

# Annual Report 2024-2025.



They are gone but not forgotten.  
Heal others and let them know  
We are here to remember.







## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

**O**n behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, management, and myself, we welcome you to our 2024-2025 Annual Report. Without the support of Federal, Provincial, and Municipal governments, Corporate, Churches, United Way, Foundations, Universities, Food Bank, local businesses, and the many private donations throughout the years, our outcomes would have looked different. It is because of you that we can continue the great work of making people's lives better.

This year, we are paying special attention to our Annual Day of Mourning, Remembering the Victims of the Sex Trade. This year, we celebrated the 25th Annual Day of Mourning. As we reflect on the pain and suffering so many families, friends, and people they have touched, for me, this is one of the hardest days of the year. As a society, we must do better.

The Day of Mourning began as a result of Mike Dunphy (Social Worker) and me at a conference in Edmonton around Sexual Exploitation. A conversation with a group of dedicated outreach workers from Edmonton talking about a march and get-together every August 14th to honour a young woman who was murdered in Calgary and bring awareness about the tragedy the sex trade brings.

At that time, we had a young lady who was being remanded in custody, and the judge wanted a plan, so she could be released. We brought the idea back to this young person, and the rest is history. For the past 25 years, this event has brought staff, youth, families, elders, Dignitaries, and community together by groups of youth each year to honour those who have lost their lives through murder, suicide, overdose, and disease. This year, the number in Saskatoon since the youth began keeping track in 2000 was 197 victims. Because of the dedication to this day, the youth have continued this cause year after year.

So much has changed over the years, and EGADZ continues to have our youth as the experts and create services they want and need. Their involvement is paramount to success, and EGADZ will not only continue to listen but also implement youth-centered programs and services, operating on the needs and input of the youth who have lived experience.

This year lends a special meaning to the saying "our youth are our future." The support from our EGADZ family and friends has not gone unnoticed and will not be forgotten. From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU.



**OPERATION HELP**

For 25 years the Operation Help (OH) program has been a unique outreach program that works with individuals of all ages and genders whom are vulnerable to the sex trade by either being actively involved in sex work, wanting to exit the trade, or have been sexually exploited or human trafficked. Supported by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Social Services, Operation Help outreach workers connect with individuals who are at an increased risk of involvement in the sex trade, either self-identified or referred by community organizations, including social services, police, mental health and addictions workers, healthcare workers, and the education systems.



The rise in sexual exploitation and human trafficking is prevalent in the city of Saskatoon, with new trends and avenues for perpetrators to find victims surfacing daily. Operation Help works to connect with youth who are faced with many barriers that increase their risk levels, which include addictions, homelessness, childhood trauma, mental health, domestic violence, and negative peer groups. These barriers contribute to many vulnerabilities that young people face today and require specialized services to help navigate them. By

building trusting relationships with youth, Operation Help is able to establish healthy boundaries and rapport, enabling them to assist youth in accessing crucial services to ensure their physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual needs are met.

Having established relationships with community partners who provide sexual health services, counselling, addictions support, and housing assistance, the outreach workers will ensure that the basic needs of each individual youth are met. These supports assist clients with being able to develop tools and skills to lead healthier lifestyles, lowering their long-term risk of negative consequences of the trade. Client-led case planning, in a non-judgemental environment provides opportunities for growth, such as education and employment goals, allowing them to successfully exit the sex trade and regain control of their lives.





From April 1st, 2024 to March 31st, 2025 Operation Help provided support to 79 different individuals, including 17 new referrals to the program.

Statistics	
Addiction Detox & Treatment Support	14
Connection to Community Resources	83
Crisis Support & Mental Health	44
Safety Planning	22
Long-term Housing Support	22
Health Support	31
Cultural Activities	13
Education & Employment Assistance	9
Emergency Nutrition (Food Packs, Snacks)	61
Transportation (not including health)	138
Relationship Building Activities	96
Client/Case Planning	100
Recreation Activities	165
Home Visits/General Support	389
Advice & Advocacy	197



Every year, the Operation Help program works to organize the Annual Day of Mourning by forming the Day of Mourning Youth Committee. These youth work tirelessly to plan the Annual Day of Mourning, which is held on August 14 every year and is a memorial that pays tribute and honour to those individuals who have lost their lives to the sex trade either by way of disease, suicide, murder, or having gone missing. This year marked its 25th anniversary. On this day, the community comes together to remember the lives lost, grieve as a community, and provide education and support to one another. This year's committee was comprised of **11** different youth, all of whom were part of organizing the day for first the time. The committee began meeting in the spring, ensuring that permits were submitted, letters to dignitaries were distributed, and important decisions on how the day would unfold were made. This year, the committee chose to hold the Day of Mourning at EGADZ, as they felt it was important to be somewhere that felt safe and at home. Making changes to the traditional menu of soup and bannock, the committee chose to have a community BBQ instead comprised of hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, veggies, coffee, and iced tea. Additionally, the committee chose to work together to create handmade beaded pictures, as a thank-you gift to the dignitaries who came out to support Day of Mourning and the community.





On the Day of Mourning, staff and youth from EGADZ come together to prepare by decorating, setting up the program space, preparing food, greeting guests, and participating in the community. The day consisted of a short program which included prayers from Elders, greetings from special guests, a song and drummer, a candlelight vigil to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women monument at the police station, reading of the names of the lives lost and balloon release, and concluded with a BBQ feast inside the Drop in Centre where everyone was able to visit and enjoy each other's company.

Operation Help added **14** more names known by EGADZ to the deceased list. There are now **197** known lives lost.





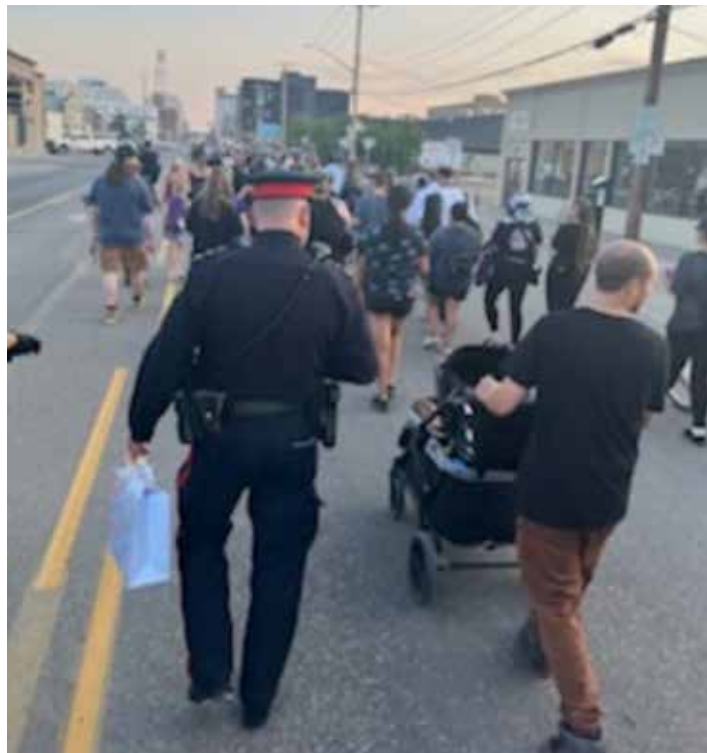


The Day of Mourning Committee would like to extend a thank you to our community who came out to pay respect to our fallen loved ones, and the following special guests who helped make this day possible: Elder Melvina Eagle, Elder Linda Young, Mayor Charlie Clark, FSIN Vice Chief Ally Bear, Acting Police Chief Darren Pringle, Sgt. Aaron Moser, Dorthea Swiftwolfe, and Karen Lysyshyn.

Operation No Go — The Sexual Exploitation Intervention Committee (SEIC) is a collaborative partnership comprised of community stakeholders, including the Saskatoon City Police, Ministry of Social Services, Saskatchewan Health Authority, and EGADZ. Together, they are committed to enhancing access to services and fostering meaningful change for vulnerable and hard-to-serve children, youth, and young adults who are at risk of, or currently experiencing, sexual exploitation. The committee prioritizes building trusting relationships with clients, aiming to break down barriers, address challenges effectively, encourage personal safety, and support the development of healthier lifestyles. Operation Help plays a vital role in connecting with each

referral that is presented to the committee, providing immediate crisis services and long-term ongoing support.

**Since resuming in December 2021, the committee has referred 38 individuals to Operation No Go.**







**Kacey** was introduced to Operation Help after a referral for services was made to the Operation No Go Committee. She has grown up in and out of the care of the ministry, always searching for a sense of belonging. Her mother struggled with her addictions, and this too was the norm for Kacey and her siblings. After spending some time residing at Ground Zero, she entered inpatient treatment and was able to secure long-term placement in the Retreat home. While her addiction to alcohol has presented itself throughout the past year, there has been significant growth and commitment from Kacey to live a better life. She began attending the EGADZ Day Program in the fall, and while she was quiet and shy at first, she soon built strong and meaningful relationships with staff. Staff were becoming concerned about Kacey's well-being after several conversations were had regarding men she would meet online and the gifts that they would buy her. These conversations were also happening with the staff in her home, and a decision was made to offer her more supports through the Operation No Go Committee. Kacey was honest with staff about her interactions with these men, and would meet up with them and exchange sex for money to purchase marijuana. From there, she began the process of building a relationship with Operation Help, participating in light-hearted hangouts, getting a snack, going for walks and drives, and doing self-care such as shopping or getting a manicure. Since Kacey became open with her support team about what was going on for her, she has experienced significant lows with her depression, at times refusing services from her supports. Operation Help continues to be active in her case plan, reaching out daily to offer support and help get her connected with further resources.



**Stacey** began working with Operation Help in the fall, after it was identified by her supports that she was selling pictures online in exchange for money and gifts. She was struggling with her mental health and experiencing debilitating anxiety when in large social situations such as school or community events. Growing up in an extremely abusive household of every form, the psychological trauma she has endured is significant. She has worked with her psychiatry team, however; as she neared her 18th birthday she was at risk of losing her housing placement due to her non-commitment to her case plan. She withdrew from her supports including Operation Help and was making extremely poor decisions. After a serious suicide attempt, she was admitted to the Dube Center. While there, she received adjustments to her medication, additional counselling supports, and requested to be reconnected to Operation Help. Her medical team worked to find her housing in an adult mental health home that would best suit her needs. Operation Help assisted with her move and has worked to provide additional support during this transition, particularly working towards employment and educational goals so that Stacey does not feel the need to resort to selling herself in exchange for goods she deems necessary.



**Leah** was introduced to Operation Help after receiving a phone call from the ministry after she had fled a trap house that was exploiting young girls. The Vice Unit became involved, and Operation Help went to meet her at the police station. She was immediately provided housing at EGADZ Garden of Hope as per EGADZ Placement Protocol for Exploited Youth. Once safe, she was able to stabilize in the home and quickly built a strong relationship with the Operation Help team. She opened up about her story and disclosed the situations in her life that led to this point. She has struggled with her mental health throughout the years, with severe ADHD, anxiety, and suspected BPD. She began exchanging images of herself over the internet for goods and money, and soon after developed friends who were engaged in other forms of sex work. Not knowing the risk for exploitation, she was introduced to a woman who eventually allowed her to stay at her house. This home has had several youths extracted from it who were being trafficked, and after one night, Leah became very scared and reached out to social services to help her. Since moving into a safe and stable home, Leah has worked closely with Operation Help and her in-home staff. While she has struggled with her mental health throughout the winter, engaging in self-harming behaviour, she has been receptive to continuing to improve her quality of life.





**ACTION TO EMPLOYMENT**

Action to Employment provides **50** seniors and disabled adults in the community with year-round yard care services so they can stay living comfortably in their homes. The service is free for these clients as oftentimes they are unable to pay for the costs to maintain their yard or snow removal, and without this free service, they would be unable to continue living in their homes.

*Thank you so much [for] all of the workers who do such a wonderful job each time they are here. Thank you, team leader and everyone involved with this program. You have helped us so much at this time when the cost of living is so high, you help make it possible for us to stay in our home which is where we want to be. All of the workers have been responsible, reliable, and courteous. They have our trust and this is really important.” – Judy - Community Client*

*We have been a client for a year and are very pleased with the services provided by the Action to Employment program. The team has always been prompt, courteous, knowledgeable, and always hardworking. The program is a great opportunity for young people to build life skills. We are so thankful for this community service aimed to help people with disabilities and seniors.” – Jack and Sandy - Community Clients*

While providing this service, youth residing in and/or connected with EGADZ programming are given the opportunity to gain work experience in a safe environment. Oftentimes, the youth are working through their journey of recovery, managing their mental health, addictions, and facing their trauma while working towards healing and success. The Action to Employment program allows all youth an opportunity to learn skills, develop a strong work ethic, communication and leadership skills essential for their continued long-term employment within the community.

*I have anxiety and I was worried about getting a job because I couldn't do a job interview the way other people could do. I feel like now I would be able to do an interview for another company, due to ATE giving me the opportunity to learn with them first” – Laura-Crew Member*

*Working with ATE has helped me with gaining skills that will need for future employment” – Justin-Crew Member*

The Action to Employment program has proven, since its development to give youth the ability to reach their full potential through first-time employment. Bridging the gap between our youth of today and the seniors within our community has proven to help strengthen our community and break down barriers.

*We were very appreciative of the friendly help. The crew were very friendly with our dog, Simon and he loved it. They also made sure the gate was locked. We have a large driveway and deck area and we often felt that they treated our property as if it were their own in terms of removing ice patches, moving snow off of walks, etc. We also appreciate them checking to see if we needed anything else done. A fabulous crew and a great service. It is also great to see the self esteem of the crew grow over the season. Looking forward to the next season! Thank you!” – Victor and Mary-Community Clients*





Action to Employment's funding is comprised solely of donations, grants, funders and partnerships with community organizations. The donation or funding received pays for the youth's wages and contributes to equipment, including shovels, lawnmowers, rakes, trimming tools and basic upkeep and maintenance for these items.

The *United Way* and *Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation* provided substantial funding through grants to ensure the program was able to operate at full staffing throughout the year. *The Home Depot*, *Orange Door Project* selected Action to Employment this year for their campaign alongside *Grillin' for Gratitude* and countless private

donations where the funds go directly into operating costs to ensure the program is able to run effectively.



*We're very satisfied with service and are glad the crew does a thorough job whenever they stop by. We are seniors and my husband has a bad back, along with severe arthritis. So, without the assistance and help from others, we would not be able to maintain our home."*

*– Ethel-Community Client*





## *In Loving Memory*

*It is with heavy hearts that we had to say goodbye this year to a member of our EGADZ family, Lou Paquette. Lou was a fierce advocate for youth, always going above and beyond with compassion, empathy and love to ensure that all youth were given the opportunity to succeed. Having built his business, the Saskatoon Truck Center, from the ground up Lou was passionate about ensuring youth were given employment opportunities, resulting in him taking a special interest in the success of Action to Employment. From securing funders for the program, assisting in fundraising, donating vehicles and ensuring community engagement, Lou ensured the continued success of the program. Meeting with the youth was a highlight for both Lou and the youth, he changed countless lives. Lou's passion and companionship have meant so much to us throughout the years and will never be forgotten or replaced.*



**From April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025 there were 22 different youth who were employed with Action to Employment.**



*I'm handicapped and unable to remove snow myself, so I rely on Action to Employment a lot. Once the snow is removed by the crew, my Homecare worker is able to come into my home safer. They are a grade A service"*

*– Mark- Community Client*



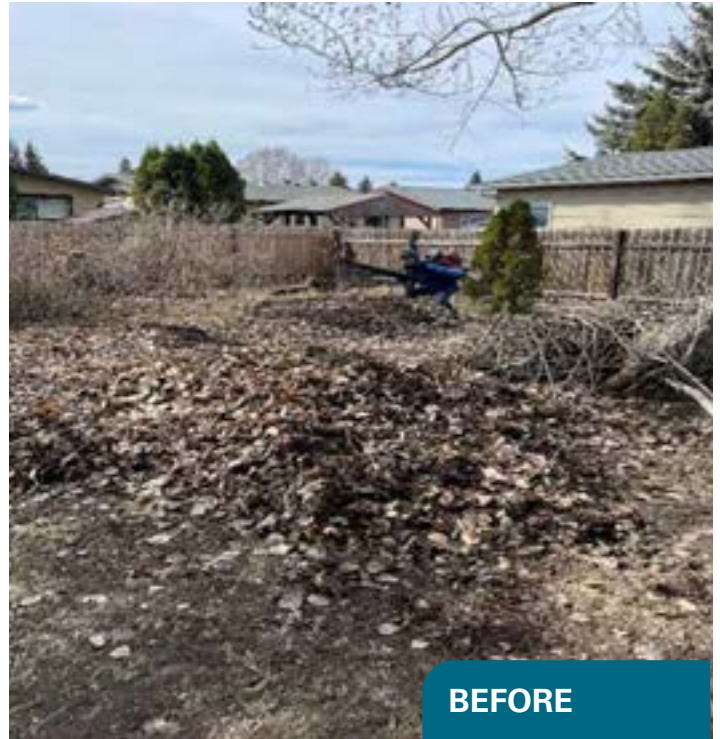




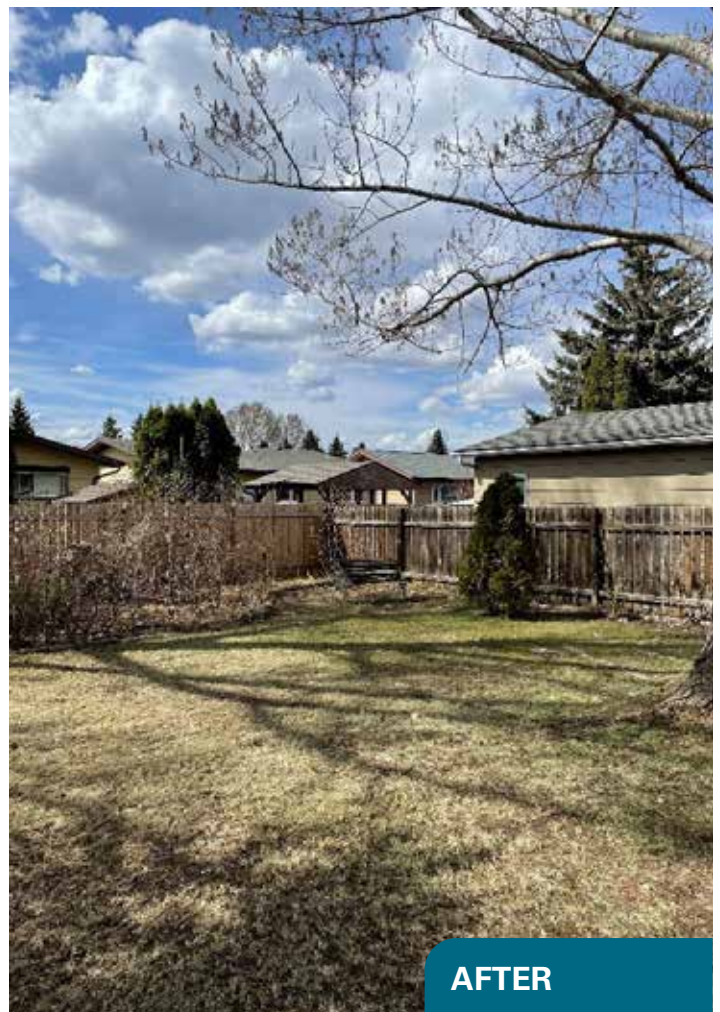
Safety and training are a priority for the youth. Alongside regular safety training, the youth participated in training that included WHMIS, Young Workers Readiness, Naloxone, and Mental Health in the Workplace.

 *ATE has given me the training to work with other people and have conflict resolution skills” – Jessica-Crew Member*

During the summer months, Action to Employment hires a second full-time crew to assist with the client properties and provide extra support to the EGADZ residential homes by completing special projects. This year, the crew gained skills from building in-ground garden beds, sanding and staining fences and decks, learning how to seal walls using a caulking gun, as well as patching holes in drywall.

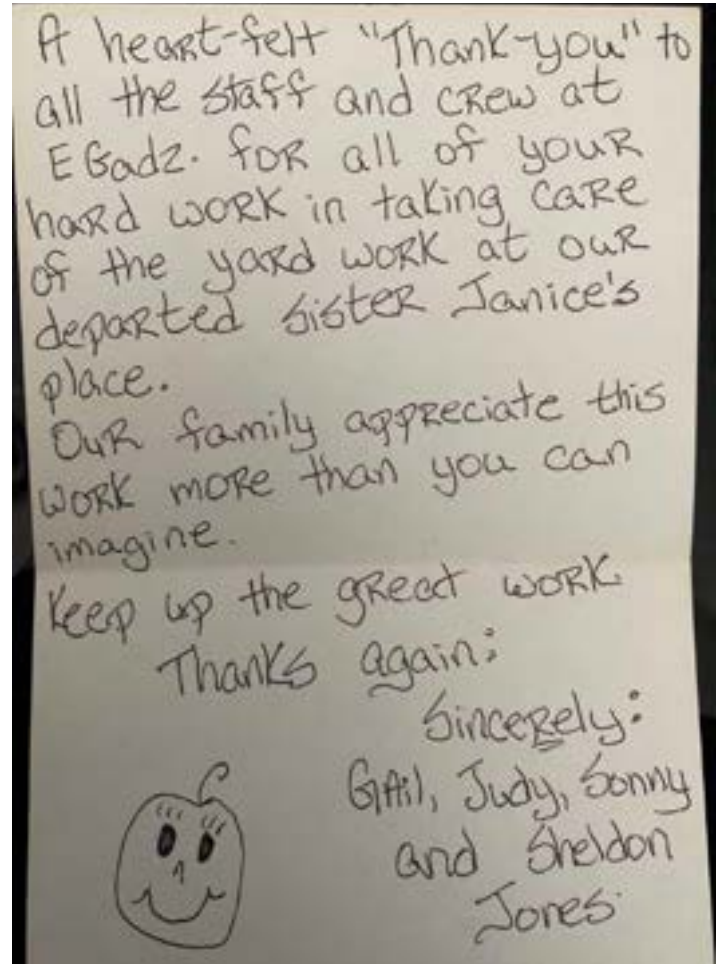


**BEFORE**



**AFTER**





*I really appreciate seeing the kids every week. They help us out so much since we aren't able to take care of our yard the way we used too."*

*– Leanne and Richard-Community Clients*







**Katrina** has worked with Action to Employment on and off since moving into the My Homes in September 2022. Katrina was working through a lot of pain and trauma that resulted in depression, anxiety, and substance misuse. Katrina utilized Action to Employment as a tool to improve her mental health through physical activity and structure, decrease her substance use by keeping actively busy. Due to continued trauma and difficult family dynamics, Katrina often found herself needing intense stabilization for addictions and mental health, which included attending detox, treatment, and working consistently with counsellors and the Community Recovery Team. Even while not actively working, she would state how important the job was to her and how positively it impacted her life. It remained a goal for her to begin work with ATE again when she was able. Upon completing treatment and securing long-term housing through the My Homes, Katrina reached her goal of working with Action to Employment again.

Katrina has worked consistently with the program for over 8 months and has become an asset to the team with her hard work, dedication, ability to be solution-focused at team meetings, and overall positive attitude. Saving her money to complete her other goals has been a priority, and she has been able to successfully finish off her payments to SGI, from charges incurred when she was younger. This has allowed her to get her learner's license, with the goal of obtaining her driver's license soon. Katrina continues to spend her money on healthy outlets for herself that will set her up for independence. Katrina has also remained sober and continues to work with her supports, create healthy boundaries, and has new goals for her future.



*It's a really good job for kids like us who have trouble being social. It also helped me grow independently as a person."*

*– Justine-Crew Member*





**Brynlee** was referred to EGADZ emergency housing in November of 2023. Having grown up with family where addictions were prevalent, Brynlee took on the responsibility of ensuring that her siblings and herself were not left hungry. She disclosed to staff that she often obtained the money for food in exchange for selling herself. This left Brynlee encountering trauma, ultimately, leading to severe thoughts of suicidal ideation. Her desire for a different life kept her focused, and she was able to transfer to the Garden of Hope home where she was provided consistent around the clock support. Obtaining employment was a key goal for her, so she quickly obtained her documentation and successfully applied to work with Action to Employment for the summer months, starting July 3rd. Brynlee was a dedicated staff ensuring to she was being consistent and on time for her shifts while working hard throughout the day. Brynlee stated that working for ATE was empowering for her, as it helped with her mental health, allowed her to build new skills, and feel proud of herself for earning money through a healthy job, that will support her in her future employment endeavors.

Throughout her life, **Janice** struggled to regulate her emotions due to being brought up with abusive care providers who used anger as a tool to control her. In many ways, she also had to react in big ways to have her care providers pay any attention to her needs. For Janice, this was the only way she knew and was taught to react when something did not go her way. When Janice began work, she would often have meltdowns triggered by being late or having things, such as her makeup, not “perfect” before going to work. Janice’s employment was terminated after missing work a number of times due to her inability to adapt and regulate herself when small events would take place in the morning or at work.

Losing her employment allowed her to see how much her inability to regulate her emotions was affecting her progress in life. Janice began seeing a counselor, started medication, and committed to working on herself — not only to get another chance with Action to Employment but to aid her in her long-term independence goals. Janice was able to secure another position through her hard work and ability to plan for and adjust to the small moments that would previously impact her attendance. Janice has since developed a great work ethic and is a strong leader on the team.







*If I didn't work for ATE, I would have spent my summer in my room."*

*– Kelly-Crew Member*



A seventeen-year-old named **Simon** faced academic struggles due to anxiety. Although Simon does plan to complete his education, he is unable to do so in a regular school setting or at this time in his life. As a result, Simon had attended the Day Program and worked consistently with the Transition Outreach team to find alternatives to school. In December 2024, he received a part-time position with Action to employment. Simon was excited at the opportunity to work and contribute to his home, where he lives with his grandmother.

Simon ensures that he gets himself to work on time daily, always coming in with a positive head space, ready and excited to take on the day's work. Although continuing to face struggles with his mental health, Simon remained positive at work while attending appointments to start medication to assist him in lowering his anxiety. His commitment to the job, alongside his respect for his team, was evident when he continued to come to work even when not feeling well due to medication changes. Simon was able to learn how to properly communicate with his team and the importance of calling in sick when unable to focus on the work due to illness.

Simon had been a daily marijuana user, however, has since stopped as he wants to remain sober and focused on work, ensuring that he is coming daily with a clear head, also stating that the job has given him purpose and meaning, so he does not feel the need to use daily anymore. Simon continues to excel at work, with his team, and in his independence, picking up extra shifts whenever available.



*ATE has given me something to do during the day and I don't feel bored."*

*– Carl-Crew Member*



**Danny** began working for Action to Employment in the summer of 2024. This was Danny's first job, and he was very nervous to begin. Danny had difficulty navigating professional boundaries with his teammates, which led to difficult dynamics. Danny remained consistent in coming to work and was eager to work on communication, boundaries, and professionalism. He met regularly with the crew supervisor and coordinator to work through the issues he was facing and set up skills on how to deal with them appropriately in a solution focused way that was not only good for him but the entire team. Danny remained focused and was open and ready to feedback in order to grow. As a result, he learned the staples of the workforce including how to call in sick properly, how to schedule holidays, how to effectively communicate, and practice professionalism.

Through acquiring these skills and his strong work ethic, in January, Danny applied for, and received, a new job in the community as a construction worker.



*I was able to work as a youth with ATE. Before working with ATE, it felt like I was going to fail in the world because I didn't know anything. Afterwards, I gained employment in the community for a year at another company. I realized that I wanted to further my skills and applied for a staffing position with EGADZ. I gained the position of Action to Employment Staff, where I'm now the staff responsible for the operation of ATE fulltime, supporting youth in the way I used to be supported. Working with Action to Employment has given me the stability to live comfortably"*

– Bethany-Crew Member



## BABY STEPS

The Baby Steps program was designed to offer mothers, whose children have been placed in care, the opportunity to live with their children while addressing the concerns raised by the Ministry of Social Services that led to their children's removal. The program provides a supportive, family-like environment, where staff are available around the clock to assist mothers in caring for their children and help them develop their parenting skills. It also offers preventative support for mothers at risk of losing custody of their children, allowing them to enter the program and work on resolving the issues, all while living in a safe and nurturing home. Additionally, the support staff help parents create personal plans, which may include learning skills to cope with addiction, mental health issues, pursuing education, or securing employment.

The program can accommodate up to 10 clients at a time, including both mothers and children. There is no set duration for their stay, as the focus is on working closely with families to make lasting, healthy changes that will support their long-term wellbeing.



From April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025

**14** mothers and **34** children resided within the Baby Steps Program.

**29** of which came to Baby Steps under apprehension status.

**4** children under a Parental Services Agreement with the ministry as a preventative measure with their parent.

**20** of the children came into the home on emergency.

**Mah’s Place and Cameron House**

Mah’s Place and Cameron House serve as second-stage housing options within the Baby Steps continuum. Both locations can house two families each. Mah’s Place, located next door to Baby Steps, is specifically designed to help mothers and their children transition to independent living. It serves as the final step before full custody is granted, or as a resource for mothers at risk of losing their children.

Cameron House is intended for mothers who are ready to take on more independence, or for independent mothers who remain vulnerable. This home provides a greater level of independent living while offering additional support. Services include respite care, parenting guidance, life skill building, assistance with goal planning, and help with managing appointments.

**From April 1st 2024 to March 31st 2025, Baby Steps Outreach supported 79 mothers.**

Statistics	
Client Support	2676
Community Connection	177
Education	79
Employment	36
Justice	47
Health	77
Life skill building	184
Mental Health	125
Nutrition (grocery)	132
Parenting Support	251
Social Services liaison	46
Transportation	1692



**Mia** never knew her biological mother and father and had been raised by her maternal grandparents until she was taken into care at 13 years old. Throughout her upbringing, Mia was exposed to an environment influenced by addictions, which in turn, led her into a life of addictions and homelessness for her. Once she gave birth to her daughter, they both entered family treatment together in Moose Jaw. While in treatment, Mia was informed that the mother she knew was not her biological mother and that she had been adopted. Unfortunately, she could not get any information or answers to who her biological parents were as her grandmother had passed away. This contributed to Mia spiralling into a relapse, removal from the treatment program, and her child going into the care of the Ministry of Social Services. Eventually, she was arrested on an array of serious charges and taken



into custody. Mia came to Baby Steps on house arrest and with an electronic ankle monitor from Pine Grove Correctional Centre. She immediately settled in and began working with the Baby Steps Outreach to get herself into the Possibilities Treatment Program in Saskatoon. Staff took over communications with the Probation Officer for Mia as it was very difficult for her to reach him. It seemed that he would answer our calls over hers and confirming her whereabouts when he would make mistakes on the schedule was crucial, or she could have been breached and sent back to jail. Having a mom on an electronic monitor also presents another considerable challenge. Mia had limited mobility due to her restricted, timed outings and as a result, we had to heavily rely on the Baby Steps staff for assistance with transportation and to ensure that she was where she was supposed to be at all times.

Things seemed to be going quite well until one evening when staff noticed a drastic change in her behaviour. The decision was made to have Mia do a drug test which ended up being positive for meth. Mia was temporarily removed from the home for safety, and to decide whether she was ready for our program. During her short time away, she was able to get herself into treatment and was hoping to have an opportunity to come back to Baby Steps with her daughter. Once she had completed, Mia returned to Baby Steps and began attending the Possibilities Treatment Day Program. She worked hard at learning as much as she could and welcomed extra support and guidance in the areas of cooking, nutrition, and routine. Her daughter came to Baby Steps quite under-weight from her previous placement, and Mia did not have the knowledge or understanding. Staff began teaching Mom how to cook more high protein meals and crafted a feeding routine.

By July, Mia had successfully regained full custody of her child, and to celebrate her success and

this significant milestone, the staff prepared a dinner and cake. After a few weeks of Mia having full custody, Mia ultimately decided it was time to transition out of the program and begin her independent journey in the community with her daughter. To date, Mia and her daughter and doing well in the community.



 *Baby Steps has helped me become a better mom because they supported my daughter and I in every way possible, the staff guided me in everyday situations and when I needed help with my daughter they made sure I had it. They supported me through my recovery and taught me no matter what I'm going through that I am not alone and my feeling matter. Baby Steps made me and my daughter develop a healthy routine and healthy habits. Baby Steps will always feel like home and a safe place for both of us. I feel very thankful and blessed that I had the pleasure of having lived and learnt from the program and anyone thinking about reaching out for help from them I would highly recommend."*

-BP

**Elena** is a young mother who was facing the daunting challenge of homelessness, which jeopardized her ability to maintain custody of her baby. Her family struggled with addictions, and she was also a victim of sexual abuse as a child. Elena entered the Baby Steps Program, and due to the tremendous amount of trauma she had endured, she was reluctant to accept staff's support. By the end of the first week, Elena was trusting the environment and began engaging and opening up. While living in the program she utilized staff as much as she could for education, insight, and skill-building. A key area of focus for her was establishing a routine, something she had not been accustomed to due to her long period of homelessness. With the assistance of the staff, she worked on creating a routine for both her and her son, which brought structure and stability to their lives. Elena also had a strong passion for cooking but was unsure of what foods and when to start introducing those foods to meet her baby's nutritional needs. Through her work with the staff, Elena gained confidence in her knowledge of nutrition and felt more equipped to care for her son. During their time in the program, Elena and her son became ill. Staff were supportive, offering breaks when needed and teaching Elena important strategies for managing her son's care while he was sick.

In three short months, mom was able to accomplish all of her set goals and more, and her file was closed with the Ministry. Elena and her son now reside in the community, where they continue to build on the progress they made during their time in the Baby Steps Program.



**Alice** is a vibrant 4-year-old girl who came to the program as an emergency placement due to her parents' struggles with addiction. She was initially placed with family members, alongside some of her siblings, and lived with them until the age of 3. Unfortunately, Alice was removed from the home because of domestic violence and ongoing substance abuse issues. Following this, she entered care and was welcomed into Baby Steps. When she first arrived, she was a shy and withdrawn little girl, often displaying emotional outbursts that seemed to come out of nowhere. She would sometimes hit, spit, throw objects at staff, and even threaten to harm herself. Staff recognized that these behaviors were signs of deep emotional distress, and they responded with patience and care. They provided a safe space for Alice to process her feelings, gently guiding her to use words instead of actions to express her emotions. This consistent support has taught Alice to articulate her feelings and work with others to find healthy solutions, instead of resorting to self-harm or aggression. She has made remarkable progress and not only speaks about her emotions, but has also learned to use "gentle hands" when interacting with younger children and babies. Her time at Baby Steps also revealed that Alice thrived in environments where she was appropriately challenged. With the assistance of her worker, staff helped enroll her in preschool, where she has flourished. She enjoys school immensely, as it provides a wonderful balance of social interaction, learning, and play activities that truly captivate her. In addition to the emotional support Alice has received, staff advocated for her to participate in Thera play, which has further enhanced her development. This extra layer of support has been a valuable resource in helping Alice grow emotionally and socially. Now, Alice is a joyful, energetic little girl who loves to dance, sing, and share her happiness with others. She continues to reside at Baby Steps while awaiting a family placement, where she is thriving as a happy, funny child with a bright future ahead.



**Raine** was an expectant mother whose life had been marked by trauma, exploitation, and addiction. As a child, her parents' struggles with addiction led her to consistently seek out a safe space. During her early teens, she found EGADZ and began utilizing the Drop-In and Outreach programs for supper, school support, and emotional care. At 16 years old, she entered into the Ministry of Social Services' 16/17 Program and moved into an EGADZ My Home. She thrived academically and was determined to focus on building a better future. Eventually, she transitioned into the community with a full-time job and an apartment of her own. A few years later, Raine reached out for help as she was involved in an emotionally and physically abusive relationship that was fueled by addictions. For the first time in her life, she was struggling with an addiction to crystal meth, and it had caused her to fall into a deep psychosis. While working with support, she discovered she was pregnant. Staff assisted Raine with detoxing and treatment plans, and supported her through the processes. She was also given a placement at Mah's Place to escape the domestic violence and to provide 24/7 support for her mental health.

Raine's commitment to delivering a healthy baby was successful, but she then struggled with postpartum. Her mental health challenges were difficult for her to manage at times, but by living next door to Baby Steps she was able to rely heavily on Baby Steps staff. Staff were there when she was feeling low, guided her during overwhelming moments with the baby and cared for the baby when mom needed to rest. A significant part of Baby Steps' support was focused on caring for her daughter. On many occasions, Raine reached out to staff in moments of panic regarding her baby's well-being. Staff would assess the situation, help to determine if it was an emergency, and offer guidance on how to handle the situation. With continued support from staff, Raine gained the confidence and tools necessary to quiet her anxieties, and her panic gradually lessened. A few months after

giving birth to her first child, she discovered she was pregnant again. After many discussions and weighing all her options with staff, Raine felt confident in her ability to move forward with the pregnancy. She eventually felt she had the tools and knowledge to take another step and transitioned into the EGADZ Sweet Dreams Program.



*They helped me with budgeting and gave me and my kids a safe place to stay until I got back on my feet. They helped me succeed and reach goals I wanted to reach. They care about your wellbeing and want what's best for you and your kid's. The staff are very caring and hands on. Helping you get to where you need to be in life."*

- AM

**Becca** is a 29-year-old single mother to three children currently living in the community. Becca's formative years were marred by instability due to an absent father and a mother struggling with addictions. As a result, Becca spent much of her childhood living with various family members, group homes, and foster homes. Growing up in this type of chaotic environment skewed Becca's sense of what a healthy and stable home looks like, causing her to seek out, and remain in, unhealthy relationships. In May of 2024, fleeing a domestic violence relationship, Becca moved into Mah's place with her children. Despite Becca's struggles, she was accustomed to living and parenting independently and was initially hesitant to accept help. Baby Steps Outreach staff understood her reluctance, allowed her time, and space to adjust, while encouraging her to utilize the support when needed. Moving at a pace Becca felt comfortable with, Baby Steps Outreach staff assisted with budgeting her finances, enrolling in codependency classes, and finding a counsellor to help work through her mental health challenges. Another aspect of Becca's home life that was

causing stress was the erratic behavior of one of her daughters. Support staff assisted Becca with making appointments for her daughter to obtain an assessment, which resulted in her obtaining an ADHD diagnosis. Becca has gained invaluable knowledge, skills/tools, and has a stronger understanding of her daughter's behaviours — thus being more equipped to deescalate conflict within the home. Becca and her children spent 1 year at Mah's Place rebuilding their lives and recently moved out into an apartment in the community. Although she was a little apprehensive about living independently, she is confident in her abilities and in the skills, she gained during her time at Mah's Place.



**Amber** is a 29-year-old mother of one, whose journey has been one marked by both hardship and resilience, leading her to a place of hope and progress. Raised in a tumultuous environment, her childhood was shaped by both parents battling addictions and a father who was largely absent from her life. Despite the difficulties at home, Amber had siblings who were leading healthier lives, which helped to provide some stability. When her mother suddenly passed away, she was unexpectedly moved into a group home, and during that time, she gave birth to her son. Although she faced immense challenges, the experience of motherhood in the group home was a transformative one. She completed her Grade 12 education, enrolled in Post Secondary education, and began to build a life for her and her son. As the years passed, the pressures of life became overwhelming, and Amber began struggling with alcohol. She lost focus on herself, her education, and almost lost her son. With the help of EGADZ, she was able to keep her son in her care and began focusing on his well being, her mental health and addictions, and her education. This period in her life was not easy, but it marked the beginning of her path toward recovery and healing. Amber again moved back into the community, but her journey took another difficult turn when, once again, her struggles with addictions led to the loss of custody of her son. However, her son was placed with her extended family, who were able to provide him with a stability and a loving environment. Determined to turn her life around, she attended treatment and moved into Cameron House. She worked with Baby Steps and Parent Support Staff and attended therapy and participated in programming to address her mental health and addictions recovery. She also worked on budgeting to address her financial issues. Staff helped her with her resume and she eventually found a full-time job that she enjoys. Amber has also learned how to navigate the city's transit bus system — a small, but significant victory in her journey toward independence. She has now regained custody of her son, and he is thriving in his new home with mom and excelling



in school. Amber continues to work on providing him a stable and loving environment, and their relationship is growing stronger. She is in a healthy supportive relationship with her partner, who is respectful and understanding of both her and her son's needs. Together, they are planning to move into the community and are due to have a child in summer. She continues to connect with Staff, attends all of her prenatal appointments and is repaying her debt to SGI to regain her driver's license. She also plans on attending Post Secondary School next year to complete her degree. With the support of Baby Steps and Parent Support Staff, and a deep desire to create a better life for her and her son, she is now looking forward to a brighter future.

## DAY SUPPORT PROGRAM

The EGADZ Day Support Program is a transitional initiative that provides specialized services for youth aged 12-18 years old who are either involved, or at risk of becoming involved with, the criminal justice system. Youth support workers provide daily programming to help the youth reintegrate into a mainstream educational setting. The program receives referrals from a variety of sources, including the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Corrections and Policing, Ministry of Social Services, school divisions, community organizations, and self or family referrals.





Tailored to meet the specific needs of each individual youth, the program equips them with the skills and resources necessary for a successful return to an educational setting, as well as employment and training initiatives. Through a supportive, nonjudgmental environment, youth are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions and acknowledge their need for support, allowing them to heal and make meaningful progress toward their goals.

**From April 1st, 2024-March 31st, 2025 the Day Program provided 96 youth with programming**

Statistics	
Males receiving services	55
Females receiving services	40
Trans Individuals receiving services	1
Average age of clients	16
Successful transition to educational placement	8
Number of youths who reoffended	6

Consistency and routine are both key factors in ensuring that youth are given the optimal opportunity for success. Daily wake-up calls, transportation to and from programming, structured educational engagement, which includes hands on learning, and contributions to the operations of the day-to-day program are components that assist with breaking down barriers and creating a positive sense of self in the youth. We offer nutrition, advocacy, assistance with medical, mental health, and justice related appointments. Addictions resources are provided to youth on a regular basis, all of whom do not always have the same level of support outside of the EGADZ Day Program.

Through focusing on alternative services and options for the youth both short and long term the program allows youth alternatives to criminal behavior and navigation of the system. The ability for youth to be provided with positive support and access to resources they become more focused on rehabilitation and re-integrating into the community, thus reducing recidivism rates and safer communities.







by giving back and showing appreciation to various organizations and individuals throughout the city. Handing out coffee and warm winter gear to individuals on the streets, or entering a community-based business with a treat to express thanks, are just some examples of how the youth choose to give back to their community.

**Day Support Program Youth Services Received  
April 1st, 2024- March 31st, 2025**

Statistics	
Justice Support	527
Educational Support	590
Client Support	362
Cultural Activities	90
Life Skills	291
Recreational activities	974
Nutrition (including emergency food packs)	2044

Youth committee meetings are held at the beginning of each week, which provides youth the opportunity to recommend programming components that they feel would be beneficial to them, or interest to them. Programming in the afternoon consists of recreational activities in the community, providing opportunities for youth to participate in activities that may not otherwise be available to them. These activities allow the youth to develop new physical and social skills and strengthen their relationship with like-minded peers.

Once a week Day Program staff and youth participate in Random Acts of Kindness in their community,





**SCHOOL SUPPORT**

The EGADZ School Support Program aims to provide inclusive assistance to high-risk youth, their guardians, community youth workers, and schools, all with the goal of fostering educational success. Youth aged 12 -18 can be referred to the program through the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Social Services, the Public and Catholic School Divisions, family members or guardians, and other community members. Each morning, youth support workers provide the youth with wake-up calls, healthy snacks or fruit, and bus tickets as they drop them off at school. The program provides support in the form of school supplies, clothing/winter gear, and hygiene supplies to ensure that youth are equipped to make their educational journey a success. During these drives, many youths open up about the challenges they are facing, creating valuable opportunities for connection and trust. These one-on-one moments are essential to the program, as they help staff better understand and provide support with navigating the obstacles the youth are facing, ensuring more personalized and effective support to create success.

**School Support Youth Receiving Services April 1st, 2024-March 31st, 2025**

**Statistics**

Total Clients Served	40
Males Receiving Services	19
Females Receiving Services	19
Trans Individuals Receiving Services	2
Average Age of Clients	16

Over the past year, there has been a notable increase in school support referrals from the justice system. Most of the youth referred to the program are actively participating, and many have shown improvements in their school attendance as a result of the support provided. No School Support youth have re-offended this year. The majority will be transitioning away from this support for the next school year, as they have developed the skills to maintain a healthy routine and stability in their everyday lives, gaining more skills towards independence.

**School Support Services Received April 1st, 2024-March 31st, 2025**

**Statistics**

Client Support	211
Nutrition	264
Justice Support	37
Transportation	827





**Jackie** attended traditional high school from January to March 2023 when, she was expelled due to a physical altercation. Shortly after her expulsion, she was charged with aggravated assault, which led to her referral to First Avenue Campus. Jackie began attending First Avenue Campus in May 2023 and participated in the Day Program that summer. However, after that summer, she remained at First Avenue only for the first three weeks of the new school year before losing contact with staff for the remainder of the year. In August 2024, Jackie reached out and scheduled a meeting with the Day Program supervisor. The meeting, which was attended by both Jackie and her mother, included Jackie sharing that she had been sober from marijuana and alcohol for the past five months — a statement confirmed by her mother. She expressed her renewed ambition and goal of eventually transferring to the high school where her girlfriend attends. Jackie acknowledged that it would take time and effort, and that proving herself in the Day Program would be key to achieving her goal.

This marked the most focused and determined Jackie had been since becoming involved with the Day Program. Between August and November 2024, she maintained excellent attendance, and consistent engagement within the program. Jackie was able to transition to the Omega Program, where she continued to receive support from School Support through rides and assistance with homework. She attended this program for two and a half months before successfully achieving her goal of transitioning to a mainstream high school of her choice.

In January 2025, Jackie was sentenced for the aggravated assault charge and is currently on probation. Since being charged in 2023, she has not committed any further offenses. She remains a full-time student and continues to receive support from the program youth workers





*I started Day Program, and with the help of the staff, I got back into high school."*

**Kane** has been in and out of the Day Program since the fall of 2023, after being referred by his probation officer. Having only attended a couple of weeks of Grade 9 the year before, he had been out of school too long for any traditional high school to enroll him. During that time, he had been charged with various offenses, including assault, vehicle theft, and multiple breaches. He resides in a home with his mother and younger siblings, where he takes on a parenting role due to language barriers with his mother. Kane did not take his initial stints in the Day Program seriously, showing poor attendance and a lack of involvement. He was also involved in an incident outside the program with another youth and

faced additional probation breaches, primarily for violating curfew.

After these breaches, Kane went on the run, and the program lost contact with him. Eventually, staff learned of his reincarceration. Upon his release, he advocated for himself to return to the Day Program. With a renewed commitment to his attendance, he excelled and again advocated to be referred to First Avenue Campus.

Kane has been enrolled at First Avenue Campus a total of three times. In his first two attempts, he was disengaged and appeared unprepared to participate, showing little interest in being in the classroom. However, a noticeable positive change occurred during the summer of 2024. He started attending regularly, worked out at EGADZ Wakaw camp, and participated joyfully in the annual Day Program camping trip.

When September 2024 arrived, Kane returned to First Avenue Campus, but his enrollment lasted only two days as he was involved in a major incident with other youth at the EGADZ Centre, which led to criminal charges. Despite this setback, those two days marked the most engaged he had been in the classroom. Following the incident, Kane was no longer allowed on EGADZ property or permitted to use any of EGADZ's services. Fast forward to February 2025, when Kane met with the Programs Manager and Executive Director of EGADZ to discuss returning to the Day Program and being allowed back on EGADZ property. During the meeting, he took full responsibility for his actions during the incident and received praise from his mother, who noted significant changes in his behavior. He had not reoffended and had been meeting all requirements of his court-ordered conditions. He had become more helpful at home and was utilizing community supports appropriately. Since his return, he has not reoffended, has completed his community service hours, and has been meeting with his probation officer weekly. These

positive steps were key factors in his return to EGADZ services.

The plan for Kane moving forward is for him to continue attending the Day Program, after which staff will discuss his potential re-enrollment at First Avenue Campus. He has expressed a strong desire to earn his Adult 12 education and eventually attend MC College to become a barber.

 *EGADZ has helped me change my way of negative thinking to positive. Being in Day Program has helped me turn my life around for the better."*

**Evan** was placed into a group home at the age of eight by his mother due to behavioral issues, including violent behavior towards other children while living with her. After spending two years in this home, his grandfather agreed to take him in. However, this placement lasted only two weeks before breaking down due to continued behavioral issues. Evan returned to the group home, where he resided until the age of 15. At that point, he returned to live with his grandfather, and during this time, he and his then-girlfriend became parents. This is when Evan first connected with EGADZ through the Teen Parenting Program. A few months later, he was enrolled in the EGADZ School Support Program, beginning his high school education.

Unfortunately, Evan's time in high school was short-lived due to an altercation with a teacher, which resulted in his expulsion and referral to the Opening Doors Program. This is a transitional, alternative program for youth experiencing challenges in the classroom. Evan's enrollment there was brief, and once off the roll, he continued down a path of high-risk, destructive behavior. He was referred to the Day Program by his community youth worker in the fall of this year.

Throughout his adolescence, Evan has faced several charges, including common assault, mischief, robbery while wearing a mask, and an aggravated assault charge, as well as multiple probation breaches. These breaches were often related to curfew violations and alcohol/drug consumption. Evan's first charge occurred at the age of 13, with subsequent charges at 15 and 16. Struggling with instability at home, mental health challenges, and negative peer influences all contributed to the downward spiral he was





on. When he began in the Day Program, he faced challenges with authority and exhibited some behavioral issues, but he worked hard to correct them. Since entering the program, staff have noticed significant maturation in Evan and his behavior. He engages well in all aspects of the program, often being one of the first youth to offer to help when he can. He was able to complete his community service hours as well as his probation order while attending the Day Program. He is now awaiting enrollment for the fall at a traditional high school, where he plans to pursue his Adult 12 education.

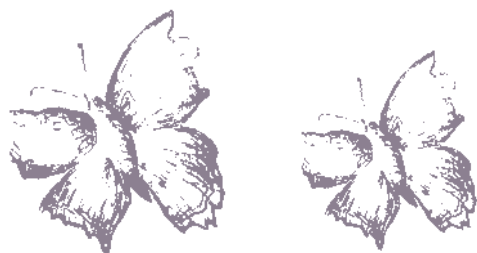


**Ryan** began his high school journey in September 2022, after accruing charges the summer before for assault with a weapon. His time there was brief, ending two months later due to an incident involving the transportation services arranged by his community supports for his daily commute. As a result, he was left without a reliable way to get to school and began spending his days with a negative peer group. Growing up in a family surrounded by criminal justice involvement, gang activities, and addictions, Ryan was especially vulnerable to the lifestyle. He was on a dangerous path, demonstrating behavior that mirrored the footsteps of his parents and siblings.

In 2023, Ryan was referred to the Day Program by his probation worker, and after stabilizing and establishing a routine, he was referred to the First Avenue Campus (FAC). His progress at FAC was initially slow, as dysfunction at home—including caring for his younger siblings, exposure to abuse between his mother and her partner, and his brother's recurring incarcerations—created significant barriers. Despite these challenges, staff recognized Ryan's potential and adjusted case plans to support his small but meaningful successes. At times, he attended half days at FAC and spent the other half in the Day Program. Over time, Ryan made critical changes: he moved out of his mother's home, quit alcohol, and distanced himself from negative peer influences. By early 2024, he had earned two high school credits at FAC and successfully transitioned to a traditional high school for morning classes, while continuing to attend FAC in the afternoons for academic support. With consistent help from EGADZ School Support, Ryan maintained regular attendance and earned two additional credits that semester, demonstrating significant growth and commitment to his education.

In September 2024, Ryan enrolled full-time at a new high school, where he continues to benefit from School Support services. Throughout the year, staff have maintained regular communication

with the school administration, and everyone is incredibly proud of Ryan's dedication and strong work ethic. In addition to his academic progress, Ryan has been an active member of the EGADZ Youth Engagement team and has been working with the Transitional Outreach team to continue advancing in his life. His exceptional resilience has been evident, and this year, he successfully completed his probation without any breaches or reoffences, marking a significant milestone in his personal growth.



**Michael** grew up in a safe, stable home with his father until his unexpected passing, which led to Michael moving to Saskatoon to live with his mother. The grief over his father's death has weighed heavily on him and continues to affect him today. In March 2022, Michael and his three siblings were taken into care due to child neglect, physical abuse, and his mother's unhealthy lifestyle choices. As a result, he was separated from his younger siblings and placed in a group home for boys. Michael began attending the Day Program in December 2022, where he initially struggled with trusting others. He was slow to build positive relationships with staff and experienced anxiety and depression that caused him to shut down. Despite these challenges, Michael remained consistent in his attendance, gradually allowing staff to build connections and support him.

Despite being out of school for six years, Michael made significant progress in the Day Program. In September 2023, he took a major step by enrolling in the Functionally Integrated classroom at a traditional high school, with support from EGADZ and the School Support staff.

During the 2023/2024 school year, Michael attended high school on a half-day basis. Initially, he struggled with consistent attendance and often preferred staying in the Day Program rather than going to school. However, by the second half of the school year, he began attending his half days more regularly. For the 2024/2025 school year, he is now enrolled full-time, with a course load that includes Cree, English, Physical Education, and Drama. EGADZ School Support continues to assist him with transportation to school in the mornings, and on non-school days, he attends the EGADZ Day Program.

In January of this year, Michael faced challenges with his mental health, including suicidal ideation and self-harming behaviors. He was feeling overwhelmed by the recent loss of his father's home, worried that he would lose the memories of his father that he cherished most. Proactively

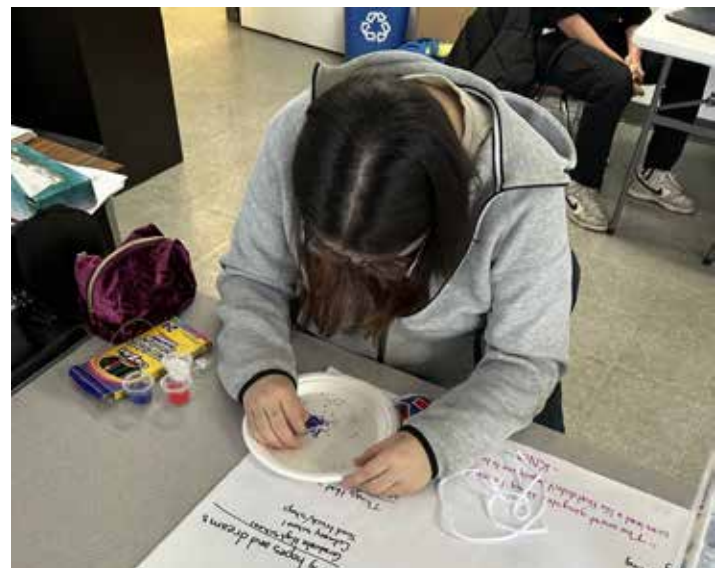
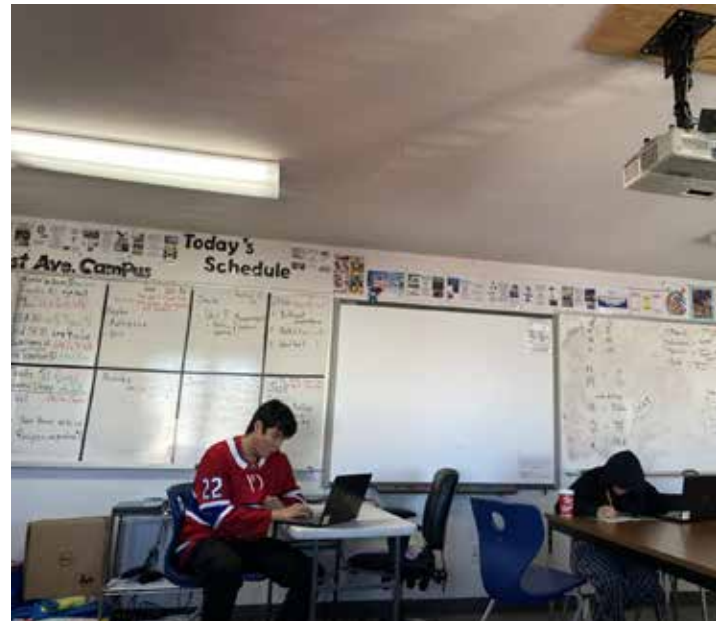


identifying his need for help, Michael reached out to staff, who took him to the hospital. He was open and honest about his intentions, advocating for himself in a clear and effective manner. His medication was adjusted, and he was prescribed a new one, along with a quick referral to meet with his psychiatrist. Staff worked closely with his care provider, counselor, and social worker to ensure he received immediate support. Michael's ability to communicate his needs played a crucial role in ensuring a rapid and effective response from staff, which was vital in keeping him safe from harm. With the adjustments to his medication, continued counseling, and wrap-around support, Michael has found stability in his mental health once again, marking over two and a half years of positive growth and development.

 *I like all the EGADZ supports."*

## FIRST AVENUE CAMPUS

First Avenue Campus (FAC) is a unique educational program that exemplifies the power of collaboration between organizations to support vulnerable youth. In partnership with the Saskatoon Catholic and Public-School Divisions, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Education, FAC serves as a transitional satellite school for youth involved with the criminal justice system. The program focuses on providing educational opportunities for youth aged 12-18, helping them reintegrate into traditional school settings by offering a structured and supportive environment. The classroom provides an opportunity for youth to enroll on a part-time or half-day basis, as assessed by their individual needs.



**From April 1st, 2024-March 31st, 2025 FAC had a total of 12 students enrolled**

**Statistics**

Total Referrals Received	28
Credits Received	9
Transitions to mainstream school placements	4
Chose to stop attending/left school	4
Justice Support	185
Nutrition	563

In addition to criminal justice involvement, youth referred to FAC face additional barriers that hinder their opportunity to complete their education. These can include housing insecurity, lack of transportation to school, limited access to necessary community resources such as counseling and legal support, and unmet basic needs such as adequate nutrition and clothing. FAC helps students work through these barriers by providing essential support, including ensuring that basic needs are met, such as access to food and stable housing. Additionally, FAC gives youth the opportunity to develop a daily routine and offers individualized lesson plans to meet the unique needs of each student.

With a small class size and dedicated staff, composed of a teacher from the Saskatoon Public School Division and a youth support worker from EGADZ, students receive personalized attention to help improve their literacy and math skills while also allowing them the opportunity to earn high school credits, which are crucial for reintegration into regular schools. The low student-to-teacher ratio fosters a safe, non-judgmental space where communication is open, and students feel supported in multiple areas of their lives while working toward their academic goals.







**Jane** was raised by her family in Alberta before moving to Saskatoon in 2023 to reside with her grandmother. Not long after her return to the city, her mother passed away, which triggered many traumatic memories for Jane. Unable to develop healthy coping mechanisms, she sought comfort from a negative peer group, which led to increased behavioral issues linked to her risky choices, including substance use. In the summer of 2024, an incident occurred that led to Jane being charged with aggravated assault. As a result, she was no longer able to attend her high school due to no-contact charges. Jane chose to use this as her motivation to get herself back on track by advocating for herself to begin Grade 9 classes at FAC.

During her early weeks at FAC, Jane was engaged and excelling in math. However, her attendance began to decline in November, and her mood started to affect her productivity. When frustrated, she would disengage from staff and miss class. In response, staff took proactive steps to better support her, offering improved communication and providing transportation, even when she was late to respond in the morning. Jane quickly accepted the additional support and began to develop trust with the staff. Having previously struggled to build trusting relationships with

adults in the helping field, as she felt abandoned by people in the past whom she had felt close to, her growth in this area allowed her to become less guarded and communicate more directly, eventually opening up about her home life, charges, and mental health challenges, which she stated impacted her ability to focus and attend school regularly.

She has been able to set boundaries in class when not in the right mindset and verbalizes her needs for breaks or help with ease. This shift has allowed her to stay engaged, overcoming difficult days without disengaging or missing extended periods of school. She has expressed interest in earning a Grade 10 Math Credit while at FAC, which will support her long-term goal of graduating from Grade 12 and pursuing her career in cosmetology. Jane is set to return to mainstream high school in the fall of 2025.



*Thanks to Ian and Jenna, now I know how to do long division."*

After spending her first couple of years living in care, at 2-years-old **Julie** was provided a safe and stable home with her grandmother. Despite this, not having a relationship with either of her parents left Julie seeking answers to her background and lacking a sense of belonging. In order to fill this void, she began associating with a high- risk peer group, being groomed for a gang and exposed to criminal behaviour. She began drinking alcohol at the age of 12, and quickly developed a serious addiction, often being intoxicated every day of the week. Julie began attending the Day Program in January 2024 after being released from custody. Initially, she was thriving in the program and maintaining her sobriety, but after a few weeks, she experienced a relapse, which contributed to the events that led to her arrest in the spring of 2024. Unfortunately,

she faced a serious charge of robbery and assault, which led to her immediate re-incarceration at Kilburn Hall.

Currently, Julie is enrolled in three morning classes, with the option for afternoon support through the Day Program or FAC, if needed. She is thriving academically, and with a slow integration back into the freedoms of everyday life, Julie has demonstrated skills to avoid negative peer influences and engage in positive relationships, which had historically been one of her biggest barriers. In March, she was released from custody on a community supervision order for the remainder of her sentence. Since returning to the community, she has maintained her routine, sobriety, and continues to utilize her support system. She works with the FAC youth support worker to attend outpatient addictions appointments, meetings with her probation officer, and receives general support when she needs someone to talk to.



*Being enrolled in FAC helped me transition back to main stream high school."*





**Cory** transitioned from the Day Program to half-days at FAC in December, seeking one-on-one support to reintegrate into school for the first time since completing Grade 8 in 2022. He initially enrolled in the Day Program in October after moving to Saskatoon from Alberta with his dad to live with his mom. Cory was on probation for serious charges and struggled with alcohol and opioid addictions. After relocating to Saskatoon, he felt safer and, with stability and stricter rules at home, Cory became motivated to avoid negative peer influences and decrease his substance use. He engaged with staff to learn how to set healthy boundaries with his peers and avoid situations where conflict could arise, while actively utilizing his supports through EGADZ to continue working on his addiction.

While Cory completed a 3-month outpatient group program for his addiction, he faced a relapse that set him back mentally. However, due to his commitment to improvement and the relationships he developed with staff, Cory was able to reach out when he was feeling the effects of withdrawal, asking staff to help get him into detox. With encouragement, he made the call and secured a spot the next day. As school remained a priority, Cory worked with his classroom teacher to ensure homework was provided so that he wouldn't fall behind while focusing on his sobriety. While in detox, he connected with the nurse practitioner and worked on adjusting his anxiety medication. Upon his return to the classroom, Cory continued working toward completing his credit.

Cory has a passion for cooking and hopes to work in a kitchen when he is older, which led him to enroll in Foods 30 at FAC. He thrives in a hands-on learning environment and often assists Day Program staff with meal preparation, creating recipes he has planned himself. He takes pride in crafting new dishes, researching, preparing, and planning them, and these dishes have been well-received by both youth and staff in the building.

When he is not in the kitchen, Cory spends his mornings in the classroom, writing recipe plans, reflecting on his work, and preparing his final nutrition presentation.

Cory has made significant progress at EGADZ through his consistent attendance and willingness to accept support. After receiving his Foods 30 credit, he will begin his Math 10 class and is on track to earn that credit by the end of the school year. Plans are being made with Cory to transition to a traditional high school in the fall. His goal is to graduate through the Adult 12 pathway, with credits earned at FAC contributing to this achievement.



**Sonny** began attending full days at FAC in October 2023. Prior to this, he was enrolled in a traditional high school and was excelling, on track to graduate. Unfortunately, he acquired serious charges, and no traditional high school was willing to accept his enrollment. The conditions of his charges are significant and will not be concluded until the fall of 2025. Although Sonny was turning 18, FAC remained his only option, which is why he continued his enrollment for this school year.

Initially, Sonny struggled to understand how to move forward with his goal of graduating high school after this setback, given his extended disengagement from education. However, with significant support from the FAC teacher, he gained a clearer understanding of the Adult 12 pathway and how to work toward it. He has now completed four high school credits at FAC with excellence and is on track to earn his Grade 12 diploma, needing only one semester in adult programming during the 2025/2026 school year to finish his studies. Sonny has shown an interest in post-secondary education and aspires to become a police officer one day.

This was Sonny's first and only involvement with the justice system. In addition to academic support, he has worked hard to meet his probation requirements, which include regular check-ins with his probation officer, transportation to mandated counseling sessions, and completing 100 community service hours at EGADZ by February 2025. Sonny schedules all of his appointments on his own, and when he feels he needs support to attend or a debrief afterward, he utilizes the youth support worker.

Although Sonny has been committed to part-time employment since Grade 10 and finds academics relatively easy, one of his primary challenges at traditional high school was irregular attendance and getting into trouble outside of class. At FAC, regular attendance became one of his main goals and remained relatively stable for most of his time here. Sonny has stated that he enjoys attending FAC because of the mutual support from peers

who are also working to improve their lives, and he finds role models among some of the staff. While presenting as an independent person, Sonny has grown in his ability to recognize when he needs to ask for help. This winter, staff noticed a shift in his behavior for a brief period, and before they could address their concerns with him, he reached out to let them know he was facing challenges related to alcohol use, mental health, and a new addiction to gambling. These challenges were affecting his attendance and, at times, his mood at school. Sonny has been working with his doctor to address the alcohol use and mental health struggles but stated that he feels shame in these areas. Through conversations with staff, he explored various options for support, such as one-on-one counseling versus peer programs like AA. Sonny was not yet ready to fully accept his alcohol addiction but was extremely concerned about his gambling. While he was not in debt, he was spending his entire paychecks at times. Staff provided him with information about Gamblers Anonymous and worked with him to help identify his boundaries and limitations in this area. Sonny is on track to earn one more high school credit before the end of the school year and will transition to the School Support program in the fall when he enrolls in the Adult 12 program.





**Ben** arrived at FAC motivated to re-engage with his education after accumulating weapons and robbery charges, which impacted his opportunity to return to his high school for his Grade 11 year. He earned 8 credits during Grade 10, but as the year progressed, his attendance and engagement rapidly declined, and his involvement in risky behavior and substance use increased. Ben's referral indicated that he had been non-compliant and standoffish with teaching staff in the past. While this behavior was not observed in his first few weeks at FAC, staff later noticed that he would occasionally experience "off-days." During these days, he seemed exhausted, disengaged, and irritable. Ben linked these challenges to stress at home, which he also stated affected his sleep. On these days, staff provided Ben with space to relax and de-stress until he was in a better headspace.

He shared with staff that he had not felt sufficiently supported in school previously and appreciated the opportunity for one-on-one support at FAC. This motivation was evident through his strong engagement and productivity in the first few weeks. Despite being previously placed in "modified" coursework due to cognitive assessments done in 2020, Ben excelled in a regular Grade 11 Math course at FAC. He completed the course in just two months with near-perfect attendance, setting him up to apply for postsecondary programs in the future, particularly those that support his career goals in construction.

However, after the Christmas holidays, Ben's attendance and engagement began to decline. His progress slowed in the Financial Literacy course he was working on, and staff soon learned about some new challenges at home, which included family members often partying late into the night, keeping him up at all hours, as well as food insecurity. Once he was able to re-engage with staff and open up about these challenges, he was able to identify solutions to improve his situation, which included having a conversation with his

family and being more open in his communication with the teacher and the classroom support worker. These two changes are big successes for Ben, as he is naturally quiet. His attendance became regular again as he stated that he has found comfort and support at FAC in the little things, such as breakfast in the morning and a quiet space to get motivated for the day, as well as taking pride in his achievements so far. Staff and the teacher are committed to continuing to support him, helping him build the independence and resiliency necessary for future success. While he currently benefits from the extra support at FAC, he is working to transition back to high school next year to achieve his goal of graduating Grade 12.



*I get way more support coming to FAC, then I did at main stream high school."*



**DROP IN CENTRE**

The Drop In (the Centre) provides a welcoming and safe space for youth in the community, often being the starting point for youth in accessing EGADZ services. It offers a supportive and inclusive environment where young people can access a variety of services designed to assist positive life changes. The Centre focuses on assisting youth who face significant challenges, such as mental health concerns, substance abuse, physical health problems, difficult family situations, trauma, and financial hardships. By addressing their basic needs, fostering healthy social networks, offering positive activities, and connecting them to essential resources, the Centre helps youth navigate these challenges.

The Centre fosters a welcoming and non-judgmental space where young people can freely express themselves and work towards their personal goals. The staff prioritizes building positive and supportive relationships with the youth who visit the centre. As trust grows, youth often feel comfortable confiding in staff. The Centre offers a wide range of support, including help with issues related to school, housing, addictions, employment, justice, relationships, health, and general life challenges. Staff assess each youth's unique situation and meet them where they are, providing tailored support and connecting them to relevant community resources.



**From April 1st, 2024- March 31st, 2025 the Center Provided 747 different youth with access to services**

**Statistics**

Males	367
Females	370
Non-binary	10

747 clients accessed supports and services for a total of 6800 times.







At the Centre, ensuring that youths basic needs are met is a top priority, and providing proper nutrition is one of the most important aspects of this. Many of the youth who visit the Centre face various challenges and stresses every day and for many, the worry about where their next meal or snack will come from is just one of many burdens. The Centre has a fully equipped kitchen, and with support from the Community Initiatives Fund, is able to employ a full-time cook who prepares nutritious snacks after school and supper, Monday through Saturday. This year the Centre was also fortunate to received the Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation Nutrition for Youth and their Families grant, which allowed for fresh fruit to be provided to the youth daily.

Many of the youth who regularly attend the Centre head straight to the kitchen to grab a snack, check what is for supper, and sign up for supper contributions to help. This encourages youth to learn some essential life skills such as proper dish washing, sweeping floors, and sanitizing counters and tables. Supper is served at 5 p.m. each day, and everyone gathers to enjoy the meal. This shared time around the table fosters conversation, laughter, and connection, helping to build relationships between the youth and staff, as well as among the youth themselves.







**Nutrition Accessed April 1st, 2023-March 31st, 2024**

Statistics	
Supper	3284
After School Snack	4095
Emergency Food Pack	383

There is a growing need for additional food at home for young people and their families. To help meet this need, the Centre prepares Emergency Food Packs that are distributed to youth and their families when available. The goal of these food packs is to offer short-term assistance to youth facing difficulties and provide some relief during challenging times. These packs are primarily made possible through generous donations from the community, including Safeway's Second Harvest Food Resource Program, various Delta-chain hotels in the city through the Hotel-La Tablee des Chefs Food Recovery Program, and Olive Garden. EGADZ would also like to thank the many other individuals and businesses that donate snacks throughout the year to support youth in need.



In partnership with the Saskatoon Community Foundation-YES, as well as the Community Initiatives Fund, EGADZ received funding to offer additional summer programming for youth, four days a week outside of the Centre. One staff member accompanied up to six youth, twice daily, to participate in a variety of activities in the community. These activities included, but were not limited to, visits to historical sites to learn about history, trips to the beach, volleyball, ziplining, go-karting, swimming, Rucker's, glow bowling, mini-golfing, the Little Pine Powwow, and flower picking. A total of 55 youth participated in 161 activities this summer, all of which were chosen and planned by the youth. These activities helped foster growth and skill development, contributing to improved physical and emotional health.

During the winter months, the Centre ensures that youth have access to essential winter clothing, including boots, coats, toques, mittens, and socks. Staff prioritize ensuring that any youth who visit the Centre leave with warm, weather-appropriate clothing to keep them safe and comfortable during the colder season.

**Services Accessed April 1st, 2024-March 31st, 2025**

Statistics	
Clothing and Winter Gear	615
Personal Hygiene	180
Shower	224
Laundry	170
Transportation (Bus Ticket/Pass)	734



The Centre is also dedicated to hosting special events for youth throughout the year, celebrating various holidays such as Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, and Halloween. Staff plan special holiday-themed meals, fun activities, and events to ensure that all youth have the opportunity to participate, celebrate, and create memories with their friends in a safe environment.



Throughout the Christmas season, EGADZ is fortunate to receive donations of goods such as gifts, clothing, hygiene products, winter gear, and food from a variety of community-based businesses, schools, and individuals, as well as many in-kind donations. These contributions ensure that youth in our community have their needs met throughout the holiday season. On December 18, 2024, EGADZ hosted the annual Christmas dinner and party for all residential clients and youth under 20 years old at the Centre. Staff and clients enjoyed a home-cooked Christmas dinner, with youth and staff from all different program areas participating in its preparation. Following dinner, the special guests for the evening—Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the Grinch—arrived with gifts for all the children and youth, made possible by a generous donation from the Deplaedt Charitable Foundation. The evening concluded with games and laughter, where youth were able to win tickets and use them to buy gifts at the EGADZ Christmas store for their families and friends.









*I love the staff at the Drop In, you can easily joke around with them, and they will notice if you are not in good space.”*

**Tammy** is a 15-year-old who began attending the Centre in the summer to work on her community service hours. She is witty, smart, and enjoys engaging in conversations, often sharing jokes or stories to lighten the mood. However, behind her lively personality, Tammy struggles with significant anxiety that severely impacts her ability to attend school and maintain a routine. Combined with suicidal thoughts, her anxiety makes daily life overwhelming at times. To cope with these feelings, she has turned to drinking and smoking marijuana, which have further complicated her emotional well-being. As an adopted child, Tammy often feels a sense of disconnection from others, struggling to build relationships with her peers. Her feelings of isolation and loneliness have made it difficult for her to form lasting, meaningful friendships.

At the Centre, Tammy has found a safe space where she can openly talk about her struggles without fear of judgment. With the support of staff, she has worked to build trust with others and explore healthier coping strategies. Tammy

has been able to identify manageable goals, such as improving her school attendance and working on her resume. Through regular check-ins and ongoing support, she has slowly found the strength to work on her mental health, self-esteem, and sense of belonging—all while pursuing her goals of education and employment.

*I love coming to the drop-in centre because there is so much support, and I always feel better when I come here.”*

**Ryan** is a bright, outgoing 13-year-old who has been attending the Drop-in Centre for the past two years. He has struggled with poor decision-making, often resorting to stealing from stores to provide food for his large family and meet his own basic needs. When he began coming to the Centre, Ryan was seeking companionship and quickly came to rely on the staff and services for essential daily support—including access to nutrition, showers, clothing, and emergency food packs to take home to his family.


Despite his challenges, Ryan remained resilient and showed maturity by communicating effectively with staff to ensure he could access the support he needed to begin making healthier life decisions. He was able to shift his focus from merely surviving and providing for his family to enjoying his time at the Centre—participating in nightly activities and quickly taking the lead in group events, often encouraging others to join in. Ryan is now known around the Centre for his sense of humor and a smile that lifts the mood of everyone around him.

Ryan has told staff that he no longer engages in his old habits, instead finding healthier and more constructive ways to meet his needs while also learning valuable life skills. His growth and transformation are a testament to the positive impact the Drop-In Centre can have on young individuals facing challenging circumstances.

**Annie** is a 19-year-old facing significant challenges in her personal life. Raised in a household where her parents are often preoccupied with their own struggles, she has taken on the responsibility of caring for her younger brother. Building strong relationships with staff and engaging with her peers has become an important part of her routine, providing the emotional support and stability she has long craved.

Surrounded by positive supports, Annie was able to acknowledge the depth of her parents' addictions and revealed that her family had essentially been homeless for the past eight years, consistently moving between friends' homes, family members, or hotels. Wanting different opportunities for herself, Annie prioritized finding a job and securing stable housing. The Centre provided her with a safe space to work through her emotions, feel motivated, and take the next steps toward independence.

She is known for breaking the ice with new staff and enjoys keeping everyone updated on the latest happenings in her life, especially when it comes to her friendships. Annie has a close-knit group of friends and loves spending time with them, particularly enjoying dancing to music at the Centre.

 *The workers are very encouraging, communicative, and understands you for who you are without judgment. EGADZ is another place I call home and my family. I'm so happy my friend introduced me to EGADZ."* - N.A



**Andrew** is a refugee who arrived in Canada with his large family when he was a young child. As the oldest child in his household, with only one parent providing for them, he has faced significant challenges due to the responsibility placed on him to support his younger siblings. Because of their financial situation, he frequently visits the Drop-In Centre, where he can access essential services such as meals, laundry facilities, and emergency food packs to take home for his family. The Centre has become an important resource for him, offering both practical support and a sense of community. Living in such a large family, Andrew often struggles to receive the attention and care he needs from his mother, which is one of the reasons he finds great comfort and joy in the attention he receives from the staff at the Centre. Their support and the connection he shares with them make him feel valued and seen.

Andrew graduated from high school last year but continues to attend his high school through the Functionally Integrated Program, where he is building life skills and focusing on employment readiness. Recently, Andrew made the decision to move into an approved adult mental health home to further develop his independence and daily living skills. While his transition has not been without struggles—particularly with adjusting to house rules and the challenge of being away from his family—he continues to face these difficulties with resilience and determination. Despite these obstacles, Andrew remains committed to reaching his goals.

 *EGADZ feels like home to me because I don't have fun at my home and have it at EGADZ. It feels a lot comfortable opening up and being myself and I get to see new faces. Before I came to EGADZ, I was all quiet and nervous but now I have confidence."*



## SWEET DREAMS EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

Sweet Dreams Early Learning Center opened their doors in September of 2017. It is a licensed daycare that can accommodate up to 18 children - 6 infants, 5 toddlers, 5 preschooler and 2 flex spaces. Over the last year the Centre has provided care for 31 children. Many of the children that attend Sweet Dreams, arrived as infants and have continued until they graduated to elementary school.



Our focus is on an emergent curriculum and play-based learning, where educators take the children's lead when planning activities and topics. We continue to emphasize the development of the whole child, promoting healthy eating habits, self-care, and self-regulation. Our goal is to teach the children that they are capable and competent in any situation they encounter. Educators are dedicated to building strong, lasting relationships with each child who walks through our doors. The staff has been working hard to embrace the concept of "process over product" within the Centre. This means, rather than giving the children a craft with only one "right" way to complete it, we provide a variety of materials and encourage the children to explore and create freely, allowing their imaginations to guide them.







The staff had the pleasure of taking some of the children to a Pow Wow at the University of Saskatchewan, an experience that many of the children had never had before, especially since it was their first time using public transportation.



*Sweet Dreams has been a life saver, having a place for my children that I know they are loved and taken care while I have to go to work.”*

*- Stephine*



*I can tell how much you all care about the kiddos”*

*- Lexi*



*I always feel loved, respected and appreciated when communicating with staff members about my child”*

*- Maria*





The children spent the day listening to drumming and watching traditional dancers. One of the daycare children participated in a traditional dance, and her family brought spare ribbon skirts for the children to wear. During the grand entry, the children were invited to join in the procession. Afterward, a couple of the children had the opportunity to meet and take a photo with the Mayor of Saskatoon, Charlie Clark. By the end of the day, the children were incredibly excited to share all the fun and exciting experiences with their parents.



The children have had ample opportunities to explore the outdoors over the past year. They are taken outside as much as possible, weather permitting, to encourage exploration and active play.



This year, the children have thoroughly enjoyed playing in the rain, mud, and snow. During the warmer months, educators took the children to the Kinsmen Spray Park to cool off, and to the playground where they could engage in risk play. Bugs became a major point of interest this summer, with the children spending hours in the yard searching for ladybugs. Once one was found, they would take turns holding and examining it, fascinated by the little creatures.







For Christmas, the staff organized a special Christmas party with a surprise visit from Santa. Each child received a stuffed animal and a present, which included a new pair of Christmas pajamas and a Christmas book. Santa called each child by name, handing out their gifts, and allowing them to sit on his lap, talk to him, and take pictures. Once all the presents were handed out, the children and staff changed into their new pajamas and gathered for a group photo with Santa. After he left, the children settled down to read their new books and enjoyed a festive Christmas meal. The excitement of meeting Santa lingered for days, and the children talked about it constantly.



## FUSION 22

The Fusion 22 Program provides a safe and supportive environment for young, vulnerable families to build a strong sense of community. It offers opportunities to engage in educational and career goals, learn essential parenting and life skills, develop financial literacy, and establish healthy boundaries.

A partnership between Saskatoon Housing Authority, The Ministry of Social Services and EGADZ allows each family to have their own home and the support they need to accomplish their goals and gain full independence.

Staff also connect the families to community and introduce them to activities that are healthy, bonding and sustainable.

Narcotics Anonymous has been integrated into EGADZ's Fusion 22 programming and has been running successfully for two years. With the dedicated support of Sweet Dreams staff, the meetings are held at Fusion 22 and are open to older teens and adults living in EGADZ programs. Childcare is provided for attending parents, ensuring they can fully participate. These meetings offer vital addiction support through shared experiences of those in recovery. Participants gain a solid understanding of the 12-step process and the concept of sponsorship, preparing them for active engagement in community meetings.

**From April 1st 2024 to March 31st 2025, Fusion 22 was home to 24 adults and 29 children.**

**Chad** came to Fusion 22 at the age of 18 in November of 2022, as he was aging out of the care of the Ministry of Social Services and was not fully prepared for independent living. Over his three years at Fusion, he has overcome many personal hardships and continues to work towards a safe, stable, and independent future. His mental health is something he consistently addresses, with the support of Fusion staff and his counselor. In the beginning, learning budgeting skills was a challenge, but after months of practice with Fusion staff, Chad gained the confidence to sit down with a financial advisor to plan his financial goals and save for the future. With support in



resume building, job hunting, and skills gained through Action to Employment, Chad secured a job at a tire shop. There, he discovered a passion for automotive and mechanics, which led him to research different educational institutions. He is now working towards obtaining his driver's license, a requirement for the Mechanics Program at the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT). In the meantime, Chad applied for a full-time flooring position with a First Nations company and was hired on the spot. Through his hard work and determination, Chad has gained numerous independent living skills, confidence, and self-awareness.



**Donna** is a single mother who has faced many challenges in her life. Her childhood was marked by her family's struggles with mental health and addictions, and eventually, she too faced similar challenges. Over the years, she has lost her mother and several siblings, and the grief she carries can be overwhelming. Despite the traumatic experiences of her past, Donna has not given up on healing and creating a safe, loving life for herself and her children. After attending treatment in Saskatoon, Donna moved into Fusion 22. There, she spent two years working on isolating herself from old, harmful relationships and learning to set healthy boundaries with her family. In December of 2024, Donna recognized that she wasn't coping well and feared she might slip, so she made the brave decision to attend a family treatment center in Prince Albert for 28 days. During her time there, Donna rediscovered herself and now grounds herself through her love of beading. As a token of love and respect, she made beaded lanyards and earrings for each staff member. Donna is becoming more involved in healthy community activities with her children, and together, they have discovered a shared passion for attending the Blades Hockey games.





**Wade** is a single father of three boys, two of whom live with him at Fusion 22. Before moving into the program, Wade struggled with addiction and was involved in an incident that dramatically impacted his life. Despite these challenges, he fought hard to change his lifestyle, eventually gaining full custody of his two sons, who had been in foster care. In 2024, Wade found employment through EGADZ's Action to Employment Program and returned to school to upgrade his education. The support he's received at Fusion 22 has been instrumental in his journey toward stability and personal growth.

*During my road to recovery EGADZ has been very supportive and has offered me the tools and resources to keep me on the right path. In my time here, I have learned so much and have made so much progress in my life. From going back to school to upgrading my education, to obtaining my Learners and buying my first vehicle. These are some of the steps I have taken to better myself and it is all for my children, which is my main priority! I feel like things will only go up from here and I would not have been able to do it without the help of my EGADZ family!" -Wade*



**Alison** transitioned from the Independent My Home program into Fusion 22 in September of 2022. At the time, she had a part-time job that barely covered her basic needs. Despite not having dependents, Alison struggled with the high cost of living and found it difficult to make ends meet. Fusion staff provided her with food resources, donations, and other support to help her through this challenging period. Instead of giving up, Alison persevered and continued seeking full-time work. Eventually, she secured a position with the EGADZ Action to Employment crew, where she demonstrated her reliability, strong work ethic, and straightforward approach. Alison's dedication and leadership skills led her to a leadership role within the program, where she now runs her own crew. She continues to excel as a leader, serving as a role model and inspiring other youth in the program.

*While I still struggle with my mental health from time to time, Fusion Staff have given me the tools and support I need, while guiding me to helpful resources, such as counselling. Staff have made me feel comfortable enough to talk to them about anything that troubles me." – Alison*





**Shay** is a single mother of two beautiful little girls who has lived a tough life on the streets, enduring experiences most people will never know. She has faced many hardships, including sleeping outside and struggling to survive the harsh winter months. In April of 2024, Shay transitioned from the Baby Steps Program into Fusion 22 with her two daughters. She has worked tirelessly on her mental health, addressing addiction issues, childhood trauma, and grief. Shay actively participates in EGADZ and community programming, gathering the skills she needs to create a stable and structured future for herself and her children. Currently, she works part-time for a community agency and is enrolled in a nail course, with the goal of securing a sustainable income while continuing her education. Shay has been able to reunite her family, providing the safety and stability her children need. Despite her own struggles, she has not forgotten the pain of being homeless, cold, and hungry, and she gives back to her community by making soup and bannock to hand out to the homeless people of Saskatoon. Recently, Shay lost her mother to an overdose, and the staff at Fusion 22 have been supporting her through the grieving process. Through her resilience, Shay continues to work toward building a brighter future for her family while also helping others along the way.





**Kesha** is a single mother of two who has faced immense challenges due to mental health struggles and addiction. Before coming to the Fusion 22 Program, she and her children were homeless and living in a hotel. During this time, Kesha found herself vulnerable and, due to her difficulty in setting boundaries, was often taken advantage of. She also struggled to open up to staff and, despite her life spiraling out of control, initially refused the support offered to her. Eventually, Kesha began to acknowledge her struggles and started contemplating the need for change. She realized that treatment was the first crucial step toward turning her life around. In support of her journey, Kesha and her children were temporarily moved to the Baby Steps Program, where she could receive round-the-clock care. While she awaits entry into a formal Treatment Program, Kesha attends weekly Narcotics Anonymous meetings, sees a counselor for her mental health, and works closely with Fusion 22 staff.

Kesha has made significant progress, remaining sober for over 30 days, and is steadily moving toward healing and stability. She continues to work hard to improve her life and the future she can provide for her children.



 *First off, I would just like to thank EGADZ for helping me with a place to call home for me and my children. Secondly, I would like to also say thank you for all the support the Fusion staff has provided me with. Being a part of the Fusion 22 Program has been an amazing part of my healing journey. EGADZ has helped support me through my struggles and continues to do so, which I am very grateful for!" - Kesha*







## GROUND ZERO


Ground Zero is an emergency transitional all genders home for youth between the ages 16-18. Youth who utilize Ground Zero can stay for up to 30 days, allowing them the opportunity to stabilize and restart. During their stay youth have access to wrap around services with the ultimate goal of helping them secure and transition to long term housing. Youth stays can be extended with the approval of the Executive Director if the youth is following their plans and is awaiting long term placement. Ground Zero promotes youth-centered and youth-driven case planning, where youth are met where they are at. The family-style home includes 10 private bedrooms, access to nutrition, laundry facilities, and common living areas. Within the home there is 24/7 staffed support, a Ministry of Social Services Liaison Worker, Mental Health Nurses, Addictions Counsellors, and Mobile Outreach Services.

Youth can self refer or referrals can be submitted by the Ministry of Social Services, Saskatchewan Health Authority, Saskatoon Police Services, or other community resources/members. Referrals are accepted on a first come basis, immediate admission is available when space is available.

Ground Zero Outreach provides support to youth who live at Ground Zero, are on the waitlist for Ground Zero or for youth that have transitioned out of Ground Zero into long term placements. They are available from 1:00pm-5:00am seven days a week. They focus on assisting with mental health/crisis support, youth advocacy, resource information and referrals for community/EGADZ Supports, and assistance with employment and education.

Over the past year, Ground Zero was utilized 179 times for emergency placement. In addition to this, Ground Zero Outreach supported 202 additional youth. Out of these 381 youth, 126 were male, 239 were female and 16 were transgender. Throughout the year, there was a consistent barrier of availability to long-term housing options. Multiple youth were needing to extend their stay at Ground Zero so proper and safe transitions could occur. There was a total of 27 youth who needed to extend their stay. The extensions lasted between 39 - 204 days, with the average being 68 days.



 *You guys (GZ Outreach) can be there when I'm sad or not feeling good and make me laugh and help me get out of my head."*



**Ground Zero Placement Statistics April 1st, 2024-March 31st, 2025**

Statistics	
Living Unapproved/Unsafe in Community	37
MSS Placement Breakdown	4
Homeless	17
Couch Surfing	16
Discharge from Detox/Treatment	4
Discharge from Hospital	3
Released from Kilburn	2

**Additional Notable Statistics April 1st, 2024 – March 31st, 2025**

Statistics	
Justice Support	180
Addictions Support	291
Mental Health Support	3304
Employment/Education Support	140
Connection to Community Resource	1007







**Mila** is a highly intelligent 17-year-old female. Due to having a strong and loud personality, Mila is often misunderstood. Mila has developed such bravado as a means of protecting herself, as pulling back these layers reveals hurt and her core need for acceptance and belonging. Yet, on the same note, Mila is not afraid to speak her mind or stand up for what is right. Mila found herself without stable housing due to having a complicated relationship with her biological mother and a relational breakdown with her adoptive parents. Mila also has complex mental health concerns and a history of substance use behaviors, especially with alcohol. To add to her struggles, Mila also lost her adoptive brother and was violated by a school mate. EGADZ has been able to provide Mila with supportive temporary and long-term placements that have fostered her healing journey. Mila has incredible potential and has overcome many tribulations. She will always be able to rely on EGADZ programs to advocate for her and help guide her. EGADZ has challenged outside agencies in her defense and has aided Mila in securing allies and opportunities that set her up for success. Currently, Mila attends school, is working on her case plans, and is maintaining her sobriety.



*I like it here because it's always gonna be a bed to sleep and somewhere to eat and I like how they believe in second chances here and don't just kick a kid to the curb when they mess up once."*



*Ground Zero - Thank you guys for helping me with everything I would have never made it to where I am now if it wasn't for your guys' help. I know I'm going to miss the house a lot and all of the staff but I know I can always reach out to you guys. I thank you guys so much for helping me through everything."*



**Quinn** is a 17-year-old girl whose story is one of quiet strength, resilience, and an unwavering determination to break cycles and create something better for herself. She grew up in her mother's care, alongside her sisters, in a home where chaos often ensued and traumatic experiences were a given. Her mother struggled with alcoholism, and that struggle trickled down into every aspect of their daily life. From a young age, Quinn and her sisters were forced to become caregivers—cooking meals, managing the house, and taking care of each other when their mother couldn't. While one of Quinn's sisters eventually reached a breaking point and tried to remove herself from the toxic environment, Quinn held on, trying to keep the family together for as long

as she could. But eventually, everything came crashing down. The family was evicted from their home. With nowhere else to go, they moved into their grandmother's house—a space that was already overcrowded, unsafe, and unstable. Up to 15 people were living in and out of the home, and substance use was not just common but actively encouraged. There was no privacy, no structure, and no consistency. Quinn had no bed, no space of her own, and often slept on the living room floor. Food was scarce, and she regularly went days without a proper meal. Her physical needs weren't being met, and emotionally, she was struggling to stay afloat. It was during this time that Quinn began to spiral into a deep depression. Feeling stuck, overwhelmed, and isolated, she started to engage in heavy drinking, attempting to numb the pain of her reality. Thoughts of suicide crept in, growing louder each day. She realized something had to change—that if she didn't make a move for herself, she might not survive. That's when Quinn was offered a 30-day placement at Ground Zero. Although she was hesitant and unsure, having never lived outside of her family home, she took the brave step forward. At first, Quinn was extremely shy. Trust didn't come easy, as she had been let down too many times before. But slowly, with patience and the genuine support from staff, Quinn started to open up. She began participating in her case planning, engaged in recreational activities, and started building positive, trusting relationships with Ground Zero staff. Her progress didn't go unnoticed, and her stay was extended on a week-to-week basis. While staying at Ground Zero, Quinn gained ministry involvement, obtained her ID, got connected with counselors, and attended necessary appointments (e.g., doctors, dentist, optometrist). Quinn was doing well until old habits caught up with her. The pull of alcohol became too strong, and she relapsed, drinking excessively. Her placement at Ground Zero was eventually closed. However, Quinn stayed connected with Ground Zero via Ground Zero Outreach. The Ground Zero Outreach team continued to check in, and through accessing their

support, Quinn made the courageous decision to go to detox and enter treatment. This was a turning point—she was determined to change her life. Outreach staff visited her often, walking alongside her throughout the journey. When she completed treatment, she was offered placement at Retreat Home, where she has now been living successfully for the past seven months. In this time, Quinn has blossomed. She has been working hard on maintaining her sobriety and continues to work on her mental health and stability. She's kept in regular contact with Ground Zero Outreach and has built lasting, meaningful relationships with staff across multiple EGADZ programs, including Operation Runaway, Ground Zero, and Operation Help. Quinn has taken active steps toward building her future. Through her involvement, she created a resume and recently got a job with IamNOT4SALE. She attends sobriety meetings regularly and has re-engaged in school. What makes Quinn's story even more powerful is that she's already thinking about how to give back. She dreams of becoming a youth worker—someone who can support others the way she was supported—or possibly opening her own tattoo/piercing shop, combining her love of art with business. She remains determined to break the cycle and carve out a future she can be proud of.







 *Ground Zero has opened up the doors to so many opportunities that I never thought I could achieve”*

**Kyle** is a 14-year-old boy whose early life was shaped by gang affiliation, substance exposure, and domestic instability, as Kyle’s biological father was deeply entrenched in gang life. The presence of gang-related activity and substance misuse in the home significantly influenced Kyle’s developmental environment and contributed to his early normalization of high-risk behaviors.

Two years ago, Kyle’s father was arrested and charged with the murder of his biological mother. Since then, his father has remained incarcerated. Following this incident, Kyle and his siblings were separated and placed in private care arrangements with various extended family members. However, these placements were unable to meet Kyle’s complex emotional and behavioral needs, leading to ongoing instability. Kyle was referred to Operation Runaway, where he initially demonstrated a willingness to engage in positive planning with support staff. However, as the one-year anniversary of his mother’s passing approached, Kyle re-engaged in gang-related

activities and became involved in violent incidents within the community. This marked the beginning of a significant escalation in legal involvement, including new charges and repeated breaches of release conditions. Kyle’s increased risk behavior contributed to the breakdown of his family placements, leaving him without a stable place to reside. In response to the growing urgency of Kyle’s situation, the Ministry of Social Services intervened and placed him on an emergency basis at the YWCA in Prince Albert. Due to age restrictions, this arrangement was only temporary. With limited placement options remaining, Kyle was referred to Ground Zero.



Upon admission, Kyle presented with significant trust issues and exhibited symptoms of abandonment and attachment-related challenges. His initial engagement with staff was minimal, characterized by guarded behavior and emotional withdrawal. Through consistent, patient, and non-judgmental interactions, Kyle began to respond positively. Over time, he allowed staff into his emotional world, expressing fears related to abandonment and his desire for lasting, supportive relationships. During his time at Ground Zero, Kyle demonstrated substantial progress. He attended long-overdue medical appointments, fulfilled his community service obligations, maintained curfew, and remained free from further legal involvement. He also engaged with counseling services and began exploring the possibility of re-enrolling in school. Kyle developed positive rapport with staff and demonstrated a growing capacity for emotional regulation, accountability, and forward planning. Based on his progress, Kyle's stay was extended on a week-to-week basis and ultimately lasted over six months. Throughout this time, staff observed a meaningful transformation. Beneath his initial defensive exterior, Kyle revealed himself to be a thoughtful, empathetic young person with a strong sense of loyalty and care for others. He supported new residents when they arrived, often offering encouragement and helping them navigate their own transitions into the program. At the end of his stay, Kyle was offered placement at a Staffed Boys' Home—a longer-term placement. The transition was bittersweet for Kyle, who had formed strong attachments to several Ground Zero staff members. However, his departure was marked by mutual respect, hope, and ongoing connection. Kyle continues to maintain regular contact with Ground Zero Outreach and frequently expresses gratitude for the support and stability he received during a critical period in his life. While challenges remain, he is now better equipped to navigate them with the support of trusted individuals, structured environments, and a growing belief in his own potential.



*Thank you for all Ground Zero has done. EGADZ changed my life for the better. At one point, I never thought I would live past."*

**Kate** found herself couch-surfing on a friend's couch after running away from home for the last time. Kate was known to run from home whenever she was put back under the care of her adoptive father. After Kate ran away for the last time, her adoptive father said he couldn't take care of her anymore due to her excessive marijuana use and her ways of obtaining it, which led to Kate refusing to go home. Kate, even before officially being kicked out, was being sexually exploited as the friend she was staying with was involved in sex work within the city and had ended up influencing Kate into similar work with the promise of weed and other ways of payment. Kate came to us, having just turned 16, and her friend's place having become unsafe for her to stay anymore. Since being at the house, we have seen a huge turnaround for Kate. She changed schools, she started working with ATE, and has distanced herself from negative influences out in the community, giving her the opportunity to move forward in her life. Kate has found a new passion



for cooking and baking while at the house, which has been a very positive outlet for her, she has even cooked quite a few delicious meals for the entire house. Kate has been able to connect with other EGADZ supports such as our Operation Runaway and Operation Help, which have been positive and supportive influences in Kate's life and new path for herself. Kate has been able to grow as a person, finding herself, while living at GZ and will be making her next step into one of our long-term placement homes in the very near future.



*The male staff at Ground Zero have taught me that I can trust some men. I am less afraid."*



In August of 2024, **Lizzy** got into a fight with their mother after becoming fed up with how they and their siblings were being treated. This resulted in an assault charge, and as a consequence, Lizzy was unable to remain at their family residence. Lizzy initially came to Ground Zero to utilize the emergency bed before temporarily staying at a friend's place. After a few weeks, Lizzy secured placement at Ground Zero. While initially quite shy, Lizzy quickly made friends with other youths in the home and built good relationships with staff. During their time at Ground Zero, Lizzy was able to focus on their mental health, connecting with a psychiatrist and other supports while working through mediation for their legal issues. Throughout their stay, they continued attending school and working at their part-time job. After nearly seven months, Lizzy transitioned to a long-term placement at Garden of Hope.



*I like feeling warm, safe and supported and that's how GZ made me feel."*



*Ground Zero feels like home."*

**Jen's** journey reflects resilience and determination to improve her life after struggling with addiction and an unstable living environment. After spending about a month and a half at Calder, Jen arrived at Ground Zero in February of 2024. At Ground Zero, Jen demonstrated her willingness to take active steps toward personal development on her recovery journey by attending and graduating from Possibilities Treatment Centre. For Jen, staying at Ground Zero represented a fresh start and an opportunity to establish stability in her life, as she was eager to take control of her future. While at the house, she focused much of her time and energy on improving her mental health, which was evident in her pursuit of CRT and her continued counseling throughout her stay at Ground Zero. Jen was able to make an official move into a long-term placement home in late September 2024.



**Kim** first came to Ground Zero after spending several months couch surfing on her reserve and living in unsafe housing conditions with her grandmother. With most of her siblings having been apprehended and very few supports available to her, Kim had to figure life out largely on her own. At just 16 years old, she had taken on a caregiver role, often putting the needs of her siblings before her own. When she reached out to Ground Zero, she needed a safe, stable environment where she could finally prioritize herself. At the time of her intake, Kim had no ministry involvement, limited community supports, and was struggling with her mental health. What she did have was a clear desire to build a better life for herself. Kim initially received placement at Ground Zero, and after completing her 30-day stay, she was given a week-to-week extension based on her consistent engagement in case planning, utilizing her placement, and the positive relationships she built with both staff and peers in the home. During her time at Ground Zero, she obtained a ministry worker and began actively working toward her goal of living independently. Kim focused on rebuilding her life by obtaining her identification, building a resume, applying for jobs, and prioritizing her health with medical and dental appointments. As a reflection of her commitment and progress, Kim secured placement in an independent My Home and continues to move forward with purpose. She recently received a job interview, and after years of carrying the weight of others, she is finally in a place where she can focus on her own healing, growth, and goals. Kim continues to utilize Ground Zero Outreach and often reaches out when she needs extra support. Her journey is a powerful reminder of the strength it takes to choose yourself and the incredible possibilities that unfold when given the space and support to thrive.







*Staying at GZ was one of the greatest experiences of my life. I was so proud to call it my home. The staff were nothing but kind and caring and always wanted the best for me and they helped me through some of the hardest times in my life. If I was given the chance to work there, I would take it 10000% just so I could be around the people I cherish so much. GZ outreach is the best outreach within EGADZ in my opinion because they have so much life to them and are always making me laugh and they are some of the most caring and funniest people I know. GZ is the only place where I had people consistently tell me I was worth something and I'm forever thankful for each staff there. If I had to live my life over again I would choose to come to GZ every time. I love all the staff there and they mean the most to me"*



## MY HOMES

The My Homes program provides long-term housing for youth aged 12-23, following a youth-centered continuum of care. Three housing models ensure that each youth lives in an environment that offers the appropriate level of support to meet their current needs: staffed, mentored, and independent. Referrals to the program come from various sources, including Family Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Education, Community Organizations, the Ministry of Social Services, and self-referrals. Creating stability and meeting youth where they are is a focus for all the homes. By ensuring that youth are the leaders of their own lives, coupled with high-level support, the program empowers them to achieve success in their individualized goals. The My Homes offer a unique opportunity for youth to transition between housing models as their circumstances change. This flexibility is crucial for their long-term success, as it allows them to recognize when they need additional support—whether due to mental health, addictions, or life factors often beyond their control. In turn, youth are empowered to acknowledge their success and transition to homes with more independence. The ability to receive individualized levels of support that adapt to life changes is a key component of the youth's success.





*The My Homes are welcoming. You get a place to stay as long as you're working or going to school. It makes it easier to save up money for your own place, a car, or even just a scooter. Whatever your goals are, the staff working in the homes will help you. You don't have to do anything alone."*

**Mental Health and Addictions Statistics April 1st, 2024-March 31st, 2025**

**Statistics**

Accessed Counselling for Mental Health & addictions	89
Admitted to Dube	4
Attended Detox and/or Treatment	8

The Staffed homes provide 4 female and 1 male home, supporting 25 youth at one time within the model. Providing 24/7 support one staff works in the home to provide the youth with strong support and guidance in a comfortable, family like setting where they can just be kids while working on their individualized growth.

*Being in the My Homes reminded me that I'm not alone, even on my hardest days."*

**From April 1st, 2024-March 31st, 2025 the Staffed My Homes supported 56 youth, including reuniting 9 youth with their siblings**

**Statistics**

Attended High School	49
Attended Elementary School	3
Maintained Employment	9
Transitioned to Family	5
Transitioned to Mentored Housing	3
Transitioned to Support	
Independent Living	1
Transitioned to Family	7
Transitioned to Community Placement	4
Transitioned to Intense Stabilization	3







The Mentored homes provide 3 female homes, supporting 15 youth at one time within the model. Rather than staff, the home has a live-in mentor or “house mom” who resides in the home with youth. The mentor leads by example in living a healthy lifestyle both in and out of the home by pursuing their educational goals or maintaining employment. The mentor provides support, and practical guidance to the youth individually while ensuring the home dynamics are positive. Having strong mentorships fosters confidence and emotional well-being for the youth, allowing them to see that their goals are achievable.

 *Creating bonds with staff in the homes is the cherry on top of living in this program.”*



From April 1st, 2024-March 31st, 2025 the Mentored My Home supported 34 youth

Statistics	
Attended High School	30
Graduated	3
Maintained Employment	6
Transitioned to Supported Independent Living	4
Transitioned to Independence	5
Transitioned to Family	9
Transitioned to Staffed Home	2
Transitioned to Intense Stabilization	2

The Independent homes provide 2 female homes, supporting 10 young adults at one time within the model. As the women residing in the home are aged 18-23, they live in the home independently with access to 24/7 mobile support. Maintaining education or employment while gaining skills and confidence fosters the independence for them to reach their individual goals of successfully transitioning to their own homes.





 *We get the freedom and responsibility to change our own lives.”*

**From April 1st, 2024-March 31st, 2025 the Independent Homes provided supported 14 young adults and 4 of their children**

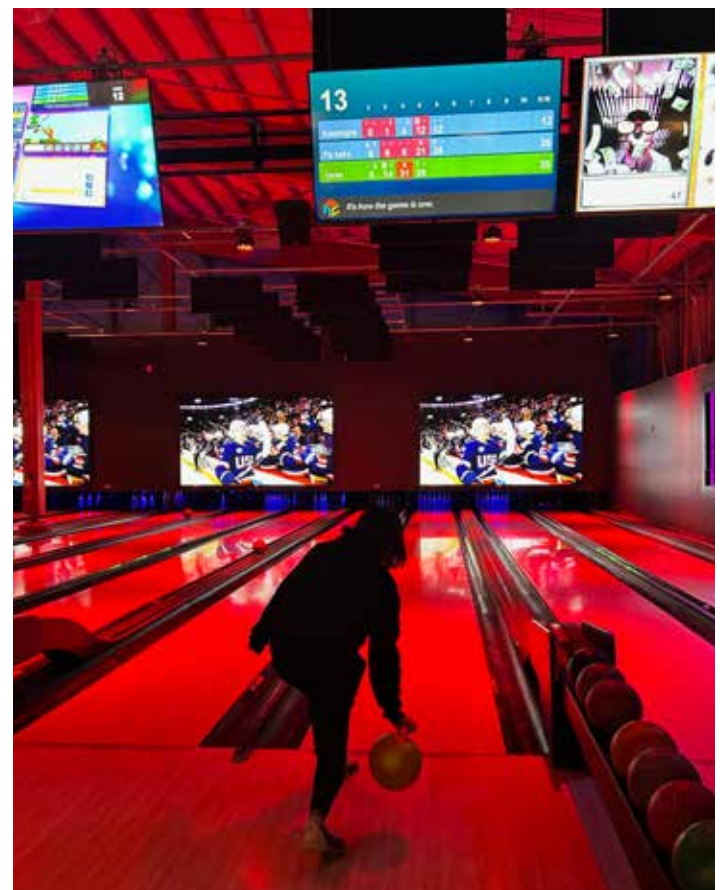
Statistics	
Attended High School	13
Graduated	1
Maintained Employment	10
Attended Post-Secondary Education	3
Transitioned to Independent Living	3
Transitioned to Therapeutic Home	1







Ensuring that all youth are exposed to and supported in engaging with positive recreational activities of their choosing helps them develop social and leadership skills while reducing the anxiety and stress of everyday life. Providing youth with access to all opportunities is a key focus within the My Homes. Regardless of their interests, staff support youth by attending events with them, offering transportation, and actively engaging in their interests both in and out of the home.






Community support and partnerships provided youth with season tickets to the Saskatoon Blades and Saskatoon Berries. A collaboration with the Saskatoon Food Bank allowed youth to participate in weekly online cooking classes, where they learned to prepare meals using a basket of grocery items. Holidays and special occasions are celebrated within the homes, with a strong focus on making each one meaningful for the youth. This year, four youth graduated from the My Homes program. To celebrate this major milestone, each graduate was honored with a special BBQ in recognition of their success.





The My Homes also house two lovable fur babies; Buddy and Mufasa. The dogs provide much needed love and support to our youth through good times and bad. Buddy and Mufasa travel around from home to home at the request of the youth, and are included in many of our youth's safety plans. The youth also learn responsibility of being a care provider as they often take on the responsibilities of feeding, walking, and grooming the dogs.

 *I like having dogs in the homes. Other placements don't have dogs, so I make sure to take good care of them so that they take good care of me."*



**Jen** always felt that no matter how hard she tried, she couldn't keep up with the expectations placed upon her. Whether it was due to the fear brought on by her social anxiety or the confusion and lack of understanding she experienced in school, she believed she couldn't do anything right—even when she gave her best effort. Last year, Jen participated in an educational psychology evaluation, which led to diagnoses that helped place her in the appropriate level of schooling. She was also diagnosed with anxiety and began taking medication and learning coping mechanisms to manage it. Now that Jen finally has answers for why she was struggling, she's able to set and achieve goals that are better aligned with her abilities.

For the first time in over five years, Jen returned to school nearly full time, attending classes that were designed to meet her at her educational level—for the first time in her life. Finding success in school gave Jen a confidence she admitted she had never felt before, and that confidence began to show in her everyday life. She spent more time out of her room and began hanging out in the common areas of the home. Jen found her voice and began advocating for what she wanted to see happen in the home, asking for specific meals and recreational activities. She even requested a doctor's appointment to discuss a potential medication change. This was the same Jen who used to refuse medical appointments, struggled to take medication, and could barely say "hello" to a doctor when they first met.

This newfound confidence and leadership became even more evident when Jen's younger sister moved into her My Home, as they were finally given the opportunity to live together. When Jen saw her sister beginning to face similar struggles, she was the first to encourage her to ask for help from staff, attend school, and trust that the My Homes could support her. Through all the work Jen has done in the Retreat and My Homes over the years, she is now well-prepared to take the next step into mentored housing—when she feels ready to do so.



**Maggie's** mother passed away when she was a little girl. After her passing, Maggie lived with her siblings under the care of a PSI caregiver—until the caregiver also sadly passed away. Maggie and her siblings were then moved to a different placement, where they were not allowed to practice their culture. Eventually, they went to live with an auntie. When their auntie decided to move to Edmonton, Maggie's sister chose to stay in Saskatoon to maintain her community connections and continue her extracurricular activities. Having been together for most of their lives, this marked the first time Maggie was separated from her older sister—at just eleven years old. In July 2024, Maggie's placement with her auntie broke down after Maggie disclosed that the home was no longer safe due to substance use. At 12 years old, Maggie returned to Saskatoon and entered the My Homes program.

When Maggie moved in, she was reunited with her older sister—and it was as if they had never been apart. When the opportunity arose for Maggie's sister to move into the same home, they both eagerly embraced the chance to live together again and spend more time with each other. This move created many positive memories and helped strengthen their bond after nearly a year of separation. Having her sister in the same home also had a positive impact on Maggie's engagement in community activities. Her sister was already involved in a church youth group and played sports like basketball and floor hockey, which encouraged Maggie to get involved as well. Gaining confidence through trying different sports with her sister, Maggie advocated to join a girls' ice hockey team in Saskatoon in September 2024. Though she had never officially played on a team before, Maggie completed her first season by working hard, practicing often, and challenging herself to open up to teammates and form new friendships. She finished the season with greater confidence, meaningful new connections, and some impressive hockey skills. My Home staff supported her by taking her to her first out-of-town, overnight tournament—an experience she will never forget.

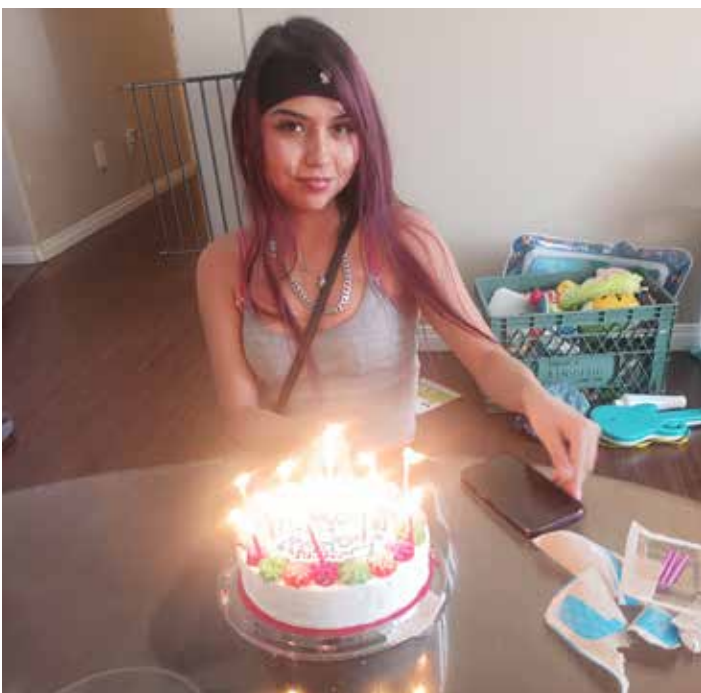
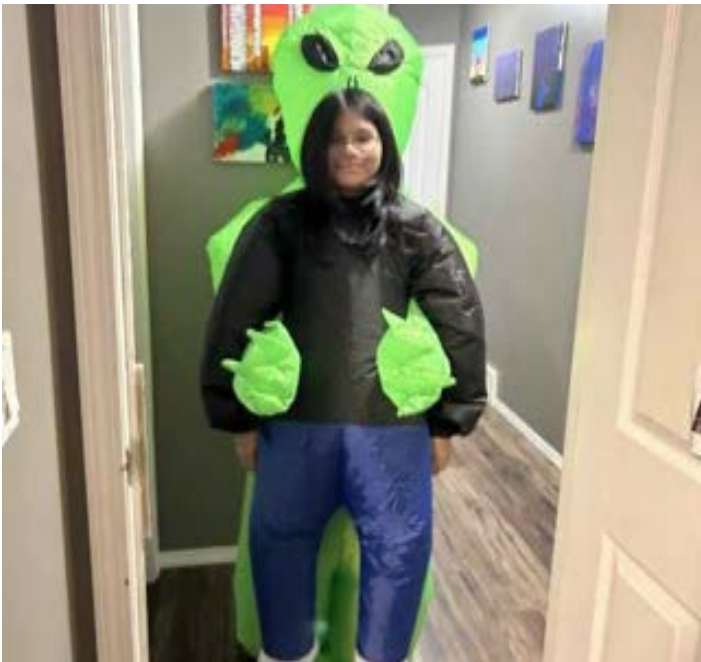




Since moving into the My Home, Maggie has found a sense of self and belonging as a result of being reunited with her sister and having the stability and freedom to pursue new challenges and goals.



*I'm glad to be back in the My Homes with people I know and trust."*



**Sam** a natural caregiver, took on the role in her family of ensuring everyone was okay and that their needs were met. With so much time and energy devoted to those around her, Sam never learned how to care for herself. Whether it was school attendance, mental health, or physical well-being, she always made herself the last priority. Determined to change this, Sam began working hard to improve this part of her life. She dedicated herself to seeing a new counselor bi-weekly to ensure she had the proper support to maintain her own mental health while navigating life's challenges. She also began using her natural gift of helping others in a way that benefitted her financially by joining a youth committee with White Buffalo Youth Lodge, ultimately earning a trip to Nova Scotia in the summer of 2024.

In late 2024, Sam's mother was diagnosed with cancer. When Sam heard the news, her caregiver instincts immediately kicked in. She prioritized helping her mother, but rather than losing herself completely in the caregiving role, Sam made the conscious decision to care for herself as well. She continued to see her counselor regularly and attend all her medical appointments. Sam showed tremendous growth by balancing her own health and safety while continuing to be a natural, loving support to her mother.

Eventually, the family found appropriate housing and were able to live together once more. This had been Sam's greatest hope since coming into care: to live under the same roof as her mother and siblings again. In just a few months, Sam went from supporting a parent through cancer treatment to having her family reunited. She now continues to care for them, equipped with the tools and strength to also care for herself.



*The staff are so amazing, I am going to miss them!"*



**Riley's** journey at the My Homes was one of incredible growth and resilience. When he first arrived at seventeen years old, Riley faced numerous obstacles. He did not have any identification documents and had not attended school since before the COVID-19 pandemic. Having experienced heavy trauma in his home life due to his parents' struggles with substance use and mental health, Riley often found himself in the role of caregiver to his younger siblings. Adjusting to life at the My Homes was a challenge for Riley, as it was a very different environment than what he was used to. His first goal was to obtain the identification documents that had been lost over the years. With support from the Ministry of Social Services, Riley was able to obtain his birth certificate, health card, and photo ID. This accomplishment was a major milestone for Riley. These documents allowed him to apply for a social insurance number, open his own bank account, and even receive his treaty card.

School was another area where Riley faced challenges. After having missed several years of schooling due to his caregiving responsibilities, he was determined to get back on track. Riley toured multiple schools before enrolling in the Opening Doors Program (ODP), where he thrived. Through ODP, Riley obtained several credits he had missed from high school. By the fall of 2024, Riley felt ready to transition back into a mainstream school. He enrolled in a new school where he found comfort in his academics, mental health, and cultural identity. His hard work paid off as he earned more credits and achieved the best attendance rates the school had seen in a long time.

As Riley grew in other areas of his independence, he sought out mental health support through the Community Recovery Team (CRT) and an additional counselor. Riley worked through his trauma and past experiences, learning important skills such as budgeting, doing his laundry, keeping his room clean, cooking for himself, and even helping staff prepare meals for the home. He also created a resume and applied for jobs, which





led to two employment opportunities, providing him with valuable work experience. All of Riley's efforts culminated when he had the opportunity to move to Ontario to live with his grandmother. The skills and resilience Riley developed during his time at the My Homes prepared him for this new chapter. On March 2, 2025, Riley successfully transitioned out of the My Homes and began a new journey, living with his grandmother, ready to continue his personal growth and success.



*I know that staff at the My Homes care about what we have to say and take us seriously."*



**Michael** was born in Ethiopia and spent the early years of his life in a refugee camp until the age of two. Shortly after his second birthday, Michael and his older sister were adopted by a family in Saskatoon and made the journey to Canada together to start their new life as a family. Growing up, Michael struggled with emotional regulation and was diagnosed with anxiety, depression, and a mild intellectual disability. He remained with his adoptive family until the age of thirteen, when the placement broke down due to the family's inability to support Michael's mental health needs. After that, Michael moved between several placements before settling into the My Homes program at the age of sixteen.

Upon moving into the My Homes, Michael immediately expressed a desire to learn independent living skills in preparation for living on his own when he turned eighteen. He focused on goals such as taking public transportation to school, learning how to cook, and gaining employment. Michael began by choosing to take the bus to school every morning at 5:30 a.m., rain or shine. Within just a few weeks, he had learned the different routes that got him to school and back home, and soon became confident navigating the city on his own. For cooking, Michael often requested to cook alongside staff in order to learn how to prepare different meals and build his kitchen skills. He spent most evenings in the kitchen with staff, creating delicious meals for the whole home to enjoy.

Having mastered most of his independence goals, Michael set his sights on gaining employment and work experience. He was given the opportunity to complete a job placement at a local grocery store through one of his school courses and began working ten hours a week. Over the six-week program, Michael never missed a single day and consistently looked forward to his work placement shifts.

In April 2025, Michael took the initiative to meet with his support team to discuss housing options, as he was nearing his nineteenth birthday and

preparing to transition into the community. He advocated for an independent living placement, confidently outlining the goals he had achieved and the skills he had developed over the past two years. Michael is now ready to take the next step in his journey toward independent living



*The program has helped me find better remedies to become a better woman and showed me that I matter."*







**Dianne** was adopted as a young child. She was a hardworking young woman with university aspirations, volunteering in her community to gather resources for her fellow classmates and speaking with local officials about the struggle's students faced during COVID. She was a leader and was excited to give back to her community. Dianne's life took a massive detour seemingly out of nowhere, as she began to change within a matter of weeks. She withdrew from all of her leadership roles and started experimenting with substances. This was not the Dianne anyone knew, not even herself. She no longer recognized who she was.

As her situation continued to spiral, her adoptive parents were no longer able to provide the support she needed to stay safe. Dianne was diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder but had been self-medicating with alcohol, which eventually

led to a car accident and a charge for driving under the influence. Following this, she went to detox and completed treatment for her substance use disorder. However, she later overdosed on medication and was admitted to Saskatchewan Hospital. After her release, she overdosed again and was taken to Dube Centre, where she spent three months working on the critical coping skills she would need to be successful on her own.

Dianne wanted to live independently in the community but recognized that she needed help getting back to a place where independence was possible and sustainable. She came to the My Homes to have the time and safe space to reconnect with community resources and find her way. It was not always easy for her to prioritize her mental health or take all the steps necessary to remain safe in her recovery. She attended numerous counseling sessions, participated in group work, and committed to Dialectical Behaviour Therapy to help her adjust to her diagnosis. She also attended Alcoholics Anonymous meetings nearly every day to support her sobriety. Dianne worked tirelessly to prove that she could transition into more independent housing. She never let her diagnosis define or limit her; instead, she focused on finding the right supports, medications, and tools to take charge of her mental health and well-being.

True to her word, convictions, and hard work, Dianne—supported by her mental health team—explored various supportive living options. She signed a lease, furnished her new apartment, and moved in within a matter of months. She built strong community support systems, dedicated herself to medication safety and proper use, and began to see that amazing young leader she had always been reflected in the mirror once more.





*My Homes gave me a safe space to grow and be myself without judgement. I found support, understanding and a chance to start over and do better for myself.”*

**April** grew up with her mother in a small town in Saskatchewan until her mother passed away in 2017. She then went to live with her father, but when the household became abusive, April moved again to live with her grandparents. Although her grandparents cared for her, they were unable to support her long-term, and April was placed in temporary emergency care at Ground Zero in December 2023.

April embraced the support that Ground Zero offered by connecting with a social worker, registering for school, attending medical appointments, and obtaining her identification. While in the program, April shared that she had never had the chance to properly grieve her mother’s passing. She was connected to the Community Recovery Team and began building trusting relationships within the household, which gave her an outlet to talk about her past substance use and her desire for a better future.

In February 2024, April transitioned to the My Homes program. There, she continued working toward completing high school, obtaining her driver’s license, and gaining full-time summer employment through the Action to Employment program. With her new job, April began saving for a vehicle. However, she experienced a relapse in her addiction. Recognizing the need for support, April made the courageous decision to attend detox, develop safety plans, and cut ties with individuals who did not support her sobriety.


Once she regained control of her recovery, April earned her First Aid certification and registered for her final high school credits. She now uses the coping mechanisms she learned during detox to





maintain her sobriety and attends work regularly. She has resumed saving money for her future and plans to move out on her own in the fall of 2025.



 *This program saved my life, and I'm grateful for that."*



**Elena** was primarily raised by her mother, as her father passed away when she was eight years old. Elena's mom struggled with addictions and could not support Elena's mental health needs, including an eating disorder. Elena attended Dube to assist with her mental health. Upon leaving the hospital, staff and social services were unable to reach Elena's mom, so Elena was brought into care. She had a short stay at Bethany Home before coming to the My Homes when she was thirteen years old in 2019. Elena and her mom remain estranged. Throughout her time at the My Homes, Elena worked on overcoming her eating disorder with staff by meal planning and preparing healthy recipes for herself and her housemates. She remained dedicated to her healing and open to



solutions, eventually obtaining her own personal fridge where she could keep healthy snacks available.

Elena struggled with self-harm and suicidal thoughts, but through engagement with staff, she has been able to overcome this by creating safety plans with the Dube Centre and with staff, connecting with CRT workers, and finding positive coping mechanisms. In 2021, Elena began working for the summer crew with Action to Employment, which greatly improved her mental health. She found that being outside in the fresh air, working with plants and doing yard care, was deeply healing, and this became a job she kept for the next few years. Elena now experiences far fewer low days and is managing her mental health very well.

In September 2021, Elena transitioned to a Mentored Home, focusing on her independence skills. She began to feel excited about the future, saving money for a new vehicle, which she was able to purchase in May 2024. Elena was highly motivated to obtain her driver's license, which she achieved in July 2024. She is now planning a road trip and is currently finishing her last credit to receive her Grade 12 diploma.



**Claire** was apprehended at the hospital before the age of two and spent the next eleven years in thirteen different placements before coming to the My Homes in 2017. Many of these placements were abusive and traumatizing. Claire does not often open up about what happened to her in the past, but she has shared experiences such as being locked in closets, living in hoarding environments that posed health risks, and being left without food or water for days at a time.

At fifteen years old, Claire gave birth to a baby boy. He was placed in care after Claire acknowledged that she did not yet have the skills to care for him. Claire returned to the My Homes at that time, connected with Parent Support, worked on her independence skills, and took parenting classes to work toward gaining full custody of her son.

Claire later transitioned to a Mentored Home but began to struggle with parenting and felt overwhelmed by the demands of caring for a



*For the first time in my 17 years of living, I finally feel valued and wanted."*





toddler. She continued to work closely with Parent Support and took a significant step by trusting a daycare to care for her son while she attended work or school. This was a major milestone for Claire, who feared her son might experience the kind of trauma she had endured. Letting go of that fear was not easy, but she began to recognize the importance of her own goals and self-care. Claire learned to plan accordingly and set boundaries that allowed her to pursue her aspirations while remaining a committed and loving parent.

Due to the environments Claire grew up in and her struggle with severe depression, she faced ongoing challenges with personal and household hygiene. Recognizing that her trauma was interfering with her ability to function, Claire chose to reconnect with her psychiatrist, CRT worker, and a private counselor. With adjusted medication and dedicated work in therapy, she began to process her past and make gradual, meaningful improvements in her daily life. Over her eight years in the My Homes program, Claire worked tirelessly to build a stable routine that prioritized both herself and her son, whom she ultimately regained full custody of.

In the summer of 2022, Claire began a part-time job with EGADZ's Action to Employment, which helped her continue developing structure and responsibility. Although school had always been a challenge for her, she was determined to succeed while balancing her responsibilities as a mother. She attended school regularly and graduated with her Grade 12 diploma. Following graduation, Claire began working full-time at Action to Employment and transitioned into an Independent My Home in 2024, where she continues to grow her independence and stability.



*I'm grateful that there is a place like this. Everyone has been so nice to me. I like that I get to be part of the house and am expected to do my contributions because I'm going to have to do that on my own in the future too."*

**Kallie's** father was not involved in her life, and she was apprehended from her mother's care at an early age due to her mother's struggles with addiction and mental health. Kallie and her younger sister were placed with their aunt until Kallie was ten years old. During this time, Kallie took on a protective, parental role for her sister. By the age of ten, the girls had lived in several foster homes that lacked care and support, leading Kallie to run away to her grandmother's house. However, her grandmother was unable to care for her full-time, and in September 2022, Kallie moved into a Mentored My Home.

Because of her history, Kallie initially struggled to stop "parenting" the other youth in the home and had to learn to focus on her own self-care and personal development. She began to channel her energy into her academics, quickly demonstrating her capability and responsibility. Throughout high

school, Kallie excelled, attending consistently, earning a spot on the honor roll for four consecutive years, and graduating successfully in June 2024.

With aspirations of becoming a lawyer, Kallie applied to the University of Saskatchewan's College of Arts and Science. She was accepted and began her studies in September 2024. Kallie continues to do well in her classes, gaining greater independence, and is planning to move into the community with her sister in the summer of 2025.



*I'm super grateful for EGADZ and all the opportunities I've been getting. I wouldn't be where I'm at without all the support."*



**Emery** came to the Independent My Homes after a life marked by trauma. Her mother passed away when she was young, and Emery grew up in care, where she endured abuse in foster homes and later experienced severe domestic violence, sustaining stab wounds and other serious injuries. Throughout her youth, Emery turned to substances, gang involvement, and high-risk lifestyles as a means of coping—often using meth and running from placements.

At 19, Emery became pregnant, which became a turning point in her life. Motivated by the desire to break the cycle of intergenerational trauma—her own mother having become a parent at just 11 years old—Emery committed to staying sober and providing a safe, stable life for her daughter.

Seeking additional support, Emery entered treatment and moved into the EGADZ Baby Steps program, where she focused on regaining custody of her daughter and learning to parent in a healthy, nurturing way. Emery stopped running and began confronting her challenges directly. She connected with a CRT counselor, engaged in mental health and addictions counselling, and actively participated in Parent Support services.

Through her consistent efforts and the wraparound support provided, Emery was granted full care of her daughter and successfully transitioned to an Independent My Home in July 2024. Since then, she has remained sober, dedicated herself to parenting, and built a daily routine that supports both her and her child's well-being. She meets regularly with Parent Support and remains highly engaged in her daughter's development, even registering for First Aid and CPR to ensure she can meet all her child's needs.

Emery is now preparing to move into the community with her daughter, with independent living as her next goal. She is working on budgeting skills and is connected to the EGADZ Transitional Outreach Team to help ensure a successful transition.



**Laney** spent many years in the care of the Ministry before residing with a foster family in a small town. Throughout her youth, she struggled significantly with her mental health, including suicidal ideation and self-harm, which ultimately led to her being admitted to a psychiatric hospital for support. Despite these challenges, Laney graduated high school with honors and was accepted into the University of Saskatchewan, where she planned to begin her post-secondary education in the Indigenous Studies program.

When Laney moved into the My Homes in August 2024, she began to stabilize with the help of regular counselling and the consistent support of staff. Since moving into the home, Laney has not experienced any incidents of self-harm or suicidal ideation, a testament to the progress she has made in prioritizing her mental health.

Laney also worked closely with staff on budgeting and financial literacy. After creating a visual diagram of monthly expenses, she recognized the need to adjust her spending habits to ensure long-term financial stability. She actively engaged in developing the independence skills necessary for her goal of living on her own.

In September 2024, Laney began attending university and successfully purchased and insured a car for one year. After earning her driver's license, she became fully independent in transporting herself to and from campus. Laney continues to thrive in her studies and personal growth, with plans to move into the community in the summer of 2025. Her long-term goal is to open a daycare on her home reserve, giving back to her community and creating a safe space for future generations.



*It's nice to be able to learn independent living while still having the chance to enjoy life. The My Homes is a safe place for people."*

**OPERATION RUNAWAY**

Operation Runaway is a comprehensive support program that assists habitual at-risk runaway youth. Staff work on building positive and trusting relationships with youth by meeting them where they are at and help them identify the reasons that they are running. Operation Runaway seeks to identify the underlying factors driving their runaway patterns and collaborates with the youth to develop personalized plans that address their specific needs. EGADZ is in partnership with Saskatoon City Police, the Ministry of Social Services, and Mental Health and Addictions Services. These organizations come together to provide accessible resources, helping to reduce or eliminate the need for youth to run away. Once a week, staff from these organizations gather in 'circles' to connect with youth to provide updates, encourage open communication, and most importantly, offer support through services and personalized plans.

Operation Runaway has two full-time support staff who are available to the youth seven days a week; 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Staff connect youth to community resources and provide on going support to help them accomplish their plan. Staff work on building trusting relationships with the youth by providing one on one hangouts, advocacy, home work help and taking them out to do recreational activities.

Communication is often a challenge for youth who run away. To encourage youth to communicate regularly with their caregivers and support system, Operation Runaway works with Prairie Mobile to provide donated cell phones and prepaid phone cards to the youth who utilize the program and attend their weekly support circles. This gives the youth a way to connect with their caregivers and helps eliminate missing person reports for the police.



**From April 1st, 2024 – March 31st, 2025 Operation Runaway provided support to 47 youth**


**Statistics**

Donated Phones	250
Phone Cards	118
Connected to Community Resource	90
Addictions Support	212
Mental Health Support	90
Addictions Support	212
Mental Health Support	322
Crisis Support	29
Nutrition	251
Life Skills	207
Transportation	268
Education/Employment	91







 *I liked going on one-on-one and I can contact staff whenever and they help me through personal challenges. The OR program can help you with anything and they have resources and support. And I have become more comfortable asking for help.”*

**Bethany** was adopted at the age of 1 and has been with her adoptive family ever since. When Bethany entered her pre-teen years, she began to befriend people who engaged in the life of party activities. What started as attending parties and drinking escalated to using harder substances. As her substance use grew, she began running away from home, putting herself in unsafe situations. This behavior became more frequent, particularly in the last year when she began running away from home more often. In response, her mom referred Bethany to the Operation Runaway program for additional support. Bethany has been attending outpatient treatment and working on staying sober. She struggles with relapsing when she wanders off and reconnects with friends who are not supportive of her recovery. She has been seen at unfamiliar places, often wandering off at night, which is detrimental to her progress. Bethany also faces significant mental health challenges, which contribute to her habit of running away and seeking company, even when it is not healthy for her. She has expressed that when she leaves home, she is often taken advantage of, which worsens her mental health. Feelings of loneliness and a desire for companionship have driven her to form quick friendships, even with people who may not be the best influences. Staff regularly check in with her and provide one-on-one support to help her avoid these harmful relationships.

Currently, Bethany recognizes that some of her friends are not good for her and is actively trying to set boundaries with them and stick to her personalized safety plan. Within the Operation Runaway program, Bethany enjoys activities like



thrift shopping, grabbing an iced cap from Tim Hortons and spending time with animals. She appreciates the company of staff and often seeks their advice and support. She has even invited staff into her home to cook with her. She frequently talks about her plans with her family and expresses a desire to spend more time with them. Her current goal is to stay busy by continuing to work on her comic book and to attend a 30-day inpatient treatment.

**Tina** was originally put on the Operation Runaway radar back in June 2023 during a short stay at Ground Zero. Placement was only utilized for 2 nights before heading out to the community and losing contact with EGADZ and her Ministry of Social Services worker. The following month a referral was sent in for Operation Runaway, and plans were made to further discuss the supports/ services that could be offered to her.

Staff made multiple attempts to contact Tina, however, she was not ready for support at that time. In June 2024, she was detained in the community by the Saskatoon Police Service after being involved in a physical assault. This resulted in her being sent to Kilburn, where they were sentenced to stay for the next few months. After Tina received news that she tested positive for HIV and Hepatitis C, she decided she was ready to start building a relationship with Operation Help staff. Staff began visiting Tina weekly in Kilburn and connected her with Ground Zero Outreach staff to provide her with additional support. Tina has recently picked up more charges as she was on the run for the past month. Operation Runaway staff will continue to visit, ensuring that this youth has a trusted support system for their journey ahead.



*Operation Runaway has helped me find ways to stay sober, and helps me get away from negative people and thoughts. You have helped a lot"*



In April of 2024, **Camille**, a 13-year-old female, was referred to Operation Runaway by the Ministry of Social Services as she had been staying in the community with her adopted father. There was ongoing parent-child conflict, and the goal was to provide both of them with support in order to preserve their relationship and allow Camille to continue living with her dad. She was often found in the community intoxicated and leaving her dad's house to be with her friends. There were significant safety concerns, as she was drinking to dangerous levels and was often found unresponsive.

During the first few months of her connection with Operation Runaway, building a trusting relationship was slow, as Camille had a hard time accepting support. She would regularly attend her support circle; however, she often turned down any additional help outside of casual engagement with staff. In November of 2024, after consistent engagement, she began to build a close relationship with a new Operation Runaway staff member. As this supportive relationship developed, Camille began opening up more about her mental health and how she used alcohol to numb herself.

Camille has continued working on her sobriety by attending an outpatient recovery program. While progress has been gradual, she has begun identifying her triggers and implementing strategies she has learned. She has also started exploring new hobbies, such as using art to process her emotions and going to the gym.

 *its fun and you have someone to talk to."*



**Jocelyn** was 11 years old when she was referred to the Operation Runaway Program. She has been working closely with the program for the last year. She currently lives in the community with her mom and cousin. When she first entered the program, she faced challenges with alcohol use and had significant conflicts with her mom. However, since enrolling in the program and collaborating closely with Operation Runaway staff, she has made strides toward repairing her relationship with her mom.

Jocelyn goes on regular hangouts with Operation Runaway staff. These outings provide opportunities for her to relax, have fun, and build connections with others in a supportive and safe environment. Through these experiences, she has been able to practice social skills, develop positive relationships, construct healthy conflict management strategies, and explore new hobbies and interests that contribute to her overall well-being and personal growth. Over the past year, Jocelyn has grown significantly, demonstrating more maturity in her ability to navigate challenges and express her feelings. Jocelyn played hockey on her school team this winter and is now registered for a local community basketball team.





**PARENT SUPPORT**

The Parent Support Program is available to all mothers and fathers who live within the EGADZ continuum or have transitioned from an EGADZ residence. The program employs two full-time workers with extensive knowledge and training in family systems and infant and child development. Utilizing a trauma-informed approach, Parent Support workers assist families in creating individualized case plans to help them achieve their parenting goals. These plans revolve around the inherent strengths within the family thus promoting increased resiliency, well-being and positive growth.

Services include, but are not limited to, prenatal and postnatal education, birth support, attachment and bonding, budgeting, medical appointments, advocacy, problem solving education and community-based referrals.



*I have been a Parent Support client since 2019. I am forever grateful for the program because when I don't know how or where to access certain resources that I am on the search for, Natalie has been that go to person for me! When I feel like I'm failing as a parent she is also there to uplift me and remind me that no parent is perfect and that I am doing a great job as a parent. I am super grateful to have this support because even when I don't have it all together this support makes me feel like I still do. On a number of occasions, I have felt so stuck in my situations and in one phone call with her she helps me get together a to do list to start knocking off which makes me feel like I'm not so stuck after all! Things as little as potty training to things as big as like house hunting! Without Natalie (parent support) I'm sure a lot of other parents in the program would agree we wouldn't be as prepared as parents as we are without the help of her support! With that being said, Thank you Natalie and the Parent Support program for all their help in our lives. Without you, I wouldn't feel as confident as a parent! -KW*

**From April 1 2024 to March 31st 2025, Parent Support worked with 36 families implementing various parenting skills and knowledge.**

Statistics	
Addiction Support	355
Attachment & Bonding	97
Connect to Resources	444
Education	83
Health	333
Housing	47
Life skills	553
Mental Health	498
Parenting Workshops	55
Parenting Education	383
Parenting Support	817
Social Service Liaison	31
Transports	494





**Keysha** is a 28-year-old mother of four and long-time client of Parent Support. Growing up in a home marred by substance abuse, mental health challenges and domestic violence, Keysha's earliest experience of family and home life was chaotic and traumatic.

Never truly finding a stable place to call home, she moved between various family homes, foster homes, and group homes, where she continued to endure abuse and neglect. Having struggled with depression and anxiety from an early age, she sought relief in drugs and alcohol during her teens, attempting to escape her trauma. As a young adult, Keysha spent some time living in the EGADZ Sweet Dreams residence with her first child. There, she learnt invaluable tools and education involving not only parenting skills but also learning to prioritize her addiction recovery and mental health. As a result, she currently lives

independently in the community with her four young children.

Keysha remained in contact with EGADZ, reaching out at times for assistance during various stages of her children's development. In the spring of 2024, she reconnected with Parent Support due to concerns about the cognitive development of two of her children. Parent Support assisted Keysha with referrals to the Alvin Buckwold Child Development Program for assessments, as well as a referral to a pediatrician to address complex medical concerns. Once a formal diagnosis was confirmed for both children, Parent Support assisted Keysha in completing the documents needed to obtain additional funding for the children's diverse therapeutic needs. Parent Support also offered guidance on therapies and helped ease the transition by connecting the family to community resources and organizations supporting families with children facing complex mental health challenges.

Keysha and her children are adjusting well to their new routines and daily life. She continues to utilize Parent Support as the need arises.



**Jaycee** is a 26-year-old single mom living in the community. As a young girl, her home life was unstable and chaotic, and her parents' volatile relationship made their home a toxic space. As a result, she spent part of her early years in a foster home, where she briefly experienced the structure and stable environment she lacked. However, upon returning to her family as a teenager, she found the environment unstructured and without boundaries, leading to partying, drinking, and using drugs.

When Jaycee first connected with Parent Support, she had recently moved into the EGADZ Cameron House and was pregnant with her first child. Her tenuous and inconsistent relationship with her family left her feeling isolated, unprepared, and unsure of her new responsibilities as a young mother. Parent Support assisted her throughout her prenatal journey by accompanying her to prenatal and ultrasound appointments, connecting her to community resources, and providing guidance on prenatal education, labour and delivery, and breastfeeding.

When Jaycee moved out into the community, Parent Support assisted her as she transitioned into independent living. This included education on budgeting, healthy food choices, and other life skills.

Jaycee gave birth to a healthy baby boy and has continued working with Parent Support through each stage of her baby's development. Parent Support provided guidance on infant feeding, healthy sleeping habits, infant milestones and development, immunizations, infant health and wellness, and postpartum health and wellness. Despite significant changes in the past year, Jaycee has embraced each challenge as an opportunity for growth and resilience. She loves being a new parent and has gained confidence in her knowledge and abilities. She continues to utilize the Parent Support program regularly.



*Having Natalie as my Parent Support has been the best thing to happen. I've struggled so bad and if it wasn't for her I wouldn't be where I am now in my life or parenting. She has helped me so incredibly much and I need her in my life. Natalie is very smart and wise woman and is amazing at her job. She is always on the ball. Always doing what she can to help. Advice, classes, groups, parenting support on everything. I couldn't have done the things I have successfully done without her. She has made a giant impact in my life in the best ways possible and has truly helped me grow as a mom and as a person." -DW*





**Daniel** is a 37-year-old single father to a 7-year-old son who is currently living at Fusion 22. At first, juggling the demands of work, family, financial strain, and societal judgment felt like an insurmountable challenge. Yet, it was Daniel's unwavering love for his son that gave him the strength to push through.

Prior to connecting with EGADZ, Daniel and his partner were cohabiting in the community raising their son together. Unbeknownst to him, his partner's struggles with her addictions intensified, and one day Daniel left the home and their son was apprehended. Daniel was suddenly unprepared to become the sole caregiver and provider for his son. Despite his own grief, he was determined to create a loving and stable environment for his child; in July 2023 they moved into Fusion 22, and he began his journey as a single father.

In January 2025, the Fusion 22 staff connected Daniel with Parent Support, a resource that made a significant difference for both him and his son. As a devoted and loving single father, Daniel faces numerous challenges, including struggles with addiction, mental health, and managing his physical health due to diabetes. Parent Support played a crucial role in helping him create healthier meal plans, adopt positive discipline and parenting strategies, and arrange transportation to speech therapy and addiction counseling, greatly improving their lives.

Daniel's journey is a testament to his resilience and growth as a single father. Despite his challenging circumstances, his love for his son and perseverance to provide a safe and healthy home have inspired others in his community. Daniel continues to utilize Parent Support and hopes to pursue a career in the trades in the near future.

**Frieda** is a 28-year-old single mother currently living in the community. As a child, Frieda's home environment was consistently changing. Her parents' struggles with addictions resulted in her being placed with various family members, foster homes, and group homes. As a teen and young adult, she struggled with her mental health and addictions and often found herself in vulnerable situations. Shortly after giving birth to her daughter, her partner left, and with no other options available to her she moved back home. Unfortunately, the relationship with her mother has made her living situation untenable. These co-parenting struggles, and mental health challenges left Frieda feeling overwhelmed. Lacking healthy coping skills, Frieda would seek relief from her circumstances in partying, drugs, and alcohol. When Frieda first connected with Parent Support she had recently separated from her ex and was struggling to navigate the financial and emotional responsibilities of being a single parent. Parent Support offered guidance throughout the family law court process, assisting in securing sole custody and child support from her daughter's father. Additionally, they provided essential resources to help address her postpartum depression and struggles with substance use, along with ongoing support to navigate the challenges of co-parenting with healthier, more positive communication skills. Frieda continues to show remarkable resilience as she raises her daughter. The two are currently seeking new housing options, with Frieda feeling increasingly confident in her ability to live independently within the community. She remains engaged with Parent Support for transportation and guidance, expressing deep gratitude for EGADZ's unwavering availability and support during difficult times. Looking ahead, Frieda hopes to pursue a career in the beauty industry, specializing in hair and nails."



## STREET OUTREACH

The EGADZ Street Outreach program is well known and recognized throughout Saskatoon as safe and supportive services. Staff spend the majority of their time out in the community in a marked van, helping out anyone in need of support. Those they encounter recognize the Street Outreach team as a safe, welcoming, and trustworthy presence. With a priority focus on children, youth, and individuals involved in the sex trade and sexual exploitation, the Street Outreach hits the streets of Saskatoon from 5pm-1am Monday – Saturday, and 4pm-12am on Sundays and holidays. While the team has general duties, responsibilities, and priorities, no two nights are ever the same. Each evening, staff provide a range of supports, including—but not limited to— crisis support, basic first aid, overdose response, wellness checks, advocacy for safe shelter, transportation to a shelter or home, as well as water, snacks, condoms, hygiene supplies, winter gear, safety planning, violent offender information, emergency diapers and formula, regular check-ins, and practical advice. This year saw a

significant increase in the amount of drug overdoses in the community, which had staff stumble upon situations in which they conducted wellness checks, made calls to emergency services, and performed opioid response. Each evening shift, Street Outreach tries to cover all the core neighborhoods and areas within the city where the most at-risk and vulnerable populations tend to be. This year saw these areas spread out to other areas of the city as the rising homelessness crisis continues to grow.







From Monday to Friday, Street Outreach operates during daytime hours in addition to the evening shift. These daytime shifts have a focus on follow-up assistance for individuals who may have had interactions with the team the night before, or at any point in the past. Often this follow-up assistance involves pieces such as support with income assistance, help securing shelter/housing, justice support, addictions support, appointment support, advice, relationship building, nutritional needs, and connections to relevant community resources. On quieter days, staff will take time to bring out snacks or hot chocolate, and connect with folks in the community. As always, the aim is to meet clients where they are at and offer meaningful support that aligns with their individual needs and goals. This year Street Outreach provided transportation and assistance with accessing resources in the community and ensuring clients were able to attend appointments **4,785** times.



 *Thank you for everything and all the support from EGADZ staff. I honestly wouldn't have everything back if it wasn't for your help and everyone who helped me."*



From April 1st, 2024 to March 31st, 2025 Street Outreach supported 1814 clients

### Statistics

Emergency Crisis Support (including emergency housing)	280
Mental Health Support	194
Emergency Food pack	406
Lunch	5921
Snack	13539
Bottled Water	13349
Blankets	1317
Condoms	1122
Hygiene	540
Clothing & Winter Gear (Coats, Toques, Boots)	1823
Mitts	1237
Emergency Formula	390
Emergency Diapers	2656
Long-term Housing Assistance	46

EGADZ Street Outreach works in collaboration with the greater organization to help facilitate positive outcomes for the clients and the organization as a whole. There is often frequent teamwork between programs to help meet the changing goals and needs of each individual. Street Outreach staff are also in communications regularly with other community supports and resources so that they can be best informed to support each individual.





Street Outreach received support again this year from the Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation, which provided funds to the program to purchase fresh fruit to support their efforts of providing nutritious snacks to the community. Additionally, the Street Outreach program is incredibly grateful for the many amazing individuals and businesses in Saskatoon and the surrounding area who support our work through generous donations and contributions. On behalf of the Street Outreach team, thank you to everyone who has played a role in helping us support our clients throughout the year—whether through donations of non-perishables and other snacks, monetary donations, warm winter gear, hygiene products, or countless other thoughtful donations and contributions. Your kindness makes a real difference.



*I know to trust the EGADZ squad cause all yawl ever did for me was for the good of it."*

### **EXTREME WEATHER RESPONSE**

The Extreme Weather Response is a community strategy created to enhance options for those who are most at risk during extreme weather occurrences in Saskatoon. Street Outreach plays a large role in this by providing resources to those in need during the most extreme cold and hot weather that we inevitably face each year. During extreme cold weather response, Street Outreach's main goal is to make sure that no one is left out in the elements. Support might include, transportation home or to a shelter, help securing shelter, warm ups in the van, basic first aid, connection to appropriate resources, and providing things like winter gear and nutrition. When the extreme heat hits, Street Outreach is sure to have water on hand provided by the city of Saskatoon and provides support similar to that provided during cold weather – transportation, advocacy for shelter, connection to resources, and more. During extreme weather conditions, staff are always watching for individuals who may be experiencing physical impacts from the weather, like heat stroke, or frostbite. When this is a risk, or is apparent, Street Outreach takes



measures to make sure these folks are receiving appropriate care. This year saw the Extreme Cold Weather Response activated for **26** days.



#### **I AM NOT 4 SALE**

I Am Not 4 Sale is an app created to encourage change for sexually exploited individuals of all ages. The app provides 24/7 access to EGADZ Outreach staff via chat and location sharing, a “Help Me Now” emergency button, resources, and other supports to help those who are, or are at risk, of sexual exploitation.

This year EGADZ began the process of creating a Toolkit to bring awareness, education, support, and prevention to human trafficking and exploitation. Once complete, the toolkit will be linked to the ‘I Am Not 4 Sale’ app for anyone to access and use as needed.

**Jamie** is a young mother of two, has been connected to EGADZ for many years, starting when she was a child. She has made a lot of progress over the years making many positive changes. Growing up in a family surrounded by addiction and a mother who worked the Streets. Jamie faced many barriers growing up, but throughout the years, she remained committed to changing the family cycle that she grew up in. As she grew and matured, Jamie learned to set healthy boundaries with her family, in particular her mother and her siblings, who unfortunately are all struggling with addictions. This past year, Jamie struggled with her mother’s overdose and her sister’s declining health. However, by





prioritizing her own children, she has learned when she can help and when she cannot. Despite the ups and downs, she has continued to seek help from Street Outreach and works hard to build a better life for herself and her children.

In July, Jamie experienced a devastating house fire that resulted in her losing everything. Street Outreach provided vital emotional support during the difficult days and weeks that followed, including emergency food, diapers, and formula for her family, as well as assistance in creating and posting flyers for their missing animals. Once things settled, staff helped Jamie search for a new home and provided transportation to viewings. They also connected her to Jordan's Principal, enabling her to receive funds for furniture and essentials to settle into her new home. Over the past year, Street Outreach has continued to offer support for Jamie and her family, including transportation to medical appointments, assistance with family conflict, and support in locating her mother, who still lives a high-risk lifestyle. Additionally, they have helped with debriefing after difficult situations, promoting self-care, connecting to community resources, and offering regular check-ins.



*Thank you for always being so supportive."*

**Madison** has been a client of EGADZ for more than 15 years, becoming connected with the organization when she was in her early youth. As she entered into adulthood, Madison became an adult client through the Street Outreach, with whom staff have regular contact with. She has experienced significant success in her life, overcoming intense barriers such as her addictions to alcohol and crystal meth, and her struggles with severe depression. However, in the recent year, she has faced one of her lowest points. She is the mother of two young girls, and the caregiver to two of her nieces as well, as when her sister fell back into the throes of her addiction and street lifestyle she was no longer able to safely parent her children. Madison has always been the one in her large family to bear the weight of her family's struggles, not being able to set healthy or appropriate boundaries with them. She has experienced a lot of loss this past year- first losing her dad, then her sister just a few months apart. The grief following the loss of her sister was significant, and given her physical and mental health struggles, staff did extra check-ins via



phone calls, texts, and in-person visits during that time. Staff have offered advice and shared multiple resources including free counselling services, grief groups, art therapy, and more for both her, her children, and her nieces. Staff were able to help find Madison, her children, and nieces and nephews clothing to wear during the service for her late sister and were able to provide some food donations during that time, as many of her family from out of town were staying in her small house. Recently, Street Outreach was able to drop off some crafting supplies for the family, and they were all able to come together and have some positive fun and distraction. Staff are encouraging Madison to focus on the positives, participate in things that bring her joy, and take steps towards improving her mental well-being. Moving forward, she is aware that Street Outreach staff are a phone call away and are willing to help with resourcing, appointment support, and advice.

There are some clients whom Street Outreach only get a chance to really see and support on the streets and Steph is one of those clients. When Street Outreach is able to connect, she is typically in crisis needing only emergency support. Street Outreach has received a handful of calls from emergency services this past year, asking for support in regards to Steph as she has been found in a vulnerable state, but not willing to seek any professional support. Street Outreach has helped out with bringing baby shampoo and new clothing when a bike officer found her following a bear spray incident and then helped her get a bed in emergency shelter for the night. In another instance, the fire department called in regards to a girl passed out downtown. Staff arrived and realized it was Steph and she was highly intoxicated. Staff were able to get her in the van and get her to a warm up location for the night. These are typically the scenarios that Street Outreach is supporting her, and many others, thru. Street Outreach has made attempts to help her get connected with income assistance, addiction support, and housing support, however,

Steph has not been ready or receptive to that yet. Staff will continue to help out in these crisis instances when it is safe to do so and be ready to support her further if and when the time comes.





**Leanne** has received a wide range of support from Street Outreach throughout the year, including general advice, parenting guidance, household budgeting, and crisis intervention. A significant focus has been on helping her manage complex family dynamics, as her past trauma makes certain relationships particularly triggering. Over the past year, staff supported Leanne in preparing for a visit with her adoptive parents, followed by debriefing and safety planning. When her mother was hospitalized, Street Outreach provided emotional support and arranged transportation for her visit. Staff also supported her relationship, helping both Leanne and her then-partner work through parenting challenges and relationship issues. This year brought many challenges for the young parents as they tried to maintain their relationship while adjusting to their new roles as parents. Having grown up without healthy parental models, both want to do better for their son but have struggled with their own healing journeys. Their relationship began to deteriorate and soon became harmful to both of them. During their separation, Leanne began drinking heavily and stopped taking her mental health medication. Her son was always well cared for and clean, but during the late nights, when he was asleep, and she was alone, she struggled to cope. Staff grew increasingly concerned for her well-being and addressed their concerns directly with Leanne. When her home became unclean, staff provided supplies and assisted her in cleaning and creating a healthier living space. They also requested a wellness check from social services to provide additional support when their efforts were exhausted. These steps taken by Street Outreach had a lasting impact on Leanne. Recently, she has made important strides toward personal growth, including setting boundaries with her ex-partner, seeking help when needed, and working on becoming more independent. Street Outreach continues to encourage her to maintain strong boundaries, avoid unnecessary conflict, and prioritize her well-being and that of her son. Leanne stays in regular contact with staff,

whether she needs support or just someone to talk to. When staff don't hear from her, they make a point to check in—both in person and virtually—to ensure her safety and well-being.



Street Outreach has provided **Allie** and her extended family with a range of support throughout the year, including resourcing, general advice, transportation to appointments, assistance with food insecurity, home visits, and regular check-ins. This year, staff have worked more closely with Allie, particularly as she transitioned out of her Kokum's house, facing various ups and downs along the way. At the beginning of this transition, Allie was doing well. She had left her abusive relationship, was working multiple jobs to support her children, and was living a healthier lifestyle. However, a few months after moving out on her own, Allie confided in staff that she had reunited with her abusive partner, and things were not going well. Staff offered resources, support, and advice to help Allie, but unfortunately, the cycle continued. On one occasion, staff called for a wellness check on Allie and her children due to her partner's substance use and violence in the home. On another occasion, Allie called Street Outreach in crisis, reporting that her partner had physically assaulted her. Street Outreach advised her to call 911 and immediately headed to her location. Staff safety-planned with Allie and helped her stay with her Kokum for the weekend. Street Outreach staff have provided resources for victims of domestic violence and are hopeful that Allie will consider them moving forward. Court proceedings are expected following the most recent incident, and Allie has requested Street Outreach's involvement in the process. Street Outreach will continue to support Allie through the court proceedings and provide any other necessary outreach support.



*You know me best, you know what I mean? And how long it took to get here in this good head space. Thank you."*

## SWEET DREAMS HOUSING

The Sweet Dreams Program was designed to support and empower mothers and their children by providing a secure home while delivering essential support to heal from emotional, physical, or sexual traumas. This program is particularly effective for mothers and children transitioning from the Baby Steps Programs or escaping domestic or intimate partner violence. Each family works collaboratively with our dedicated staff to create a personalized goal plan that addresses specific barriers and charting a clear path toward success. Our ultimate objective is to ensure that the families are equipped with the knowledge, skills and sense of community they need to confidently integrate into the community.



*Sweet Dreams has been my home for the past two years and I am very proud of the progress I've made in this program. We have had a taste of independence but also have the extra support with our support worker she has put on so many programs that helped us in all fields. She has helped me learn to do my taxes navigate NA and the journey to my sobriety. Being there I have overcome to many obstacles, anxiety depression addiction. I cannot express how grateful I am for the Sweet Dreams program and EGADZ all together."*





From April 1st 2024 to March 31st 2025, Sweet Dreams supported 25 mothers and children.

**Statistics**

Addictions	193
Attachment and Bonding	24
Client Support	2532
Education	11
Health	52
Nutrition	182
Parenting Support	61
Self work group	57

**Raine** is a 26-year-old mother of two who transitioned from Mah’s Place. As a result of her ongoing work in both programs, Raine has established healthy boundaries between herself and her children’s father. This has helped Raine and her co-parent engage in a more constructive and communicative co-parenting relationship. By continuing her recovery and attending Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings—both in the community and through EGADZ—Raine is honoring her commitment to sobriety and is focused on creating positive, meaningful memories as she remains sober. She has also worked diligently to build her self-esteem and overcome fears of being an inadequate parent, including addressing feelings of guilt related to her past parenting. As she continues to work through her codependency issues, she is learning to better understand and prioritize her personal needs. Raine is now contemplating larger aspirations for her future and has begun exploring potential career paths and educational opportunities.



**Cali** was raised in a loving family, deeply rooted in her Indigenous culture, and shared a close bond with her siblings. Throughout her childhood and adolescence, she excelled in various areas of life, including her education, and nurtured a strong desire to be a voice for her community as she matured. However, following a tumultuous separation between her parents and the revelation of hidden addictions within her family, Cali felt lost and overwhelmed. At the age of 15, she began turning to drugs and alcohol—a path that felt normalized within her community. By 17, she was seeking belonging and stability and entered a relationship with a young man who presented a glamorized lifestyle offering wealth and freedom. Unfortunately, his means of income centered on the drug trade, and Cali quickly became the scapegoat for angry buyers and suppliers. With each compromise, she found herself increasingly trapped in a situation from which she could not easily extricate herself. After the birth of their child, her partner promised

they would leave that lifestyle behind and build a better future for their family. However, that promise was never fulfilled. At the age of 24, Cali made the courageous decision to escape that world. She sought treatment multiple times, but it was only in her final attempt that she truly committed to recovery—for herself and for her son. She completed an individual treatment program, followed by a family program with her son, and then moved into the Sweet Dreams Program. While focusing on her recovery, Cali worked diligently with Sweet Dreams Outreach to develop healthy parenting practices, prioritize self-care, and understand the importance of setting and maintaining boundaries. She also pursued education in the trades and sought employment to begin making financial amends, all while navigating the challenges of rebuilding her life. This past Christmas, Cali and her son completed the Sweet Dreams Program and stepped into a new chapter marked by healthy boundaries and a solid recovery plan. Currently, Cali is participating in a reunification program and has enrolled in the Mental Health and Addictions Wellness Program for the 2025–2026 school year. She continues to maintain contact with Sweet Dreams Outreach and reaches out for guidance during challenging times. Cali’s journey is a testament to her resilience and unwavering commitment to creating a healthier, brighter future for both herself and her son.



**TEEN PARENT OUTREACH**

The Teen Parent Outreach is funded through the Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) and has been designed to assist young parents up to the age of 20, who are living in various “high risk” circumstances. These may include challenges such as addictions, mental health, abuse, unstable housing, historical trauma, and fear. The goal is to provide the parents and children with the education, skills and resources that will improve their wellbeing and keep families together. Outreach staff are mobile and work directly with parents and their children in their homes and communities. Support ranges from prenatal care and education to postnatal and ongoing parenting assistance. Staff provide a variety of services, including education, community referrals, health support, labour and delivery planning, appointment support, and positive parenting guidance.

The Teen Parent Outreach also helps parents meet emergency needs by providing essentials such as diapers, formula, and infant or toddler clothing.

Referrals to the program come from various sources, including Family Services, mental health and addictions, education professionals, community organizations, and self-referrals from parents.

**From April 1st, 2024 to March 31st 2025, Teen Parent Outreach Support 21 teen mothers and 11 teen fathers.**

**Statistics**

Client Support	3382
Connect to Community Resources	611
Education	227
Employment Assistance	68
Health	271
Housing	208
Justice	41
Mental Health	203
Nutrition	214
Parent Workshops	66
Parenting Education	570
Parenting Support	429
Social Service liaison	174
Transports	211



**Arries** is a 19-year-old mother to a one-year-old son. She had a very challenging upbringing, living in various foster homes and never experiencing true stability. Upon discovering she was pregnant—after being with the child's father for only a short time—she embraced the challenges of motherhood despite her young age. However, communication difficulties with the father persisted, ultimately leading to a physical altercation around the time of their son's first birthday. This incident prompted Arries to leave the abusive and toxic relationship and seek support from EGADZ. With the help of her Teen Parent Outreach worker, she secured independent housing, accessed vital resources, and began rebuilding her life and mental well-being. Currently, Arries is focused on completing high school and aspires to one day earn a Psychology degree from the University of Saskatchewan.



**Cora** is 19 years old and has previously struggled with addictions to marijuana and alcohol. She also experienced significant trauma at a young age, including the loss of her mother and a painful miscarriage. Despite these challenges, Cora has a heart of gold and is always willing to support her friends and family. She moved into the Mentored My Homes program through EGADZ and was later connected to a Teen Parent Support worker. At that time, she was six weeks pregnant and full of excitement. Her Teen Parent Support worker helped transport her to appointments such as blood work and ultrasounds and connected her with pregnancy resources to guide her in maintaining a healthy pregnancy.

Unfortunately, at her eight-week ultrasound, Cora received the heartbreaking news of a silent miscarriage and had to undergo a Dilation and Curettage (D&C) procedure. Teen Parent Support ensured she didn't go through this loss alone by offering consistent emotional and practical support. To help Cora process her grief, her support worker created a meaningful closure activity with her—making an ornament in memory of the baby. Currently, Cora is upgrading her education and plans to take a Welding course at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. She continues to work with EGADZ through the Action to Employment Program and is making great strides. Cora hopes to eventually transition into the Fusion 22 program as she continues building a stable and independent future.





**Jaiden** was living in the EGADZ Ground Zero home and had her daughter placed with family when she first connected with Teen Parent Outreach. A 16-year-old mother of one, Jaiden—like many teenage parents—struggled to find balance between the responsibilities of motherhood and the desire to experience typical teenage life. Her bouts of depression and need for peer acceptance often clashed with her love for and commitment to her child. Despite these challenges, Jaiden used her experiences to shape herself into a stronger, more focused young woman. Her daughter has remained her greatest motivation—driving her to complete her Grade 12 education and work toward finding stable housing so she can have her daughter full-time. Through Teen Parent Outreach, Jaiden received parenting education and support, along with exposure to safe and positive outlets to help her manage stress and grow in confidence.



**Abi** is a 16-year-old girl currently living in the community. When Parent Support first met Abi, she was living with her brothers in the Fusion 22 residence. All of the children had endured a turbulent and traumatic early childhood, marked by domestic violence, substance abuse and mental health challenges.

Abi was very close to her mother, and despite her mother's struggles, she believes her mom did the best she could to provide a loving home. When Abi was eleven, her mother tragically passed away from an overdose in the family home, and her father was homeless and living on the streets. At that time, Abi's oldest brother stepped in as guardian to prevent her and her brother from entering foster care. In her early teens, Abi began facing her own mental health challenges, including substance use. Struggling with her brother's attempts to set boundaries and take on a parental role, she eventually moved out. Over the next few years, she lived with various family members and in group homes. In the summer of 2024, she moved into her boyfriend's family home.

In January 2025, believing she was pregnant,



Abi reached out to Parent Support feeling unsure of what to do or what her options were. Parent Support assisted her in booking the necessary appointments to confirm the pregnancy and determine how far along she was. They also provided information and education on the options available to her.

Initially, Abi considered terminating the pregnancy. Parent Support helped her navigate this process, including arranging travel and funding for an out-of-province procedure. However, as the appointment approached, Abi made the decision to continue with the pregnancy. Parent Support then introduced her to Teen Parent Outreach, and together the two programs began supporting her transition into motherhood. Now in her third trimester, Abi continues to work closely with both programs and actively participates in all aspects of her pregnancy journey. This includes prenatal education, mental health and wellness support, doctor's appointments, ultrasounds, discussions about labour and delivery, breastfeeding, and infant care.

## THERAPEUTIC HOUSING -GARDEN OF HOPE

Garden of Hope opened in December of 2023 through a partnership between the Ministry of Social Services, Saskatchewan Health Authority, and EGADZ. Created for youth, by youth, the program practices the youth centered approach, supports the youth in their goals and provides a safe, patient atmosphere for stabilization. The home is voluntary, meaning that the youth have the choice whether to enter or leave the program. Garden of Hope is youth-centred and allows the youth to share their voice and lead their own plan. There is a strong focus on planned mental health programming with the youth. With individual case planning and tailored 1 on 1 support the youth's length of stay in the home is determined individually, based on the youth's needs and progression.

There are 10 bedrooms for all gendered youth aged 12-18 years old. Staffing within the home consists of three youth workers 24/7, a Supervisor and a Coordinator. Extra support is facilitated through a 7 day a week crisis team, ensuring the youth receive support needed for a crisis, crisis prevention, emergencies and immediate care.




**Mental Health and Addictions Statistics April 1st, 2024-March 31st, 2025**

**Statistics**

Mental Heath Support	2135
Addictions Support	411
Crisis Support	39
Connected to Community Resources	52
Recreation	1613



 *Garden of hope helps me with healing – it's all love."*

Garden of Hope has a dedicated area called "the calm room" where the youth can go to decompress, create art, or relax. It is a safe space that incorporates sensory items, two large chairs, soft blankets and pillows, and art supplies of all kinds. The home also features two living rooms, one upstairs and one downstairs, providing extra space for youth to feel safe within the home. The youth regularly participate in various recreational activities, such as bowling, movie nights, mini-golf, go-karting, cultural activities, volunteering, and outings for treats, to name a few.





**Timothy** is an 18-year-old who recently moved to Canada after the tragic passing of his mother, just before they were supposed to immigrate. Originally from Nigeria, Timothy had housing arranged in Regina, SK, where he was enrolled at the University of Regina. However, when his housing fell through, he made his way to Saskatoon and came to EGADZ, mistakenly thinking it was a youth shelter where he could find a place to stay. At the time, he was staying on week-by-week extensions at The Salvation Army, but he felt unsafe there and sought a safer living environment. Timothy was at high risk of sexual exploitation due to his sexual orientation. He had been meeting older men at hotels and engaging in sexual encounters with them, some of whom suggested bringing their friends to join as well. Recognizing the dangers, he faced, Timothy was connected with EGADZ Street Outreach, who helped him get referred to the Garden of Hope.

Upon moving into Garden of Hope, Timothy immediately opened up to the staff and stayed in regular contact with Street Outreach. Because he was 18, he met with the Executive Director to discuss age exemptions and to create a plan for his future. This led to Timothy being connected with the EGADZ Transitional Outreach team, who assisted him in pursuing his goal of independence, particularly in finding stable housing. Over the next month, Timothy focused on his work and collaborated with the Transitional Outreach team. He learned the bus routes and started commuting to and from work. Eventually, he was able to secure an apartment and successfully transitioned out of the Garden of Hope into the community.



**Lila** came to the Garden of Hope in 2024 after spending two days in the hospital, lying on a bed in the hallway of the emergency room. She signed a Section 10 agreement with the Ministry of Social Services and moved into the Garden of Hope with the intention of moving out right away. However, Lila ended up staying long-term to work on her mental health and addiction issues. Lila was open to support services, such as CRT and counseling through mental health and addiction services. She started attending the Adult 12 program to gain the credits needed to graduate. She attended half days and completed assignments on time. Lila began exploiting herself online to earn money, and once she made staff and supports aware of this, she was connected with Operation Help through EGADZ. She started receiving support and information on the potential consequences of self-exploitation. Lila had not been aware of these risks before and



*I feel safer than I did in my own home  
and everyone is kind"*

wanted to stop immediately, but she also wanted to continue receiving support. Lila then took an interest in teaching beading to the other youth in the home, which improved her sewing skills and sparked her interest in designing clothing. She also gained employment with EGADZ Action to Employment as a casual staff member, allowing her to balance work without missing school. In January of 2025, Lila started going out with friends and drinking alcohol, to the point of extreme intoxication. Lila did not think that she had a problem with alcohol, and was struggling to understand the effect of her actions. Lila was having a hard time waking up in the mornings, but was still attending school. On February 13, Lila attempted to self harm, but went too deep. Staff had called for an ambulance to help. The police also attended due to Lila refusing the paramedics to help, and needing serious medical attention. Lila had to be sedated to calm her down so that she could be taken to the hospital. It was found that she had a high amount of blood alcohol level. Staff did a room search to follow the incident, and found a water bottle that smelled of vodka. The next night, February 14, 2025, Lila decided to leave the home to visit friends, despite being discharged from the hospital that morning. She was intoxicated when picked up, and on the drive home, she became extremely escalated and attempted to grab the wheel and exit the vehicle while moving. Staff pulled over, but Lila kept trying to exit the vehicle. Staff called for assistance from the 911, and police and paramedics showed up. Lila was, again, needing to be sedated as she was fighting with the officers to try and run into the road. After being sedated, the ambulance took her to the hospital again. Lila was told to stay in the home, she needed to attend detox and treatment, as her addiction was taking over, to which Lila agreed. After two weeks, Lila got a spot at Brief and Social Detox, but at the last minute, she decided to leave the program as she was not ready for detox or treatment. Lila was determined to finish her Adult 12, and decided to move out that day. She is still connected with Operation Help, and her addictions worker.





**Rachel** moved to the Garden of Hope in September of 2024, coming to us from the YWCA. She had been in multiple placements, as she has been in care for most of her life. She has a strong connection with certain aunts in her family but was unable to live with them. Rachel gained a lot of independent living skills throughout her time in multiple placements and has expressed that she appreciates what they did for her. When Rachel first moved in, she was extremely shy. Being in a ten-bedroom house was more people than she was used to living with, but she slowly began to come out of her shell. Rachel struggled with alcohol and marijuana use when she first arrived. She would go out with friends who didn't have her best interests at heart and encouraged her to use. Despite this, she stayed in contact with staff and always appreciated that they picked her up, no matter what.

Rachel was initially unable to be enrolled in school because, by the time she was ready, no schools were accepting students. School was not Rachel's priority at that time as she focused on reducing her reliance on substances. In January, we were able to get her enrolled at Oskayak High School. At first, she was very dedicated to attending and getting her education, but this enthusiasm quickly decreased as she struggled with the routine. However, Rachel has started coming out of her shell more. She is utilizing staff support, going into common areas, cooking for herself, and beginning to prioritize her education. She is looking forward to stabilizing in school, so she can put in a referral to My Homes for a mentored spot.



*I enjoy living at Garden of Hope because it's awesome and great for my mental health"*





**Grace** came to the Garden of Hope in November of 2024. She was an emergency placement after being found in a house where people were being sex trafficked. Prior to being in the trafficking house, Grace lived with her dad. She ran away from home, claiming he was abusing her. Grace couch-surfed for two days before a ‘friend’ encouraged her to come to the house where people were being trafficked. Grace’s mom’s house was not an option, as she was harming herself and engaging in destructive behaviors, which put her younger siblings at risk. Grace quickly connected with Operation Help staff and would often go for one-on-ones with that support. Unfortunately, after that staff member left, Grace isolated herself from staff, as her trusted support had gone. Grace started spending more time outside of the home. She struggled to wake up during the day because she came home in the early morning hours, slept throughout the day, and would leave again in the evenings. After two months of staying at Garden of Hope, Grace was able to get a Section 10 and agreed to attend school. Turning around her sleep schedule was extremely difficult for her. She was used to going out whenever she wanted, so following a curfew was challenging.





Grace started attending school, but not regularly. She struggled with going, so the school arranged for her to attend only in the afternoons. Grace began going out with her boyfriend in the evenings and coming home for curfew, but she would spend all night on the phone with him, which led to sleepless nights and made it difficult for her to get up for school. Grace is still working on adjusting her sleep schedule, as she turns 18 soon. She is still connected with Operation Help and is trying to utilize their support as best as she can.



From April 1st, 2024-March 31st, 2025 Garden of hope provided 20 youth with support, with an additional 3 youth utilizing the home for respite.

Statistics

Transitioned to EGADZ My Homes	5
Transitioned to High Cost Placement	0
Transitioned to Community	7



**Kimberly** has been in care since she was born. She remained in the care of her biological family but experienced a lot of sexual and physical abuse from male relatives. Her father was the main aggressor with physical abuse, leading her to be apprehended and taken into foster care. Kimberly was with one foster family for three years and another for three years. The second foster family was a great fit for Kimberly, and she felt safe there. However, Kimberly has severe suicidal ideation and would attempt. This led to her being taken to the hospital, with her foster family asking for help for her. Kimberly was admitted into the Dube Centre twice, throughout the three years with the second foster family. The admitting doctor recommended 24-hour supervision for Kimberly, which led the foster family and MSS worker to look for more support, as they worked, and there would be three hours a day where Kimberly would be left alone. Kimberly was granted an emergency placement at Bethany Home, and was there for two months before gaining placement at Garden of Hope in May of 2024.

Kimberly started at Garden of Hope with some hope but was silently battling heavy demons. Kimberly struggled with eating and had to have multiple reminders from staff every meal. She let staff know that smoking marijuana was the only way she felt like eating, but knew it was not feasible to be doing that every day. Additionally, Kimberly was actively suicidal and had attempted twice within the first month of living at Garden of Hope, while out in the community. Kimberly would reach out to staff as a last-ditch effort, and staff would arrive on time before she could do anything. Kimberly never wanted to go to the hospital but would always accept help from her staff and supporters. Kimberly then was sexually assaulted by a close friend's partner, and this created a lot of trauma for her, due to the incident and the impact of her friends not believing her. Kimberly held her own throughout and continued to reach out to her supporters and her staff. Kimberly gained new friends from separating herself from the people that she had previously been around. Kimberly started to stabilize with

her suicidal ideation and self-harm. She reached out to her MSS worker and was connected with her band, which flew her out to Vancouver, BC, to meet new family members and learn about her background. Kimberly decided to be an active part of her band and continue learning about herself in that way. Kimberly reached out to the My Homes Coordinators and asked to be put on the wait list. Upon reviewing, they found that Kimberly could either be in a staffed or mentored home and gave her that option. Kimberly officially transitioned over to a staffed My Home, so as to decrease the supports slowly to let herself adjust, in March of 2025, and plans to be in a mentored home before her 18th birthday.



*Garden of Hope allows me to relax and supports me whenever I need it. I love this healing journey.”*







**Mental Health and Addictions Statistics April 1st, 2024-March 31st, 2025**

**Statistics**

Mental Health and Addiction	
Related Incident Reports	95
Mental Health Related Hospital Visits	14
Dube Admissions	3
Attended Treatment	8
Youth Lead Safety Plans Completed	78



**THERAPEUTIC HOUSING  
-RETREAT HOME**

The Retreat home offers 5 spaces plus one emergency spot to female youth who are experiencing high mental health and addictions. The home maintains two staff on shift at all times, providing tailored support to the youth who display higher-risk needs while building important developmental skills and maintaining consistency. Priority is given to crisis care, safety planning, and one-on-one daily individualized mental health and addiction support.

The Retreat Home works in partnership with the Community Recovery Team through the Saskatchewan Health Authority, which includes mental health nurses and addiction counsellors. The team assists with a wraparound service that focuses on the youth’s individualized, ongoing needs. The Retreat home has been successful in dramatically reducing the number of youths having to go to the Dube Centre or transition to long-term protective services.



**From April 1st, 2024-March 31st, 2025 the Retreat home provided support to 11 youth with an additional 2 youth utilizing the home for respite.**

Statistics	
Transitioned to Community	3
Transitioned to Family	1
Transitioned to EGADZ	2
Transitioned to Higher Cost Placement	1

Youth from all EGADZ residential homes are able to access the Retreat Home on an emergent basis when requiring extra support and stabilization due to their mental health and addictions. Once the youth are stabilized, have identified supports, resources, and coping mechanisms, they successfully transition back into their long-term home.

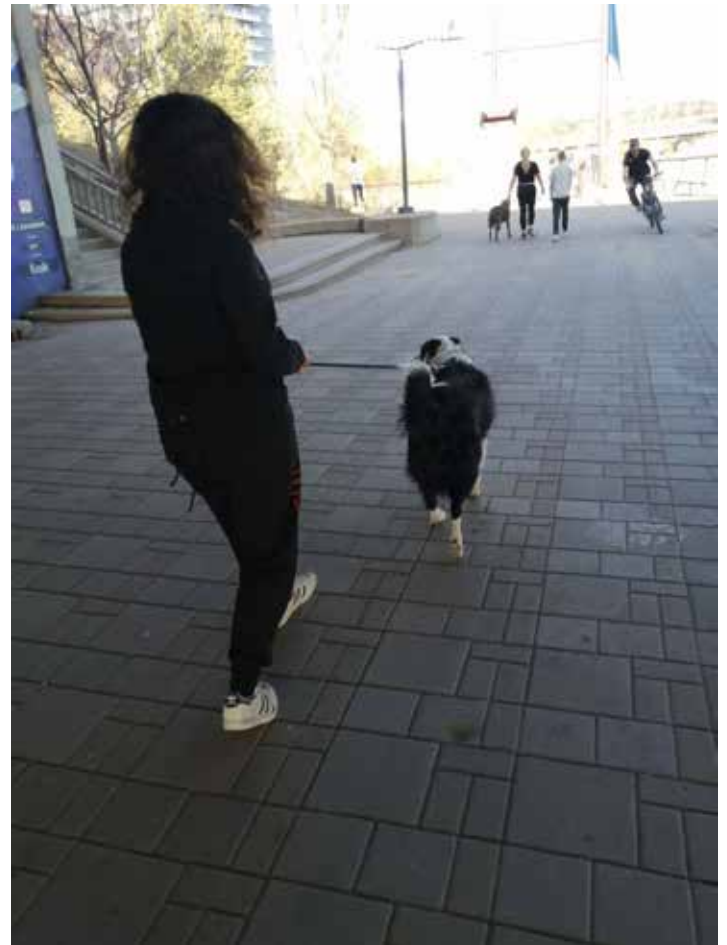
**Mental Health and Addictions Statistics April 1st, 2024-March 31st, 2025**

Statistics	
Mental Health Support	368
Addictions Support	86
Connected to Community Resource	39
Mental Health and Addiction	
Related Incident Reports	24
Dube Admissions	0
Detox Warrants	1
Youth Lead Safety Plans Completed	20





The Retreat Home features a “soft room” where the youth have the space to emotionally regulate, learn about their mental health, talk with a support, and provides a safe space to decompress. In addition to the soft room, The Retreat Home is home to a canine companion, Mikita. Mikita is able to assist the youth with emotional regulation and provides love and companionship.



*I enjoy living here because it’s judgement-free. If I relapse, they don’t judge me or hate me, it feels like a good place to better yourself. I love the staff and I even found out one of them is my aunt.”*

**Brittany** moved into the Retreat home in 2024 from Ground Zero. Prior to living at Ground Zero, she had been living with her family, which was an unsafe situation due to her mother’s struggle with alcoholism. This left Brittany and her older sisters in the role of caregivers for their younger siblings. When Brittany’s older sister reached out for help, Brittany wanted to stay with the family, despite how bad the situation was becoming. After the family was evicted from their home, they all began residing with their grandmother. There were many people coming in and out of the house, leaving Brittany with no

space except for sleeping on the living room floor. Brittany often went days without being able to eat. The instability led Brittany to turn to substance abuse to cope. Recognizing that she needed help and stability, her older sister was able to connect her with Ground Zero.

While at Ground Zero, Brittany continued to use alcohol as a coping mechanism, often resulting in her being in dangerous situations—wandering the streets downtown, completely intoxicated. Wanting to make changes and be safe, Brittany took the step for herself to go to treatment; however, she was not ready to fully commit and chose to leave treatment and Ground Zero. One month later, Brittany was ready and advocated for herself, gaining placement at the Retreat Home. Brittany quickly settled in and started having goals for her future. Although determined for change, Brittany battled with putting in healthy boundaries with her family, so she was still spending a lot of time with them while they regularly used substances and drank alcohol in front of her, and encouraged her to use as well, resulting in Brittany relapsing. Through these ebbs and flows with her addictions, she continued to be open, honest, and accepting of the staff and supports around her. Brittany was able to work with her support team to safety plan and put boundaries in place with her family to still see them but ensure she was safe and able to do so without relapsing or putting herself at risk, resulting in her ability to be sober for over a month. Brittany remains dedicated to utilizing her support through Narcotics Anonymous, Operation Help, the Day Program Operation Runaway, and the Retreat Home to stay focused on her sobriety goals while working through her trauma and mental health, putting herself first for the first time in her life.



Growing up in care, **Sally** resided in several different homes. This instability created a lot of trauma for her. Before moving to Saskatoon, she was living in Alberta with a foster family. Due to her significant mental health challenges, she attempted suicide on more than one occasion. As the foster family felt they were not equipped to keep Sally safe, that placement broke down and Sally moved to Eagle's Nest.

When moving to the Retreat Home in 2024, Sally started off very shy and would sometimes leave the home with other youth. Staff maintained a high level of support throughout and ensured she was always safe. Over time, Sally began to feel safe, comfortable, and trusting of staff, and she was able to build relationships in the home where she could express herself and receive support. Sally is now engaging in positive interactions in the home





and is excellent at taking care of the house dog, Mikita.

In October of 2024, Sally was told that she could move into a My Home, due to how well she had been doing. However, this triggered a decline in her mental health, stemming from past trauma related to moving. Sally became withdrawn and appeared unable to speak, as she was no longer able to communicate with staff. Multiple attempts were made to support her in regaining a sense of safety, including utilizing CRT, mental health counselling, reconnecting her with past supports, and trying to involve her sibling. Sally began going for frequent “walks” each day, pacing in front of the home and appearing to talk to someone, although no one else was present. A meeting was held with her MSS worker to explore ways to help Sally, but unfortunately, no immediate solutions were found. The PACT unit was called, as Sally had refused to go to the emergency room for mental health support and could not confirm that she was safe or that she wouldn’t harm herself. When the PACT unit arrived, they were unable to complete a proper assessment due to Sally’s lack of communication. They advised that a mental health warrant be pursued the following day. The warrant was granted, and Sally was taken to Royal University Hospital for assessment by a psychiatrist. It was determined that she was unable to keep herself safe, and she was subsequently admitted to the Dube Centre.

Upon her release from the Dube Centre, Sally came home with new medication and was connected with a psychiatrist. During her adjustment to the medication, Sally’s walks were still happening, and she was still not communicating well, but she was taking her medication daily and attending her psychiatrist appointments regularly. Sally was removed from her school due to not attending. She was still struggling to complete daily tasks and was sleeping most of the day. This continued until January of 2025, when Sally began to communicate more

and express her needs to staff and supports, identifying what was working and what was not. Now, in April of 2025, Sally is holding conversations without prompting, attending the EGADZ Day Program daily, looking forward to her appointments with her psychiatrist, and going on more outings with staff



An incident took place in **Nova's** home that led her family to believe her younger siblings were not safe with her in the home. Although they wanted to maintain a relationship with their daughter, the family had to make the difficult decision to have Nova apprehended, which resulted in her living in a shelter for 10 days in a different city. She was then able to move into an emergency spot at Ground Zero and ultimately into the Retreat Home in July of 2024.

While living with her siblings, Nova struggled with boundaries, manipulation, and aggression. These behaviors carried over, making it difficult for her to settle into a new environment with other youth her age. At home and at school, Nova continued to display high-risk behaviors, often making up stories and allegations about staff, teachers, and her peers, all of which were unfounded. Nova was unable to identify why she consistently engaged in this behavior, so a plan was developed with staff, the school, and her parents to minimize triangulation and help Nova stay grounded in her reality. Nova was initially frustrated, as she was no longer able to manipulate within her support system, but the approach proved effective in helping her focus on improving her relationships with her family, staff, and within the school system.

Nova was able to disclose to staff that she had been connecting with men online and exchanging sexual favors for gifts and money. She was open to addressing this and was connected with the Operation No Go team. Nova was able to recognize that this was not “friendship” and that she was placing herself at high risk. Focusing on herself—coupled with a diagnosis, medication, and consistent support—allowed Nova to see a decrease in her behaviors, creating a more stable home environment and leading to a turnaround in her school performance, while also minimizing her engagement in high-risk situations



*I like living here because it is not a toxic environment, there is less fighting and more privacy than I had before. I feel like I can be more independent and less restricted.”*



**Hazel** was adopted at birth by their aunt, as their biological parents had too high-risk of a lifestyle to raise a child safely. Hazel was unaware that they were adopted by their aunt until they were much older. When Hazel was four years old, their aunt met her partner, with whom she had three children. Hazel was often left to be a caregiver whenever her guardians left the house, sometimes for several days at a time. Hazel was unable to remain in school due to caring for her younger siblings. In 2019, Hazel and her siblings were apprehended from the home and placed with their grandma short-term. As grandma was caregiving in 2021, she was unable to continue to provide Hazel with housing, so Hazel moved into Bethany



Home. Following an incident of self-harm, it was decided to place Hazel in Eagles Nest to stabilize. Hazel was able to stabilize and moved into EGADZ My Homes. After residing in a single-staffed home for a while, Hazel began declining in motivation. She was feeling suicidal often and had no interest in school, appointments, or any out-of-the-house activities. When a favorite staff member moved out of town and left the position, Hazel decided to commit suicide and attempted to act on it, but instead returned to the home. At that point, Hazel was moved to the Retreat Home for respite purposes. After some time in respite, Hazel asked to close her bed at her previous home and chose to stay at the Retreat Home in August of 2023.

While adjusting to living at the Retreat, Hazel struggled to prioritize her mental health. She was excited for one-on-ones with preferred staff but found it difficult to connect with supports. Hazel was diagnosed with complex PTSD, which helped staff understand why she was struggling more often than not with her mental health. Hazel eventually returned to school, attending in the afternoons. She was enjoying her routine but found that gaming became an escape from dealing with her mental health. Hazel began gaming more and eventually developed an addiction to video games. She was doing well with the time limits set on gaming, but was gifted a PS5 from a friend, allowing her to game in her bedroom whenever she wanted. Hazel then began to struggle with her sleep and would often stay awake all night, despite staff asking her to shut it down for the evening. This led to Hazel struggling to attend school due to sleeping all day. Hazel began meeting with the program's manager to discuss ways to get her back on track with sleep and school, as the lack of sleep was affecting her mental health. In these meetings, her MSS worker suggested sibling visits. Hazel loved the idea and was really excited to see her siblings. However, the first sibling visit was not properly planned with all the workers, which resulted in a very traumatic experience for all the siblings. On the drive home, Hazel attempted to

take her own life by jumping out of the vehicle while on the highway.

The next two weeks were difficult for Hazel. She was taken to the hospital to be evaluated by the PACT unit, but was not admitted, so she remained on suicide watch for the weekend. Hazel was refusing medication and was not willing to work on her mental health any further. She decided that she could no longer stay at the Retreat Home and reached out to an aunt until she could get into an adult mental health home. Her aunt took her in happily, and Hazel gained placement within a week into an adult mental health home.



**Mary** moved around frequently throughout her entire life, never experiencing any stability. Throughout these years, Mary was susceptible to mental, emotional, and sexual trauma. In her most recent foster placement, Mary attempted suicide. She was taken to the hospital but was not admitted. Her foster parent later found a rope tucked into the ceiling as part of a suicide plan. This placement broke down, as they felt they did not have the ability to keep Mary safe. Mary was then moved to a high-cost placement, where she was able to stabilize. However, she struggled, as the youth in the home were much younger than her. Mary was ready for an alternative type of supported living environment and was advocating for a different resource. She was then referred to the Retreat Home. Mary was excited to make connections with youth her own age and with similar journeys. Initially, Mary struggled with what she identified as “freedom” and would often take off randomly on the bus, just because she could. After adapting to the new space and approach, Mary was able to find comfort in the home and was no longer afraid of feeling stuck. She is now engaging in positive interactions in the home and is excellent at taking care of the house dog, Mikita. Mary has said that she has a soft spot for animals, so spending time with Mikita is an important routine in her day-to-day life. This includes frequent walks, baths, watering/feeding, and belly rubs. Mary is looking into Equine Therapy, as she has tried it in the past and really loved it. She continues to work on her mental health and allows staff the space to support her when she needs it.



*I love the staff and enjoy living here.”*





**Mental Health and Addictions Statistics April 1st, 2024-March 31st, 2025**

Statistics	
Mental Health Support	368
Addictions Support	86
Crisis Support	8
Connected to Community Resource	39



**TRANSITIONAL OUTREACH**

The Transitional Outreach Program was developed by the Saskatoon Youth Advisory Team and fully operational in September of 2024. The team members are all youth who are dedicated and passionate about improving the lives of youth who are in government care. They accomplish this through their own lived experiences and knowledge. During a meeting, the team was asked what areas they would like to see a larger focus on to allow for better support of youth in care. The members came to the agreement that there needed to be more support and skills for youth as they approach their 18th birthdays and age out of care.



The main focus for Transitional Outreach workers is to offer life skills and education that will prepare youth for independence as they enter adulthood. The support team works alongside the youth to create an individualized plan that is unique to each person. Youth in the program have the opportunity to work with staff one-on-one, in a group setting, in the office, or out in the community. When a young person starts in the program, one of the main areas Transitional Outreach focuses on is ensuring that person has all up-to-date identifications. Staff will work with the youth to gather government-issued photo identification, a health card, social insurance number, birth certificate, passport and treaty number.



*I like that you guys help me get set up with important stuff I need to get done. I also like that you work with us individually and then we also do stuff together as a group."*

Referrals to the program can come from many different sources – schools, counsellors, The Ministry of Social Services, community organizations and youth can self refer.



*The transitional outreach program has been very helpful in terms of resources such as housing, food assistance and job hunting. They helped me get a job. They are also very determined in helping me to achieve my goals."*



*Being in the program has taught me about budgeting for many things like bills and groceries. When I was low on food I didn't feel scared to ask for help, and I would immediately get help. The staff is amazing and I couldn't ask for better people to be surrounded and supported by."*


When a youth is exploring the idea of attending an educational program, Transitional Outreach will assist with the application forms, attending information meetings, taking a youth to meet with the school, and ensuring the youth has the supplies needed to be successful.





For employment, staff assist the youth with resume building, interview preparation, appropriate clothing for job interviews, job search assistance, help handing out resumes and employment workshop opportunities.



 *I have gained skills to be independent and to help find jobs and job hunting. Transitional Outreach has also helped me with my school attendance and keeping my grades up. I enjoy the sense of community it gives me and the kind people that have helped me get to where I am."*

Transitional Outreach collaborates with other organizations within Saskatoon to offer youth opportunities to learn about different career paths and post-secondary education options. The Gabriel Dumont Institute holds ongoing workshops for the transitional youth to learn about the programs they offer, the cultural support they have, and how to navigate the application process. Cummins Canada has toured the youth through their facility, showing them the different career options in mechanics, teaching them the history of Cummins, and allowing the youth to ask questions of the various technicians.





Saskatchewan Trades and Skills has also hosted workshops where the youth attending was able to tour their facility, learn about the different programs they offer, and do a walkthrough of their shop room. The program has also attended a variety of other community events that have a positive influence on independent living skills. Youth in the program have attended multiple community job fairs, community information nights, community ID clinics, and community business open houses.

To help youth add to their resumes and experiences when applying for jobs, Transitional Outreach will assist youth in obtaining many different online training certificates. Some online certificates youth have received through Transitional Outreach include WHMIS, Serve It Right, Food Safe, and Fall Safety. Many youths also receive assistance with studying for their learner's license written exam and road sign exam.



*On Transitional Outreach, I gained a job and became way more independent. I am going to get my learners license soon."*

Transitional Outreach works with youth to offer them financial skills they can use in the future. Through the program, youth can get assistance with opening a bank account, opening a savings account, filling out individualised budgeting sheets, financial advocacy, and financial literacy courses. Youth in the program

had to opportunity to attend a six-week financial literacy workshop which covered, introduction to basic banking, introduction to basic budgeting, credit cards and prepaid cards, costs and obligations, loans you do not want, and building a healthy credit history.

The Transitional Outreach also holds life skill-building workshops in the areas of basic food preparation and cooking classes, as well as why and how to sanitize your home. They also offer wellbeing workshops where guest speakers from the community discuss topics such as positive relationship building, consent and safe sex, and personal hygiene.





**From September 2024 to March 31st 2025 the Transitional Outreach assisted 57 youth.**

**Statistics**

Bank Accounts	7
Budgeting	82
Gained Employment	10
Identifications	48
Resource Connections	327
Resume Building	51
Taxes	13
Training (On line)	11
Workshops	48
Other Client Support	1803



**Eddie** self-referred to Transitional Outreach because he recognized that he was living in an unsafe environment and wanted to actively work on creating positive changes to improve his future as he enters adulthood. Through Transitional Outreach, Eddie obtained his health card, birth certificate, photo identification, and social insurance number. His main priority when he entered Transitional Outreach was to obtain a job so that he could provide himself with safer housing. To start the process of obtaining a job,

we opened a bank account and email address in preparation for gaining employment. We updated his resume and completed his WHMIS certificate to help add to his qualifications. With Transitional Outreach, Eddie learned how to use the Indeed website and handed out resumes both in person and online. He practiced mock job interviews with the staff and successfully obtained full-time work. After securing a job, Eddie realized that he would soon be becoming an adult and prioritized getting all his medical check-ups done prior to his 18th birthday. Eddie worked with Transitional Outreach to practice mock phone calls to professional workplaces such as dentists and doctors. He has since booked his own doctor’s appointments, an eye exam, and a dentist appointment. Eddie was offered a promotion at work and completed weekly budgeting forms with Transitional Outreach so that he could successfully purchase an e-scooter for independent transportation to and from work. Eddie has reconnected with his grandparents and is safely living with them. He is considering attending school for a manual labor career and is actively working on obtaining his driver’s license.



**Brian** joined Transitional Outreach with the initial goal of obtaining safe, long-term housing. Before moving forward with that, he decided he needed to attend treatment. Brian completed treatment and continued to work very closely with Transitional Outreach. His goals expanded, and he engaged in the program by attending every cooking class and workshop that was offered. Transitional Outreach also assisted Brian with enrolling back into high school. He also attended his first parent-teacher interviews with assistance from Transitional Outreach and received a glowing review. Brian was struggling financially and received help opening a new bank account, filling out budgeting sheets, and attending financial literacy courses offered through Transitional Outreach. Brian received a short-term placement at a group home, and once he had safe housing, he began to show interest in building his resume and obtaining a job. He worked on updating his resume and volunteered at local powwows. Through Transitional Outreach, Brian received assistance with obtaining his birth certificate, social insurance number, and health card. Brian has now successfully transitioned to a long-term housing placement.



**Carmen** is a youth who recently joined Transitional Outreach. He has updated and added to his resume since being in the program and is working on gathering as many online certificates as he can to make his resume stand out. Carmen has obtained his WHMIS course and Fall Safety course and is currently working on applying for his passport. Carmen is highly motivated to invest in his future and hopes to attend a post-secondary program. He has applied to the Saskatchewan Trades and Skills Intro to Construction and the Roofing Basics Program. He would like to obtain a career where he can take his knowledge and skills back to his home community.

Staying in an emergency placement, **Kayla** joined Transitional Outreach to help her learn independent living skills and search for an independent, long-term housing option. Kayla expressed that she wanted assistance redoing her resume. Staff assisted her with upgrading her resume and creating an Indeed account. She has set a goal to meet weekly to continue job searching and applying for jobs until she finds something. Through the program, Kayla has ordered and updated her health card and government-issued photo identification and has applied to the Domestic Care Aid program at Saskatchewan Trades and Skills in the hopes of being accepted into the spring/summer course. Kayla has also successfully moved into an independent My Home.

When **Melissa** connected with Transitional Outreach, she was homeless and looking for support in getting back into school and finding a place to live. She worked with the program to transfer to a school closer to where she stays so that she could attend daily and has applied for funding that will allow her to pay rent while finishing school. Melissa has worked with staff to build a resume, create an Indeed account, and they have handed out resumes in person. She has received two job interviews and is continuing to hand out resumes to find a job that works with her school schedule. Melissa attends all cooking classes and is very interested in workshops related to furthering her education to achieve employment.



**WAKAW LAKE**

All EGADZ program areas have the unique opportunity to utilize the camp at Wakaw during the summer, fall, and spring months. The residential homes and programs are able to book the camp, so the youth and families can plan their summer vacation in advance. Throughout the months of June, July, August and into September the camp was fully booked with both day or overnight trips.

EGADZ ensures that a “boat guy” is set up throughout the summer, giving all home and program areas the opportunity for private boat days. Several open boat days are scheduled throughout the summer so that all areas are able to enjoy tubing, skiing and boating together, getting to know one another and creating new connections.





The camp has operated for the past 15 years through the support and dedication of the Deplaedt Charitable Foundation. This year, Dave and Belinda, the owners of the property donated the property to EGADZ. Committed to ensuring all youth are given opportunities, the Deplaedt Charitable Foundation plans to continue to support the camp operations in maintaining, upkeep and expanding the camp.





A Wakaw crew consisting of 3 youth and 1 crew lead ensure the camp is in top working order, for all to enjoy, working 4-10-hour days Monday-Thursday. The youth are given the opportunity to develop new skills, confidence and leadership through this work and always feel accomplished and proud of the work they do, while earning a good wage to assist in independence.



On top of the regular camp tasks for the crew, this year they completed a few special projects, including replacing all of the foam mattresses in the bunkhouses and, with the leadership of the Executive Director, removing all of the dead trees around the camp to prevent them from falling and damaging the buildings.

In partnership with the Day Program, the crew assisted in watering the garden regularly, picking berries, weeding, building a fence for the peas, and hilling the potatoes. At the end of the season, the crew and Day Program ensured that the pumpkins were picked, and the produce was taken back to the Center for the youth to enjoy. The garden items included peas, potatoes, carrots, raspberries, pumpkins, zucchini, and onions.







On August 13th, the camp was hit by a tornado. Thankfully, no programs were at the camp when this occurred, as they had left when they noticed the storm rolling in. When the crew arrived for work on the 14th, they were able to assess the damage, which proved to be severe. The bathrooms were pushed back several feet, wrecking the steps and landing. Shingles were torn off, trees and debris surrounded the camp, and two old buildings were completely flattened. Other repairs included installing a new toilet, assisting in installing new plumbing, adding a new shed to house all the pumps, putting in a new screen door on the kitchen, and re-shingling the entire kitchen. Working as a team, the crew, supervisors, and coordinators were able to clean up the extensive damage and have the camp back in working order within a 2-week period, allowing the camp to continue to be enjoyed.







**BEFORE**



*My favorite part of the trip (to Wakaw camp) was when we camped in the cook house and watched murder documentaries together.”*

*Last year we were out tubing at Wakaw. It is truly a memory we will never forget.*

*I can't wait to go back to the Wakaw camp, I wish we could also go out to Wakaw in the winter.”*



**AFTER**



**YOUTH ENGAGEMENT**

Comprised of the Ministry of Social Services, community-based organizations, and youth partnerships, the Youth Advisory Team is a provincial initiative that works alongside its co-teams in Regina and Prince Albert to create positive changes for youth in care throughout the province. It is designed to ensure that youth have a voice and are empowered to engage in the development of services, as well as provide advisement on improvements to services and programs that directly affect and impact all youth in care. Engaging youth with lived experience drives the collaboration between youth and adults towards the shared goal of youth-driven solutions for positive changes that will ensure their quality of care and, ultimately, ensure youth's safety, comfort, and success in a family-based home setting.



*I like using my voice for youth in care who cannot use their own voice"*

The Youth Advisory Teams work on their regional and provincial action items to present yearly at a Round Table with the Minister of Social Services, Minister of Justice, Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety, and the Minister of Health.



*Being on the Youth Advisory Team, I can communicate with my fellow crew members and I love to hear that we are making changes in the system and hear that our homes are doing well. I am looking forward to making youths lives more enjoyable"*





The Team is made up of 15 youth living in Saskatoon who have all been in care at some point in their lives. This year, the Youth Advisory Team's regional action items have included: a proposal for the Transitional Outreach Team to be developed through EGADZ, the focus on creating more placements for male youth in care, reviewing and providing solutions regarding the current restraint policy for the province, and the development of mental health and addiction homes for youth.

*I like being a part of the Youth Advisory Team because it gives me a strong sense of being a part of the community and it gives me the opportunity to be a positive influence for other people like me."*

The Youth Advisory Team also developed a video that shares their own personal experiences, as well as the experiences of siblings and friends they witnessed, regarding the use of physical restraints in group homes. The video highlighted the harm caused by physical restraints and the ongoing effects they have on youth as they grow into adults. The team played their video at their roundtable meeting, which was attended by multiple ministers, and it has caught the attention of several organizations in Saskatoon that use physical restraints. The Youth Advisory Team continues to meet with these organizations to advise them on ways to operate group homes without the use of physical restraints.

*I think the Youth Advisory Team is a great committee for youth. It is a group run by youth for youth. We try and make group homes better for the future youth."*

They also identified a gap in skills that exists between youth being in care and their transition out of care as they enter adulthood. Due to this gap, the Youth Advisory Team created a proposal for the development of a program aimed at bridging it. From the ground up, they developed the job profiles for those working in the Transitional Outreach program, the referral form, the program brochure, assisted with the program's hiring process, and created the guidelines for the youth who join the program. The Youth Advisory Team created this program for youth, by youth, with the goal of helping youth in care make a successful transition into adulthood and independence.

*I am on the Youth Advisory Team because I like what we do and how we help youth. I like how we make houses for youth in need, I like how we makes changes to the system for youth, to make them feel happier and safer"*







The Youth Advisory Team has also been tasked with upgrading the EGADZ drop-in center. The focus is on making improvements that will benefit the youth in the community who frequent the drop-in center. The improvements include replacing appliances that get used often, updating the computers for youth, painting the area to create a fun and welcoming atmosphere, as well as adding many new recreational options for the drop-in youth to utilize.

*I like how we are able to say things that other youth cannot say. I like that we are their voices and we are our own voices.”*

*Being a part of the Youth Advisory Team allows me to connect with diverse perspectives. It is inspiring to see how our team can create meaningful change and empower the voices of other young people.”*

As part of team bonding and relationship building, it is important to have unique and fun ways to keep the youth engaged. Some opportunities the youth have experienced while being on the Youth Advisory Team include APEX Trampoline Park, Wakaw Camp, The Western Development Museum, go-carting, rock climbing, laser tag, cat therapy, art nights, bowling, skating, Blackstrap Lake, Rucker’s, Wet Paint Pottery, swimming, beading, crafting, as well as many other community activities.

*Being on the Youth Advisory Team means I am technically helping other youths who are struggling. Most importantly I like the team I am with and what we do. I am happy with the work we have accomplished and how big our team has gotten. We help people which is something I like to do by myself.”*





**Darcy** has been on the Youth Advisory Team for two years. They spent time in care in a group home and are now living in the community. Darcy had not attended school for over two years; however, this year they decided they wanted to graduate high school. They were eager to get back into school and began at E.D. Feehan High School. Darcy struggled with attending E.D. Feehan due to the cultural differences between themselves and the school. In the second semester, they transferred to Oskayak High School and are having a wonderful experience at their new school. They are attending class every day and making new friends. Darcy learned they are on track to graduate by Christmas time.



**Maddie** has been on the Youth Advisory Team for quite a while. They are very involved, never miss a meeting, and always offer their opinions, contributing to the team's discussions. Maddie has successfully graduated high school and is now working full time for Action to Employment. They want to attend a post-secondary education program to further their opportunities for the future. Maddie was a contributing member who helped develop the Transitional Outreach Program. They have self-referred themselves into the program to learn new skills to work on their independence as they approach adulthood. Some things Maddie is currently working on include budgeting, cooking skills, an independent living assessment, and applying to post-secondary schooling.





**Brett** has been on the Youth Advisory Team for about a year. This youth has had a very strong voice on the team and has been voted in as co-chair for the group. Brett demonstrates positivity and inclusivity for all of their team members and has shown strength and courage within the team by standing up for other members when they need support. Brett has recently purchased his own vehicle and is excited about getting his license. One of Brett's main reasons for being so dedicated to the team is to create a better future for his younger siblings and other youth growing up in care.

**Jessie** has been on the Youth Advisory Team for a long time and has lived in care her whole teenage life. She is dedicated to ensuring that younger youth in care have a more positive experience than she did. Jessie is passionate and engaged in her work on the Youth Advisory Team, always eager and ready to help out when needed.









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