

# Annual Report 2023

The 10th Anniversary of the Writing of the A Way Home Plan to End Youth Homelessness



## Message from the Executive Director

June 19th 2024 marks ten years since the release of the original A Way Home Plan to End Youth Homelessness in Kamloops. Reflecting on the last decade brings much cause for celebration and gratitude. This milestone also provides a moment to reflect and grieve the loss of our founder Katherine McParland, and all of the youth who we were not able to help in time. While we celebrate the many successes that AWHK has accomplished, we also remember there is much work left to do.

Over the last ten years we have grown from a grassroots movement to a full-fledged not for profit with the help of many community members. We would not have reached this point without the support of the many skilled individuals who have served on the AWHK Board of Directors over the years, in particular Louise Richards and Grayden Flannigan who were founding Board members when the society was first formed. We would also not be here without the incredible cheerleaders in our community who always step up to lend a hand when needed, or without the funders and donors who provide the resources and dollars we need

to serve youth. AWHK is also growing and flourishing in part because of the support of the City of Kamloops and the Province of BC who have made affordable housing, and youth, a high priority. We take this opportunity to express immense gratitude to everyone who has played a part in the growth of AWHK. Thanks to all of your community support, we look forward to continuing to grow and adapt our services to support the youth in our community in the best ways possible. We will continue to advocate for deep systemic change that will result in long term successes, and we continue to stand rooted in action the end youth homelessness.



Tangie Genshorek,  
Executive Director, AWHK

## Message from the Board of Directors

There is much to reflect on and much to look forward to as A Way Home Kamloops marks the ten year anniversary of the original A Way Home Plan to End Youth Homelessness. This action plan represented a commitment to eradicate homelessness for all youth and made Kamloops one of the first cities in BC to develop such a strategy. The community was rallied by our founder Katherine McParland, an advocate and change maker who continues to inspire us all. From a small group of resolute community members, our current Executive Director Tangie Genshorek among them, to a thriving, registered charitable society; A Way Home Kamloops has come a long way and it has much more to accomplish ahead.

The Board builds on this early work and is so fortunate to continue to benefit from the guidance and wisdom of original A Way Home Kamloops Board members, Grayden Flannigan and Louise Richards. Together with Tangie, Grayden and Louise ensure we stay true to our grassroots commitment to centre youth voices in all that we do. This coming year will bring the finishing touches to Katherine's Place, a 39 unit building for supportive youth housing. Each youth moving into the building will receive a handmade quilt from a group of local quilters volunteering their caring hands and hearts to ensure everyone receives a warm and caring welcome home.

The support that Katherine grew for ending youth homelessness continues as a legacy and tribute to her and to youth in our community and it continues to sustain the work we do. Tangie is growing this legacy and building supports across the city and province as she leads A Way Home Kamloops in new and exciting directions that better meet the needs of youth while working towards the day when every one has safe, supportive, affordable, and sustainable homes. The Board is immensely grateful for Tangie's leadership. We are grateful for the staff of A Way Home Kamloops who every day rise to walk with youth through the increasingly complex challenges they face. And finally, the Board is ever so grateful for the support of our donors, sponsors, funders, and volunteers who sustain us and without whom we could not continue the tireless effort undertaken ten year ago. Together, we will end youth homelessness.



**Lorry-Ann Austin**  
**President**



**Carley Stewart**  
**Vice President**



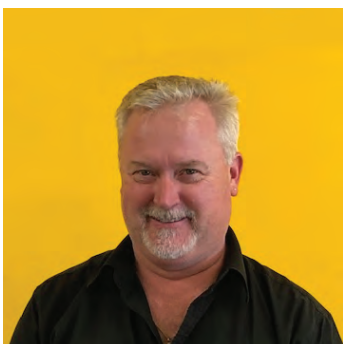
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**Director**



**Grayden Flannigan**  
**Director**



**Janelle Mann**  
**Director**



**Jason Fawcett**  
**Director**



**Steven Welsh**  
**Director**



# Looking Back...

## A Timeline of AWHK Events

### 2021

- AWHK struggles after the loss of founder Katherine McParland
- Scattered Sites Housing units are added
- Preliminary Report on the *Light The Way* Summit

### 2020

- Provincial *Youth Homelessness Report* with RCY
- Development of Youth-Led Youth Homelessness Conference
- Launch of Outreach Program as response to COVID-19
- BC Housing contract to provide rent subsidies
- Developing plans for *Katherine's Place*



### 2018

- AWHK incorporated May 1, 2018
- Board of Directors, logo, office space, policies, all developed
- *Youth Housing First* program grows – 19 youth housed

### 2015

- Katherine hired as Youth Homelessness Manager
- *Wrapforce* is born
- 2 new housing units in partnership with *Kamloops Native Housing*

### 2022

- Release of Preliminary Report on the *BC Youth Housing Action Plan*
- Secured funding to hire Coordinator for the BCCEYH
- Ground Breaking for *Katherine's Place*

### 2014

- *Eva's Initiative* sponsored "Mobilizing Local Capacity To End Youth Homelessness"
- "A Way Home." Plan written
- Katherine McParland founded grassroots committee

### 2024

- Added Scattered Sites units
- Completion of *Katherine's Place*
- Expansion of the Rent Subsidy Program
- Creation of the Supported Rent Supplement Program

### 2023

- Expansion of the Scattered Sites Housing Program
- In Person *Light The Way* Conference
- Construction of *Katherine's Place*
- Expansion of the Rent Subsidy Program

### 2019

- Obtained Charitable Status April 1, 2019
- Hired first housing support position
- 2nd Youth Homelessness Count for Kamloops
- Managed 24 scattered site housing units in the Societies name
- Opened *Storks Landing* for young single moms
- BC Housing funds 24/7 staff at *Safe Suites*

### 2017

- *Peer Navigation* program begins
- Completed first AWHK Strategic Plan
- Founded the *BC Coalition to End Youth Homelessness*

### 2016

- First youth-specific homelessness count
- TRU provides bursaries to youth
- new *Youth Housing First* program: 2 scattered site housing units
- *Safe Suites* pilot project: 1 unit

## Program Highlights - Housing

Over the year we have been able to grow our *Scattered Sites Housing Program* from 34 beds to 39. The program served over 58 youth and we saw 2 youth take over their leases to become independent over 2023. The program also assisted 3 toddlers and 2 expecting moms with the connections they need to thrive. This year the *Safe Suites Housing Program* provided housing and supports for 16 youth, and we supported 4 of the Safe Suites youth to move into our *Scattered Sites Housing Program*. We are excited to grow this program into what will be offered at *Katherine's Place* thanks to the support of *BC Housing*. When we move into this new, purpose built, location we will grow our 24/7 supported program from 6 beds to 39 and we are very excited about the range of supports we will be able to offer there.

## Advocacy & Awareness

We are very fortunate to have secured funding from the *Royal Bank* to hire additional support staff for the *BC Coalition to End Youth Homelessness (BCCEYH)*. The Coalition is a powerful group of over 40 organizations from across BC who work together to find solutions to the issues causing youth homelessness. With the support of the additional staff and the BCCEYH Youth Advisors, we will be able to fulfill the goals laid out in the new BCCEYH Strategic Plan. We are also very grateful for the support of the *Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (MSDPR)* and the *Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC)* who helped us create the in-person *Light the Way Youth Homelessness Conference* in September 2023. We are very proud to have partnered with the *Homelessness Services Association of BC* to host this conference in tandem with their annual conference.



The youth organizers and presenters of the Light The Way Conference. From left to right: Ashley Crossan, Susan Russell, Kira Cheeseborough, Haley Hodgkinson, Fialka Jack, Mel Hedch, Quintin Courtoreille, Angell Olsen, and Nazmul Khan



## Financial Highlights

AWHK has been working hard to build robust financial practices and we are pleased to have grown our annual budget from \$1.38M in 2022, to \$1.42M in 2023 with the largest portions of the annual budget dedicated to the Safe Suites, Scattered Sites, and Rent Subsidy Programs.

This year at Campout we raised over \$60,000 thanks to the keen campers who collected pledges from their supporters in community. While our fund-raising total was down this year from past years, the engagement level was high and we are so grateful to all who attended and helped make it a success.

## Annual Budget 2023



- Safe Suites
- Rent Subsidies
- Youth Conference
- BC Coalition
- Scattered Sites
- Admin
- Youth Advisory Committee



Campers and presenters gathered at MacDonald Park, December 8th 2023.



Kamloops Aboriginal Friendship Centre Drummers warm their drums by the fire and help start Campout in a good way.

## Thank You Funders!





*Kelson Group* gathered a huge team of volunteers to help landscape one of the AWHK homes and made a big difference for AWHK, the youth, and the neighbors!



The talented acapella group *Slow No Tempo* share their gifts with AWHK staff and youth on Valentines Day 2023.

## Special Thanks To Our

### Funders & Donors

The Government of Canada  
Ministry of Social Services & Poverty Reduction  
BC Housing  
Enbridge Fuelling Futures  
Royal Bank of Canada  
United Way BC  
Social Planning & Research Council of BC  
Kiwaniis Club of Kamloops  
The Stollery Charitable Foundation  
TD Bank  
Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram  
Rotary Clubs of Kamloops  
Home Depot Canada Foundation

### Partners

BC Interior Community Foundation  
BC Coalition to End Youth Homelessness  
BC Non Profit Housing Association  
City of Kamloops  
Columbia Property Management  
Homelessness Services Association of BC  
Kelson Group  
Sabar Investments  
5 Bean Coffee  
Pizza Now  
Thompson Rivers University  
Work BC  
Wrapforce Members

### In Loving Memory of Our Founder Katherine McParland



email: [admin@awayhomekamloops.com](mailto:admin@awayhomekamloops.com)  
tel: 250-828-0446  
[www.awayhomekamloops.com](http://www.awayhomekamloops.com)

A Way Home Kamloops Society  
622 Tranquille Rd  
Kamloops, BC  
V2B 3H6

