

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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Letter from the Board Chair

Dear Coverdale,

Community, friends, and partners, in 2024 we have navigated many challenges and changes at Coverdale. Many of these journeys continue and cannot be fully captured here. But what I can highlight is the tenacity with which the journey continues.

We navigated change in leadership and said farewell to our previous Executive Director Ash Avery. Receiving this notice was difficult but centering the joy, growth, and impact that Ash continues has brought ease.

The board of directors convened and led the recruitment and selection process to identify the next Executive Director for Coverdale. Acting in the best interest of the organization at all times may not always be apparent but the board continues to practice our fiduciary duty. While navigating changes both anticipated and unforeseen over the past year, we have been tasked with centering Coverdales values and goals at every decision making point this year.

I'm humbled by the advice, guidance and wisdom demonstrated by the Board of Directors in guiding Coverdale with our values in mind: justice, empathy, respect, responsibility, courageousness, solutions-focussed, collaboration, and client-centricity.

The sociopolitical climate remains heavy, uncertain, and may cast shadows on the invaluable community work that we do here at Coverdale. While we cannot immediately erase the injustices that ensue as a result of this climate, I am proud to continue to work with an organization dedicated to resisting those structural injustices at every level possible.

We continue to grow and challenge ourselves by incorporating new and alternative understandings of justice into our work, both internal and external.

Through the changes in the Executive Director position, I have had the pleasure of getting to know some of you and I am grateful for the increased connections this year. I am holding close both the beauty and challenges in the work that we do, the resilience you've all demonstrated at Coverdale, and our continued need to grow and adapt to ensure we are aligned with our values. Our self-growth and compassion is not done; this process remains ongoing.

Well, to be honest, we've navigated a lot over the past year! I am proud of our collective accomplishments, lessons learned, and the continued journey toward a justice that we are on together.

*With gratitude,
Board Chair
Vanessa Lilly*



Letter from the Executive Director

This past year has been one of deep listening, bold action, and unwavering care. At Coverdale Justice Society, our purpose is clear: to walk alongside women, girls, and gender-diverse people who are navigating systems never built with them in mind.

We see every day how systemic inequities and the criminalization of poverty, mental health and addiction continue to shape lives, particularly for Indigenous, African Nova Scotian, and 2SLGBTQ+ communities. These are not abstract concepts for us; they are the realities our participants live with, and the injustices we work to confront.

In response, our work has grown stronger and more intentional. **Housing remains a critical starting point.** On October 1st, 2024, we opened the doors at Shannon's Place located at 6315 Pepperell Street. Shannon's Place operates as second-stage housing for 4 individuals who have been impacted by the justice system. While there are no services on site, residents are able to access the supports and services next door at Caitlan's Place.

At the same time, the **community justice team** have expanded to bridge the gap of incarceration and homelessness within the Halifax Region. Meeting individuals at any stage of their journey, whether it is in Central NS Correctional Facility, the Courts, Encampments or Shelters.

We've also deepened our investment in **community safety and anti-violence work.** The Pollinate Project initiative centers the needs and experiences of 2SLGBTQIA+ people who are often excluded from mainstream responses to violence. We are building safety strategies that rely on trust, community collaboration, solidarity, and survivor leadership.

Every step of this work is guided by a belief in second chances—not as charity, but as justice. Reintegration is not a return; it is a new beginning, and it deserves real support.

This year, we pause with deep gratitude to honour the leadership and lasting impact of **Ash Avery**, who served as the Executive Director of Coverdale Justice Society from 2019 to 2024.

Over the course of her tenure, Ash transformed Coverdale from a small, two-person operation into a thriving, community-rooted organization with more than 50 staff, three supportive housing sites, and a wide range of innovative programs and initiatives focused on justice, equity, and reintegration.

Ash's leadership was visionary and courageous. She guided the organization through unprecedented growth, ensuring that our work remained grounded in harm reduction, trauma-informed care, and a deep commitment to those most impacted by systems of oppression. From the expansion of Caitlan's Place, to the creation of justice outreach programs and the development of 2SLGBTQIA +-centered anti-violence work.

As the incoming Executive Director and someone who has had the privilege of being mentored by Ash for the past five years, I am immensely proud of the foundation we have built together. Her trust, guidance, and unwavering belief in our collective vision have been instrumental in preparing me—and our entire team—for this next chapter.

We will carry forward her legacy with care, and with the same fierce commitment to justice, equity, and dignity for all. The work continues—and we're just getting started.

Thank you to each person who walks with us: donors, funders, volunteers, staff, allies, and partners. Your support fuels systems change and personal transformation alike. Together, we're not just imagining something better—we're building it.

*With gratitude,
Executive Director
Mirinda Bray*



Who we are

We're proud to be a non-profit organization serving women, youth, and gender-diverse individuals in Nova Scotia. Our programs and services are designed to empower and support those inside and outside of the justice system.



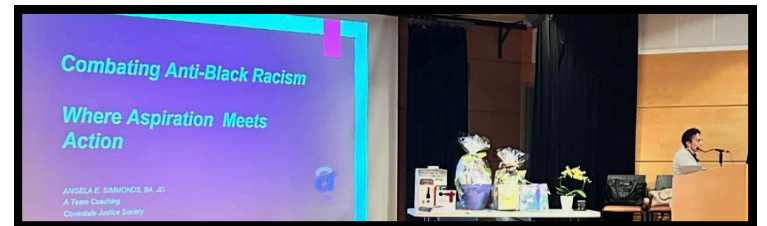
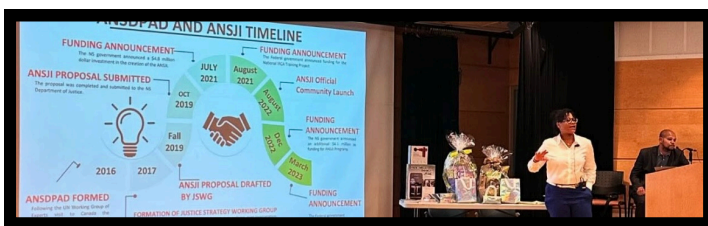
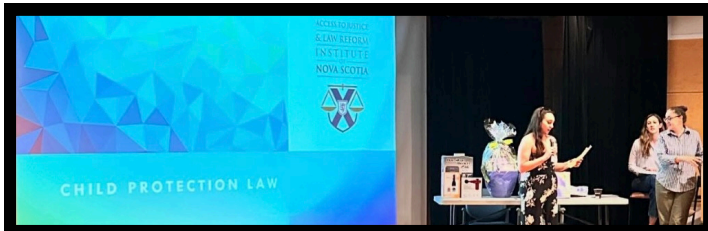
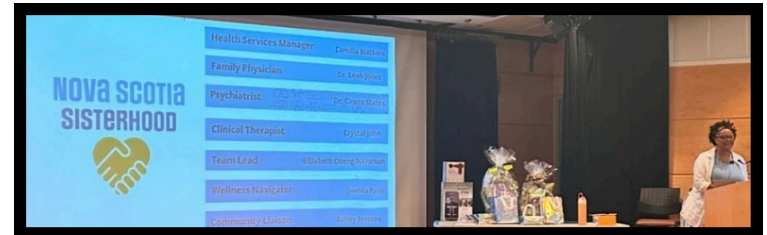
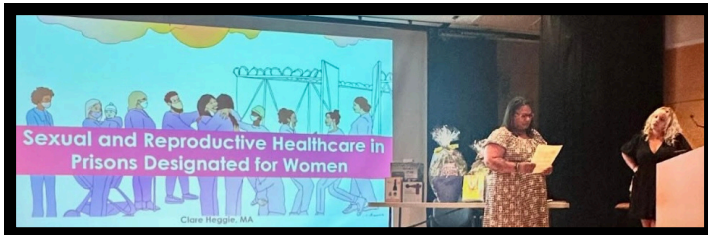
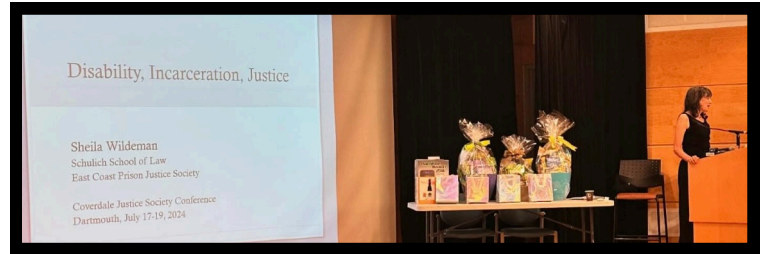
Mission

Coverdale Justice Society's mission is to provide support and specialized services to women, youth, and gender-diverse individuals in Nova Scotia, with a focus on improving access to justice, providing alternatives to traditional justice, and enhancing public safety and well-being for these groups in the province.

Vision

Our vision at Coverdale is to create a world where justice transcends the boundaries of the legal system and is deeply woven into the fabric of our society. We believe in fostering an environment where justice is not just a concept but a way of life, guiding our interactions and shaping our personal growth. We are dedicated to this vision and committed to making it a reality for all people.

Coverdale Training Conference 2024



Thank you to all our guest speakers!

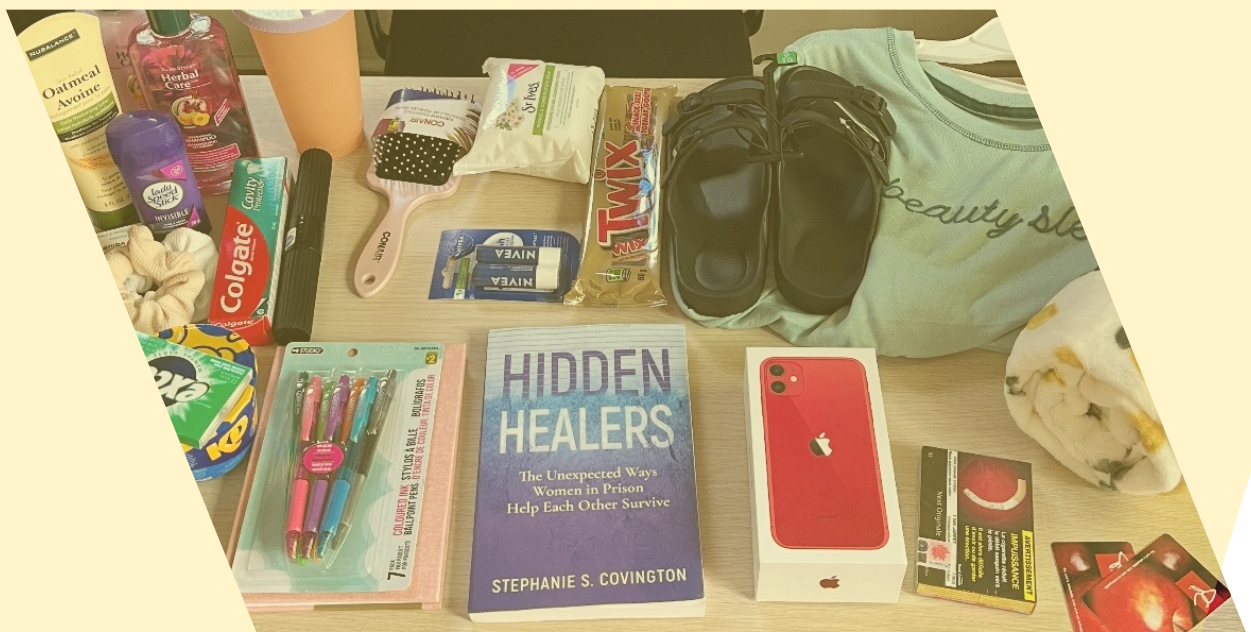
Pollinate Project

The Pollinate Project offers services and supports to current, formerly incarcerated and criminalized 2SLGBTQIA+ folks who have experienced or perpetrated GBV. This project aims to both prevent and address GBV, and improve access to traditional and informal justice processes.

In the first year of the Pollinate Team have been successful in its endeavours to build functional lines of communication and collaboration through multi-sectoral community partnerships at the provincial and local levels. A notable success is the Trans Prisoner Coalition between various community organizations that provides direct peer support and legal advocacy to trans folks who are incarcerated and subject to victimization based on their gender identity.

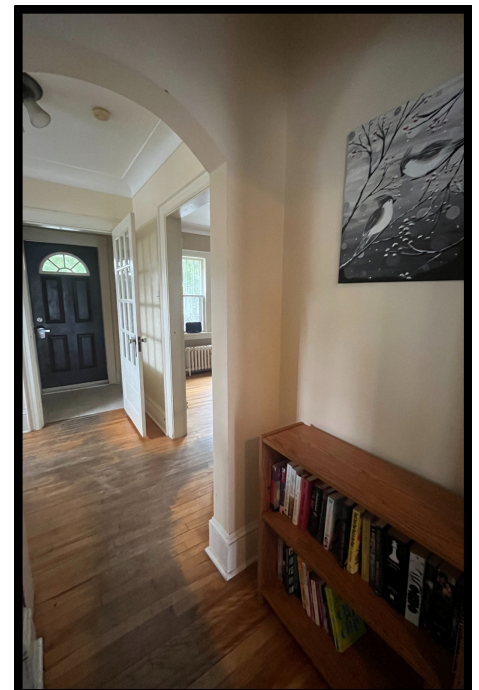
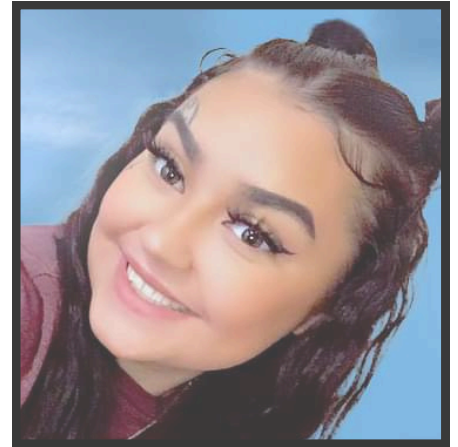
Just Home

The Just Home initiative, is designed to address the complex challenges at the intersection of the justice system, incarceration, criminalization and chronic homelessness, focusing particularly on women, gender diverse, indigenous, and youth in the greater Halifax area. Just Home's diversion strategies prevent new inflows into homelessness by proactively addressing their legal challenges, and ensuring folks have safe, stable housing options.



Shannon's Place

On October 1st, 2024, we proudly opened Shannon's Place, in collaboration with the Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia. Shannon's Place is a permanent second-stage housing facility for women and gender diverse, 18+ navigating the justice system and or homelessness in Halifax. Shannon's Place is a 4 bedroom home, fully furnished with two bathrooms, living room and kitchen.



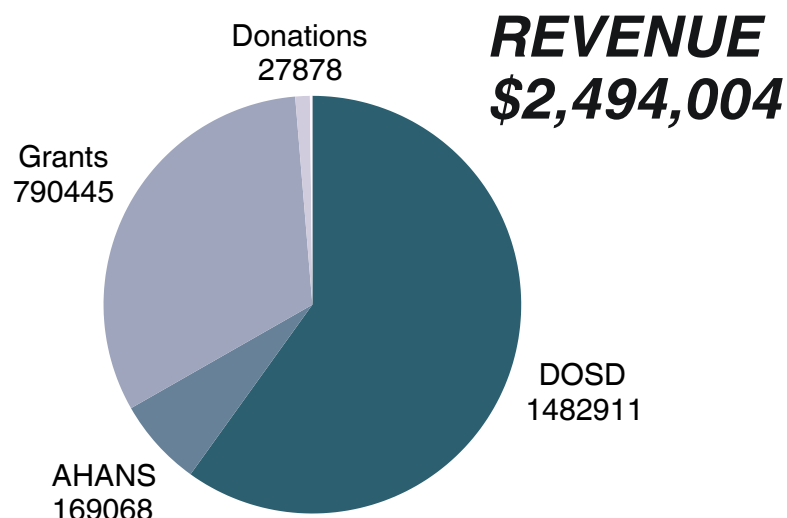


Financial Highlights



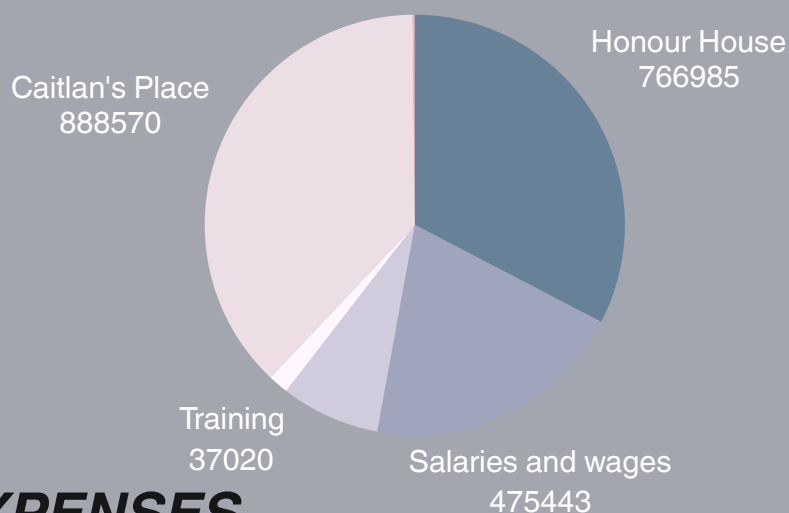
THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS WERE PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CANADIAN ACCOUNTING STANDARDS FOR NOTFOR-PRFIT ORGANIZATIONS (ASNFPO). CANADIAN ACCOUNTING STANDARDS FOR NON-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS ARE PART OF CANADIAN GAPP

The year ended December 31, 2024, Coverdale Justice Society recorded total revenues of \$2,494,004, marking an increase from \$1,667,199 in 2023. This growth is largely attributed to increased support from the Department of Opportunities and Social Development, which contributed \$1,482,911 up from \$928,732 and Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia which contributed \$169,068 up from \$19,127. Grants received increased from \$560,850 in 2023 to \$790,445 in 2024. Additional sources of revenue included Status of Women, donations, fundraising income, and interest and investment income all of which collectively support our programs and operations.



AHANS - Affordable Housing Assosication of Nova Scotia

DODS - Department of Opportunities and Social Development



EXPENSES
\$2,494,004

Our expenditures for the year also rose, totalling \$2,494,004 compared to \$1667,199 in 2023. The largest positions of these expenses were attributed to Caitlan's Place which accounted for \$888,570 and Honour House \$766,985, reflecting our continued commitment to housing justice. Salaries and wages increased from \$305,449 in 2023 to \$475,443 in 2024. This reflection is from our recent community initiatives, The Just Home Project & Pollinate Project staff.

Coverdale Board

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Sophie Blais

Mirinda Bray

Samantha Brown

Shawnette Bucknor

Sarah Butler

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Eileen Roth

Rachel Salter

Kaitlyn Sedge

Courtney Silverthorne

Karen Singer

Madison Smith

Jazlyn Sparks-Clyke

Storm Thibault

Kayla Thomson

Fisson Tibbo

Ronalda Tolliver

Cynthia Wachaga

Ashley Walsh

Sarah Webber

Meme Williams

Mallory Wilson

Kelly Woodington

IN MEMORY OF ROBERTA MORRISON



It is with heavy hearts that we dedicate this page to our beloved Manager of Community Justice, Roberta Morrison who passed away on Sept 25th, 2024.

Roberta worked tirelessly, with an unstoppable drive and determination, to support those in our community that so many others turned their backs on. Whether in courtrooms, lawyers offices, shelters, homes, or community spaces, Roberta gave her time, her heart and her love without judgement. Her fierce passion for empowering, defending, protecting and caring for her clients was unmatched.

Roberta will be deeply missed by her clients, the Coverdale community and many in the broader community who had the privilege of knowing her.

Rest in power, Roberta.



Thank you to our 2024 funders!



HALIFAX
YOUTH
FOUNDATION



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada



United Way
Centraide
Canada



Nova Scotia
Advisory Council on
the Status of Women

Conseil consultatif sur la
condition féminine de la
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+ many generous private donors!

Mental & Health
Foundation
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