

Annual
Report
2021

Crescent Valley Resource Centre



Crescent Valley Resource Centre

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President's Report

Residents' Voices



What Our Programs Mean to the Community

"It's natural for me to focus on all I've lost and not notice what I may have gained. What I'm trying to say is that I appreciate all you are doing for me; especially, just allowing me to express what I'm feeling."



This past year has again been very challenging for everyone. The Crescent Valley Resource Centre was no exception.



With the many changes in COVID-19 regulations throughout the year, the staff had to continue to be very flexible in how they delivered our programs and in how they assisted and kept in contact with our residents.

Our Executive Director, Anne Driscoll, provided outstanding leadership and our dedicated staff continued to give their all. Anne, Joy, Justin, Olivia, Laila, Rachel, Wayne - your contributions to CVRC are very much appreciated. The extra summer staff enhanced the programs we were able to deliver, especially to the children.

We are fortunate to have committed sponsors who believe in our vision and work. They continue to support the much-needed programs and services. Thank You!

Thank you to the CVRC Board members, partners, volunteers, and residents. With the collaboration of all, CVRC has helped Crescent Valley develop into a flourishing neighbourhood.

Ann Barrett
President CVRC 2021

103 bikes were distributed, 140 bikes were rebuilt, and 500 small repairs and adjustments were made from the Crescent Valley location between June and November 2021.



Executive Director's Report

2021 was a rollercoaster year with ups and downs, obstacles and challenges yet, many successes in Crescent Valley were seen despite the pandemic.

Assisting residents to help improve their lives and helping to make the neighbourhood a stronger place is at the core of what we do. Activities such as our children's camp, community garden and greenhouse, bike share program, new bike skills mini park, literacy initiatives and countless food security supports are a few examples of the many and varied activities we regularly undertake. New in 2021 - we began supporting residents who require harm-reduction supplies and, a needle box is now located on the resource centre building. We welcomed and supported new neighbours who have settled in Crescent Valley from countries around the world, such as Eritrea, Somalia and Sudan. Check out our impact stories in this report.



I cannot thank my coworkers enough for their perseverance throughout 2021; it was a difficult year with many bumps in the road but they are truly a dream team. In 2021 we said goodbye to our coworkers Maryam Naser and Olivia Clancy. We welcomed Laila ElBaghdadi who supports the many Arabic speaking individuals in our neighbourhood, and Rachel Milne our neighbourhood developer. Her work is part of a new initiative bringing neighbourhood developers to four of the city's priority neighbourhoods.

A highlight of 2021 was the completion of the evaluation project with the Community Foundation. We can now more closely examine our work, and constructively measure and evaluate it. A Theory of Change was developed for the Crescent Valley Resource Centre to guide us and help keep us on track. See our Theory of Change on page 7.

Sincere thanks go to our supporters, donors, volunteers, and sponsors who have made our work possible. The Crescent Valley Resource Centre has many supporters - corporate/business, individuals, community, government, and others. However, I especially want to acknowledge several who have made recurring or major contributions: EMERA New Brunswick, the Turnbull Home Foundation, Second Harvest, Nutrien, the Community Foundation, the Department of Social Development, the Environmental Trust Fund. City of Saint John, the New Brunswick Children's Foundation - thank you!

We couldn't do our work without the support of our Board of Directors, led by President Ann Barrett – they are our guiding light. Thank you.

Thank you to all who have helped us keep moving forward.

Anne Driscoll
Executive Director

Residents' Voices

What Our Programs Mean to the Community



"Every time I have mentioned your name, to my landlord or to people I have spoken to with regards to helping, I have held you in high regard and complimented the work you do for the community. I just wanted to pass that on so you can know you are making a positive difference in people's lives."

In 2021 there were 1387 participants in literacy-related events and activities such as activity books, giveaways, Summer Squad, resume building, community library, and seasonal events.

Staff 2021

Anne Driscoll - Executive Director
Joy Comeau - Community Liaison
Olivia Clancy - Food Security Coordinator
Laila ElBaghdadi - Community Engagement Coordinator
Maryam Nasser - Community Engagement Coordinator
Justin Shepard - Community Engagement Coordinator
Wayne King - SJ Bike Share Technician
Rachel Milne - Neighbourhood Developer

Summer Staff:

Georgie Tolmacs
Claire E. Dingee
Kathryn Mcgee
Micheala Matheson
Austynn Madill
Nathanial Downey

Board of Directors 2021

Ann Barrett - President / Treasurer
Juanita Black
Emilie Chiasson
Roberta Clark
Mary Doiron
Lina Gharbiya
Kathy Hanna
Erin Kelly - Vice President
Katherine Miller
Troy Saunders - Secretary
Mark Wilson



The land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Wolastoqiyik, Wəlastəkewiyik / Maliseet whose ancestors along with the Mi'Kmaq / Mi'kmaw and Passamaquoddy / Peskotomuhkati Tribes / Nations signed Peace and Friendship Treaties with the British Crown in the 1700s.



IMPACT STORY #1

In early January, we became aware of a fire in Crescent Valley that displaced two families. The centre connected with those affected to see what we could do to assist them during this difficult time. They were given clothing and toys to entertain their children while they were staying in a hotel paid by the Red Cross. Two days later, one of the families approached us and asked for help because the Red Cross was only able to cover the cost of a hotel for several days and they were being asked to leave. We coordinated with Social Development - Housing Division for the families to have their hotel rooms covered until their homes were ready.

Once the families moved back into the neighbourhood, they needed new furniture due to the water damage from the fire. We connected them with Salvation Army for new mattresses. The family has repeatedly expressed their appreciation and that they know we did all that we could to provide support and assistance. They noted that they now have a centre they can trust.

630 take out healthy breakfasts were served in 2021

Meal Makers recipe packs offered 10 times with
96 participants

Four healthy snack pop-ups with 293 participants

Emergency Food pack/food supplement program
assisted 129 people

We supplied 24 families with Food Purchase Club
orders at no-charge

1428 lunches/snacks provided to Summer Squad
participants

A total of 2602 participants in food security
programs, which represents approximately
3550 people fed



IMPACT STORY #2

Abshir*, a Newcomer resident who arrived in December 2021, found our centre after searching online for programs offered in the Crescent Valley community. When he came to visit the centre, we gave him a tour and talked about the services we provide. He signed his family up for Food Purchasing Club and was given an emergency food bag. Many of the items were canned and he did not know how to use a can opener because the cans in his country had pull tabs. We gave him a tutorial on how to open a can and provided a can opener for the family.

After meeting with our neighbourhood developer, a plan was developed to find resources to support two of his main goals: obtaining an education and developing friendships with people similar in age. Through the process of resource referral, Abshir has met friends at PRUDE Inc.'s Dive into YSJ program for Newcomer youth from the ages of 16-30. Several meetings were set up with the University of New Brunswick - Saint John campus to discuss the application process and what the university has to offer. He has applied and been interviewed for a spot in the Skills Launch Youth program through the YMCA. He hopes to gain experience in the IT field and pursue a university degree in computer science to support his mother and his three younger siblings.

"I am so glad to have you with me in my process of settling down in Saint John."

The Crescent Valley Resource Centre, Inc. Income Statement - Dec 31,2021

Income

Donations	Received	\$	96,699
	Unreceipted	\$	17,017
	Charities	\$	95,099
Government	Federal	\$	15,748
	Provincial	\$	146,110
	Municipal	\$	33,500
Other	Miscellaneous	\$	969
Total income		\$	405,142

Expenses

	Salaries	\$	278,085
	Office	\$	15,037
	Insurance	\$	5,292
	Program Expenses	\$	45,280
Total expense		\$	343,694
Net Operational Income		\$	61,448

The Crescent Valley Resource Centre, Inc. Balance Sheet As of Dec. 31,2021

Assets

Current Assets

Bank Account	\$	272,271
Petty Cash / Gift Cards	\$	1,504
HST Accrued	\$	2,630

Total Assets \$ **276,405**

Liabilities & Equity

Current Liabilities

VISA	\$	3,899
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Equity

Opening Balance Equity	\$	91,322
Restricted Funds - Parks	\$	14,580
Restricted Funds - Friars	\$	20,552
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$	84,604
Net Income	\$	61,448

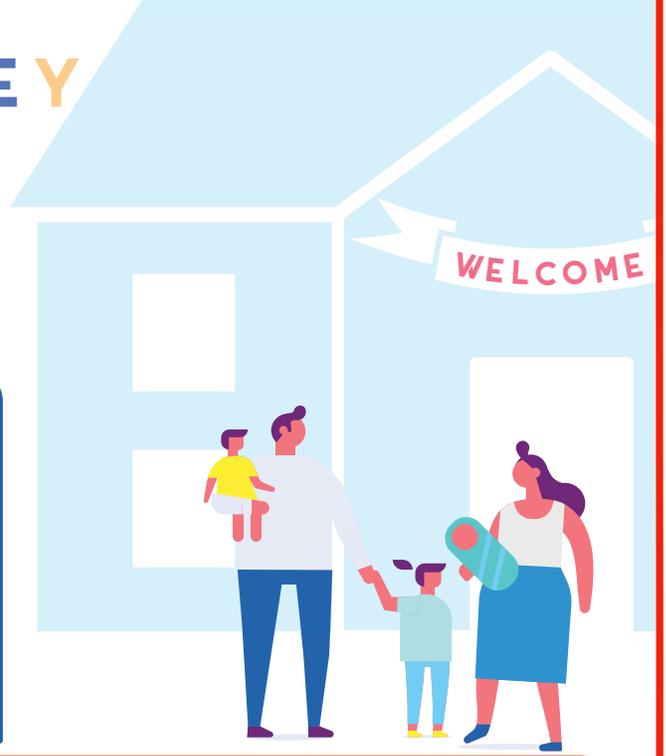
Total Liabilities & Equity \$ **276,405**

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

Theory of Change

CRESCENT VALLEY RESOURCE CENTRE

WORKS TO CREATE A SAFE &
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY WHERE
EVERYONE FEELS VALUED



OUR WORK WITH RESIDENTS LEADS TO:

- Food Purchasing Club
- Cooking Program
- Emergency Food Packs
- The Growing Place

Improved Food Security

- Job Search Support
- Literacy Programs
- School Partnerships
- Newcomer Support

Enhanced Education and Employment Readiness

- Operate the SJ Bike Share Program
- Family Activities
- Children and Youth Activities
- Summer Programming

Increased Access to Recreation

- 1-on-1 Support Services & Resident Advocacy
- Partnerships and Referrals to Network of Community Supports

Residents Have Agency and Self-confidence to Navigate Barriers



WE WORK TO CREATE A COMMUNITY WHERE:

- Community Events
- Holiday Celebrations
- Hosting Classes
- Senior Specific Supports

Sense Of Belonging and Pride

- Welcoming Spaces & Events
- Newcomer Support Services
- Navigation & Connection to Community Agencies

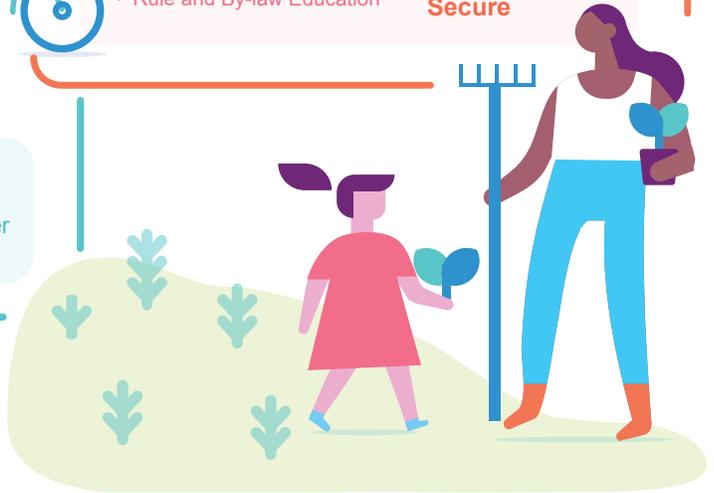
Everyone Feels Welcome and Accepted

- Advocate for Housing Support
- Rule and By-law Education

Residents Feel Safer and More Secure

TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE NEED:

- A well-functioning **physical location**
- Sustainable **operational funding**
- **Strong relationships** with residents as well as other service providers





Residents' Voices

What Our Programs Mean to the Community



"We loved the Meal Makers, it is the only time we sit down together to eat together to try something different."

Residents' Voices

What Our Programs Mean to the Community



"I need help with cooking skills and I feel good when I make the meal makers, it gives me a feeling of confidence and accomplishment when it turns out well. I really enjoy it. To gain some confidence in the kitchen is a really great thing for those of us who didn't pick up skills in the kitchen. Such a nice gift."

