

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

TOGETHER FOR TRANSFORMATION



www.coverdale.ca



902-422-6417



admin@coverdale.ca

6169 QUINPOOL RD. SUITE 221B HALIFAX, NS

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our first year named Coverdale Justice Society proved to be another inspiring year of advocacy and impact for Coverdale. Continuing to advance our mission of improving access and alternatives to traditional justice while building on the Coverdale legacy has bred unprecedented growth for the organization through additional projects and expansion of existing programs. All of this while navigating the present day realities of a province wide housing crisis, exponential increases to cost of living, and continued navigation of the post pandemic era. I admire the entirety of the Coverdale community for all that you do.

Additionally, this marked my first year as the Chair of the Coverdale Justice Society Board of Directors. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with you all in this capacity. I joined the board in 2019 arriving just prior to the pandemic. With only a handful of in-person board meetings under my belt, along with the rest of the world, we adjusted to a new state of affairs. Regular board meetings were now virtual, masks became the norm, and navigating the impacts of isolation continued to unfold. I could not have carried this important work without the collaborative support from you all. Special acknowledgement to the past chair, Dr. Ida Armstrong-Whitehouse who has extended tremendous support, wisdom, and patience as I learned to take on the role of board chair.

Meanwhile, Coverdale's work continues to move toward a more just society by addressing the web of systemic barriers produced by those injustices

Through our continued relationships with AHANS, DCS and Northpine Foundation, Coverdale secured, renovated, staffed, and began operations at Honour House. This permanent supportive housing initiative mirrors our efforts at Caitlin's Place by providing housing and support to young women and gender diverse folks on their journey away from homelessness.

This summary cannot completely convey all of the time, energy, effort that went into organizing and lifting this project to reach community members in need. Not only the sense of home but the comprehensive support and services provided.

With all of this growth in services provided by Coverdale, we've paralleled building our internal organizational structure. The roll out of updated personnel policies including our Workplace Violence Prevention Plan, an important accomplishment in our dedication to a safe and healthy organizational culture. This important work will continue as our programs and services strive to address community identified needs.

This year we welcomed new board members, Allison and Nami. I'd like to express my sincere gratitude for the dedication of all our board members, new, continuing and past, who are truly a joy to know and work with. I look forward to continuing on this journey with you all.



VANESSA LILY
BOARD CHAIR

Dear Supporters and Friends,

As we reflect on the past year at Coverdale Justice Society, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to serving equity-deserving groups in our province. Our mission remains deeply rooted in addressing the systemic inequalities that women, girls and gender diverse people face within, and outside of, the criminal justice system. We continue to pay special attention to the over-representation of Indigenous, African NS and 2SLGBTQ+ peoples in state systems, a result of the enduring impacts of colonization, slavery, systemic racism, discrimination and colonialism.

This year, we have intensified our focus on housing justice, recognizing that stable and affordable housing with appropriate supports is a fundamental prerequisite for addressing broader barriers. Our work at Caitlan's Place continues to be a beacon of innovation and success, demonstrating effective housing-first principles. We are proud that this model is now being adopted by various organizations across the country, expanding its reach and impact.

On December 1st, we proudly opened the doors at 1101 Wellington Street, where Honour House began serving young women aged 18-24 who are experiencing homelessness and are involved or at risk of interaction with the justice system. Honour House embodies our commitment to providing safe, supportive housing as a crucial step towards empowerment and stability for these young women and gender diverse folks.



ASH AVERY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our justice outreach program has been instrumental in bridging the gap between court requirements and the complex realities our clients face. By meeting individuals where they are—whether in shelters, encampments, or other precarious situations—we ensure that they can attend to their legal obligations, thereby preventing further escalation of their challenges.

We are also deeply engaged in addressing gender-based violence through our Safe Outside the System (SOS) project. This initiative focuses on anti-violence and domestic violence within 2SLGBTQ+ communities, inspired by the impactful work of the Audre Lorde Project.

Our dedication to supporting the reintegration of individuals into the community remains a cornerstone of our work. We believe in restorative communities, and the potential for every individual to rebuild their lives with dignity and support.

None of this would be possible without our remarkable team. Our diverse leadership is wholeheartedly committed to this cause, and our frontline employees—our true heroes—show up every day, facing incredibly challenging work with unwavering dedication. Their resilience and passion are the driving forces behind our success.

The journey towards justice is long and often arduous, but together, we are making tangible strides. We thank you, our supporters and partners, for your continued belief in and support of our mission. With your help, we will continue to push boundaries, challenge systemic injustices, and create lasting change.

With gratitude,



ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

WHO WE ARE

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 in the province.

WHAT WE DO

Our commitment extends to supporting individuals facing life's challenging transitions, including reintegration post-incarceration and other critical moments of need. Our experienced team believes in the power of a robust support network and provides a diverse array of programs aimed at fostering resilience and rebuilding lives. We offer comprehensive assistance ranging from court and bail support to anti-violence initiatives, ending homelessness, and crisis and outreach services. Our focus is on igniting positive change and empowering individuals on their journey to stability and personal growth.

ADDRESSING SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF JUSTICE

These determinants interact in complex ways, influencing individuals' life chances and their likelihood of engaging with the criminal justice system. Addressing these factors holistically can help prevent criminalization and incarceration, support reintegration, and promote overall social justice.



HOUSING WITH APPROPRIATE SUPPORTS

50 People Housed through Coverdale Housing
22 people housed in the community



SYSTEM NAVIGATION

250 people supported through the justice system



COMMUNICATION TOOLS

200 cell phones distributed



CRISIS INTERVENTION

60 Crisis Interventions Conducted



MENTAL HEALTH AND COUNSELING SERVICES

120 referrals to Mental Health Support

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

370 hot meals served
\$32,000 in groceries distributed

ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT

30 Community Events and Workshops

HARM REDUCTION

80 Clients Received harm reduction support

HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE

32 clients supported through MOSH Justice partnership

We envision a society where justice is more than a system; it's a universal value that underpins community and personal growth. We strive to create a safer, more just society where everyone has access to the support and resources they need to thrive.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

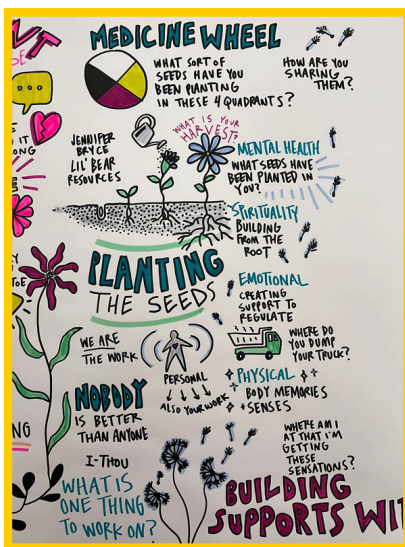
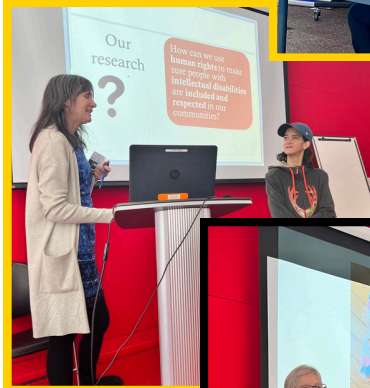
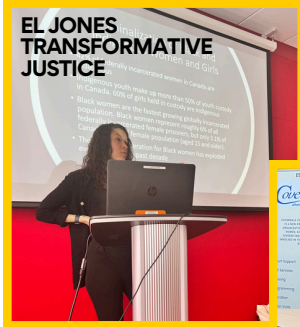
Youth Justice Program – Prevention and Intervention
Supported Housing – 2 facilities
Intensive Case Management
Research and Development
Prison visits
Advocacy

Court Support and Justice Navigation
Reintegration
Peer Support
Meal Program
Care Closet – Basic essentials and free clothing bank
Bail Supervision and Support Program

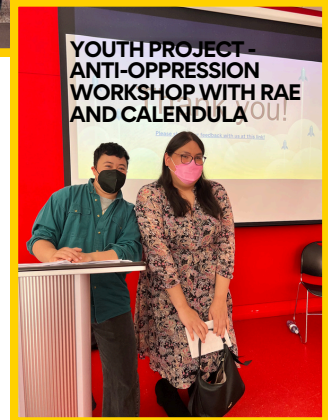
...and more!

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Professional development is crucial to Coverdale's mission, and in 2023, we are thankful for the numerous training opportunities provided to our staff and board, including those at our second annual staff training conference.



**RACHEL DERRAH - GRAPHIC
FACILITATION**

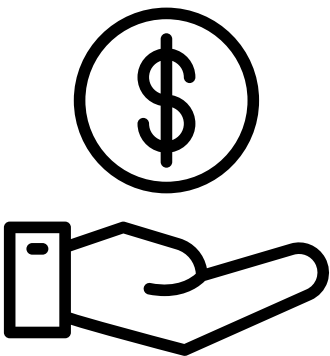


FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

For the year ended December 31, 2023, Coverdale Justice Society recorded total revenues of \$1,667,199, marking an increase from \$1,436,116 in 2022. This growth is largely attributed to increased support from the Department of Community Services, which contributed \$928,732, up from \$695,462 in the previous year. Grants received were slightly lower at \$560,850 compared to \$587,023 in 2022. Additional sources of revenue included the Federal Justice Youth Program, Affordable Housing of Nova Scotia Funding, donations, fundraising income, and interest and investment income, all of which collectively supported our programs and operations.

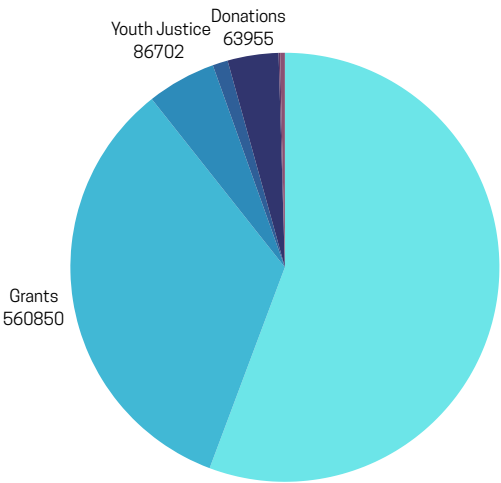
Our expenditures for the year also rose, totaling \$1,667,199, compared to \$1,436,116 in 2022. The largest portion of these expenses was attributed to Caitlan's Place, which accounted for \$855,278, reflecting our continued commitment to housing justice and the expansion of this model. Salaries and wages were \$305,449, a slight decrease from the previous year, indicating effective management of our staffing costs.

In December, we opened Honour House at 1101 Wellington Street, incurring expenditures of \$260,135 to establish this new initiative for young women aged 18-24 experiencing homelessness. Other significant expenses included supplies and program expenses, office costs, rental expenses, training, professional fees, travel, telephone, and emergency crisis shelter expenditures.

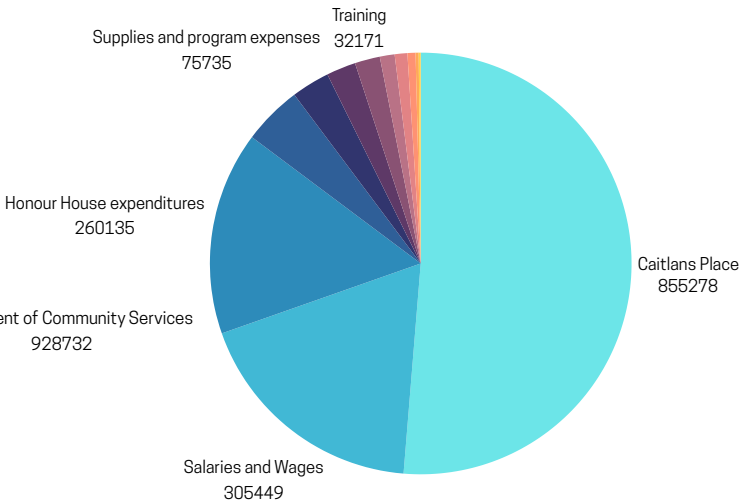


**THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
WERE PREPARED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH CANADIAN
ACCOUNTING STANDARDS FOR
NOT-FOR-PROFIT
ORGANIZATIONS (ASNFP).
CANADIAN ACCOUNTING
STANDARDS FOR NOT-FOR-
PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS ARE
PART OF CANADIAN GAAP.**

REVENUE \$1,667,199



EXPENSES \$1,667,199



BOARD OF **DIRECTORS**

Chair

Vanessa Lily

Vice Chair

Monica Bell-Ekanem

Secretary

Brittany Sutherland

Past Chair

Rev. Dr. Ida Armstrong-Whitehouse

Directors

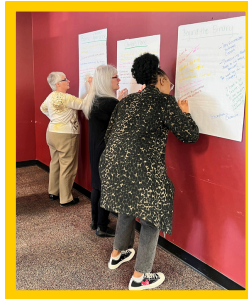
Janis Aitken

Valerie Macdonald

Yanick Seide

Alison LaSorta

Namrata Chakraborty



COVERDALE **TEAM**

Executive Director

Ash Avery

Executive Assistant

Stephanie Cook

Bookkeeper

Arlene Seto

Manager, Community Justice

Roberta Morrison

House Directors

Mirinda Bray

Julie Harper

Case Managers

Sam Morris

Kelly Woodington

Cheralyn Holland

Justice Outreach Worker

Summer Johnson

Reintegration Coordinator

Meme Williams

Peer Support Worker

Melanie Mahar

Access to Justice Coordinator

Mckinley Kelch

Justice Support Workers

Andria Mobuogwa

Fisson Tibbo

Cynthia Wachaga

Lex Hatt

Carrie Campbell

Shawnette Bucknor

Destiny Crowell

Rachel Salter

Eileen Roth

Julia Cotton

Krista Fraser

Ashley Walsh

Brittney Bellmare

Relief Staff

Charley Green| Emma Devereaux| Emma Lake| Grisha Cowall| Layne Ryan| Carmen Baettig | Hannah Moore| Claire Lunn| Jessica Beairsto| Kaitlyn Sedge| Karen Singer| Madison Smith| Sarah Webber| Senna Hollihan| Sophie Blais| Storm Thibault



HONOUR HOUSE

On December 1st, we proudly opened Honour House, in collaboration with the Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia and with funding from the Community Housing Acquisition Program (CHAP), the Northpine Foundation, the Department of Community Services, and Reaching Home. After undergoing significant renovations, Honour House now welcomes youth ages 18-24, and is named in honor of Honour House Court in New Brunswick, a significant part of Coverdale's early history in the 1900s



IN AUGUST OF 2023 WE VIEWED 1101 WELLINGTON ST. FORMERLY OPERATING AS AN AIRBNB AND NEWLY ON THE MARKET.



**CLOSING DAY! FROM LEFT TO RIGHT
CONNIE (SELLER), STEPH COOK (BUYERS AGENT), MIRINDA BRAY
(CAITLANS PLACE), JOHN HARTLING (AHANS), ASH AVERY
(COVERDALE), ADRIANE SALAH (AHANS)**

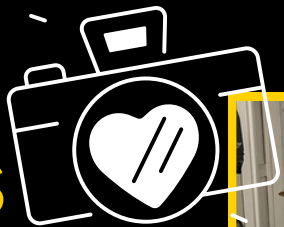


**NEWLY RENOVATED
STAFF OFFICE**

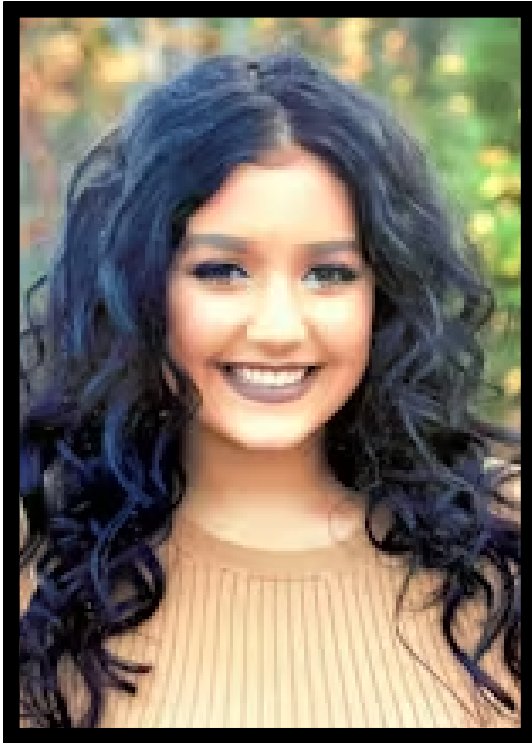
**12 FULLY FURNISHED BEDROOMS
4 KITCHENS
9 BATHROOMS
24/7 ONSITE STAFFING**



2023 IN PHOTOS



IN MEMORY OF SHANNON DOY



It is with heavy hearts that we dedicate this page to our dear client, Shannon Renee Doy, who passed away on January 16, 2024, at the young age of 24. Shannon had been with Coverdale for several years and was an incredible woman in our community, bringing laughter, song, and care to those around her. The loss of a life so young is unfathomable.

Shannon's vibrant spirit and unwavering compassion touched many lives, and her absence leaves a profound void in our hearts. As we remember her, we are reminded of the urgent need to demand change in society to protect and adequately support individuals like Shannon. Her legacy inspires us to continue our work with renewed dedication and determination.

"Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep"
Mary Elizabeth Frye

Do not stand at my grave and weep;
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there. I did not die.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 FUNDERS



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

**United Church
Youth Foundation of Nova Scotia
St. Davids Presbyterian - Helen Watson Fund**

and many generous private donors!

*Truly
Grateful
for you.*