

Executive Director's Report

The Society for the Involvement of Good Neighbours (SIGN) has completed the 2023-2024 year with many accomplishments and successes. This past year has seen growth, innovation and a commitment to our mission to provide leadership, programs and services that assist, support and empower people in our communities to be strong, caring and successful. Our achievements across our various programs and community initiatives highlight the dedication of our staff, Board of Directors, partners and supporters.

SIGN had a busy and effective year as new programs were introduced to the community. Child and Youth Rapid Access Counselling provides support and guidance for children and youth ages 6 to 17, as well as caregivers, through counselling services tailored to their specific needs. It promptly connects children, youth, and caregivers with a qualified and licensed counselling professional without any complicated screening or eligibility procedures. SIGN is committed to making child and youth mental health services more accessible. It supports the well-being of families through trauma-informed approaches. This program simplifies the process for families to seek care. It focuses on prevention, early intervention, and crisis support by reducing wait times, improving system navigation, and introducing online appointment booking.

The Triple P Program introduced Triple P for Baby. The goal of Triple P for Baby is to prepare parents for a positive transition into parenthood as well as what the first year may look like. This program assists parents in the later prenatal stages through the child's first year. Parents will learn strategies to nurture a positive relationship with their baby as well as promote their baby's development by assisting them in mastering new skills. Sessions focus on positive parenting, responding to your baby, survival skills and partner support.

Many of SIGN's programs were successful in attaining a number of grants to enhance the services that they provide to individuals and families. SIGN received a grant through the Community Foundations of Canada to undertake an organizational review. Over the years, we have expanded our services and programs in many communities and this review provided SIGN with a roadmap to ensure adequate oversight of our programs now and into the future. The City of Yorkton, through the Façade and Site Improvements Incentive Program, provided funds to assist with the new window installation in DreamBuilders. The Painted Hand Community Development Corporation provided funding to the Adolescent Group Home for various youth activities and trips, and assisted with enhancing the environment at the Early Learning Centre. It also funded the Circle of One Nation for our Next Steps Program and the Back-to-School initiative through the Family Support Program. The Yorkton and District Community Foundation provided the Family Support Program with funding to assist in transportation for clients in the Community Based program. Access Communications Children's Fund supported the Choose to Change program to purchase Journaling Workbooks for at risk youth who experienced or witnessed family violence. The Life Without Barriers program was successful in the Share the Warmth Grant through Sask Energy. In total, SIGN received \$98,659.42 in grant funding to enhance the programs that we offer in the community. Once again, local businesses, community groups, clubs and individual donors from across the province have continued to support our programs and organization by donating items such as winter boots, jackets, food for clients, as well as monetary donations and sponsorships. All of the support that we received this past year has allowed us to continue to provide SIGN services across east-central Saskatchewan.

SIGN undertook a strategic planning process with Board Members, Directors and Managers to develop a new 4-year Strategic Plan for the organization. Our focus will be on the priorities identified which include community needs, operations and facilities, funding and funder relations, as well as governance, external relations and communications.

SIGN was honoured to be nominated and ultimately chosen as a recipient for the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce's Community Merit Award. It was wonderful to see the business community recognize the important work done by our staff and Board of Directors. We do this work to support individuals and families in the community and our staff are the true recipients of this award.

It continues to be a great honour to serve SIGN and the communities in which we provide services. We continue to be responsive to the needs of individuals, families and communities. Throughout SIGN's 55-year history, this is paramount to who we are and what we do. I look forward to this upcoming year and the initiatives in which we will be involved to assist and support those in need in our communities. A sincere thank you to our entire staff, Board of Directors, funders, partners and the communities in which we work. It is your trust, dedication and commitment to SIGN that will ensure that we continue to provide quality programs and supports.

Respectfully,

Andrew Sedley
Executive Director