



ANNUAL REPORT 2013

twenty years strong



Resource Assistance for Youth, Inc.

twenty years **strong**



Resource Assistance for Youth, Inc.

2013 Annual Report

Resource Assistance for Youth, Inc.

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“Providing youth with what they need, on their terms, to better their lives”

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Glenn Michalchuk, President
Brian MacArthur, Vice-President
Dean Magnus, Treasurer
Jodi St. Amant, Director
Leigh Cunningham, Director
Bruce Klassen, Director
Chris Stevens, Director
Danny Spencer, Director

Kelly Holmes, Executive Director

STAFF

Admin

Janice Paulick, Office Manager
Alex White, Director of Communications and Development
Scott Angus, Special Projects Coordinator
Sean Close, IT Support
Aska Jo Harrington, Admin Support

Drop-In

Erica Chatelain, Drop-In Manager
Nigel Pahl, Drop-In Worker
Rick Moorlag, Drop-In Worker

Housing

Kerri Scott, Housing Coordinator
Tim Laughlin, REST Case Manager
Ray Tan, Interm Homeless Outreach Mentor

Street Outreach

Scott McNicol, Street Outreach Coordinator
Chantille Tonn, Street Outreach Worker

Growing Opportunities Pre-Employment

Brie Henderson, G.O. Employment Coordinator
Apryl Aisaican, G.O. Employment Support Worker

Basic Needs

Steve Wolfe, Basic Needs Coordinator

Kitchen

Sarah Kramer, Kitchen Coordinator
Jen Fial, Kitchen Assistant and Youth Mentor

Health and Wellness

Samara Prystenski, Addictions Support Worker
Andrew Ward, Community Mental Health Worker
Amanda Hopps, Nurse Practitioner

ABOUT RaY

Resource Assistance for Youth, Inc. (RaY) is a nonprofit, 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 all services and programs, we are nonjudgmental and apply a harm reduction approach in all interactions with youth. Since 1994, RaY has been an essential safety net for youth who have fallen through the cracks of the system. RaY's *No Wong Door* approach provides easy access to fundamental services and programs to anyone between the ages of 0 and 29. Dogs are welcome.

RaY was my family when mine was gone, a true friend when mine were fake, help when I needed it most and compassion to get me through those days. Thanks RaY! -Taryn, age 24

I started attending OGH in 1995 at the age of 14 and went till I was well into my 20s. I was a "street kid" for a long time and OGH/RaY was always there with a snack and a warm place to go and the support that helped mould me in to a wonderful person who has a home and a family now. I have opened my own business and am a successful adult now thanks to the support I received as a youth. I guess you could say OGH/RaY was my guide in the journey of being a teenager, the light when it was dark and saviour to many. I am now a successful adult and have them to thank. -Beckie Holmes, age 33

While the world casually walked by pretending I did not exist, RaY invited me in with a smile. RaY showed me that there truly is value in every single person, and through hard work and the undying support of all the staff, I was able to find value within myself and pull myself out of the streets. I would not have a stable job and housing, nor any sort of self esteem if I had not been privileged enough to find RaY. -Silver Foxx, age 23

You guys saved my life. If you weren't there, I'd be 8-9 years dead now.

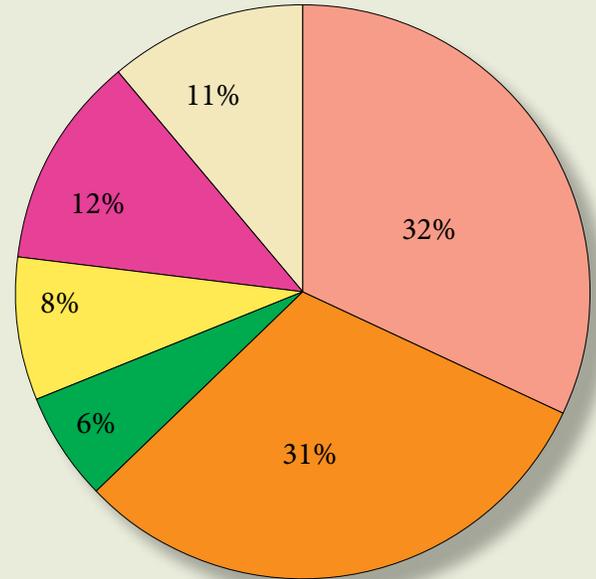
-Caine Moscovich

I remember the old OGH days all the way through to RaY and I was also helped a whole lot. It was great that I could come in and talk if I needed to or even come to get some clothes/hygiene products. I don't know what would have happened if these agencies weren't around. -Baloo

FINANCIALS

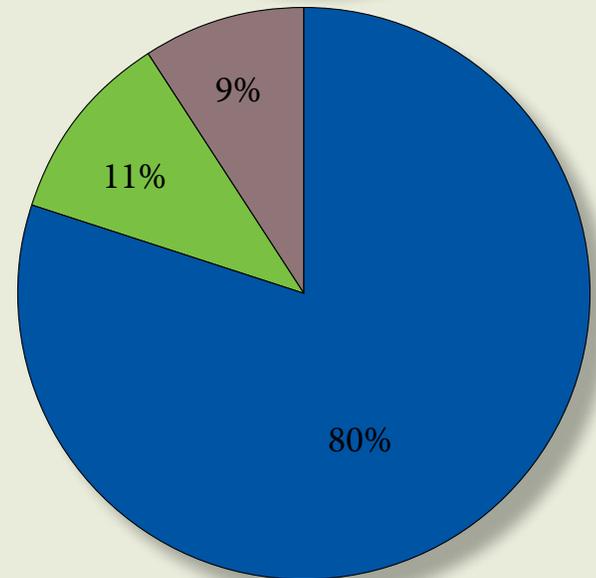
OPERATING REVENUE

- 32% Federal
- 31% Provincial
- 6% City of Winnipeg
- 8% United Way
- 12% Charities and Foundations
- 11% Donations and Grants



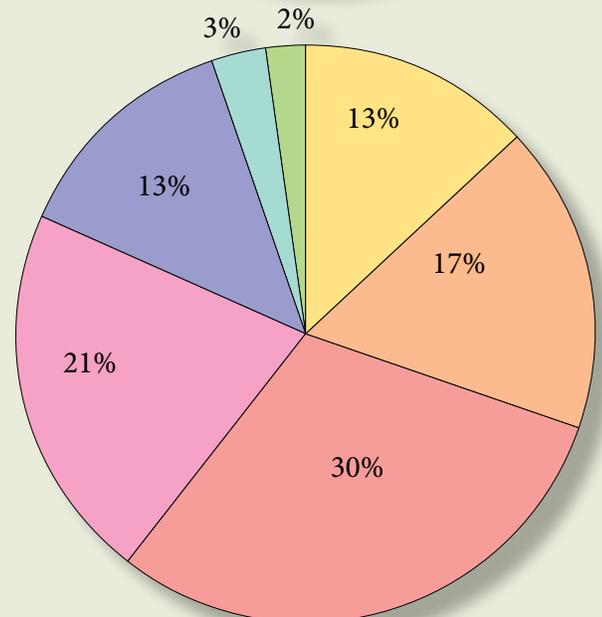
OPERATING EXPENSES

- 80% Programs
- 9% Admin
- 11% Building



PROGRAM DELIVERY

- 13% Street Outreach
- 17% Basic Needs & Drop-In
- 30% Housing
- 21% Employment and Training
- 13% Health and Wellness
- 3% Art/Recreation and Outings
- 2% Vehicle



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENT

As we embark on our 20th year of operation, we, the President of the Board of Directors and the Executive Director of Resource Assistance for Youth, Inc. respectfully submit to you a joint annual report.

On the streets of Winnipeg for the past 20 years, RaY, formerly Operation Go Home (OGH) and Power House (PH), have been assisting unsupported young people that exist on the fringes of society in a focused effort to improve their quality of life.

The RaY family would like to extend their gratitude and appreciation to the many souls who have contributed their time and energy to bring support to marginalized youth, and also for providing the foundational work that was needed to facilitate RaY to grow into the full spectrum service provider that it has become today. Since the incarnation of Operation Go Home Winnipeg Chapter Inc. 1994, Powerhouse Winnipeg Inc. 1981, the merger of these two agencies in 2004, and finally culminating and rebranding to Resource Assistance for Youth in 2005, we have never lost sight of our original mission– to provide basic needs, practical services and information to youth who find themselves without support. Over the years, RaY has become a significant voice within our inner city, a well respected contributor on the national landscape and remains a critical essential service to youth who find themselves alone on the streets of Winnipeg.

Through reflection of the past 20 years, we as an agency have many reasons to not only be grateful, but proud of the work we have accomplished. Over the last year, RaY has embarked on a very thorough 360° evaluation process in order to validate what we believe to be a successful model for service delivery that is worthy of duplication. We are happy to report that we are very pleased with the results of the external evaluation and we encourage any interested party to investigate the outcomes and findings of the report.

The central source of RaY's success with street youth can be attributed directly to the staff team at RaY. Their commitment and genuine concern for the young people who come to RaY is bar none. Each staff possess a skill set upon hire, but as well, are highly trained in all areas relative to the youth condition. All interactions while sincere, are professional and highly informed. The staff at RaY are innovators, collaborators and operate as a highly tuned team. Many thanks to all of you. Each one of you are a fine example of putting the "human" in human services.

RaY sees approximately 2000 youths per year. We have a proven track record of getting youth off the street with increased resiliency, improved life skills and protective factors. According to the agency evaluation, here are a few statistical highlights:

- 97.6% of youth were satisfied with the resources and supplies they received
- 91% of youth now understand their housing options
- 84% of youth were able to maintain long-term housing through support from RaY
- 85% of youth were able to maintain long-term employment with support from RaY

With decreasing funding supports and a changing political landscape, the need to find tangible methods to function in a sustainable, stable way becomes paramount. The RaY Board of Directors and staff will continue to explore innovative ways to create self sufficiently through social enterprise and other innovative means.

To those of you that support and understand the important work we do, we thank you. We trust that you will continue to support and promote our efforts.

Glenn Michalchuk, President
Kelly Holmes, Executive Director

RaY Re

An Oasis of Safety, Security and Support *Reflecting on RaY's 360^o Evaluation*

Over the past two years I've had the privilege of working with RaY to evaluate the effectiveness and impacts of its programs and services; the services and activities it provides; and levels of satisfaction expressed by its participants, its staff, managers and board members, and its external stakeholders. All of the results of this evaluation point to an organization that is very successfully working with some of the most vulnerable members of the community, and providing them with a wide range of supports and services in a safe, supportive and nonjudgmental environment. While it is difficult in one page to sum up the results of this evaluation, here are some highlights focusing on participants' responses:

- Participants seek out RaY for a wide range of needs, including food, acceptance, safety, supplies, Internet access, to become more self-sufficient and have improved self-esteem, to develop their life-skills, and to improve their employment and housing situations
- These are also largely the reasons why external stakeholders referred their clients to RaY
- Both participants and external stakeholders reported that these objectives had been achieved
- About one-quarter of RaY's participants were referred to external organizations or programs; 90% of these followed through with their referrals; and 90% of these felt that their referrals were helpful to them
- Even though virtually all participants were still involved with RaY when the evaluation was under-way, statistically significant improvements were reflected through the data regarding:
 - Improvements to their employment and housing situations, and their food security
 - Reduced use of food banks and shelters
 - Reduced reports of traumatic experiences such as violence and sexual assaults; suicidal ideation and suicide attempts; sexual exploitation and harassment; feeling depressed or anxious and being hospitalized as a result; carrying out self-harming behaviours; and being approached to join a gang
- Most participants reported feeling welcome, accepted, safe, supported, respected, appreciated, trusted and belonging while at RaY
- Participants provided very positive evaluations of the primary and secondary staff at RaY with whom they were involved, including, staff being aware of all services at RaY; being approachable and reliable; understanding their needs and issues; respecting their confidentiality; and being open and honest with them
- Finally, virtually all participants provided an overall positive evaluation of RaY's services, supports and supplies; are likely to continue using these if needed; and would recommend RaY to a friend who needs help

In closing, I want to thank the many participants; staff, managers and board members; and external stakeholders who took part in this evaluation, either in its developmental phase or as respondents. Your support and participation are greatly appreciated.

Gerry Kaplan, MSW
President,
Kaplan Research Associates Inc.



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System Pathways into Youth Homelessness

In Winnipeg, youth serving agencies have raised serious concerns about youth becoming homeless for reasons beyond the control of the youth and the agencies supporting them. There is a need to understand and change the government “systems” leading youth into homelessness if we want to prevent and end homelessness. The University of Winnipeg (U of W), The Social Planning Council of Winnipeg (SPCW) and Resource Assistance for Youth, Inc. (RaY) partnered to conduct a research study to explore these systemic factors. A research advisory committee was created so the research had the support and expertise of dedicated community leaders representing the partners and New Directions for Children, Youth, Adults and Families, Onashowewin Inc., Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad Inc., VOICES: Manitoba’s Youth in Care Network, and The Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.

Through interviews with youth who have been homeless, staff at community-based youth serving organizations, and government employees, we analyzed what policies or procedures are (or are not) in place to ensure youth get appropriate support from government systems. The research team identified specific policy and program gaps in the Child and Family Services, Justice, Employment and Income Assistance, and Health, Mental Health and Addictions systems, to be addressed if we wish to prevent and reduce youth homelessness in Winnipeg. Case studies on each system were produced with specific recommendations for system change. They can be read at www.spcw.mb.ca/reports/

The Child and Family Services (CFS) system was identified as being especially influential. Previous research found 43% of adults experiencing absolute homelessness were in the care of CFS, and in this research, a majority of the youth were. A 19 year old woman told us: “I just think that they let go of their kids unprepared.” A Summit on CFS and Youth Homelessness is being planned for May to develop an action plan for implementing some of the central recommendations.

Christina Maes Nino
Community Animator
Social Planning Council of Winnipeg





NEW PARTNERSHIP

A partnership with Assiniboine Park offered opportunities for youth to work with park groundskeeping staff to maintain the park and prepare the grounds for special events.

Stats & Facts

Growing Opportunitites

- Unique Individuals 209
- Total Contacts 1496
- Total Number of Services 3039
- Average Services per Day 11.7
- Average Contacts per Day 5.0

Services Advocacy

- Education 10
- EIA 11
- Employment 24

External Training

- CPR/First Aid 21
- Food Handlers 9
- Serving it Safe 3
- Other 13

Internal Training

- Kitchen Assistant 32
- Receptionist 24
- Other 110

Employment

- Casual Employment 23
- Full-Time Employment 39
- Part-Time Employment 83
- Odd Jobs 551
- Obtained ID 11
- Interviews 156
- Job Referrals 117
- Performance Evaluation 15
- Résumé Developments 135
- Résumé Drop-Offs 12

One-on-One Supports

- Budgeting 8
- Informal Counselling 333
- Mock Interviews 10
- Employment Counselling 72
- PATH 9
- Transportation 20
- Other 57

Referrals

- External From 29
- External To 101
- Internal 78

GROWING OPPORTUNITIES PRE-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Growing Opportunities evolved

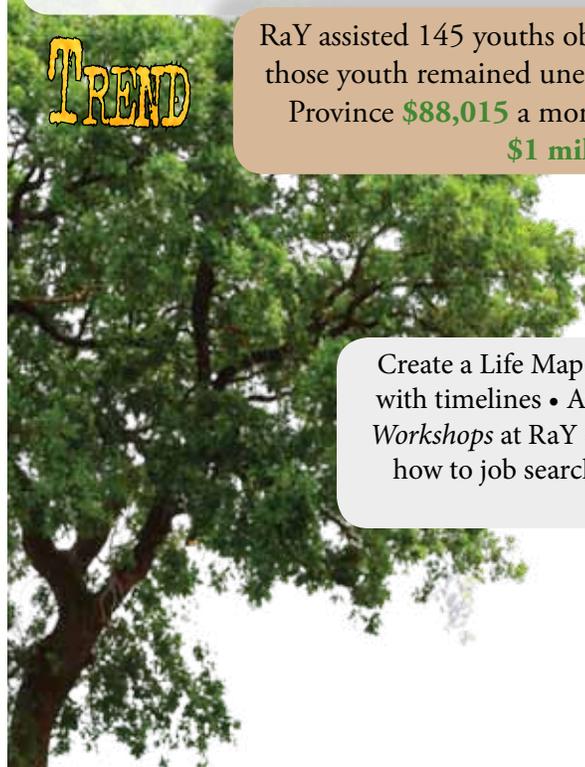
over the past year, offering more opportunities for youth to volunteer, work in and around the community and develop crucial life skills necessary to maintain long-term, stable employment. Each youth enters the program at different stages in their employability. Some youth have no work history or proper identification. Others need assistance with their résumé or acquiring certification to move forward with their career goals. Through the program, youth are able to:

- Develop a work history by performing jobs around RaY and in the community, such as: custodial duties, reception, assisting staff with furniture pick-ups, snow shovelling and raking
- Acquire identification (SIN cards, Birth Certificates, Photo Identification)
- Learn how to job search efficiently
- Develop a professional résumé
- Participate in mock interviews
- Receive certification/training
- Receive on-going support and job counselling

A higher emphasis on goal planning and a more cohesive follow-up plan has allowed both staff and youth to visualize the process and ensure youth are supported in the manner best suited to their needs as they achieve their self-determined employment/educational goals. Youth develop Life Maps, which act like road maps, with staff so they can physically see what steps are required to reach their goals and who in their lives they can reach out to for assistance and support. Being able to “check off” milestones and witness their own transition has greatly improved their own accountability, confidence and self-sufficiency.

RaY assisted 145 youths obtain employment in 2013. Had those youth remained unemployed, it would have cost the Province **\$88,015** a month in welfare benefits, or over **\$1 million a year.**

TREND



G.O. EMPLOYMENT PROCESS

- Create a Life Map
- Set achievable and realistic goals with timelines
- Attend a minimum of four *Life Skills Workshops* at RaY
- Develop a current résumé
- Learn how to job search effectively
- Participate in mock interviews

LIFE SKILLS WORKSHOPS

RaY's Life Skills Workshops are designed to teach youth tangible, real-world skills that apply directly to their current and future situations. RaY has always maintained a commitment to learning and literacy. Teaching and mentoring occurs everyday at RaY in every department, and the Life Skills Workshops program is an opportunity to deliver these life lessons in a structured way. Workshops cover topics, such as: shopping on a budget, to healthy relationships; interview skills, to how to be a good tenant; the workshops provide youth the opportunity learn positive skills and ask questions in a safe and supportive group setting. The lessons and experiences gained from these workshops increase youth's chances for success in all facets of their lives.



STATS & FACTS

Life Skills Workshops

Participant Involvement

Bed Bug Workshop	6
Healthy Relationships	11
Good Tenant: How to Find and Keep Housing	4
Budgeting Basic Tips	7
Anxiety with A.D.A.M	14
Yoga	3
Addictions: Looking at Ecstasy	8
Basic needs: Hygiene	5
Safe Sex	6
Grocery Shopping on a Budget	2
Cop Watch	5
Aboriginal Construction Technology Program	7
Safe Work: WCB	13

STATS & FACTS

Art/Recreation & Outings

Unique Individuals	49
Total Contacts	219
Total Number of Services	229
Average Services per Day	4.9
Average Contacts per Day	4.0

Services

Art 108

Healthy Living

Reiki 2

Yoga 4

Recreational/Field Trip

Archery
Snowboarding
Horseback Riding
Snowshoeing
Canoe Trip
Assiniboine Park Zoo
Mini Golf
Golf Dome
Movies
Winnipeg Goldeyes Game
Winnipeg Blue Bombers Game
Winnipeg Jets Game
Girls' Night In
Girls' Night Out
Guys' Night In
Guys' Night Out
Roller Skating

ART/RECREATION AND OUTINGS

RaY offers youth participants

the opportunity to experience healthy recreational activities they otherwise may not have access to, such as:

- Fishing
- Horseback riding
- Assiniboine Park Zoo
- Snowboarding
- Archery

Due to funding cuts, RaY's formal art program was suspended. However, art continues to be popular during Drop-In as a healthy form of self expression.



STATS & FACTS

Housing

Unique Individuals 289
 Total Contacts 2714
 Total Number of Services 5035
 Average Services per Day 20.2
 Average Contacts per Day 10

Services

Advocacy

CFS 6
 Education 3
 EIA 174
 Legal 35
 Mental Health 43
 Residential Tenancies 3

Housing Support

Free Store Furnishings 53
 Home Visits 2193
 Housing List 34
 Moves 39
 One-on-One Support 1912
 Rent Bank Utilized 21
 Rent Forms/Applications 41
 Secured Housing 5
 Shelter Referral 30

STATS & FACTS

REST

Unique Individuals 24
 Total Contacts 1472
 Total Number of Services 3406
 Average Services per Day 14.3
 Average Contacts per Day 6

Services

Advocacy

CFS 1
 Education 6
 EIA 27
 Financial 2
 Health 4
 Housing 8
 Legal 3
 Mental Health 1

Housing Support

Cleaning Supplies 2
 Connection to Harvest 1
 Connection to Food Banks 13
 Free Store Furnishings 5
 Food Packs 39
 Home Visits 2285
 MB Housing Applications 1
 One-on-One Support 968

HOUSING

The Housing team focused on their commitment to keeping youth housed in long-term, stable housing and improving the overall quality of housing for our youth participants. Safe, adequate and affordable housing is an integral step in any youth's journey towards independence, and with the team's wrap-around supports, we were able to ensure 73 at-risk youths remained housed and focused on achieving their goals. Forty-one rent applications were completed with RaY's assistance which resulted in 17 youths acquiring stable housing in the private housing market.

The Housing team also advocated on behalf of 42 youths attempting to navigate an often confusing EIA system, ensuring that their rights were protected and they received their entitled benefits. The team advised youth negotiating landlord/tenant disputes and offered advocacy and guidance for those attempting to access Manitoba Housing.

The RaY moving van has continued to be a valuable asset to the Housing team, allowing them to assist with 39 housing moves. The van was also heavily relied upon to pick up large furniture donations. From futons to forks and everything in between, these generously donated items are stored at RaY's "Free Store" until they are required by our youth.

RAY' HOUSING PROGRAM

RaY provided 24 at-risk youths safe and stable housing so they could focus on improving their overall wellbeing in 2013. Youth in the program live in one of the 13 Manitoba Housing units rent-free until they are adequately prepared to seek and maintain their own long-term housing. While in the program, REST participants develop and work towards their own goals— employment, educational, mental health/addiction related— with support from the REST Case Manager and RaY staff. Youth are mentored on independent living and are visited daily by the Street Outreach team to provide assistance where they are at. The full continuum of supports provided by RaY makes the program successful in transitioning youth from the street to independent living.

TREND

RaY housed 17 youths in 2013 in a Winnipeg housing market with a 1.9% vacancy rate.

YOUTH STORY

One REST participant escaped an abusive home life and into RaY's REST Program. With safe housing secured, and the support of the RaY housing team, the participant was able to hold down a full-time job and

attend courses at the University of Winnipeg. This person has since transitioned out of the REST Program and into long-term, permanent housing while continuing to further their education.

KITCHEN TRAINING PROGRAM

Eight youth participants successfully graduated from the Kitchen Training Program this year, taking with them the skills required to be successfully employed in the commercial food industry. Kitchen Training Program participants work five days a week, making approximately 190 meals for other youth and an additional 75 sandwiches and snack packs for the Street Outreach Team to hand out.

While in the three-month program, participants learn/receive their:

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

Youth receive on-the-job experience towards the end of the program at different Winnipeg restaurants to provide them with the full scope of potential future careers in the food industry.

STATS & FACTS

Kitchen Training Program

Unique Individuals 8
(2 youth every 3 months)

Meals

Lunch Meals 7255
Evening/Weekend Meals 2590
Street Outreach Sandwiches 3900

Kitchen Workshops 11

Total Contacts 66

Average Contacts per Workshop 6

STATS & FACTS

Street Outreach

Unique Individuals 1656
Participants in the Sex Trade 631
Harm Reduction Kits Distributed 1475
Sandwiches and Snacks 1758
Brief Interventions 1475
Clothing Accessories 356
Outdoor Supplies 71
Internal Referrals 872
External Referrals 702

STREET OUTREACH

Areas include: West End, West Broadway, Centennial, North End, Osborne, The Forks, Point Douglas, North Main and Downtown.

The Street Outreach team has two mandates: To make connections with those who have none, and to provide resources and information to street-entrenched individuals in hopes of improving each individual's safety, health and capacity. Whether by foot, van or bike, the team spent four evenings a week connecting with people without a home, offering them blankets, food, condoms, warm clothes and water. The team also supports RaY's transitional housing participants with daily home visits.

RAY
Resource Assistance for Youth
STREET OUTREACH

STATS & FACTS

Drop-In Participation

Unique Individuals 820

Total Contacts 11719

Daytime Participation 2835

Evening/Weekend Participation 1104

Average Participation per day 49.4

Average Contacts per Day 39

First Aid Services 31

Total Youth Participation 14627

Friends for Pets

Spay/Neuter 28



TREND

RaY's clothing and hygiene bank is equipped solely by your generous donations! Above, youth pose for a photo with donor volunteers from MTS Allstream during the youth holiday party.

Over 80 sweaters for given out to participants.

Thanks, MTS!

DROP-IN

RaY's Drop-In continues to be a positive environment where staff can begin to build trusting relationships with youth participants and initiate one-on-one support. All youth up to the age of 29 are welcome, so long as they abide by RaY's one rule: **RESPECT**. Our *No Wrong Door* policy ensures youth can seek any number of our services or simply enjoy a reprieve from the street with a hot meal prepared by our Kitchen Training Program participants.

Social inclusion remains a critical goal in Drop-In. Youth feel at home and among friends while in Drop-In. Youth have taken ownership of the program—they volunteer to serve food, make coffee, work the reception desk and clean up at the end of the day. Youth are suggesting workshop topics and outing ideas, which RaY staff will followed through on. One example of a youth idea for programming is weekly volunteering at the Winnipeg Humane Society which has been to the benefit of all involved.

TREND

Despite budget cuts and with a bit of creative scheduling, RaY added an extra evening of Drop-In bringing the total up to three nights per week.

BASIC NEEDS

STATS & FACTS

Basic Need

Unique Individuals 413

Clothing Bank 859

Hygiene Bank 520

Showers 188

Pet Food/Supplies 99

Food Packs 85

Laundry 84

Winter Coats 72

Basic Needs programming remains essential to our operations. Too often, at-risk youth lack and/or struggle to maintain life's most basic necessities required to survive. Being able to provide youth with new clothes, access to laundry, showers and hygiene products in one location helps boost their self-esteem and ensures they have the resources required to find employment, search for housing or survive on the street.

RaY is a conduit of Winnipeg Harvest, with a food bank available to any youth 17-years-old and under. Our food bank is also available to those youth in emergency situations.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

RaY takes a holistic approach when working with youth living with addictions issues, co-occurring disorders, brain injury and/or mental illnesses. RaY health and wellness professionals assess youth's physical, cognitive and emotional status before developing pre- and post-treatment plans unique to each individual. RaY staff ensure that youth in our environment feel safe and free from judgement. Our approach builds trust and a sense of support for individuals dealing with a milieu of complex issues often stemming from years of trauma.

RaY's Health and Wellness department provides youth with:

- Prompt support to, through and after recovery
- Treatment advocacy and education
- Diagnoses information
- Emergency crisis resources
- One-on-one supports
- Referral to appropriate resources when required

The journey to recovery is long and slippery– and our priority is for youth to maintain stability and safety, feel supported and cared for throughout this vulnerable and challenging recovery process.

RaY is able to provide youth access to a Nurse Practitioner two days a week. Youth receive primary health care, including:

- Illness diagnoses
- Order diagnostic tests
- Referrals to other healthcare professionals
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Addictions treatment
- Ability to write prescriptions

TREND

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Schizophrenia	58
Anxiety Disorder	54
PTSD	5
ADHD	4
FASD	48
Borderline Personality	31
Depression	68
Bi-Polar	18
Cognitive Impairments	50
Sociopathic Tendencies	3

TREND

Based on youth surveyed, it was found that each youth identified having an average of 3.1 mental health issues each. The most common symptoms– **depression and anxiety**

STATS & FACTS

Addiction Support

Unique Individuals	48
Total Contacts	48
Total Number of Services	62
Average Services per Day	1.7
Average Contacts per Day	1.0

Services

One-on-One Support	125
Referral to Community	2
Referral to Treatment	37

STATS & FACTS

Mental Health Support

Unique Individuals	160
Total Contacts	1826
Total Number of Services	2082
Average Services per Day	8.9
Average Contacts per Day	7

Services Delivered

Advocacy	56
Brief Interventions	726
Crisis Interventions	30
Connection to Dr./Worker	80
Drop-In Counselling	2
External Referrals	36
Internal Referrals	46
MB Health Cards	3
One-on-One Support	826
Prescriptions	3
Referral to Community	21
Referral to Counselling	17
Referral to Psychiatrist	2

STATS & FACTS

Health Care

Visits to Nurse Practitioner	528
Connection to Nurse Practitioner or Dr.	34
Connection to other Health Care Professional	11
One-on-One Support	41

Are You Sleeping Tonight 5 DAYS FOR THE HOMELESS

Tom Malinski I support students in staying warm
 Rachel
 Trevon
 Luc Bohunicky
 Brittani
 Mark
 Darius
 Erin Lobov
 Quinn P.
 Josh
 Maria G.
 Sleepers Love
 Speed Date #3
 Kathryn
 Hilda
 Deb
 Warm
 Stay
 Support
 Jessica
 Sonia Sharma
 Hannah
 Kate
 Molly
 Kaitly
 PMS 2011
 Darius
 Erin Lobov
 Mark
 Darius
 Erin Lobov
 Quinn P.
 Josh
 Maria G.
 Sleepers Love
 Speed Date #3
 Kathryn
 Hilda
 Deb
 Warm
 Stay
 Support



RAY-Homeless
 to Hopeful
 REBECCA STUMMAN



A YOUTH STORY

Born in Central Africa, four-year-old “Flex” bore witness to the horrendous genocides in the mid 90s as himself, along with his mother and younger sister, attempted to escape the war ravaged country into a refugee camp. “People were being killed all around [me]... Soldiers would talk about how they killed someone.”

After a three week journey on foot to a neighbouring country, Flex’s mother remarried, and with that, came two stepbrothers. Flex first liked the idea of having brothers and a new father– his biological father having been killed during the fighting– until one of his older stepbrothers sexually assaulted him. Flex told his mother what happened, but when he confronted his stepfather, he was beaten for “telling lies.” Tensions continued to rise in the family until Flex, his mother and sister immigrated to Canada.

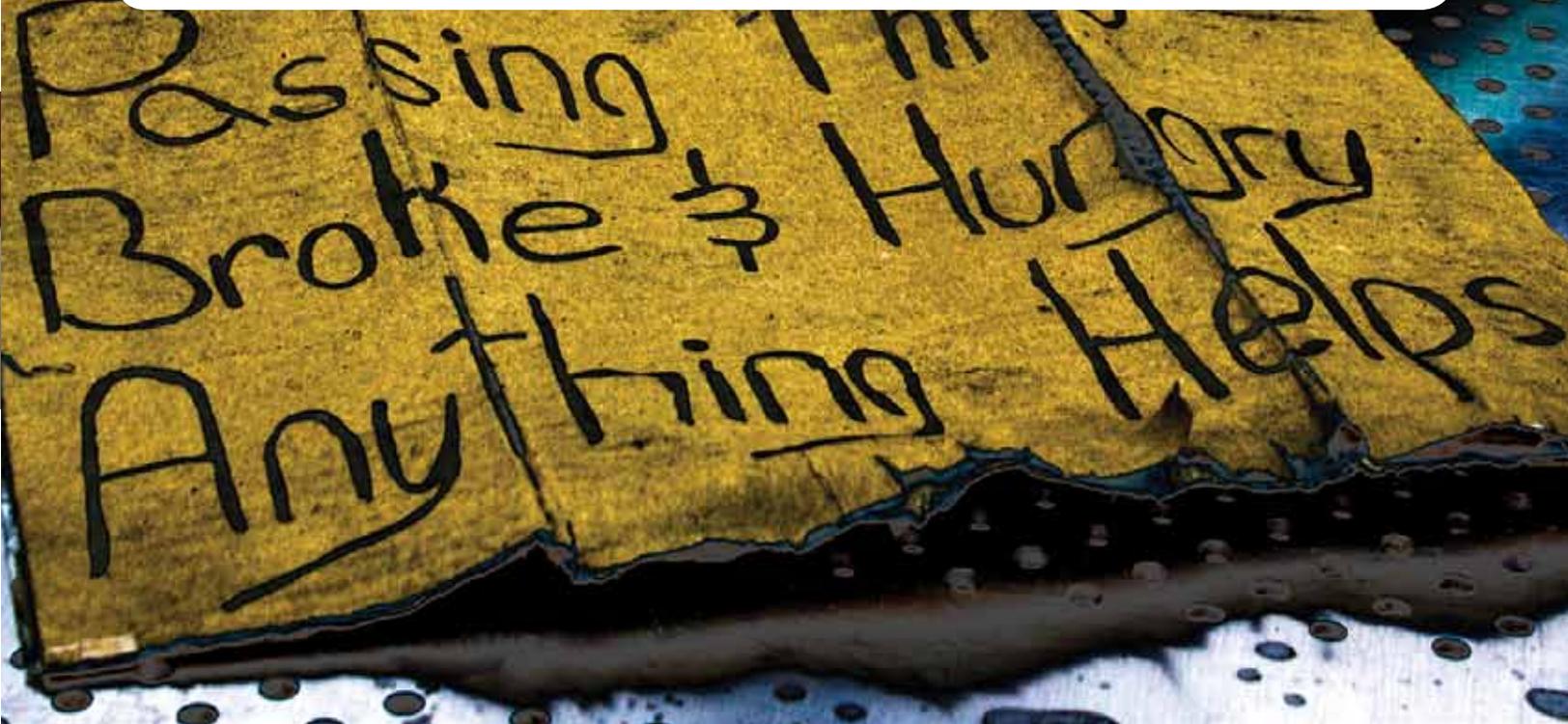
The transition to Canada wasn’t an easy one. Knowing very little english and being, “The only African in the whole school,” singled Flex out as a prime target for bullies, which led to fights.

While in high school, Flex developed a love for basketball. A female basketball coach offered to teach him some extra skills outside of regular practice time. She gave him money to buy a new pair of basketball shoes and invited him over to her house. As the invites increased, so did the monetary gifts. Their coach-player relationship soon became a sexual one. This continued for several years until Flex attempted to end the relationship. In retaliation, the female coach cut Flex from the team due to his “bad attitude.” Distraught at not being able to play the game he loved, Flex agreed to continue the relationship and was immediately reinstated on the team.

Being a witness to genocide, living in refugee camps, losing family members to the war and being sexual exploited led to panic attacks, depression and anxiety. By 18, Flex developed a drug addiction. “I’d use ecstasy, pot, magic mushrooms cocaine... I was using something everyday.”

He attempted treatment but it never stuck. He would come out and begin using or selling again. Disapproving of their son’s lifestyle, Flex’s mother and stepfather kicked him out of the house. He ended up in Ottawa on a “spontaneous decision” and stayed in a shelter there for a few weeks.

Flex recently became involved with RaY’s transitional housing program. He’s working full-time and receiving counselling and treatment for his addiction. He plans on going back to school in the near future. He dreams of having a good job, a car, a house and a family.



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RaY would like to thank all the individual donors who supported our mission by donating online, and to those individuals and groups who donated clothes, hygiene products, furniture and housewares so our youth can have a chance at a better life.

Thank you,

The RaY Family



YOUTH AWARDS 2013

CHRIS GRAY

Youth Ambassador Award

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

LANEY CARDINAL

The Lynn Thompson Pay it Forward Award

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

WENDY BAKER

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.

IN MEMORIAM



Leah-Marie Sutherland

STILL MISSING



Amber Guiboche
Missing since November 2010.
Last seen getting into a red pickup truck on William and Isabel.

Kerry Klyne
Missing since November 2010.
Last seen on the corner of Broadway and Maryland.



