



Making Kenora HOME

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS
FOR HOMELESSNESS

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Message From The Co-Chairs

HUB Executive

Diane Pelletier, Co-Chair
Dan Jorgensen, Co-Chair
Nan Normand, Secretary
Fay Clark, Treasurer
Jen Carlson
Don Denver
Betty Getson
Freda Holmes
Ruth Illman
Joel McGrath
Nadine Swarthog
Judy Underwood

Guiding Principles

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

We celebrate our 10th anniversary this year so it is a good time to look back and evaluate our progress. We began with a simple belief->housing is essential for everyone. For those who are struggling on limited incomes, affordable housing is a prime necessity that can be difficult to find. It is a pre-requisite for socio-economic development and we have remained focused on that strategic response in our efforts to alleviate poverty in Kenora.

Although the housing crisis is not yet resolved, there is much to celebrate. Awareness has certainly increased and this has been borne out by community studies. Commitment by citizens has also increased as demonstrated by the number of volunteers who stepped up during the Week of Action Against Poverty and all year round to do something to address local poverty. Organizations and agencies have come together in unprecedented collaborative efforts to deal more effectively around the issues that marginalize individuals and make them precariously housed.

As an organization we can also celebrate the continuity of Making Kenora Home. Individuals have always participated, as they are able. It is this continuing flow of commitment and caring that supports our mission.

"Kenora Cares"

Dan Jorgensen
CoChair

Diane Pelletier
CoChair

OBJECTIVE # 1

Promote Implementation of Recommended Housing Projects

1. **Full-time Emergency Shelter:** After a tumultuous relocation process, the Nechee Friendship Centre has signed a two year interim agreement with the Northwest Health Unit for use of their space as an emergency shelter while they develop a permanent location. The Kenora District Services Board successfully advocated with the provincial government for adequate funding to ensure that local shelters remain open. For the first time since 2006, there is a coordinated effort to stabilize emergency shelter services and developing the supports and linkages needed to meet the needs of the most marginalized persons in Kenora.



2. **Eight Transitional Single Room Occupancy Units:** The proposed construction of 8 transitional units for the chronically homeless remains unfunded. The pre-independent living centre in their basement of the Fellowship Centre continues to operate with a maximum occupancy of 11 residents. The Problematic Substance Use Initiative continues to operate their pilot program but despite having a supportive housing worker and housing subsidies, the lack of affordable units continues to impede the progression of citizens from homelessness to residency. The addition of a managed alcohol program will enhance opportunities to stabilize homeless persons to enable transitioning.

3. **Twenty Single Room Occupancy Units:** No progress has been made towards the development of 20 SRO units. The municipality has introduced some affordable housing incentives in neighbourhood



planning. The KDSB has renovated a property to which will increase community housing options for families and seniors by **4-6 units**.

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 was part of \$2.89 million local project awarded through the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Support Services Corporation. All are now occupied.

5. **Tax Discount/Credit and Utility Credit for Low-Income Seniors:** Our municipality does have a tax deferral option for low income seniors. The LEAP (Low Energy Assistance Program) has been replaced with the OESP (Ontario Electricity Support Program) which offers credits applied directly to billings once a customer has been found eligible. The credits are limited and many will still not be able to pay utility bills. The City is developing *building incentives* to increase affordable housing in Kenora through their Community Improvement Plans.

6. **Two Supportive Housing Units:** In a creative partnership, Pinecrest is now providing fee for service assistance onsite for seniors within three housing complexes. Funding for a senior's housing forum has been received and hope is rising for the development of alternative senior housing options. Seven transitional housing units for women fleeing abusive relationships were also 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:** Two homes have been built locally by Habitat for Humanity (Kenora Chapter) build is approaching completion. The community has been very generous in their support of our local Habitat chapter. 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. In 2016, MKH made 5 presentations at City Hall and spoke at the Age-Friendly Housing Forum.

OBJECTIVE # 2

Community Caring Projects

Week of Action Against Poverty



Keynote events included Miles of Mittens, Heartsfull Tea, Angels Amongst Us and Spills & Spaghetti.

Donations mounted up to \$1500, 90 litres of soup, a catered meal for 75 and a half mile of mittens. Other events included Barley's Angels Soup Class, Beanfest, Acoustic Night, Wear Red Day, Hot Meal Challenge, Project Energize, Fellowship Share Dinner, Time Benefit and Red Ribbon Campaign.



Hunger Doesn't Take A Vacation



The Stuff-A-Boat competition raised \$1,343.96 and 4,272 pounds of food for local soup kitchens and food banks. The winning team was Kenora Fire Management Headquarters. Other participants included OPP, Kenora Fire Department, Ornge, Treaty 3 Police and Emergency Medical Service.

The Gleaning Project

In partnership with the Kenora Association For Community Living-Arts Hub, unsold goods from the local farmer's market were collected on behalf of local emergency food providers. As always,



donations grow with the harvest with an average of 12 boxes of donations distributed weekly throughout the season.

Summerfest

The annual Minto Summerfest was held July 27 at the Minto Family Resource Centre. Fifteen service providers came out to meet local families and talk about available resources. The OPP, Treaty 3 Police Service,



Kenora Fire Department, Northwestern Health Unit, Firefly, Nechee Friendship Centre and the Northwest Community Legal Clinic were among the agencies that hosted the neighbourhood event.

As always, the firetruck and cotton candy activities were lined up with children waiting to take part. A special treat this year was the give away of bikes and helmets through the partnership between Beaver Brae Secondary School's Beaver Brae's reach-ahead bike repair program and Triple PLAY. Attendance was reported at 87.



Street Picnics

Four picnics were hosted at the Kenora Fellowship Centre. Volunteerism peaked this year. The Lakeside Baptist Youth Group held an Italian Feast while the Kenora Metis Council, Womens Place and ONWA held the traditional Fish Fry. A Southern BBQ and Thanksgiving in August rounded out the meals. The Ladies in Black ensured that there plenty of fresh baked pies for the finale. The Freaky Green



Beetles and Alisha Morphet provided entertainment at the events. Approximately 350 individuals were served throughout the month.

OBJECTIVE # 3

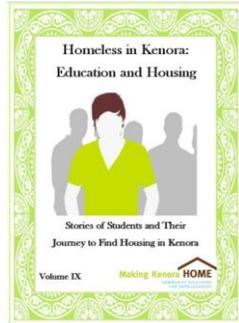
Community Awareness and Education

Newsletters & Pamphlets

Two newsletter editions were published and distributed by email and print editions throughout the community.

Housing & Education

This year's focus was on student housing which was one of the identified housing issues in the 2007 Housing Solutions Report. The booklet launch took place at Seven Generations Educational Institute (Manidoo Baawaatig campus) where students had shared their own stories of the impact of housing issues on their educational objectives.



The Poverty Challenge.

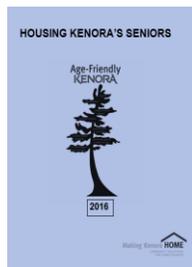


The Poverty Challenge was taken up by members of the business community. Four entrepreneurial bloggers garnered 450 blog hits as they

shared their experiences in the Walk In Our Shoes Challenge.

Housing Kenora's Seniors

A market analysis of the housing needs of Kenora's aging population was presented at the Age Friendly Housing Forum.



Facebook Page

Social networking has become a key tool in Making Kenora Home's communications strategy. Membership in this online community has increased again within the previous year.

Web Site

www.makingkenorahome.com features events, research, publications and a direct newsfeed on federal and provincial housing matters. All booklets and reports are downloadable.



Media Interviews

- o Radio 9
- o Newsprint 44
- o Web-based News 25

Financial Report

Making Kenora Home Charitable Services Inc. Statement of Revenues and Expenditures Year Ended December 31, 2015

Income

Received Donations	\$ 53
Non Received Donations	300
Donations from Other Charities	-
Other Revenue	-
Interest	1

Total Income **\$ 354**

Expenses

Interest & Bank Charges	30
Donations	-
Program Expenses	1,384
Professional Fees	565

Total Expenses **\$ 1,979**

Excess of Revenue Over Expenses **(\$1,,625)**

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Net Assets-Beginning of year	\$4,281
Deficiency of Receipts Over Expenses (1,625)	

Net Assets--End of Year **\$2,656**

2016 statements will be available in June 2017.
As of December 31st, 2016, MKH held an account balance of \$4,147.80



Membership & Volunteerism

Contact

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