

JohnHoward

THE JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY OF BRANDON INC.

Annual Report 2019-2020

Seeking restorative solutions to crime

Supporters and Partners:

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John Howard Society of Canada
John Howard Society of Manitoba
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United Way of Brandon and District
Various private and anonymous donors

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Travis Blaine – Restorative Justice Coordinator

Michelle Funk – Restorative Justice Facilitator

Linda Johnston – Community Institutional Program Coordinator and Men’s Resource Centre Coordinator

Mayvis MacLellan - Volunteer Coordinator/CSO-FOP

JaysaLee Davies – Reintegration Specialist and Men’s Resource Centre Facilitator

Riley Hammond – Men’s Resource Centre Facilitator

Dayna Budinski – Administrative Assistant

Presidents Message



On April 1, 2019, the John Howard Society of Brandon set out to plan forward. Years in the making, we had finally reached a point where we had the capacity to look at the needs in our community; measure them against our current in house abilities and grow ourselves to meet those needs we saw as critical to making our communities safer.

Anyone that has experience in business, not-for-profits or community-based organizations can appreciate how big an accomplishment it is to go from being reactive to proactive.

Everything changes.

Whereas before we found choices forced upon us and our options ranged from unpleasant to unsurvivable, we had now reached a point where we had a singular question we had to answer:

What do we want to become?

Really this is the difference between bobbing in the waves versus going where the ocean sends you and choosing a destination, plotting a course, and steering a ship.

We remained deeply committed to Restorative Justice and see it as a pillar of our mandate. Restorative Justice can trace its roots back centuries, but here and now we are at the forefront of its development into what it will become. Thanks to forward looking, Justices who looked past the end of a criminal sentence and saw a need to heal the community, we are pioneering post sentence restorative justice in ways not seen anywhere else. Our success as an organization will be largely measured on what we do with this opportunity.

We could have said that is a lot to take on, our plate is full and left it at that.

That is just not us. We cast our minds to the causes of crime and the patterns consuming the resources of our community year after year.

We chose to focus on the needs of our community; that left unmet, contribute to crime. We chose to plan our way to a safer community.

Proof of this came about with the creation of the Men's Resource Centre. Frontline staff at JHSB saw needs not being met in our community that fed back into repeating cycles of conflict without resolution.

The Men's Resource Centre had its official opening February 11, 2020. The room was packed with community members in a way that is almost unthinkable now. It was heartwarming to see the public support and to know that this grew organically from the observations, understanding and efforts of JHSB staff and volunteers.

Our self identity evolved over this time.

We once saw ourselves as one organization with many different programs lumped under a roof, but over the course of this year we started talking about the two halves of our house: Restorative Justice, and the Men's Resource Centre. We started to self organize, to arrange

our thinking and even our physical space in ways that made sense with our vision.

Growth and change like this can be hard on any organization. Internally, not everyone is going to jump on board on day one and even if they do the concepts are still new enough that each person imagines a slightly different vision. It takes leadership to navigate change.

I have been very proud of the leadership that I've seen. It is a style of leadership in which no more is asked than is given. It becomes an organizational culture; practised by all and expected by all.

So, there we were in March of 2020, studied on the needs of our communities and ready to lean into them. But as is the way with all the best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men the world had other ideas. Just as our fiscal year ended, we entered the first days of the global pandemic...

But that is a story for next year's AGM. Mark it on your calendar now. It's a story worth coming out to hear the John Howard Society of Brandon answered the call of 2020 and it's only half written.

If you would like to be a part of that story or the ones to follow, please reach out to us and let us look to find a way to include you on our team.

Gratefully,

Ted Dzogan

President

The John Howard Society of Brandon.



Linda Johnston Community Institutional Program Co-coordinator

Institutional Services & Aftercare

Institutional services were provided to Inmates incarcerated in Manitoba jails and prisons. We serviced requests from clients in Brandon, the Pas, Headingly, Milner Ridge and Stony Mountain. Our numbers in the institutional programs remain steady; we had 187 requests from inmates at Brandon Correctional Center. We met one-on-one 94 with inmates pre-COVID. Since COVID we have been unable to attend BCC in person so have adjusted and have continued service to BCC populations through phone contact and the creation of a local newsletter for the BCC population, and had over 100 phone contacts with inmates from all facilities.

In addition, we have created and implemented a Ready 4 Release Program. In this program we discuss priority needs for successful reintegration, we invite community partners to join us in planning areas of housing, work and peer support. This year we ran 3 one-week sessions for 21 participants. The program has been well received by inmates and staff at BCC. We anticipate that once the facility is reopened to outside agencies we will continue to deliver this program

on a six-week rotation. This year's community resource fair was cancelled due to the onset of a public health shut down due to covid 19.

We have provided aftercare services to 47 individual clients prior to the opening of the Men's Resource Centre. In the first 6 weeks the Men's Resource Centre, had 66 visits.

Community Based Programs- Adult Anger Management Programming

All of our programs required that we be flexible and adapt to the changing work environment. We had to cancel a few programs early on in the pandemic. We were able to provide intakes by phone and continue programs via Zoom. This has provided some challenges to our clients as some are essential services and have had to continue to work. Some do not have access to wi fi or internet technology that would be required for an online program. The delay in mail in our early groups provided a challenge in everyone having access to the group material. One of the other challenges at this time is working with the limits of group sizes, which has also affected our year-end numbers. We have run some smaller groups since COVID.

Anger management programs are offered to individuals that have identified issues with anger and aggression in their lives. It is a psycho social educational workshop that focuses on the cycle of anger, identification of warning signs and the skills and tools to cope and manage anger in healthy non aggressive ways.

Thanks to the support of our funders, we were able to offer reduced rates for those with limited income for our community programs. We now have some funds available to offer assistance to those without means to pay for program. We do maintain a wait list and for those that chose to seek programs elsewhere we try to connect clients to other resources in the community who might meet their needs.

Throughout the previous year we received 142 registrations or referrals for the anger management program, our referrals come from many sources including court, child welfare, community mental health agencies and employers; as well as individuals that identify a desire to better understand and control their anger. We registered and provided

programs to 137 individuals and of those that participated 134 graduated from our Anger management program.

Over the year we help 7 groups (4 men's and 3 women's groups). We offered individual programming to 10 individuals over the course of the year. We provided 12 hours of interpreter services to those clients who required it.

Participant feedback

"Thank you for the information regarding anger management. Most helpful was; how to see anger and how to deal with it Notice the warning signs and when to use the time out"

"Thanks you for the nonjudgmental atmosphere. Most helpful is recognizing anger as secondary; it comes from other feelings and now I'll be able to recognize that. Stress reduction exercises."

"I'm not alone in how I'm feeling, being able to talk about stressful situations."

Building Healthy Relationships

The building healthy relationships program focuses on education, awareness and skill development to help participants break the cycle of violence in their lives. While many participants are referred to the program through the court, and family services agencies; individuals can and do self-refer to the program in an attempt to better understand and address issues with respect to intimate partner violence in their relationships.

As in the case of anger management this program has to be supported by fees charged to participants. Over the past year, 87 individuals successfully completed the program.

Over the course of the year, we held 7 groups. 4 men's programs, 3 women's and 4 individual participants using 6 hours of interpreter services.

Participant feedback

“The program was very informative & beneficial in all aspects of relationships; will use the time out plan”

“I felt very comfortable with all teachers. Made it really easy to be here.”

“Most helpful was the problem solving. I will be able to use it with next relationship”

Youth Anger Management Program(YAMP)

Thanks to funding from the United Way of Brandon and District, we are able to offer this program to youth in the community at no cost. The goal of the YAMP is to provide information about the origin of anger, how anger impacts their lives and how anger can be controlled.

Over the last year, we had 40 youth register for programs, 31 registered and 28 have successfully completed the youth anger management program. We ran 4 groups and are now partnering with the Brandon Boxing Club for an evening of training and working on stress relief. We invite families to join the youth on the final night of program so we can share the group learning to help ensure success at home.

We have also continue to have a presence in the Brandon School Division we provided in-service material for teacher training during the covid.

We would like to thank our volunteers and contract facilitators for their help with our programs this year.

Russell Levandoski, Allison Popowich, Brenda Stevens, Leanne Mistal, Riley Hammond, JaysaLee Davies, Dora Paul, Annelisa Thomas Dey, Puspa Kharal, Pat Coates, Teighan Gott, Imesha Perera, Alya Pont, Kianan Rose Thomas. Sayle Williams, Joanne Strong.

Program	# Referrals	# Registered	# Completed	# Groups Held
Anger Management Program (Adult): help people develop improved coping skills, assertive communication, and control aggressive behaviour.	142	137	134	7 groups; 10 individual
Building Healthy Relationships (Adult): help people develop improved coping skills to assist individuals break the cycle of violence	103	90	87	7 groups; 4 individual
Youth Anger Management Program: help youth develop improved coping skills, assertive communication and control aggressive behaviour. United Way Funded Program.	40	31	28	4 groups; 9 individual
Total Number of Individuals Served in Community Based Programming			258	



Men's Resource Centre

This year we opened the Men's Resource Centre. We welcomed Riley Hammond to our Resource Centre team. We opened our doors in January 2020 and held a grand opening to the community in February. The resource Centre has been a hub for men to connect in the community it is home to new men's group- Cross Roads. This is a place for men to meet and learn about healthy living and coping skills. We offer this group twice weekly, once for men only and one as a coed group. We have also offered learning opportunities in the form of a cooking group, gardening and constructions groups, music and art groups, legal information clinics and resource opportunities. Working with the Friendship Centre and other community programs. We have worked in liaison with BCC and the Multifaith community to bring the inmate art to the JHS for Restorative Justice Week as well as presented to Knox United Church and helped to facilitate their sponsorship of this year's Multi faith Council art show, which was featured at the Art Gallery of Western Manitoba. We also participated in the BNRC Community Resource Fair held art Princess Park this spring.

With the onset of Covid and the resulting shut down we were able to remain engaged with our clients through online program via ZOOM and through continuing service over the phone. We adjusted once we could meet in person with limitations to provide opportunity to meet within the health guidelines. We took programs outside, to the park and began outreach at the Redwood Inn and through the Salvation Army food programs. We continue to assess the situation and modify our programs as needed.

January 2020 marked the inauguration of The John Howard Society's Men's Resource Centre (MRC) of Brandon. The early months of the Men's Resource Centre were primarily focused on developing programs such as the Saturday Make and Take lunch program, Art Attack program, and Crossroads program for life-skill development.

In addition, the large undertaking of developing physical space included staff offices and filing as well as large board room development. The MRC space includes a small computer lab for guests, white board space for programs, smudging corner, donation centre, kitchen development, a small library, and the collaborative assembly of the stunning Medicine Wheel table.

The number of recorded guest visits to the Centre through January, February, and March of 2020 totalled 84 but was curtailed due to COVID-19 public health restrictions. One key success story included physically orienting a new resident to Brandon to use the public transit system in effort to facilitate an eye appointment at Walmart and acquire glasses. As a result, the collaborative assembly of the Medicine Wheel table epitomizes the Centre's friendly, tangible, and constructive support for men and their families in the community.



Mayvis MacLellan, Community Service & Fine Option Program

A total of 83 clients registered to perform Community Hours during the past year. 3571.5 hours of work were completed.

We had 13 worksites during 2019-2020, and are appreciative of each one. It certainly helps our clients to be successful when they feel value in the work they are performing. Our worksites include day, evening and weekend shifts. They must be a Not-For-Profit agency, Aboriginal, or branches of government. We are grateful for the contribution from our worksites and look forward to their continued support. This program could not function without them.

A special thanks to our Volunteer CSO/FOP Liaison, Amanda Chapman, who attends the worksites to record the hours completed by our clients each week, and picks up/drops off the paperwork. Also thanks to Riley Hammond who performed the Volunteer CSO/FOP Liaison work during July, and volunteered to take over the one-day per week coordinator position in August when I was on vacation.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayvis MacLellan
CSO/FOP Co-ordinator



*Travis Blaine, Restorative Justice Co-ordinator
Michelle Funk, Restorative Justice Facilitator*

Westman Mediation Services

This year, while challenging, has magnified the need for restorative justice and the services Westman Mediation Services delivers. Even at the outset of the COVID 19 outbreak, there has not been a lapse of any service, and Travis, Michelle and the Community Justice Committees continue to work on referrals, and achieve positive results for the Communities they serve.

This year we also welcomed the Prairie Mountain Community Justice Committee. Michelle provided them all Introduction to Community Justice Training and ran through real case scenarios with the Committee Members, to get them ready for their first official referral. Michelle also ran the Introduction to Community Justice Training for Members from all the Committees who are new, or missed it in the past.

Travis and Michelle continue to cover both the Parkland and Westman Regions, and have built and maintained relationships with all of our referral sources and community resources in both areas. Michelle and Travis were accepted to speak at a Conference in Sardinia Italy,

regarding the success of Community Justice Committees, however due to COVID 19, this Conference was rescheduled to 2021.

Michelle continues in her role of Protection Order Designate, which she takes referrals for, and meets with clients who need help with this service. Michelle also continues to assist clients with filling out Third Party Reports for Sexual Assault. Both of these services have added to her role in a meaningful way, and been able to increase the supports provided for victims in the area we cover.

Travis continues to provide training in Restorative Justice for the Police studies program at Assiniboine Community College for recruits who are looking to pursue a career in Policing/Corrections. He also continues to instruct/evaluate at Assiniboine Community College for the First Nations Security Officer/ Band constable program and provides non-violent crisis intervention training. As well, Travis continues to do presentations about Restorative Justice for all Law classes in the Brandon High Schools.

Respectively submitted,

Travis Blaine, Restorative Justice Co-ordinator

Michelle Funk, Restorative Justice Facilitator

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE HUB (PARKLAND AND WESTMAN REGIONS)

CONTRACT	ADULT	EXTRA JUDICIAL SANCTIONS	MEDIATION	UNSUCCESSFUL
<p>Westman Mediation Services: Restorative Justice based. Provides an opportunity for offenders to be accountable for their actions. Focused on appropriate and meaningful outcomes.</p>	236	79	20	99
<p>Restorative Justice Hub: Restorative Justice based. Provides an opportunity for offenders to be accountable for their actions. Focused on appropriate and meaningful outcomes.</p>	57	22	3	33
<p>Total Number of Individuals Referred in RJH</p>	394			



Mayvis MacLellan, Volunteer Coordinator

Nine volunteers, provided 319.25 hours of work on behalf of the John Howard Society of Brandon in 2019-2020. Services were performed in several areas including fundraising, administrative support, re-integration and family of inmates support, co-facilitating of programming and as a work site liaison for Community Service/Fine Option.

The opening of the Men's Resource Centre in January 2020 warranted the hiring of additional volunteers to assist with the new programming. Since the application process requires a significant amount of time, the newly-hired volunteers did not begin until the 2020-21 fiscal year. The inception of the Men's Resource Centre did require two additional staff positions. I'd like to note that both of these staff positions were filled with personnel who were currently JHS volunteers. Congratulations Riley and Jaysalee!

John Howard Brandon's volunteer Board added many additional hours on top of those noted above including oversight and leadership of the organization, conducting interviews for hiring of new employees, mentorship to the executive director, and fundraising.

Thanks very much to 2019-2020 John Howard Brandon volunteers:
Brianna Burton, Amanda Chapman, Pat Coates, Jaysalee Davies, Riley
Hammond, Puspa Kharel, JoAnne Strong, Annelisa Dey Thomas and
Cheryl Tripp,

Respectfully submitted,

Mayvis MacLellan, Volunteer Co-ordinator

Looking back and looking Ahead....

Goals for 2019-2020

Goal	Achievement
Diversify funding	2 year funding for new reintegration program from BACF. Fundraising increased by 350%
Secure long term funding for MRC	Nothing to report
Accreditation for mediation services	Nothing to report
Leverage and grow WMS	Signed agreement with BSD. Secured longer term RJH contract
153 8 th building rejuvenation	Draft drawings delivered
Brand refresh and improved awareness	FoodTruck Warz was a significant success. Mentioned in newspaper 4 different times in the year

Goals for 2020-2021

The primary objective of this year is to survive the impacts of COVID whole.

Secondary objectives are,

- Increase WMS reach;
- Secure long term funding for MRC; and
- Improve our linkage with partner agencies in downtown Brandon to improve our position as the place for recently released inmates to secure a sound reintegration plan
- Improve community safety by addressing food and housing security

Number of cases referred to John Howard Society of Brandon:

2018-2019 – 1,306

2019-2020 – 1,446 (11% increase)



John Howard

THE JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY OF BRANDON

Restorative
Community
Conflict
Citizens
Dialogue
Crime
Repair
Relations
Peaceful
Justice
Solutions
Offender
Safe
Society
Victim
Harm
Responsibility
Resolve
Empower
Awareness
Understanding