



Why Boyle Street?

ANNUAL REPORT 2021–2022

OUR MISSION:

To end chronic homelessness.



OUR VISION:

To see that all people grow healthier through involvement in strong, accepting and respectful communities.

COVER ARTIST: YAEL NEVILLE (JO N)

ARTIST BIO: I am from Vancouver, Montréal, and Alberta. Being the daughter of an artist and architect and the granddaughter of a civil engineer, art is a big part of my life. I did three years of arts study in Quebec during my teen years where I learned sketching, sculpture, metal engraving, painting, lino carving and printing, as well as drama, music and singing. I also pursued my interest in art on my own over the years. Some of my skills were learned from my mom. My art styles are contemporary, cubism, still life, religious, and mixed-medium. The mediums I like to work with are acrylics, watercolors, wood, metal (engravings), graphic arts, pencil, lino and photography. I joined Street Prints in late 2017. Several of my works have been displayed throughout Edmonton. One of my artwork has travelled throughout Canada and is now on permanent display at Hosanna Lutheran Church in Edmonton at their Peace Hall.

What inspires my art? Music. I feel the music and let it flow through onto the piece I am working on.

ART DESCRIPTION: "Farmland" - The different elements on this piece are from various views of several farmlands when I flew over Alberta. The Wheel is an acknowledgment of our Indigenous connection.

Boyle Street Community Services acknowledges that we operate on Treaty 6 Territory, a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including the Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe, and Inuit. We respect the histories, languages and cultures of First Nations, Métis, Inuit and all First Peoples of Canada who enrich our community. We continue to explore our relationship to the land and reflect on what it means to be Treaty people.





MESSAGE FROM

Jordan (he/him) & Krysta (she/her)

This year our focus has been centred on Boyle Street's strategic plan and growing both our prevention and intervention programs and services.

We remained adaptive and responsive to the changing needs of the community during another challenging year of the COVID-19 pandemic. As we emerge from this health crisis, we are just beginning to see the impacts it has had on the health and wellbeing of those we serve, our staff and the community at large.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we have persisted in examining, reflecting upon and renewing our practice. Guided by our Elders and Knowledge Keepers, we continue to explore our work through the lens of Indigenous worldviews and challenge our own preconceived, often colonial, notions to truly create lasting change. We strive to model the importance of land-based teachings and ceremony in all aspects of our work.

Boyle Street is dedicated to becoming a more equitable, inclusive and diverse organization. This year, we began an equity audit led by an external consulting team. This is an exciting and meaningful learning experience for the entire organization as we endeavour to be a place where differences are valued and respected and we are intentional about the identification and elimination of barriers.

Another key driver was the interdisciplinary approach to our work. When so many of our clients have complex and concurrent needs, we must be strategic and flexible in how we deliver services and meet them where they are at. This approach has proven successful in improving the overall health and wellbeing of clients across our organization. By incorporating interdisciplinary practice, we are beginning to tailor our response to each of our clients and provide wraparound supports that aim to improve their mental, physical, spiritual and cultural health.

We continue to use data to improve organizational decisions, learn from our work and tell our story. Like so many other sectors, the duration of the pandemic has forced us to rapidly adapt and implement changes to support organizational infrastructure. We are proud to be working with the Capital Region Mapping and Planning Support team to look critically at our data collection practices, service delivery methods and identify areas for collaboration with partners.

This year also allowed us to expand our housing portfolio by actioning innovative and bold new ways of housing the people we serve. We finalized the purchase of two new group living facilities for children in care; these homes set a new standard of excellence for how we care for children and the amenities offered to them. We also learned several lessons through the operations of Sandy's Place, Coliseum Inn and the Edmonton Isolation Facility bridge housing sites.

After seven long years of renovation and relocation discussions, Boyle Street finally sold our current community centre downtown and purchased a plot of land only two blocks away. This site will be the new home to our community centre programs and services and includes Trinity Manor, a 38-unit apartment complex which will eventually become home to many of our clients. In the months since purchasing the new building, we have been working closely with Beljan Developments, Hodgson Schliff Evans Architects (HSEA) and Chandos to make our vision for a purposebuilt, dignified community centre a reality. This project would not have been possible without the transformative partnership of the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation (EOCF) who generously donated \$10 million towards the project. We are very grateful for our partners who have stepped up to support our new building project, including Capital Power, the Preistner family, Leston Holdings, the Stollery Foundation, The Brick and Oilers Entertainment Group, among many others. Many of these partners now make up our capital campaign circle, led by our Elder Cliff Cardinal and Carman McNary.

Partnership remained a cornerstone of our work this year and allowed us to pursue opportunities that, alone, would have been unachievable. We are proud to have partnered with other inner-city agencies to create additional spaces for vulnerable community members at the tipinawaw (Expo) shelter over the winter. Our partnership with the Pope family has led to the creation of sakhita kikinaw, housing for female-identifying clients, and a new space for our managed alcohol program (MAP). We have also deepened our relationships with other youth-serving organizations through the Youth Agency Coordination (YAC) partnership. This project has led to unprecedented collaboration between youth-serving agencies in our city including a new initiative between Boyle Street Community Services and CHEW Project YEG to serve vulnerable 2SLGBTQQIA+ youth. As ever, our work within the C5 partnership remains strong as the Northeast Hub continues to expand and now includes services at the Clareview Community Recreation Centre.

As we reflect on the year, we would like to acknowledge our partners, funders and donors for continuing to support Boyle Street despite the struggles we all experienced during the pandemic. We thank our amazing staff group and volunteers for all the hard work they do every day. Boyle Street is blessed to have staff that are a constant and consistent caring force for those we walk alongside through good times and bad. You are an amazing group of people, and it is such a pleasure to be on the Boyle Street team with all of you!

Sincerely.

Jordan Reiniger (Executive Director) & Krysta Fitzgerald (Deputy Executive Director)

MESSAGE FROM THE

Board Chair

The past year has provided numerous opportunities for the organization and the sector to move forward in a significant way. While the environment has not been without challenges, there is much to celebrate.

When compiling the list of accomplishments of the staff over the past year, it seemed to be infinite, so I had to take a bit of a summary approach.

This year we had the honour of announcing our new building. We have since undertaken much community consultation and design and have secured a general contractor. The capital campaign to raise \$13.5 million and has had a strong start with a number of leadership donations from individuals, corporations and foundations.

This undertaking is a once-in-a-generation infrastructure project, reshaping Edmonton's inner city, demonstrating what can be achieved through collaboration and redefining what service delivery can look like in the sector.

As we like to say at Boyle Street, "it is more than a building." This phrase has become synonymous with the project and really captures the organization's vision. An individual without housing deserves the same access to community and facilities that others have come to expect.

The organization has been relentless in not compromising for a lesser project, as those we serve deserve nothing less. I thank the board, the leadership team, the staff and the wider community for making this dream a reality. It was only through our values of creativity, innovation, risk-taking and a risk-taking and focus on the best interest of those we are serving that the organization was able to accomplish such a once-in-a-generation infrastructure project.

Boyle Street Community Services continues to work to create healthier, safer and more inclusive spaces for all. Culture as practice has been a strategic planning initiative with great momentum and some early wins, which include an equity audit, the establishment of an Elder's Council and circle facilitation training.

We have most recently engaged in a comprehensive equity review of the organization to ensure that systemic forms of discrimination within the organization are reduced and eliminated over time. Such an in-depth examination will help to facilitate the development and implementation of culture as practice throughout the organization.

Another major accomplishment of the organization this past year is the continued relationship building with Indigenous communities. The creation of the Elders' Council promises to fill a significant gap in service delivery, in that we are now better placed to provide cultural and spiritual supports to those we serve.

Council members, consisting of Elders from across the province, have been extremely generous in sharing their time, knowledge and guidance with the board, staff and community members. While only having had the council structure for a few months, it has already proven to be a great resource for the board to consult on significant decisions. Elders continue to visit our sites across the city to engage with staff and community.

The organization has been able to further improve its longterm financial stability through the acquisition of housing assets. Our strategic plan identified that there is not one housing model that works for everyone, and that housing choice is necessary in individualized journeys. Some achievements with housing choice this past year include:

- The purchase and completion of extensive renovations of our Bonnie Doon GLP facility to make it fit for purpose and, most importantly, set a high bar in the sector for standard of care;
- The purchase of the second GLP property in McCauley, with renovations currently underway;
- The purchase of a single-family home as a continued experimentation with the delivery of housing choice;
- Finalized the purchase of the new community centre building, which includes a significant asset, Trinity Manor, which falls within a proven housing model where residents will be in close proximity to supports;
- Partnered with the Pope family to open sakhita kikinaw, which means house of love. The facility offers 28 housing units for female-identifying people who are experiencing homelessness and poverty in Edmonton.

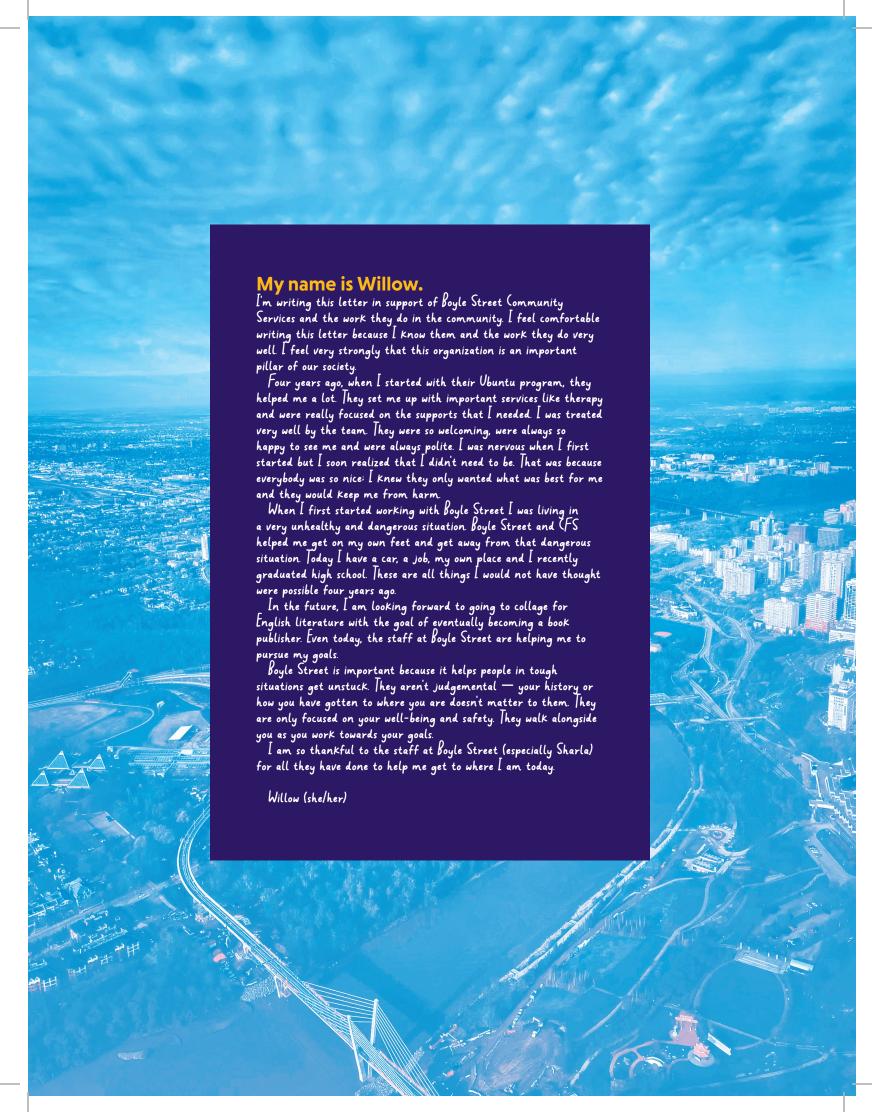
The board is very proud of the organization and proud of the team at Boyle Street. The milestones mentioned thus far are simply that, just milestones. Even these major achievements are small compared to the impact of the daily interactions between community members and staff.

I would like to thank the staff at Boyle Street for their continued progress toward the vision of seeing that all people grow healthier through involvement in strong, accepting and respectful communities. We are continually inspired by their talent, innovation, strength, perseverance and resilience. All of the successes of the organization over the past year are singularly a result of the staff at Boyle Street. On behalf of the board, I would like to strongly emphasize a thank you to each and every one of you for the work you do and for the passion and resilience that you bring to the job every day.

As an organization, we are proud of our community members. Individuals and families who continue to face barriers and intergenerational trauma yet face each day with positivity and hope. We continue to be guided by the knowledge and strength of the people we serve.

Greg Bott (he/him), Chair BSSS Board of Directors





Locations in Edmonton*

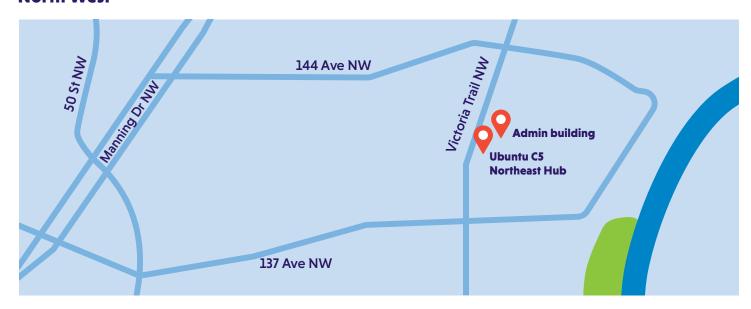
Downtown



New affordable shared accommodation house

Centre-West Side of Edmonton

North West



Over 7,036

UNIQUE VISITS TO THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

2,232 I.D. cards

REGISTERED TO OUR COMMUNITY



530 people housed

AND ASSISTED TO MAINTAIN HOUSING



82,200 meals

SERVED TO OUR COMMUNITY



80,390 litres

OF LITTER REMOVED



4,835 contacts

MADE BY STREET OUTREACH



EMPLOYED IN OUR SOCIAL ENTERPRISES (90% OF WHICH ARE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY)

3,000+

BANK ACCOUNTS

13,100

HOURS COMMITTED BY

375

VOLUNTEERS











COVID-19: Current Situation and Future Impacts

While many challenges predate the COVID-19 pandemic, the pressures created by our communal response to the public health crisis, while necessary, have greatly exacerbated an already challenging situation. These impacts have manifested themselves in several ways across our organization.

Programs that support children and families have begun to see increases in both the number of apprehensions of children and the severity of the situations in which they are involved. This is putting resourcing pressure on our programs in order to meet the increased demand for support.

We are seeing a surge in instances of domestic violence and individuals trying to flee dangerous home situations, which is placing increased strain on an already-stretched housing situation.

A sustained downward pressure on the economy and the emerging rise of inflation has resulted in an increase in individuals entering poverty and made meeting basic needs virtually impossible for those who were already on the margins.

Finally, the drug poisoning crisis in our community has only worsened in the last 24 months and continues to present a tremendous and dangerous situation that our community and staff face daily. Each day, four Albertans are dying as a result of overdose. These preventable deaths are devastating lives and communities and their result will contribute to greater challenges for generations to come.

While these challenges seem great, they have also crystalized our organizational resolve to create more supports to meet the growing needs of our community. Through COVID-19, we saw great success moving people out of homelessness and poverty through programs like our transitional housing projects. By partnering with other local agencies we created emergency shelters for those with no other place to go and, above all, focused our efforts on solution-focused programmatic responses to the ever-shifting needs of those we serve. We've leveraged our 50 years of experience in the sector while remaining committed to innovation and creativity in all we do. Boyle Street Community Services and the work of our organization is needed now more than ever and we remain committed to disrupting these worrying trends and ultimately

achieving our mission of ending chronic homelessness in Edmonton.

As we look to the future post-COVID, we remain steadfast in our belief that now is not the time to relent in our pursuit of additional programs and services for those who struggle with poverty and violence. While the virus that has blanketed our world may be subsiding, the lasting and impactful consequences of its emergence have not. Boyle Street will continue to advocate fiercely to all levels of government for additional resources that address this new set of challenges.

Our clients remind us regularly that, as we all "return to normal," the situation they are returning to is vastly different than what they remember. Services that were once readily available have now become limited, or do not exist at all. Moving forward, we will continue to partner with those we serve to identify those gaps and strive to fill them. We know we cannot do it alone. In the past two years, we have significantly grown our capacity to work collaboratively with those across our sector to address complex challenges. As we move forward as an organization, we will continue to pursue partnership with those in our sector, governments, emergency services and the private sector – because we believe strongly that a community challenge demands a community response.

COVID-19 and its impacts cannot be understated; however, Boyle Street Community Services remains mobilized and ready to take on these complex outcomes now and into the future.

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How long to access recovery?

The average wait time to access recovery is 6-8 weeks long.

Purpose Statement

Our mission at Boyle Street Community Services is to end chronic homelessness.

Our strategy to achieve our mission:

- 1. We focus on two distinct, inter-related service lines and advocacy streams: prevention and intervention.
 - a. Prevention addresses aspects we know are leading causes of chronic homelessness and end it before it begins.
 - **b.** Intervention supports those already caught in chronic homelessness to move beyond it.
- 2. We are led by the knowledge and strength of the people we serve and empowered by data.
 - a. We ensure those we work with are determining their own path; our role is to walk alongside, provide support, encouragement and continually offer opportunity and choice. We are a motivating force when they need it.
 - **b.** We are guided by our values and know that lasting change comes from building holistic resiliency: mental, emotional, physical and spiritual resiliency in balance.
 - We use data and research to constantly reflect, refine and improve our work and to make better, quicker organizational decisions.
- 3. We relentlessly advocate on behalf of those we serve to create system changes.
 - a. We leverage partnerships to amplify the voices of those we serve and challenge systems that are not working in the best interests of those we serve.

Our core ambitions are:

- Everyone we work with has a safe place to call home.
- Everyone we work with feels connected to family and community.
- Everyone we work with is building holistic resiliency.
- Everyone we work with feels a sense of purpose and meaning in their life.
- Everyone we work with needs us less and less over time.

The culture we will foster to achieve our mission will be:

- Driven by our organizational
- A relentless focus on the best interest of those we are serving, even when it is difficult.
- Creative, innovative and risk-taking.
- Learning from what we do and constantly challenging assumptions, long-held beliefs and ways of practice.
- Freedom and autonomy by all team members to be nimble and adaptive to the needs of those we serve.
- Highly accountable to each other and those we serve for decisions and







Everyone We Work With Feels Connected to Family and Community

Social isolation is a significant challenge within our community — and largely shouldered by the most vulnerable individuals. Boyle Street Community Services works to rebuild severed connections damaged by poverty and worsened by the pandemic.

For many of the people we serve, Boyle Street's Drop-In (located at our downtown Community Centre) forms the heart of a vibrant social life — creating space for people with a common lived experience on society's margins. These connections are formed by communal meals and activities, Indigenous ceremonies and the bonds that grow from shared experiences.

With social distancing measures severely reducing our building's capacity, a smaller cohort of daily visitors means that Boyle Street Community Services can more intentionally foster a sense of belonging within the space. Familiar faces are particularly meaningful for newly housed individuals, abruptly isolated from neighbours and friends.

For folks who visit us downtown, developing a sense of shared belonging begins with intake and reception. This entrance space functions as a knowledge and connection hub—creating notice about events in the local Indigenous community and recording kinship bonds with Nations and families. Our ability to connect people to families is particularly important within the context of an acute opioid crisis and tragically commonplace overdoses. Boyle Street is also able to help return people to their home communities and Nations (where they are often much safer).

Intake is what we call a *light touch* service, relying on short interventions that create connections. For newcomers, this means a welcoming atmosphere that results in the best referral possible — to emergency assistance, meals, housing, family services or other support. The data gathered through these interactions mean that Boyle Street Community Services can be more intentional about its work. A heavier service user can be prioritized through our digital platform for a more in-depth conversation, and the referrals they need to meaningfully address their priorities.

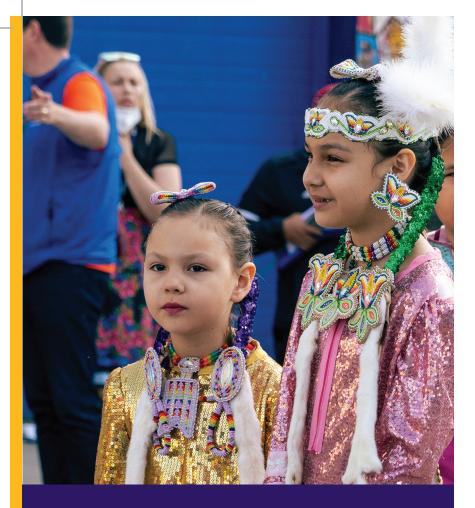
Boyle Street Community Services also operates Ubuntu, a partnership with Children's Services in Edmonton's underserved northeast. With the aim of keeping vulnerable families intact, our collaborative service model is founded on culture, family and community as key avenues for success. This means connecting isolated households to the cultural, family and faith communities that can strengthen missing support networks.

Ubuntu importantly connects children to the kinship homes of friends and families in times when children cannot remain with their parents. This approach keeps vital connections to culture and family intact whenever possible.



[Boyle Street] is all about saving lives by keeping people safe. They offer great programs like Hire Good, housing supports, mental health, counselling and harm reduction services. They are so important for people experiencing challenges in their lives."

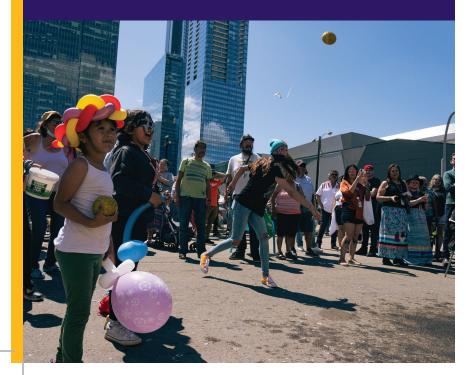
 CODEY GIBBONS (HE/HIM), BOYLE STREET COMMUNITY SERVICES' SERVICE USER



8

How many children receiving child intervention services?

The most recent available data shows that over 16,000 children are receiving child intervention services.



Everyone We Work With is Building Holistic Resiliency

Boyle Street Community Service's approach to well-being is founded on strengthening the protective factors we need to thrive as both individuals and as a community. This means intentional work to foster physical, spiritual, mental and emotional health in unison.

Street-involved youth are a key target population at Boyle Street Community Services, being both highly vulnerable and often possessing stronger adaptive capacity to change. In response, Boyle Street's **Youth Program** supports young people ages 16–26 building holistic resilience and protective factors within this unique context.

The traumatic lived and intergenerational impacts of colonization also mean that Indigenous people are dramatically overrepresented among Edmonton's street-involved community. The Indian Residential School Program supports survivors (and their families) to restore the identity, purpose, belonging and selfworth intentionally stripped away by residential schools. This initiative carries particular weight in the wake of a collective grieving and repetitive trauma brought on by the rediscovery of unmarked gravesites.

A holistic wellness initiative, the Community Wellness Connection Program, creates opportunities for people to learn skills and build preventative mental health capacities. The participatory nature of the program means that skills are learned through physical activity, storytelling, artistic engagement and connection to living things and our shared earth.

What bonds these programs is a shared commitment to support every person's journey to a sense of holistic resiliency. As Indigenous people, this journey often takes the form of a greater spiritual connection to culture, language, ceremony and identity. Boyle Street creates opportunities for outings with the land that are missing from inner city life. Our team also facilitates artistic and cultural expression, often sparking memories of family that lead to poignant storytelling.

This work sparks meaningful conversations about self-worth and belonging — developing what Boyle Street Community Services calls emotional resiliency. In tandem, we contribute a dedicated **2SLGBTQQIA+** worker at a partner agency to restore self-worth among youth living at the intersections of poverty and sexual and gender-diverse identities. Boyle Street also assists individuals caring for pets, often the only trusting connections possible for individuals affected by a persistent lack of personal safety.

More clinical approaches facilitate connections to therapy and addictions support. This outlook toward mental health positions community members at the centre of their own journeys rather than prescribing their individual priorities.

Boyle Street reinforces these holistic aspects of resiliency through physical wellness. While this can mean sports and activity, our team shares important self-care skills and coordinates outings away from the city.

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How many people are experiencing homelessness?

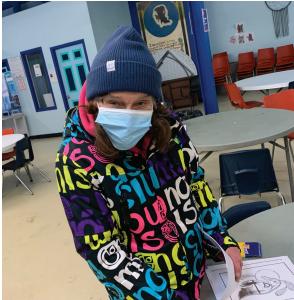
2,900

Currently there are an estimated 3,000 individuals looking for housing in our city. However, based on our current service levels, we strongly feel that number is much higher.

7,000

Boyle Street provided supports to over 7,000 individuals at our downtown Community Centre this year.





Everyone We Work With Needs Us Less and Less Over Time

Most often, folks seek out Boyle Street Community Services at times of acute crises, seeking basic needs, family support, counselling and connection. Our organization collaborates with people who need immediate solutions, then works to foster the protective factors that mean individuals need us less and less over time.

Boyle Street's **Housing First** program provides an ideal illustration of this approach. Working with individuals experiencing chronic homelessness, Housing First leverages the security of a home as a stable environment to address other barriers. Over time, participants then need our support less and less.

Connecting individuals to sustainable housing satisfies an immediate basic need among marginalized community members that lack a safe place to call home. Over an approximately 12-month period, participants are then referred to the supports that address their individual needs – physicians, employment services, help securing identification, mental health support or help managing addictions rooted in traumatic experiences. This critical stability allows people to heal, make appointments and develop an independence that relies on Boyle Street Services less over time.

The Mobile Outreach Addictions Team shares a common harm

reduction approach to inner city services. Boyle Street Community Services recognizes that addictions can be lifelong and that meeting people where they are at can also mean continued substance use. Knowing that individual wellness is not the same for everyone, our team is able to support people to learn skills to advocate for themselves.

Although based in our Community Centre, the Mobile Outreach Addictions Team can meet community members wherever they need. The team removes any barriers to treatment possible, connecting people to funding, transportation and help applying to appropriate programs. Removing barriers can also mean referrals to the basic needs required to address addictions from a position of stability — clothing, housing, food and income support. In effect, our outreach equips community members with the capacity to advocate with growing independence.

Boyle Street's Youth Community Support Program also builds independence for people facing acute crises — in this case 12–18 year-olds at severe risk from suicide and self-harm. This intensive team works with young people, their families and outreach workers to reduce the vulnerabilities that create a dependence on self-harm. A successful transition from this program means no longer being dependent on this long-term intervention for personal safety.



Everyone We Work With has Purpose and Meaning

Damaged by lived and intergenerational trauma, restoring purpose and meaning is central to the deeply personal sense of identity that people deserve and need. Boyle Street Community Services facilitates opportunities to both build and maintain self-worth through a range of services and a vibrant volunteer community.

This work is core to our vision to see that all people grow healthier through involvement in strong, accepting and respectful communities.

Seeing events as fitting within a larger picture can be uniquely challenging to people forced to simply survive on a daily or hourly basis. **Urban Counselling** offers a particularly innovative approach to clinical practice that builds purpose among such a vulnerable community.

In tangible terms, counsellors engage community members based on what is important that day, while purposefully framing conversations around larger individual goals. Participants guide this process themselves, determining what purpose means within their own personal context. In the long term, community members are often able to develop a new or restored sense of self.

Employee Mentorship fosters the esteem of feeling wanted that is largely absent from backgrounds impacted by trauma. This Boyle Street initiative takes referrals from our housing program and other agencies to build capacities for sustainable employment — often a key component in a broader framing of self-worth.

Over a six-month period, participants learn behavioural and work skills that may have been missed through lived and intergenerational factors: appropriate attire, communicating over text, interview skills, employment expectations and more. Referrals to employers (including Boyle Street's social enterprise, Hire Good) results in encouragingly high retention. Participants also report improved confidence coupled with a diminished loneliness that comes from daily social interaction. In short, our community reports that employee mentorship creates community, meaning and belonging among otherwise economically marginalized people.

Boyle Street Community Services opens other avenues for purpose through its vibrant Volunteer Services program. Our equity-based approach means that both Boyle Street service users and the general public share equitable access to volunteer opportunities.

As an open opportunity to give back, community members often share their joy from feeling wanted. Volunteers from the general public also report a greater connection to community and pride through their acts of service.

SUCCESS STORIES

(harlie (name changed) had just arrived in Edmonton from northern Alberta. He stood in front of ID Services with all his belongings (a backpack). His long black braids showed the pride he carried as an Indigenous man. He had worked in the oilfield industry for most of his life but due to changing circumstances, he was homeless, had no income and lacked ID. (harlie was eager to "get back on the rigs," but he needed some help. His dream is to one day to have a nice place of his own.

Within three weeks we were able to get his birth certificate and photo ID. He is now upgrading his workplace certificates so he can get rehired with his former employer. He comes in weekly to 'check-in' with the ID Services team. When we tell him that he is a good man, he tears up. It is obvious that he has not heard these words in his life often. He now has a sparkle in his eyes and continues to gain confidence.

Successes like this have happened more than 2,000 times this past year.



I think the thing that made us feel great about our relationship [with Boyle Street] — we were actually helping make an impact in people's lives. We're just so happy that we could create the job opportunities that we did with our event series. That, to me, was the most rewarding part — knowing that we were able to help out. It meant more to me to be able to create opportunities than it did to make the donation itself."

- MIKE ANDERSON (HE/HIM), TRIXSTAR PRODUCTIONS



SUCCESS STORIES

Merril (name changed) has been a part of the H.E.R. program since 2017 with all three of her children. She lost her mom to alcoholism when she was under the age of 12 and grew up with her dad who used drugs problematically. She started using IV drugs at the age of 13 and thought she would be using drugs her whole life.

After the father of her two oldest attacked her and put her in the hospital, Merril was able to get support through Pregnancy Pathways. When she was released, she was able to parent her firstborn son again and, after transitioning out of that program, became pregnant with her daughter.

She chose on her own to want sobriety and expressed she wanted to work alongside the H.E.R. program so she could give back and help people. Merril has been sober since the end of January 2022. She graduated from a treatment centre on June 28 and is currently in a family reunification home through The Family (entre.

There are 63 other stories just like this one from the past year.

Everyone We Work With Has a Place to call Home

Our mission – to end chronic homelessness, is central to our core ambitions. As such, Boyle Street Community Services offers a range of housing choice for the broad diversity that makes up our valued community. In simple terms, our community (and everyone) needs an appropriate place to call home.

The implications of COVID-19 (limited access to services, greater social isolation) amplify the need for sustainable housing options for marginalized people. Boyle Street's *sakihta kikinaw* (Cree for "house of love") offers flexible and longer-term choice for female-identifying people experiencing homelessness and poverty. Flexible housing is an option that gives community members a safe space to stay for as long as they need, from several months to several years. Given the lack of safe choices for women with active addictions, *sakihta kikinaw* may offer a harm reduction approach to housing that is closer to permanent.

Staying longer in flexible housing allows community members with complex needs to get connected to the services they need to sustain their own homes. Residents convey that this stability saved lives through reduced consumption and offered a rare affirming home for gender-diverse people. Women also share that having this place to call home opens doors to reunite families and restore child custody.

Flexible Housing at Boyle Street also refers to an array of other adult housing options in the Edmonton region. Each program offers the opportunity to navigate life's complexities without needing to secure market housing. On-site support staff also facilitates connections that address these complexities — through doctor's appointments, referrals to mental health services, skills development and more. Most importantly, participation means the stability and dignity of a secure place to call home.

Boyle Street Community Services also offers options for children and youth who cannot live in a home with their caregivers. Our **Group Living Programs** make every effort to make this difficult situation as pleasant as possible. We do this by engaging with young people as individuals and as a valued

part of decision-making. Our multiple group living options are tailored to unique cohorts, while offering a non-institutional approach to this type of living.

Boyle Street's ultimate goal is reunification, whether with immediate or kinship families (extended family, close friends, etc.). In other cases, best outcomes can include foster placements that unite siblings or supporting mature youth to successfully transition to independent homes.



Having the chance to [work at Boyle Street] full-time is exciting... The chance to do this work has been really rewarding, because everything I do matters — not just for Boyle Street, but for the people we serve... Even if we have a small role, it matters to the work that we do."

 TYLER (SHE/HER), COMMUNITY CENTRE DATA ADMINISTRATOR **Treaty and Culture**

Knowledge Keeper and Elder Guidance

In alignment with our practice renewal and our organizational strategic plan, Boyle Street Community Services has placed an immense focus on Knowledge Keeper and Elder guidance through teachings and ceremony. This year, Boyle Street held our first Elder Gathering. This twoday gathering facilitated meaningful connections between our Elders and our Board, our Leadership team, our staff and our community members. As such, our staff have more awareness of our role as Treaty people in engaging in Indigenous ways of knowing and understanding of culture and practices. This renewal has also resulted in the strengthening of our relationships with our Knowledge Keepers and Elders, allowing us to benefit from a more involved Indigenous presence across our organization. For example, we now have an Elder involved in our Group Living Programs who has become a kokum (nêhiyawêwin – also known as the Cree word for "grandmother") to the children. Additionally, we have gained from the guidance of Elders who are available regularly for our community members through our Ubuntu programming, as well as our Community Centre programming.

miyo-pimâtisiwin

The concept of miyo-pimâtisiwin (loosely translating to "living the good life") describes a state of harmonious well-being based on healthy relationships, cultural identity and connection to Services values the teachings of miyo-pimâtisiwin, this directly translates to a staff group that can preserve personal balance, as well as model wellness for members of our community. As such, our organization has allocated more resources to well-being: mental, physical, emotional and spiritual health.

"As we all know, this work can take its toll if you're not balanced in your own way... it was important for us to offer flexibility and specialized services for our staff to utilize."

- KRYSTA FITZGERALD (SHE/HER), **DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

We've continued to grow our focus on landbased teachings over time. Last year, Boyle Street Community Services hosted over 20 medicine picking trips out of the city where our community teachings under the guidance of our Elders and Knowledge Keepers. Land-based teachings are environmentally-focused approaches to education that recognize the deep, physical, mental and

Looking Forward

We are grateful to be able to continue building key relationships with organizations that offer circle facilitation and other Indigenous teachings, including our C5 partner, Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society and the Transformative C.I.R.C.L.E. Practice Centre Inc. (TCPC). As an organization, we are taking these teachings and building them into the work being done as a result of our Equity Analysis.

"This is the direction we're heading as an organization, and that work is being built into our equity planning. Asking questions like, 'What does it mean to demonstrate equity in terms of reconciliation?' and 'What does that mean for our organization?"

- KRYSTA FITZGERALD (SHE/HER), **DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



Circle Facilitation and Cultural Teachings

Treaty people.

As a part of our recommitment to holistic wellness, we have implemented circle programming. Talking circles (or, circle talks) are a practice based on open communication between participants, where each speaker is valued as an equal. During a talking circle, a selected item is dedicated as the sacred item passed to each speaker. When a speaker has the item, they are the only one allowed to speak, while other participants are asked to listen actively. Each speaker is encouraged to speak openly and from the heart, with the confidence that the conversation shared in the circle will remain confidential between circle participants. When everyone has their turn to speak, it creates an atmosphere of interconnectedness, respect and mutual learning. Through the circle program, we've trained a number of our staff to act as circle facilitators, who practice facilitation directly within their teams. Having more trained staff helps to fulfill an ongoing need within our organization to have more facilitators available to host circles when members of our community express a desire to participate. As a direct result of this cultural training, we now have a Circle Facilitator available for the women accessing flexible housing services at sakihta kikinaw. Additionally, there are more staff who are comfortable offering smudge, as they've received the appropriate guidance from Indigenous Knowledge Keepers across our organization. "Smudge", or "smudging", refers to the burning of sacred herbs and medicines as a part of a ritual used for cleansing and/or health purposes.





Partnership – The Key to Our Success

At Boyle Street Community Services, we have a broad definition of what partnership is and who we have it with. In the last year, building and maintaining partnerships has been an organizational priority that has reaped considerable rewards for those we serve.

Working with our sector partners, we have responded to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic by creating shelter spaces at the height of outbreaks, developing creative housing solutions for individuals unable to quarantine and creating a sector data-system allowing us to accurately track the number and housing status of individuals accessing services across the sector. The last year has reinforced for us that the more collaborative we are able to be with our sector, the better the outcomes for those we serve.

Those that support the work we do as an organization — our donors — are also valued partners. Donations to our organization take many forms, from a small donation to support our Emergency Response Fund, to the \$10,000,000 contribution to our #BuildWithBoyle capital campaign from the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation. Regardless of the size or type of gift, these contributions are critical to our ability to provide services. As in any partnership, there is also give and take. We take very seriously our donors contributions to our work and are diligent that those dollars result in better outcomes for those we serve. In the past year, we have modernized our fundraising processes to ensure accountability. More information on our fundraising successes and our financial information can be found in this report.

This year, we also grew our capacity to engage with local stakeholders interested in issues of poverty and homelessness by partnering with numerous groups to create a safer, more inclusive community. Our community engagement work introduced the public to the relocation of our downtown community centre. We held over 50 stakeholder meetings with local businesses, Business Improvement Areas (BIAs), community leagues, community groups (like the Chinatown Transformation Collaborative) and residents from surrounding communities. We also served as active participants in numerous City of Edmonton consultation processes and community lead groups like the Safer Chinatown and Downtown Vibrancy and Safety Committees. We were invited to participate in the Government of Alberta's Homelessness Taskforce process and continue to

regularly advocate to all levels of government for additional resources and supports related to their governmental priorities.

We are committed to partnering with all so we can find meaningful and impactful solutions to the challenges our city faces. While the challenges are great, we know that, through meaningful conversations and partnerships, better outcomes are achievable if we work together.

Boyle Street Community Services also understands that true partnership is not an end-goal but rather an ongoing and active process. In the future, we both look forward to maintaining the work that has already begun and seeking new opportunities to work collaboratively.

We are proud of the work we have started with the Edmonton Youth Collaborative, a group of organizations that have come together to create better service delivery paths for youth experiencing homelessness and poverty. While this partnership remains in the early stages of development, we are excited about its progress and the implications it will have on youth in 2023 and beyond.

Similarly, this coming year we are actively engaging with partners in the business community to help address some the challenges they are experiencing as they and their staff return to work. We've recently announced two future projects with Edmonton City Centre Mall and the City of Edmonton to provide harm reduction and overdose response supports to the mall and the surrounding pedway system. This program will ensure individuals using substances are provided supports, connected to services and that, in emergency overdose situations, trained medical staff are on site and available to respond.

An emerging initiative in our organization is our newly formalized business education certificate program, Boyle Street Academy of Understanding (BSAU). This four-class certificate program aims to arm participants with relevant and important information regarding the challenges and stigmatization related to homelessness in a way that is safe and inviting. Graduates from the program receive training that provides them the strategies and learnings they need to ensure their interactions with individuals experiencing homelessness in Edmonton are positive. Registration for the revamped BSAU program will be available in Fall 2022.

As we continue to grow as an organization, we will continue to look for opportunities to partner with all Edmontonians to bring better services and supports to those we serve.





Youth and Families

In our work with vulnerable Edmontonians, we are often working with youth and families of all kinds. Working with sector partners, regulators and our clients, we are dedicated to delivering robust programs and services that show those we serve they are part of a greater community that respects and supports them.

As part of these efforts, Boyle Street Community Services operates an inner-city youth focused team known simply as Youth Services. The Youth Services team helps connect vulnerable youth aged 15 to 26 with the necessary services they need to find stability and break the cycle of poverty and homelessness. They do a lot of outreach work, often driving throughout the city in order to connect with youth who might not come to the drop-in at our Community Centre. Each member of the Youth Services team strives to be a source of support and confidence for these youth while ensuring they gain stability and independence.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, our Youth Services team has taken a leadership role in preventing and reducing youth homelessness. The team is part of the city-wide collective called the Youth Agency Collaborative (YAC) (of which our Ubuntu and C5 youth teams are also a part) which meets monthly. YAC member organizations participate together in ceremony for the youth they serve and work to draw people into conversation regarding youth homelessness. The focus is to advocate for a city-wide model for youth in order to prevent youth from becoming, or staying, homeless and prevent them from becoming adults who experience homelessness.

In that coordinated youth response with the YAC, we have been able to identify over 2,000 at-risk youth in one year (Sept 2020 to Sept 2021) who were experiencing homelessness, most of whom were under 18. This was a surprise, as the number was thought to be lower than that. They are also seeing an increased number of homeless youth month by month, which is understandably concerning and something the YAC is paying special attention to as time goes on.

Looking ahead, the future of Youth Services will start to look different with the advent of the Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families, also known as Bill C-92. The act was developed with the intent to:

- Affirm the rights of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services
- Establish national principles such as the best interests of the child, cultural continuity and substantive equality
- Contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Provide an opportunity for Indigenous peoples to choose their own solutions for their children and families
- The act came into force in January 2020 and means that Indigenous groups who wish to do so can design and deliver child and family services solutions that best suit their poods.

Boyle Street has already shifted and continues to shift some of our practices to support our First Nations partners in helping them to build their laws and capacity to take on their children. We have a long history of supporting the Nations we work with through our efforts with their youth, families and even adults who need our help. We are focusing on deepening our relationships with these First Nations partners, some that we have known and worked with for years. Because so many children will be going back to their nations, we know that we can build on our already special relationship with many nations to support them as they transition to bringing their children back home.

While the future of this new system is murky, our role as people of treaty and reconciliation means that we will be doing everything we can to support the Nations we serve.





Responding to Needs When and Where We See Them

We have faced over a year of unpredictability in all facets of life and society. The people we serve – people made vulnerable – feel the immense pressure of this as they work to have their basic needs met every day. Throughout the pandemic, the number of people experiencing homelessness in Edmonton has more than doubled, and the number of services available to them is limited as a result of restrictions. As we serve individuals and families from all walks of life, meeting people where they are is critical to our approach. This method ensures that we are not putting parameters on how people are able to have their needs met — whether that's establishing new services and service sites, providing harm reduction supplies or increasing the presence of outreach services across the city.

In 2021, our Street Outreach teams made contact with 4,835 people living rough in our city. This form of outreach literally meets people where they are and also fosters connectivity, belonging, respect and compassion.

Creating a Home for Our Community

All individuals, regardless of circumstances, deserve to live in a place that makes them feel safe, cared for and valued. We strive

to create homes where children, youth, families and adults can heal, grow their self-esteem, revive their confidence and pursue their interests. Currently, there are limited options for safe housing for women who are experiencing homelessness, as women often have to navigate high-risk environments to access a warm place to sleep. This need for housing services is amplified by the complications of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of our latest housing initiatives, sakihta kikinaw, offers 28 housing units for female-identifying people who are experiencing homelessness. This program offers flexible, low-income housing for women as a safe space to stay for as long as they need before transitioning into long-term housing, with Boyle Street providing programming and 24/7 on-site workers to help support residents.

Through a variety of supporters and fundraising initiatives, we have successfully secured funds to cover 31 months of rent for women accessing flexible housing at sakihta kikinaw.

Innovative **Programming**

Many of the sites and services that Boyle Street Community Services offers are "one of a kind" in Edmonton, and sometimes even in Alberta. Our relationships with those we serve are at the core of our work and we can identify specific gaps by centring their voices through these relationships. By listening to the lived experience of our community members, we can find ways to formulate specific

programming that fosters the respect and dignity that our clients deserve. As an organization, we are willing to take these risks because we want to provide the best, most efficient and flexible services to individuals made vulnerable.

Our ID Services program helps people acquire and store their personal identification, including Status cards, birth certificates and Alberta Health Care Cards. Through the tireless work of our ID Services Coordinator, we were able to provide 2,232 personal identification cards in 2021 for members of our community.

Comfort, Care and Dignity for Our Clients

Beyond basic needs is a sense of belonging, joy and connection; many of the people we serve fulfill these needs through access to culture and land-based teachings. Having flexibility of funding means that we can centre a relational approach to working with our community members, going beyond the concept of a statistic or a reporting measure and instead valuing each person's individual story, lived experience and needs. Our Community Kitchen, located in our Community Centre, serves nutritious and delicious meals that bring staff, clients and the public together to develop a healthy, nourished and connected community. Sharing a meal is a great way to establish a relationship, as meals are often the starting point for further engagement with our services.

In 2021, our Community Kitchen served 82,200 meals to members of our community.

Balance Sheet

2021 TOTAL: \$39,539,449

2022 TOTAL:

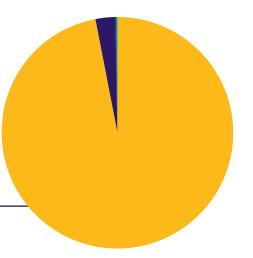
2021 TOTAL:

2022 TOTAL:

\$37,385,366

\$37,936,689

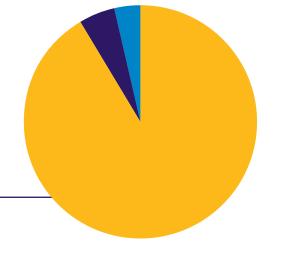
\$39,584,275



Pie Chart Revenue 2021

- Revenue (Grants, Donation, Casino/Bingo) \$38,358,333
- Boyle Street Ventures \$1,163,576
- Other (Investments, etc.) \$17,540

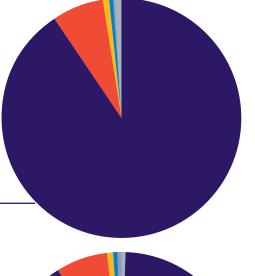
Total: \$39,539,449



Pie Chart Revenue 2022

- Revenue (Grants, Donation, Casino/Bingo) \$36,177,220
- Boyle Street Ventures \$1,984,844
- Other (Investments, etc.) \$1,422,211

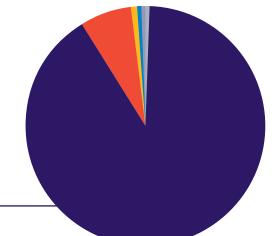
Total: \$39,584,275



Pie Chart Expenditures 2021 ■ Program delivery \$34,536,724

- Administration \$2,623,049
- IT \$407,603
- Staff Training \$132,657
- Tax \$44,186
- Interest/Amortization \$152,266

Total \$37,936,689



Pie Chart Expenditures 2022 ■ Program delivery \$33,908,259

- Administration \$2,609,987
- IT \$352,589
- Staff Training \$180,715
- Tax \$52,463
- Interest/Amortization \$289,629

Total \$37,385,366

*Fully audited 2021/2022 financial statements can be found on our website at boylestreet.org/annualreports

Homelessness in the Core



While current housing strategies do well to support the newly homeless and those who experience fewer barriers, a significant gap has emerged for those with incredibly complex needs. For them, the severity of barriers has only increased over the last five years.

Those who experience prolonged or entrenched homelessness — many with significant, untreated mental and physical illness, serious substance use and social and spiritual challenges — have no appropriate facility to support them. The complexity of needs becomes overwhelming and difficult to escape. That any do — and many do — is a testament to their resiliency and courage.

These are the individuals that Boyle Street Community Services aims to support.

They know our services and trust our organization. Many are denied entry elsewhere, and BSCS is their last place of refuge. Our current facility has experienced five major floods since 2016. It is currently crumbling and without significant upgrades will soon be unusable, potentially leaving those we serve with nowhere to go.

Our new facility, located just two blocks away at 107 Avenue and 101 Street, is a gutted 75,000 square foot concrete structure with adjacent bare lands and apartment building. Alongside some of Edmonton's foremost developers and architects, we have created plans for an outstanding transformational building and grounds that will focus on housing, support and facilitation of our operations. This new facility is a part of the solution to the challenges being faced by our city's core. It will be a purpose-built space that will enable better outcomes for those we serve and the neighbourhood. It allows us the opportunity to be responsive and innovative in addressing community needs as they arise.

The Numbers Increase Daily

2,900

THOSE CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, MORE THAN DOUBLE SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE PANDEMIC.

2,000

YOUTH LIVING INDEPENDENTLY WITHOUT A SAFE, CONSISTENT RESIDENCE.

7,036

NUMBER OF UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS WE SERVED LAST YEAR AT OUR DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE.



Capital Campaign

\$10M

Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation \$5M

Boyle Street Community Services \$28.5M

Campaig go:

The total project cost is \$28.5 million. We are looking for community support to raise the final \$13.5 million.

Boyle Street has an opportunity to build resilience and support ongoing facility operation and maintenance costs into the next 50 years through appropriate reserve/endowment funding.



This project is about so much more than a building. It's about connection and dignity. When those we serve feel perpetually like trespassers in their own city, it can be a place of belonging; a place of respite from everyday survival to participate in healing through ceremony, friendship and support; a place of beauty that shows the people we serve that they matter. We know that we can – and must – do better in our city to support those who are suffering due to homelessness. But we can't do that alone. We need the whole community to come together and to join us in creating the kind of city I know we all want to live in."

- JORDAN REINIGER (HE/HIM), EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BSCS



Major Donors

Those who donated \$10,000 or more.

Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation

Eldon & Anne Foote Fund at Edmonton Community **Foundation**

Anonymous

The Stollery Charitable Foundation

Drs. Joan and Bob Turner

Neil McBain and Jeanie McDonnell

Anonymous

EPCOR

The Kristie Charitable Foundation

The Muhlenfeld Family Fund at Edmonton Community Foundation

Great Outdoors Comedy Festival

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

Susan Andrew and Michael Cohen

United Way of Alberta Capital Region

Daniel Huntley

Intact Financial Corporation

Sherritt International

RE/MAX Elite

On Side Restoration

Beljan Development

Funders

homeward trust

Homeward Trust Edmonton



City of Edmonton



Alberta Health Services



Alberta Health



Reach Edmonton



Alberta Job Skills Training and Labour, Alberta Human



Edmonton Police Foundation



Children's Services Edmonton Region



Alberta Housing and Urban Affairs



Public Health Agency of Canada Publique du Canada Publica de Canada



Health Canada



Canadian Women's Foundation



United Way



Kahkiyaw



Reciprocity is a tenet of Indigenous knowledge and cultural practices and is therefore central to all development activities and decision-making, including recognition. Decisions regarding appropriate recognition for all levels of donors are made in the spirit of representing our community members. This includes purchasing art, sharing stories, highlighting successes and bringing clients to events. Recognition is guided by meaning for the donor and our clients and celebrating successes together as one community, wherever possible.

In total, we received 4783 donations from supporters in the past year.

Values

We never give up even if the challenge is tough, seemingly impossible.

Everything we do matters and the little things are just as important as the big ones — a small gesture can have a great impact on another's life.

We stand with our community members, side by side, patiently and for as long as they want — a constant and consistent caring force.

Our work is always ongoing and that is okay.

We share much in common and that connectedness of experience is a strength to be recognized, celebrated and drawn on.

Giving and receiving is a two-way street at Boyle Street — our community members share many gifts with great generosity and open hearts.

We are there for our colleagues, supporting them, valuing their unique contributions to our community.

Boyle Street is a home, a family, a village — a place of safety, trust, love, welcome and also a place with all the challenges that a home, a family and a village bring.

We advocate and educate creatively and innovatively at many levels for justice for all.

Each member of our community is deserving of a full measure of dignity, support and respect.

We honour our community's resilience and celebrate and recognize our individual strengths and uniqueness.

The Creator is with us, the spirits soar within us and the culture of the First Peoples surrounds and protects us. We value our history as an agency and reflect on our past for guidance in moving forward; we value the experience and wisdom of our community elders.

We are many nations, many beliefs, many walks of life coming together, seeking to understand each other, accepting each other and enjoying each other for what we are and for where we are at.

Despite great challenges, we believe unhealthy cycles can be broken, new opportunities created and, through healing, health restored.

We believe that life is too serious to be taken seriously and humour is a central part of our life and work at Boyle Street.

Our community members are diverse and we welcome everyone. We serve adults, youth and families and are proud to act as a knowledgeable resource for Indigenous, 2SLGBTQQIA+ and new immigrant communities.

At the heart of our work, we listen, care and empower our clients in order to assist them to find solutions to their challenges.



Boyle Street Community Services Community Centre

10116 – 105 Avenue Edmonton, AB T5H 0K2 (amiskwacîwâskahikan) Treaty 6 Territory T. (780) 424-4106

Charity number: 118814391 RR0001

Boyle Street Community Services is the trade name of The Boyle Street Service Society, an Alberta society and a registered charity.

www.boylestreet.org

Follow us on social media









