



Making Kenora HOME

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS
FOR HOMELESSNESS

ANNUAL REPORT

for the period October 2008 to October 2009

HUB Executive

Nan Normand, Co-Chair
Ralph Page, Co-Chair, Treasurer
Karen Essery, Secretary
Don Denver
Emily Goss
Dan Jorgensen
Pieter Joubert
Shirley Kelly
Frank Kowal
Erika Olson
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Message From The Co-Chairs

Making Kenora Home has now celebrated its third anniversary. We entered this year with a keen awareness of the challenges that lay ahead. Economic recession decreased community wealth and created additional barriers to development. Political leadership struggled with balancing budgets in time of great need. Our citizens faced dwindling opportunities. In the midst of this grey landscape, Making Kenora Home persisted, guided by the vision and values that established the organization.

The barriers that once seemed impenetrable are shifting. Although the economy is battered, there are signs of recovery. Political leaders have begun taking about housing needs everywhere. Consultations have taken place both federally, provincially and regionally. Bill C-304, a private member's bill to ensure secure, adequate, accessible and affordable housing for all Canadians has passed second reading. Making Kenora Home participated in all opportunities to advocate for housing our own community members. Our City has also brought local housing need to both the Kenora District Services Board and to the province. Proposals have begun to be generated.

Given the challenges faced this year, the response of the community has been gratifying. Our citizens have continued to volunteer and share as they are able. It is this coming together in commitment to our vision that is shaping our City's future.

Guiding Principles

- ❖ **EQUALITY**
- ❖ **INCLUSION**
- ❖ **SHARING**
- ❖ **SELF DETERMINATION**
- ❖ **EMPOWERMENT**

"Live Like A Community"

Nan Normand
Co-Chair

Ralph Page
Co-Chair

OBJECTIVE #1

Promote Implementation of Recommended Housing Projects

1. Full-time Emergency Shelter: The Homelessness Partnering Initiative proposal was successful. Although the grant only provided bridging to allow continuous operation of the emergency shelter throughout 2009, the addition of a sustainability researcher allowed the Kenora Fellowship Centre to expand their funding options in the near future, MKH assisted the shelter in their proposal development.

2. Eight Single Room Occupancy Units: With the assistance of MKH and many community volunteers, the Kenora Fellowship Centre submitted a proposal to the federal Social Infrastructure fund for the construction of 8 transitional units for those who have been homeless. Part of the funding must be raised locally.

3. Twenty Single Room Occupancy Units: Although there is some funding available through the Affordable Housing Program, no come proponents have come forward yet. The Kenora District Services Board must add 10 units to their portfolio but these units may either be built or subsidized within the region. The KDSB's regional housing consultation did confirm Kenora's "desperate need".

4. Ten Single Dwelling Aboriginal Family Units: Aamikkowiish NonProfit Housing had previously proposed the addition of 10 units to their stock but was not successful. The 2009 funding announcement was for shovel ready projects only. The Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services are delivering the FIMUR program. This program has both a rental and home ownership component. Joe Morrison of OAHS has kept the community apprised of recent developments and continues to advocate for local investment in aboriginal housing. Project development funding has been granted to Aamikkowiish and Women's Place for a proposed affordable housing complex for persons of aboriginal descent. Womens Place, Saakaate House and the Ontario Metis Association have collaborated in this proposal.

5. Tax Discount/Credit and Utility Credit for Low-Income Seniors: To be addressed.



6. Two Supportive Housing Units: In a creative partnership, Benedickson Court and Pinecrest partnered to offer on site services for seniors within the housing complex. With a varying fee schedule, residents can assess health and assistive living services. It is hoped that the aboriginal complex proposal will include units for victims of violence.

7. Rent Subsidization: The Ministry of Health has provided rent subsidization for 8 individuals experiencing mental health dysfunction.

8. Revolving House Trust: Preliminary dialogue with Habitat for Humanity has occurred. At this point, the steering committee must establish the pool of potential applicants and local commitment.

Making Kenora Home participated in the federal consultation on the Homelessness Partnering Initiative, Let's Talk Solutions provincial tour, the Poverty Round Table, the Kenora District Services Board's housing consultation and the provincial Affordable Housing Strategy consultation.

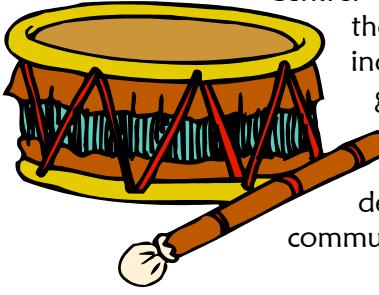
OBJECTIVE #2

Community Caring Projects

Community of Friends. This neighbourhood support group met Wednesday evenings at the Minto Family Resource Centre . The project wound down in May 2009. Although neighbourhood interest in the group remains, more volunteers are required for viability.



Christmas Sharing Circle. Nancy Morrison again organized a traditional aboriginal sharing circle and Christmas celebration at the Kenora Fellowship Centre. The youthful elves of the Nechee Centre individually wrapped the gifts that were distributed to homeless and destitute adults in the community.



Hunger Doesn't Take A Vacation. The August campaign provided Saturday meals to 218 individuals at the street picnics. This year, the volunteers were taught the art of bannock making in response to patron demand. The picnic series culminated in the traditional "Thanksgiving in August" feast. WalMart's Charity Committee organized a fundraiser and did a food drive for the Salvation Army food bank.



Tins for the Bin. Donation bins are located and promoted at various locations in the community including Extra Foods and the recreation centre. Special event bins are set up at community gatherings.



OBJECTIVE #3

Community Awareness and Education

Week of Action Against Poverty. The third action week was held February 7-14, 2009. A spectrum of activities demonstrated the creativity and commitment of the citizens of our community. Events included a Knit-A-Thon (Kenora Metis Warmth and Wellness Committee), a children's story hour (Best Start Hub), a Budget Count-down (Northwestprayers from the pulpit (Kenora Ministerial Association) and food drives (TD Bank,

Kenora Court House, Northwest Health Unit, Challenge Club, Legal Aid Ontario, Northwest Community Legal Clinic). Clothing collections were held by Keystone Lock & Safe, Community Support Services, Mx-Fm). The local cable station aired "Street Nurse" which is the fascinating story of Cathy Crowe's advocacy for the impoverished. People First assembled the red ribbons for Red Wear Day. Over a thousand citizens wore red to show their solidarity in the fight against poverty within our community. Youth led actions were inspirational-St.Thomas Aquinas Annex, Pope John Paul II, St. Marguerite Bougeois and St. Louis all participated eagerly. The Band of Awesome returned to raise funds for the Minto Family Resource Centre.



Gingerbread Lane. The 2008 event featured a tea, the gingerbread village display and entertainment. A total of \$293.00 was raised. House entries with attached wishes were almost double the previous year's submissions. This seasonal attraction brings attention to the issues of homelessness during the holiday season.



Newsletters. Newsletters were distributed throughout the community in February and October.

Homeless in Kenora:

Journeys of Hope



Volume II in a series of stories and poetry from people who have made it off the streets of Kenora

Journeys of Hope. The second booklet authored by local citizens who were formerly homeless featured stories of successful transitioning from street life to stability. HoJoe's hosted the book launch. This edition has been requested and distributed beyond Kenora.

Understanding Local Social Housing. A briefing document was created to help demystify the complex weave of programs and funding streams that form the fabric of our local social housing.

Web Site. The site has been upgraded to include Making Kenora Home's research and publications as well as a direct newsfeed on federal and provincial housing matters, www.makingkenorahome.com

Media Interviews

- Radio 3
- Television 2
- Newsprint 45



ARTICULATING OUR VISION

What is Making Kenora HOME?

A concerned group working on solutions for homelessness in our community.

How do we achieve this?

- ◆ Community education and awareness about homelessness and poverty
- ◆ Promoting the implementation of our May 2007 report *Community Solutions For Affordable Housing Projects*
- ◆ Community caring projects to address poverty.

Why is Making Kenora HOME important to us?

- ◆ Stable housing is one of the most effective ways to break the cycle of poverty
- ◆ Kenora will become a more inclusive and caring community



*Thank you to all of the
volunteers and donors who
make Kenora Home*

Makng Kenora Home Charitable Services Inc. Profit and Loss

January through December 2008

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Donation 2Pianos 8 hands	1,066.00
Donations	6,730.66
Total Income	7,796.66

Expense

Fellowship Centre meals	314.29
Fellowship Centre meals	926.21
Service Charges	80.74
Total Expenses	1,321.24

Net Ordinary Income 6,475.42

Other Income/Expense

Other Income

Service Charge Recovered	86.68
Total Other Income	86.68

Other Expenses

Total Other Expenses	96.37
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Net Other Income - 9.69

Total Net Income

6,465.73

Membership

Contact Nan Normand at the
Northwest Community Legal Clinic
468-8888.

"Homelessness may not only be a housing problem, but it is always a housing problem. And you can't deal with whatever other problems a person is facing until they are in stable, appropriate housing."

David Hulchanski
University of Toronto