ANNUAL REPORT 2014–2015

Message from the Executive Director and President of the Board

This past year has demonstrated our commitment to innovative community partnerships and the role they play in Fife House's delivery of services. Indeed, our expertise in this area is noted by many other agencies, which ena bles us to develop responses to the needs of our clients and residents as they shift over time.

The Complex Care Project, addressing the issues faced by those aging with HIV/AIDS, continues to provide the high level of supportive care required by leveraging existing services in the community. We are proud of the leadership role we have been able to play in tackling what was identified in 2011 by the Community Roundtable on HIV, Housing, Aging and Complex Care as an emerging and urgent issue.

Our Addictions Supportive Program (ASH), another example of collaboration, continues to demonstrate remarkable reductions in emergency room visits and hospitalizations. Simultaneously, the physical and mental health of the residents, all of whom are dealing with substance use issues,

have been greatly improved. The efficacy of the program has led to an agreement with the funders to expand in the coming year, which will increase capacity by 25%.

While funding for the Trillium Peer Engagement Project has ended, its effects continue to resonate throughout the agency and are now fully integrated within the Volunteer Program. The project has been instrumental in increasing the number of volunteers who are living with HIV/AIDS and resulted in an active working group of Board and staff members to continue to develop and ensure the greater and more meaningful role of PLHA at Fife.

Core funding was increased in the past year to our Homeless Outreach Program, enabling us to expand staffing to the program with the largest caseload. This enables us to help more people and families in need of affordable housing and expands the methods used.

Collaboration has always been at the core of Fife House`s mission and continues to play an important role across the entire agency. We are proud of what this approach has been able to accomplish thus far and look forward to what it can achieve in the future.

Keith Hambly Linda Stewart

DENISON AND SCATTERED SITES

Denison is the oldest of Fife's residential programs and is home to five residents with staff on-site to provide 24 hour support services. Clients receive case management, practical supports and assistance with activities of daily living aimed at maintaining their health and living independently. The Denison Program also provides housing support and case management services to an additional 17 clients who are housed at three locations in our partnership with St. Clare's Multifaith Housing

"It's a place that gives me support but also helps me to be independent. I hope one day to live on my own, but for now I am happy to call this my home. I have friends. I am able to cook and eat, enjoying the company. I am gardening with my house mates, which is something I would not have imagined five years ago."

Denison Renovation Design Team with Fife House Staff at open house.

"MY LIFE HAS CHANGED SO MUCH SINCE I MOVED INTO DENISON. I AM IN A STABLE PLACE NOW, AND AM LOOKING FORWARD TO TACKLING NEW CHALLENGES IN MY LIFE THAT WOULD HAVE NOT BEEN POSSIBLE BEFORE."

SHERBOURNE

The Sherbourne Apartments is designed to serve an integrated population of seniors and people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA). Fife House provides housing and support services for PLHA in 45 of the 122 units in the building, a combination of bachelors, one bedroom, and two bedroom units. Supports are provided 7 days a week 24 hours a day on a continuum based on identified client needs and goals through ongoing case management and service plans. An emphasis is placed on life skills development and supporting independent living.

"WHEN I FIRST MOVED IN, I FELT NERVOUS, YET EXCITED TO HAVE A PLACE TO CALL MY HOME. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE PROGRAMS THE BUILDING PROVIDES. IT BRINGS EVERYONE TOGETHER. I AM ABLE TO SOCIALIZE AND TO MEET NEW PEOPLE. WHENEVER I NEED ASSISTANCE FROM FIFE HOUSE STAFF, THEY ARE ALWAYS THERE. FIFE HOUSE IS A COMMUNITY THAT IS VERY WELCOMING TO ALL."

Over the last year, the Sherbourne Program has played an integral role in the success of the HIV/AIDS Complex Care Project, housing ten individuals living with HIV/AIDS who are aging and have complex health conditions. The Sherbourne staffing team's enhanced levels of daily supports have led to significant improved health outcomes for these clients.

JARVIS

The Jarvis residence, a partnership with Toronto Community Housing (TCH), provides 82 units of affordable housing and is one of the largest residential programs at Fife House. Staff provides client support services 12 hours a day, seven days a week. The Jarvis staffing team assist clients with a range of needs related to activities of daily living, case management, and advocacy; as well as providing community and meal programming. The team also provides offsite care and supports to an additional five units of housing with TCH similar to the Scattered Sites Model of our Denison Program.

DP has been living at the Jarvis Program since April 1999. He is very involved with Fife House and has required our support services over the years when faced with health challenges.

"IT IS ALWAYS COMFORTING KNOWING SERVICES ARE THERE WHEN I NEED THEM"

He now gives back and is part of the Peer Catering Program at Sherbourne and also an active volunteer working with the Bread Program. He's a great cook, and his knowledge and contribution to the catering program is evident in the meals provided. Having shared his excellent baking skills with the Jarvis team over the years, we are not surprised he is such a great addition to the catering team.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM

The Transitional Housing Program (THP) provides temporary supportive housing (9 month stays) in a shared communal living environment to 11 people living with HIV/AIDS, many who have a history of homelessness. Each individual has a furnished bachelor unit with kitchenette and bathroom, and share common living, dining, kitchen, and laundry facilities. THP staff team provides clients with goal focused service planning, intensive case management, assistance with activities of daily living, and advocacy support; with a focus on improved health outcomes, finding permanent housing, and connection to needed care and supports.

Over the past year, the program served 21 persons, with 18 reaching their goal of independent housing.

"IN MY EXPERIENCE WHEN I COMPARE OTHER SHELTERS THAT I HAVE STAYED AT TO FIFE HOUSE'S TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM, THE CONTRASTS ARE LIGHT YEARS APART. WHAT I FIND AS AN ADULT, IS THAT THE THP MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE YOU ARE IN A SETTING THAT YOU HAVE CONTROL OF. IN OTHER SHELTERS, YOU TEND TO LOSE THAT SENSE OF CONTROL. I WISH OTHER SHELTERS WERE LIKE THE THP WHEN DEALING WITH THE HOMELESS POPULATION. I FEEL THAT THIS IS THE MISSING LINK AMONGST OTHER SHELTERS AND ORGANIZATIONS. THIS PROGRAM CAN MAKE YOU FEEL ACCOUNTABLE FOR WHO YOU ARE; WHETHER YOU HAVE ADDICTIONS OR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES."

HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM

Fife House has been a leader in the provision of services to homeless people and those at risk for homelessness living with HIV/AIDS across the city of Toronto. The Homeless Outreach Program (HOP) has been providing housing search and placement, eviction prevention, and transitional supports to the PLHA community for the last 15 years.

This program is Fife House's largest in terms of caseload, with more than 350 clients last year. In 2014, we housed 155 people living with HIV/AIDS, and prevented 45 evictions. We also connect PLHA to services such as income support, mental health and addiction support and also advocate with housing providers to secure suitable housing.

"I WENT TO THE HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM WHEN I FIRST CAME TO CANADA 5 MONTHS AGO. THE STAFF THERE HELPED ME GET A DOCTOR, SOME MONEY AND A PLACE TO LIVE THAT I LOVE"

In the past year, Fife House has launched a new project, the **Coordinated Access to HIV/AIDS Housing and Supports Initiative**. Thanks to funding from the City of Toronto, this new initiative is developing a common intake and assessment tool and process for all HIV related housing and case management support for homeless PLHA, and those at risk of homelessness. Past and current clients have been involved in all phases of the development process, sharing their experiences and recommendations for the project.

HIV/AIDS COMPLEX CARE PILOT PROJECT

The HIV/AIDS Complex Care Project is an innovative partnership led by Fife House aimed at addressing changing care and support needs, and housing needs of people living with HIV/AIDS who are aging, experiencing aging related illnesses, complex care, and cognition issues. The partnership involves eight agencies including McEwan Housing and Support Services, COTA Inspires, Toronto Community Housing, Toronto Central Community Care Access Centre, St Elizabeth Health Care, Casey House, St Michael's Hospital , Sherbourne Health Centre, and the Toronto People with AIDS Foundation. The Project delivers an innovative enhanced model of community care and support, and a new high support housing model to increase access to services and health management.

The Project provides intensive community and clinical supports to aging PLHA and those with complex health issues focused on

health and housing stabilization, improved health outcomes, and a reduction in hospitalizations. Clients receive coordinated care in the home and community which includes: intensive case management, HIV nursing, general and mental health nursing, psychiatry, personal support workers, occupational therapy, and physiotherapy,

The Project served 10 new clients over the last year, serving a total of 28 clients in both its high support housing model and enhanced model of community care.

"I APPRECIATE ALL THE SUPPORT FROM THE COMPLEX CARE TEAM IN CARING FOR MY BROTHER. RECENTLY, WE WERE ABLE TO MOVE FROM A BACHELOR UNIT INTO A 2 BEDROOM WHICH HAS BEEN WONDERFUL, AND THIS WILL ALLOW ME TO LIVE WITH MY BROTHER AND TO CONTINUE TO CARE AND SUPPORT HIM. I APPRECIATE THE MED REMINDERS AND ALL THE SUPPORTS FROM THE FIFE HOUSE RESIDENTIAL STAFF AND FROM THE COMPLEX CARE TEAM."

ADDICTIONS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

The HIV Addiction Supportive Housing Program (ASH) is a Housing First partnership between Loft's McEwan Program and Fife House. ASH is aimed at addressing gaps in service for homeless PLHA who experience health, mental health and severe substance use challenges, who are cycling in and out of hospitals, prisons, and detoxification units.

Fife House is the housing agency and manages 32 units of rent-supplement housing through head leases "scattered' throughout the City of Toronto. Loft/McEwan provides the intensive case management supports on a ratio of 8:1.

In 2014/15 the Ash Program had a 99% occupancy rate. Through the intensive case management and supports the program has seen a 95% reduction in emergency room visits, and a 90% reduction in hospitalizations. The program has had huge success in providing safe, affordable, stable housing and improving clients' health and wellness.

Fife House and Loft/McEwan submitted a funding proposal to the Toronto Central LHIN this past year for an additional 8 units of rent supplement housing. The submission was successful and funds will flow in 2016/17.

MARY CAME TO THE ASH PROGRAM AFTER A TEMPORARY STAY IN THE FIFE HOUSE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM. SHE STRUGGLED WITH A SERIOUS ADDICTION TO CRACK COCAINE AND WAS VERY ESTRANGED FROM HER COMMUNITY AND FAMILY. SHE NEVER HAD A STABLE HOME. SOON AFTER MOVING INTO THE ASH PROGRAM AND WORKING WITH STAFF, MARY'S HEALTH STABILIZED AND SHE WAS ABLE TO FOCUS ON HER GOALS. SHE RECONNECTED WITH HER SONS AND GRANDCHILDREN AND VOLUNTEERS, PREPARING THE MENU AND DINNER FOR A WEEKLY COMMUNITY MEAL. GIVING BACK TO HER COMMUNITY IN WAYS SHE NEVER COULD BEFORE; SHE NOW FEELS CONNECTED AND LOOKS FORWARD TO EACH NEW DAY.

"THE PROGRAM HELPED GIVE ME SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO"

VOLUNTEERS

All Fife House programs benefit from volunteer involvement. Volunteers assist in residential programs, fundraising, special events and reception. They also play diverse roles in governance on both the Board and various committees.

Volunteers are crucial to the work we do and have been an integral component of Fife House since its incorporation in 1988. More than 400 volunteers provided in excess of 14,250 hours of service in 2014/15, equal to seven full-time staff.

Fife House is committed to the principles of the greater and more meaningful involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA/MIPA). In 2014/2015, 23% of all our volunteers were peers helping in all areas of the organization. Some of the peer led programs are: Homeless Outreach Program (HOP) Drop-in, Breakfast Club and Bread Program.

"Fife House helped me during one of the darkest parts of my life. Volunteering with Fife House gives me a chance to show my gratitude by giving back to the organization that helped me when I needed it. My time spent volunteering with Fife House fills my spirit with such joy and satisfaction. I thank you for the opportunity of volunteering in such a f abulous agency." –Ron Benedetti

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Community Programs engage residents and clients of Fife House in social-recreational, health promotion, and leadership-building activities, drawing on personal strengths, and encouraging independent community living.

Resident-led initiatives are an important part of Community Programming and include a Breakfast Club, Gardening Committee, Fresh Bread Delivery Program, support with

Community Meals and an after-hours Community Room Monitor Program. Other activities include field trips, weekend brunches, movie afternoons, gentle exercise, photography club, weekly bus to a local mall, and friendly canine visiting.

"I love the homemade meals."
"The bread is so fresh, the selection so diverse"
"The lunch program food is nutritious, hot and I don't have to cook."

Our Wellness Centre offers professional services to clients such as massage therapy, energy balancing, reflexology, acupuncture and muscle activation techniques. This is all done by volunteer practitioners who are giving what are often costly services for free to our community.

"After the massage, the pain was much less and I did not have to take painkillers."

"The wellness centre volunteer displays a true sense of genuine care for my well-being."

DEVELOPMENT

FIFE HOUSE IS GRATEFUL TO THE MANY DONORS WHO HELP US IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OUR RESIDENTS AND CLIENTS. INDIVIDUALS, CORPORATIONS, FOUNDATIONS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES ALL CONTRIBUTE TO OUR ANNUAL CAMPAIGN. THEIR GENEROSITY PROVIDES FUNDS FOR SUCH THINGS AS OUR MEAL PROGRAM (6,000 SERVED LAST YEAR), STAFFING FOR OUR HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM AND NEW BEDS AND HOUSEWARES FOR THOSE MOVING FROM THE STREETS OR SHELTERS TO A HOME. THROUGHOUT THE YEAR WE ORGANIZE THREE SPECIAL EVENTS TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF OUR WORK AND RAISE FUNDS.

A Taste For Life

Lead Sponsor TD

Once again, with the generosity of almost 60 restaurants and the thousands of diners who turned out, 'Taste' raised more than $100,000 for services to our clients and residents. Our volunteer hosts also play a significant role in the success of this event, bringing patrons to their restaurants and encouraging donations directly to Fife. All of this combines to keep overhead to a bare minimum, ensuring that 95% of the funds raised goes to programs and services. What could be easier than going out for dinner and helping people at the same time! The 2015 event will be held April 22 – save the date for great dining for a great cause! If you are interested in becoming a volunteer host, please contact us.

Performers For Life

Presenting Sponsor Sun Life Financial

This initiative is dependent on the cooperation of the Toronto theatre community to allow our volunteers to 'shake the can' following performances of one of their shows and we are truly grateful for their support. Companies large and small, from Mirvish Productions to Tarragon Theatre and Buddies in Bad Times have been ongoing partners since its inception. Again, costs are extremely low, so almost all of the donations go where they are most needed. We are always looking for theatres to approach, so if you are connected to a performing arts group, please contact us about their participation. We are always respectful of the patrons and the space, but still have fun!

Spotlight

Presenting Sponsor BMO Financial Group

WOW! What a year. For the first time in its history Spotlight was sold out! This was no doubt due to the high calibre of talent we were able to attract. Broadway and television star Megan Hilty was accompanied by pianist/performer and Sirius radio host Seth Rudetsky in an intimate and engaging evening of song and anecdote focusing on Broadway. Surprise guest Brian Gallagher joined them for a couple of numbers, adding to the star quality of the event. Helping achieve this tremendous success were Rainbow Cinemas and OUTFRONT Media, who helped with promotion and advertising. The continued support of BMO Financial Group has allowed us to grow the event to its current level, for which we are very appreciative. Spotlight 2015 is scheduled for Monday, November 9 and we are planning on bringing similar talent to the stage – save the date so you don't miss out.

RESEARCH & EVALUATION

The Department of Research and Evaluation at Fife House is engaged in community-based research (CBR) and evaluation studies that impact the programs and services for people living with HIV/AIDS. Below are the highlights of recent research funding and studies.

Women, HIV and Aging Study

This community-based research study was developed by Fife House, in collaboration with Wilfrid Laurier University, Toronto People with AIDS Foundation, Two-Spirited People of First Nations, and Loft Community Housing, further supported by AIDS Committee of Durham Region, Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention, and Older Women's Network. The issues of women aging with HIV continue to be marginalized and subordinated within HIV research, policy, service provision, and program development. Their underrepresentation within HIV/AIDS research perpetuates the absence of their experiences, which can inform programming, policy and decision making. Grounded in the principles of GIPA and MIPA, this study ensured greater and meaningful involvement of PHA's at all levels in the research process. Peer research associates (PRAs) received training and were engaged in qualitative interviewing, data collection, data analysis and will be engaged in dissemination of study findings.

Preliminary Findings:

- Access to assisted living/retirement residences for aging PHAs was identified as a future need.
- Stigma and discrimination based on HIV status and/or age mar the experiences of women aging with HIV.
- Relationships sought based on emotional intimacy, care, and understanding.
- HIV and age play a significant role in the construction of desire, sex and physical intimacy.
- Personal and societal construction of age creates barriers in expression of sexuality.
- The impact of HIV and aging on beauty and body image significantly impacts women's perception of self.
- Depression experienced by majority of the participants had impacted their quality of life.
- Women's support groups are a key strategy for coping and building supportive networks.
- Spirituality, family and social bonds are integral to resiliency.

Trillium Project Evaluation: The PHA Engagement Project
The PHA Peer Engagement Project was a four year project funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, aimed at developing training, structured mentorship support and experiential learning opportunities for people living with HIV/AIDS (PHAs). This evaluation was collaboratively conducted by the Departments of research and community programs.

The objectives of this evaluation were:

- To assess peer involvement with Fife House Peer Engagement Project (PEP).
- To identify the challenges and successes of the project.
- To identify areas of growth and improvement of peer engagement.
- To identify future areas for peer engagement at Fife House.

Summary of Findings:

- Peer engagement invaluable in creating 'inclusive' and 'trusted' environment.
- Engagement with the project (PEP) facilitates integration into workplace.
- Mentorship (or lack of it) is critical in peer engagement and retention.
- Sense of belonging within workplace impacts sense of self.
- Peer engagement increases a sense of community.
- Issues of boundaries can create challenges in peer engagement.
- Confidence in agency as a 'service user', determines engagement as 'peers'.
- Engagement as peer positively impacts future aspirations.
- Meaningful placement of volunteers key to the success of the program.
- Navigation between multiple identities can pose challenges.
- Developing a strong core training and role specific training strengthens peer engagement.
- Holistic support system important for peer engagement.

The entire report will be available online in August of 2015.

Ontario Trillium Foundation | Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario

ONTARIO HIV AND SUBSTANCE USE TRAINING PROGRAM (OHSUTP)

Last year OHSUTP delivered 70 workshops to more than 1500 participants. Several requests to speak about the stigma surrounding drug use were received and there were also opportunities to talk about overdose prevention. We developed and delivered three webinars focused on the best practice recommendations for harm reduction equipment being distributed by the Ontario Harm Reduction Distribution Program (OHRDP).

The experience in delivering these webinars is aiding OHSUTP in transferring our current two-day workshop (HIV, HCV, drug stigma, and harm reduction) to an online format. This will make training more accessible to service providers across the province, and reach remote regions. Part of what makes the training so successful is our commitment to include peers (people living with HIV/AIDS and identify as a current/former drug user) in sharing their lived experiences. OHSUTP contracted some of our provincial peer participants to come together and record their stories on video, which will be used in the online trainings.

Fife House is grateful to the many corporations and foundations that support us. Without their help, we would not be able to provide essential programs and services to our residents and clients, on which they rely. The following is a list for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

FOUNDATIONS

A & A King Family Foundation
CHUM Charitable Foundation
Diving For Life
M•A•C AIDS Fund
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Pride and Remembrance Association
Realtors Care Foundation
RBC Foundation
The Georgina Foundation
The Home Depot Canada Foundation
The Lloyd Carr-Harris Foundation
The McLean Foundation

CORPORATIONS

A1 Dental Hygiene Services
Bay Street Video
BMO Financial Group
Equinox Development Inc.
Fuel Plus Inc.
Hugo Boss Canada
Jeanne Lottie Fashion Inc.
KPMG
Keilhauer
Miracle 10 Cosmetics Inc.
Oliver & Bonacini Restaurants
Over the Rainbow
RBC Financial Group
Sun Life Financial
TD Bank Financial Group
The Printing House Ltd.
Whole Foods Market Yorkville

Special thanks to the Bloor-Yorkville BIA for their WorldPride initiative on our behalf.

FUNDERS

Core funding for programs and services is provided by:

Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network (TCLHIN)

Government of Canada
- •Public Health Agency of Canada
- •Employment and Social Development Canada
  - •Homeless Partnering Strategy
  - •Canada Summer Jobs

Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care
- •AIDS Bureau
- •Ontario Non-Profit Housing Program

City of Toronto
- •Shelter, Support and Housing Administration
  - •Housing Support Service Projects
  - •Hostel Services
- •Employment & Social Services
  - •Investing in Neighbourhoods

Ontario HIV Treatment Network

Centre for Independent Living in Toronto, Inc.

Toronto Community Housing Corporation

McEwan Housing and Support Service/LOFT Community Services

Ontario
Local Health Integration Network

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

year ended March 31, 2015 with comparative figures for 2014

condensed statement of financial position		2015	2014
assets			
current assets:			
	cash and short-term deposits	$752,923	$755,462
	other	126,518	112,093
		879,441	867,555
capital assets		601,923	602,798
		$1,481,364	$1,470,353
liabilities, deferred contributions and net assets			
current liabilities		$473,149	$243,618
mortgage payable - long term		-	228,383
deferred contributions-other		580,425	548,114
deferred contributions-capital campaign		178,705	203,781
		1,232,279	1,223,896
net assets		249,085	246,457
		$1,481,364	$1,470,353

condensed statement of operations

year ended March 31, 2015 with comparative figures for 2014

condensed statement of operations		2015	2014
revenue:			
	grants:		
	core	$2,842,129	$2,775,436
	one time	31,189	62,258
	development	440,457	429,201
	capital campaign	8,580	2,902
	other income	553,363	523,402
		3,875,718	3,793,199
operating expenses:			
	salaries and benefits	2,588,805	2,481,786
	programs	863,559	893,589
	rent	144,963	138,928
	administration	89,169	96,401
	development	62,720	48,516
	advertising and recruitment	16,867	24,936
	other	108,610	101,373
		3,874,693	3,785,529
excess of revenue over expenses		$1,025	$7,670

OUR MISSION

To provide secure and affordable supportive housing and support services for persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA).

OUR VALUES

We believe that:

- Access to secure and affordable housing is a key determinant for health and well-being of people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Our services must be provided in a flexible manner in order to meet the diverse needs of residents, clients and those who support them.
- Co-operation, collaboration and partnership with other service agencies are essential to the delivery of focused, cost-effective services.
- Principles of equity, access and respect of diverse communities are the cornerstone to helping PLHAs thrive.
- The meaningful involvement of diverse PLHA communities is essential to building and leading our agency to bring about positive and lasting change.
- Our research informs our direction through knowledge creation, transfer and exchange that lead to improved services that enhance the quality of PLHA's health outcomes and lives.
- All people have the right to live and work in an environment of mutual respect, compassion and dignity.
- Hope is essential.

Contact us
Fife House Foundation
Head Office
2nd Floor
490 Sherbourne Street
Toronto ON M4X 1K9

www.fifehouse.org

Tel 416-205-9888
Fax 416-205-9919
info@fifehouse.org