

Remember YOUR 1<sup>st</sup> Key?  
 The ONE that had "I AM INDEPENDENT" written on it.  
 Well, not literally. It probably just said "DO NOT DUPLICATE." But oh! - the Pride that came with ONE Little KEY maybe it was your 1<sup>st</sup> House KEY given to you BY your Parents when they THOUGHT you were responsible enough, TRUE, they made you wear it ON a CHAIN around YOUR NECK, but IT WAS A SMALL, NERDY PRICE TO PAY FOR YOUR INDEPENDENCE - or maybe it was THE KEY TO YOUR 1<sup>st</sup> apartment.  
 Remember? THE Feeling of Look AT ME WITH A FLAG FOR A CURTAIN BUT I don't CARE, it's all mine.  
 OR MAYBE it was the KEY TO YOUR 1<sup>st</sup> HOUSE. YOUR sanctuary WHERE Y.O.U. FELT safe & FREE TO DREAM about THE Future (instead of DOING THE Laundry)  
 NOW, imagine not having that KEY because you don't HAVE a Home. & WHEN you're HOMELESS IT'S NOT hard to IMAGINE THAT THOSE Feelings OF Pride, CONFIDENCE & Security would BE pretty hard TO come BY.  
 YOU CAN HELP give a HOMELESS WOMAN A KEY that'll UNLOCK MUCH MORE than a DOOR

## 2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT



adsum  
FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN



## VISION

Everyone has a safe and secure home.

## MISSION

To lead change in housing through advocacy, supports and services to end homelessness.

## VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We live these values to create hope, security, self-esteem and choice.

## RESPECT

In order for people to feel respected, valued and have dignity, we meet people where they are, without judgement.

## SELF-WORTH

We value the uniqueness of each person in order to support self-worth.

## TRUST

We build and maintain relationships that exemplify credibility and trust.

## INCLUSION

We believe that people have the right to be included on their own terms.

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

1. To be the best we can be as a centre of excellence in housing and homelessness
2. To expand our ability to care for people along their housing and homelessness journey by offering a continuum of holistic supports in combination with case management
3. To be truly client-directed by ensuring the people who use our services are engaged in identifying their needs
4. To make Adsum a great place to work



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At Adsum for Women & Children we see, every day, the importance of making connections and inspiring hope.

That is what sparked the wonderful creative pieces and key campaign that includes the cover of this Annual Report. Like so many things at Adsum, it began with a phone call, in this case to Jive Photographic Productions. They brought along Arrivals & Departures and a senior creative team and together they conveyed vision and inspired excitement among many people who became involved. The piece of art they created, HOPE, is incredible! It is built using 1,500 keys that we tied onto fishing line and suspended from specially built frames. There were many moving parts to the design and execution of HOPE and the various key pieces. It was a truly remarkable effort.

At Adsum, we create hope and define success as uniquely different for each individual woman, family, trans person, and youth we come to know. For some, moving on from Adsum to full-time work is a success, and for others, success may look like managing anxiety and learning to navigate the bus system in order to make it to appointments, or signing a first lease and learning to manage apartment living.

On an organizational basis, one of our greatest successes of the past year was to further develop the program we call Diverting Families from Shelter to Home. To date, this program has supported 49 families including 120 children. All but 11 children went from a family housing crisis to housing without spending even one night in an emergency shelter. This is what we would like to see for all families facing homelessness in Halifax. This is our hope.

Diverting Families began with a gift from a donor that led to federal money and more recently, a provincial grant. It exemplifies how even an organization like Adsum cannot do it alone.

We welcomed new staff and new volunteers last year, and reached out to new and generous supporters to bring more financial stability to our work. We focused on building strong healthy relationships that will have a lasting and positive impact. We also mourned many losses including the passing of our friend Patti Melanson of Mobile Outreach Street Health, who brought her calling as a nurse to the street, to provide comfort and health care to people who are homeless and marginalized. Patti's legacy includes a community and a province that is stronger and more able to make peoples' lives easier and meet them where they are.

As you read this Annual Report, we hope you are proud of what your support accomplished last year. We work hard to meet expectations and achieve results for the people we are privileged to meet. Any success in this work belongs to the community. With the ongoing and extraordinary support of you, our donors, partners, staff and volunteers, Adsum is ready for the challenges ahead as we seek to realize a future where everyone has the right to a safe and secure home.



Catherine Baker  
*President of the Board*

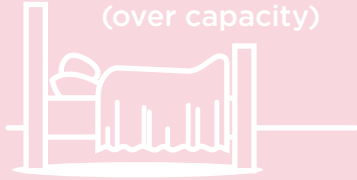


Sheri Lecker  
*Executive Director*



**5,893**

bed nights provided at  
emergency shelter  
(over capacity)



**93** parents and  
children housed  
through Diverting  
Families from  
Shelter to home



**511** families with  
children moved  
from The Centre  
to housing and CPS  
ended involvement



**17,679**

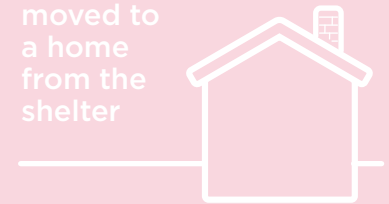
meals prepared at  
shelter for residents  
& visitors



**175** people  
supported by our  
Housing  
Support  
Worker



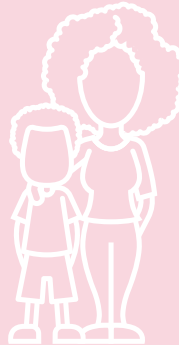
**51** women and  
trans received  
household  
boxes when they  
moved to  
a home  
from the  
shelter



Déjà Vu clothing  
room  
hosted **3,385**  
visits & **6** free sales



**15**  
children  
had regular  
supervised  
access  
visits with  
moms at  
Adsum  
Centre



**82** people  
including  
**14** children  
called  
Adsum-  
owned  
housing  
'home'



Intensive support for  
**15** individuals  
experiencing  
chronic  
homelessness



**+2,000**  
hours of programming;  
recreational, educational  
and therapeutic



Tenancy in Adsum  
housing ranged from a  
few months to

**+25** years





# ADSUM COURT: A FACEBOOK POST FROM A TENANT

"It's no secret that Adsum has, and continues to make a huge difference in my life and the lives of many of my friends and also many, many, many who I don't know. They don't just have their shelter but they also have supportive housing options, a communal housing option with programs, and various other options to help women, children, and families access housing.

Before connecting with Adsum, I struggled to keep housing because of various things relating to my mental health and some of the behaviours and ways of coping I had developed that weren't so healthy and were life-threatening. I was in almost constant crisis and in and out of the emergency room and psychiatric short stay unit many, many, many times. I've accessed various Adsum services and have stayed at a few of their locations. I currently live in one of their supportive housing communities in an independent apartment and it has been life changing for me. When I arrived here I didn't know if I'd last a month....I'm now proud to say I'm nearing the 8 year mark. The longest I've been in one place in my adult life. I was able to adopt a kitty as this is the first apartment I've lived in that has allowed a cat and the combination of a safe place to stay and having a kitty companion were a huge combined turning point in my life that I'm forever grateful for.

I haven't had to access the hospital emergency services in over 7 years and I now enjoy life and am for the most part in a good place mentally. I'm thankful to be alive and to have this apartment and stability. I'm continually working to spread my wings and push myself out of my comfort zone by working with the Adsum Social Worker, Occupational Therapist, and spending time in the office and taking part in various programs and activities that are offered.

For my 37th birthday I would love to give back to Adsum as just a small token of my thanks for all they do for me and for others. My story is just one of the thousands."

*Nicolle*



# DIVERTING FAMILIES

The Diverting Families from Shelter program has grown and developed over the past year to work with more families and expand our scope of practice to meet the needs of the community. When we began the program, we were working with families staying in emergency shelter. With the addition of the Diverting Families Housing Support Worker position we have been able to provide earlier interventions to families who are experiencing chronic homelessness and offer more eviction prevention services. We recognize that experiences with homelessness and extended stays in emergency shelter have a lasting impact on children that can result in an increased risk of homelessness, mental health, unemployment, and addiction in adulthood.

One of the difficulties when working with families is being unable to provide support before families became homeless or have to resort to accessing shelter. Our work is meant to reduce the effects of trauma on children associated with experiencing homelessness and staying in shelter. Therefore, it made sense to try to intervene and divert families from shelter all together. Many of the parents we work with are staying in unsafe living situations to avoid going to shelter for fear of how this might impact their children. It is also common to have a referral for families who are experiencing hidden homelessness, which typically involves couch surfing and can lead to a lot of instability for children and parents.

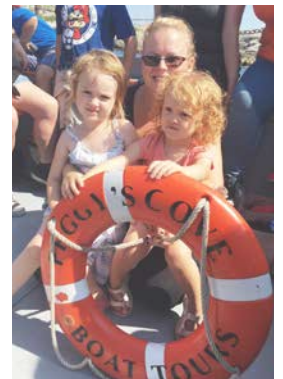
The majority of parents I work with have reported that they have observed behavioural changes in their children when this type of instability occurs. Challenges such as affording food, clothing, recreational activities and time for family become more difficult due to the increased stress and cost associated with being transient. One single parent mother with four children had to live in a motel for three months. This was the result of not being able to secure housing due to lack of money and poor housing references from her former partner. There were increased costs for her associated with having no kitchen (i.e., having to buy school lunches for her children). In addition, she was paying for transportation to allow her children to remain in their school. These factors were creating a great deal of stress for her and her children.

In cases such as this, the focus is on surviving from day to day. This limits spending quality time with children and leaves little or no time to search for housing. Our work with Diverting Families attempts to reduce some of this stress by supporting families with food, transportation, funding for recreation, searching for housing, liaising with landlords, and navigating community supports. All of these pieces are integral in trying to support the well-being of families and divert them from having to go to shelter.

Our work continues after a family is housed to ensure that their tenancy is successful by providing support to build stability and routine. As the social worker, I am able to refer families for mental health support, safety planning in cases of interpersonal violence, navigate community resources and advocate to child welfare agencies on behalf of parents.

This work has been incredible and challenging for the Diverting Families team. We are meeting families when they are experiencing one of the most difficult times of their life and there are no safety nets left.

We hope that this project is just the beginning of a shift. A shift in how we think about... *what a child should have to experience, what is okay, how we respond to families, what families should have to endure, building resilience and the cycles of trauma.*





# What does it take to move a family from homelessness to housing?

Diverting Families from Shelter to Homes reveals the answer:


## appropriate supports.

(Data from Apr 2018 - March 2019)

**22** families diverted from shelter



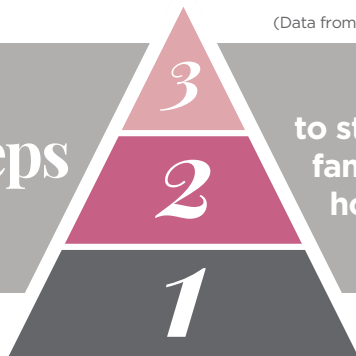
Average monthly rent subsidy of **\$255<sup>40</sup>**



Parents are able to decide the level of support they receive.



**3 Steps**



to stabilize a family facing homelessness:

### 1. INTERVENE

Intervention reduces the trauma and stress parents and children are exposed to and can experience.

### 2. HELP

Poverty is identified as a core reason for family instability. Diverting Families was able to reduce financial stress.

### 3. SUPPORT

Case management support helps families to heal from trauma, build their self-confidence, and re-gain their autonomy.

Average of **17** days spent in shelter

(national family average: 50.1 days).\*

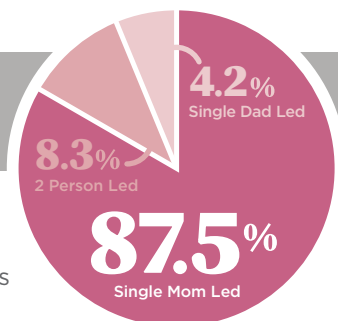


Average moving & other one time economic supports **\$1093<sup>68</sup>**

Check-in's range from every day to every 2 weeks.



## STRUCTURE ►



Families led by single-mothers are the most common family structure in the program.

Repetitive episodes of couch surfing were common.



## PAST

**100%** of parents had previously experienced periods of housing instability. For many, this started in childhood as a result of their own parents being homeless or insecurely housed.

## HOPE

Our hope is to have better outcomes for children at school, with their health and behaviours. By ending children's homelessness, we hope to stem the flow of people into homelessness in later years.

**6** families have successfully transitioned off the program.



Many had previous stays in shelter.



Many had experienced Intimate Partner Violence.



\*Segaert, Aaron. The National Shelter Study: Emergency Shelter Use In Canada: 2005-2009. [Ottawa, ON]: Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, 2012.

**96%** of families are stably housed.



Children are no longer ashamed of their housing.



# REUNITED

At age twelve I moved into a group home in Ontario. At fourteen, I moved to Toronto and got a job by lying about my age. At seventeen, I was married and had my first child before I was eighteen. My husband was from Nova Scotia so we moved to a remote home with a baby and a second one on the way. I moved away from all of my people and made my living working in the woods. I had 4 children in 5 1/2 years. I was a good and present mother but life was hard in this rural area.

Six years later, Sebastian was born. When he was 1 1/2 I left my drunken, abusive husband after a violent event. He had a job and a house and I had no support. As a result, he got full custody of our 5 children. I only saw my children in my former home with him present. This situation was very difficult and eventually became impossible.

I then found out I had liver cancer. I went to my family in Ontario thinking I was going to die. I did not want my kids to remember me like this. I wanted them to remember me baking bread every day and us playing outside. During treatment I became addicted to pain medication. It took a while but I got myself clean. I came back to NS after 4 years away and only seeing my children once a year.

I was housed in a less than ideal situation and came to Halifax where there was more support and found Adsum House. I arrived for a bed and had only the clothes on my back. I moved too quickly to another unsafe apartment before returning to Adsum House shelter. I lived at the shelter 3 times over 3 years before I knew I had to work with all of the support they offered to help me become stable. I moved to an apartment at Adsum Court - my first safe and stable place in 10 years. This was the first time I unpacked my things in 10 years. It took me 3 years to rebuild relationships and get all of my kids' trust back. It also took me that long to have a place they could and wanted to come visit me. Sebastian at 15 was able to stay with me overnight and during school breaks. He loved coming to the city. One day he asked if he could live with me when he turned 16 but fate intervened and his dad took a job out of province and Sebastian was able to come live with me right away. Sheri Lecker stepped in and helped me to move from my Adsum Court studio apartment to a 2 bedroom at The Alders. Adsum helped with rent subsidy, moving twice, and with all the essentials we needed for our apartment. Sebastian could live with his mother for the first time in 14 years.

Every goodbye and good night, I said I love you to Sebastian and last week he told me "I Love You" for the first time ever. As we enjoy our new apartment together, he talks about how much we have in common like the same books, movies and foods. He commented that "I can't believe, even though we never lived together, that we like all the same stuff." This is the first time he has had his own room with his own stuff in it and he loves that it is organized, neat and clean.

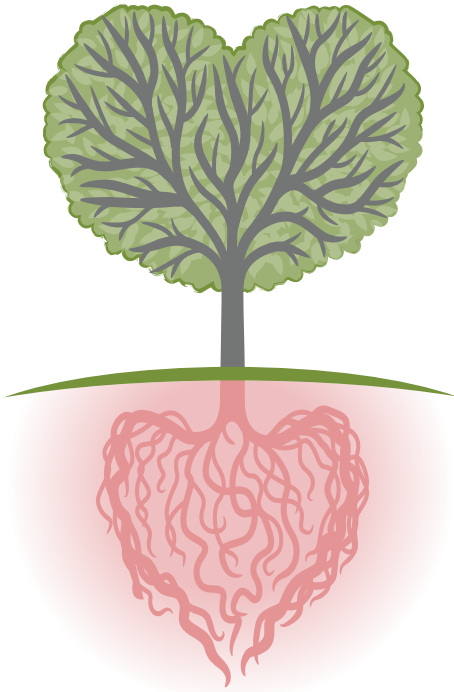
All of my 5 children and 5 grandchildren are a constant in my life and I in theirs. They tell me how proud they are of me, that I got back to a spot that I can be there, everyday.

*Cindy (and Sebastian)*





# INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT



I like to think of housing support as a tree. The trunk represents housing because this is the foundation for all other parts of my clients' lives. The roots represent the community resources and support that the clients are connected to that help them receive the nourishment they need to grow. The branches represent all the other areas of life that are related to housing. And the leaves represent how clients can flourish when all their housing and related needs are met.

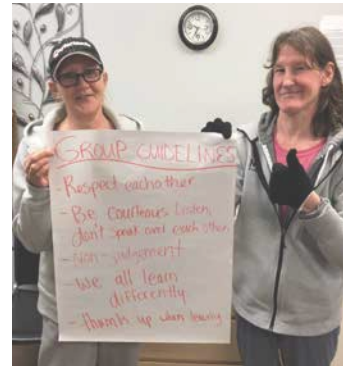
So what does an Intensive Case Manager do at Adsum for Women & Children? Well, as the title suggests, my primary job is to help clients gain and maintain safe and secure housing. I work with between 17 and 20 individuals at any given time. My clients are among the most vulnerable in the community and face significant barriers to housing. These barriers include poverty, substance use disorder, mental health challenges, varying levels of cognitive impairment, racial discrimination, past or present criminal involvement, physical limitations, and many more. Often clients are facing several of these barriers all at the same time.

I am one of the primary resources my clients' roots connect to for nourishment and support. Once a client is assigned to my caseload, we usually meet for coffee so I can get to know the person and they can get to know me. Once we have explored what they want and need in a home, we can start looking for an apartment that meets these criteria while also fitting into their budget. This process involves a lot of collaboration. Client satisfaction comes from knowing that they played a critical role in achieving their housing goals. It is essential that everyone has autonomy and choice in where they live.

Once a client has found a place to plant their housing tree, I work with them to set up their new home. Adsum provides each client with a box of food to help them through the first few days in their new home. They also provide each client with a 'move-out box' that consists of all of the houseware essentials. Parker Street Furniture Bank will deliver a bed, kitchen table, and chairs that are funded by Income Assistance, right to the client's home.

My role doesn't end when the client has moved into their new home because once housing is attained, it must also be maintained. Just as a tree needs water and sunlight to grow, my clients need support and resources. My focus shifts to working on addressing some of the barriers that they face that could lead to increased risk of eviction. I connect clients with mental health and addictions supports if and when they are ready. I often accompany my clients to doctor's appointments to provide support and advocacy when necessary. I also attend court appointments with my clients if they feel they need extra support.

Every day in my role as an Intensive Case Manager is different because just like a beautiful leafy tree, each of my clients is unique. I can honestly say that this work is both the most challenging and the most rewarding that I have ever had the privilege of doing.



# TREASURER'S REPORT

It has been both a pleasure and honour to serve as Treasurer on the Board of Directors of Adsum Association for Women & Children (the "Association"). I am grateful to the staff and directors of Adsum for supporting me in my role as Treasurer. I have been inspired over the past year by the Executive Director, Sheri Lecker, and the Accounts Administrator, Nancy Lamrock, who play a large role in the success of the Association's finances by being so attentive to ensuring that every dollar contributes to the mission of the Association.

Adsum relies on government grants and the generosity of our donors to provide needed programming and housing support. In fiscal 2019, an amount of \$734,498 was contributed to the Association via donations, major gifts and fundraising events. The monies are utilized in providing much needed programming and housing support to our community.

In fiscal 2019, Adsum was requested to provide additional housing to those in need. With the ongoing challenges in obtaining funding, competitive donation landscape and increased operating costs, the Association worked very diligently to ensure that the needs of the community were met within the constraints of a breakeven budget.

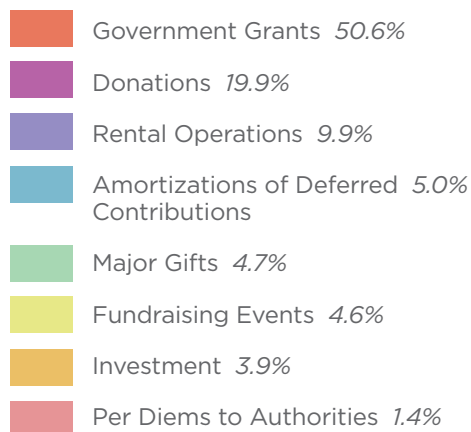
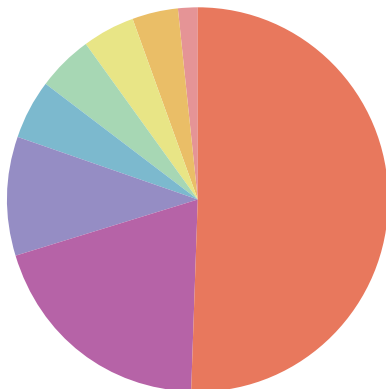
The Association continues to demonstrate a strong financial position. Readers are encouraged to examine the audited accounts as published in the annual report where the summary outlines the Statement of Operations followed by the Statement of Financial Position of Assets, Liabilities and Reserves.

Respectfully submitted,

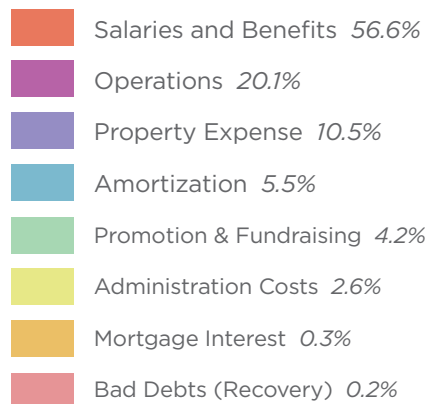
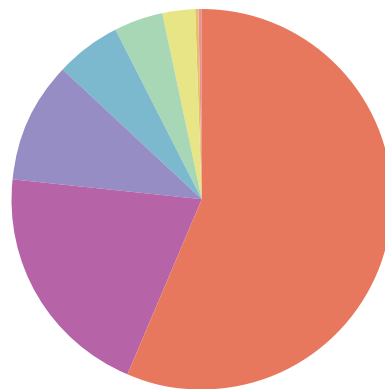


Helena Lotherington *Treasurer*

## 2019 REVENUE



## 2019 EXPENSES



# STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2019

	2019	2018
REVENUE	\$2,526,017	\$2,313,562
EXPENSES	\$2,516,917	\$2,313,300
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	\$9,100	\$262
OTHER INCOME (UNREALIZED GAIN)	(\$21,601)	\$19,452
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR	(\$12,501)	\$19,714

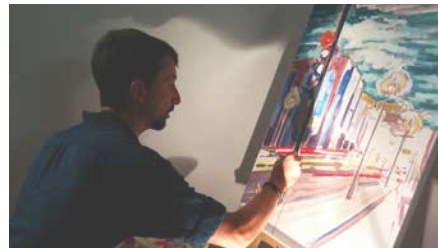
# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

MARCH 31, 2019

ASSETS	2019	2018
CURRENT		
CASH	\$ -	\$ -
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	\$59,727	\$51,798
PREPAID EXPENSES	\$18,909	\$19,019
	<b>\$78,636</b>	\$70,817
CAPITAL ASSETS	\$3,488,373	\$3,611,011
LONG TERM INVESTMENTS - RESTRICTED	\$129,389	\$371,597
LONG TERM INVESTMENTS - UNRESTRICTED	\$702,970	\$431,534
	<b>\$4,399,368</b>	\$4,484,959
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
BANK INDEBTEDNESS	\$113,111	\$67,624
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$163,435	\$129,394
CURRENT PORTION OF LONG TERM DEBT	\$22,726	\$22,029
UNEARNED INCOME	\$11,721	\$11,364
TENANTS' DAMAGE DEPOSITS	\$8,372	\$9,483
	<b>\$319,365</b>	\$239,894
LONG TERM DEBT	\$211,390	\$234,145
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS - CAPITAL ASSETS	\$2,850,437	\$2,978,123
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS - FUTURE EXPENDITURES	\$168,298	\$137,697
	<b>\$3,549,490</b>	\$3,589,859
NET ASSETS		
INVESTMENT IN PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	\$403,180	\$376,074
INVESTMENT IN ENDOWMENT FUND	\$129,389	\$371,597
UNRESTRICTED FUND	\$317,309	\$147,429
	<b>\$849,878</b>	\$895,100
	<b>\$4,399,368</b>	\$4,484,959



# COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF RAISE FUNDS AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS AT OUR SIGNATURE FUNDRAISING EVENTS



## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS EVENT SPONSORS



# THIRD PARTY FUNDRAISERS

We are privileged to have wonderful support from companies, community groups and individuals of all ages who want to do a special fundraising project on our behalf. These generous people create events for birthdays, showers, school activities, races, baking and with retail sales to provide funds for our work. We are grateful for the creativity, community spirit and desire to help others.



Astral Drive Junior High School



John W MacLeod We Act



Bluenose Marathon



FX 101.9 and Kent



Port City Strollers



Sailor Bup's



Neptune



Casino NS

We share with you an interview with *Jasper*, a wonderfully philanthropic young man, who has been a Third Party Fundraiser for 5 years.

**Adsum: When and how did you start to raise money for Adsum for Women & Children?**

Jasper: I was 6 years old when I started. I had a big birthday party and asked for a donation instead of a present from each kid and, before I knew it, it was a yearly thing.

**A: How did you feel the day you made the donation at Adsum House?**

J: I felt really great and that I was doing the right thing. I felt proud.

**A: You have now done a fundraiser for us every year from age 6 to now at 10. Why do you still do this?**

J: I feel like this is a better cause than getting presents myself. I know that the money goes towards supporting people who need help to live on their own

**A: Tell me about getting your twin brothers to also do birthday fundraising**

J: Finley and Sawyer are two years younger than me. They were more aware of the option to donate because I had already done it. My brothers have collected donations at their birthday parties since they were 6 years old too. Now they are 8 years old. This year they donated to Alzheimer's research which is also a good cause.

**A: Do you see yourself continuing to do something to help others as you get older?**

J: Yes, I will continue to donate money. I will continue to be a nice person when I can and help people when needed.

**A: Thank you Jasper for having a kind and generous heart and for leading by example to Finley and Sawyer.**



Jasper in 2014, makes a donation from his 6th birthday party



Jasper age 10, with Finley and Sawyer





## ADSUM'S COMMUNITY OF VOLUNTEERS 2018-2019

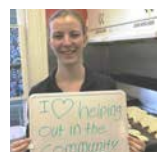
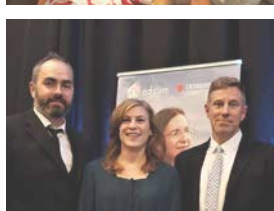
Our volunteers truly are amazing! Volunteers help in many ways at Adsum each day. It could be sorting and organizing donations; preparing meals and helping to plan fundraising events; working on our Board of Directors or doing programming with our clients. Volunteers are an essential part of the work that we do. Our volunteers are dedicated to their community and we are so grateful for all of the ways they help with our services and events. Thank you!

Lindsay Algee  
 Gladys Ascah  
 Maureen Babin  
 Catherine Baker  
 Rachel Barnes  
 Brian Barton  
 Tara Bayne  
 Sister Sarah Behlke  
 Donalda Benjamin  
 Sylvia Boissonneault  
 Courtney Brown  
 Jessie Brunet  
 Marla Bureau  
 Carol Burk  
 Kathryn Burlton  
 Justine Burns  
 Cathy Byrne  
 Kara Canning  
 Deborah Cunningham  
 Amber Davis  
 Leigh Day  
 Stacey de Molitor  
 Camille Denney-Harris  
 Evyenia Dexter  
 Jenny deZoete  
 Laurie Dolhan  
 Ashley Donald  
 Amy Downie

Shelly Dwyer  
 Joan Eager  
 Daisy Fitzgerald  
 Gisela Folker  
 Zara Forbrigger  
 Anne Marie Giberson  
 Myrina Giguere  
 Karen Gillighan  
 Leigha Givener  
 Hannah Givener  
 Anna Gores  
 Chloe Grand-Maison  
 Penny Harding  
 Yu Huang  
 Betty Hutchins  
 Melanie Ingram  
 James Ingram  
 Linda Jones  
 Madelyn Keeping  
 Destiny Keizer  
 Sherry Keizer  
 Anne Kelly  
 Vanessa Kinnear  
 Ann-Marie Lace  
 Louise Lapensee

Juniper Littlefield  
 Kerys Llewellyn  
 Stephanie Lord  
 Helena Lotherington  
 Haylee MacCallum  
 Susan MacDonald  
 Christina MacDonald  
 Katie MacDonald  
 Marni MacIsaac  
 Flora MacLeod  
 Kate MacMillan  
 McKenzie Mandich  
 Ann Mann  
 Nicole Maunsell  
 Michelle McKenna  
 Alexandra McNab  
 Bette McNutt  
 Kay Ann Meagher  
 Tara Morand  
 Donna Morykot  
 Sue Murtagh  
 Yvonne Noel  
 Beverley O'Donnell  
 Wilma O'Grady  
 Mikale O'Regan  
 Fanny Otoma

Bernice Palgue  
 Kenna Marie Panikkar  
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 Richelle Williams  
 Samantha Wilson  
 Maddison Wilson





# “CHANGING THE WORLD IS AS EASY AS REACHING OUT YOUR HAND”

We appreciate the enthusiasm and support from our amazing Volunteer Groups, who spend time at Adsum properties to cook, clean, organize donations, paint, do yard work and offer professional skills and talents to clients.

Arrival + Departures

Astellas Pharma

Autism Nova Scotia

Aviva

Canadian Progress Club Halifax

Citadel

Christina Martin

Current Studios

Dalhousie University

Efficiency Nova Scotia

Emera

Foxy Moon

Girl Guides of Canada

Halifax Rec Youth Leadership

Halifax Missionary Sisters

Hillside Family Dental Associates

IKEA

ISANS

Jive Photographic

Junior League of Halifax

MAC

Mount Saint Vincent University

NS Cadet Tri Service Band

NS Power

On Point Volunteer Association

RBC

RCSU (A)

Rotary Club

Sacred Heart School

Scotiabank

Sherwin Williams

Saint Mary's University

SMU Huskies



Aviva



Dalhousie Medical



Efficiency NS



Girl Guides



Giving Tuesday



Halifax Rec Youth Leadership



IKEA



The Learning Centre



MAC



The Mount



NS Power



RBC



RBC Weath Management



Rotary Club



Sacred Heart School



Scotiabank



Sherwin Williams



SMU



SMU Huskies

# WE ARE HONOURED TO HAVE MANY SUPPORTERS WHO TRUST ADSUM TO USE THEIR DONATIONS IN WAYS THAT HELP OTHERS FIND HOPE, SECURITY AND SELF ESTEEM. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS.

Listed here are donors of cash, gifts-in kind and sponsorships of more than \$500, between April 2018 and March 2019 (Excluding private individual donors).

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Black Family Foundation  
Jon & Noreen Barter Fund  
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# A CASE FOR COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Throughout the non profit sector, organizations bring unique perspectives and support to the people they serve. That being said, there are times when a single organization, working on its own, cannot provide the most effective support and service. At Adsum, we pro-actively seek opportunities to work alongside partners with common goals to build and strengthen credibility and trust, maximize limited resources and minimize the duplication of service.

We point to the Extreme Weather Collaboration Group as an example of community collaboration. It is an excellent illustration of a grass-roots alliance that formed organically in Halifax in response to a serious public health threat. Concerned about the serious adverse impacts of severe weather on individuals who are living homeless and street involved, we have worked together to develop practical interventions for the community we support.

In the winter months, we open a warm, dry location in the form of a Warming Centre that allows street involved community members to come inside during extreme weather. By providing a space that is safe and staffed, we offer folks an inviting alternative to extreme cold and inclement weather which can help to prevent frost bite, hypothermia and even loss of life. In addition, the Warming Centre has hot drinks, snacks and support which allow for the better management of chronic conditions that can be exacerbated by extreme weather. This service also helps to reduce the negative impact of extreme weather on peoples' mental health.

In order for the Warming Centre to operate, we look to Environment Canada forecasting. When Halifax is expected to be -15 C degrees (with wind chill), or there is a forecast of 25 cm of snow, the Warming Centre opens. Occasionally, at the group's discretion, we open due to other weather conditions. In the past few years, the Warming Centre has operated in the basement of St. Matthew's Church, in a space shared with the Out of the Cold Shelter (OTCS). This is the 4th year for the Warming Centre and its 3rd at St. Matthew's. Last year the Warming Centre opened on 42 different days with an average 25 guests per day.

The Extreme Weather Collaboration Group has approached extreme heat differently. In order to assist persons living homeless to cope with the hot sun and high humidity, the Group ensures that supplies are pre-positioned around Halifax and Dartmouth. We want people to have easy access to sunscreen and hats and water, to ensure they can stay hydrated and whenever possible, find shade or shelter from the sun. Our partners include almost 20 organizations and locations including the shelters, outreach services, meal programs and others. The Extreme Weather Collaborative Group has also developed a social media presence to increase awareness of extreme weather events among our clientele and the general public.

In the summer of 2018, we distributed 544 hats and 701 bottles of sunscreen to places as diverse as the Halifax Central Library and Margaret's House (Feeding Others of Dartmouth). We also purchased and distributed a total of 420 cases (10,080) bottles of water. We know that water filling stations as well as fountains in outdoor public areas are more sustainable solutions, but until they are readily available to folks we know, we must rely on single use bottles. In turn, the bottles become a source of income for those people who work at collecting plastic bottles for recycling.

Adsum is an active member of the Extreme Weather Group along with other shelters, MOSH (Mobile Outreach Street Health) and the Halifax Street Navigator. Adsum administers the payroll for the Warming Centre and manages the finances for the winter and summer services. This is but one example of how we build, and strengthen and share to be effective in our community.



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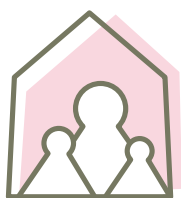
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