
**Homeless Awareness Calgary
Committee**

Annual Report

2008



Message from the Board

Homeless Awareness Calgary Committee's (HACC) Board of Directors would like to thank HACC and its many stakeholders for all of the hard work and energy committed to the successful restructuring of HACC in the second half of 2008. With the re-visioning of our new strategic direction and renewed energy, we remain committed to working on the issues of educating the community and ending homelessness in Calgary and surrounding areas.

Homeless Awareness Calgary Committee was formed in 1994 when the response to homelessness was different than it is today. We recognize that with changing times, we need to update our response to the issues related to homelessness. As a board, we have been busy working with the coordinators at HACC to create our strategic plan; to identify key directions; and move ourselves from an organization that not only creates awareness, but now asks for action in our communities.

The year had many transitions – we said goodbye to Maternity Leave Replacement Coordinator Larissa Kennedy at the end of January and welcome back to Coordinator Bonnie Malach at the beginning of August.

In October, at our Annual General Meeting, we were welcomed in as the new Board of Directors.

November brought us an additional member to the team – we were excited to announce that Teresa McDowell-Hood would join Bonnie as Co-Coordinator in a job-share position. We are excited to have the opportunity to have both of these well-experienced women working tirelessly to accomplish our goals set out for the 2008 and 2009 years.

HACC hosted meetings and forums with community partners, members, and volunteers, who told us loudly and clearly that we are viewed in the community as a strong advocate and the voice of children, youth, adults, and families experiencing homelessness. HACC is viewed in the community as a necessary organization in the journey to end homelessness in Calgary and surrounding areas. We have the support of the community and champions working alongside of us to address the issues of homelessness.

The Board has viewed fund development as being a necessary means to continue HACC's growth in the community. As such, the Board is seeking any members look-

ing to join our new Fund Development Committee.

We continue to seek the support of community members, HACC member agencies, and volunteers in this renewal process. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our current, core funder, the United Way of Calgary and Area, without which the previous successful years would not have been possible.

We are pleased to announce that HACC will be hosting the 13th Homeless Awareness Week from September 13th to 19th, 2009. We would like to invite you and friends to participate or attend this annual event.

Sincerely,

*Roseline Carter - Chair
Darlene Petrie - Treasurer
Patricia Yake - Director
Patricia Okahashi - Director
Lloyd Thornhill - Director*



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Message from the Coordinators

As Coordinators, if we had to sum up the year 2008 in one word, it would have to be “transition”

At the end of January 2008, Homeless Awareness Calgary Committee (HACC) said goodbye to Larissa Kennedy, the Maternity Leave Replacement Coordinator, as she transitioned into another position outside of the organization. Due to the hiring climate at the time, the fact that there were only six months remaining in the contract and other factors, it was decided not to rehire for the position.

In August of the same year, Bonnie Malach returned to her position as Coordinator. As the organization was taking an inward look and as a new mom, Bonnie decided to return to work on a half-time basis, working 20 hours per week.

In November of 2008, following the communities strong mandate that HACC continue in its work, the Committee was excited to announce that Teresa McDowell-Hood had joined Bonnie as Co-Coordinator, also on a half-time basis.

We foresee the key word for 2009 to be “development” – organizational development and community development.

The coming months and years promise to be filled with many challenges and opportunities for Homeless Awareness Calgary Committee (HACC). There is much work to be done, and both of us are extremely excited to be moving forward with HACC, all of its members, partners and stakeholders!

Here's to the Future!

Teresa McDowell Hood & Bonnie Malach



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Who we are

Our History

Homeless Awareness Calgary (HACC) was formed in 1994 by a group of caring Calgary agencies. They were concerned about the issues surrounding homelessness in the city and wanted to develop a strategy to shed light on the condition of so many Calgarians struggling with homelessness.

Out of that meeting was born the very first Homeless Awareness Week in May 1995.

Six local agencies participated in that first Homeless Awareness Week.

Today, Homeless Awareness Week is coordinated by Homeless Awareness Calgary Committee, a group of dedicated non-profit and government agencies working in conjunction with volunteers and the United Way. HACC brings awareness to the complex issues surrounding homelessness, while helping facilitate relationships between the many local agencies that aid people who experience homelessness.

HACC has turned into a year-round organization. It focuses on not only Homeless Awareness Week, but also on educational programs and campaigns throughout the year. HACC supports agencies and community groups interested in hosting their own Homeless Awareness events or campaigns.

Our Vision, Mission, and Beliefs

While HACC does not claim to be the voice on all the issues of homelessness, we connect communities with professionals and individuals who can speak to the various issues of homelessness.

Our Mission: Encouraging community action on homelessness

Our Vision: A caring, responsive community toward homelessness

Our Beliefs: HACC exists to help build a caring, responsive community by building awareness.

HACC believes that with knowledge comes responsibility; with responsibility comes unified action initiated independently by concerned communities



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Our Members

Homeless Awareness Calgary Committee is primarily comprised of volunteer members. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our 2008 volunteers for all of their hard work and initiative. HACC would not exist if not for these dedicated people. The following groups provided volunteer members to Homeless Awareness Calgary Committee in 2008:

AIDS Calgary Awareness Association
Alpha House Society
Calgary Dream Centre
Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre
Calgary SCOPE Society
City of Calgary
Community Members
Hull Child and Family Services
McMan Youth Family & Community Services
Métis Calgary Family Services Society
More/Less Homelessness

Our Funder

Without the support of our funder, Homeless Awareness Calgary Committee would not be able to grow and continue to educate Calgarians about the important issues that impact those experiencing homelessness.

Thank you to the United Way of Calgary and Area.



BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES



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2008—The Year in Review

- January* HACC bids farewell & good luck to Larissa Kennedy, Maternity Leave Replacement Coordinator.
- February – July* HACC takes a hiatus while the Coordinator position is vacant
- August* Coordinator Bonnie Malach is welcomed back from maternity leave. Bonnie spends the month re-establishing relationships with funders and partners, as well as beginning to reorganize internal structures and processes.
- September* *Community Meeting:* After a six month hiatus, Homeless Awareness Calgary Committee (HACC) calls together various stakeholders in the community for a meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to determine if HACC had succeeded in its mission – to educate Calgarians about homelessness. The message from the community was clear – there was still a need for HACC in the Calgary landscape. The community stakeholders at the meeting also spoke about the voice that they hoped to hear HACC speak from – one of independence, that called Calgarians to action, spoke of the human aspect of homelessness, and one that was able to incorporate some pieces of advocacy into it.
- October* *Annual General Meeting:* Following the strong mandate that came out of the community meeting in September, it was decided that HACC would continue. In three short weeks, HACC arranged an external financial audit, and created a new Board of Directors. On October 16th, 2008, HACC held its Annual General Meeting where this new Board was voted in.
- November* HACC welcomes Teresa McDowell-Hood as Co-Coordinator into a job share position with Bonnie Malach
- Nov—December* Throughout November and December the Board of Directors and the Coordinators worked together to redevelop the Board, the organization and the staff. The two months were spent starting to look at the current landscape and where the organization currently stood within that landscape. The Coordinators continued to redevelop relationships with key stakeholders and partners.



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2008 Financial Summary

HOMELESS AWARENESS CALGARY COMMITTEE

FINANCIAL SUMMARY: 2008

Opening Balance		\$ 12,086.16
Income		
United Way	\$ 28,538.11	
Total Income		\$ 28,538.11
Expenditures		
Coordination	\$ 25,009.84	
Education	\$ -	
Evaluations	\$ -	
Launch	\$ 1,573.39	
Office Costs	\$ 5,511.75	
Public Relations	\$ 1,109.99	
Street Survivor	\$ -	
Transportation	\$ 669.60	
Total Expenditures		\$ 33,874.57
Ending Balance		\$ 6,749.70



Roseline Carter, Chair



Patricia Okahashi, Director



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Looking Forward—2009 and Beyond

The Year 2009 promises to bring many exciting developments for Homeless Awareness Calgary Committee (HACC). Our focus will be on organizational development and community development.

Organizational Development

As the landscape around homelessness and Calgarians level of awareness has changed over the past several years, HACC recognizes that it is time for a deep inward look at who we are, what we do and how we do. As part of this, continuing on with the hard work it started in the later part of 2008, HACC's Board of Directors will develop both a Strategic Plan and Business Plan in 2009.

As well, the Coordinators, in conjunction with the Board, will work diligently in 2009 to obtain sustainable and adequate funding for Homeless Awareness Calgary Committee to continue accomplishing its goals and mission.

Throughout 2009 and 2010 HACC will also review and update its programs and tools to ensure that they are up-to-date and reflec-

tive of the changing landscape.

During this same time period, HACC will be working to expand its membership base from both inside and outside of the homeless serving sector, we will continue with board and staff development and training, and continue to develop organizational policies and procedures.

As Homeless Awareness Calgary Committee continues to be an accountable organization, during 2009 and 2010 we will develop a new core evaluation process that is able to capture our unique outcomes.

While we continue to build upon the foundation of the organization, we will also continue our work in the community.

Community Development

After a one year hiatus, the Committee is excited to be preparing for the 13th Annual Homeless Awareness Week, to be held September 14th – 19th, 2009. This year's week promises to hold some new and exciting events as well as some old favourites! Stay tuned for more details in the coming months!!!

HACC will continue to engage Calgarians in conversations about the issue of homelessness through its year round awareness initiatives and presentations. We have also expanded our focus to include surrounding communities such as Airdrie.

Representatives of HACC will continue to participate in other important initiatives occurring in the Calgary area such as the Community Action Committee (CAC) and we will continue to engage with key stakeholders as we all work together to end homelessness.

Throughout 2010 and 2011 HACC will develop new and innovative programs that are reflective on the communities needs for awareness and action.

HACC recognizes that there is much left to do when it comes to awareness and involving our communities in responding to the issue of homelessness. The coming years will be busy and we are ready and excited to take on the challenges that lay ahead with all of our partners!



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