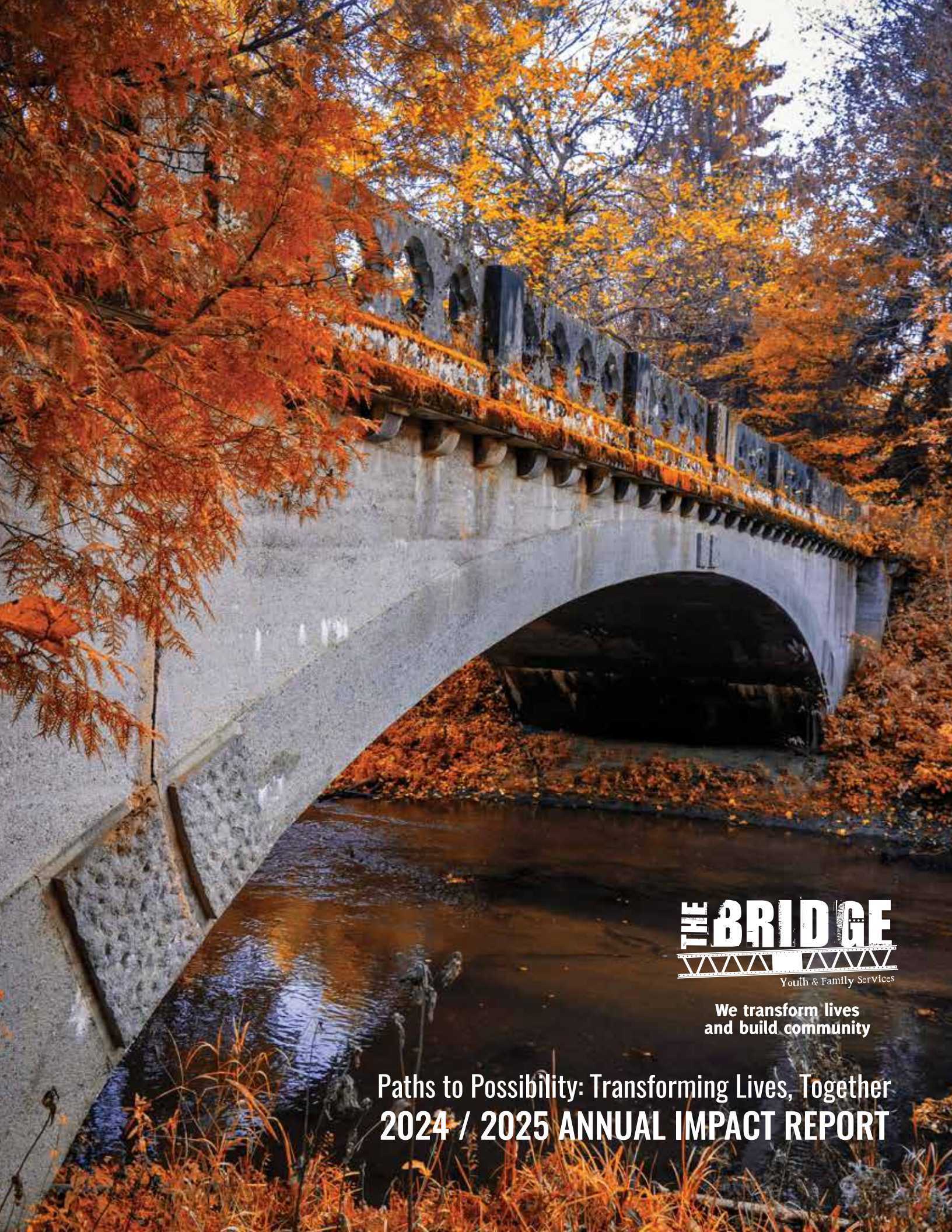




We transform lives
and build community

Paths to Possibility: Transforming Lives, Together 2024 / 2025 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This past year, our community has shown what's possible when people come together with purpose, compassion, and unwavering belief in one another.

Across every corner of The Bridge, from the laughter echoing through Early Years playrooms to the quiet courage of someone walking through our Withdrawal Management Program's doors, we witnessed transformation. We welcomed new programs, deepened partnerships, and strengthened our commitment to equity, wellness, and belonging. Whether launching the Transition Program to better supporting journeys out of homelessness or embedding Indigenous ways of knowing through our work with the Westbank First Nation and our Indigenous Wellness Liaison, our work was grounded in respect, relationships, and resilience.

The numbers tell a powerful story: thousands of lives touched through counselling, family support, harm reduction, withdrawal support, recovery-based treatment, early childhood programming, and inclusive community spaces like Etcetera. But behind each data point is a face, a family, a moment of courage. These stories remind us that healing happens in relationship, and that recovery, connection, and hope are built one human encounter at a time.

We also celebrated and invested in the people who make this work possible. Our staff leaned into learning, leadership, and well-being in ways that make me proud beyond measure. The launch of our UKG Pro Learning platform, the expansion of mental health training tools, and a renewed focus on psychological safety have all contributed to a more empowered and aligned workforce. Because when our team thrives, so do the people we serve.

At our core, The Bridge is about walking alongside others, whether that's a youth navigating recovery, a parent stepping into vulnerability, or a community member offering a helping hand. We don't have all the answers, but we show up. We listen. And we move forward together.

Thank you to our staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners for making this year one of impact, inclusion, and growth. Your belief in our mission fuels every step we take.

Together, we are transforming lives, and building a future filled with possibility.



John Yarschenko
Executive Director



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Board of the Bridge Youth & Family Services, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our community for your unwavering support. Your generosity, kindness, and belief in our mission make everything we do possible.

Because of you, we've been able to continue providing critical support, safe spaces, and life-changing services to youth and families in need. Whether you've donated, volunteered, partnered with us, or simply shared our message, your impact is felt every day.

Reflecting on our work over the past year as we strive to "transform lives and build community" is incredibly satisfying. The numbers reflected in these pages speak to the volume of lives transformed by our programs, but the real measure of success is what we've achieved in building 'community', and we are so grateful to everyone that has helped build that.

We are blessed with a community of dedicated staff and volunteers who care deeply about our clients and the programs we offer. They bring their best each day and give freely of themselves in a way that maximizes respect and dignity for our clients. Tirelessly helping others in difficult and stressful situations, and always amidst their own life personal pressures and turmoil, is the hallmark of a truly compassionate person and we are so proud and thankful to have all of you in our community.

Overseeing the Bridge is also a community of leaders and managers that bring vision and passion to our mission. Volunteer board members share their time, life experience and knowledge to ensure we are guided by sound principles as we strive to maintain an organization offering vital programs in Kelowna's social services network. Our leaders work collaboratively with community partners and allied organizations to ensure we are working towards a common purpose, truly doing the best we can for everyone.

But it's the broader community that is our biggest asset. We are grateful for our Westbank First Nation community members who are helping us decolonize our programs and services. We are thankful for all of the community-based fundraising partners, and all of the volunteers required, which has been so critical in helping us establish our new Youth Recovery House and supporting other programs. The generosity of our volunteers and donors in helping us achieve our mission is immense, and we are so very fortunate to have you among our community.

Finally, the participants we serve, united by their desire to transform, build a core of strength in our programs that supports each other, and connects us all in our mission to transform lives and build community.

We love our community and are so happy that you are all a part of it!



Patrick Spinks

President - Board of Directors



2024-2025 BOARD MEMBERS



Patrick Spinks
President



Jemison Jackson
Vice President



Joyce Galuska
Secretary, Director



Brent Christensen
Treasurer



James Geen
Director



Juliette Sicotte
Director



Kimberly Pflieger
Director



Jessica Lougheed
Director



Celine Thompson
Director



Nicole Richard
Director



Matteo Stewart
Director



Marika Soleil
Director



OUR YEAR OF TRANSFORMATION

This year, we launched our **Transition Program**. This initiative reflects our commitment to person-centred care by supporting individualized journeys across the recovery continuum. Spanning programs from outreach to housing, we made this possible through funding from **Reaching Home**, the Government of Canada's homelessness strategy. This funding enables us to provide consistent, compassionate support to help individuals move from homelessness into stability.

The introduction of our **Indigenous Wellness Liaison** role signals our commitment to culturally safe care and honouring Indigenous ways of knowing. Through ceremony, land-based learning, and cultural connection, participants are supported in reclaiming their Indigenous identity, explore wellness through practices that honour their heritage and strengthen their connection to community.

We continued to make significant investments in our staff, expanding training, digital tools, and wellness supports. Over 200 team members participated in learning opportunities, including the launch of our **Pro Learning** platform, new benefits, and peer-led wellness initiatives. These efforts, along with system upgrades like **UKG Scheduling**, have helped create a more connected, resilient, and empowered workforce, ultimately strengthening the care we provide to participants.

PROGRAMS

EARLY YEARS SERVICES

BY THE NUMBERS

Prenatal Wellness

88

pregnant participants

Beyond the Blues

60

adults

Community Action Program for Children

615

children

Program Snapshot

Our **Early Years** programs empower parents and caregivers from pregnancy through the early childhood years. By offering low-barrier, inclusive support, we help families build stronger relationships, manage stress, and support healthy development. Through programs like **Special Deliveries**, **Beyond the Blues**, **Creative Playtime**, and **Parent Talk**, we strengthen families, creating healthier homes and more resilient communities.

A key highlight this year was offering the **Circle of Security program in Arabic**, with separate groups for mothers and fathers. This provided culturally relevant, trauma-informed support to new immigrant families as they build secure relationships with their children.

Employee Snapshot

Sydney has been part of The Bridge for eight years, supporting our parent groups through childminding and creating safe, welcoming spaces for children.

What she wants the community to know is simple but powerful: **it's okay to reach out**. Stepping outside your comfort zone, being vulnerable, and connecting with others can be life changing. Sydney sees this every day, in children building confidence, in families finding support, and in the quiet moments of growth that happen when people feel safe enough to show up just as they are.



"I felt a lot less alone in my experience of birth. I heard some other women's stories and also felt grateful for some things I had that other people didn't have, such as a supportive partner.

All the women are powerful and doing their best in this journey of motherhood. It felt great to be a part of this sisterhood."

- *Beyond the Blues participant*

PROGRAMS

PATH AND FOSTER HOME SUPPORT PROGRAMS

BY THE NUMBERS

20

caregivers supported

11

youth in care supported

Program Snapshot

Through the **Path and Foster Home Support Programs**, we provide practical and emotional support to young people in care and their caregivers. From life skills and school goals to emotional regulation and community connection, our work helps youth feel valued and caregivers feel supported. When caregivers thrive, the youth in their homes do too, contributing to more stable placements and stronger outcomes.

A key milestone this year was celebrating several of our youth participants who turned 19 and/or graduated from high school.



Employee Snapshot

Erin wants the community to understand that many youth in care carry **invisible emotional burdens**, grief, trauma, anxiety, or disconnection. These often show up as resistance or withdrawal.

“What they really need is to feel heard and supported,” Erin explains. “The Path program creates safe, non-judgmental spaces where youth can begin to heal and reconnect with their goals.”

Supporting mental health doesn’t always mean big interventions. Sometimes, it’s just about **listening and showing up**.

“Through this support I am starting to feel valued, heard, and supported.”

- Path participant

PROGRAMS

YOUTH AND FAMILY SUPPORT

BY THE NUMBERS

19 participants in Central Okanagan Dads

146 families served

18 participants in Parenting Your Anxious Youth

90% of participants would recommend this service to others*

*Percentages reflect responses from participants who completed the full program.

Program Snapshot

We walk alongside families navigating the child protection system, offering support that reduces conflict, improves communication, and builds parenting confidence. By helping families access the tools and relationships they need, we foster safe, stable home environments, and help prevent crisis before it happens.

A key highlight for Family Support this year was having staff complete **Outcomes Star training** so we are better able to understand the strengths and needs of the families we serve and celebrate their successes alongside them.

“Our counsellor was amazing at helping my son and I better our relationship and meet our goals. She provided much needed comfort and support to us after what we have been going through as a family.”

- Family Support participant



Employee Snapshot

Rich wants people to know that **relationships—when safe and supportive—have the power to heal.**

“Parenting is hard. Life is hard. And no one should have to do it alone.” He reminds us that showing up with **kindness, empathy, and patience** can be more impactful than any advice.

One of Rich’s favorite quotes is from Leo Tolstoy: “*The kinder and more thoughtful a person is, the more kindness he can find in other people.*”

This reflects Rich’s approach to his work—and to life: **lead with kindness, be thoughtful, and show up with love.**

PROGRAMS

OUTREACH OVERDOSE PREVENTION

BY THE NUMBERS

3859

total client contacts

744

Naloxone Kits provided

437

Harm Reduction
Home deliveries

Program Snapshot

Our **Outreach team** meets people where they are—offering mobile, judgment-free harm reduction and support. By removing barriers, we connect individuals with life-saving supplies, referrals, and care across the Central Okanagan. This work reduces preventable overdoses, builds trust, and makes our entire community healthier and safer.

Over the past year, Outreach Overdose Prevention Services prioritized strengthening partnerships with other community outreach teams. By working together, we ensured more coordinated, high-quality care for our community's most vulnerable. These collaborations expanded our reach and improved access to essential supports like food, income assistance, and housing.

We made notable progress in meeting significantly more participants in the community, especially in the under-served area of Rutland. Having our outreach and delivery numbers increase is a true testament to the importance of our work and the impact we have on community connections.



Employee Snapshot

One of the biggest misconceptions Chloe wants to challenge is the idea that **harm reduction enables drug use**.

Harm reduction is about keeping people healthy. It's about providing clean supplies, connecting people to services, advocating for them every step of the way, and cleaning up the community. It's not the solution to homelessness or the toxic drug crisis, but it is a solution to keeping people alive and healthy, no matter what choices they make.

"The outreach team is at the heart of The Bridge. Everyone deserves love, and everyone deserves care. That's where outreach really makes its mark."

- Chloe

PROGRAMS

ADULT WITHDRAWAL MANAGEMENT AND STABILIZATION SERVICES (DETOX)

BY THE NUMBERS

Program

439

cases

339

unique individuals

30% identify as unhoused
30% identify as Indigenous
59.9% male identifying,
39.5% female identifying
0.4% non-binary identifying

18% of individuals accessing withdrawal management services also accessed the transition bed service, providing a stable environment while waiting to move into treatment programs or stable housing.

Program Snapshot

Withdrawal Management Services (WMS) provides 24/7, medically supervised detox in a safe, supportive environment. It is often the first step on a longer recovery journey. By offering care that is trauma-informed, voluntary, and accessible, WMS helps individuals stabilize and move forward with dignity, reducing ER visits and building healthier futures for individuals and families.

This past year, we prioritized the recruitment and retention of skilled nursing staff to ensure consistent, high-quality care. In addition, we worked to maximize the use of our transition beds, providing participants with the most effective support at critical stages of their recovery. As substance use trends continue to evolve, we remained committed to deepening our understanding of the changing landscape, both within our community and among those accessing our services. Above all, we remained focused on keeping this essential service accessible to those who need it most.

Transition Beds

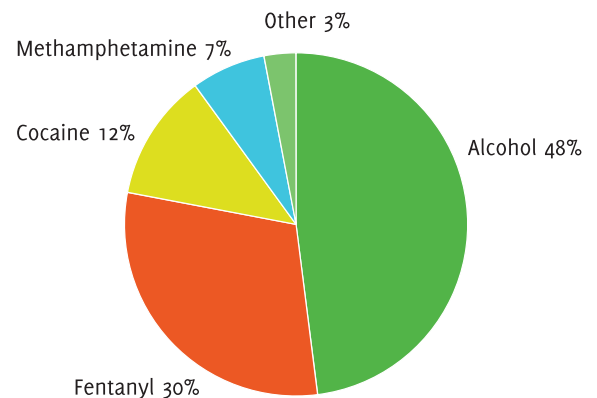
68

cases

61

unique individuals

Primary Substances Used



Employee Snapshot

Shannon wants the community to know that withdrawal management isn't a one-size-fits-all process.

"Our nurses and Withdrawal Management Workers (WMWs) are fantastic at understanding the personalized needs, requirements, and goals of each participant who comes through our doors," Shannon explains.

Every person is different, and Shannon's team ensures that care is **adapted to the individual**, not the other way around.



PROGRAMS

BRIDGEWAY INTENSIVE ADULT TREATMENT

BY THE NUMBERS

169

cases

158

unique individuals

99 Male-Identifying (63%)

59 Female-Identifying (37%)

65% of participants completed the full 6-week program

Of **59** female-identifying participants, **12** accessed transition bed services (20%)

Upon completion, **73%** felt optimistic about their future

99% would recommend this service to others*

*Percentages reflect responses from participants who completed the full program.

Program Snapshot

Bridgeway offers six weeks of live-in treatment focused on recovery, wellness, and life skills. Participants receive group and individual counselling, develop healthy routines, and reconnect with their goals. With a strong sense of community and support, individuals leave Bridgeway with hope, strength, and tools for long-term recovery.

This past year, **Bridgeway Ethel** focused on implementing the **Matrix Intensive Treatment** program for the Program Facilitators to utilize for educational workshops. We introduced the Helping Women Recover program which is facilitated by our clinical counsellor and includes a workbook for each participant.

A key highlight for **Gray Road** this year has been to build and strengthen relationships with community partners. Working together helps us to provide the best possible experience for participants.

Employee Snapshot

Bex, Clinical Counsellor at Ethel House hopes people understand the depth of care and commitment behind her work and the work of the team at Ethel House.

“We’re here to walk with people, not ahead of them or behind them, but beside them, every step of the way.”



“I can actually see a future now, whereas before I didn’t at all.”

- Bridgeway participant



PROGRAMS SUPPORTED RECOVERY

BY THE NUMBERS

54

individuals served

67% male-identifying,
33% female identifying
28% identify as Indigenous

92

average days in
program

Program Snapshot

Supported Recovery offers structured housing and recovery-focused programming for individuals transitioning from treatment. Participants build independence while accessing relapse prevention, life skills, and personalized support. This program helps reduce return to substance use and strengthens participants' ability to reintegrate into the community.

This past year, Supported Recovery focused on staffing stability and strengthening community connections.

In Penticton, we expanded our casual pool and hired two part-time residence workers. Additionally, we built new partnerships with **100 More Homes**, deepened collaboration with **Ask Wellness**, and initiated work with the **Penticton Indian Band**. These relationships enhance cross-agency support for participants, recognizing our shared mission, values, and often, the same individuals.

In Kelowna, we introduced a Team Lead role, hired three full-time staff, and continued growing our casual pool. Together with the **Canadian Mental Health Association**, we're helping graduates access long-term affordable housing.



Employee Snapshot

Shey Still, Team Lead, wants the community to know that the most rewarding aspect of her work is seeing people recover from a place they once found hopeless, and bearing witness to people finding hope in their lives again. Where there is breath, there is life.

"It's the perfect balance of independence and support, and it's allowed me to put down roots in Kelowna."

- *Supported Recovery participant*

PROGRAMS ETCETERA

BY THE NUMBERS

40

sessions

44

youth participants

"Thank you for helping me get the stuff I need so I feel better in myself and in my life. Definitely good to have someone I can ask."

- Etcetera participant

Program Snapshot

Etcetera is a youth-led space where **2SLGBTQIA+ youth and allies** ages 11–18 can connect, explore identity, and feel celebrated. Through weekly gatherings, creative activities, and access to basic needs, Etcetera builds self-confidence, peer connection, and community belonging—making Kelowna a safer, more inclusive place for queer youth.

A major highlight this year was providing multiple youth with items to support their gender expression, including chest binders, clothing items, haircuts, and pride flags.



Employee Snapshot

What makes Jayda proudest is the difference Etcetera makes in the lives of the youth who attend.

Many young people share that **Etcetera is the first place they've ever felt safe enough to use their preferred names and pronouns**. Jayda sees this as a powerful reflection of The Bridge's mission to **transform lives and build community**.

Amanda believes in the power of play, creativity, and fun in queer spaces. She wants the community to know that simply showing up matters. At a recent Trans Day of Visibility event, one youth approached Etcetera's table with excitement, sharing that it was their first-ever pride event. Throughout the day, they returned to the table for comfort when feeling overwhelmed, later thanking the team for being a steady and supportive presence. For Amanda, moments like this are a powerful reminder of the impact that visibility, care, and community can have.

PROGRAMS

YOUTH RECOVERY HOUSE

BY THE NUMBERS

37

individual youth served

41% male identifying,

59% female identifying

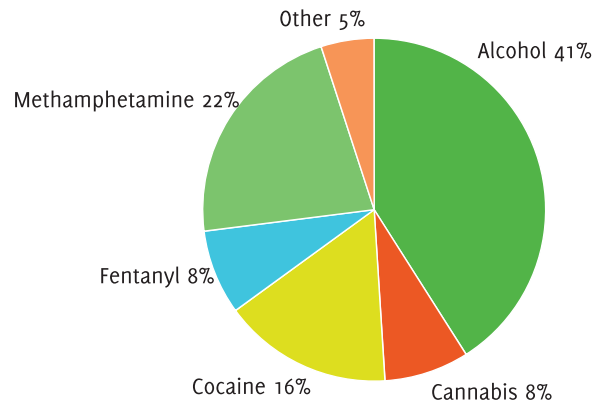
38% Indigenous identifying

83% would recommend it*

71% of survey participants felt it had a welcoming atmosphere*

*Percentages reflect responses from participants who completed the full program.

Primary Substance Use

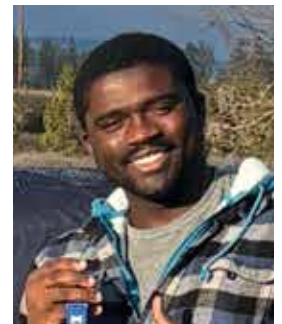


Program Snapshot

As Kelowna's only 24/7 live-in treatment program for youth, **Youth Recovery House (YRH)** offers trauma-informed care and skill-building in a supportive environment. Youth receive personalized programming that helps them manage emotions, build life skills, and reconnect with school, family, and peers—laying the foundation for long-term recovery and well-being.

Over the past year at YRH, our team has focused a great deal on program development to continuously improve the quality of care and services that we deliver. This included enhancing the recreation program and participant free time structure, building and improving a curriculum of material for both group therapy and psychoeducational workshop material, and incorporating family support services into the program for helping caregivers of youth at YRH.

Employee Snapshot



If there's one thing Anthony wants the community to know, it's this:

"The youth in our program are the real MVPs. My job is simply to help them see that."

Through his work, Anthony helps young people discover their worth, their strength, and their ability to thrive, reminding all of us what's possible when care and connection come first.

"(Youth Recovery House) helped me stay in recovery."

- YRH participant

ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION: Strengthening Connections Inside And Out

In 2024–2025, our organization remained deeply committed to building meaningful relationships—within our teams and across the community. Through internal initiatives that promoted learning, wellness, and recognition, and a strong presence at community events, our engagement efforts were purposeful and impactful.

Internal Engagement: Building a Stronger Team

We hosted over twenty events to inform, celebrate, and connect staff. These gatherings aligned us with organizational priorities, promoted well-being, and recognized team contributions.

We launched the **Brown Bag Series** to promote knowledge-sharing and dialogue on key topics. **Wellness Exchange** webinars offered tools to support mental and physical health. Staff played a key role in shaping the **2024–2025 Annual Operating Plan** through dedicated engagement sessions.

On top of that, we gave back through programs like our **Christmas Hampers and Early Years holiday parties**. Celebrations such as our Annual Staff BBQ and Staff Holiday Celebration underscored the importance of connection and appreciation.



Pink Shirt Day



UBCO Career Fair

External Engagement: Showing Up for Our Community

We took part in nearly 50 events that emphasized collaboration, visibility, and community connection.

We used our presence at **URBA events, Commerce Connex, and Downtown After 5** to foster relationships within the business and nonprofit sectors. We met prospective employees and volunteers at recruitment fairs hosted by **Okanagan College, UBCO, and Vernon's Hiring Fair**, highlighting our organization as a meaningful place to work and contribute.

We proudly supported third-party fundraisers that benefitted our work, while our booths at local events increased awareness and deepened community ties. By attending partner events, we reinforced our commitment to collaboration and shared success.

Looking Ahead

These efforts reflect our belief that relationships are central to our mission. As we move into the year ahead, we remain dedicated to building connections that inspire, inform, and create lasting impact, within our organization and across the communities we serve.



Aberdeen Hall Donation

INVESTMENTS IN STAFF LEARNING, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Our Learning and Development team plays a key role in building a stronger organization by offering meaningful training opportunities that help staff feel confident, informed, and ready to make a difference.

217 staff completed 1466 hours mandatory training
149 staff completed 1462 hours optional training
\$58,000 invested in training

Building Skills in Mental Health and Motivation

The Learning and Development team also organized two key sessions:

- A one-day Mental Health First Aid course, which strengthened staff understanding of mental health
- Two-day Motivational Interviewing training, led by a certified in-house facilitator

Both sessions helped build skills that are especially important when supporting people through complex life challenges.

One of the most exciting developments in the last year was the launch of our very own Learning Management System (LMS): Pro Learning. This LMS, powered by UKG is designed to make training more accessible and consistent. This digital platform gives staff on-demand access to custom courses, expert-led content, and training on our internal systems.

Since launching in February, staff have already completed an average of four courses each, totalling over 109 hours of learning across the organization.

In the last year, staff completed required training and took part in elective workshops aligned with their roles and interests. Topics included disordered eating, reconciliation and decolonization, autism, ADHD, substance use, and stigma.

Staff also attended external conferences, pursued certifications, received one-on-one coaching, and participated in leadership development through 360 reviews and the LEADS+ Program. These diverse learning opportunities help ensure staff have the skills, context, and confidence to meet participant needs with empathy and expertise.



COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

Supporting Balance and Psychological Safety

In 2023–2024, we laid the groundwork for the **9-day fortnight** schedule (launched in the Spring of 2025), a proactive step toward better work-life balance.

Staff created the **Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)** team, a peer-to-peer initiative that offers early support after workplace stressors. It’s a powerful example of what happens when staff step up to care for each other.

Across teams, staff have nurtured wellness through:

- Morning mindfulness and movement breaks
- Gratitude and check-in practices
- Team days and open conversations
- Organization-wide events like BBQs, Brown Bag meetings, and our annual holiday party

Our commitment to staff doesn’t stop at professional development, it extends to fair compensation and practical benefits. In November, we implemented a general wage increase (backdated to March 31, 2024), with a minimum adjustment of 2.25% to acknowledge the value of our employees and the rising cost of living.

Additionally, we introduced or enhanced several supports, including:

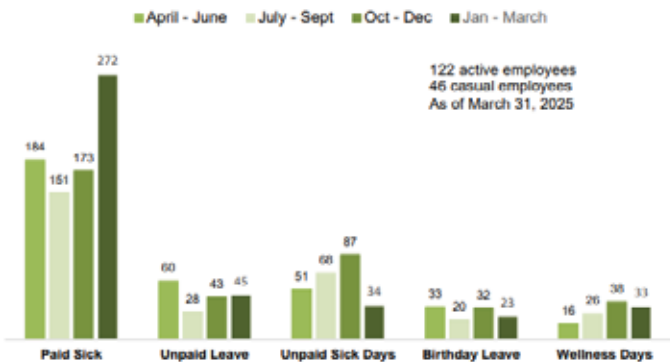
- A new **Overtime Policy**
- **Birthday Day**, (a paid day off to celebrate)
- A **Flexible Spending Account**, giving staff freedom to choose what supports their well-being

Our **Employee Assistance Program** transitioned to Sparrow, offering improved access to multilingual mental health support, internet-based Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, pharmacy services, and family wellness tools.

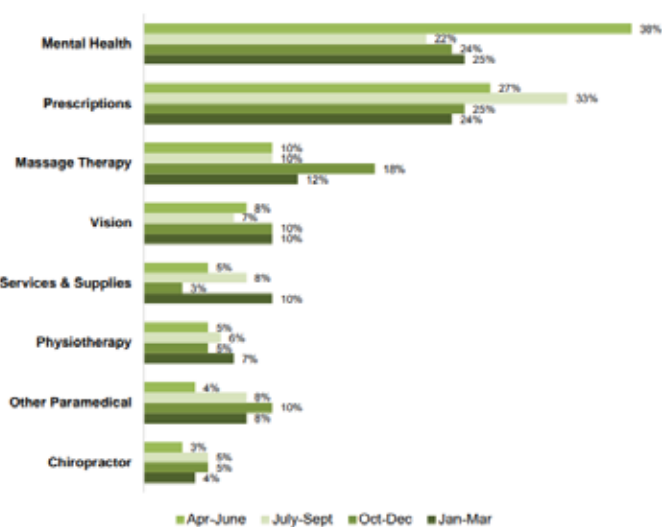
Workplace Health & Wellness

The following data shows employee absences and Extended Health Benefits Usage from Bridge employees from April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025.

April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025 # Absence Days Used



April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025 Extended Benefits Usage



FINANCIALS

For the fiscal year, the Society reported total revenue of \$13.4 million and an annual deficit of \$566,945. This deficit is primarily attributed to the refunding of surpluses from prior fiscal years for programs that have since closed. These refunds were necessary to meet contractual obligations and maintain transparency and accountability with our funding partners.

Despite the deficit, the Society made strategic investments aligned with our long-term mission and values. Key areas of focus included:

- Training and Development: Continued investment in staff training and professional development to enhance service delivery and strengthen organizational capacity.
- Indigenous Decolonization: Ongoing commitment to Indigenous-led approaches, supporting cultural revitalization, healing, and reconciliation throughout our programs and practices.
- Youth Recovery House – Phase 2: Development of Phase 2 progressed steadily, furthering our goal of expanding vital support services for youth in recovery.

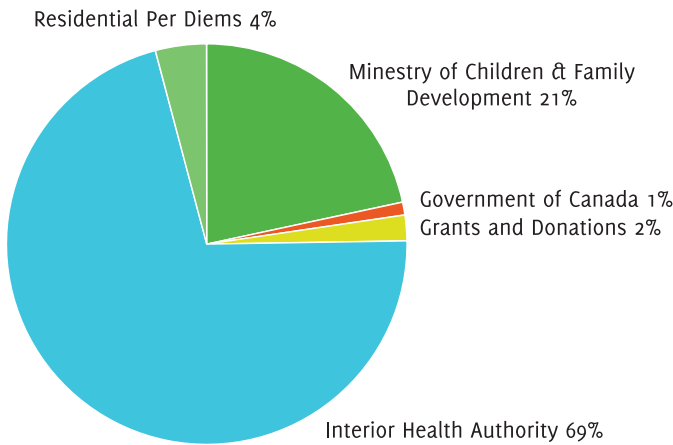
The Society remains financially stable and committed to responsible stewardship of resources while prioritizing community impact and sustainable growth.



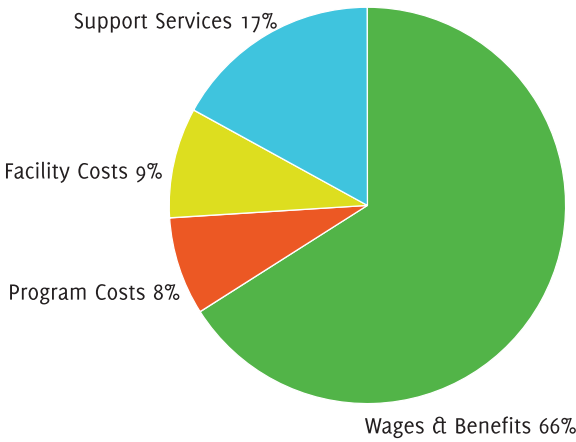
Jim Cavaliero
Director of Finance



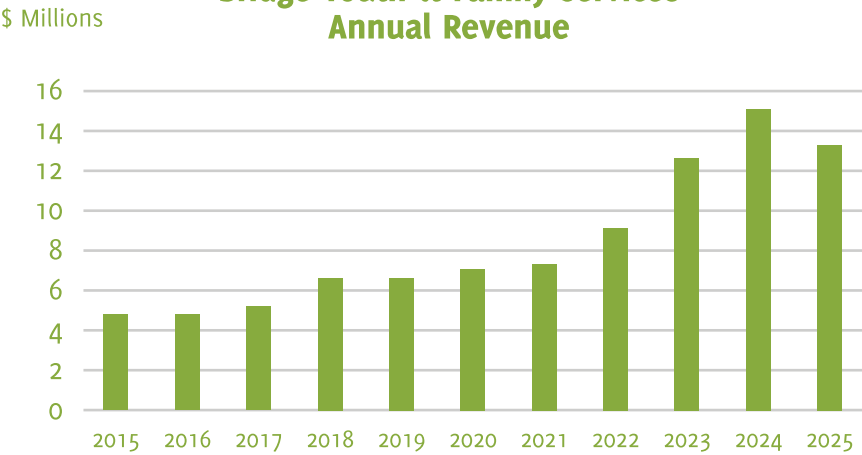
Revenue \$13,388,948



Expenses \$13,955,893



Bridge Youth & Family Services Annual Revenue



GIFTS OF IMPACT: Community Champions

At the heart of our work is community—and our donors are a vital part of that heartbeat. Whether it's a truckload of essentials for our Youth Recovery House, fresh produce for holiday hampers, or the simple comfort of a cozy bathrobe, every gift tells a story of hope, care, and connection. Thanks to our community partner donors, we are creating safe, supportive spaces where youth and families can thrive.



Hymers Private Wealth of RBC Dominion Securities Inc

Hymers Private Wealth of RBC Dominion Securities Inc generously donated gift bags that supported our Youth Recovery House and Family services.



Global Fitness

Global Fitness & Racquet Centre provides free one-month memberships to participants in our Bridgeway Ethel and Gray houses, as well as participants in our Supported Recovery Program.



Cabin 5

This December our Outreach Program received an incredible boost! Imagine a pickup truck arriving, filled to the brim with warm coats, gloves, boots, granola, snacks, cases of Ensure and protein drinks- all to support those in need this winter. Our heartfelt thanks to Stephanie & Cabin 5, Jason & Kelowna Chevrolet and Dawson Grey, Country Singer, for making this generous donation possible.



Soap for Hope

Soap for Hope provides repurposed health and hygiene products, including soap, bathrobes, and slippers that benefit all our programs.



Choices Market

Since 2019, Choices has been championing our causes and donating to our programs. This year's donation of \$4450 will support our new Youth Recovery House.

PARADE WITH A PURPOSE: A Legacy of Community and Care

What began in 2019 as a small neighbourhood gathering in Kettle Valley has grown **into one of Kelowna's most cherished community celebrations**. Over six years, the Parade with a Purpose transformed into a downtown tradition that blended holiday cheer with extraordinary impact.

At its heart, the parade has always been about more than lights and music, it has been about connection, compassion, and commitment to the well-being of youth in our community. **Under the inspired leadership of Pam Turgeon, Shadia Doty, and their families**, what started as a grassroots idea blossomed into a city-wide event that raised both awareness and critical funds for The Bridge's Youth Recovery House.

This past year was especially significant. In 2024, the parade raised an unprecedented \$487,000, with the support of the Stober Foundation, who generously matched community contributions, doubling the impact for youth in recovery. Since its inception, the Parade with a Purpose has raised a remarkable \$667,000 to help create, sustain, and expand the Youth Recovery House, Kelowna's only 24/7 live-in treatment program for youth seeking recovery from substance use. These funds have directly supported the development of Phase 2, ensuring that even more young people and families will find the care and connection they need.

Beyond the dollars raised, the parade became a beacon of joy and belonging. Families, businesses, neighbours, and volunteers came together each December to light up downtown Kelowna with generosity and goodwill. **The unity and hope reflected in the parade route each year symbolize the very best of what it means to be a community.**

As we celebrate the evolution of this event and close this chapter for The Bridge, we extend our deepest gratitude to the Turgeon and Doty families, the many sponsors and donors, and the hundreds of volunteers who made this legacy possible. **Your contributions have left an indelible mark**, not just on the Youth Recovery House, but on the lives of young people who now see a future filled with possibility.

The Parade with a Purpose has shown us what happens when a community comes together for a cause greater than itself. Its legacy will continue to shine in the lives it touches and in the hope it is building for generations to come.



YOUTH RECOVERY HOUSE – PHASE II: A Decade in the Making

More than ten years ago, our Board of Directors identified a critical gap in services for youth in the Okanagan: the absence of a live-in treatment program designed specifically for young people with substance use disorder. At that time, our Board committed to making the dream of Youth Recovery House a reality. In 2020, we were able to start the programming with Phase I in a leased building operated with funding from Interior Health. The Board remained committed to a purpose-built facility and continued the drive to raise funds for Youth Recovery House Phase II. Today we celebrate that promise fulfilled.

From Vision to Groundbreaking

What began as an identified need a decade ago has now grown into a community-wide movement. Through years of planning, advocacy, and fundraising, the vision has become reality: ***permits are approved, and construction has officially begun***. This milestone is a testament to the power of persistence, purpose, and partnership.

A Community That Made It Possible

The Youth Recovery House exists because our community refused to look away. Extraordinary contributions from the Hall Family Foundation, the Turgeon and Doty Families, and the long-term land lease provided by the City of Kelowna laid the foundation for progress. Generous sponsors, donors, and volunteers turned an aspiration into action, proving what's possible when people come together for a cause greater than themselves.

A Campus for Healing and Growth

The new Glenmore facility will become a **purpose-built campus of care**, offering:

- **Residential cottages** providing comfortable and home-like living spaces.
- A **counselling and learning centre** to provide therapeutic, educational, and medical support.
- **Outdoor and recreation spaces**, including a barn and natural areas for animal-assisted therapy, recreation, and land-based learning.
- **Commercial kitchen** to provide high-quality nutrition services and work experience opportunities for the young people
- Together, these elements will create a safe, holistic environment where young people can recover, learn, and build hopeful futures.

YOUTH RECOVERY HOUSE – PHASE II: A Decade in the Making

Looking Toward 2026

Construction is underway, with completion anticipated in the Fall of 2026. Between now and then, staff are focused on the expansion of programming, counselling, education, family reintegration, and wellness services—so that when the doors open, youth are met with the full spectrum of care they deserve.

A Promise Realized

The Youth Recovery House Phase II is more than a building project; it is the fulfillment of a decade-long promise, born of vision and sustained by community. It stands as a legacy of what can be achieved when compassion, determination, and collective action meet a critical need.





**We transform lives
and build community**

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