



Bissell Centre



Our commitment is to support vulnerable people affected by poverty.



Six years ago, Bissell Centre's Board of Governors adopted a vision: to eliminate poverty in our community. I liken this decision to John F. Kennedy's famous "We choose to go to the moon" speech. Like JFK's declaration in 1962 to put a man on the moon, the vision to eliminate poverty seems insurmountable. It is not.

Our vision is necessary and it is right. We need to stop asking what we can do to help people living in poverty and simply do what needs to be done to end poverty.

Throughout its history, Bissell Centre has played a leading and ever-expanding role in reducing poverty in Edmonton. Many people, in fact, tell us they had no idea just how much we do. Bissell Centre empowers individuals, families, and communities to move from poverty to prosperity. Our approach is holistic and person-centred, and we excel at what we do. Throughout the pages of this report, you will see the evidence.

I am immensely proud of our participants, our volunteers, our staff, our supporters, and our donors.

What compels us and drives us forward is our vision, which is not to reduce poverty but to eliminate it. We are active leaders in the End Poverty Edmonton Strategy and cultivating the relationships needed to make a collective impact in our city and our community. Consider in these pages what we have been able to do and allow yourself to imagine what we can do if we organize and cultivate the best of Edmonton's resources, energies, and skills!

The Board of Bissell Centre has recently struck a committee that will help mobilize people and resources to the task of building stronger and more impactful relationships with the community. We are looking to connect with bold, visionary leaders and philanthropists, volunteers and givers from all backgrounds, and like-minded organizations. We are looking for champions for our innovative and evidence-based programs.

No one should stand alone. At Bissell Centre, we are standing with those who all too often are alone. See what we are doing and come join us!



Ken Ristau
Board Chair

2015-16 Board of Governors

Chair Ken Ristau **Vice-Chair** Steve Fix

Governors Kelly Anderson, Gregory Boggs, Hooman Hosseinkhannazer, Leanne Monsma, Anita Murphy*, Phil O'Hara*, Jason Pincock, Chris Schulte, Jennifer Tokar, Roberta (Bobbie) Wildgoose.

*Departed during the 2015-16 fiscal year

This past year, Bissell Centre celebrated its 105th anniversary as an organization serving vulnerable people in the City of Edmonton. Founded as a Methodist Mission by Reverend William and Florence Pike, we initially supported Ukrainian immigrants to establish themselves in their new community.



Over time, we evolved to become All Saint's Mission and finally, Bissell Centre. The demographic of people that we support has also changed. We have a wonderful photograph in our archives picturing Japanese children in our daycare; another shows a group of Indigenous leaders gathered around a table at Bissell Centre, commemorating the work they accomplished in making changes to the Indian Act.

The baton has since been passed to generations of leaders, volunteers and others who have shared in their desire to be a friend to those in need. This past year, we experienced another such transition as our Chief Executive Officer, Mark Holmgren, took an opportunity to work with a National Poverty Reduction organization.

It was a great privilege for me to work closely with Mark over these past few years and support the significant impact Mark had on our work: doubling the organization in size; making significant strides in the development of our Board and staff teams; and launching numerous innovative and impactful initiatives providing tremendous benefit for our program participants.

While there have been many changes over Bissell Centre's history, what has remained true throughout that journey is our commitment to support vulnerable people affected by poverty. It is a tribute to the steadfast dedication of the many volunteers, donors, staff and leaders that this has remained true.

As we move into the next season of our journey, I am confident that together we can truly make a measured difference in ending poverty.



Gary St. Amand
Chief Executive Officer



PROGRAM UPDATES

Hope Terrace

In October 2015, Bissell Centre was awarded a contract by Homeward Trust Edmonton to run the first of its kind Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Program. On January 18, 2016 the PSH team housed their first participant. The building at capacity will have 24 participants and currently has 21 participants living within the building receiving on site client centered services, including addiction and mental health supports.

Community Bridge

Bissell Centre's Community Bridge Fund prevented 215 imminent evictions from occurring, thus keeping families safely housed and ending the threat of homelessness. In response to a growing need, a second Community Bridge support worker position was added in October. A Social Return on Investment was completed and we found a 3:1 return on investment. This means that every dollar spent on preventing an eviction through the Community Bridge saves the human service sector 3 dollars.

Outreach Housing Team

In July 2015, Bissell Centre's Outreach Housing Team was launched. Team members actively locate, engage, and house any person experiencing homelessness, in any area of the city. In order to deliver housing services to underserved areas, partnerships were developed with organizations and agencies around the city. Once housed, team members work with clients to overcome barriers and adjust to their new community. Our dedicated team successfully housed 132 adults and children in 2015.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

- Allard Foundation
- Building Trades of Alberta Charitable Foundation
- Edmonton Community Foundation
- Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation
- Edmonton Presbytery
- Eldon and Anne Foote Fund
- Estate of Clara Goebel
- Estate of Robert Tegler (Trust)
- FIRMA Foreign Exchange Corporation
- Government of Alberta
- H.W. Siebens Charitable Foundation
- Melton Family Foundation
- Servus Credit Union
- Shirley & Gordon Gifford Family Fund
- St. Albert Community Foundation
- TELUS Community Grants
- The Calgary Foundation
- The Stollery Charitable Foundation
- The Summit Foundation
- United Church of Canada
- United Way of the Alberta Capital Region
- Wheaton Family Foundation

Thanks to the thousands of individuals, families, community groups, and corporate donors who have provided much needed funding and gifts in kind to allow us to carry out our vision of eliminating poverty in our community.

Success Story: From the Streets to Stability

John's encounters with addiction, trauma, and mental health issues were all-encompassing.

His circumstances deteriorated even further when his child passed away, causing him to relapse into old patterns of substance abuse. As John spiralled downward, his self-destructive behaviour cost him his job and his home, and he ended up on the streets.

John was one of the 200 people that our Outreach Housing Team was able to help find stable, permanent housing since the team was created a year ago. Since being housed, John's health and wellbeing have improved dramatically, and he has also reconnected with his family. He's even planning on taking a trip back to Montreal to visit his mother, whom he has not seen in over eleven years.

John's transformation is more than inspiring; it is a powerful reminder of the community's capacity to change lives for the better. What a difference a home can make!



(Names in story have been changed)

Financial Statements Summary for the Year Ended March 31, 2016

Statement of Operations

	2016	2015
REVENUES		
Government Grants	\$ 4,845,225	\$ 4,975,617
Fund Development & Earned Income	3,478,077	2,770,779
United Way	387,974	394,109
Insurance Proceeds Less Loss on Sale Net Assets	384,365	870,446
Amortization of Deferred Capital Contributions	268,065	269,864
	<u>9,363,706</u>	<u>9,280,815</u>
EXPENSES		
Staff	6,561,746	6,192,617
Program	1,406,514	970,836
Occupancy	588,413	621,275
Office	305,722	257,426
Publicity and Promotion	113,713	59,623
Amortization of Tangible Assets	441,665	414,692
	<u>9,417,773</u>	<u>8,516,469</u>
Excess of Revenues Over Expenses	<u>(\$ 54,067)</u>	<u>\$ 764,346</u>

Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets	\$ 2,740,289	\$ 1,892,363
Investments	29,640	28,571
Property & Equipment	7,810,745	7,795,923
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>10,580,674</u>	<u>9,716,857</u>
Current Liabilities	2,417,348	1,202,156
Deferred Contributions	3,682,273	3,950,337
Total Liabilities	<u>6,099,621</u>	<u>5,152,493</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>4,481,053</u>	<u>4,564,364</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$10,580,674</u>	<u>\$ 9,716,857</u>

NOTE: To see detailed financial statements, please visit Bissell Centre's Website at www.bissellcentre.org.