

REPORT FROM THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OUR NEWEST PROGRAM THIS YEAR is the Record Suspension program. George Chartrand and Mike Mahon are the case-workers in this three-year, federally funded program. We offer free assistance to individuals who seek to clear an old criminal record.

Thanks to George and Mike and the positive response from the community, we're seeing a lot more traffic in our office.

LEARNING CENTRE

Our literacy department got a big upgrade to its study area. Thanks to major support from The Winnipeg Foundation, a room with one table and a wall of books was transformed into a multi-station, multi-media learning centre with separate work areas, new computers and wifi connectivity.

This is in response to the increased need to welcome learners from the community (in addition to our literacy work with men in custody in the Winnipeg Remand Centre). Thanks also to the Thomas Sill Foundation and The CP Loewen Family foundation for their generous support of the staff in this learning centre.

HALFWAY HOUSE

Our 26-bed halfway house for men on parole, called the Four Healing Roads Lodge, continues to attract more residents coming out of custody in federal institutions. This has led to the need to add staff members and expand workspace for the residence managers and support workers. Thanks to a capital improvement grant from the Essential Needs Fund, a partnership of The Richardson Foundation and United Way Winnipeg, we were able to take out a wall and stretch our reception and admin area.

PROGRAM IMPACT

We continue to offer programs to deal with substance use, harm reduction, anger management, and healthy relationships. Often men are released from custody with instructions to join these programs with us.

After attending a series of End to Aggression sessions, one participant reported, "This program did help me in many ways. Not only about my relationship; but also in my workplace. I didn't know that there was a way you can be able to manage anger, but now I am the witness, thanks to [facilitators] Tania and Blaine." About the parenting program, another said, "You guys have opened up a new world for me and my family."

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Thanks to a significant grant, we are able to conduct a series of sessions focussed on empowering our staff. The project is called the COVID-19 Recovery Staff Empowerment Training Series, and it is funded by the Government of Canada under the Community Services Recovery Fund.

HONOURABLE WORK

I am new to this position, having only served in this role for several months. In this time I have seen both brokenness and healing, despair and transformation.

It is truly an honour to work alongside our staff and volunteers as they respond to community members in need of peer support, free clothing and footwear, agency referrals, and a listening ear.

*Aiden Enns,
Interim Executive Director*