



RAY

Resource Assistance for Youth, Inc.

Annual Report
2012

London Calling...

"To provide youth with what they need, on their terms, to better their lives"

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ABOUT RaY

Resource Assistance for Youth, Inc. is a non-profit, street-level organization located within inner city Winnipeg. RaY's mandate is to "provide youth with what they need, on their terms, to better their lives."

All of RaY's programs and services are based on the Social Determinants of Health. RaY provides low-barrier access to services, is non-judgmental and applies a harm reduction approach in all interactions with youth participants. Since 1994, RaY has been an essential safety net for youth who have fallen through the cracks of the system. RaY's *No Wrong Door* approach provides easy access to fundamental services and programs to anyone between the ages of 0 and 29.



Thanks to our numerous individual and private donors



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The work that this great agency undertakes is articulated much more clearly in the fine reports

We must free ourselves of the hope that the sea will ever rest. We must learn to sail in high winds. - Aristotle Onassis

from our Executive Director, Ms. Kelly Holmes, and her capable staff than I will ever be able to express. I would instead like to speak a bit about the character of this place and how we have learned to sail the high seas during the past six years that it has been my pleasure to serve on the Board of Directors as chair.

One thing is obvious, the sea never rests. Even in her placid moments the seas have tides and currents that erode land, make places warm which might be colder, and places a little colder where it might be warmer. The moods of the sea determine when the wind blows strongly on shore, and strongly off shore.

The tides bring in new and recurrent people with problems new and recurring. Through it all we are there with food, shelter, clothing, respite, counsellors, advocates, listeners, all trying to connect to see ways we can help our youth reach their hopes and aspirations.

Kelly Holmes is the epitome of an Executive Director. She has vision, compassion, and articulation, all the things we expect to see in a good ED. She is also one of the best staff team builders I have ever met, building staff morale and team spirit in a challenging and changing field.

Over the past few years, we as an agency have learned to sail in high winds. Six years ago we embarked on a plan which saw us move from a crowded facility, to this new and "becoming" crowded facility. Under Kelly's articulation of need, the Board moved us from having to issue layoff notices at the end of the year to a certain degree of financial stability. The Board and ED have worked hard to provide the place and environment where we can accomplish what we do here.

Special thanks are due to Kevin McGarry who was instrumental in our capital campaign and ensured that we have solid financial people on the Board. Many thanks to Doug Cross who brings a unique vision as a retired police officer and Deacon, and the work of Ian Marcil. Thanks are also due to Jodi St. Amant, Glen Michalchuk, Brian McArthur, Leigh Cunningham and Dr. Lindy Lee who continue to serve. Gratitude is due to Chris Stevens, Danny Spencer, Dean Magnus and Bruce Klassen who have answered the call to come on board as new directors.

Like all agencies, RaY is facing perilous times. All levels of government are trying to deal with their own fiscal problems. As an agency we have to find ways to become more economically sustainable. Social Enterprise will become a larger part of this vision, and part of the quest for the new Board. A special thanks to our funding partners for making this discussion possible. Finally the greatest thanks go out to the courageous youth who come to this place wanting to learn how to sail the high winds.

It has been a pleasure to be your president, thank you for taking me on the ride.
Respectively Submitted;

R. David Lowe

RAY BY THE NUMBERS

RaY Total Stats - 2012

Total Participants	2005	
New Unique Participants	1399	
Aboriginal	1036	52%
Caucasian	674	34%
Other/ Undeclared	281	14%
Advocacy Services	616	

Trends:

In 2012, RaY served 2105 hot lunches and 683 evening meals.

Socks and underwear are the most requested clothing items.

Youth exiting CFS are in dire need of housing assistance.

There has been an increase in chlamydia infections among youth.

RaY Youth Living Situation Stats - 2012

Family	64
Couch Surfing	272
Long-Term Housing	867
Streets	187
Emergency Shelter	68
CFS	42
Rooming House	46
Transitional Housing Program	86
Unknown	418

Lately, more youth participants at RaY have FASD.

Youth with mental health issues are lacking necessary coping strategies.

There has been national interest in our Street Outreach Program.

We are noticing an increase in low levels of literacy among our youth participants.

We have enjoyed an increase in donations and community support.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

"It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change." -Author unknown



*Kelly Holmes -
Executive Director*

And so it is with youth forced to survive on the street and for the not-for-profit agencies that have to maintain essential services through funding droughts.

Despite federal and provincial cuts, 2012 has been a memorable year of measured growth and evolution for RaY. We have increased agency capacity on a number of fronts while agency staff levels have remained status quo. Our operating budget has increased over 2012.

Over our 18-year-history the RaY operating budget finally "broke a million!" While I realize that comparatively that may not seem like much to some, for the RaY team, having witnessed growth from a \$75,000 per-year-budget in 2002, where staff layoffs were common place, to being able to witness this type of growth indicator holds great significance to all of us.

As we all know, with more, you can do more.

Here are some of the agency highlights of 2012:

Housing: We have received 12 additional Manitoba Housing bachelor suites from the Provincial Minister of Housing that will assist RaY to get homeless youth off the streets and into housing.

Transportation: We have purchased a cube van to support the community, and RaY's housing and employment department.

RaY staff: Starting with our new Program Director hire, Erica Jacobson, the RaY staff team underwent much growth and development internally. Staff members were involved in a two-day, "back to basics" training session. Senior managers facilitated a retraining of long-term staff and orientated new staff to RaY programs and services. The training focused on how we work and why. We examined everything from our agency value system, our programs' objectives and our current service/program deficiencies. As a direct result of the training, RaY staff emerged wholeheartedly committed to strengthening our efforts as a team in order to increase youth capacity. With this renewed intention and deliberation, RaY staff have since created and developed an entire Life Skills Workshop series that will be consistently offered to any interested youth that attends RaY. As well, staff have undergone *Path* training to develop goal setting techniques that will/are being implemented with the youth on a regular basis. Thank you to Tammy Christenson, ED of Ndinewe, for facilitating this training to RaY staff.

Partnerships: Staff and management have increased partnerships both on the front lines and at the management level. New community partnerships have been created as potential job placements for the youth. New business and corporate partnerships are being forged through our (new) membership at the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce.

Social media reach: We now have a dedicated communications person who has been a blessing to RaY. Since Alex White has come aboard, he has facilitated RaY having a consistent presence in cyber space. Over the course of 2012, a professional agency video was developed through our community partnership with Broadway Neighborhood Center. Many thanks to Paul, Addison, Laura and of course Spatch! If you are interested, it can be viewed on our "About" page on our website. (www.rayinc.ca/About_RaY.aspx)

New revenue stream development: Scott Angus joined the RaY team to develop and create new ways to generate revenue for our programs and services. Scott was a long-time friend of RaY before he became employed; he was a participant sleeper for the 5 Days for the Homeless through the University of Manitoba, as well as a student in Prof. Reg Litz's class who worked on a very successful social enterprise project specifically for RaY. Obviously, along with working in the drop in, Scott has been assigned to investigate possible options for social enterprise for RaY as well.

Research: RaY has several research projects underway: *Mental Health and Youth* with the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Manitoba, and *System Pathways into Homelessness*, a research project with the Social Planning Council. As well, for the second year, RaY participated in the *National Snapshot of Mental Health and Street Youth Project* with the Learning Community.

Upgrades: We have updated program manuals and agency policies. We have reorganized programs to improve time management and promote efficiency. As well, we have embarked on an external 360 degree agency evaluation. We've committed to the implementation of the government imposed HIFIS database system so that we can be part of a nationwide effort to get an accurate homeless count. In summary, we've rid the agency of what wasn't working and are focusing strongly on improving agency efficiency and time management.

Sir Richard Branson: The absolute high point for RaY in 2012 was Sir Richard Branson's visit to RaY and subsequent Chamber luncheon fundraiser. Through our agency's national presence, we were able to connect with Sir Richard and the Virgin Unite team. October 5th, 2012– what a day that was! The Chamber luncheon was a huge success for our city and for our agency. Through this event, RaY has received \$183,742.00 to date and pledges totaling \$92,500 over the next five years. Simply incredible! We were able to meet Sir Richard, who is a lovely man and very informed on the issues facing homeless youth. He was pleased to learn that RaY is a harm reduction focused agency and he was impressed with our programs, services and the warmth offered from staff, board and youth.

Board renewal: The sad news is that the time has come when we have to say 'so long' to four important members of the RaY Board of Directors who have been so instrumental in shaping the RaY we know today. Over the years of working together around the board table, we have shared many intense times, we've shared grief when staff members parted ways and passed, and of course, enormous amounts of laughter about one thing or another. What stands out most to me is how these individuals from every different walk of life shared the same strong conviction of hope for a better life for street youth. **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU**, for who you are, and all for that you have contributed to all of us at RaY. I look forward to working with the new team of board members and trust Resource Assistance for Youth will move to new levels through their energy and expertise.

With gratitude,
Kelly Holmes

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Erica Jacobson
Program Director

I joined the RaY team in May 2012 after completing my degree in Urban and Inner City Studies. I have been an active West Broadway Community resident for many years and have worked and volunteered in various non-profit organizations. I have always believed that no matter who you are, everyone has the right to access the same opportunities. RaY is exemplarily of this value and our mission makes it clear. I am honoured to be selected as part of the team. The year to date has been a bit of a whirlwind as I come to understand all of the moving parts we know as RaY. There has been a lot to learn.

Last autumn, RaY hosted the Summer Wrap-up in partnership with numerous community organizations and it was a huge success— over 35 different youths accessed testing for STIs and HIV as a result. RaY has the ability to reach an unreachable population and I hope that through community partnerships we can increase opportunities for youth to access what they need to grow.

During my time here I have observed staff dedicated to working together in a collaborative case-management process, always incorporating the interests and needs of the participants towards the best possible outcomes. I have grown to admire the work they do and hope that my energy, skill set and enthusiasm brings a new positive perspective to the team. I hope to incorporate a heightened level of life skills training for participants and increase accessibility to RaY's well established wrap around services. I have come to understand the complex needs of our participants and hope to increase mental health and other resources within the community to assist RaY staff in the work they do with youth. I have met most of the RaY board of directors and I am encouraged by, and respectful of their level of commitment and professionalism they bring to the agency.

As I am beginning to settle in, I look forward to continuing to partner with non-profit and community agencies to expand our resource pool and utilize the supports available to our participants. I have found our donors and funders a very easy group of people to work with. I look forward to the new fiscal year.

Sincerely,

Erica Jacobson



COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT



Scott Angus
Special Projects
Coordinator

I started working at RaY in April of 2012 as a Drop-In staff and that experience has given me insight into the wide array of issues that at-risk youth face each day. It also gave me an opportunity to meet and build relationships with the amazing people in the RaY community. Although my relationship with RaY began in 2011 when I was a part of the 5 Days for the Homeless campaign at the University of Manitoba, this experience has been invaluable to my development as a professional and as a human being.

In addition to my Drop-In duties, I also took on the role of Special Projects Coordinator in October 2012. I have learned a great deal since then and the opportunities for RaY in the future greatly excite me. We, at RaY, want to be community leaders in the revitalization of our city. We believe that collaborating with all sectors, increasing and diversifying partnerships, and engaging all individuals is the way to achieve our goal: being fully sustainable. Once we are fully sustainable, then we are on our first step towards running ourselves out of business.

I cannot thank the staff and youth at RaY enough for teaching me so much about the non-profit sector and the critical issues that face at-risk youth in our city. Kelly, the RaY staff, and all the youth consistently inspire me to wake up each morning and try to make a positive difference in this city and in the world.



Alex White
Director of Communications
& Development

I joined the RaY team the week following the Branson event in October as their communications person. I was very excited to take on the opportunity to share some of the amazing stories through social media channels and help boost the profile of an agency that's so integral to the fabric of the Winnipeg community. As I began to try and give a voice to an often ignored population, I developed a profound respect for the youth who, despite having tragic histories, are more than willing to share their stories with me in a candid, matter-of-fact way.

The challenge laying ahead is to bring the realities that are commonplace among street youth into the mainstream, and say, "this is happening in YOUR city. Are you okay with this?"

My aim is to unify the RaY brand by bringing consistency to our messaging, whether that be through the website, social media, presentations or at Chamber events. Ultimately, my goal is to raise the agency profile so the donor community clearly understands what RaY does and hopefully will be willing to support the important work that we do.

CANADIAN PACIFIC

The Chamber
The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce

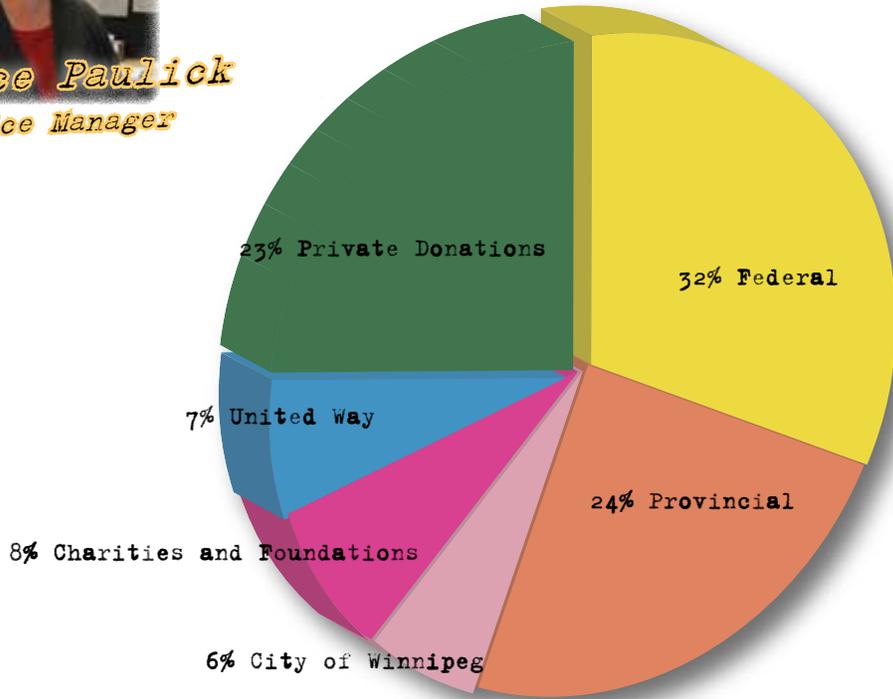
RaY became a member of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce in 2012. The membership allows us to network and build relationships with some of Winnipeg's finest business people.

OFFICE MANAGER



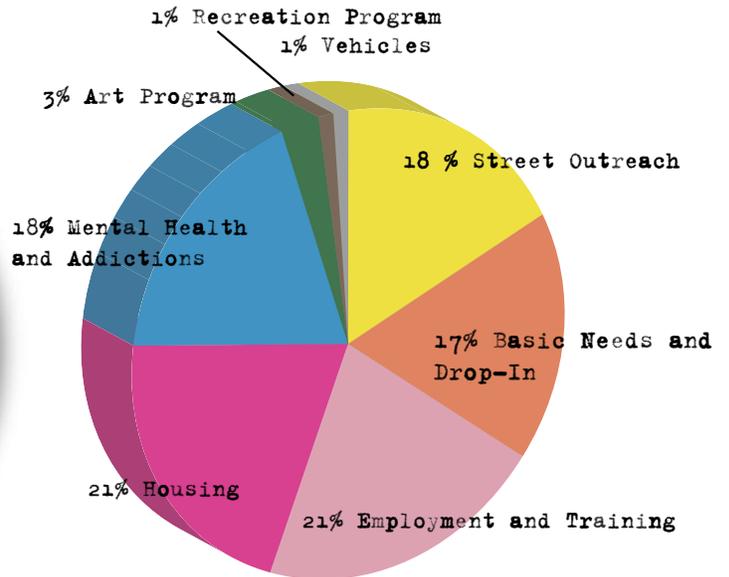
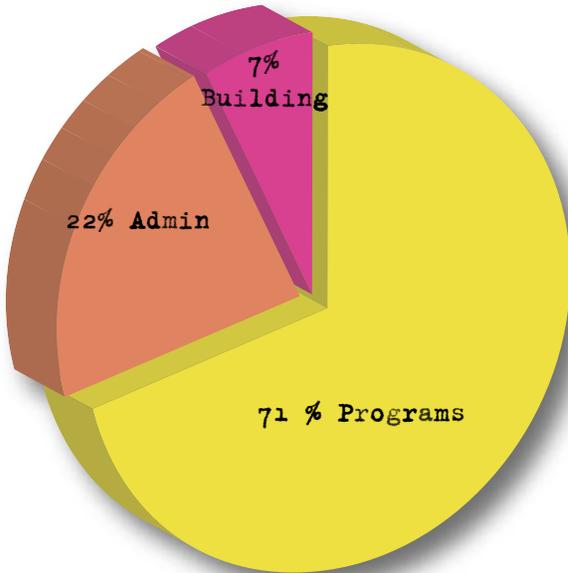
Janice Paulick
Office Manager

Revenue



Program Expenses

Operating Expenses



HOUSING



Kerri Scott
Housing Manager



Kylee Tremblay
Homeless Outreach
Mentor



Tim Laughlin
REST Case Manager

In December 2012, Minister Kerri Irvin-Ross offered RaY an additional 12 bachelor suites to add to our REST Program (RaY Emergency Shelter and Transition). We appreciated the provincial support and commitment to get homeless youth off the street and into safe shelters. RaY's Housing Department continues to work hard to create and maintain safe, affordable housing for youth. With the influx of new dwellings, RaY's Housing Department's focus has been on acquiring furniture donations, preparing suites and struggling to meet the demand of youth requiring shelter. It appears, from our standpoint, that youth aging out of care rarely have the life skills, tenancy experience or supports to be able to live independently. The demand for housing from youth exiting Child and Family Services continues to grow.

Housing Stats

Total Participants	298
Total Contacts	3171
Total Services	5525
Home Visits	3667
One on One Support	2340
Supported Rent Applications	56
Assists With Moving	32

Number of youth that obtained housing through RaY...

Long term: 37

Short term: 11

REST

RaY Emergency Shelter and Transition

REST Stats

Total Participants	17
Total Contacts	847
Total Services	2305

Many thanks to Minister Irvin-Ross, King's Transfer and multiple generous Winnipeggers who have donated to RaY to make housing possible for youth without supports.



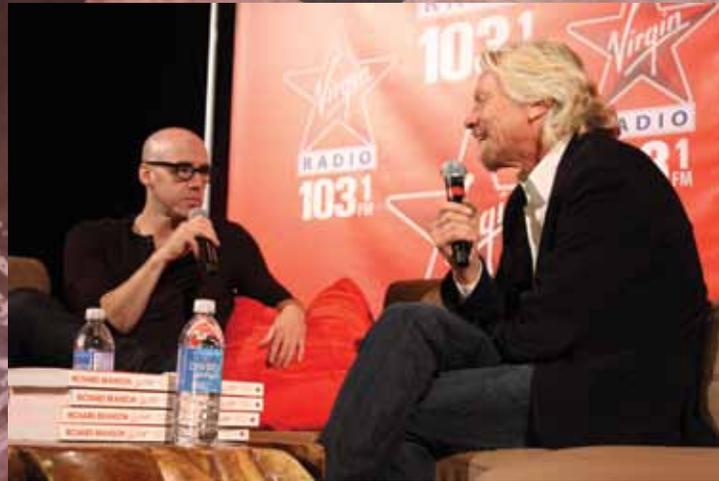


On October 5, Sir Richard Branson visited Ray to tour our operations, to meet staff and to engage with street youth.





Ray was the honorary recipient of a major fundraiser hosted by Virgin Radio and the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce.



GROWING OPPORTUNITIES

G.O. Employment

G.O. Employment provides an opportunity for youth without supports or work history to develop skills, work experience, knowledge of job requirements and certification through a variety of training opportunities provided by RaY's Growing Opportunities Program.

RaY G.O. staff work with youth on an individual basis to determine goals and employment plans. Through G.O. Employment, youth have the opportunity to: develop work skills • build a work history • take part in mock interviews • set career goals • receive certification and training • create a professional resume and receive support through this process. G.O. Employment would like to thank its many supportive community/business partners who have volunteered to be placement sites for RaY youth.



Brie Henderson

Growing Opportunities

Coordinator



Raymond Tan

Growing Opportunities

Worker

G.O. Employment Stats

Total Participants	206
Total Contacts	1575
Total Services	2195
Odd Job (Part Time Employment) Experiences	927
Supported Job Searches	183
Job Referrals	79
Résumé Developments	138
Mock Interviews	43



Sarah Kramer

Kitchen Coordinator

KITCHEN TRAINING PROGRAM

RaY has created an in-house training opportunity for youth who want to embark on a career within the food industry. Through G.O. Employment's Kitchen Training Program, youth will receive certification and training experience that will include the following:

- Certified Food Handlers
- First Aid /CPR
- Sanitization/health safety standards
- Soups, sauces and stocks
- Meal planning

Youth in the KTP will emerge with RaY certification after the three-month course and will have RaY's support and endorsement towards full-time employment in the food industry.

Nick & Jen - Youth Cooks →

The KTP is a three-month paid experience where two participants have the opportunity to develop food preparation skills so they can find employment in commercial kitchens.



STREET OUTREACH

Street Outreach connected with 226 Unique Individuals 2012



Scott McNicol
Street Outreach
Coordinator



Chantille Tonn
Outreach Worker



Eric Schweig
Outreach Worker

The RaY Street Outreach Team has a visible street presence five nights per week in the following areas: West End, West Broadway, Centennial, North End, Osborne, The Forks, Point Douglas, North Main and Downtown.

RaY's Street Outreach Team has been touted by the government as Manitoba's "Premiere Street Outreach Program". Since 1994, RaY's Street Outreach Team's central purpose has been two-fold: 1) To make connections with those who have no connections and 2) To provide resources and necessary information in the hope of improving each individual's safety, health and capacity. Whether by foot, bike or van, the RaY Street Outreach Team is on the streets providing homeless and street entrenched populations with necessary resources.

During 2012

- 675 harm reduction kits were disseminated
- 226 referrals were made
- 2434 sandwiches were offered

Street Outreach Stats

Total Participants	226
Total Contacts	2367
Total Services	8006
Blankets	19
Sandwiches	2434
Harm Reduction Kits	675
Mitts and Toques	67
Socks and Underwear	71 pairs

DROP-IN

RaY's Drop-In serves any youth between the ages of 0-29. RaY intentionally provides accessible, non-judgmental services to any youth. Our *No Wrong Door* policy ensures easy access to youth seeking resources or a reprieve from life on the street, including: one-on-one counselling, advocacy and internal/external referrals. RaY's Drop-In is open daily, between the hours of 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., two evenings per week and Saturdays, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. At RaY, youth are provided with a safe place to relax, access the Internet and get a hot meal. The only overarching expectation is RESPECT.

Drop-In Stats

Total Participants	373
Totals Contact	2769
Total Services	3365



Erica Chatelain
Drop-In Manager

"You can come into RaY tired, cold, hungry and dirty, and leave showered with new and laundered clothes, food in your belly and a plan to access support for housing, employment and health services"

Trend:

2012 saw a noticeable climb in the amount of requests to see the Nurse Practitioner for physical and mental health concerns.



ADDICTIONS AND MENTAL HEALTH

The Addictions and Mental Health Program at RaY assists youth on a number of levels, including:

- Support to and through recovery
- Treatment
- Aftercare
- Diagnoses
- Prescription medications
- Emergency crisis stabilization



Stephanie Reid
Mental Health Support
Worker



Samara Prystenski
Addiction Support
Worker

The Addictions and Mental Health Program provides support to any youth with issues related to addictions, co-occurring disorders, brain injury and/or mental illness.

RaY's staff are committed to support youth with addictions or mental health concerns in a variety of ways, as determined by the youth. RaY staff will offer options, resources, advocacy and support to any youth requiring assistance. Our hope and challenge is to support youth during times of vulnerability so they maintain safety and stability.

Through the course of 2012, the Addictions and Mental Health Program has been overwhelmed with youth requesting high-level supports for crisis due to mental illness. We have seen an increase in participants with schizophrenia, bipolar, border line personality disorder and FASD.

Addictions and Mental Health Stats

Total Participants	143
Total Contacts	1040
Total Services	1274
One on One Support	367
Brief Interventions	110

Trend:

The top three drugs of choice trending in 2012 were: Alcohol, Marijuana and Tobacco.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Trend:

483 visits to see the NP in 2012 for a variety of mental and physical health concerns.



Amanda Hopps
Nurse Practitioner

Often the first question I hear is, "What is a Nurse Practitioner (NP)?" Nurse Practitioners are registered nurses with a master's level education which allows us to deliver primary health care to our clients. I promote health, diagnose illness, treat and prescribe medications as well as order diagnostic tests. I collaborate with a multitude of resources, systems and teams. I have had the pleasure to work with the RaY team for the past two years. Common health care concerns we address at RaY clinic include: mental health, addictions and sexual and reproductive health concerns. I see people from all over Winnipeg, as well as people that travel across Canada. What I enjoy most about my position is the opportunity to deliver healthcare in a creative way! I have really enjoyed seeing a growth in our client's interest in preventative healthcare since I started at RaY.

Amanda Hopps MN, NP

BASIC NEEDS

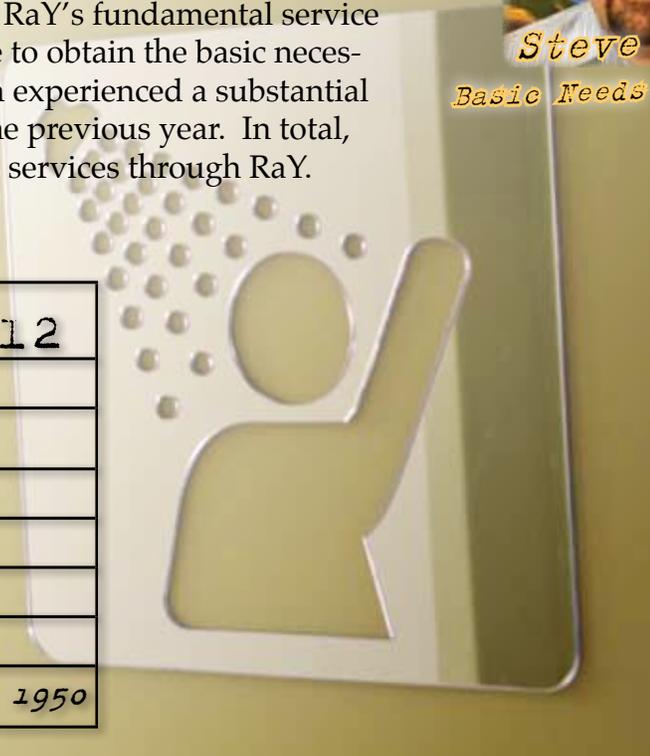
664 unique individuals utilized RaY's basic needs services

Basic Needs Program continues to be one of RaY's fundamental service offerings. Marginalized youth often struggle to obtain the basic necessities to survive. RaY's Basic Needs Program experienced a substantial spike in demand for services compared to the previous year. In total, 664 unique individuals accessed basic needs services through RaY.



Steve Wolfe
Basic Needs Coordinator

<i>Service</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>
<i>Clothing Bank</i>	<i>588</i>	<i>938</i>
<i>Hygiene Bank</i>	<i>315</i>	<i>449</i>
<i>Showers</i>	<i>198</i>	<i>215</i>
<i>Laundry</i>	<i>192</i>	<i>194</i>
<i>Pet Food</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>77</i>
<i>Food Packs</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>77</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>1536</i>	<i>1950</i>



A big thank you to all our donors who consistently contribute donations to our clothing bank.



YOUTH IN PHILANTHROPY

PROGRAM OFFERINGS & PARTNERSHIPS

Therapeutic Counselling

In March 2012, RaY partnered with Klinik to build support with our mental health programming. Lyndsay Hersikorn, Counsellor, was available one afternoon a week to RaY participants on site. Over time, RaY participants built trusting relationships with Lyndsay and many youth had weekly standing appointments. Having Lyndsay at RaY brought awareness to our youth of the services that Klinik provides. A bridge was created. Together, RaY and Klinik offered extended mental health support to street youth. Throughout 2012 Lyndsay met with 24 unique individuals and had 50 sessions. The willing partnership with Klinik is greatly appreciated as access to professional mental health supports for youth continues to be a challenge.



MOMENTA / URBAN ADVENTURE PROGRAM

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Together with Momenta, RaY's Urban Adventures Program offered alternative experiences in an effort to promote positive and healthy recreational pursuits. Forty-five youths attended a variety of adventures including: snowboarding, fishing, horseback riding, high ropes and a summer canoe trip. Momenta staff bring a skill set and enthusiasm to these activities that create an inclusive atmosphere where participants are able to safely explore new experiences.

Momenta is a local organization whose mission is to provide activity-based urban and wilderness experiences to strengthen youth, families and communities.



MOMENTA



GUTTER ART SPACE

Self Expression Through Art

In 2011, RaY's former site space was transformed into an art studio. The Gutter Art Space (GAS) is open once a week for participants to develop and explore their artistic interests. In 2012, participants were exposed to many different mediums: paint, leather work, collage, silk-screening, sewing and more. This summer, the GAS collaborated with Graffiti Art Programming and guest artist, Jeff Nachtigall, to create a number of large-scale artworks displayed publicly throughout downtown Winnipeg. In August 2012, we welcomed Becca Taylor, who worked with Cam Forbes, GAS Coordinator, to increase capacity and facilitate workshops. In 2012, GAS offered 59 workshops to 60 unique individuals, averaging five youths per workshop.



GRAFFITIART
PROGRAMMING INC.



RAY YOUTH AWARDS

Youth Ambassador Award:

Awarded to a deserving individual who has continually shared their story to shed light on the issue of youth homelessness for the benefit of future generations.



BRANDON SKUCE

The Lynn Thompson Pay it Forward Award:

Awarded to a deserving individual who has benefitted from supports in the past and ensures that these good deeds are repaid by providing much needed support to others.



AMANDA HALLETT

Phoenix Award:

Awarded to a deserving individual who has shown incredible resilience through difficult circumstances and not only survived, but emerged stronger and more vital as a result.



SARAH JACKMAN

BOARD GOODBYES

"I have seen angels wearing the disguise of people living ordinary lives" -Tracy Chapman

It is with profound respect that the staff and management of RaY acknowledge the significant contributions of four of its outgoing board members. Their leadership, insight and long-term commitment have contributed immensely to the development of a youth service that has become a model for the rest of Winnipeg. The time and dedication these individuals have selflessly volunteered for the betterment of youth is extraordinary. Each brought their own special and unique contributions to our world at RaY and the impact they had on our organization won't soon be forgotten. On behalf of all the members of the RaY family, we would like to thank all of you for the important role you have played in the success of Resource Assistance for Youth.

David Lowe: As RaY's president since 2005, David has demonstrated loyalty and commitment to helping street-entrenched youth. In his role as chairperson, David's leadership was integral as he helped guide RaY through a period of dramatic change and exceptional growth; while maintaining award-winning, front-line service to Winnipeg's most vulnerable populations. Thank you for your commitment to RaY. We will always remember you as the RaY chairperson with the worst jokes.

Doug Cross: Doug has held the position of vice president for Resource Assistance for Youth for since 2006. Initially, Doug came to RaY as a volunteer providing direct service to our youth participants. His first-hand experience and commitment towards improving the lives of youth was apparent and integral through his time as a board member. Doug, thank you for bringing your compassion, knowledge and experience to the board and for being so great to work with over the years.

Ian Marcil: The founder of Operation Go Home in 1994, Ian is the original board member of what is now known as Resource Assistance for Youth. Thank you Ian for your undying commitment and perseverance. At last year's AGM, Ian was the recipient of our agency's Founders Award.

Kevin McGarry: As one of the original board members of Operation Go Home Winnipeg Chapter Inc., Kevin has been involved with RaY since 2000. He has shown tremendous leadership throughout his time as treasurer for the RaY board of directors. Kevin has generously provided insight and skill over his tenure, and much of the success RaY has had to date is owed to the wisdom and generosity of Kevin and the McGarry Family. Kevin utilized his unparalleled skills to mentor Kelly and helped propel RaY from a simple street outreach operation to a full-fledged agency that offers a dynamic range of services. Thank you Kevin for the time, energy, commitment and all that you have shared to build this agency.

BOARD HELLOS

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world”

-Anne Frank

Dean Magnus: Dean is a Chartered Accountant who is a partner with MNP that is a leading professional firm of accountants, consultants and business advisors. Dean provides assurance, tax and related advisory services to clients in the private and not-for-profit sectors. He has volunteered for many non-profit organizations and their boards. He looks forward to contributing to the treasury aspect of RaY as he recognizes the real need to provide resources to assist disadvantaged youth to better their lives in the community in which we live.

Danny Spencer: Danny is a lawyer at Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP practicing primarily in the areas of corporate and commercial law, including mergers and acquisitions, the preparation and negotiation of agreements, banking and real estate transactions. When Danny is not in the office, he enjoys playing on his recreational soccer team and trying out new barbeque recipes.

Danny cares strongly about the issues surrounding street-entrenched and homeless youth, and looks forward to applying his knowledge and expertise on the board of directors of Resource Assistance for Youth.

Bruce Klassen: Bruce is the President of Tamarack Industries that he founded 20 years ago. Tamarack manufactures and markets heating equipment for the rental, construction, oil & gas and pest control industries throughout Canada and the United States. He gets excited by starting and developing businesses. Bruce was attracted to RaY, in part, because of its dedication to creating a life plan for their participants which helps them improve their lives, not just their immediate situation. He hopes to help RaY become more self-sufficient by aiding in developing enterprises that employ participants and generates revenue.

Bruce was born and raised in Winnipeg, is married, and has two teenage children.

Chris Stevens: I am proud to call Winnipeg home. As a life-long resident of this great city, I have seen many remarkable things happen in our communities. Some say that our geographical “isolation” fosters creativity. More aptly, it is thanks to the “can do” attitude of many that makes our city tick. That said, economic growth and social developments aren’t without their challenges. RaY is a shining example of a positive organization that is a catalyst for personal growth and development. An agent of change.

As a marketing and communications professional, I feel privileged to join a dedicated and passionate team of staff, volunteers, and supporters that are committed to empowering our youth and enabling them to provide for a better way of life.

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