

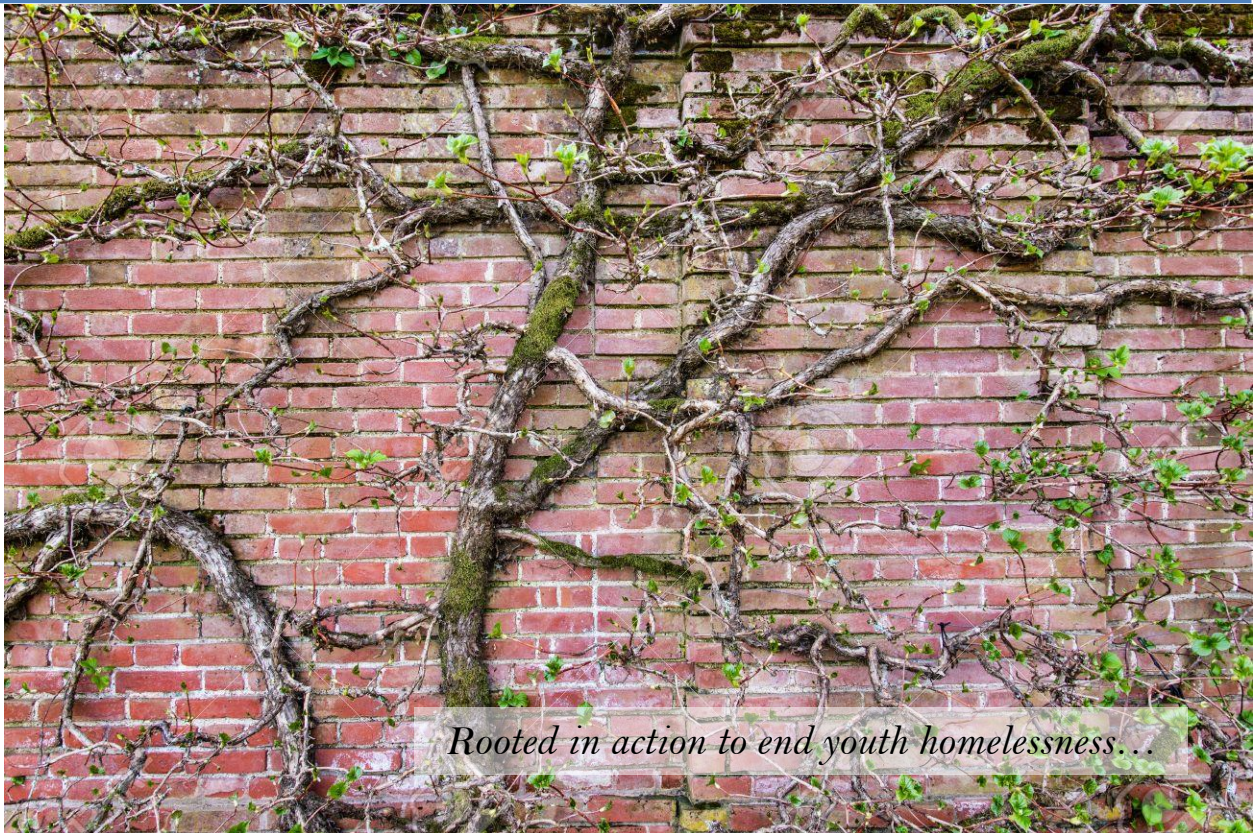
A Way Home Kamloops Society

Highlights & Yearly Accomplishments



2018

Annual Report



A Way Home Kamloops

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Table of Contents

A Way Home Kamloops Overview	Pg. 2
Board of Directors	Pg. 3
Our Staff Team	Pg. 4
A Way Home Kamloops Committee	Pg. 5
Youth Homelessness Count	Pg. 6
Youth Housing First Wrapforce	Pg. 7
Wrapforce Outcomes	Pg. 8
Youth Safe Suites Pilot Program	Pg. 9
Employment & Education	Pg. 10
Supports & Prevention	Pg. 11
Youth Against Youth Homelessness	Pg. 12
Youth Against Youth Homelessness Cont.	Pg. 13
Camp Out to End Youth Homelessness	Pg. 14
Provincial Work to End Youth Homelessness	Pg. 15
BC Coalition	Pg. 16
Provincial Work Highlights Cont.	Pg. 17
2018 Photo's	Pg. 18
Thank You	Pg. 19

A Way Home Kamloops

A Way Home Kamloops has come a long way from its grassroots beginning which involved meeting in an abandoned building. Kamloops was one of two communities, the first in BC, to develop a youth homelessness action plan through the Mobilizing Local Capacity program.

Four years later, we are excited to announce that A Way Home Kamloops became an **incorporated Society** on May 16, 2018. This is a significant milestone in the continued growth and development of the community movement to end youth homelessness. The greatest **impact** of this change is it will allow A Way Home Kamloops to address the community need for **youth housing**, specifically housing for the most **vulnerable youth**. Becoming a society also provides an opportunity to streamline the work & administration, maintain independence, and apply for grants that will further the work to end youth homelessness.

In July 2018, A Way Home Kamloops took a foundational step and moved into a distinct storefront space that provided a valuable opportunity to develop a hub of services for youth in housing. We are located downtown at 653 Victoria Street, which is an ideal central location for both youth and service providers to access easily.



The Conconi foundation has been a primary funder for A Way Home Kamloops since 2015. Conconi has been invaluable to A Way Home, helping us to build our capacity to thrive and grow as an organization. This year the Stollery Foundation has provided A Way Home Kamloops with foundational funding by matching The Conconi Foundation to fund the Executive Director position, as well as the temporary Admin Assistant position. Both of the foundations have been crucial in ensuring a solid foundation for the A Way Home Kamloops Society to grow and thrive so we can ensure that every youth has *a way home*.



Robert L Conconi FOUNDATION





A Way Home Kamloops Board of Directors

Grayden Flanagan: Grayden brings a business perspective to the board and owns nine Subway stores in Kamloops. Grayden gives his time generously to the community and is currently a Board Director at the Kamloops and District Elizabeth Fry Society, the Kamloops Central Business Improvement Association, the ICCHA Wish Foundation and the Kamloops Daybreak Rotary Club.

Louise Richards: Louise has recently retired from her 15-year position as Executive Director of the Kamloops and District Elizabeth Fry Society. Louise's background is in law and she helped develop the Poverty Law Advocacy Program at Elizabeth Fry, while also acting as the Regional Advocate for the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies. Louise has been a long-standing volunteer with the Law Foundation of BC, a key support member in the Kamloops Homelessness Action Plan, and developed the first women's supportive transitional housing in Kamloops. Louise has been a key supervisor throughout the development of A Way Home Kamloops.

Traci Anderson: Traci has been the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Kamloops since 2012, was previously the Children's Program Director, and has also held several supervisory and front-line positions with The Boys & Girls Club. Traci's work focuses on supporting youth to grow up to be successful adults; ensuring they have access to all they need to overcome barriers and develop confidence and skills for life. Traci has a Recreation Management Diploma, through Mount Royal University, and 25 years serving children, youth and families. Traci was previously the co-supervisor of Housing Management before A Way Home Kamloops became an incorporated society.

Fred Ford: Fred is the current Executive Director of Thompson Okanagan Community Services Co-operative in Kamloops, and was previously the Executive Director of Victoria's Child Abuse and Prevention Society (Mary Manning Centre) and Executive Director of Advocacy and Community Engagement for BC's Representative for Children and Youth. Fred's focus has been on disability studies, disability rights and services, child welfare, and education; he developed the first Disability Studies course for BC's Schools of Social Work and Child and Youth Care, taught Disability Studies at the University of Victoria for over a decade, and has conducted research about parenting, people with intellectual disabilities in institutions, and homeless youth. Fred is a member of the People First of Canada Task Force on Deinstitutionalization and the Right to Live in the Community, a Board Member of the BC Family Support Institute, and the Co-Chair of the BC Coalition to End Youth Homelessness.

Adil Hosenbocus, Board Treasurer: a manager at BDO Kamloops. Joined the board in 2018 as our treasurer. Aside from his academic and career accomplishments, it's clear that Hosenbocus has a passion for helping his community.

Rocky Hunter: Rocky brings a wealth of knowledge about business and the community as the, now retired, 27-year owner and operator of Domino's pizza.

A Way Home Kamloops Staff

Katherine McParland – Executive Director

Katherine McParland is the founder and manager of the A Way Home Kamloops movement to end youth homelessness. This issue is close to Katherine's heart as a youth who grew up in the foster care system, and experienced extensive periods of homelessness. She has found purpose in this First Voice truth to create change. Katherine was appointed to the Federal government's Advisory Committee on Homelessness. Provincially, Katherine co-chairs the BC Network to End Youth Homelessness and is helping to lead the development of a provincial plan to end youth homelessness. These experiences have supported Katherine's integration of learning as a Masters of Social Work Leadership student at University of Calgary. Most recently Katherine has started a practicum at the B.C. Representative of Children and Youth to ensure youth voice is heard in the development of a provincial plan to end youth homelessness.



Arielle Herault – Admin Assistant

Arielle has been a supporter of A Way Home Kamloops for over 4 years, since meeting Katherine through the Boys & Girls Club of Kamloops. She has her bachelor's degree in social work, but her true passion is wellness work & supporting youth in the Kamloops community. Arielle says that being at A Way Home as the Admin Assistant has been truly rewarding and has allowed her to provide support to an amazing team of people as well as help show the community the amazing impact of A Way Home Kamloops & their mission.



Kira Cheeseborough – Peer Navigator & Youth Advisor

Kira Cheeseborough is a Youth Advisor and Peer Support Worker for A Way Home Kamloops. Kira has led the development of an Education Peer Navigation program for youth who have experienced homelessness at Thompson Rivers University. Kira is also the Co-Chair of our Youth Against Youth Homelessness group.



Billy Davy – Youth Advisor

Billy Davy has joined the A Way Home Kamloops team as our newest youth advisor. He works alongside Kira and help oversee Youth Against Youth Homelessness. Billy has also been hired on as the Thompson/ Okanagan connector for AgedOut.com.





A Way Home Kamloops **Committee**

75 Active members: Active members on an A Way Home Committee, actively working on community projects to reduce youth homelessness

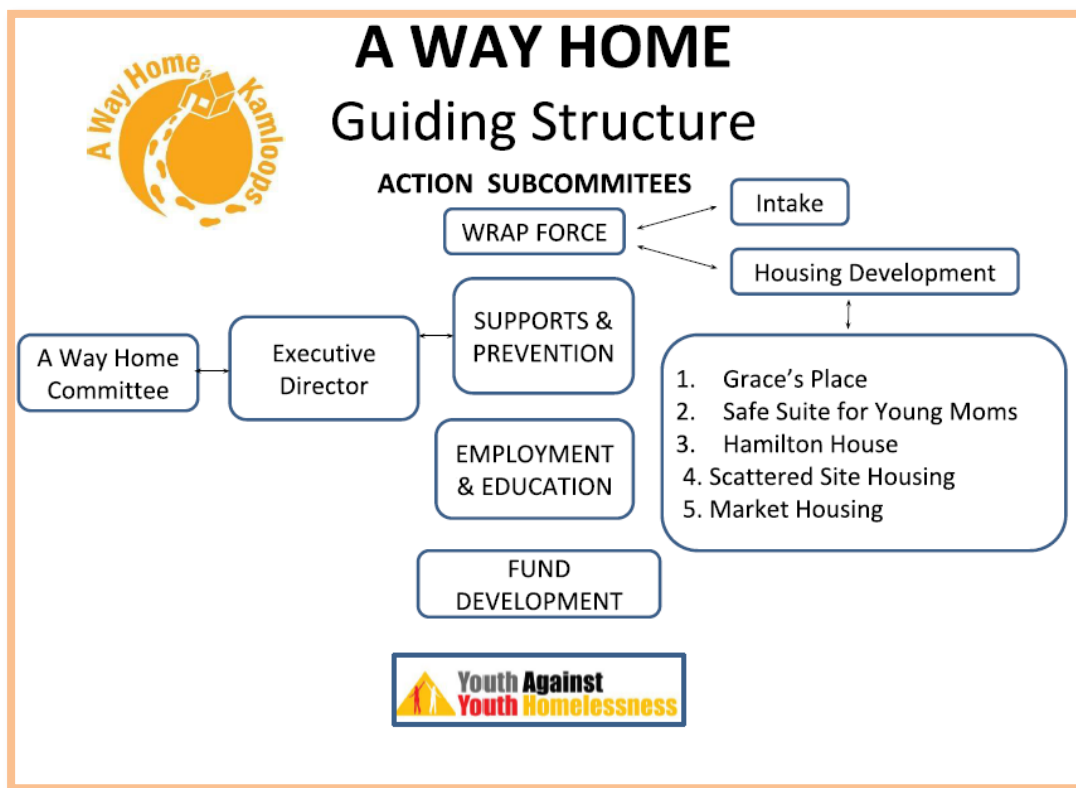
123 Supporting Members: Provides ongoing support & expertise to further the movement to end youth homelessness

A Way Home Kamloops continues to lead the implementation of our community plan to prevent & respond to youth homelessness. One of our organizations **core values** is community collaboration. A Way Home Kamloops is distinct in our ability to bring all partners together for a collective vision where every youth has a way home.

A Way Home Kamloops welcomed new committee chair: Danielle Kreutzer, who will be working alongside our youth advisor to chair bi-monthly A Way Home Kamloops meetings.

Supportive volunteer, Diane Down completed a membership application process and onboarding documents for new members, including a skills matrix. A Way Home Kamloops is hosting monthly orientation meetings to recruit new members!

A Way Home Kamloops continues to provide backbone leadership to the larger A Way Home Kamloops committee and manages 6 action teams that support the collective work that addresses youth homelessness in our community:



A Way Home Kamloops is a national leader in innovating distinct methodology to conduct a youth homelessness count. Youth counts help us uncover the hidden nature, and shed a light in the distinct services a youth needs. Youth homelessness counts also provide a baseline on the minimum number of youth experiencing homelessness; this allows us to measure our community impact in reducing youth homelessness.

In May 2018 A Way Home Kamloops completed our second annual **Youth Homelessness Count**. We are working in partnership with Thompson Rivers University and an inter-agency working group to release the youth count report in *April 2019*.

A Way Home Kamloops youth homelessness count methodology included:

- ✓ Street Count that engaged community volunteers in surveying youth in public spaces.
- ✓ Community booths at youth hot spots such as bus stops, libraries, etc...

132 – Youth experiencing homelessness in past year
86 – Youth were homeless during May 8-10

- ✓ School District Survey for all grade 10 students
- ✓ Magnet Events such as the community youth barbeque party
- ✓ Service Inventory where non-profits integrated the survey into their daily practice.
- ✓ Public Systems Inventory where youth connected to justice, foster-care, health-care, etc. were supported to complete survey.



Youth Housing First **Wrapforce**

The Kamloops Youth Housing First Wrapforce is an innovative program in preventing and ending youth homelessness. Your funding has helped us create a centralized housing and supports intake system that ensures there is no wrong door for young people. This has increased coordination and efficiencies of youth services by reducing service gaps through wraparound services to homeless youth.

The Wrapforce consists of 16 different organizations that have each identified one youth homelessness champion. Youth can walk into any organization and be connected to housing and supports through use of the same application form and consent process. This ensures youth do not have to tell their story over and over again.

**Housing first.
The rest will follow.**



MARKET HOUSING
For youth who are ready to live in a home where they pay rent to a landlord.

SAFE SUITES
A low barrier housing option for youth with complex mental health and substance use issues
(Opening Spring 2019)

INDEPENDENT HOUSING

SCATTERED SITE HOUSING
A Way Home Kamloops takes out a rental agreement and the youth becomes a program participant as they move towards education or employment.
4 Units

EMERGENCY SERVICES

SAFE SUITES FOR YOUNG MOMS
A supportive housing option for a teen mom with up to two children.
2 Units

GRACE'S PLACE
Two temporary beds for indigenous girls ages 19-24.
2 Units

TRANSITION HOUSING

HAMILTON HOUSE **3 Units**
Supportive Housing project for youth with access to a life skills and housing support worker.

RECONNECT
Services that help youth reconnect with family & return home.


Every Door is the **Right Door.**

**KAMLOOPS
YOUTH
HOUSING
FIRST
WRAPFORCE**



Wrapforce Outcomes

A Way Home Kamloops manages 10 units of supportive housing. Over the past year we have increased our capacity to house more youth by becoming a non-profit organization. Youth receive support services such as: life skills, transportation options, a connection to our peer navigator who aid youth in securing employment and education option and much more. A Way Home Kamloops provides supportive housing and case management resulting in these outcomes:

# of Referrals	2018 Outcomes	Total # of Youth Served	# of Youth unable to provide housing for
103 youth total	13 youth in program housing	43 supported youth	60 youth unable to help
32 – carried over from 2017	28 youth in market housing		
71 – new 2018	2 youth reconnected back home		

Youth Service Hub



A Way Home Kamloops & Supporting Agencies

YOUTH SERVICE HUB

Working together to offer one-stop, on the spot support

A Way Home Kamloops coordinated a youth services Hub pilot in 2015. With our new space we are able to launch a bigger and better youth services Hub in 2018. The hub acts as a one-stop on the spot connection for youth in the community who are in need of support, including connections to employment and education, housing needs, access to food, emotional connection and knowledge of local youth serving agencies. With the support of key people from agencies including: **Axis Family Resources, The Boys & Girls Club of Kamloops, The Kamloops YMCA, Secwepemc Child and Family services, local foster parents, Tkumlups** and our **Peer Navigator** we have up to 5 service providers on site for 2 hours each week. The Hub will continue into 2019.

Impact Story:

A youth experiencing homelessness arrived at the hub and was set up with a team of supports & a sense of community. Within a few hours the team was able to secure the youth with program housing. That youth is happily housed and is now going to school and working part time. A Way Home Kamloops Youth services Hub is the first step to connect youth to supports and leave homelessness in the dust...

PILOT PROGRAM PLAN

Kamloops YOUTH Housing First Wrapforce

YOUTH SAFE SUITES

A BRIDGE TO HOUSING FOR YOUTH AGE: 18 - 24

A Way Home Kamloops is excited to announce that we are opening Safe Suites in spring 2019 thanks to our amazing community support. Safe Suites has been a program model that A Way Home Kamloops has been working towards since 2015. Safe Suites is a low barrier housing option with the purpose of acting as a bridge into housing for youth with the most complex mental health or substance use issues. Youth can come as they are and receive immediate wraparound support that promotes stabilization that helps youth develop life-skills to be successful in independent housing. Safe Suites is an innovative model that re-imagines emergency services to youth homelessness by providing youth housing first. Kamloops Native Housing Society has signed a MOU with A Way Home Kamloops as an official partner to the project. Boys & Girls Club of Kamloops will provide life-skills programming and support as the second official partner. Sixteen other organizations have pledged in kind support to youth in housing. The program will be opened in spring of 2019 and will provide 24/7 staffing to provide a safe place for up to seven

YOUTH SAFE SUITES

Goals

Goal 1 – Diverse Young People Feel Welcome

Goal 2 – Partners Work Together

Goal 3 – Young People's Needs Are Met

Program Phases

1 – Connect Intake to the Safe Suites within 24 hours

2 - Learn 1-12 months stay with training, support, fun & connection

3 - Thrive 1 year of supports in next housing

Employment & Education

Education

"I aged out of foster care and want to pursue post-secondary; that opportunity would not feel possible without this program."
- currently enrolled at TRU

Bursary

"I was the recipient of a bursary 2 years in a row and wanted to give back to A Way Home, so I helped to create a unique peer navigation program to help future youth"



Employment

"With the help of A Way Home Kamloops I was able to apply and successfully secure a job. Thanks to this program I now have two jobs to support myself"



The A Way Home Kamloops' Employment & Education program was launched in **November 2018**. The luncheon brought together many community members who witnessed A Way Home Kamloops present Gordon Down from Thompson Rivers University with a honorary legacy award. TRU has been providing **five full-tuition** bursaries annually for youth in A Way Home Kamloops housing. Furthermore, RBC has funded a Peer Navigator position (Kira Cheeseborough). This is an exciting program that will support youth to transcend homelessness by achieving education and employment through peer support. Furthermore, her role has been integrated with our A Way Home Kamloops housing programs to help our youth to access employment and education options. Kira is currently providing a weekly drop in at Twin Rivers Education Center.

Education

9 youth attended post-secondary
5 youth exploring TRU
4 Youth exploring faculty membership
6 youth upgrading

Employment

11 youth found employment
12 youth volunteering
1 youth did not sustain employment

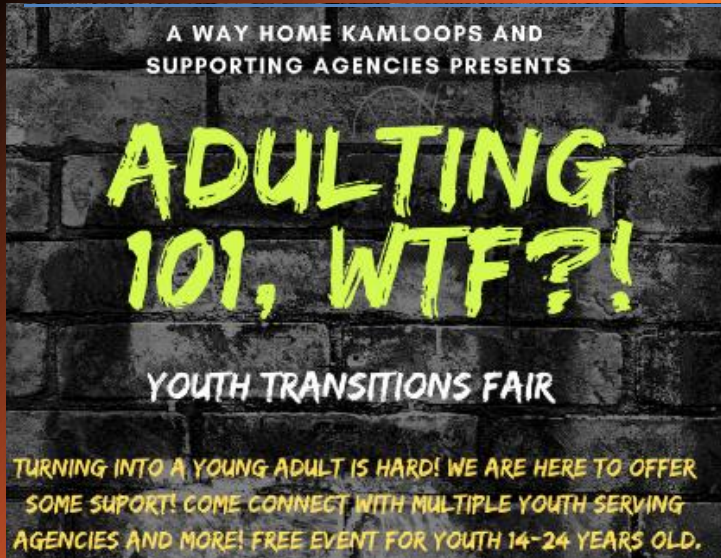
2017-2018



Thanks to RBC Kamloops for funding our Peer Navigator position, held by our youth advisor Kira Cheeseborough. She has been able to use this funding to impact the lives of many youth in our community



Supports & Prevention Team



The Prevention & Supports Committee organised and hosted a community youth transition fair called “Youth Adulting 101-WTF!!!” This event hosted over nineteen unique agencies including partners who travelled from Vancouver and surrounding areas such as Agedout.com, the Representative of Children & Youth, and ICBC. As many as 28 unique youth attended accompanied by interested supporting adults and service providers. The event evaluation forms proved very positive, with youth saying they enjoyed the overall experience. All in all, the event helped prepare youth for adulthood.



Youth Against Youth Homelessness

Youth Against Youth Homelessness (YAYH) is the incredible youth voice of A Way Home Kamloops. Over 2018, this group has solidified and been able to achieve many goals towards ending youth homelessness. Their Group highlights include:

- The Paige's of Hope book project has made significant progress. Youth have written their stories or expressed themselves through poems or art. As a next step, the Youth Leaders have formed a working group to develop a website where the book will be initially launched as an online resource.
- A Youth Advisor secured a grant that funded a retreat for nine youth to the Center of the Universe on Skeetchestn land. At this retreat, YAYH had an opportunity to participate in two healing sweats and cleanse with traditional medicines. Youth members used this retreat to work on their stories.
- Conducted a peer led youth forum to help inform a national prevention framework on youth homelessness.
- YAYH took a leadership role with the Youth Homelessness Count and developed survival backpacks for youth.



- Formalizing a structure for peer support in housing including a weekly youth led meeting and the employment and education program.
- YAYH has taken an active role in attending A Way Home Kamloops Committee meetings and think tanks on policy change.
- YAYH has also provided policy advice to inform a provincial plan to end poverty and a Representative of Children and Youth report on youth homelessness.



Youth Against Youth Homelessness **Cont.**



- YAYH represented A Way Home Kamloops at provincial & national events related to youth homelessness. such as: the Canadian alliance to end youth homelessness conference & BC Coalition to end youth homelessness forum.
- YAYH has educated our local community and raised awareness of the issue of youth homelessness. This has included presenting at the TRU leadership conference, the Peace walk and many other events...
- YAYH has helped lead fundraising initiatives to bring safe suites to life. For example, they had a key leadership role with the Camp Out to End Youth Homelessness. Additionally, they led the Home Depot Orange Door Campaign.
- A Way Home Kamloops and YAYH hosted a “Keeping Girls Safe Consultation” for a research project at Pacific Community Resource Society. We had two sessions: one for service providers and the other for girls who have experienced exploitation.
- YAYH been involved in many research initiatives to further the understanding of best practices to respond to youth homelessness.
- Youth Advisor, Kira Cheeseborough presented her upcoming research project at the upcoming TRU research conference.

Camp Out ² End Youth Homelessness



**2018 A WAY HOME
CAMPOUT TO END
YOUTH
HOMELESSNESS**

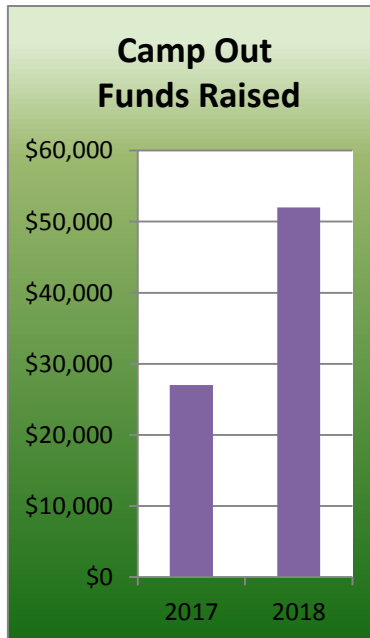
RAISE FUNDS FOR SAFE SUITES & HELP OUR YOUTH FIND THEIR WAY HOME

CAMPOUT LOCATED AT MASTERMIND STUDIOS
954 LAVAL CRESCENT
DECEMBER 14TH - 10:00PM - 6:00AM
CONTACT: KATHERINE 250-320-7838
ADMIN@AWAYHOMEKAMLOOPS.COM

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ROCKIES ICE

Our annual event, Camp Out to End Youth Homelessness took place on December 14, 2018 at Mastermind Studios. It was a huge success with over 50 campers involved as well as the support of many local businesses and four city council members. City Council proclaimed it Camp Out to End Youth Homelessness Week, which is a crucial opportunity to raise awareness and build a community movement to fund Safe Suites. The night was filled with fun, including touching speeches from young people with lived experience, the planning committee as well as dedicated campers. We had lots to eat including: lasagna, hotdogs and fire roasted marshmallows! We even got to watch a movie in the mastermind studio's theatre complete with popcorn. It was amazing to see the community unite and contribute to the efforts to end youth homelessness.



Provincial Work to End Youth Homelessness

B.C. Coalition to End Youth Homelessness

In 2017, A Way Home Kamloops set a strategic priority to help lead the development of a provincial plan to end youth homelessness. At the same time, the Minister of Social Development & Poverty Reduction met with A Way Home Kamloops to share about a policy window where the provincial government would be developing a provincial plan to end homelessness.



To ensure this plan was led by youth first voices and B.C. communities, A Way Home Kamloops co-founded the B.C. Coalition to End Youth Homelessness. This coalition has grown to over 45 members, including youth and organizations representing communities across the province. Our vision and advocacy is to develop a distinct plan to end youth homelessness in BC. A Way Home Kamloops' executive director co-chairs this collective and provides a coordination/backbone role in supporting the work.

The BC Coalition to End Youth Homelessness, **2018 Highlights Include:**

- ❖ The Minister of Housing & Municipal Affairs provided \$19,500 for an in-person meeting of the Coalition in Vancouver. This meeting brought together communities, youth, two cabinet Ministers, The Representative of Children & Youth and senior government officials from seven different ministries. This meeting was a milestone in the progress of developing a provincial plan.
- ❖ Through provincial advocacy the Homelessness Action Plan leads have confirmed that the submission to cabinet will include a recommendation for a specific plan to end youth homelessness. This will be a subsequent step upon the province's release of the overall plan to end homelessness in B.C. and is pending cabinet approval. This was a significant milestone in the coalition's advocacy as originally youth were going to be collapsed into the overall plan. This is recognition of the distinct needs of youth are different and that adult interventions will not meet their developmental needs.
- ❖ A Way Home Kamloops is in a lead role in informing the Homelessness Action Plan leads on issues and priorities relation to youth homelessness. A Way Home coordinates a monthly provincial report with a monthly report on different government ministries' roles to end youth homelessness. Our goal is to highlight the need for inter-ministerial coordination and responsibility for eleven different government ministries. To do this report, A Way Home Kamloops supports other communities to gather information by providing a template for monthly think tanks. A Way Home Kamloops will be hosting monthly think tanks to ensure youth voices and the community perspective is reflective in our reports. This information is rolled up into a provincial report that is sent to the Homelessness Action Plan leads and discussed with relevant Ministers.

A Way Home Kamloops Provincial **Successes & Highlights**



- ❖ A Way Home Kamloops met with the Minister of Children and Family Development to advise on issues related to youth homelessness and to gain a commitment of support for a provincial plan to end youth homelessness. The Minister committed to the three asks, which would continue the line of communication to inform the plan.
- ❖ BC is working on a provincial plan to end poverty and consulted with communities that identified homelessness as a key area needing support. The Coalition responded to Minister Simpson's 'What We Heard' report with a collective letter. The Coalition is advocating for additional community consultations to be held in a similar process to inform the provincial plan to end youth homelessness.

Other Provincial Highlights:

- ❖ Thompson Rivers University and the Ontario Center of Child and Youth Mental Health Excellence have partnered with A Way Home Kamloops to develop a toolkit on the Wrapforce housing and supports model. Other communities across BC have expressed interest in implementing Wrapforce in their context as a promising practice. The toolkit will be piloted at three communities to be determined.
- ❖ Katherine McParland was appointed as a BC Housing Board Commissioner to represent youth voice.
- ❖ For the 2018 provincial budget consultation BC coalition co-chairs presented on the need for a provincial plan to end youth homelessness.
- ❖ Katherine McParland received the YWCA Peace Medal as recognition of the difference that A Way Home Kamloops has made in the community. In response to this award, the minister of housing and municipal affairs asked Katherine to be a guest at the throne speech. This was an opportunity to meet with two government ministers and senior officials about policy change to end youth homelessness.
- ❖ A Way Home Kamloops was invited to present at the Coming Up Together Youth Homelessness Conference at the University of Ottawa. Additionally, A Way Home Kamloops presented at the Ending Violence Against Women Conference.
- ❖ A Way Home Kamloops' executive director was appointed a member of the Ministers' Homelessness Action Plan Expert Panel.

A Way Home Kamloops Provincial **Successes Cont.**

- ❖ The Executive Director of A Way Home Kamloops has provided ongoing support to the community of Cowichan in developing their youth homelessness strategy and was invited as the main presenter at the community launch of their youth homelessness strategy.
- ❖ A Way Home Kamloops has also been supporting the community of Nelson, in developing a strategy to end youth homelessness. Katherine was the lead presenter at a community forum on youth homelessness and has been supporting the community ongoing.
- ❖ The community of Salmon Arm is looking at developing a similar model to A Way Home Kamloops and came to Kamloops to meet with Katherine and learn more.
- ❖ A Way Home Kamloops participated in the collaborative Women's Symposium led by Atira Women's Association.

Executive Director's Masters of Social Work Practicum

- ❖ The Executive Director of A Way Home Kamloops is close to completing her Masters practicum at the Representative of Children and Youth Office to develop a provincial report on youth homelessness to inform a provincial plan to end youth homelessness.
- ❖ A Provincial Youth Leadership group for the Representative of Children & Youth that includes 12 youth leaders from across the province with lived expertise of homelessness have decided to take the local A Way Home Kamloops' name of: Youth Against Youth Homelessness to recognize the incredible work that had been done locally. They are now called the BC Youth Against Youth Homelessness group.
- ❖ The A Way Home Kamloops Executive Director helped The Representative of Children and Youth to coordinate **thirteen** youth-led forums that occurred in different communities across the province to provide an opportunity for youth with lived expertise of homelessness to inform a provincial plan to end youth homelessness.
- ❖ An online survey and report will be completed in early 2019 as a result of this provincial work led by the Executive Director of A Way Home Kamloops



Favorite Moments of 2018



THANK YOU All Of our FUNDING PARTNERS



Thank
you