



# Making Kenora HOME

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS  
FOR HOMELESSNESS

## ANNUAL REPORT 2011

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### HUB Executive

Nan Normand, Co-Chair  
Ralph Page, Co-Chair, Treasurer  
Karen Essery, Secretary  
Don Denver  
Dan Jorgensen  
Pieter Joubert  
Shirley Kelly  
Frank Kowal  
Diane Pelletier  
Joan Schelske

### *Message From The Co-Chairs*

Making Kenora Home is celebrating its fifth anniversary and we have much to celebrate. Based in the belief that the citizens of Kenora are caring, we launched an initiative that demanded accountability of ourselves, of our community and of our leaders. Rallying around the Housing First model, we committed to developing affordable housing solutions that included all citizens.

Many citizens have stepped forward to share in the movement. Some we have known for brief, brilliant moments and some have given their continuing support over time. We remember and appreciate their efforts. All volunteers have contributed to the progress made within the previous five years. We exist as a grassroots movement that does not seek funding and administrative structure to perpetuate the organization. This was an unusual approach in its inception but our success is proof that the community supports in our mission.

Because we are effective and unfunded, we have been invited to present our model to other non-profit organizations and learning institutions in both Manitoba and Ontario. The same question is raised wherever we have presented—“How do you keep the organization running without core funding?” The answer is simple—

*“Kenora Cares”*

Nan Normand  
Co-Chair

Ralph Page  
Co-Chair

### *Guiding Principles*

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

**“Homelessness may not only be a housing problem, but it is always a housing problem. And you can’t deal with whatever other problems a person is facing until they are in stable, appropriate housing.”**

David Hulchanski  
University of Toronto

## OBJECTIVE # 1

### Promote Implementation of Recommended Housing Projects

1. Full-time Emergency Shelter: Despite the lack of core funding, the Fellowship Centre has managed to remain open as a full time operation for yet another year. We continue to work with the Centre to advocate for core funding.



2. Eight Transitional Single Room Occupancy Units: Although the proposed construction of 8 transitional units for the chronically homeless has not been funded, the plans remain tabled until another opportunity presents. We are heartened by the success of in securing 8 housing subsidies and a supportive housing worker under the Problematic Substance Use Initiative. The program was developed out of a partnering between Community Mental Health Support Services/Kenora Association for Community Living and Lake of the Woods District Hospital community programs/Morningstar Centre.



3. Twenty Single Room Occupancy Units: No progress has been made towards the development of 20 SRO units. The City of Kenora continues to present our affordable housing issues to the province at every opportunity.

4. Ten Single Dwelling Aboriginal Family Units: Aamikkowiish has partnered with Womens Place, Saakaate House, Ontario Native Women's Association and the Ontario Metis



Association to develop their successful proposal to the FIMUR (First Nations Inuit Metis Urban Rural housing) program. The project is part of \$2.89 million local project awarded through the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Support Services Corporation.

5. Tax Discount/Credit and Utility Credit for Low-Income Seniors: Raised unsuccessfully to Kenora Council (2006-2010).



6. Two Supportive Housing Units: In a creative partnership, Benedickson Court and Pinecrest partnered to offer on site services for seniors within the housing complex. With a varying fee schedule, residents can assess health and assistive living services. Seven transitional housing units for women fleeing abusive relationships have been funded through the \$2.89 FIMUR project.



7. Rent Subsidization: The Ministry of Health has provided rent subsidization for 4 individuals experiencing mental health dysfunction and 4 whose mental illnesses have brought them into conflict with the justice system. There have been an additional 2 subsidies to private landlords through KDSB out of the 13 that they manage regionally.



8. Revolving House Trust: Habitat for Humanity (Kenora Chapter) has secured property for the first build which is expected to begin in 2012. Applications for ownership have already been received by the Family Selection Committee. Kenora must raise local funds to cover building costs. Six other home ownerships were funded in 2010 through FIMUR.



Making Kenora Home has continued to participate in housing consultations at all levels of government and were active in the facilitation of a forum for municipal candidates focused on homelessness. HOME has continuing membership in the Homeless and Housing Network of Ontario (HHNO) and the Rural Housing Issues of Ontario (RHINO).

## OBJECTIVE # 2

### Community Caring Projects

**Christmas Sharing Circle.** Nancy Morrison continues to facilitate the traditional aboriginal sharing circle and Christmas celebration at the Kenora Fellowship Centre supported by Making Kenora Home. A delicious meal was served to the 50 patrons in attendance. The youthful Nechee Centre elves individually wrapped the gifts were distributed to homeless and destitute adults in the community.



**Hunger Doesn't Take A Vacation.** The August campaign provided Saturday meals to almost 300 individuals at the street picnics including a delegation from the Christian Peacekeepers. Music by the Salvation Army and Winter Lipscombe livened up the summer



feasts. A further treat was offered by volunteers who offered manicures to picnickers. The traditional fish fry was supported by and

enjoyed by all. The Bethesda Lutheran ladies were joined by volunteers from the St. Vincent Du Paul Society to cook and serve up our annual "Thanksgiving in August" feast. Food was donated by the Salvation Army and M & M Meats. The OPP



ran their Stuff-A-Boat campaign. A musically delightful fundraising concert was organized at the Cornerstone. Both events were successful in increasing food bank donations.



**Summerfest.** The Minto neighbourhood hosted Summerfest, a family event featuring a free BBQ, entertainment and local information on community services. The OPP served up burgers to go with the many side treats. Making Kenora Home was kept spinning out cotton



candy. Best Way Rentals supplied the tent which provided shade during the bright sunny day. The event was well attended by 150 neighbourhood residents and created an opportunity to meet and share within a community context.



## OBJECTIVE # 3

### Community Awareness and Education

**Week of Action Against Poverty.** The fourth action week was held February 13-19, 2011.

Activities were creative and practical. *Prayers from the Pulpit* by the Kenora Ministerial Association opened the week. Community congregations raised poverty issues through sermon, prayers and donations. Advocating on specific poverty issues to our political leaders



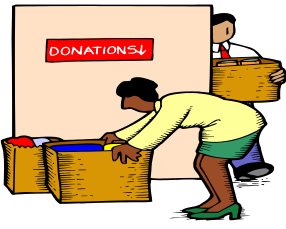
and community members was undertaken by four local groups—Four Winds Aboriginal Toastmasters Group, Kenora Seniors Coalition, NWHU and Kenora Association for Community Living (KACL). Our City also confirmed their commitment to advocate for affordable housing at the provincial level.



The Cornerstone, a local restaurant, scheduled daily fundraising activities including the sale of valentine hearts, cupcakes, lunch specials and concerts. Act Global, Act Local II held simultaneous concerts at Haps and the Cornerstone featuring a roster of 16 performing acts to benefit the Fellowship Centre. *Wear Red Day*, a project of People First, expanded their distribution points. Donation drives



were held by the Northwest Health Unit (NWHU), KACL, TD Bank, Challenge Club, Nechee Centre, Court House, TOPS, KPCFS and the Kenora Women's Action Network along with private



citizens. Beneficiaries included the Salvation Army food bank, the Fellowship Centre, Jubilee Church of God, Triple Play and the Minto Family Resource Centre.

Schools (Valleyview, Pope John Paul II, St. Louis) made donations to the emergency shelter through a variety of sales (houses, cupcakes) and awareness raising (housing needs art project).



Confederation College student council also staged donation bins, pyjama days and snack fundraisers to benefit the Fellowship and Salvation Army.



Media coverage was excellent. All local media (Daily Miner & News, Enterprise, CJBN, CJRL) contributed to awareness raising through interviews, commentary and news releases. Points North televised a themed show on local poverty.

**Tins for the Bin.** Donations for the local food bank are promoted at various locations in the community including Extra Foods and the recreation centre. Special event bins are set up at community gatherings.



**Gingerbread Lane.** The 2010 event featured a tea, the gingerbread village display, children's activity table, silent auction and raffle and entertainment.



A total of \$231.24 was raised in addition to increased awareness of homelessness during the Christmas season. The students of Beaver Brae brought an extensive collection of creative

constructions to the display thanks to the initiative of their Student Council.

**Newsletters.** Newsletters were distributed throughout the community in November, February and August.

**Dreams of Home.** The fourth booklet in the Homeless in Kenora series was authored by local low-income families. The students of PJP II presented their artistic vision of homelessness in the booklet launch at HoJoe's. The first print run was again sponsored by Kenora Rainy River Child and Family Services.



Subsequent printings have been run to meet public requests.

**Walk in Others Shoes.** The blogged experience of local residents who undertook a week long



commitment to attempt to live on the personal needs budget allowed by Ontario Works was a keynote activity during WAAP. Over 5000 hits were recorded on the blog and progress was followed on CBC Northwest. Experiences were

compiled into a downloadable booklet available on the website.

### Community Attitudinal

**Survey.** Volunteers facilitated a community survey of attitudinal change towards local social issues. The anonymous questionnaires were



demographically distributed to yield representative results. Significantly, regardless of social standing, 70% of Kenora's citizens know more about affordable housing, poverty reduction and vagrancy than they knew 5 years ago. Going beyond this growth in understanding,

more people increased their donations local charities.

**Facebook Page.** Social networking has become a key tool in Making Kenora Home's communications strategy.

Changes in the host site's presentation required a recreation of the membership but it continues to evolve into an online community.



**Web Site.** Our web master, Karen Sinclair, continues to effectively manage our web site.

[www.makingkenorahome.com](http://www.makingkenorahome.com)

includes events, research, publications and a direct newsfeed on federal and provincial housing matters. All booklets and reports are downloadable.



**Media Interviews**

- o Radio 10
- o Television 8
- o Newsprint 59



**Financial Report**

**Making Kenora Home Charitable Services Inc.  
Summary Balance Sheet  
As of December 31, 2010**

**ASSETS**

<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash	\$3,141.00
Term Deposits	<u>\$5,008.00</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$8,149.00</b>

**LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**

<b>Current</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$ 501.00
<b>Net Assets</b>	
Unrestricted Funds	<u>\$7,648.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8149.00</b>

*Membership & Volunteerism*

*Contact Nan Normand at the  
Northwest Community Legal Clinic  
468-8888.*

**Making Kenora Home Charitable Services Inc.**

**Profit and Loss**

January through September 2011

<b>Income</b>	
Received Donations	\$1,000.00
Non Received Donations	200.00
Other Revenue	446.00
Interest	<u>83.00</u>

**Total Income** \$1,729.00

<b>Expenses</b>	
Advertising & Promotion	\$ 14.00
Interest & Bank Charges	17.00
Office	865.00
Food	19.00
Donations	1,200.00
Program Expenses	500.00
Professional Fees	<u>500.00</u>

**Total Expenses** \$3,115.00

**NET INCOME OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES**  
**(\$1,386.00)**

*ARTICULATING OUR VISION*

**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