



# Bissell Centre

2017-2018 Annual Report  
[bissellcentre.org](http://bissellcentre.org)



**Davina and Shawn's Story**

Pg 3

**Program Highlights**

Pg 4, 5

**See the Impact of Your Gifts**

Pg 8

# Words from the Board Chair and CEO



Looking back over the year, I am so grateful to everyone who has made so many things possible.

I am thankful to our funders for making our new Community Space renovations a success! We are now able to help more people on a daily basis, and improve our quality of service.

In October, we also helped launch a new Medic Alert Bracelet here in Edmonton, for people with FASD. Since FASD is an invisible disability, the bracelet bridges the communication gap between first responders and people impacted by FASD.

Finally, for the first time, we joined over 120 communities across Canada to take part in the Coldest Night of the Year walk-a-thon. We had 61 teams with 340 walkers in total, and raised \$78,452, more than twice our original goal!

It takes a community to eliminate poverty in our neighbourhoods. With your ongoing support, so much is possible. Thank you!

Gary St. Amand  
CEO, Bissell Centre



Last year, we made important strides towards our vision to eliminate poverty in our community. We couldn't have done it without the commitment from our supporters.

Thanks to our funders, we expanded our Outreach Housing Team to locate and house more people who are living on city streets. Thanks to you, we hosted more Summer Camps for individuals and families, which help provide the first crucial step in building a strong support network when transitioning out of poverty. And, after years of planning, the renovations to our new Community Space are complete. We have seen more people connected to essential programs.

There is still a lot of work to be done as we head into the second year of our Strategic Framework to create a poverty-free community. Thank you for all the continued support. We're looking forward to the year ahead as we continue working towards eliminating poverty.

Ken Ristau  
Board Chair, Bissell Centre



Davina and Shawn are able to work towards their goals for a bright future.

## Creating a Brighter Future Davina and Shawn's Story

Davina and Shawn met in AA meetings, started a relationship and eventually moved in together. They were both struggling with their own addictions though, and shortly after a miscarriage, Davina relapsed. She went into recovery for a year. While she was in treatment, she found out that she was pregnant again.

One day, the police knocked on Shawn's door and arrested him for a past misconduct. So while Davina was pregnant and in recovery, Shawn was in federal prison. It was a tumultuous time for them.

When Davina finished her recovery and had a brand new baby daughter in her arms,

Shawn was still in prison and she knew she needed ongoing help. That's when she turned to Bissell Centre, recommended by her support worker. "It was an emotional day when I had to drop my daughter off here. But the staff was so supportive," says Davina. "There was no judgement at all, just open arms." Something shifted for Davina that day.

"I realized I was being viewed as a human being," she says. "The support from Bissell Centre and other agencies really built more confidence in me. I took steps that I never even thought were possible. I would not be where I am today without Bissell Centre and all the support."

*"I would not be where I am today without Bissell Centre and all the support."—Davina*

Today, Davina and Shawn have been a part of Bissell Centre's community for five years, and are five years clean. Support like yours, through Bissell Centre's programs, has helped them to get a strong foothold and succeed this time around.

You've helped support  
**594 families in 2017-18!**

**Give today at  
[bissellcentre.org](http://bissellcentre.org)**

# Program Highlights

Thanks to donors like you!



Guests enjoy the resources available to them in the new Community Space.

## New Community Space

After successful renovations, our new Community Space re-opened on April 30th, 2018! We succeeded in creating a space that can help more people on a daily basis, as well as improve the quality of service available to each guest.

The newly updated space, along with our new service delivery model, provides more individuals with the essential resources needed to break free from the cycle of poverty. Guests have easy access to basic items like clothing, showers and services such as housing support, employment counselling, healthcare, and skills training. 



Summer camp is an amazing place for families to spend time together.

## Bissell Centre Summer Camps

Our camp at Moonlight Bay Centre on Lake Wabamun, is a place where struggling families and individuals can find solace, rest, and rejuvenation. Kids and adults alike are able to participate in traditional summer camp activities. In doing so, they create meaningful connections and enjoy a respite from the stress of city life.

Participants are able to enjoy the camps for free, which includes transportation, accommodations, and meals. Our staff lead campers in various activities including swimming, canoeing, volleyball, arts and crafts. Everyone has a great time! 



Thanks to the expansion of our Outreach Housing Team, more people are getting connected to the resources they need.

## Outreach Housing Team

Our Outreach Housing Team expanded in May 2017, adding five Assertive Housing Workers and a Team Lead, bringing the team to 11 outreach housing staff. This created more opportunities to find and identify individuals in greatest need of housing, and to help them connect with resources to move away from poverty.

The new team has worked to represent Bissell Centre on various committees and to be an active player in coordinating housing workers across the city. It's an ongoing effort to build and develop partnerships with other agencies, organizations, and schools.

In 2017-18, the team has helped 359 people attain housing. 

## Our Programs and Services Supported by You!

*At Bissell Centre, our many programs and services have been supported by donors like you! Thank you for helping meet the needs of each person we serve.*

- Bissell Centre Summer Camps
- Bissell Thrift Shop
- Community Bridge - Eviction Prevention
- Community Space - Support Services
- Early Childhood Development
- Employment & Casual Labour Services
- Family Support Services
- FASD Permanent Supportive Housing
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum of Services
- Financial Empowerment Services
- Homeless to Homes
- Inner City Victim Services
- Mental Health Services
- Outreach Housing Team
- Recreation and Wellness
- Starting Point - Referral Services

# 2017-2018 Year in Review



Thank you for making our work possible!

## Grateful for Another Year of Impact: Thank You Supporters!

As we reflect on the past year, we are blown away by the amazing generosity of our supporters. We are grateful for our over 1,300 volunteers that dedicate their time to helping others. We wouldn't be able to operate without you. View Weekly readers voted Bissell Centre, along with Youth Empowerment and Support Services (YESS), Edmonton's Best Non-Profits in 2017.

After a successful Coldest Night of the Year walk-a-thon, walking on behalf of people who are living in poverty, we were so encouraged by the support. We are excited to put the funds into action, supporting individuals and families in our community.

Your support is providing people with the ability to find employment, housing, mental health services, and a place to connect. These are so important to those coping with poverty and lack of other supports. At Bissell Centre, people find a place to belong, and they feel accepted and valued. Thank you for caring for those who are struggling with poverty and homelessness in Edmonton. You are changing lives.

### Supporters List 2017-18:

- Alberta Foundation for the Arts
- Allard Foundation
- ATB Financial
- Building Trades of Alberta Charitable Foundation
- City of Edmonton
- Edmonton Arts Council
- Edmonton Civic Employees Charitable Assistance Fund
- Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association
- Edmonton Community Foundation
- Edmonton Fetal Alcohol Network
- Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation
- Eldon & Anne Foote Fund - Edmonton Community Foundation
- ENMAX Corporation
- Estate of Robert Tegler Trust
- Government of Alberta
- Government of Canada
- Hendriks Construction
- Homeward Trust Edmonton
- Royal Alexandra Hospital Employees Charitable Donations Fund
- Inter Pipeline
- Melton Foundation

- Robertson-Wesley United Church - Wesley & Clarke Funds
- Saint John's School of Alberta Legacy Foundation
- Servus Credit Union
- Shirley & Gordon Gifford Family Fund - Edmonton Community Foundation
- Southminster-Steinhauer United Church
- The Stollery Charitable Foundation
- United Church of Canada - Alberta & Northwest Conference
- United Church of Canada - Edmonton Presbytery
- United Way of the Alberta Capital Region
- X5 Management Inc.

### 2017-18 Board of Governors

- **Chair:** Ken Ristau
- **Vice-Chair:** Steve Fix
- Kelly Anderson
- Gregory Boggs
- Beverley Browne
- Hooman Hosseinkhannazer
- Sean Lessard
- Jill Matthew
- Leanne Monsma
- Leigh Mulholland
- Jason Pincock
- Chris Schulte
- Jennifer Tokar
- Hendriatta Wong

At Bissell Centre we are committed to full transparency with our finances because we want to stay financially accountable to our supporters. This way, you know that each dollar you donate is being used to effectively help those who are struggling with poverty in Edmonton.

In order to stay accountable, minimize risk to the organization and ensure efficiency, our Financial Team upholds the highest standard of record-keeping. From our accounting to our outreach programs, we are all contributing to the same goal: eliminating poverty in the Greater Edmonton area.

Thank you for supporting us in this goal. It is only by working together that we can change people's lives and make a lasting difference. Your generosity and trust is much appreciated.

## Revenue



2018



2017

(Dollars in Thousands)

	2017	2018
• Government Grants	\$5,820	\$5,672
• Fund Development & Earned Sales	\$2,817	\$3,523
• United Way	\$388	\$372
• Amortization of Deferred Capital Contributions	\$265	\$255

## Expenditure



2018



2017

(Dollars in Thousands)

	2017	2018
• Staff	\$6,747	\$7,091
• Programs	\$1,416	\$1,416
• Building	\$608	\$444
• Office	\$413	\$421
• Publicity and Promotion	\$190	\$248
• Amortization of Capital Assets	\$417	\$394
• Deficiency of Revenue Over Expenditure	(\$322)	(\$192)

## Statement of Financial Position

(Dollars in Thousands)

	2017	2018
Current Assets	\$1,604	\$2,722
Investments	\$178	\$136
Capital Assets	\$7,404	\$8,003
Total Assets	\$9,186	\$10,861
Current Liabilities	\$1,387	\$2,538
Deferred Capital Contributions	\$3,417	\$4,134
Total Liabilities	\$4,804	\$6,672
Total Net Assets	\$4,382	\$4,189
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$9,186</b>	<b>\$10,861</b>

\*This financial information has been prepared by management and has been audited.

# See the Impact of Your Gifts

At Bissell Centre, we are thrilled to have the opportunity to help eliminate poverty in our community. Only through your generous gifts are we able to see that happen. We are so grateful for all who support us and we want to thank you for your kindness.

We hope that as you look at these statistics, you are reminded that each number is an individual person or family with a unique story. You have played a part in their story, and through your contributions you have touched their lives. 

## Here's how your support has changed lives in Edmonton:



### THRIFT SHOPPE

8818-118 Avenue, Edmonton, AB 780.471.6644

Drop Off Hours:

Mon–Sat 10:00am to 4:30pm Closed Sunday

### SOUTH-SIDE DONATION CENTRE

5120-122 Street, Edmonton, AB 780.432.2377

Drop Off Hours:

Mon–Sat 9:00am to 4:00pm Closed Sunday

