



Making Kenora HOME

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS
FOR HOMELESSNESS

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

Message From The Co-Chairs

HUB Executive

Diane Pelletier, Co-Chair
Ralph Page, Co-Chair
Nan Normand, Secretary
Fay Clark, Treasurer
Don Denver
Karen Essery
Fred Holmes
Dan Jorgensen
Pieter Joubert
Joel McGrath
Judy Underwood

It has been quite a year. The building projects that we envisioned six years ago have begun. We touched the walls (and hammered a few nails) of the first Habitat build. We watched the Kenora Affordable Housing group's units nestling into neighbourhoods around the community. We applauded the Problematic Substance Use Initiative's success in securing a support worker and 8 more subsidies to make local housing more accessible for our most marginalized citizens. We assisted with another proposal for transitional units to house the chronically homeless within a Housing First support network.

In 2007, our foundational document, Community Solutions for Affordable Housing Projects, put 8 strategies forward to address a wide spectrum of housing needs. There was concern at the time that our vision was too broad to accomplish but as a group we refused to leave anyone behind—there would be no deliberate prioritizing of families over seniors, the disabled over impoverished individuals, the addictions challenged over abused women. We committed to acknowledging all affordable housing needs as crucial and to pursue each recommendation as opportunity presented.

We have now passed the halfway point in the building score card. Making Kenora Home has been an advocate, a researcher and a facilitator for the generation of local affordable housing proposals. The building was the result of the entire community's commitment to making the recommendations a reality. We can stand proud on our community's accomplishments to date and press forward towards the completion of our vision.

We knew that the fuel to our movement came from the community and it continues to energize our progress. What fuels us, supports us and refreshes us is the basic belief that...

Guiding Principles

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

"Kenora Cares"

Diane Pelletier
CoChair

Ralph Page
CoChair

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, another submission has been made by the Fellowship Centre for the construction of 5 units. The HPS decision is pending. The Problematic Substance Use Initiative has secured 8 housing subsidies and a supportive housing worker under a program partnered by 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 partnered with the Kenora Affordable Housing Group to build 10 family homes under 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). There is limited local eligibility for LEAP (Low Energy Assistance Program).



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: The first build for Habitat for Humanity (Kenora Chapter) was completed and the home is now occupied by the selected family. Local fundraising efforts were amply rewarded. The next build is which is expected to begin in 2014. 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. The Kenora District Services Board will begin their consultation on the development of the local homelessness plan under the Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) program. 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 75 patrons in attendance. This year a dedicated volunteer created individual stockings filled with small gifts for each participant



Hunger Doesn't Take A Vacation. The August campaign provided Saturday meals to almost 400 individuals at the street picnics. A presentation of *Waterways*



by the Living History project was enjoyed by the attendees. In addition

health information was provided by the NWHU and the Kenora Metis Association. Our guests pitched in to prepare the traditional fish fry and the Thanksgiving in August feast featured all of the usual delights. Volunteers and donors stepped up to ensure that there was plenty for all to enjoy.



The OPP ran their Stuff-A-Boat campaign. An

independent initiative by BDO staff gleaned fresh food from the farmers market for distribution to the local charitable food services.

Summerfest. The third annual Minto Summerfest was held on July 31st, 2012. The event pulled in 20 agencies to meet local citizens on their own turf. Free food and games help build connections between community services and their clientele. The tent (donated by Best Way Rentals) was set up in a greenspace prepped by KDSB-Social Housing units staff. Piles of summer snacks including burgers, watermelon and cotton candy were shared with the celebrants. The event was well attended by 100 neighbourhood residents and created an opportunity to meet and share within a community context.



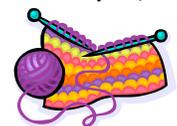
OBJECTIVE # 3

Community Awareness and Education

Week of Action Against Poverty. Kenora City Council declared February 12-18, 2012 as our sixth action week. Activities ranged from pool tournaments to complete makeovers for low-income single moms. Keynote events were *Prayers from the Pulpit*, *Wear Red*, the *Homeless in Kenora Book Launch* and the *Act Local* performances. Concerts, cupcake sales and craft



sales raised money for local affordable housing initiatives including the Kenora Affordable Housing Group's project and the first Habitat build. Other projects supporting affordable housing were held by



Keystone Lock & Safe, Dinner on A Dime, Lake of the Woods Insurance, WHACKO, Rock the Inn, Second Street Bakery, Pope John Paul II's

grade 5 class, Beaver Brae's student council and the Kenora Patricia District School Board. Food and other necessities were provided by Grand Council Treaty 3, Kenora Metis Warmth & Wellness Group, Northwestern Health Unit, Legal Aid Ontario, Conerstone Restaurant, Northwestern Community Legal Clinic, Royal Bank the local federal NDP chapter and Shear Heaven.



Awareness of poverty issues were raised by the Kenora Seniors Coalition, NWHU and People First. The Red Ribbon campaign was covered internationally by the Huffington Post. Group participants included Bank of Montreal, BDO, NWCLC/LAO, CMHSS, OW and the Royal Bank. Ribbon



distribution was facilitated by the Kenora Chiefs Advisory7, Copperfin Credit Union, Standard Insurance, Borelli's, Dollar Store, Dufresnes, KCLC, KAHAC, Keystone, Shear Heaven, Wind and Water Interiors, Sure Thing and Copperfin Credit Union.



Media coverage was excellent. All local media (Daily Miner & News, Enterprise, CJBN, CJRL) contributed to awareness raising through interviews, commentary and news releases.

Gingerbread Lane. The 2011 event featured a tea, the gingerbread village display of over 50 houses, children's activity table, silent auction and raffle and entertainment by Mac's Angels. The students of Beaver Brae Student Council again helped to



channel youthful creativity into a vast community of dream homes with thoughtful wishes. Our Japanese volunteer was amazed at the sweet constructions which were unlike anything she had seen before! Student volunteers also kept the tea

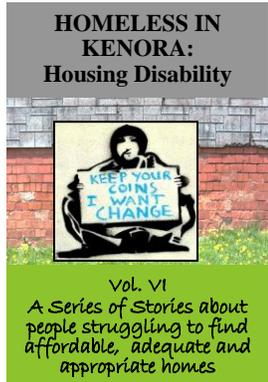
poured, the mascots (Ginger and Snap) dancing and the activities moving along. A total of \$294.31 was raised for the Christmas Sharing Circle.

Newsletters. The communications team has revamped the newsletter preparation process and amped up the distribution. These developments have increased the collaboration within the community. Newsletters were distributed by email



and print editions throughout the community in April and November,

Housing Disability. HoJoe's hosted the sixth book launch in the Homeless in Kenora series. This year's focus was was authored by local low-income individuals living with disabilities. Russell Havill, representing the KACL Board, spoke on the need for disability program changes in Ontario.



The Poverty Challenge 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 again a keynote activity during WAAP. Over 5000 hits were recorded on the blog and progress was followed by both local and regional media.



Facebook Page. Social networking has become a key tool in Making Kenora Home's communications strategy. The page was particularly active during the Habitat build and it continues to evolve into an committed online community.



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

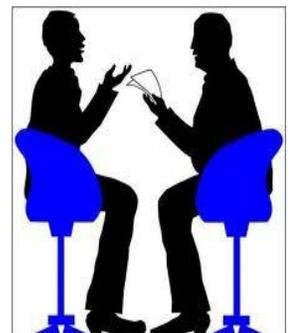
www.makingkenorahome.com

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



Media Interviews

- Radio 7
- Television 8
- Newsprint 52
- Online 15



Financial Report

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

Making Kenora Home Charitable Services Inc.

Summary Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2011

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash	\$6,658.00
Term Deposits	\$ -----
Total Current Assets	\$6,658.00

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current	
Accounts Payable	\$ 500.00
Net Assets	
Unrestricted Funds	\$6,158.00
Total	\$6,658.00

Making Kenora Home Charitable Services Inc. Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Year Ended December 31, 2011

Income

Received Donations	\$ 400.00
Non Received Donations	500.00
Donations from other charities	524.00
Other Revenue	557.00
Interest	76.00

Total Income \$2,057.00

Expenses

Advertising & Promotion	\$ 54.00
Interest & Bank Charges	----
Office	----
Food	----
Donations	1,808.00
Program Expenses	1,121.00
Professional Fees	565.00

Total Expenses \$3,548.00

Deficiency of Receipts Over Expenses
(\$1,386.00)

Making Kenora Home Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year Ended December 31, 2011

	2011	2010
Net Assets-Beginning of Year	\$ 7,649.00	\$ 9,035.00
Deficiency of Receipts over Expenses	(1,491.00)	(1,386.00)
Net Assets-End of Year	\$ 6,158.00	\$ 7,649.00

Community Change



Begins With Us

Membership & Volunterism

*Contact Nan Normand at the Northwest
Community Legal Clinic (807-468-8888)*