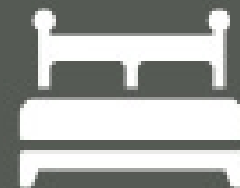
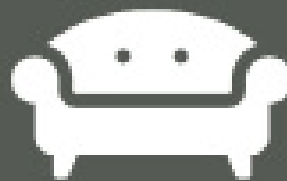




Medicine Hat
Community
Housing Society



2015

ANNUAL
REPORT



2015 has proven to be a year of evolution and reflection, where our work received much recognition and challenges were met with determination and perseverance.

Working alongside our many partners, we delivered vital housing and support services to members of our community. Our services are possible thanks to our dedicated employees who are at the heart of the Housing Society. Our team is driven to help this organization succeed and goes beyond what is expected to make social change possible. We are very proud of and passionate about our service to the community, referring to our work as social-profit rather than non-profit. Housing is a fundamental human right and this principle is at the very core of our mission and vision.

There are two distinct operations within the MHCHS; **Housing Operations**, which delivers subsidized housing options to low income Hatters, and **Homelessness Initiatives**, which works with many community partners to eliminate homelessness. Ending homelessness, and housing people are fundamentally one and the same, and their integration is paramount to the success of this work. Having affordable housing, and the necessary supports to maintain it, is the primary principle of housing first

In 2015 the City of Medicine Hat was able to contribute 16 additional affordable housing units (through grants from the Government of Alberta's Affordable Housing Grant Program), bringing the total number to 1,027 subsidized housing and rent supplement options managed by our organization. During the year we were able to help a total of 1,235 households, through our programs. Our existing housing programs run at maximum capacity, and yet there are 458 households on our waitlist (at December 31, 2015); a compelling demonstration of the need for more affordable housing.

Housing is a fundamental cornerstone to individual and community vitality.

We have done a tremendous amount of advocacy work, highlighting the housing agenda and the need for permanent affordable housing in Medicine Hat. Our community has worked tirelessly for five years to achieve the goal of ending homelessness; sustaining the end to homelessness can be as hard as achieving the goal itself. Therefore we shall continue to engage stakeholders and pursue the necessary planning and transformation, to achieve the greatest collective impact in our community.

Priorities going forward will include maintaining the homeless serving systems that have been developed and ensure that community has a sufficient supply of affordable housing.



Robin Miiller
Chief Administrative Officer



Linda Woodside
Board President

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Medicine Hat Community Housing Society is to provide shelter and related support services for individuals and families.

The vision for the Medicine Hat Community Housing Society (MHCHS) is that all citizens of Medicine Hat and district have the opportunity to access appropriate, affordable housing and related support services.

The MHCHS values **Respect, Integrity, Accountability, Dedication and Collaboration.**

Guiding Principles

- 🏠 Developing community partnerships is the most efficient means of addressing the issue of attainable housing.
- 🏠 Community input is valued and will continue to be sought out as the means to local decision making.
- 🏠 We strive to provide a safe environment for children, youth and vulnerable populations.

MHCHS has two (2) mutually supporting core business functions:

1 HOUSING INITIATIVES
& SUPPORTS

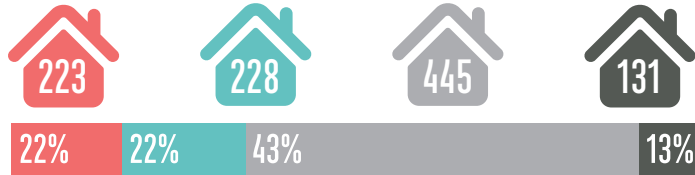
2 HOMELESSNESS
INITIATIVES

HOUSING INITIATIVES & SUPPORTS

MHCHS is a Housing Management Body under the Alberta Housing Act and a registered charity.

Total Housing Units Based On Program Type

(At October 31st 2015)



SOCIAL HOUSING

Family & Special Needs

City of MH Owned 18
Province of AB Owned 205

Seniors Self Contained

Private Landlord Rent Supplements

Funded by the Province of AB

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Affordable Housing

MHCHS Owned 85
City of MH Owned 32
Private 14

Housing Stability Program

Over a *1year period



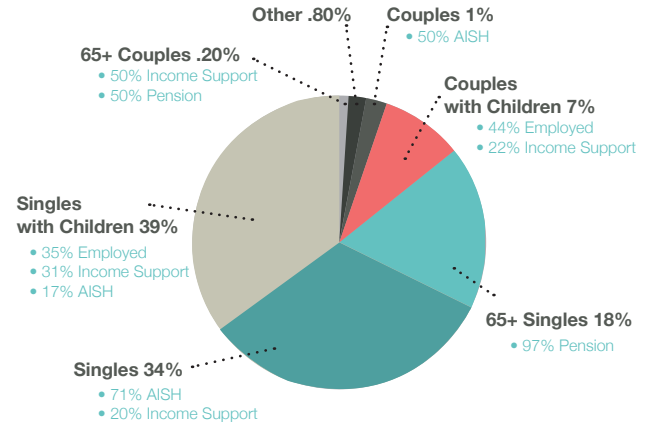
OVER
85%

of participants successfully completed the program within 3-6months. At the 6m post follow up assessment, 93% achieved housing stability.

*Fiscal year April 1st 2015 – March 31st 2016

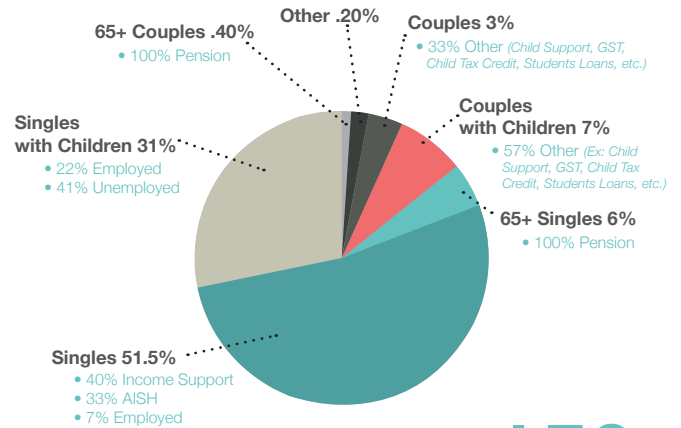
Tenants Of Housing Programs By Household Type & Income

(At December 31st 2015)



Housing Programs Waitlists By Household Type & Income

(At December 31st 2015)



Households on the waitlist

453

HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVES

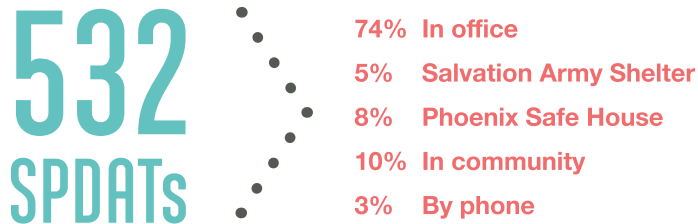
MHCHS has been established as the Community Based Organization (CBO) and Community Entity (CE) for Medicine Hat, charged with leading and implementing the local Plan to End Homelessness. Since April 2009, over 175 different landlords and property management companies have provided homes to 705 formerly homeless adults and their 308 children.

Between April 1st 2015 – March 31st 2016



Housing Assessment and Triage (HAT)

*532 Service Prioritization Decision Assessment Tools (SPDATs) completed, with 375 unique individuals served.



214 unique individuals were
diverted from Housing First or RRH

*Fiscal year April 1st 2015 – March 31st 2016

DID YOU KNOW...



A very special and talented group of quilters from a local group called Comfort Quilts donates bags of new quilts, so our participants can turn their house into a home.

Our housing programs support many different individuals and families, celebrating many success stories.

A young family (*husband and wife and their 4 year old daughter*) spent two and a half years receiving support from our family housing program. Through mentorship from our dedicated staff the family has successfully exited family housing. Thanks to our program, the father was able to go to post secondary school and is now gainfully employed.

We are excited to share that the family is saving money for a down payment on their own forever home, while awaiting the arrival of their second child.



Our work went full circle this year as two former service participants directed their charitable doantions to the MHCHS through their employers matching program.



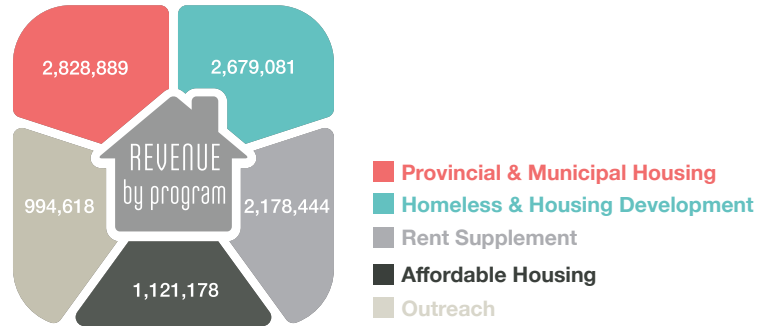
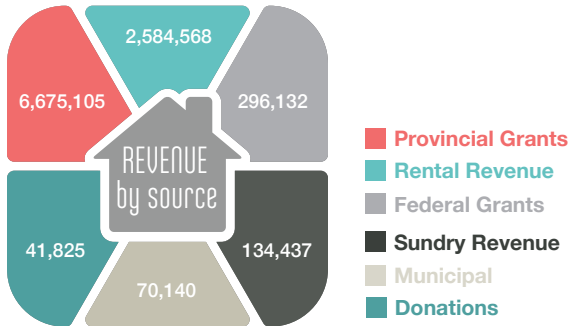
Former participant ABDI, his wife Khatra and their 7 children moved into their very own Habitat for Humanity Home in 2015.



We are proud that our services focus on helping people succeed. Four individuals who were former tenants of social housing are now part of our team, providing services to others.

FINANCIALS

Revenue



Expenses



Financial Contributions

Government of Alberta | Government of Canada
 City of Medicine Hat | Pritchard Law Office &
 Kiwanis Grapes and Gourmet Gala | Methanex-
 Employee Social Responsibility Investment
 Committee | Cenovus Employee Thanks and
 Giving Campaign | Western Financial Group local
 chapter annual community fundraiser | Me to We
 group from Connaught School | Hillcrest Church |
 Dream Centre

Awards

Pollution Probe Award – Committed to Community

“We are honoured to recognize the Medicine Hat community for its exceptional efforts to end homelessness. . . by providing not only housing but homes, Medicine Hat is empowering its citizens to live healthier lives and thereby contribute to a healthier environment for all. It is a leader among leaders.” Stephen Damp, Executive Vice President, Civil Division, EllisDon and Chair of Pollution Probe’s 2015 Gala Committee. Pollution Probe believes that human health is at the core of sustainable development, and relies on communities that are engaged, empowered and vibrant.

Agent of Change’ Award

Canadian Association of Community Health Centres selected MHCHS and the City of Medicine Hat to be recognized for outstanding contributions to health and social wellbeing across Canada – for their commitment to eliminating homelessness in MH.

HOW COOL IS THIS

Telus Optic began the process of producing a short story documentary on the evolution of our movement to end homelessness in Medicine Hat. The documentary is scheduled for release in 2016.

MHCHS and community partners were included in research done in 2015 which contributed to Exploring Effective Systems Responses to Homelessness, a book published by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness out of York University in February 2016. Chapter 4.6 contains an article The "First City to End Homelessness": A case study of Medicine Hat's approach to system planning in a housing first context.

MEDIA RECOGNITION

We have been recognized with our community partners provincially, nationally and internationally for our early successes in the movement to end homelessness through a housing first approach. Notably, the Huffington Post out of Washington, The Economist, Curb Magazine, AB View Magazine, Venture Magazine, Globe and Mail, Vancouver Sun, Aboriginal Peoples Television Network Winnipeg, Alberta Primetime, CHAT TV and a number of radio programs including the CBC & BBC, Winnipeg, St. Johns, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Medicine Hat.

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#104, 516 - 3rd Street SE Medicine Hat, AB T1A 0N3

☎ 403.527.4507 ✉ info@mhchs.ca

www.mhchs.ca