



# Who We Are

The Calgary John Howard Society (CJHS) is a charitable organization that prevents crime and makes Calgary communities safer through evidence-based, trauma-informed programming.

# Board of Directors

HARPREET AULAKH DANISHA BHALOO-SHIVJI DON CAMERON JACQUELINE GRABOWSKI ALEX LAIDLAW DR. GABRIELLE LINDSTROM COLIN SCHULHAUSER JEREMY YULE

#### What we do

We help youth and adults make positive changes and move away from criminal behaviour by addressing the root causes of crime through education, employment programs, housing, support and promoting accountability.

#### Why we do it

Justice is best served through measures that resolve conflict, embrace diversity and repair harm, while holding the individual accountable for their actions. We believe in understanding the context of why a crime was committed or harm was caused. Our goal is to restore relationships and support people in order to prevent future crime, making the Calgary community safer for all.

#### **Our vision**

An informed, inclusive community active in preventing crime.

#### **Our mission**

Promoting positive change through humane, just, and informed responses to crime and its effects.

#### Leslie McMechan, Executive Director's Message



2020 was my first full year as the CJHS Executive Director and also the year the world was struck by the COVID pandemic. It was an enormous challenge but brought us many great and unexpected opportunities and gifts.

One of the silver linings of COVID is the stronger relationship with our funders, supporters and our board. I cannot say enough about how the flexibility of our funding organizations made all the difference. With their support, the agency was able to continue strengthening our community, restoring the lives of our clients and preventing crime in Calgary and Alberta. We are grateful for all their ongoing assistance throughout 2020 and in previous year I am also grateful for our board of directors — who walked with me throughout 2020. They adapted to the 'new normal' without skipping a beat.

'Restoration' is the theme for the 2020 Annual Report, which seems apropos.

Restorative Justice is a CJHS principle and, like the water image on the cover, reminds us to calmly and carefully navigate our client work, support community building and empower the justice system to meet our goal of preventing crime and making our city and province safer. The stories will highlight our clients' restoration journey and how CJHS played a role in that journey.

I must mention the Opioid Crisis. In 2020, more Albertans died of opioid poisoning than from COVID-19. CJHS' experience mirrors this. We mourn the lives that were lost and will continue to lose. This is fundamentally wrong and must change. In the meantime, we hold the memories of those dear lives close. Continued on next page > Executive Director's Message continued

#### **Solution finders**

When the lockdown was put in place, we had no idea what the new world would look like and how to operate within it. How do we stay in touch with our clients? How do our clients cope with alternate access to our programs? How do we help those in prison, whom we cannot (and still cannot) visit? Part of our services include residential facilities where staff had to remain and face-to-face interaction needed to continue. How to do this safely? There were many other questions.

Yet, operationally, everything continued to run fairly smoothly as the focus was always on supporting clients. We formed a COVID-19 Response Team and implemented a daily meeting. We shared our challenges and successes, and soon saw what excellent problem solvers CJHS has; as a group, they also developed a stronger bond. What was so remarkable was how many times staff were heard to say, "I've never done this before, but I'll figure it out."

#### 2020 highlights

While our prison-based initiatives were put on hold, we were able to examine the rest of our programs and redesign our approaches. We created a new Reintegration Model that aligns with our agency Theory of Change. Some of our programs, such as our Employment Program, worked well virtually and will continue to be delivered online. When our Indigenous clients expressed a disconnect from their culture, we created and delivered smudge kits so they

could smudge at home; our Elder agreed to have virtual or phone conversations. All four residences kept running, accepting new clients and helping them with their needs including mental health and addictions. Some services were not adaptable to the virtual world. We kept in touch with those clients via e-mail or phone. The focus was on the client, what they needed and how we could meet those needs. We met the clients where they were at.

#### An enormous thank you to CJHS staff

CJHS excels at helping a very specific population of people who have criminal involvement and exhibit criminal behaviours to navigate the world. We've become known for services specializing in that work. Our staff are experts at assessing and then addressing the root causes of crime to enhance and restore the lives of the clients we serve. They are remarkable and dedicated individuals whose passion for the work provides me with daily inspiration. There are not enough words to express my gratitude for all that they have done this year and all that they continue to do.

Wishing everyone a safe 2021!

Leslie McMechan

**Executive Director** 

### Continuous Organizational Learning

As a learning organization, CJHS continuously evaluates its programs and services to improve outcomes, activities and impact. Here are some of our staff's comments about our Developmental Evaluation process:

• Having a clear measurement tool that all programs will be using and hearing about what other programs are doing.

- I am excited to have the agency use Circle of Courage and have linear data among the agency.
- The DE process has helped to gain perspective on some of the areas where clients may be struggling in programs and how to adjust our approach within the team to meet those needs.
- Staff share my enthusiasm for having a process that is more streamlined and common across various agency teams/programs. The complex nature of the Adult Services programming continues to pose difficulties when trying to standardize evaluation/ outcome measures.
- This will enable us to tell a holistic story of the work being done by the agency, break down silos between program areas, and identify gaps in services.
- I am excited about the possibilities presented by the DE including alignment between programming designed to effectively and efficiently provide common outcomes across the agency.
- The DE outcome will inform us on what we are doing well, the trends we see, what can be improved upon and can inform us as to how we move forward in the work we are doing."

### **Looking Forward**

We are looking forward to working with clients and the community with these new initiatives which are launching in 2021.

#### Gang Exit and Community Outreach Strategy (GECOS)

A provincial government crime prevention initiative run in partnership with Edmonton, Grande Prairie and Red Deer John Howard Societies supporting individuals who are trying to get out of the gang lifestyle.

#### The Good Neighbour Council (GNC)

Collaborating with the community that surrounds Bedford House on finding ways to benefit each other in order to help make YYC safer.

#### Community Youth Reintegration Project (CYRP)

Transitioning youth back into the community using restorative practices and natural supports to prevent crime.

#### Social Enterprise Feasibility Study

Exploring the feasibility of developing the commercial kitchen that is in the basement at Raido House into a Social Enterprise that could employ some of our clients.

# Restorative Justice: Critical to the healing process

The theft of a car doesn't stop with just a car and its contents disappearing. The vehicle owner might have had an important meeting or doctor's appointment they can no longer attend. Children could be left unattended somewhere. Life-saving medication such as insulin or an EPI-pen could have been left in the car. Although not part of the offender's initial intention, these and other scenarios can be additional consequences for the victims harmed by a criminal act.



CJHS board members understand the need for using a Restorative Justice approach. Here are their responses to the question:

"Why is Restorative Justice so critical for the community?"

#### A Restorative Justice approach puts the response to criminal behaviours into the hands of those who have been impacted.

The Restorative Justice approach forms a significant part of the work CJHS carries out on a daily basis. The foundation for the approach is based on the understanding that people and relationships are violated when a crime occurs. The impact of the criminal act doesn't end with the crime itself. A ripple effect, although unintended by the offender, takes place as the result of the crime, which can be far reaching.

Restorative Justice is a non-adversarial process facilitated by a third party which brings together victims, offenders, and the community. The central focus of this approach is on accountability, offender responsibility, and the reparation of harm caused. A restorative intervention puts the response to crime in the hands of those who have been impacted.

By addressing this criminal behaviour through a restorative lens, with the focus on repairing relationships, the process empowers both the person who has caused the harm and the people that have been harmed (Zehr, 2015).

The current Canadian criminal justice system is by no means perfect, as such, it is the civic responsibility of the legal community to address crime in a way that emphasizes rehabilitation and reconciliation rather than retribution. The principles of Restorative Justice work towards addressing the root causes of crime and allowing for both parties to collaborate in determining the reparations required to generate a resolution. Quite possibly the most critical aspect of Restorative Justice is the holistic nature that it takes, and its ability to benefit both the victim and perpetrator in a more personal manner than possible through the traditional system. It is the goal of Restorative Justice not only to penalize the perpetrator, but also to heal any harm caused by the act, subsequently lessening the risks of re-offending and long-lasting trauma. Restorative Justice is critical in Canada, as it serves to repair the damage done by a crime, while also giving opportunity for reconciliation and provides closure for both the victim and the perpetrator in a way that the traditional system does not.

#### "Why is Restorative Justice so critical for the community?"

Restorative Justice has a better shot at ending the cycle of crime for an offender, than the criminal justice system itself. When I was younger (in my early 20s), I helped lead a Youth Justice Committee (YRAP) in Edmonton and truly saw the first-hand impact that was made on the young people we worked with daily. Restorative Justice was central to our process and we saw great results in these young people who had the support and tools and resources (like mentorship) to ensure they didn't get back into the system.

Restorative Justice addresses crime at its root causes. By placing an emphasis on recognizing and repairing the harm caused to victims and communities, it centres the importance of working with offenders to prevent crime.

Restorative Justice provides an alternative lens for thinking about crime and justice. The focus of Restorative Justice is to engage the community in supporting victims and offenders in their healing and transformation, to reduce the likelihood of future re-offending.

Restorative Justice is critical because it puts the community at the centre of the justice process. It requires cooperation, respect, inclusion, ownership, responsibility, accountability, and healing, which are complex and dynamic values that ultimately strengthen communities.

I believe Restorative Justice is critical as it brings healing, learning, and resilience to the offender and our greater community. Crime is not a one or two sided relationship; after harm has been done there are ripple effects that flow from the event through individuals directly affected, then to their families and to the web of personal and community linked networks. Restorative Justice takes into account these effects and helps bring the greater impact to light, working with the offender and victims to find healing. This in turn results in learning and understanding so that the offender can be welcomed back into the community, personally grow and reestablish personal connections. This creates healthier communities overall, and provides justice for both offenders and victims.

For individuals who have broken their connection to the community by getting involved in crime, restoring that connection through a Restorative Justice model such as a victim-offender reconciliation process is an important step in healing for the individual. Community (society) is made more whole when broken relationships are repaired, in a healthy community we are all connected and crime breaks those connections. Studies show that Restorative Justice works – reduces recidivism. Traditional justice has not worked well for many communities, including Calgary. Recidivism is high, and some groups are overrepresented in the justice system.

Restorative Justice shifts the focus to the victims, who are often neglected. Blameless victims are community members who deserve to have a voice, and restorative justice can provide a forum for victims to have their say. Offenders are treated for addictions under Restorative Justice, in an attempt to break the cycle of repeat offenses. Offenders need to be held accountable for their crimes, and Restorative Justice provides that along with a way out of the criminal lifestyle. Calgary has seen a sharp increase in property and other crime due to the drug epidemic that has taken hold in our city. Our quality of life as Calgarians has been negatively impacted. Traditional justice does not seem to be able to help with this problem and it is my hope that alternative approaches like Restorative Justice can restore what we have all lost.

> If you would like to learn more about Restorative Justice, please visit Zehr Institute for Restorative Justice at: zehr-institute.org

## Achieving the best healing outcome for everyone

It was interesting to see the participants of this mediation start off being quite apprehensive about the process. Through an open dialogue, both of the young men and their parents were able to experience a shift in perspective and understanding. This is the desired outcome of any conflict resolution, but that much more powerful to experience when forgiveness can occur between two students.

In the absence of this mediation, the student would have been expelled from school. By participating, the school was able to see the young man take responsibility for his actions, come to a resolution with the victim and have a positive letter from CJHS added to his student file." ~ CONFLICT FACILITATOR When someone is harmed by another, the damage is not limited to the two of them. It spreads, affecting other people, institutions, events and more. In this story, two grade nine boys, Danny\* and Tom\*, crossed paths at school and Danny threatened Tom's life.

"He [Tom] was scared at first when he got it [the threat]," says John\*, his father, who was also concerned for his son's safety. "We supported him and the school supported him...he came out of the scare."

The boys' school considered expelling Danny and then the decision was made to refer the two of them to CJHS. As part of the work we do surrounding conflict and providing healing opportunities, CJHS organized sessions which included individual discussions with both boys, then a face-to-face group mediation with Tom and his father, Danny and his mother, and the school principal to try to achieve a better outcome for everyone.

The mediation allowed Danny, Tom, and their parents an opportunity to speak to the incident and its impact on their lives. The principal was able to address the harm to the school community and how coming to an agreement on this incident would benefit the school as well as Danny and Tom. Both Danny and his mother apologized for Danny causing harm to Tom. When asked how he would react when he next saw Tom in school, Danny indicated he would like to be friendly and that they might get together for lunch.

John also reported the CJHS process brought everyone together to 'break the ice' and helped in resolving the standoff between the two boys. Danny asked and was allowed to return to school.

John says that he feels good about the situation. He was concerned for his son, of course, but he was also feeling sad about the other boy because he was being expelled from school. That was something he would carry through his life.

"But I'm more happy from the other party's point of view that it will definitely [give] have a positive impact on their life because they were able to realize it, realize the mistake and they accepted it and they felt sorry for it and they corrected the mistake," adds John. "So I'm really happy to have done a good job."

\* Names have been changed where necessary.

# 65%

of people entering correctional facilities have less than a Grade 8 education or level of literacy skills.

# A Life Outside the Walls

Now that he is sober and clean for close to three years, Enzo can look back over a 25 year period in his life when he was sentenced to prison almost 30 times. He was highly addicted and supported his addiction through committing many break and enters.

Today he finds it hard to believe that was his life. His last charges were for a drug-fueled crime that was intended to be a break and enter. There were people in the home (which he didn't realize until after he had broken in). This escalated his charges to a much more serious home invasion classification with the possibility of a ten year sentence.

He attended the CJHS Treatment, Knowledge, Opportunity program (TKO) – a ten week program for individuals in remand who are hoping to prepare a release plan for themselves and learn essential skills. He finished the program, and was then sentenced and sent to prison for six years. While there, his father was a victim of homicide and even though he wasn't involved in any way, he still felt shame and remorse. This stalled his healing and upon release, led to him turning back to his old patterns.



Disowned by his family, full of fear of returning to prison and with few coping skills, he began using almost immediately to numb the pain. After a year of him returning to his old life, his partner gave him an ultimatum to get clean and she left. That was the turning point for Enzo. He decided to get clean and sober. After 18 months of sobriety, remembering his good experience with the CJHS TKO program, he participated in our Learning Enhanced Employment Program (LEEP).

Today, he is working temporarily as the CJHS Greeter helping clients navigate COVID-19 protocols when they come to the CJHS Community Services Building for appointments. His mother is starting to welcome him back and for Enzo, coming from a close knit Italian family, that is an enormous step towards healing and restoring his life.

It was more that they [said yes] you can do it. You can change your life, you can have a different life. This is how you do it right," says Enzo. "You can go back to school, you get a part time job. When you go to the [Calgary] John Howard [Society] when you get released, they will help you."

## **Living a Better Life**

Louis\* has been working with a criminal record for the past 10 years at Costco and was doing well.

Then he committed two offences, including shoplifting an item from a local department store. He was sent to remand for 120 days but was having difficulty getting out when his time was up as he had no housing to go to. CJHS stepped in and was able to build a plan for him to be released from remand that included stable community resources while considering community safety.

When Louis left the remand centre, he had many concerns facing him: ID, work permit and more. As a former drug dealer, he was concerned about the lack of social support and some of the negative influences in his life.

With CJHS' help, he attended its one-on-one literacy program, as well as two other CJHS programs — one for computer skills 'Click and Away: Computer Basics for Beginners' and the Learning Enhanced Employment Program (LEEP). Louis' caseworker lent him a laptop and he was able to get his Forklift Certification as well as his Cooking Certification.

"You know, I want to change my life [....] keep myself busy... [...] and everything, and I'm sober now," says Louis.

On top of the employment/education aspects, he also learnt how important willpower is, along with other important skills. Louis also made friends with his peers in the program and keeps in touch with some of them,



91%

as well as his caseworker who helped him find his current job as a window cleaner.

"I have a job now and I'm happy. [....] Just going to work and coming home. One of the best thing[s] in my life that I've ever done in the 20 years. Very happy with that [...]," adds Louis.

\* Names have been changed where necessary.

of the people that took Learning Enhanced Employment Program (LEEP) indicated that the workshops helped get them closer to getting a job.



of CJHS learners in 2020 demonstrated an increased self-confidence as a result of participating in a learning opportunity.

She [the program facilitator] was so patient. And there was never a question that I asked that I felt uncomfortable asking, because she made it very apparent that, like, I was learning and that, you know, there was no wrong question or, you know, stupid, stupid question. Like, it was all relevant. And she was just super patient, super organized. Yeah, like the overall experience, I felt comfortable. Like, after the first class, like, I gained more confidence," says CJHS client, Hope\*.

## CJHS program removed fear and replaced it with skill and confidence

Struggling with mental health and addiction issues, both root causes of crime, Hope\* had difficulty managing her finances each month. She often found herself having to borrow money and to access the Calgary Food Bank.

Referred to CJHS by Momentum, a Calgary non profit with programs that help individuals on low income, she was able to increase her knowledge of computers, a critical skill in today's world.

"I just did not have any computer skills in the sense of how to navigate like, the desktop, or even my laptop," says Hope.

She had purchased a computer so she could go back to school, but was so overwhelmed by her lack of experience, she had not used it at all. Hope felt a lot of shame and fear about her computer skills; she felt she should know how to use one at her age.

Hope believes the CJHS Digital Literacy program 'Click and Away: Computer Basics for Beginners' was a wonderful opportunity for her to face her fears and to persevere through the program.

The Click and Away program provided Hope with general information about computer software and operating systems. It also helped her to learn practical things such as accessing her Gmail account and how to move through programs and applications.

"[...]I was able to complete the program and get my certificate. And now I'm so much more comfortable with a computer," says Hope.

She also says that she's now able to get on to Zoom video calls and participate in her recovery. She has also signed up for some online courses recommended by CJHS at the public library.

"And hopefully, I'll improve my computer skills and be able to gain employment or return to school. Whichever one presents itself for me, will work," Hope adds.

\* Names have been changed where necessary.



CJHS' Bedford House is a community residential facility which opened in 2019 to house 32 men who are reintegrating back into the community from correctional facilities. It was built as the result of the Calgary Collaborative Capital Campaign (formerly RESOLVE), a unique, first-of-its-kind fundraising campaign to provide affordable housing with a full range of support services for up to 3,000 homeless and vulnerable Calgarians. Nine established, experienced and respected social service agencies came together to provide a solution to homelessness and the lack of affordable housing with support services in Calgary. CJHS and the Bedford House residents are so grateful for the support of donors who helped bring this initiative to life.

# My whole attitude has changed.... It is better to just go be a part of the solution, be a part of something, and help something," says David.

David\* had been incarcerated for 15 years; he entered prison when he was 22 and left at age 37. From 2017 - 2018, one year before his full release, he was able to leave prison on temporary absences (TAs). Bedford House was one of the places that he stayed at on his TA. He was worried about everything from housing to financial stability. Those concerns were made easier through the support of staff at Bedford House. In addition, Bedford House staff helped David reconnect with his mom on his TAs, an important supporter in his reintegration.

"It was very nice to be able to see my mother in a different setting and to build relationships," says David, who is very close to her.

David was able to find employment nine days after his release, however, he was unable to get into Bedford House, his preferred choice of residence, as it was full. He had to reside at other halfway houses in the city for six months, however, he kept in touch with staff at Bedford House and when an apartment became available, he was invited to move in. Working alongside his case worker, David began to learn some important life skills to help him reintegrate — how to be responsible, pay bills, maintain a job, look after his health and more, while also seeing his parole officer and obeying the law.

He became financially independent and after a year, left Bedford House and lived with his mother for about a month; he then rented his own apartment.

A medical issue that required surgery on his foot meant that David was off work for a while. He felt like he needed additional support in order to keep his apartment and stay on the 'right track'. Although he no longer resided at Bedford House, staff there supported him to apply to the CJHS Adult Reintegration Housing Program (AHRP) and he was accepted. With their support, he was able to maintain his housing and heal.

David is now back at work. He says his whole attitude has changed. "[I love the fact that] I'm not just sitting at home doing nothing and earning nothing [because] you're not showing your best side. You're not really using your potential at all," David says. "It is better to just go be a part of the solution, be a part of something, and help something."

David's life is quiet and peaceful today. He wants to keep working as long as he can. With the help of AHRP and Bedford House, and the life he is experiencing now, he has come to understand the value of earning a living and of creating financial independence for himself.

\* Names have been changed where necessary.

67%

of AHRP clients remained consecutively housed for the full year of 2020.

## Problem turns into big opportunity for CJHS and its residents

My favourite part was accomplishing something. [....] that you're going to accomplish something that's hopefully going to work and it actually turned out that it did. I was really excited to give something back," says Jeff\*, one of the CJHS residents who was hired to work on the Berm Project. He had previously spent approximately 32 years in prison where he worked as a welder and a butcher.



It can be challenging to obtain employment with a prison record. When CJHS experienced a flooding problem in 2020, it turned into an opportunity to help some of its residents get more work experience.

The CJHS Community Services Building and Bedford House building's basement flooded whenever there was heavy rain. The solution was to build a berm estimated to cost about \$40,000, an unexpected expense.

At the same time, the City of Calgary Home Program Grant was announced as

an opportunity to increase resident's knowledge and skills to successfully maintain and retain their residency through employment and education. CJHS applied for and was successful in receiving funding to employ some residents as labourers on the 'Berm Project' so they could learn these important skills.

The original construction and project management group engaged when the Builders Road site was constructed in 2019, worked with CJHS to design the berm. A project manager from GreenLife Landscaping was hired and they supervised all aspects of the work including the labourers. Two Bedford House staff volunteered to act as liaisons between the project manager and the residents.

The seven CJHS residents who sent in their cover letters and resumes and underwent an interview, were hired. They all did such a great job of representing themselves!

"Typically all of our clients want to give back, especially on their healing journey. Lots of these folks have been in places where they haven't been treated with respect and dignity," says the Residential House Manager at Bedford House.

"Big thanks to GreenLife's project manager for treating them the same as anyone else. This was a confidence booster and a way for them to heal and to give back and to feel more comfortable as they re-enter the community," she added.

"They were just so proud of what they had accomplished, of feeling like they were now more accepted," says the Executive Director. "A couple of the men that were involved had spent a fair amount of time in jail. It was hard for them to get work experience with their criminal record. This was a really significant opportunity for them. I'd like to send a huge shout-out to the City of Calgary for funding this project. It had a great outcome for all."

\* Names have been changed where necessary.

In 2020, your support enabled us to help

youth and adults make positive changes and move away from criminal behaviour

# **Our Supporters**

Every effort has been made to ensure this list is accurate. If we have missed you, please accept our sincerest apologies and contact us at 403-266-4566.

Alanna Landymore • Alberta Children's Services • Alberta Justice & Solicitor General • Alex & Wendy Campbell Fund at the Calgary Foundation • Amanda St. Laurent • Andrew Parkin • Angela Hooper • Anonymous Donors • Ashley Gale •

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Making Calgary and Alberta safer CJHS excels at helping a very specific population: people who have criminal involvement and exhibit criminal behaviours, navigate the world. We've become known for services specializing in that work. Our staff are experts at assessing and then addressing the root causes of crime to enhance and restore the lives of the clients we serve.







Less than a week after the Sacred Medicine Garden was completed, the bunnies who live around Builders Road helped themselves to the mint, sage, and diamond willow that were growing in the garden and was just starting to get established. CJHS has recently been able to replant the garden, and in an attempt to keep the bunnies away, will surround the garden with coyote urine – the scent of an active predator will often deter small animals.





## Sacred Medicine Garden

Located between the Community Services Building and Bedford House, the Sacred Medicine Garden is a welcoming and easily accessible spot for people to connect to their Indigenous traditions and culture.

Built in 2020, the Sacred Medicine Garden is circular and representative of the traditional Indigenous medicine wheel. The circle is a primary influence in how the world is seen by Indigenous people and how they believe all life is connected. The garden has been planted with mint, sage, juniper, diamond willow and has a smudge bowl in the centre. Juniper is a plant often used in coastal medicine and the garden also contains diamond "It is a bonus for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people of the Calgary John Howard Society, and it brings a sense of peace and serenity. Plus, it is a way for non-Indigenous people to learn the

traditional culture." ~ CJHS INDIGENOUS CLIENT

willow which is used for making drums and rattles. Sage can be used for purification and mint is used for tea.

In 2020, two Elders, Alec and Alcina White, provided a CJHS staff member with medicine to create smudge kits. She made 86 kits for the agency to distribute to those in the community that needed them as CJHS had none. The garden is intended to be used by anyone in the surrounding community; ceremonies can be held and medicinal plants harvested. In the future, CJHS hopes to make its own kits using the garden's produce.

One of the reasons the garden exists is to grow these plants so CJHS clients can easily access these medicines;

Indigenous staff and clients can stay close to their culture in a place they feel welcome, respected and comfortable taking part in their traditions.

The location was chosen in consultation with an Elder and the Garden's designer, Heather Morigeau. COVID has meant few visitors, but those who have spent time at the garden, have enjoyed it.

Now that the City of Calgary is opening up somewhat again, please contact our CJHS Community Services Building if you would like to visit the Sacred Medicine Garden and enjoy the beauty and serenity you will find there.





### CJHS Youth Mentorship Group artwork based on the Seven Sacred Teachings

One of the groups CJHS works with is an Indigenous youth mentorship group. As one of the activities we organized for them, we hired Kayla Simpson, an Indigenous artist from Calgary, to help them create a wall mural. Kayla met with the group and collected all their ideas and noted what was important to them. They decided to create a mural based on the Seven Sacred Teachings. Elder Ruby Eaglechild, who is involved with CJHS mentorship in many ways, shared an explanation of the Teachings with the group. An explanation of the Seven Sacred Teachings as provided by Elder Ruby:

- 1 LOVE-EAGLE To feel true love, is to know the creator, express love for the creator and yourself, children are to be loved, gifts from the creator.
- 2 **RESPECT-BUFFALO** We are told always, respect mother earth, respect elders from all races of people, respect yourself and share.
- 3 **COURAGE-BEAR** It takes courage to do what is morally right. All nations of people were told to be proud of who they are, never deny the way of life, be proud of what creator gives us.
- 4 HONESTY-SABE (SASQUATCH) It is within yourself to love the way you were made, never lie or gossip about each other, be honest so you become a better person.

- **5 TRUTH-TURTLE** Always seek the truth, and the true meaning of life on earth. Living the truth is living the seven sacred teachings, living from the heart.
- 6 WISDOM-BEAVER Is to know the spirits gave everyone a special gift, wisdom is using your gift to be peaceful and to have a healthy family and community. We need to bring more peace to the world.
- 7 HUMILITY-WOLF Is to understand that you are not more or less than anyone else, being humble is surrendering to the creator, who has created and who directs all life.

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

## Revenue



Revenue has increased by about 19.75% from 2019 – this is the net impact of various program and funding changes occurring over the year. Most notable are various grants related to COVID-19 Relief, as well as a gain on the sale of a capital property which closed in 2020.

Not reflected in the summary data are receipts of pledges, and some new funding for capital acquistions. These amounts are significant in the year and have contributed to the reduction of debt associated with construction of our Builders Road property.



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CJHS funders and donors deserve our gratitude for their ongoing support throughout 2020. With their support, the agency was able to continue strengthening our community, restoring the lives of our clients and preventing crime in Calgary and Alberta.

## **Expenses**



and administrative \$648,332 | 8.68%

Amortization \$754,353 | 10.11%

- Travel and meetings \$69,454 | .93%
- Professional fees \$187,152 | 2.51%

Professional development and memberships \$66,578 | .89%

Overall, expenses have increased by about 7% from 2019 – mostly due to programming adjustments, which included wage premiums offered to staff, who worked tirelessly through the year of the pandemic. CJHS has achieved some savings resulting from the necessary changes in how programming was delivered during 2020.

Overall, financial results reflect a suplus in the 2020 year, mostly attributable to the gain on the sale of property, which was partially offset by the net impact of various increased costs.

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## **STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS** FOR YEAR ENDED **DECEMBER 31,** 2020

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Thank you to all story contributors. Content development: amphoracommunications.ca Graphic design: creativecapture.ca Cover photos and water photos: Cecilia Humphrey Story photo credits: CJHS staff and clients

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Restoring Lives ■ Preventing Crime ■ Strengthening Communities

#1000 - 4502 Builders Road SE Calgary, AB T2G 4C6

403-266-4566 | info@cjhs.ca

www.CJHS.ca