

Annual
Report
2023

Crescent Valley Resource Centre



Crescent Valley Resource Centre

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crescentvalleyresourcecentre.ca
Donate at CanadaHelps.org

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@cvrcsj

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Our Mission

The CVRC supports families and individuals who are facing challenging life situations especially low incomes and social isolation. We are committed to providing programs and services that are accessible and inclusive for all and to providing the tools, resources, and necessary supports to foster self-sufficiency within the community.



Residents' Voices

“This is a great place to have in the neighbourhood. You help everyone and have lots of resources to help people.”

“With your help so many things in my life have become better. I can't thank you enough and want you to know how much I appreciate everything you have done to help me and my family.”

President's Report

I would like to begin with a huge thank you to Executive Director Anne Driscoll and her staff for their commitment and hard work over the past year. Anne, Justin Shepard, Laila ElBaghdadi, Rachel Milne, Char Levesque and a group of enthusiastic summer students have been the face of CVRC in the community. It is important that we acknowledge that they are seeing an increasing complexity in community needs, and that they too are impacted by the successes, challenges, and tragedies within that community.



Thank you also to the Executive Committee and Board members for their support of CVRC. We continue to make progress in important areas including financial management, policy review and strategic planning. To generate the revenue to support CVRC programming, it takes a lot of time and energy on the part of treasurer Ann Barrett-Mazerolle, Anne and the staff to prepare successful applications for funding from multiple donors in an increasingly challenging financial environment. This year the Board approved new and/or revised policies on Personal Information Protection, Incident Reporting, First Aid and Hours of Work. Another success was the planning session coordinated by representatives of the Community Foundation that led to the proposed Strategic Plan 2024-2027.

A critically important story in the success of CVRC is the focus on partnerships with other community agencies to share resources and deliver a range of services. These collaborations would not be happening without the commitment, imagination, and generosity of Anne and her staff. We look forward to supporting the valuable work of CVRC in the coming year.

Roberta Clark, President CVRC 2023

Executive Director's Report

At the Crescent Valley Resource Centre, we like to shine a light on the neighbourhood and highlight the connections we make to help build a strong community. The positive changes and growth are impressive to see.

Our numbers speak for themselves. Be it literacy programs, food assistance, leisure activities, tax preparation, summer camps, bikes, garden plots or general social support - the CVRC is leading the way in this vibrant neighbourhood. Various community organizations partner with us to help meet the needs of the community. Organizations such as the Saint John Family Resource Centre, North End Food Bank Association, Saint John Newcomers Centre, UNB SJ Promise Partnership and Horizon Health are key collaborators and together we are building positive neighbourhood relationships.



To the staff at CVRC, Justin Shepard, Rachel Milne, Laila ElBaghdadi and Char Levesque, thank you for all you do, it's exceptional and so appreciated. Offering strong social and emotional support to everyone who comes through the door keeps us grounded and allows residents to be heard. Our work is not always easy but together we are building a dynamic neighbourhood where all are included. Families from far away countries such as Venezuela, Sudan, Somalia, Afghanistan, Syria and Vietnam are made to feel as welcomed as those who have lived here for decades.

Thank you to our donors and funders for recognizing that your contributions are vital to making our work possible. For example, Emera New Brunswick has consistently supported the neighbourhood through donations to CVRC; NB Social Development who we work with to support and advance our newcomer and vulnerable population; and UCT Jack Kidd Council #755 who in 2023 nominated CVRC for the UCT Bridges of Friendship Award, only one award was given in Canada and CVRC was the winner. Finally, we could not do this without our board of directors; they guide us, they advise us, they listen to us, and they collaborate with us to be better.

Crescent Valley has so much to celebrate. Thank you to all who helped make 2023 a success.

Anne Driscoll, Executive Director



Staff 2023

Anne Driscoll - Executive Director
Char Levesque - Community Liaison
Laila ElBaghdadi - Community Engagement Coordinator
Justin Shepard - Community Engagement Coordinator
Rachel Milne - Neighbourhood Navigator

Summer Staff:

Annaleise Nylen
Sarah Hetherington
Bridget Clark
Avin Ali
Alexa Kyle
Hannah Oland
Hailee Ketch



Board of Directors 2023

Ann Barrett-Mazerolle - Treasurer
Juanita Black
Kim Brewer
Roberta Clark - President
Mary Doiron
Dooa Elnossery
Lina Gharbiya
Kathy Hanna
Erin Kelly - Vice President
Debbie McLeod
Katherine Miller
Troy Saunders - Secretary



Neighbourhood Navigator

The Neighbourhood Developer project ended in May 2023 with the GSJ Community Foundation. However, funding was found through the Department of Social Development, the position has been retitled the "**Neighbourhood Navigator**", and the program was expanded to include all five priority neighbourhoods in Saint John.



Community Partner's Voice



"As I read through your newsletter, it strikes me how many wonderful services you facilitate for the Crescent Valley Community. Amazing!"

In 2023:

- ✓ 2023 marked the fifth season of CVRC's community garden project, **The Growing Place**.
 - All plots (**68**) were used, with over a dozen gardeners on the waitlist.
 - **185 lbs** of produce was grown in four designated plots and donated to the North End Food Bank, however, much was discarded while awaiting AIM fire test results.
 - Two summer students cared for the garden and held recreational, literacy and craft events for children over a 12 week period. **Two** educational workshops were hosted.
- ✓ **OTHER FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVES:**
 - **1198** take-out healthy breakfasts were served.
 - Emergency Food pack/food supplement program assisted **756 people**.
 - As a Centre, purchased **18** Food Purchasing Club produce packs for distribution at no charge to families.
 - **1772 lunches/snacks** provided to Summer Squad participants.
 - A total of **3289 participants** in food security programs.
- ✓ **SAINT JOHN BIKE SHARE PROGRAM**
 - Received, repaired, and redistributed over **1000** bikes and helmets for residents throughout the city since the program's inception.
- ✓ **FAMILY LITERACY ACTIVITIES**
 - In 2023, there were **1741** participants in literacy-related events and activities such as Activity Books, giveaways, Summer Squad, resume building, community library, and seasonal events.
 - Distributed over **250 books**, and **75** puzzles, toys and board games, and **661** literacy kits/treat bags.
 - Library services utilized over **115 times**.
 - Resume services utilized over **50 times**.
 - Summer Squad, community garden game and literacy events saw **300** participants.



The CVRC receives funds and support from many caring individuals, community organizations, government departments and volunteers. We want to acknowledge the support of the following who are making it possible for the CVRC to provide a safe and welcoming centre in the heart of a vibrant and changing neighbourhood:

- NB Department of Social Development
- Housing NB
- NB Children's Foundation
- Saint John Energy
- Emera New Brunswick
- City of Saint John
- UCT Jack Kidd Council #755
- The Environmental Trust Fund
- Private donors and volunteers

The Crescent Valley Resource Centre, Inc. Income Statement - Dec 31,2023

Income

Donations	Received	\$	72,691
	Unreceipted	\$	13,986
	Charities	\$	35,045
Government	Federal	\$	25,755
	Provincial	\$	128,292
	Municipal	\$	25,000
Other	Miscellaneous	\$	1,148
Total income		\$	301,917

Expenses

	Salaries/ Employer Exp.	\$	271,531
	Office	\$	15,666
	Insurance	\$	3,665
	Program Expenses	\$	25,884
Total expense		\$	316,746

Net Operational Income

\$ (14,829)

The Crescent Valley Resource Centre, Inc. Balance Sheet As of Dec. 31,2023

Assets

Current Assets

Bank Account	\$	229,670
Petty Cash / Gift Cards	\$	3,065
HST Accrued	\$	1,060

Total Assets

\$ 233,795

Liabilities & Equity

Current Liabilities

VISA	\$	4,243
Whittaker & Estrabrooks	\$	1,500
CRA	\$	99

Equity

Restricted Funds - Parks	\$	14,580
Restricted Funds - Friars	\$	8,695
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$	219,507
Net Income	\$	(14,829)

Total Liabilities & Equity

\$ 233,795

Note: In addition to the shown Restristed Funds there is a substantial amount restricted for various programs.