



ANNUAL REPORT

for the period September 2006 to October 2007

HUB Executive

Nan Normand, Co-Chair
Ralph Page, Co-Chair, Treasurer
Karen Essery, Secretary
Mercedes Alarcon
Dan Essery
Frank Kowal
Erika Olson
Diane Pelletier
Jennifer Rasmussen
Joan Schelske

Message From The Co-Chairs

A year ago, some individuals in the Kenora area looked around and said, "This is our community, so the solutions to homelessness have to come from us". These persons were joined by more and more who had also been looking for answers. The small steps taken by individuals led to a movement – Making Kenora HOME. It has been a year of astonishing growth and commitment by local citizens.

Making Kenora HOME is a values-driven, grass-roots movement to improve the quality of life for all within our town. The focus has been on affordable housing because it emerges as the one factor that can break through poverty cycles. As Professor David Hulchanki reported in 1999, "Homelessness may not **only** be a housing problem, but it is **always** a housing problem. You can't deal with whatever other problems a person is facing until they are in stable, appropriate housing".

Guiding Principles

- ❖ **EQUALITY**
- ❖ **INCLUSION**
- ❖ **SHARING**
- ❖ **SELF DETERMINATION**
- ❖ **EMPOWERMENT**

Selen Alpay, former Co-Chair of Making Kenora HOME, summed up our approach by simply stating, "It's the right thing to do". We would add that it is also the practical thing to do in order to spur our economy upward. If we intend for Kenora to be an attractive destination, we must improve the quality of life within our community. Housing our citizens appropriately and affordably is the first step and we are committed to this path to our vision.

It has been a busy first year and the pace will not slow in the upcoming year. Many citizens will continue to volunteer as they are able, sharing their skills and caring with others. Our small steps lead all of us to a shared sense of community."

"Think Like A Community"

Nan Normand
Co-Chair

Ralph Page
Co-Chair

OBJECTIVE # 1

Structure And Governance Of The Organization

Terms of Reference were adopted in January 2007. Included were policies on confidentiality and communication.

Ian Hill provided direction, advice and feedback following community visits on October 10th, 2006 and March 1st, 2007.

Extensive conversations occurred about the need to incorporate as a separate entity or to umbrella under the Kenora Assembly of Resources. On November 27, 2007, a decision was made to pursue incorporation and non-profit charitable status. We were officially incorporated as Making Kenora Home Charitable Services Inc. on May 2, 2007 under the *Business Corporations Act*. Non-profit charitable status is pending.

OBJECTIVE # 2

Community Awareness and Education

Community Forum, September 2006, 200 attendees

Aboriginal Partnering Workshops (3)

- ◆ *Homelessness from an Aboriginal Perspective*, November 2, 2006
- ◆ *Encouraging Aboriginal Participation in Mainstream Activities*, November 24, 2006, February 2, 2007

Harm Reduction and Crisis Response Workshop, January 17, 2007; Chief Dan Jorgenson, Kenora Police Services; Morning Star and Youth Addictions, Patti Dryden-Holmstrom; Kyla Story, Kenora Rainy River District Crisis Response Services.

Food Security & Safety Workshop, March 7, 2007 including Agape Table, Jubilee Church, The Salvation Army, The Fellowship Centre, Northwestern Health Unit.

Media Interviews

- Radio 11
- Television 4
- Newsprint references 67

Sale of neon, glow-in-the-dark **Wrist Bracelets** advertising our new web site.

February 15, 2007, Federal Parliament

Mr. Speaker,

Today I would like to recognize the Making Kenora Home organization who are working tirelessly to bring awareness of poverty issues to the Kenora area. This week has been deemed "Poverty Week" in Kenora, where individuals, community organizations and businesses have come together to raise money and educate about poverty and homelessness. Yesterday marked the "Wear Red for Poverty Awareness Day" where people all over the City wore red to make the statement that we must find solutions to help people that are living with these challenges. I congratulate the Making Kenora Home organization for their efforts and I applaud everyone who has participated in these events!

Roger Valley, Kenora, Rainy River MP

Community Group Presentations

- Kenora City Council 2
- Harbourtown Centre Committee 2
- Rotary 1
- Kenora Metis Association 1
- Four Winds, Aboriginal Toastmasters 1
- Kenora Ministerial 1
- Community Legal Clinic Board 1
- Northwestern Health Unit Mgmt 1
- March Against Violence 1



Action Against Poverty Week Pancake Breakfast and Wear Red Wednesday

Visit our web site at

www.makingkenorahome.ca

OBJECTIVE # 3

Develop A Community Housing Plan

On May 15, 2007 the report, *Community Solutions For Affordable Housing* was released. It provides feasible options for housing projects in a format and in sufficient detail to be of use to housing providers, funding agencies, municipal leaders and the community-at-large in understanding and addressing the needs of the homeless and under-housed within the City of Kenora.

Recommendations:

1. 24 hours emergency shelter.
2. 8 single room occupancy (SRO) units.
3. 20 SRO rent geared to income.
4. 10 single dwelling Aboriginal family units.
5. Tax discount, utility discount or maintenance tax credit for low fixed income seniors.
6. 2 supportive housing projects; 10 transitional units for victims of violence, 10 units for senior supportive health and assistive living.
7. Rent subsidization; 15 units for single parent housing and 10 units for individuals experiencing mental health dysfunction.
8. Revolving housing trust for low income families.

Kenora has the opportunity to improve its quality of life by investing in these recommendations in addition to working in creative partnership.



Preparing Christmas gift bags at the Fellowship Centre

Key-she-waan-nee-min, nee chee. I love you friend.



Held in high esteem, a "Ribbon Shirt" is given to Selen Alpay by Geraldine Kakeaway (R).

Making Kenora Home Charitable Services Inc. Profit and Loss Standard November 2006 through September 2007

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income	
Donations	<u>3,274.15</u>
Total Income	3,274.15

Expense	
Bracelet Purchase	1,120.00
Professional	1,907.28
Service Charges	<u>46.46</u>
Total Expenses	3,073.74

Net Ordinary Income 200.41

Other Income/Expense

Other Income	
Bracelet Sales	<u>2,122.00</u>
Total Other Income	2,122.00

Other Expenses	
Reimburse Salvation Army	568.15
Returned Cheque	<u>250.00</u>
Total Other Expenses	818.15

Net Other Income 1,303.85

Total Net Income **1,504.26**

OBJECTIVE # 4

A Commitment To Action Against Poverty

Week of Action Against Poverty. It is estimated that 6.3% of Kenora's population took part in the events which stimulated donations of \$5,182.15. Separate report available upon request.

Tins for the Bins

Donations have produced an estimated savings of \$8,000/month for the Salvation Army.

Secret Santa

Estimated value of \$400.00

Fellowship Centre Christmas Party

Partnered with NeeChee Friendship Centre youth to gift 50 individuals.

Estimated value of \$200.00

Underwear Drive, December 2006

Estimated \$200.00 value

Response to Sakaate House Women's Shelter

Blankets, sleepwear and intimate apparel

August Food Drive

Tins plus \$400.00 in cash donations

Separate report available upon request.

Home- Aide

Local bands donated time and talent at youth non-alcoholic beverage dances.

Kenricia Hotel Fire, August 2007

Provided food for one meal for 35 displaced victims and coordination of community resources.

ARTICULATING OUR VISION

"We each need to develop the capacity to respond with a cohesive organizational message on who we are, what we do and how we do it." Ian Hill, 2007

What is Making Kenora HOME?

A concerned group working on solutions for homelessness in our community.

How do we achieve this?

- ◆ Community education and awareness about homelessness and poverty
- ◆ Promoting the implementation of our May 2007 report *Community Solutions For Affordable Housing Projects*
- ◆ Community caring projects to address poverty.

Why is Making Kenora HOME important to us?

- ◆ Stable housing is one of the most effective ways to break the cycle of poverty
- ◆ Kenora will become a more inclusive and caring community

OBJECTIVES for 2007-2008

1. Promote implementation of the 8 housing project recommendations from the May 2007 report.
2. Continue the commitment to caring projects that take action against poverty in the local community.
3. Provide community education on poverty and housing issues.