problematic substance use. Statistical findings show a dramatic increase in health and stability and a significant decrease in emergency room visits (96%) and reduction of hospitalizations (95%).

Our growth and impact has been possible only with the continued support of our funders, volunteers, donors and stakeholders. Our future will unfold to meet the existing and emerging needs of those we serve.

Keith Hamby
Executive Director

Linda Stewart
President of the Board

DENISON AND SCATTERED SITES

Denison is the oldest of Fife's residential programs and is home to five residents with staff on-site to provide 24 hour support services. The staffing team also provides support services to an additional eighteen individuals in the community. Clients receive case management, practical supports and assistance with activities with daily living aimed at maintaining their health and living independently.

The Denison Program is entering into an exciting year ahead. Fife House and the Denison and Scattered Sites Program, has been selected by the Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario (ARIDO), for its 2014 Renew, Originate, and Implement Initiative. ARIDO members along with their partners and suppliers will undertake an interior improvement initiative of the Denison Program during the summer of 2014.

"DENISON AND ITS STAFF ARE LIKE MY FAMILY. I'M VERY EXCITED ABOUT THE HOUSE RENOVATION IT MEANS I'LL BE ABLE TO COOK AND HANG OUT IN MY HOME WITH MY FAMILY"

JARVIS

The Jarvis residence provides 82 units of affordable housing and is one of the largest housing programs at Fife House, and is a partnership with Toronto Community Housing (TCH). Staff provides clients support services 12 hours a day, seven days a week. The Jarvis staffing team assist clients with a range of needs related to activities of daily living, case management, and advocacy; as well as providing community and meal programming. In the past year, the Jarvis Program renewed its service and referral agreement with TCH, and took on an additional five units of housing from TCH at a location up the street. The Jarvis staffing team will provide offsite care and supports to these five units similar to the Scattered Sites Model of our Denison Program.

**“VERY RELIEVED
YOU GUYS WERE
HERE WHEN I
TOOK ILL, DON'T
KNOW WHAT I
WOULD HAVE
DONE IF YOU
HADN'T BEEN
HERE”**

SHERBOURNE

The Sherbourne Apartments is designed to serve an integrated population of seniors and people living with HIV/AIDS. Fife House provides housing and support services for PLHAs in 45 of the 122 units in the building that are a combination bachelors, one bedroom, and two bedroom units. Supports are provided 7 days a week 24 hours a day on a continuum based on identified client needs and goals through ongoing case management and service plans. An emphasis is placed on life skills development and supporting independent living.

Over the last year, the Sherbourne Program has played an integral role in the success of the HIV/AIDS Complex Care Project, housing ten individuals living with HIV/AIDS who are aging and have complex health conditions. The Sherbourne staffing team's enhanced levels of daily supports have led to significant improved health outcomes for these clients.

"I AM DOING BETTER IN TERMS OF HOUSING STABILITY. I HAVE AFFORDABLE LONG TERM SUSTAINABLE HOUSING. I CAN SLEEP, EAT AND FEEL BETTER... I HAVE LESS STRESS"

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM

The Transitional Housing Program (THP) provides temporary supportive housing (9 month stays) to 11 people living with HIV/AIDS, many who have a history of homelessness, in a shared communal living environment. Each individual has a furnished bachelor unit with kitchenette and bathroom, while sharing common living, dining, kitchen, and laundry facilities. THP staffing team provides clients with goal focused service planning, intensive case management, assistance with activities of daily living, and advocacy support; with a focus of improved health outcomes, finding permanent housing, and connection to needed care and supports.

Over the past year, the program served 22 persons, with 20 reaching their goal of independent housing.

“YOU HAVE GONE THE EXTRA MILE TO BRING ME UP WHEN EVERYTHING WAS DOWN; YOU’VE FED ME, CLOTHED ME, ASSISTED ME WITH HEALTH ISSUES, HOUSING ISSUES, AND EVEN ‘SOCIAL’ CONCERNS. AT THIS TIME IN MY LIFE, WHERE AT LEAST 9 MONTHS AGO, I FELT MY WORLD CRUMBLING AROUND ME, FIFE HOUSE STAFF HAVE MADE ME FEEL AT ‘HOME’. I CANNOT EXPRESS ENOUGH HOW DEVASTATED I FELT WHEN I WAS GIVEN THE DIAGNOSIS OF HIV+ LAST APRIL, 2013. LIVING IN STAIRWELLS, HAVING MY EGO, SELF WORTH, AND MOTIVATION TAKEN OUT FROM UNDER ME; IT WAS AN EXPERIENCE THAT I THOUGHT WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE END.”

ADDICTIONS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

The HIV Addictions Supportive Housing Program (ASH) is a Housing First partnership between Loft's McEwan Program and Fife House Foundation aimed at addressing gaps in service for homeless PLHAs who experience health, mental health and severe substance use challenges, who are cycling in and out of hospitals, prisons, and detoxification units.

Fife House is the housing agency and manages 32 units of rent-supplement housing through head leases "scattered" throughout the City of Toronto. Loft/McEwan provides the intensive case management supports on a ratio of 8:1.

In 2013/14 the Ash Program had a 99% occupancy rate, and a 94% housing retention rate. Through the intensive case management and supports the program has seen a 96% reduction in emergency room visits, and a 95% reduction in hospitalizations. The program has had huge success in providing safe, affordable, stable housing and improving client's health and wellness.

"THEY BELIEVED IN ME EVEN WHEN I DIDN'T BELIEVE IN MYSELF... THEY WERE THERE EVERY MINUTE I NEEDED THEM"

FIFE HOUSE SUPPORTIVE PROGRAMS HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM

Fife House has been a leader in the provision of services to homeless people living with HIV/AIDS, and those at risk for homelessness. The Homeless Outreach Program (HOP) has been providing housing search and placement, eviction prevention, and transitional supports to the PLHA community for the last 14 years. Over the last several years, our Homeless Outreach Program has seen significant shifts in the support needs of clients related to increasing co-morbidities and acute health issues, including mental health and addictions and also increased support needs related to clients aging with HIV.

The Homeless Outreach Program is Fife House's largest direct service client program and last year worked with 360 active clients, housing and supporting 147 individuals and families, and provided an additional 160 housing help consultations to clients through outreach activities.

"IT'S NOT JUST HOUSING ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE TRYING TO GET AWAY FROM ABUSE. I NEEDED DOCTORS AND SPECIALISTS TO MAKE MY LIFE BETTER. THEY (HOP) CREATED A PLAN TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING WORKED OUT."

HIV/AIDS COMPLEX CARE PILOT PROJECT

The HIV/AIDS Complex Care Project is an innovative partnership led by Fife House aimed at addressing changing care and support needs, and housing needs of people living with HIV/AIDS who are aging, experiencing aging related illnesses, complex care, and cognition issues. The partnership involves eight agencies including McEwan Housing and Support Services, COTA Health, Toronto Community Housing, Toronto Central Community Care Access Centre, St Elizabeth Health, Casey House, St Michael's Hospital, and the Toronto People with AIDS Foundation. The Project delivers an innovative enhanced model of community care and support, and a new high support housing model to increase access to services and health management.

The Project provides intensive community and clinical supports to aging PLHAs and those with complex health issues focused on health and housing stabilization, improved health outcomes, and a reduction in hospitalizations. Clients receive coordinated care in the home and community which includes: intensive case management, HIV nursing, general and mental health nursing, psychiatry, personal support workers, occupational therapy, and physiotherapy,

The Project has housed 10 clients in a new high support housing model over last two years, and has served an additional 12 clients in the community.

"I AM RECEIVING PSW SERVICES...I AM SUPER STRESS FREE. I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FURNISH MY APARTMENT...THERE HAS BEEN RAPID GROWTH IN MY HEALTH. I AM SLEEPING AND EATING BETTER. I AM NOT AS SICK AS I USED TO BE. THEY (PROGRAM) HAVE SURPASSED MY EXPECTATIONS."

VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Services provided through Community Programs are intended to reduce social isolation and support development of skills, capacity and independence, leading to a greater sense of belonging among residents and within the larger community. Our Volunteer Program, Peer Engagement project and Community Programs all contribute to these goals, with a variety of social/recreational activities, communal meals and access to alternative therapies. One example of this is in our Peer Engagement project which has more than 30 peers volunteering in different roles including residential and community programs.

The following is one client's story of moving from homelessness to stable housing, volunteering and paid employment.

"When I first came to Fife House I was living in very unsafe conditions. I came to the Homeless Outreach Program and worked with them to find stable housing. They helped me apply for the Transitional Housing Program (THP) where I got to live for nine months. Those staff helped me find safe and affordable housing in the community. While I was at THP, I enjoyed the community meals and so wanted to give back for helping me. I started volunteering with the Wednesday lunches and was very happy to be using my cooking skills again. Also, what first caught my eye is that the kitchens are well equipped with all culinary utensils you can think of. I was then hired for the catering service and have worked a number of jobs with them and continue to volunteer for the Wednesday lunch. Being part of Fife House has helped me to find health, stability and paid work. I also want to thank Fife House because this volunteer job has inspired me to be creative in menu planning and I am writing my own cook books."

VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY PROGRAM STATISTICS 2013-2014

ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS	386
VOLUNTEER HOURS CONTRIBUTED	13,680
PEERS TRAINED	23
PEERS VOLUNTEERING	41
PEER VOLUNTEER HOURS CONTRIBUTED	2,496
COMMUNAL MEALS SERVED	2,155
WELLNESS CENTRE PRACTITIONERS	11
ALTERNATIVE THERAPY SESSIONS	146
RESIDENT VISITS TO ALTERNATIVE THERAPY SESSIONS	834
SOCIAL/RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS	13
CLIENTS ATTENDING SOCIAL RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS	239
CATERING WORKERS TRAINED	13
CATERING JOBS	49

Ontario
Trillium
Foundation



Fondation
Trillium
de l'Ontario

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is
an agency of the Government of Ontario



RESEARCH & EVALUATION

The Department of Research and Evaluation at Fife House is engaged in community-based research (CBR) and evaluation studies that impact the programs and services for people living with HIV. Below are the highlights of recent research funding and studies.

Women, HIV and Aging Study

In November 2013, Fife House received a research grant for this study from Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). This community-based research study was developed by Fife House, in collaboration with Wilfrid Laurier University, Toronto People with AIDS Foundation, Two-Spirited People of First Nations, and Loft Community Housing, further supported by AIDS Committee of Durham Region, Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention, and Older Women's Network. The issues of women aging with HIV continue to be marginalized and subordinated within HIV research, policy, service provision, and program development. Their underrepresentation within HIV/AIDS research perpetuates the absence of their experiences, which can inform programming, policy and decision making.

The objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To identify the individual and structural barriers to social support and health care services that aging women living with HIV/AIDS experience.
2. To understand the intersection of sexuality and socially constructed gender differences, roles and responsibilities, access to resources and decision-making power for women aging with HIV/AIDS.
3. To explore the issues of stigma as experienced by women aging with HIV/AIDS.
4. To document the variation in experiences of aging aboriginal, visible minority and other women living with HIV.

Capacity Building

Grounded in the principles of GIPA and MIPA, the study ensures greater and meaningful involvement of PHA's at all levels in the research process. The objective of capacity building is inherent in the CBR research design. The study builds community capacity by training peer research associates (PRAs) in qualitative interviewing skill, data collection, data analysis and dissemination of study findings.

Transitional Housing Study

This community-based research study was a Fife House collaboration with Bruce House, John Gordon Home, Loft Community Services, people living with HIV, and University Researchers and funded by Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

Findings

- Transitional housing programmes provide foundational skills in managing daily living (with HIV and other health concerns).
- Transitional housing provides a safe space for residents to stabilise and manage fundamental HIV and non-HIV health care needs.

"The moment I came here, I, I had peace of mind which I believe is my priority, like, if I'm based on any other thing, you can survive any other thing".

- Supports from transitional housing promotes better utilisation and greater access to health and social services.
- Benefits that accrue from transitional housing supports lay the groundwork for transformative changes in the lives of residents upon which other core competencies can be developed for residents to live independently in permanent housing.

"All of my morning appointments, I kept missing all of them, until I sat down one day and figured out that this is a problem... so, it was when I came out and let Fife House know, that morning appointments won't work... so they actually helped me ... getting my doctor to give me a continuous afternoon or evening appointments, instead of early hour appointments."

OHSUTP

The Ontario HIV and Substance Use Training Program (OHSUTP) continues to deliver well received training throughout the province. In the past year we delivered 45 training sessions, reaching more than 1,500 participants. Based on the reputation of our trainings, we were asked to facilitate at a number of conferences throughout the province, including the Opening Doors conferences in Thunder Bay, Brantford, and York Region. During these conferences OHSUTP was asked to present on the stigma faced by drug users and how that impacts service users' willingness to access much needed support, whether they were already HIV positive or at risk for transmission. We were also invited to give plenary talks about the growing need to address population-specific communities and their requisites around HIV prevention. These talks included building service providers' capacities to support transgender/transsexual individuals as well as understanding the overall needs for those who identify along the LGBT spectrum. Expanding our population-specific work, OHSUTP partnered with Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange and the Women's HIV/AIDS Initiative programs to deliver two forums on harm reduction issues pertaining to women and their unique requirements.

OHSUTP is also involved in extensive committee work, ensuring that the issues of HIV/HCV positive people who use substances are considered. We helped organize a three-day training on drug stigma for service providers in Toronto and were on the planning committee for the second annual Addictions and Mental Health Ontario conference.

For more information or to attend one of our free trainings, please visit: www.ohsutp.ca.

DEVELOPMENT

Fife House presents three events during the year to raise funds for the various programs and services that are offered to our residents and clients.

A Taste For Life

Thanks to the generosity of 50 local restaurants and contributions from guests, last year a Taste For Life raised more than \$105,000. With costs of approximately 6%, this means that the vast majority of funds go where they are most needed – services for our clients. The 2015 event will be held April 22 – save the date for great dining!



Performers For Life

Our theatre-based fundraiser is now a year-long initiative where you'll find our volunteers `shaking the can` for cash donations from exiting patrons at venues throughout the city. The support of the theatre community is instrumental to the success of this program, which raised almost \$60,000 last year.



Spotlight

Every Fall, we bring together stars of the musical stage to recreate some of their most memorable performances. This past year we were honoured to have Louise Pitre and Adam Brazier, along with several other original cast members from the hit Toronto production of Mamma Mia! As well as sharing their talents singing the ABBA songbook, they shared personal reminiscences of the show to create a unique and exciting evening. Watch for our upcoming presentation in 2014.

BMO  Financial Group





IN MEMORIAM

May 4, 1967 – March 29, 2014

Micheal Large was the first Volunteer Coordinator at Fife House— a position he held from 1993 until 2008.

Micheal's enthusiasm fuelled the soul of Fife House and his genuine caring for people strengthened the heart of the volunteer program. He started the program, built and nurtured it and made it one of the best managed and largest volunteer programs in the HIV/AIDS sector in Ontario. His legacy continues to this day with a vibrant and passionate volunteer workforce that is a core part of Fife House.

Micheal chaired one of our first fundraising campaigns – the Red Ribbon Campaign. His impassioned personality made volunteer recruitment a natural – many of our longest serving volunteers started with Micheal – and remain today at reception, community programs, bingo and our Jarvis meal programs. Micheal was sought after, often leading workshops on volunteer management and recruitment, and the often challenging role of being a person living with HIV/AIDS working within an AIDS organization.

To recognize Micheal's contributions to the volunteer program at Fife House and to the HIV/AIDS movement, a new volunteer award for people living with HIV/AIDS was named in his honour and was presented at our Annual Volunteer Appreciation party in May 2014.

Fife House is grateful to the many corporations and foundations that support us. Without their help, we would not be able to provide essential programs and services to our residents and clients, on which they rely.

The following is a list for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.



RBC Brunch Club

CORPORATIONS

A1 Dental Hygiene Services
BMO Financial Group
Canadian Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Canadian Iceberg Vodka Corporation
Churchill Cellars
Sun Life Financial
TD Bank Financial Group
The Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions
The Printing House Ltd.
Winners Merchants International

FOUNDATIONS

A & A King Family Foundation
Audrey S. Hellyer Charitable Foundation
CHUM Charitable Foundation
Diving For Life
Ontario Trillium Foundation
M A C AIDS Fund
The Lloyd Carr-Harris Foundation
The McLean Foundation

FUNDERS

Core funding for programs and services is provided by:

Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network

Public Health Agency of Canada

Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care:

- Ontario Non-Profit Housing Program
- AIDS Bureau

City of Toronto:

- Shelter, Support and Housing Administration
Hostel Services
- Homeless Initiatives Fund
- AIDS Prevention Community Investment Program
- Homeless Partnership Initiative

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Centre for Independent Living in Toronto, Inc.

Toronto Community Housing Corporation

McEwan Housing and Support Service/LOFT Community Services

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Year ended
March 31, 2014
with comparative
figure for 2013

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year ended
March 31, 2014
with comparative fi
gures for 2013

condensed statement of financial assets

current assets:

cash and short-term d
other

capital assets

liabilities, deferred contributions

current liabilities
mortgage payable - long term
deferred contributions-other
deferred contributions-capital cam

net assets

condensed statement of operations

revenue:

grants:
core
one time
development
capital campaign
other income

operating expenses:

salaries and benefits
programs
rent
administration
development
advertising and recruit
other

excess of revenue over

Financial position	2014	2013
Deposits	755,462 \$	834,381
	112,093	97,496
	867,555	931,877
	602,798	628,250
	1,470,353 \$	1,560,127

Liabilities and net assets		
	243,618 \$	241,276
	228,383	246,824
	548,114	606,962
Capital	203,781	228,850
	1,223,896	1,323,912
	246,457	236,215
	1,470,353 \$	1,560,127

Assets	2014	2013
	\$ 2,775,436 \$	2,809,725
	62,258	8,500
	429,201	378,735
	2,902	13,643
	523,402	600,908
	3,793,199	3,811,511

	2,481,786	2,424,501
	893,589	947,429
	138,928	136,589
	96,401	99,642
	48,516	43,552
Investment	24,936	23,257
	101,373	136,145
	3,785,529	3,811,115

Expenses	\$ 7,670 \$	396
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OUR MISSION

To provide secure and affordable supportive housing and support services for persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA).

OUR VALUES

We believe that:

- Access to secure and affordable housing is a key determinant for health and well-being of people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Our services must be provided in a flexible manner in order to meet the diverse needs of residents, clients and those who support them.
- Co-operation, collaboration and partnership with other service agencies are essential to the delivery of focused, cost-effective services.
- Principles of equity, access and respect of diverse communities are the cornerstone to helping PLHAs thrive.
- The meaningful involvement of diverse PLHA communities is essential to building and leading our agency to bring about positive and lasting change.
- Our research informs our direction through knowledge creation, transfer and exchange that lead to improved services that enhance the quality of PLHA's health outcomes and lives.
- All people have the right to live and work in an environment of mutual respect, compassion and dignity.
- Hope is essential.

Contact us

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