



ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014



Mission Statement

TCO is a community-based charitable organization that was established in 1989 to provide urgently needed residential and family support services to the people of Perth and District. TCO is committed to providing services of the highest quality in a local setting that promotes social inclusion.

Accountable to our community, everyone involved in TCO, from staff to families to local volunteers, is committed to a caring, compassionate and inclusive organization where all are treated with respect and honesty. We are committed to responding to the needs of those most vulnerable in our community by integrating services into our neighbourhoods with innovation and creativity.

Vision

TCO will be a leading provider of:

- Safe, caring and high quality residential and support services for people with intellectual disabilities that promotes social inclusion
- Stimulating, safe and nurturing child care services of the highest quality
- Affordable, high quality housing

TCO will be a leader in:

- Advocating for safe, caring and inclusive communities
- Bringing organizations together to strengthen our voices
- Developing innovative services to emerging needs

TCO will:

- Institute fair employment practices that value and respect those who provide the services that are so important to our community

Values

- We believe our services should be provided with caring and compassion
- We believe in working as a team in a workplace that respects and values all employees
- We believe in a healthy workplace
- We believe in dealing with each other in a fair, honest and respectful manner
- We believe quality comes first
- We believe in respecting the dignity of all who we serve
- We believe that working in collaboration with others makes us more effective
- We believe that families have the right to high quality community services
- We believe we are accountable to the people and community we serve

Overview

Tayside Community Residential & Support Options has been a provider of community services within the town of Perth for the past 25 years and we are delighted to be celebrating our anniversary of incorporation this year. Over the summer months we will be creating a "celebratory" venue for the fall so we can gather together all contributors of the organization's success and share our stories and visions for the future.

We are fortunate to have a team of people at TCO who bring a depth and breadth of experience and innovation to the residents and the children who we work for. We have invested in training to assist us with enhancement of our person-centred work and the strengthening of our leadership and teams. Educating ourselves with the transformation of developmental services and childcare is creating opportunities for innovation and diversity of our service delivery models.

Although the past year has seen some challenges for our organization, we have continued to provide high quality services to those for whom we work. We have emerged stronger through collaborations within our teams, partnering agencies and our funding providers.

I am confident that TCO will continue to grow and thrive. My thanks to the staff and the Board for working so well together to ensure that we operate efficiently and for the benefit of all the individuals we are proud to serve.

I am very honoured and blessed that I have been welcomed into your community.

Kim O'Connor

Interim Executive Director

Tayside Community Residential & Support Options

Rogers Road Housing



2013/14 was another good year at Rogers Road.

There was a relatively stable tenant population, with only two families moving out during the year and one new family moving in. New families will be selected this year after the required repairs are done to the units to ready them for new tenants.

We provided safe, affordable housing to 27 adults and 16 children.

No capital projects were undertaken this year. Eight, or 44%, of our aging furnaces were replaced, and major repairs were done to the elevator in the community space.

The annuals that we purchase every year are appreciated by all tenants, and it is heartwarming to see the tenants helping one another with the planting of them.

Connie Peebles
Housing Manager

TayCare Children's Centres

Our summer camp program for the summer of 2013 was a success. The children celebrated Christmas in July by decorating a tree, wrapping presents, singing carols, and enjoying a visit from Santa Claus. Science Week at the Senior Centre was lots of fun, with the children making volcanoes and launching pop bottle rockets. We have a great summer planned for this year, with special visitors, outings, and creative theme weeks with amazing activities to keep the children busy and happy.



In the fall, we coordinated with the Upper Canada District School Board to run four Ready2Learn classrooms (three in our Senior Children's Centre, and one at Queen Elizabeth School). Staff worked to provide a stimulating learning environment for over 100 children, with weekly themes, outings and lots of educational activities. Many of the kindergarten students enrolled in our Ready2Learn classes have also joined us in the before and after school program which is now running at Queen

Elizabeth School.

Some of our staff, their spouses and many volunteers did a wonderful job of restructuring our playgrounds at the Junior and Senior Children's Centres. The structures were in poor shape and we had no funds to replace them. Many of the pieces were reused to establish the equipment at ground level; the children have had a lot of fun using the structures in their new locations. The cost was covered by donations from a couple of families and funds raised from our annual Valentine's Day dance and a onetime bake and flower sale the staff organized last spring. Our playgrounds have passed two annual inspections so far.



TayCare Children's Centres—continued

All of our locations have had a near perfect licence inspections this past year. In addition, all programs participating in Raising the Bar (day care accreditation) achieved the level they were



working on. The Junior Children's Centre and St. John's before and after school program both have Gold Level, and The Stewart School before and after school program achieved Bronze. This was the first year The Stewart School program had participated in Raising the Bar. Due to programming changes, the Senior Children's Centre and Queen Elizabeth School did not participate this year, but will do so next year.

TayCare had a booth at Maple Fest this year, with crafts and activities to engage families who were attending the festival. It was a great opportunity to inform the public about our excellent licensed care, and hopefully lead to new registrations. We also ran a CHEO fundraiser prior to and during the Maple Fest, which was very successful.

TayCare staff, parents and the Board Chair attended an information sharing meeting with local MPP Randy Hillier to discuss current challenges in childcare, including funding models, legislation, and ongoing promotion of programs. We engaged with local politicians to make them aware of issues concerning childcare, especially in rural areas such as Perth. Staff have been making great efforts to promote our programs within the community, and we will continue to do so through social media, local events, and partnerships with other organizations.

Thank you to all of our staff for their professionalism and continued dedication to the children in our programs. You make a difference in each child's life every day.

Sandra MacGregor and Cathy Patterson
Supervisors, TayCare Children's Centres



Rimmer House

As one door closes, another opens—and this was certainly the case at Rimmer House in the past year.



In 2013, we welcomed Alan into our home; Alan has settled in nicely and impresses us daily with his artistic talents.

During the summer, the residents went on day trips, packing a picnic for lunch and returning home in the afternoon. We also attended the daily activities at Merrywood Camp in September, but did not opt to stay overnight.



We had lots of visits with family and happily celebrated the holidays and special occasions with our friends.



The men at Rimmer House continue to attend day programs run by CSS or LifeSkills, and some have paying jobs within the community.

We are planning our family BBQ in August, which is a great time to get all the Rimmer House families together to enjoy good food and great company.



Thanks to the team who accommodate the interests of the Rimmer House residents, and get them out in the community. Their continued diligence is appreciated.

Lesslie Ross

Team Leader, Rimmer House



Brady House



It was a great year at Brady House, and we are celebrating 25 years together this year (as of June 30th)!

We're lucky to have friends in high places. Recently, the Juno award winning duo Splash 'n Boots stopped by to visit their good friend Glendon. They treated us to an impromptu concert on the back deck, which was very enjoyable.

Last September, Glendon began attending Club 21, held in the basement at Cameron House. He still enjoys going four days a week.



Clinton enjoys his therapeutic riding sessions and will continue to participate this year.

Jill participates in a regular weekly swim at the Gallipeau Centre, and Clinton is now joining her in the pool along with the LifeSkills group.

Becky attends Lil's program two days a week. She seems to be very at home in Brady House, and loves spending time on the swing in the back yard or out on the deck.

We are looking forward to another fun session at Camp Merrywood this September, and lots of outings and good times throughout the year.

As always, a big thank you to the support team at Brady House—your hard work and dedication are appreciated.

Kathy Cooke

Team Leader, Brady House



Davidson House



In November, Craig and Jim went to Toronto for a couple of days. They visited the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, the new Ripley's Aquarium and stayed in a downtown hotel. It was a great adventure.

Barb and Bonnie took a trip to the Canadian Tire Centre for a Cirque du Soleil performance, which they both enjoyed.



Bonnie continues to help out at Red Apple each week. Drop into the store on a Tuesday afternoon and you may find her having a good time with the pricing gun.



Craig and Warren went golfing a few times last summer. They both enjoy spending their days at the LifeSkills program; Warren particularly enjoys seeing his good friend Paul at LifeSkills.

Don - who is in his 89th year - enjoys a quiet life around the house. He appears to be most relaxed when listening to soothing music or the bird sounds on the back deck. He also enjoys being by the water and is a regular on the Friends In Fishing trips.

Each month at Davidson House is filled with regular activities such as swimming, music therapy, massage therapy, Friends In Fishing, shopping, appointments, haircuts, dances, community events, family visits and general outings. There is never a dull moment with plenty of laughter and excitement.

Lots of thanks to the staff at Davidson House—each of you offer excellent care and facilitate many good times.



Kathy Cooke

Team Leader, Davidson House

Cameron House

Cameron House continues to provide a supportive and loving home to four ladies and two gentlemen. Each of the residents has the opportunity to be themselves and are supported in their interests and needs.

Club 21 continues to operate in the downstairs recreation area. Run by staff from Lanark Community Programs, Club 21 provides support and activities for three young men with complex medical needs who have graduated high school in the last few years. Despite the ongoing challenges these individuals face, they are always engaged in wonderful activities, enjoying life as young men should.



The residents of Cameron House have enjoyed various outings into the community, including festivals, picnics and visits to friends' homes throughout the past year. A favourite day outing tends to be Friends in Fishing. The men of the home recently attended a football game and it was a hit.

The annual Merrywood Camp excursion last fall was another success. The longer visit was appreciated by all. The overall excitement and laughter makes all the work worthwhile.



Thank you to the Cameron House staff for going that extra mile and noting every detail, trying new approaches and constantly being on top of every aspect of the care needs of the people they support. They continue to do their best to ensure the residents of Cameron House continue to live life to the fullest.

Sherren Koeslag

Team Leader, Cameron House

Deakin House



On top of the regular daily routine and evening activities, the people at Deakin are constantly on the move with planned outings. The folks have enjoyed various special events and festivals and Friends in Fishing. Merrywood Camp was expanded to six days last September and it definitely made all the packing and moving more worthwhile. The people we support thoroughly enjoy the week there with lots of fun, crafts, singing, and fishing. We are already booked for this September.

This year has seen some milestone birthdays; Linda Gr. turned 50 last June, celebrating with a trip to Toronto and sightseeing. Linda Gem. turned 50 as well in March. She had a wonderful party held at the Perth Legion with friends, family members and acquaintances attending.



Deakin House has seen a face lift in the kitchen and recreation room area. A partial wall that separated the two rooms was taken out, opening it up to be a brighter area where we can all spend time together.



Thanks to generous donations our backyard patio has seen a big makeover. The space is used constantly in the summer, as we enjoy dining al fresco almost every night. We have a beautiful new metal sun shelter and we also purchased new patio loungers which a few of the ladies use regularly.

Thank you to the staff at Deakin House for continuing to put a lot of care and commitment into providing a wonderful warm home for all of the residents.

Sherren Koeslag

Team Leader, Deakin House



SIL—Ladies' Night

This past year, a total of 16 women took part in various Ladies' Night activities, including spa visits, trips to the theatre, restaurant outings, shopping, swimming, picnics, and a boat tour. Activities help to foster ongoing friendships, develop social skills and enhance life skills by getting participants out into the community.

Participants were encouraged to offer suggestions for events and activities; each individual's interests were taken into account when scheduling Ladies' Night.

The impact of the group on all the participants is clearly positive. Success depends on scheduling flexibility as well as input from all involved. Through the planning process multiple skills are developed. Self esteem and independence are enhanced as are socialization skills and problem-solving strategies.

The Ladies' Night group looks forward to another year of fun and affordable activities.

