



















REDUCING HARM, ENHANCING HEALTH

For over 30 years, Breakaway Community Services has been providing compassionate, client-centered support for people who use drugs in our community. Using a non-judgmental approach that meets our clients where they're at and empowers them to develop and achieve their own goals, Breakaway helps our clients reduce the harms associated with drug use, while improving their overall health and wellbeing. By supporting our clients on an individual, community, and systemic level, we're working towards a safer, more compassionate world for people who use drugs.



Our Art Narrative Therapy Group posing for a photo

OUR TEAM

Aidyn Low Amanda Ross Amit Robson Amy Druker Amy Muli

Anita Srivastava

Anne Marie DiCenso

Carmel Hutchison

Claudine Tran

David Dibben Ellen Chang

Finn MacLeod

Gordon Seaman

Gui Chicka

Jean Malig

Juno Zavitz

Kai Sommerville

Kathy Hughes

Katrina Dunn Lesley Stoddard Lindsay Williams

Liz Beeforth

Juno Zavitz

Kai Sommerville

Kathy Hughes

Katrina Dunn

Lesley Stoddard

Lindsay Williams

Liz Beeforth

Madison Tooley

Manisha Rampersad

Marina Classen

Marina Douglas

Melissa Pisante

Mella Brown

Milyon Woldemichael

Mohak Ramnani

Morgan Garnett

Nicola Bangham Odessa Hewitt-Bernhard Omar Al-Samadi

Pam Castelmezzano Renee Sandler

Rhekia Fahssi

Sasha Humar

Stefania Sgambelluri Stephanie Venneri Stephen Chatterton Subor Momand

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tracey Methven

Chair of the Board

Neha Trivedi

Vice Chair

Tina Karamchandani

Treasurer

Nicole Hunter

Secretary

Brian O'Connor

Tim McConnell

Dan Lamothe

Janet Hicks Kelly West

Aadil Mangalji

Salematou Camara

Jordann Thirgood

Nicola Lightstone Selvalakshmi

Rabindranath Tagore

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thank you to every client, partner, donor and staff member for showing up and for supporting Breakaway. The last year often felt problem-saturated and an uphill battle against systemic-caused issues, compounded by the fallout of COVID-19. As we put this report together it was nourishing to look back at all that we accomplished; i.e. all that Breakaway staff accomplished. I am deeply proud and inspired as I share these "big achievements" with you in the pages ahead.

What doesn't get shared in this report are the "everyday achievements" of Breakaway Staff: the gentle and fierce advocacy of clients when they are evicted from their homes; the hauling of food and supplies across town on the TTC; bearing witness to a client saying goodbye to their ailing pet; sharing a coffee and conversation in an encampment. These small and large acts of kindness and love happen every moment at Breakaway. And for that I am most in awe and inspired.

I will never stop saying it and committing to it: we need to do better at how we look after the people that do this painful and beautiful work. Breakaway's Grief, Loss and Wellness (GLoW) Program for Harm Reduction Workers is just the tip of the iceberg.

I remain committed to making sure that workers are supported, feel safe and treated fairly, so that they can do this work without further harming themselves

Thank you again, to the Breakaway Staff and to all Harm Reduction workers that dedicate themselves to this work. I see you and I am deeply grateful.

with warmth. Nicola



Nicola and Tim

WELCOMING NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We're thrilled to welcome five new members to our Board of Directors this September! This year, Breakaway's board will be focusing on fundraising, governance review, and addressing staff wellness and burnout. The leadership and guidance of the Board is vital to our organization, and we're excited to have new faces and perspectives on our team as we move into the year ahead.



Salematou Camara

"I am a criminal defense lawyer. I know someone who has worked at Breakaway for at least a decade and they told me about the great work it does. I wanted to contribute to that in any way I could. I am really excited to learn from my fellow board members and work with them to help Breakaway grow and serve more people in the community. There are so many great programs that more people should have access to."



Aadil Mangalji

"I am an immigration lawyer who is passionate about social justice issues. I was drawn to Breakaway because they have a reputation of being extremely hands on and creative in using novel methods and ideas to tackle issues related to substance use in the community. I am really excited to learn from the inspiring staff and contribute to the conversation."



Jordann Thirgood

"I am currently Manager, Public Policy at the CSA Group (Canadian Standards Association) and have previously held policy and research roles inside and outside of government, most recently at the City of Toronto. I value Breakaway's commitment to harm reduction, social justice and trauma-informed approaches, and join the Board of Directors in hopes of advancing the organization's mission and supporting the community."



Nicola Lightstone

"I work as a registered psychotherapist RP(Q), having transitioned to the helping profession in 2022 from a decade-long career in the charitable and not-for-profit sector. Drawn to Breakaway because of my personal lived experience with substance use and abuse, I am most excited to support the spectrum of care provided by this dedicated organization. As a Board Member, I'm most excited to be able to continue to apply my skills and experience in the areas of fund development and governance in such a meaningful capacity."

Selvalakshmi Rabindranath Tagore

"I was drawn to Breakaway as I'm passionate about harm reduction, and evidence-based, compassionate strategies for improving health outcomes. Breakaway has such a comprehensive array of programs to support some of the most vulnerable Torontonians and I am so eager to contribute my time and expertise to achieve the goals set out by Breakaway."

A GENUNINE "THANK YOU" TO OUR DEPARTING BOARD MEMBERS FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION TO BREAKWAY:

Tina Karamchandani, Dan Lamothe, Thomas Sullivan & Kelly West.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

DID YOU KNOW

2022 SAW AN AVERAGE OF 21 OVERDOSE DEATHS A DAY IN CANADA.

OVERDOSE DEATHS INCRESD 91% DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.



Art by Clients on Display

Satellite Opiate Treatment Clinic

The satellite clinic is an outpatient, community-based service that provides a range of supports for those seeking help with their use of opiates. The services offered include opiate agonist prescriptions, counselling and case management, a food bank, and health education, among others. This year, Satellite has begun to resume their normal services, allowing the clinic to be a space for community, support, and connection as we move into a post-COVID world.

Toronto Opiate Support Team (TOST)

TOST provides support for those who use opiates and replacement medications, who have little or no access to supportive services. The team provides outreach counselling services and works collaboratively with other agencies to provide holistic, compassionate, and flexible support. The program is designed specifically to meet the needs of seniors, youth, and women.

"Breakaway has helped me work to get to where I am today - housed, [and] reconnected with my family... Today, I have a daily reprieve. I'm grateful to Breakaway for their ongoing support to help me keep it that way."

Rob, TOST Client

Harm Reduction Outreach (HRO)

The HRO Team is designed to reduce the barriers that people experience when accessing support for their substance use. With a team of counsellors and case managers, HRO provides outreach services across Toronto. The team meets clients where they're most comfortable, with the goal of ensuring that everyone is able to get the support they need. Services include harm reduction supply distribution, case management services, crisis intervention, and one-to-one counselling and support.

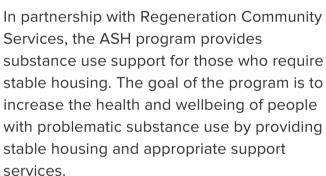


Grief, Loss, and Wellness (GLoW)

37 UNITS OF SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

94 ASH CLIENTS SERVED

GLoW was established in 2020, after a recognition of the extreme grief and loss frontline workers face due to the overlapping drug poisoning and COVID-19 pandemics. Now in its second year, GLoW provides a variety of services such as one-to-one counselling, body-based supports, and drop in nights. This year, the program has grown to include capacity building workshops for other organizations and a warm line through which frontline workers can access immediate grief support.





Memorial put together by GLoW

"Frontline harm reduction work can be extremely tough - and just knowing there is an organization out there that understands that piece and supports us - makes us feel like we're not alone in this!"

Pieces to Pathways (P2P)

P2P is Canada's first harm reduction service designed to specifically for LGBTQ2S+ youth. The program is run by queer and trans staff who have their own experience of substance use and recovery. The program provides harm reduction supplies and education, case management and counselling services, a trauma skills group, and a drop in night. After a long hiatus, P2P is moving back to inperson programming, and has resumed community meals where queer and trans youth can connect with others and get harm reduction based substance use support.

171 FYI CLIENTS SERVED 367 P2P CLIENTS SERVED



P2P Harm Reduction Kits

DID YOU KNOW

11.9% OF YOUTH AGES 15-24 FACE SUBSTANCE USE CHALLENGES - THE HIGHEST RATE OF ANY AGE GROUP.

Family and Youth Initiative (FYI)

This program is one of the only harm-reduction based substance use services for youth and their families in Toronto. With a team of outreach staff and counsellors, the program gives youth accurate information about substances, helps youth advocate for themselves, and provides space to address the underlying causes of substance use through counselling.

"[My counsellor] has helped me cope though all of this, both in terms of maintaining my own strength so I could provide support for my two loved ones who needed me, as well as providing extremely helpful insights, resources and guidance to help me support my son more effectively... I know I am not alone. There are many families in similar situations supporting their youth who are at risk."

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: THROUGH RUFF TIMES

The connection between a person and their pet can be one of the most fulfilling and important relationships in someone's life. Oftentimes, when people face challenges such as substance use concerns, homelessness, or a violent living situation, they are are forced to make the difficult choice between accessing support and keeping their pets in their lives. Through Ruff Times is a program designed to help people preserve their relationship to their pets, as they navigate difficult situations that might put this connection in jeopardy.

The goal of this program is to support people in taking care of their pets, so that they can better take care of themselves.



Izzy, one of the dogs in TRT's care.



The SNYP truck parked outside Breakaway.

With a team of volunteers, TRT provides no cost, temporary emergency pet care options for people struggling with various challenges. The program also provides pet food and supplies for those who need it, and helps with vet care.

Unfortunately, TRT does not have a consistent source of funding. The program relies solely on donations and one-time grants to keep services running. With the help of our community: TRT has been able to provide essential services despite this challenge. We're deeply grateful for the support this program has received so far.

IMPACT

658 PEOPLE RECEIVED PET FOOD AND SUPPLIES

897 TOTAL PETS SUPPORTED

32 SNYP TRUCK PETS SERVICED

9 PETS CURRENTLY IN CARE



Mella picking up donations from Global Pet Foods.

BREAKAWAY'S STATS 2021-2022



1,604 PEOPLE SERVED THIS YEAR



Harm Reduction Training Conducted by P2P



16,334 TOTAL SERVICE INTERACTIONS





356 NALOXONE KITS
DISTRIBUTED AND REFILLED



16,997 SAFE SEX SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED

Harm Reduction Kits for Clients to Pick Up



5,665 HARM REDUCTION KITS DISTRIBUTED



111,611 SAFE INJECTION SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED



Providing Harm Reduction Supplies at an



16,643 INHALATION SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED

2021/2022 HIGHLIGHTS

COVID Recovery

After two years of virtual services, uncertainty, and isolation, 2022 has seen a return to our normal programming. While Breakaway is still taking precautions to keep our staff, clients, and guests safe from COVID-19, we've been pleased to shift back to in-person services. The pandemic was hard for many of our clients. Losing our drop in nights and structured groups was a loss of an important mode of support. Thankfully, we've been able to connect with one another again.

A community of support is vital to everyone's wellbeing, and with a return to our inperson programming, we hope to be able to rebuild what was lost over the pandemic.

In-Person Counselling

The return to in-person counselling has been one of the most significant things about our return to regular services. During the pandemic, the need to host virtual sessions impacted many of our client's ability to access services. Now, we're able to open our office space back up to clients to make connecting easier.



One of our counselling rooms in the FYI office.

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

WHILE RETURNING TO IN PERSON SERVICES, WE'RE ALSO TAKING STEPS TO KEEP OUR STAFF AND CLIENTS SAFE, SUCH AS:

- MANDATORY VACCINATION FOR ALL STAFF
- MASKING REQUIRED INDOORS
- HAND SANITIZER AVAILABLE
- OUTDOOR COUNSELLING OPTIONS
- GROUPS AND HIGH-RISK ACTIVITIES (EATING AND DRINKING) HOSTED IN THE GARDEN.

P2P Community Meals

Pieces to Pathways has begun to host their community meals again! These evenings are a chance for queer and trans youth to connect with one another, access harm reduction resources, and explore their relationship to substance use in a safe and affirming space.

P2P's Community Meals are a chance for queer and trans youth to access non-judgmental support in a space where their identities are affirmed and celebrated.

Drop Ins at Breakaway

During the pandemic, Breakaway had to adapt to meet the needs of the communities we serve. One important change was a shift to providing drop-in services. With the closure of our groups and inperson counselling sessions, many clients lost access to their regular sources of support.

Additionally, many places offering drop in services and meals had to shift their services to protect their staff and clients. To respond to this loss of support, Breakaway began to offer an unofficial drop in space, where clients could come by to pick up food, ttc tokens, and talk with someone.



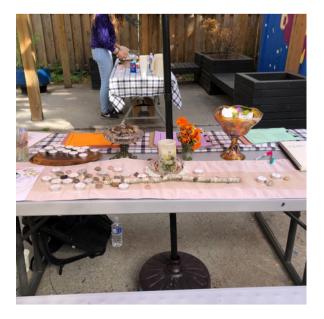
Our drop in space

Now that we're shifting back to our regular services, we've stopped offering drop ins five days a week. Instead, clients are welcome to come by on Mondays and Thursdays to access services without an appointment.

Grief, Loss, and Wellness

Worker Wellness Community Day at Allan Gardens

On August 4, 2021, The Harm Reduction Healing Network and Breakaway hosted the first ever Worker Wellness Community Day: an event designed by and for frontline harm reduction workers impacted by the overdose crisis.



The COVID-19 pandemic saw a sharp increase in overdose deaths as a result of reduced support due to social isolation, and an increasingly toxic drug supply due to supply chain disruptions. This public health crisis is consistently overlooked. As a result, the burden of responding to the crisis falls to frontline harm reduction workers, many of whom have lived experience with substance use and who must help others while coping with their own experiences of loss and trauma. This has left many frontline workers feeling burnt out and overwhelmed by complicated feelings of grief.

GLoW's Memorial at St. Felix

The Worker Wellness Day provided a space for harm reduction workers to connect with each other in the face of the overwhelming loss of the past few years.

Hosted at Allan Gardens, the Worker Wellness Day was a chance for frontline workers to come together to commune with one another, share their stories, and mourn the deaths of their friends, clients, and community members who passed away. The event also included a meal, free wellness services, and art and music.

Read Toronto.com's article about the Worker Wellness Day and the impact of grief and loss on frontline workers <u>here!</u>



Nicola, Juno, and Kai at the Worker Wellness Day



Juno's dog, Toci, enjoying a sound bath at one of GLoW's Community Nights.

Wellness Community Nights with GLoW

On Fridays, our GLoW program hosts wellness nights where frontline workers and other people who support those who use drugs can access free, low barrier support. These groups are an important way for frontline workers to connect with one another in the face of an overwhelming overdose crisis.

Though connection and wellness supports such as NADA acupuncture, sound baths, and guided meditations, these nights help frontline workers take care of themselves so they can better serve their communities.

In addition to these nights, GLoW provides 1-1 counselling, body based support, capacity building for organizations responding to grief and loss, and a warm line for immediate grief support.

"It opened my eyes to how much I've packed in and packed down... I've never had the right supports to process things that have happened in my life. It's been huge to devote time to take care of myself. I was so excited that this program became available."

The Afghan Youth Needs Assessment

In collaboration with the Afghan Network for Social Services (ANSS), Breakaway conducted a needs assessment in the Flemington Park community with Afghan families and youth to better understand the prevalence and impacts of substance use and the need for services. Led by Subor Momand, Finn MacLeod, and Farkhunda Ateel Siddiqi, we engaged with over 200 people through focus groups, individual interviews, and surveys to learn about their experiences, needs, and insights into the issues prevalent in the community. Our report and findings will be completed this year and widely disseminated.

We hope that this initiative sheds light on to the need for culturally specific and accessible substance use services and serves as an advocacy tool for substance use resources in this community.

Breakaway at Pride



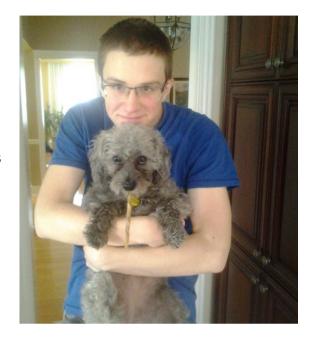
Sherwin Modeste, Executive Director, Pride Toronto, and Nicola Bangham, Executive Director, Breakaway, holding a piece of a mural created by Ness Lee and Chief Lady Bird. Pieces of the painting were distributed to six organizations supporting Toronto's LGBTQ community, as a gift for Pride 2021.

In 2021, Breakaway partnered with Pride Toronto for their virtual celebration. Staff at Breakaway volunteered to provide harm reduction support at Pride's various virtual events, helping those in crisis, providing education, and ensuring that people used drugs safely if they wanted to do so while attending online. Pride also provided Breakaway with donations from their partners for our food distribution program, and connected us with IKEA to supply furniture and home goods for our clients in need. Thank you Pride!



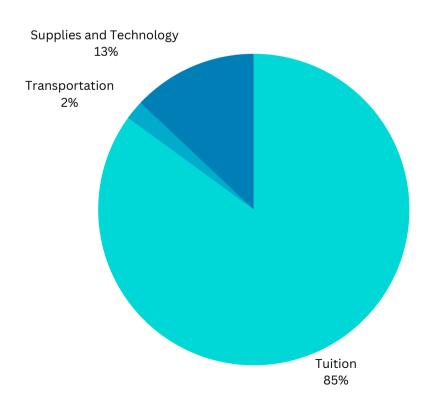
THE DANIEL GOULD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

In 2021, with the support and generosity of the Gould Family, Breakaway launched the Daniel Gould Memorial Scholarship Fund. Daniel Gould was a beloved client at Breakaway, who had dreams of going to university to study biochemistry. Unfortunately, Daniel passed away in May of 2020, before he was able to realize his goals. To honor his memory, Daniel's family established a scholarship in his name so that his dream could live on by helping another client at Breakaway continue their education.



Daniel Gould

\$29,823.83 Raised = 9 Clients off to School



Originally, Breakaway planned to raise \$10,000 to help cover the costs of an educational program for one of our clients. By the time the fund closed in March 2021, we raised a total of \$29,823.83 – almost 300% of our goal!

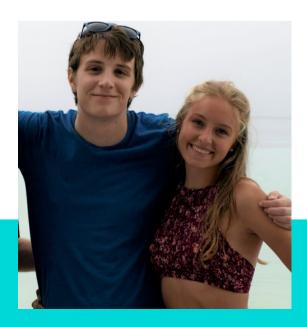
With this money, we were able to cover the costs of education for nine of our clients. These funds helped our recipients cover tuition, transportation, textbooks, and technology. This graph shows a breakdown of the ways we distributed this fund.

"I learned about this opportunity through my caseworker at Pieces to Pathways. I withdrew from my last school program due to mental health challenges. Due to these challenges, I had difficulty maintaining my GPA. As a result I was placed on academic probation. Due to my academic probation status, I am not eligible for OSAP. My caseworker and I were trying to find scholarships that would cover my first year at George Brown when this was announced. I'm excited to attend courses in person and meet other like-minded people who are passionate about this work. I have begun to transition out of youth/peer-based services, and moving into a professional role will allow me to stay connected in a different way."

Eugene, Scholarship Recipient and Social Work Student

With the funds distributed, our scholarship recipients are attending school this fall. Designed to be low-barrier, clients from a variety of programs at Breakaway have made use of these funds. Our clients are now enrolled in a diverse collection of educational programs in various disciplines – from art school, to a social work degree, to a French language program. Some of our clients are new students, while others are using these funds to continue their education after facing barriers and financial challenges that have interfered with their education.

No matter what the program or circumstance, all our scholarship recipients are bright people, who's passion for learning shines through.



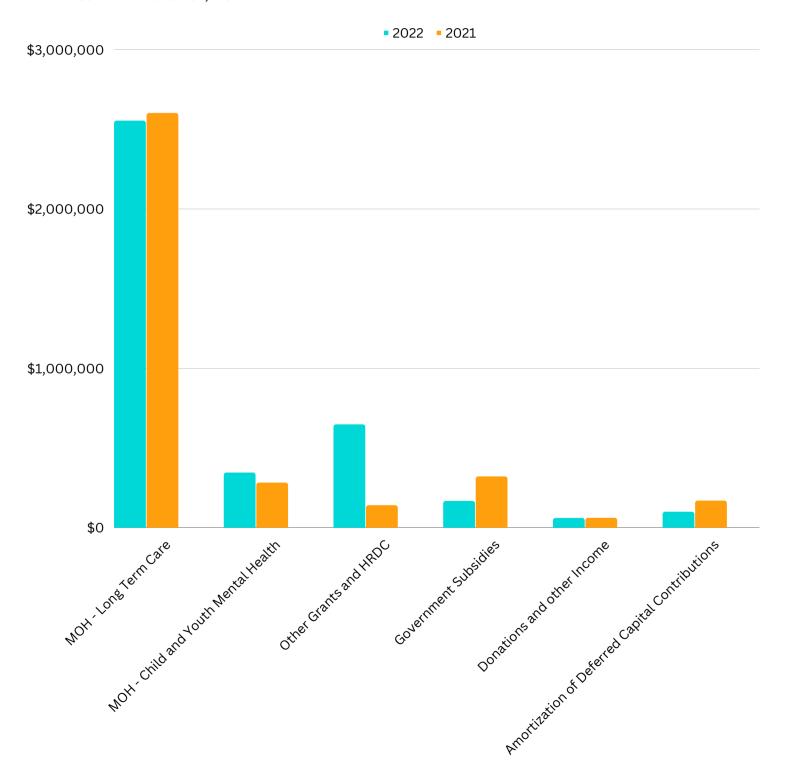
Daniel and his sister, Justine

We are sincerely grateful for the support of our donors in making the Daniel Gould Memorial Scholarship a reality. With your help, we've been able to honor the memory of this incredible young man by making a tangible difference in our client's lives. We couldn't be more thankful for your support!

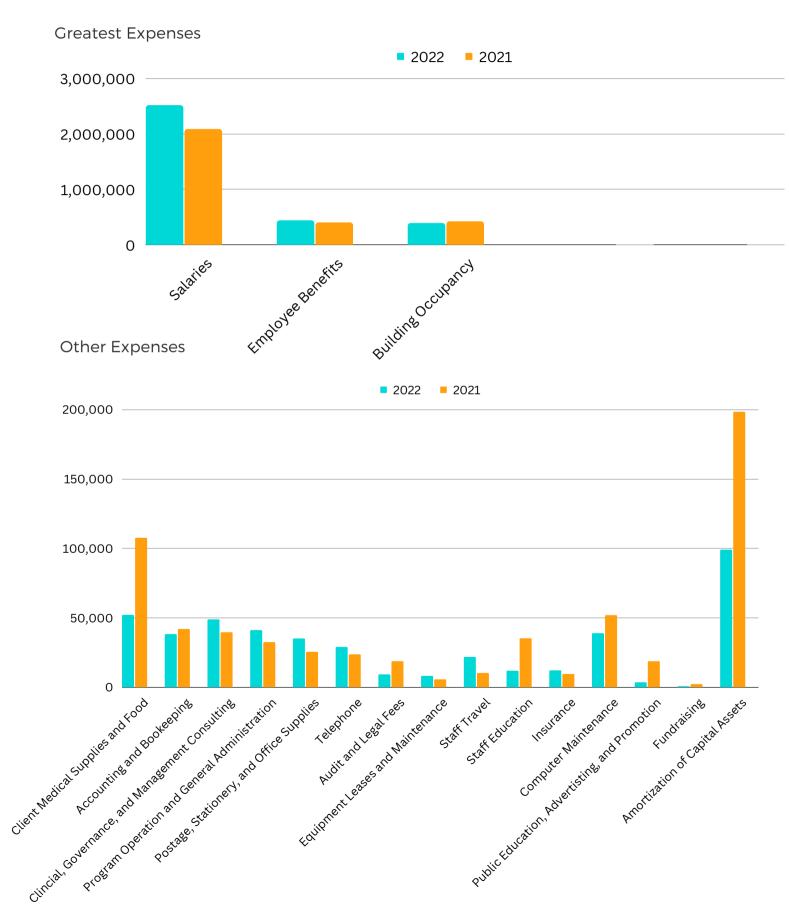
We would like to give special thanks to the Auxilium Foundation for their \$20,000 donation in support of the Daniel Gould Memorial Scholarship. The support of Auxilium was instrumental to the success of this fund, and we are deeply grateful for the opportunities this donation has afforded to our clients.

2021-2022 REVENUE AND EXPENSES

Revenue Year End March 31, 2022







Breakaway Addiction Services Statement of Operations and Fund Balances Year Ended March 31

	2022	2021
	2022	2021
Revenue	AND SECTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROPERTY	I Service of Paragraphy Paragraphy
MOH - Long Term Care (Note 7)	\$ 2,551,482	\$ 2,599,341
MOH - Child and Youth Mental Health (Note 7)	343,687	281,068
Other grants and HRDC	645,967	140,789
Government subsidies (Note 14)	166,804	319,403
Donations and other income	58,874	59,771
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	98,957	167,645
	3,865,771	3,568,017
Expenses		
Salaries	2,512,010	2,083,460
Employee benefits	432,817	395,590
Building occupancy	385,375	414,288
Client medical supplies and food	51,949	107,292
Accounting and bookkeeping	37,938	41,576
Clinical, governance and management consulting	48,501	39,293
Program operation and general administration	40,787	32,207
Postage, stationery and office supplies	34,739	25,210
Telephone	28,598	23,372
Audit and legal fees	9,055	18,346
Equipment leases and maintenance	7,786	5,397
Staff travel	21,435	10,072
Staff education	43,078	34,882
Insurance	11,755	9,219
Computer maintenance	38,657	51,556
Public education, advertising and promotion	3,460	18,350
Fundraising	593	1,865
Amortization of capital assets	98,957	198,136
	3,807,490	3,510,111
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	58,281	57,906
Fund balance, beginning of year	26,854	(31,052)
Fund balance, end of year	\$ 85,135	\$ 26,854

See accompanying notes to financial statements

THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR DONORS

THE AUXILIUM FOUNDATION

In 2021, the Auxilium foundation made a generous donation of \$40,000 to Breakaway. Half of this money was directed to our Harm Reduction Outreach (HRO) program, and half was directed to the Daniel Gould Memorial Scholarship. Thanks to Auxilium's support, Breakaway was able to supplement the salary of a one-year contract for an additional Client Support Worker on the HRO team. This has made a huge difference in making our services accessible to more clients, and allowed us to reduce our waitlist which had grown as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Auxilium's donation also accounted for 67% of the funds raised in memory of Daniel Gould, which allowed us to support nine clients in their pursuit of education. We are deeply grateful for this donation, and the impact it has had on our organization and clients.

CANOPY GROWTH CORPORATION

As part of our partnership with Pride Toronto, Breakaway received \$40,000 from the Canopy Growth Corporation. \$30,000 of this donation was directed to our Pieces to Pathways program, as part of Canopy's commitment to LGBTQIA2S+ inclusivity. These funds were used to develop a series of harm reduction and educational training videos that are informative, accessible, and designed specifically for queer and trans youth. The videos include information on harm reduction supplies, safe use strategies, and sexual health. The additional \$10,000 from this donation were given as an unrestricted grant which were directed to Breakaway's overall operations. We are incredibly thankful for Canopy's support of our work – both in supporting the creation of this new harm reduction training initiative and in helping us sustain our services.



Harm Reduction Kit Inserts

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

Brands for Canada

CAMH - STOP Program

Canada Summer Jobs

CHUM City Christmas Wish

City of Toronto Drug Strategy

Covenant House

Daily Bread Food Bank

FOCUS Toronto

George Brown College

Jean Tweed Centre

Kensington Health

Midwest Ontario Health Team

Parkdale Queen West CHC

Regeneration Community Services

Royal Ontario Museum

Toronto Metropolitan University

Second Harvest

Sick Kids Hospital

SNYP

Stella's Place

St. Michael's Hospital FHT

SUAP

Strides Toronto

South Riverdale CHC

Moss Park OPS

The Stop Community Food Centre

TO2AN

Toronto District School Board

Toronto Catholic District School Board

Toronto Public Health

Toronto Foundation

TELUS Mobility for Good Program

VIRCAN

West Toronto Network of Community Care

Youthlink What's Up Walk-In

Yonge Street Mission

Evergreen Drop-In

York University

Many thanks for the ongoing commitment of our funders: Ontario Health; and the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services via MOH. This support makes it possible for us to deliver accessible and effective substance-use services and achieve our mandate to reduce harm and enhance health in our community.





Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services

SUBSTANCE USE AND ADDICTIONS PROGRAM (SUAP)

Thank You Donors

The staff and community at Breakaway are deeply thankful for the ongoing support of our donors, who's generosity makes the work we do possible. Due to your commitment and support, we're able to provide compassionate and effective services to our clients.

Donating to Breakaway is easy! Simply fill out the form on our website: breakawaycs.ca/donate

YOUR COMMITTMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY

Care, compassion, and respect are at the heart of everything that we do at Breakaway. We are incredibly grateful for all those who share our vision of Breakaway as a space for connection, support, and healing for our community, and those who understand the importance of meeting our clients where they're at in their substance use journey,

While the past year has been hard, with the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and overdose crisis, our community has shown incredible resilience and strength. With the support of our staff, partners, and donors, we've been able to meet the challenges of the past year head on, expanding our services to provide more effective and comprehensive programming.

As we move into 2023, we are deeply grateful for your ongoing support of our work in reducing harm and enhancing health in our community.





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