

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LAST YEAR, I REPORTED that we were making progress despite being faced with a challenging part of our journey. This year I feel that we have made considerable progress in our capacity to respond to the men who come to us for services.

We have started a controlled reopening of our services by providing the option for in-person or virtual programming. The technological capacity we developed out of necessity is now contributing to our flexibility and better serving our clients.

STAFF TRAINING

A large part of our capacity building this year has involved staff and student training. Cultural Teacher and Knowledge Keeper Elder Brian McLeod provided training in Indigenous cultural perspectives and working with men in the justice system.

Delaine Figur and Blaine Hadaller expanded the training on working with men in the justice system by providing insights into how Correctional Services Canada (CSC) assesses the risk to re-offend with federal inmates.

Our June training was on the topic, "Walking with Clients Who are in Crisis." The knowledge that we gain from these trainings will help us better understand our clients' needs and improve our ability to help them achieve their goals.

Our training has also been extended to our student placements from various universities. While here, these students develop some of the skills and experience they can use to obtain jobs in their field of study.

PARTNERSHIPS

In the past year, we have continued to reinforce our community partnerships through training, programming, and shared vision. I am particularly grateful for our partnership with Kendell Joiner and all the staff at Native



Executive Director Sharon Perrault at a previous fundraising event for the literacy department.

Photo: Daniel Crump

Clan Organization and Manitou House. They have promoted and participated in our training activities, made referrals to our programs, worked to problem solve issues related to programming and Covid-19 restrictions, and consistently been a source of support to the John Howard Society of Manitoba.

Our partnership with CSC has allowed us to provide programming within Stony Mountain Institution throughout the pandemic and obtain referrals to the Four Healing Roads Lodge, our Community Residential Facility. The case management component of the Healing and Harm Reduction Substance Use Program has created working partnerships with parole offices across the prairie region and our connection with the Parole Board of Canada and CSC has improved our profile within the federal system. Our extended and continued relationship with CSC has made us part of the national movement towards enhancing services and outcomes for men involved in the federal system.

PROGRAM GROWTH

Throughout the year we have continued to

build our existing programs and interventions to help men successfully reintegrate into the community.

Increasingly, we are evaluating our programs and obtaining feedback from the men who access the programs. This allows us to maintain our responsiveness to men’s changing needs and concerns.

Our program manuals add to the existing Canadian program resources ,and our research contributes to the knowledge about effective programming for men who have been in conflict with the law.

INDIGENOUS CULTURE

One of our most significant expansions has been to provide culturally-based programs for Indigenous men. Manitoba has the highest population of Indigenous people and 65% of the federally incarcerated population in Manitoba are Indigenous.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action have identified the need to eliminate the over-representation of Indigenous people in custody (Call 30), and to provide culturally appropriate programming in the community and at community residential facilities (Call 37). Through our work with CSC and Native Clan, we have been part of the response to these calls.

Our Healing Program for Indigenous Men and our Healing and Harm Reduction Substance Use Program are Indigenous-based, we provide elder services, we connect clients to Indigenous services, and we consult with elders regarding our programs and projects. As we make our services more culturally responsive, we expand our reach and relevance to a broader range of clients.

LOOKING AHEAD

Finally, we are enhancing our fundraising efforts. We have enlisted the help of Story Point Consulting to create a vision and strategies to achieve that vision. Our fundraising com-

mittee is working on a capital campaign to allow us to grow beyond our current location and we are looking to form a foundation that would allow us to expand the reach and content of our programming.

I am encouraged by the momentum we have gained in the past year and I am confident that our hard work and perseverance will bring exciting new opportunities and achievements in the current fiscal year.

I want to thank our Board of Directors, our staff, our funders and the numerous collateral relationships we have within our extended network. With all of our collective efforts our work continues to have positive impact within the community we serve.

*Sharon Perrault
Executive Director*



Image: Winnipeg Free Press, September 5, 2002. Photo by Ethan Cairn