



Rooted In Action
To End Youth Homelessness

Annual Report 2021



Message from the Board of Directors

In reflecting back on the past year I am pleased and proud of the accomplishments of A Way Home Kamloops. We have remained true to our founding principles and values, expanded our programs and services, and assisted so many youth in the community. The past year has presented a number of challenges but under the capable leadership of our Executive Director, Tangie Genshorek, the staff have experienced a year of stability and growth. As a young non profit we are continuing to develop the solid foundation needed to grow and thrive, and I am looking forward to what the coming year will bring.

Thank you to the Board of Directors, Tangie, the staff and our community for coming together to address youth homelessness.

Louise Richards, Board President

Our Vision

All youth in Kamloops have a safe place to call home and the supports to sustain wellness.

Our Mission

A Way Home is a community movement working towards preventing, reducing, and ending youth homelessness in Kamloops. "Rooted in Action"

Our Core Values



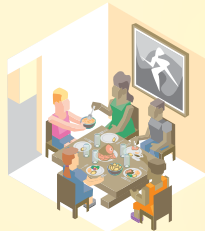
First Voices Leadership

Empowering those with lived expertise to guide the community movement to end youth homelessness.



Supportive

Ensuring a safe environment that encompasses compassion, empathy, care, and understanding of all forms of diversity.



Respect

Create trusting, quality relationships that promote acceptance, belonging, inclusivity, and accountability for shared decision-making.



Innovation

Be creative, inquisitive, and ambitious to do what has never been done before and share our learning for educational resources.



Sustainable Movement

Ensure balance, stability, clarity and perseverance in our focus to consistently manage future growth.



Community-Centered

Prioritize community relationships through open engagement and honest connection to guide the work as we are all in this together.

Message from the Executive Director

We have many things to be grateful for despite this being an extremely difficult year for A Way Home Kamloops. We are, most of all, thankful for the foundation that Katherine McParland laid for the society with the support of the Board of Directors. Katherine's vision lives on in the work, in the memories of all who knew her, and in the hearts of all the youth she served.

We are very fortunate to have a board and staff who have persevered through the past year to see the work continue and grow, and we are very grateful to the whole community for the continued support that has come in many forms.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to join AWHK and I look forward to all the exciting things to come. We have many great building blocks to work with and I am excited to see what we build together. Thank you Kamloops, for all you have done for A Way Home Kamloops, I look forward to serving the youth in our community with your support.

Tangie Genshorek, Executive Director



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2021

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

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*

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*

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



2016

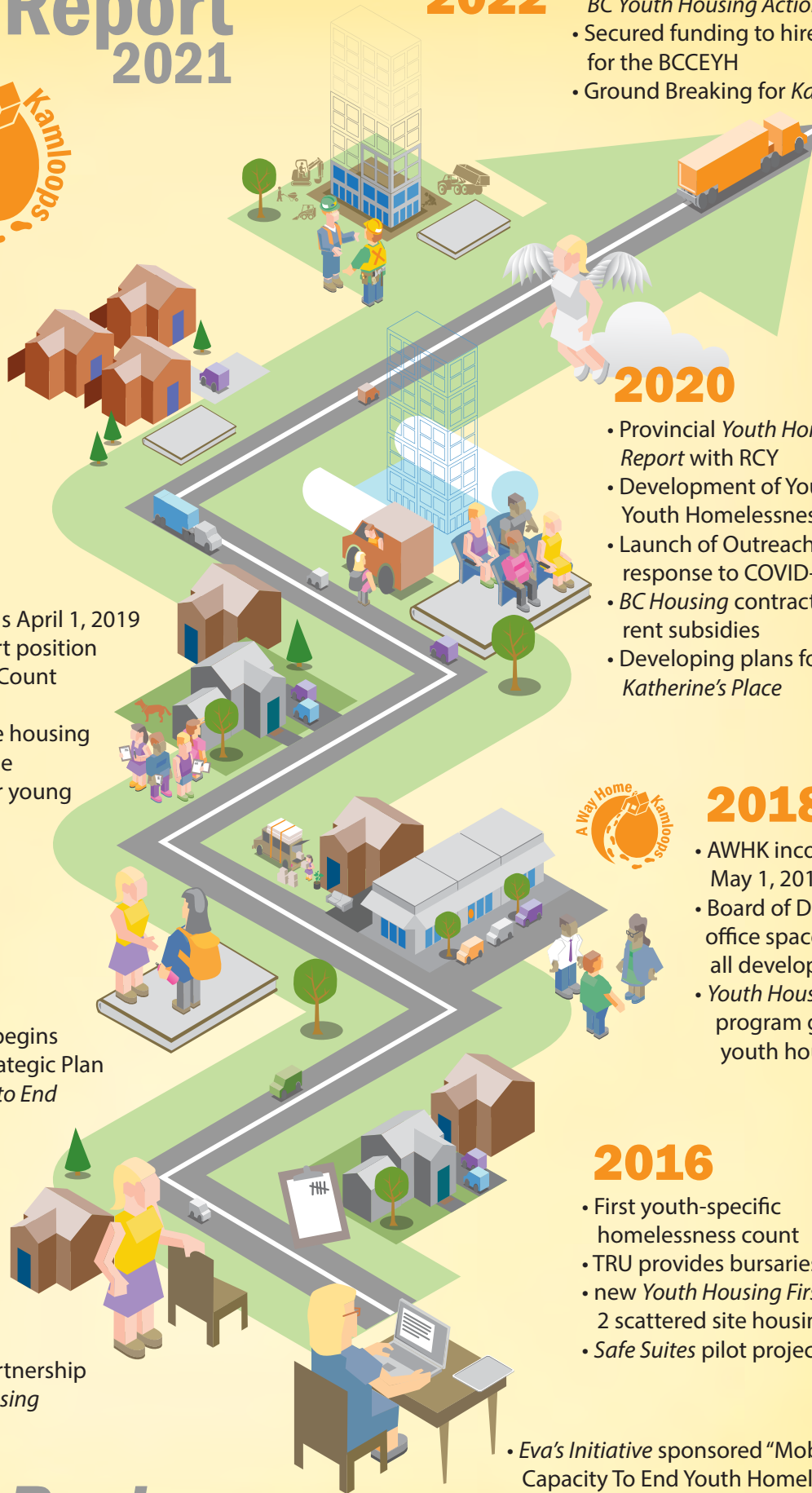
- First youth-specific homelessness count
- TRU provides bursaries to youth
- new *Youth Housing First* program: 2 scattered site housing units
- *Safe Suites* pilot project: 1 unit

Looking Back...

A Timeline of AWHK Events

2014

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





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Program Highlights

We are proud to carry on the many programs and initiatives started by our founder Katherine McParland. In 2021 our work was focused on the following areas:

Safe Suites Housing

The Safe Suites program has been funded by *BC Housing* for 3 years, and supports 6 youth at a time to live with 24/7 staff support while working to transition to more independent forms of housing. The Safe Suites program will move to the newly constructed Katherine's Place in the summer of 2023 with the continued support of *BC Housing*.

Scattered Sites Housing

This housing program works with landlords in the community to provide apartments supported by AWHK Case Managers. The youth in these units receive support with life skills training and connections to community while they work towards taking over their lease from AWHK.

Market Housing

AWHK administers rental subsidies provided by *BC Housing* that help youth afford rent at various locations across Kamloops. While we don't provide regular supports to these youth they often drop by so we can connect them with whatever they need.

Peer Navigation & Peer Mentoring

The AWHK Peer Navigator works with many partners across Kamloops to connect youth with various supports, particularly related to employment and education. Peer Navigators help youth who are in our housing, or on our waitlist and youth who drop in.

Advocacy & Awareness

AWHK is proud to be the backbone organization for the *BC Coalition to End Youth Homelessness (BCCEYH)* where we work with other youth serving groups to push for long lasting change. The group is creating a province-wide plan to end youth homelessness while also advocating for changes to legislation through "Katherine's Law" which will make it impossible for any youth to age out of care into homelessness.

Katherine's Place

We eagerly anticipate the construction of a new building that will be home to 39 youth. This project was a key part of Katherine's vision and she had most of the pieces in place before her passing. We are pleased to carry on with her momentum and make this idea a reality. We are very grateful to Missagh Manshadi for partnering with Katherine early on to develop this vision for the land. *BC Housing* will be the key partner and provide construction funding as well as ongoing operating dollars. A Way Home Kamloops will operate all of the units for diverse youth at-risk of homelessness.

The units will be bachelors and 1 bedrooms with kitchens and kitchenettes, and several will be accessible or adaptable to meet a range of needs. The location will house AWHK offices and provide additional space for community partners to support youth. There will be a large shared activity space that can house a variety of activities including meals prepared in the on-site commercial kitchen. A courtyard and roof deck will provide outdoor spaces.

We look forward to occupation in summer/fall 2023 and can't wait to invite you all for a tour!



Katherine's Place - 562 Tranquille Rd - Occupation 2023
Rendering courtesy of Bluegreen Architecture

Many Thanks to our Sponsors:



Donna Mellquist & Thomas Lafreniere





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Thank you!

Board of Directors

President – Louise Richards
Vice President - Traci Anderson
Treasurer – Carley Henniger
Lorry-Ann Austin
Grayden Flannigan
Jenna Nickle

Camp-Out Committee

Nicholas Adams
Mike Dedels
Acacia Pangilinan
Patti Phillips
Tom Rankin

Donors

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Rick and Maureen Gibson
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St. Vincent De Paul Society
Vital Signs
(see also logos on previous page)

Partners

BC Interior Community Foundation
BC Coalition to End Youth Homelessness
BGC Kamloops
City of Kamloops
Columbia Property Management
Kamloops Community Action Team
Kamloops Native Housing
Kelson Group
Missaugh Manshadi
Thompson Rivers University
Wrapforce Members

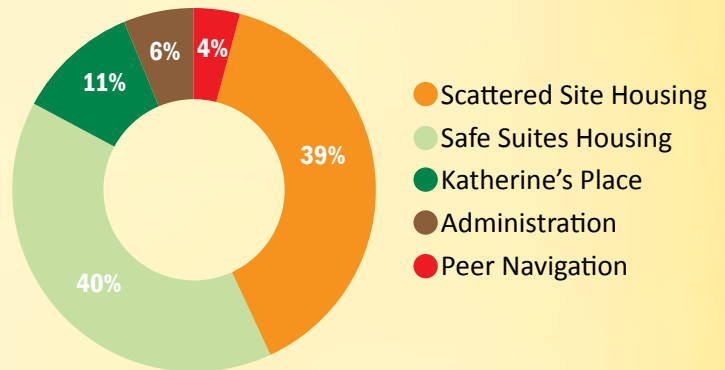


Financials

Financial sustainability is an important goal and a necessary step to ensure that we can serve youth well in an ongoing way. AWHK has been working with L. Pavanel Accounting Services for the last two years to develop financial systems that will serve the society well into the future. Thanks to the administrative support and to the many generous donors and funders who have come to support our work, we are pleased to have grown our annual budget from just under \$900,000 in 2020 to just over \$1.2M in 2021.

The largest portion of our work is done at Safe Suites, followed closely by our Scattered Sites Housing. All of the funds earned at Camp-Out this year have been set aside to provide program development at Katherine's Place. The rest of the AWHK budget is dedicated to our Peer Navigation and Peer Mentoring programs and administration.

AWHK Budget 2021



*In memory of our founder,
Katherine McParland*

We are grateful to live and work on the unceded land belonging to the Tk'emlúpsmc, 'the people of the confluence', now known as the Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc, members of the Interior-Salish Secwepemc (Shuswap) speaking peoples.

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