



**Annual Report
2025-2026**

*Every individual can become a contributing citizen by
utilizing their voice, creating an atmosphere for
resilience, and finding value in themselves.*

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, Management, and myself, welcome to our 2025–2026 Annual Report. This year we wanted to focus on our youth's voice and the importance in our decision-making process and the outcomes for youth. It is critical for the youth not only to have a voice at the table but be involved in the design and implementation of any ideas.

Thank you to our many funders and supporters including but not limited to the Government of Canada, Government of Saskatchewan, City of Saskatoon, and the numerous corporate, private donors, churches, service clubs, United Way, Community Initiative Fund, Saskatoon Housing Initiative Partnership to name a few. Even though we do receive funding from all levels of government we need community support to continue the important work being done everyday that is not funded by government.

With such an engaged board we have embedded the youth's voice in all that we do. Our youth want to continue to advocate for services that will empower them and future generations of young people to receive opportunities for a brighter future.

With all of the success we have achieved this year we lost one of our greatest champions and elder for our young people Melvina Eagle. Melvina was a true spirit and her knowledge and understanding of youth made her a great asset to what we do here at EGADZ. Every decision she made always had the youth's best interest at heart. Many evenings Melvina worked into the wee hours of the morning helping us with planning for our most vulnerable youth in Saskatoon. She attended and brought prayers to the family and victims of sexual exploitation through our Annual Day of Mourning Remembering the Victims minds of staff and the youth she so selflessly helped. We will miss her and her warming smile and sense of humor.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

We continue to be a resilient organization that have faced many challenges with staffing, and programming needs. The Board of Directors, Management, and staff continually meet such diversity head on with solutions that ensure we remain resilient through all of the challenging times. I am honoured to be able to work for such a great organization and with youth that remain solution focused. The continued hard work provided by staff and our youth committees energizes me to push forward for more and better services for our most vulnerable citizens. We hope you continue to enjoy the stories as much as we did to be able to share them with you.





ACTION TO EMPLOYMENT

Fourteen years ago, a group of young people decided to rewrite their story by giving back to the community that had often misunderstood them. That vision became Action to Employment (ATE). A program dedicated to supporting the dignity and independence of our elderly and disabled neighbors. By offering free, year-round yard care, ATE removes the barriers that often prevent people from staying in their homes. In exchange, the youth participants gain far more than just “employability skills,” they earn the respect of their community, the wisdom of their clients, and a solid foundation of work experience that will serve them for a lifetime.

Between **April 1, 2025** and **March 31, 2026**, the Action to Employment crew logged a combined total of 2,729 hours of dedicated service working on over fifty properties. This year, the program provided meaningful employment to 31 unique individuals, ranging in age from 15 to 35. Representing a diverse cross-section of EGADZ programming, these young people joined the crew not just for a paycheck, but as a proactive step toward overcoming personal hurdles and achieving self-defined goals.

To assist with the costs of maintaining the program, ATE continues to successfully utilize a hybrid service model that includes paid properties. This approach allows us to remain self-sustaining, ensuring we can provide high-quality support to our most vulnerable clients while continuing to offer meaningful, paid employment opportunities for our diligent youth crew. Although paid properties were added to assist with operations expenses, this program could not have continued without grants such as the Dakota Dunes Community grant, the SCF Quality of Life grant, the SK Realtor’s Care grant, and the United Way Sask Collaborative funding grant. In addition to these grants, Action to Employment received a donation through Canada Helps from Russel and Bonnie Marcoux, residents of Saskatchewan who are passionate about giving back to their community.

The year-round community crew spent the spring cleaning up, raking, thatching, bush trimming and branch removal from client yards. The crew also had

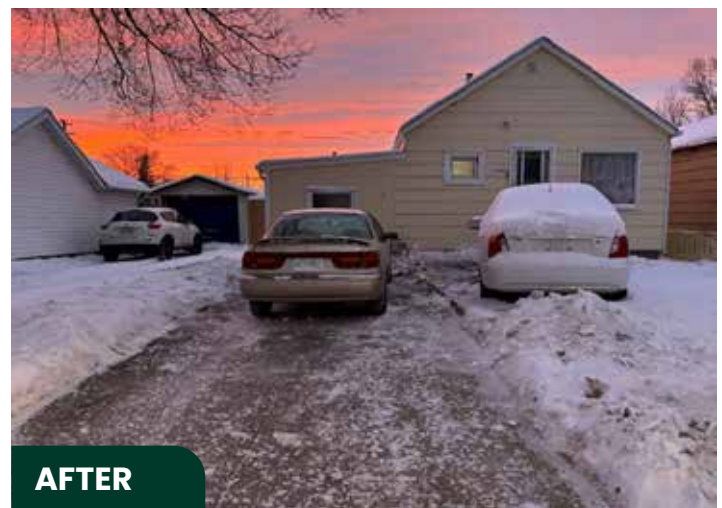


I have been a client for a number of years of EGADZ— at least 5 years! Everyone is friendly and polite both in summer and winter, especially if I don’t explain what I want cleared, they ask! I feel they do their job above and beyond. An excellent program that I’m sure could grow and so very much appreciated and needed.”

– Nellie – Community Client



BEFORE



AFTER



I am seventy-two with M.S. Without the team, I would be in a very hard place. In the winter, they removed the snow. In the summer, they mow the grass. I love Fridays knowing the crew will be here, I love talking with them. My little dog, GiGi, is also excited for their visit. This is a very great program.”

– Justine – Community Client

the opportunity to assist with facility improvements like painting and dismantling equipment when the Drop-in Centre was being updated. Throughout the Fall and Winter, the crew focused on raking leaves, shoveling snow and de-icing at client properties. During the Summer months, a second crew is added so that younger youth who are still working on their education can get some work experience. While Crew #1 maintained core property care, Crew #2 took on specialized projects such as refurbishing the sandbox at Sweet Dreams with fresh sand, and assisting the downtown centre with office renovations by moving drywall and soundproofing materials.



I wanted to extend my heartfelt gratitude for the invaluable yard work you've been providing. Your efforts to create a clean and safe environment in my yard and sidewalks have truly made a difference. Thank you for your kindness and dedication. I deeply appreciate everything you all do."

*– Georgia
Community Client*



Place... **FOR NEW BEGINNINGS**

ACTION TO EMPLOYMENT



For many youths, this was their first job, and they spent significant time learning to safely operate equipment and mastering the administrative side of employment, including managing their own documentation and safety reports. While the sub-zero temperatures in January sometimes limited outdoor work, the crew utilized those colder days to advance their professional credentials, successfully completing comprehensive training in Workplace Safety and WHMIS.

"You guys do such a great job. I can't move as much as I used to, so it's really lovely that your taking such great care of my lawn."

– Kathleen
Community Client

"A great team to work with! Willing to follow instructions. City could use more teams, as it lets me stay in my own home longer."

– Pearl
Community Client

"Sometimes, when I'm working on my knees or cutting branches and stuff down, my arms start to hurt. It's really helpful that you guys do this kind of stuff for me."

– Sandra
Community Client



BEFORE



AFTER

Elena was a nineteen-year-old young mother when she began working for Action to Employment. She had been previously diagnosed with an intellectual diagnosis, making her eligible to be supported through government funding to have her needs met. Elena did not want to go this route however, she believed that despite her intellectual disability, she could have more for herself and her son in her life. Elena worked the summer months of 2022 and 2023 as she was still working on completing her High School education. After she graduated in 2024, she decided to work full time for Action to Employment.

Elena had been in care since she was a baby, and had experienced a lot of neglect and abuse while she was a child in the foster care system. She had built a tough exterior to help keep herself safe as she was seldom able to trust others. When Elena was working during the summers, she generally just kept quiet and did the work asked of her. She would often be listening to music on her headphones during the drives between properties, instead of interacting with her coworkers. Once she began working in Action to Employment full time, she decided to work on her social skills. Throughout the next few years Elena took gradual steps to fully immerse herself with her team. She began engaging in conversations with her coworkers throughout her shifts, raising concerns and giving suggestions during monthly staff meetings, and taking more of a leadership role on the crew. From Elena's experience from former years working on the crew, she could often get a whipper-snipper to work when no one else was able. When the crew lead was sick or on holiday, Elena would be quick to assist the staff member filling in with any questions they had.

As Elena's confidence in her abilities grew, she started thinking about what kind of career path she wanted to pursue. She decided to apply for an Early Childhood Education course which she was accepted into. Elena changed her hours to casual so that she could be successful in the course, continue to care for her child, and fulfill her work placement hours. Elena's work placement site was so impressed with her performance that they offered her full-time employment. She accepted the position and officially launched her new career. From overcoming a traumatic past to securing a professional career, Elena has proven she is capable of achieving high-level goals. She moves forward with a solid foundation and the stability she worked so hard to provide for herself and her son.

I got to learn some new stuff, like how to mow a lawn. I didn't know how to mow a lawn before."

– Denise
Crew Member



Keanu is a fourteen-year-old boy who moved into the My Homes in the Spring of 2025. During the school year, Keanu struggled because he was getting bullied by some classmates. The result of the bullying led to him having low confidence in himself and his abilities. In June, Keanu expressed wanting to get a summer job with Action to Employment. He worked with staff to create a resume and completed his Young Worker Readiness training. He sent in his resume and completed an interview. Although Keanu was nervous, he did very well during the interview and was hired for part time work. As this was his first job, Keanu wanted to show that he was hardworking and consistent. When he was ill, he would call in advance as was protocol. He also ensured that he made leave requests for when he would be at camp.

Learning responsibility, new skills, and work protocols were one thing, but Keanu actually found that he really enjoyed the work; especially working on client properties. Throughout the summer, Keanu became proficient in his use of the lawnmower and the weedwhacker. He enjoyed the amount of time he was able to spend outside during the summer making money while learning a life skill of how to maintain properties.

When his summer job with Action to Employment ended, Keanu stayed on with Action to Employment as a casual labourer. His work experience throughout the summer improved his self-esteem and self-confidence, giving him a strength to begin another school year with a different mindset about himself and his abilities.



Working for Action to Employment was an entirely different world for seventeen-year-old **Holly**. Most of the challenges that she had faced from her past were centered around her mental health; building coping skills to assist with her childhood trauma resulting from her mom's struggles with addiction, and her placements in various care homes. Although Holly had come a long way through the work she did on herself, she was now challenged to find a way to adjust to the expectations of the workforce.

Holly found the first week of employment in September of 2026 very difficult as it was a completely different environment with challenges that she had never dealt with before. She was never involved in regular physical activity, and the physicality that the job entailed was a very difficult stretch for her. Holly never gave up though. She kept showing up every day for work, ready to try again. Following her first month with Action to Employment, she had identified that she had lost weight and was gaining muscle; something that she never even tried to do in her personal life. Thanks to the ongoing physical work that she was doing, Holly realized that it was helping her more than just financially.

Holly's true goal was to build the "internal muscle" needed for the real world. She worked hard on her receptive skills, learning that guidance wasn't a judgment of her character but a tool for her growth. When the heavy snow of December arrived, the physical strain began to take a toll, manifesting as back pain and a feeling of being "stuck" while her teammates moved faster. In a vulnerable and honest meeting with her supervisors, she opened up about her struggles with over-stimulation. Together, they developed a plan that prioritized her well-being, incorporating daily stretches and a "cool down" rule that gave her permission to step away and breathe when the world got too loud.

Holly gave her two week's notice prior to January 2026 as she was starting University classes. After working for Action to Employment, Holly better understands her strengths and challenges and can utilize this knowledge for future work in the community.



ATE helps me build a good routine."

- Tennille
Crew Member

"I always thought that I wouldn't amount to anything because I grew up surrounded by family with addictions, but Action to Employment took me and showed me the skills I needed to get into the workforce."

– Carrie
Crew Member



"I wanted to gain more experience; especially in lawn work, and Action to Employment has given me that opportunity."

– Vivian
Crew Member

"It gives me a break from personal issues"

– Sarah
Crew Member

Nicole recently moved into the Independent My Homes after fleeing a domestic violence situation which had instilled within her low self-confidence and difficulty regaining financial stability. She had created a resume and cover letter and began trying to obtain employment in the community. Even though she had been handing out resumes daily, Nicole was finding it difficult to secure any employment. After submitting her resume to Action to Employment, Nicole showed up to her interview early and expressed her desire to work hard and learn. She was offered a full-time summer position on ATE Crew #1 and gratefully accepted. Having employment with Action to Employment has given her the ability to earn a regular paycheck to cover her bills, as well as to make some new friends and feel part of the team.

Nicole was quick to learn how to mow a lawn, but spent a lot of time throughout the summer months improving her skill with the whipper snipper. When winter began, she enjoyed the challenge of shoveling snow. She said that she liked the hard work as it helped her to sleep at night.

Nicole comes to work with a positive attitude, has great attendance, and helps her co-workers with any questions/concerns. She can be trusted to work without supervision and knows Action to Employment's standards when dealing with client properties. When Nicole heard about the Junior Crew Lead position; a position that is reserved for a motivated individual with a strong work ethic, Nicole was immediately interested, despite being unsure if she was equipped for the role. She was happily surprised when she found out that her Crew Lead and supervisor thought that she would be the perfect fit for the job and she was given the position of Junior Crew lead in December of 2026.

Throughout the next months, Nicole learned new roles and responsibilities and discovered a few parts of the leadership role that were difficult for her to do. For instance, ensuring that her coworkers stay on track and remain professional throughout their shifts was a bit difficult for her as she did not want to upset anyone. Nicole practiced her leadership skills throughout the winter and is becoming a stronger leader through continuing to challenge herself.



**BABY STEPS**

Baby Steps is a 24-hour supervised program that is designed to support mothers whose children have been separated from them, or are at risk of separation, due to unsafe circumstances. Through individual planning mothers are supported in working toward personal goals such as improving mental health, overcoming substance use, continuing their education or employment while strengthening their ability to care for their families. When a mother chooses to enter into the program, she is moved into the home and supported and connected to services that will aid her in addressing the concerns. An important piece of the program is that while the parent is creating and implementing their plan, the children have the opportunity to live with their parent in a safe and secure environment. This allows a new mother to continue breast feeding, bond with their newborn, or, rebuild their bond and trust with previously apprehended children. Staff are available around the clock to demonstrate and teach parenting skills, assist with the childcare as mothers strengthen their parenting abilities and to support the mothers through any challenges.

The program serves a maximum of 10 individuals (mothers and children) at one time. There is no specific timeframe as it focuses on supporting families at their own pace in order to build sustainable, positive changes for their long-term health and wellbeing.

Additionally, when space is available Baby Steps accepts emergency placements from the Ministry of Social Services. This will occur when suitable placements are challenging to locate. This year we observed an increase in the demand for emergency placement spots at Baby Steps, as we provided care for 20 children placed by the Ministry of Social Services.

From April 1st 2025 to March 31st 2026 Baby Steps supported 12 mothers and 36 children. 9 children are in their mother's care, 4 children are with their parent supervised, and 3 children were placed with family.



I would like to express my gratitude to the Baby Steps program. When I was pregnant with my first-born son, Baby Steps Program helped me with a stable and safe place to stay, until finding my own accommodations. The outreach workers transported me to my medical appointments, and still continue to support me, with transportation to appointments, paying my bills, advocating, and helping with resources when needed. All the staff are extremely friendly and kind, and I enjoyed spending one on one time with each of them, and I am very grateful for all their help and advice, even after moving out of the program. Its nice that the Outreach Workers and Parent Support continue to keep in touch and check in to see how I am doing. That meant a lot to me! I also received Christmas gifts for my son, which he loves and are very special to him."

– W.C.

Luna entered the Baby Steps program in August as a 16-year-old new mother, following completion of detox and her son Luke's discharge from the NICU. She presented with a history of methamphetamine use, instability within the foster care system, and limited family supports, and she did not want a life like that for her son. Throughout her time in the program, Luna demonstrated resilience, motivation for change and a strong commitment to creating a stable and nurturing environment for Luke. With consistent support from the program she strengthened her parenting skills and independence in meeting her son's daily needs. Staff provided guidance in areas such as infant care, nutrition and illness management, which Luna applied when her son contracted and illness. She developed increased confidence in seeking support when needed and showed improved communication and trust in her relationships with staff. Baby Steps supported Luna in adhering to a safety plan established by her social worker, including supervised community access and structured family visits. Through demonstrated responsibility, commitment to sobriety and ability to maintain appropriate boundaries, she earned increased independence including approved time alone in the community with her son. Luna made meaningful progress in her personal BBS pic 2 development and future planning. With support from staff, she enrolled in school and secured childcare. This was an important milestone given her previous disengagement from school due to substance use. Initially, she experienced anxiety around placing her son in daycare, expressing concerns about his safety however, having him in the same building provided reassurance and helped the transition. When she encountered challenges with attendance and focus, staff worked with her and her teacher to adjust her schedule to afternoons, accommodating the demands of nighttime feeds for her son. This demonstrated her developing problem-solving skills and willingness to engage in support. Throughout her stay, she explored long-term housing with the EGADZ My Homes. Staff supported her decision by setting up a meeting with the Coordinator for her to go for a tour and ask questions. Overall, she showed significant growth in self-awareness, parenting ability, and independence. When Luna completed the program, she had developed essential life skills, strengthened her parenting abilities and demonstrated an ongoing commitment to change. The Baby Steps program provided a structured and supportive environment that contributed meaningfully to her progress in recovery, parenting and future planning.



The Baby Steps program has opened new opportunities for my daughter and I. They helped us get our own little space and took us in right away, they continue to help us with rides to places we need to be and support. We are very thankful to be a part of the program and so thankful for the staff who continue to help us and check on us."

– K.O.

Kara is a bright and deeply affectionate three-year-old who arrived at Baby Steps as an emergency placement. She came carrying more than just her belongings, she carried big emotions, uncertainty, and a fragile sense of belonging. Separation from her siblings and family was very difficult, and family visits often left her overwhelmed with confusion, longing and heartache. Without the words to fully express what she was feeling Kara, would at times experience intense emotional outburst, struggle with changes in routine, and have difficulty regulating herself both at home and in school.

Baby Steps became a place of safety, consistency and care. Staff surrounded her with patience and compassion, building trusting relationships that allowed her to slowly begin making sense of her emotions. Through gentle guidance, they introduced tools such as visual supports for emotional cues and calming exercises helping her put feelings into words that once felt too big to manage. During moments of distress, staff met her where she was offering her reassurance, validation and a steady support ensuring she never felt alone in her struggles. School quickly became a bright and grounding part of Kara's world. It provided her with structure, connection and a sense of joy. However, her journey was not without setbacks. Illness, disturbed routines and ongoing uncertainty about her future often reignited her big emotions. In response staff advocated for and connected her with therapeutic supports, including Thereaplay and Art Therapy, giving her meaningful opportunities to process her experiences, build coping skills and strengthen her emotional resilience. Kara also faced moments of deep disappointments, a missed opportunity for placement with a grandparent, inconsistent family contact and the ongoing question of where she truly belonged. These experiences added layers to her sadness and confusion. Through it all, staff remained unwavering in their commitment, advocating for her needs, maintaining stability, and providing consistent care and the reassurance she depended on. Over time her growth became evident, she began to develop emotional awareness, use coping strategies, and show increased resilience. Her natural kindness, curiosity and ability to form meaningful connections continued to shine through, even in the face of uncertainty.

After a year and a half of being in the program, opportunity arose for Kara to move into a foster home

with her sister, it marked a significant and emotional milestone. Understanding the importance of stability and trust, a safe carefully supported and gradual transition occurred. This began with short visits, then moved to longer visits and eventually into over nights. This thoughtful step by step approach allowed her to build a sense of safety and connection with her new family while processing the transition at her own pace. Although her journey has been filled with challenges, the consistent structure, compassion and dedication from staff played a vital role in helping her heal, grow and move toward a more secure and connected future.

Today Kara remains in the care of her foster family and continues to maintain strong, meaningful connections with Baby Steps staff. Her foster mother actively collaborates with staff reaching out for guidance, sharing updates and working together to best support her ongoing emotional and behavioural development.



Mika was just a 15-year-old mom when she arrived, carrying both the weight of her past and the fragile hope of a new beginning. With her came her 1-week old son John. For Mika, this was her first experience not only with parenting, but with something many of us take for granted, a stable home. From the very beginning, it was clear that what she needed most was not just teaching but patience, compassion and steady support. Much of her life had been marked but instability. She had spent years moving through care and living in an institutional setting, often feeling as though she had little control over what happened to her. Beneath her strength was a deep persistent longing to belong, to feel safe and to know that someone truly cared for her. She carried complex challenges including ADHA, Bipolar Disorder, PTSD, a history of substance use, and the lasting effects of trauma. Each day, she followed a medication routine supported closely by staff, an important part of recovery. But beyond medication, what mattered just as much was how she was approached. Giving Mika choices even small ones, helped restore a sense of control she had rarely experienced. She responded well to the staff's respectful, calming voices and their kindness eventually won her over. Her days were structured to help her adjust to motherhood while also protecting her well being. She rested overnight while staff cared for John and then spent her days learning to parent. For awhile this rhythm held steady. One of Mika's greatest challenges was bonding with her son. This was no surprise as she herself had grown up without a strong sense of attachment to her own mother. To her, feeding her son felt like the primary way to connect and after feeding she would often hand him back to staff. Gently and consistently, staff encouraged her to stay close and to hold him, talk to him and play. They reassured her that bonding wasn't just meeting his basic needs, but about those quiet, in between moments of closeness. Over time there were signs of progress, she began to spend more time simply being with her son. Soon, she was able to have short unsupervised walks in the community with John which was a meaningful step forward.

Her journey was not a simple one, her mental health often fluctuated due to her Bipolar Disorder. Some days she was engaged, appreciative and eager to learn, other days everything felt overwhelming for her. In those moments she would lash out, raising her voice, and threaten to leave, sometimes expressing it would be better if she wasn't here at all. These were painful

moments but were met with steadiness. Staff stayed calm, offering support when she could accept it and space when she could not. They would remind her again and again that she mattered not just as a mother, but as a person. That message was unfamiliar to her but staff wanted her to know. After the storm passed she would return to herself and regroup. This 15-year-old mother was learning, growing and navigating some difficult obstacles. By mid-August the weight of it all became too much. As difficult as it was, Mika made the decision that parenting was not something she felt she could continue at that time. Her journey is not one of failure, but of a young person doing her best while carrying more than most. It is a journey of effort, struggle and moments of connection of someone who, for a time, allowed herself to be cared for while learning how to care for another.



MAH'S PLACE & CAMERON HOUSE

Mah's Place and Cameron House are two sober living homes that are a part of the Baby Steps continuum. Each residence accommodates two families and are supported in an outreach manor.

Mah's Place is located beside the main Baby Steps home and is used to transition mothers and children from Baby Steps to independent living. It is often used as a final step before mothers regain full custody of their children.

The home is also utilized for mothers who have strong parenting skills but are at risk of separation due to other various factors such as young mothers with limited life skills, domestic violence, mental health and homelessness.

From April 1st 2025 to March 31st 2026 6 mothers and 8 children resided at Mah's Place.

Cameron House supports mothers who are prepared for increased independence, as well as those mothers who have already lived on their own but have found they need additional support. It Provides a more independent living setting coupled with support from Baby Steps Outreach. Many of the families that come to live at Cameron House are in the beginnings of navigating new directions in their lives. They are often addressing education deficits, sobriety, a change in social circles, and implementing healthy healing choices.

From April 1st 2025 to March 31st 2026 3 mothers and 6 children resided at Cameron House.

Tanika's journey has been marked by resilience, determination, and a deep commitment to her children. A single mother of four young children, who faced a period of homelessness and gang life that brought significant instability and hardship to her family. Despite these challenges, Tanika remained focused on creating a better future. Upon entering Cameron House, she began taking meaningful steps toward rebuilding her life, prioritizing both her children's well-being and her own personal growth. With the support of the program, Tanika successfully enrolled her three older children into elementary

school, ensuring they had structure, routine and access to education. Her youngest child, a two-year-old son, is currently on the waiting list for three daycare centres, and she continues to actively follow up on placement opportunities. In the meantime, she has arranged reliable support through her biological mother, who provides childcare during the day while she attends school. Demonstrating strong motivation and independence, Tanika had enrolled herself in the Adult Basic Education Program through Saskatchewan Polytechnic and was accepted. She has successfully figured out how to navigate the Saskatoon public transportation and commutes to school regularly. She is able to manage her daily schedule, showing consistency and responsibility. Once completed, she has talked to supports about furthering her education and applying to either a Trades and Skills Program, or Post Secondary Education. In addition to her education goals, she is also dealing with legal matters which include past charges, many of which have already been resolved or dropped. She remains compliant with all legal requirements and meets with her Probation Officer on a biweekly basis. Tanika is also taking important steps with staff towards securing her family's identity and treat benefits. This process reflects her long-term planning and commitment to ensuring her children have access to the resources and the recognition they are entitled to.

Throughout her time in the program she has built a mutual respect with the staff. She leans on them to provide support with transportation, assistance with groceries, and for their guidance in maintaining financial stability. Staff have supported her in completing applications for long-term low-income housing. In addition to meeting her family's basic responsibilities, she engages her children in extracurricular activities, supporting their development and helping them build positive experiences. Despite the demands of parenting four children, attending school, managing appointments, and working toward her goals, she remains focused and determined. She is a busy and dedicated mother who continues to demonstrate growth and independence. With the ongoing support and her strong work ethic, Tanika is steadily building a stable and positive future for herself and her children.



Morgan's progress has been based on courage, perseverance and independence, with a strong commitment to building a stable life for her and her young daughter. When she first entered Mah's Place, her partner, daughter and herself were facing housing instability. Despite this sudden transition, Morgan remained focused on creating a better and a more secure future for her family. Upon entering the program, she quickly took the initiative by enrolling herself in school and securing daycare placement for her daughter at the same location. This allowed her to maintain consistency in both her parenting and educational responsibilities. Morgan only needed a few credits to obtain her Grade 12 education and during that time she demonstrated strong time management skills and dedication. While she was chipping away at her education, she maintained healthy and consistent communication with her daughter's father, supporting a cooperative co-parenting relationship. Morgan showed a high level of independence by learning to navigate the city's transit system with ease, paying her bills on her own, completing most applications on her own, and attending all her medical appointments. Her ability to manage these responsibilities highlighted her confidence and commitment to self-sufficiency. While in the program, she applied to low income housing

and with the assistance of supports, actively worked towards securing stable accommodation for her and her family.

A significant milestone in Morgan's journey was successfully completing her Grade 12 education in the spring of 2025. In the fall of 2025 Morgan enrolled in the Early Childhood Education Level 1 program at the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies. Morgan researched information and resources related to the ECE Level 1 program, ensuring a smooth transition into the Trades and Skills upon graduating high school. Her goal was to complete the program and obtain meaningful employment in the childcare field, this demonstrated her dedication to long-term career development.

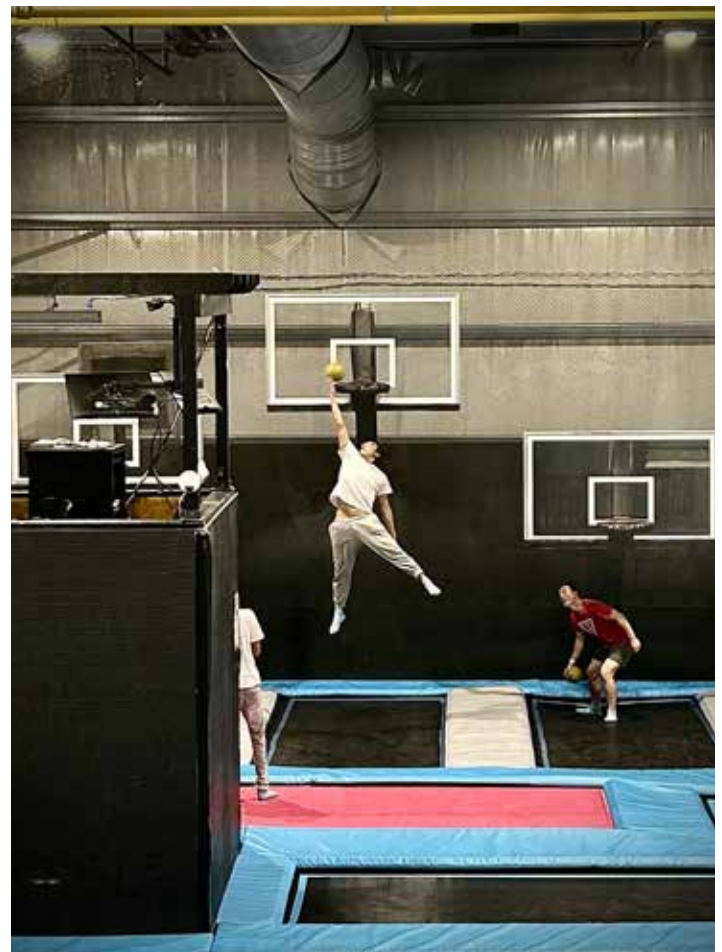
Morgan's determination to be successfully independent only allowed her to utilize supports for special appointments, advice and understanding applications. Through her hard work and persistence, Morgan was able to secure an apartment for herself, her daughter and her common-law partner. The family transitioned into their new home upon her completion of Grade 12, marking an important step toward independence and stability. Now living in the community, she continues to thrive, balancing her role as a mother, student and a partner. Morgan is a motivated and capable individual who has demonstrated consistent growth, resilience and independence. With her continued focus on education and employment, Morgan is building a strong and positive future for herself and her family.





DAY SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Day Support Program is an innovative program that provides structured and individualized programming to youth ages 12-18 years old who are involved with, or are at risk of becoming involved with, the criminal justice system. All the youth enrolled in the program have lost their educational placement and require an environment where they can receive support to stabilize and re-integrate into an appropriate school setting. This transitional program aims to provide stability, guidance, and personalized case planning to assist youth with transitioning back into a mainstream educational setting, or entering the workforce. Youth support workers build meaningful relationships and assist the youth with accessing resources within the community to overcome barriers that may be impacting their success in a traditional school setting. This support includes, but is not limited to; assistance with accessing health and mental health support, addictions and personal counselling resources, justice related appointments, and nutritional and food insecurity challenges. Referrals to the program come from a variety of resources including the Ministries of Justice, Corrections and Policing, and Social Services, the Catholic and Public-School divisions, community organizations, family members, and self referrals.





Day Support Program Youth Receiving Services
Statistics April 1st, 2025–March 31st, 2026

Statistics

Total clients served	79
Males receiving services	48
Females receiving services	30
Trans Individuals receiving services	1
Average age of clients	16
Successful transition to educational placement	13
Number of youths who re-offended	9

Tailored to meet the unique needs of each youth, the program values importance of consistency and routine as an optimal approach in providing opportunity for success. Daily wake up calls, transportation to and from program and appointments, and youth-led programming are key components in providing positive supports and access to resources. Morning educational programming provides youth a variety of learning opportunities including structured work sheets with a focus on math and literacy skills, educational games, and hands-on activities. Youth have the opportunity to gain practical knowledge and enhance their life skills through contributing to the day to day operations of the program, such as assisting with meal preparation and cooking, grocery shopping, and budgeting, providing them a framework for successful reintegration into the education

system or the work force. In the afternoons, youth have the opportunity to participate in community-based programming which include both community engagement and recreational opportunities. These afternoon outings encourage personal growth and development in the youth by providing opportunity to experience new things that they may otherwise not have the opportunity to experience. Some favourite recreational activities of the youth included playing basketball down by the river, going to the virtual reality room, go-carting, bowling, and going to Ruckers.





Youth participation in weekly Youth Committee meetings empower the youth to identify their needs and desired opportunities in a safe and non-judgmental environment. These meetings provide an opportunity for youth to work together with staff in developing daily programming including planning meals for the week, identifying personal learning objectives, and planning recreational activities. This type of youth-led programming allows youth to build their physical and social skills, strengthen relationships amongst peer and staff, and work towards taking responsibility for the harm they have caused to their community. Through Random Acts of Kindness, the youth participants plan an activity once a week in which they go into their community and show appreciation for community organizations, businesses, and members of their community. Handing out warm winter gear and coffee, taking treats to a local business to express gratitude and appreciation, or handing out flowers with words of encouragement are just a few examples of how youth have chosen to give back this year.





This year **9** youth re-offended, including additional charges for breaches of their court-imposed conditions, while **14** youth has successful transitions to educational placements.



Day Support Program Youth Services Received April 1st, 2025- March 31st, 2026

Statistics

Justice Support	509
Educational/Employment Support	449
Client Support (including health/mental & personal needs)	309
Cultural Activities	66
Life Skills	214
Recreational Activities	774
Nutrition (including emergency food packs)	1655
Transportation	1900





Vicky is a 14-year-old youth who began attending the Day Program following a referral from the school division. The referral was made due to concerns about her emotional well-being and her ability to safely and consistently participate in a traditional school environment, with a focus on her safety and mental health needs.

She has a long history of suicidal ideation, and self harm, with limited family and community support. Prior to her referral to the day program, Vicky had been in the care of the Ministry of Social Services on a voluntary Section 9 and placed in a group home. While she has a strong relationship with her mother, due to her own serious health needs, she had struggled with being able to provide the needs and support to Vicky that she requires. Unfortunately, this placement broke down after an incident occurred and she assaulted a staff. This resulted in Vicky accruing her first set of criminal charges. Her placement was closed and she was returned to the care of her mother.

Over the coming months, Vicky experienced a significant decline in her mental health, affecting both her academic functioning and overall well-being. She required multiple admissions to Dubé for intensive support and stabilization due to her suicidal ideation and multiple attempts which included medication overdoses. She also had 2 more incidents in which she assaulted police officers who were responding to her crisis. Due to the complexity of her needs, returning to her previous high school was not considered appropriate, and she remained out of a traditional school setting while a more suitable plan was developed. The Day Program was identified as the best next step, offering a structured and supportive environment focused on stabilization, emotional regulation,

skill development, and gradual re-engagement in academics. The long-term goal for Vicky was to transition to First Avenue Campus once she demonstrated consistent attendance, improved coping strategies, and increased emotional stability. Vicky slowly began making progress. She had increased her psychiatrist appointments and now attends more in-person sessions. Her help-seeking behaviours have also improved, as she was open to working with more community supports including EGADZ Operation Runaway and Ground Zero Outreach. While she previously contacted emergency services during distress, sometimes leading to escalation, she now can identify when she is beginning to feel overwhelmed and identified strategies through safety planning, that would be useful to de-escalate her situation versus resorting to calling emergency services.

Vicky also advocated for herself to be accepted into an EGADZ mental health home with 24-hour staff support, as she realized she needed more than what she was getting at home from her family. While Vicky has not reached a point where she is ready to transition to an educational placement, she continues to attend Day Program and is building healthy coping skills, developing community connections, and she is beginning to build a stronger foundation for recovery and re-engagement in her education.

 **I like Day Program because the staff are nice."**





“I want to keep attending Day Program, so I can get back into FAC.”

Joe was referred by the facilitator of the Safe Positive Schools program and joined the Day Program in October 2024. Prior to enrolling, he had a couple of charges, including possession of a prohibited weapon and assault. When Joe first entered Day Program, he demonstrated very little motivation to return to a traditional school environment. At that time, he appeared hesitant and uncertain about continuing his education, and this pattern continued for several months. During this period, staff focused on building rapport with him, providing support, and creating a safe and consistent environment where he could begin reflecting on his goals and future possibilities. While progress was initially slow, maintaining this supportive structure allowed Joe the time and space he needed to reconsider his path forward.

During this relationship-building period staff learned that Joe's home life was extremely dysfunctional, with a father who was in and out of prison for drug related offences, and a mother who struggled with her own mental health. He also has younger brother who falls high on the autism spectrum with severe behavioural

challenges. Part of the identified challenges for Joe and his attendance with school had been the need to care for his brother. His mother works multiple jobs, but also struggles with her own substance use. Often times when the school could not get a hold of her, Joe would be responsible for take his brother home and caring for him.

In April 2025, Joe took an important step by approaching staff and expressing a genuine interest in re-engaging with his education. This initiative came directly from him and marked a significant turning point in his mindset. He specifically asked if he could meet with the First Avenue Campus (FAC) teacher on the first Monday in May to discuss the possibility of entering the classroom and beginning the process of transitioning back into a more structured learning environment. This request demonstrated both initiative and a growing sense of responsibility for his educational future. Joe was enrolled at FAC in that spring and returned again in the fall. While the new school year started off strong for Joe, he quickly became increasingly disengaged, his attendance was falling, and when he was in the classroom he was often too tired to focus on school.

In November, a case conference was held regarding Joe's progress and during this meeting, Joe shared that he needed to take a break from school due to the challenges he was experiencing in his home life. It was decided that Joe would remain in the Day Program, where staff would continue to support him on a day-by-day basis, assisting with attending his court appearances and legal appointments, and any requirements of his release conditions. Unfortunately, since this time period, Joe has re-offended with a serious charge including armed robbery and possession of a firearm. He spent a week in custody, prior to his release, in which he was able to return home and continued to be enrolled in Day Program. Joe also continues to experience challenges at home and has recently confided in staff that his mother is not home much through the night, and his brother is struggling more than before. The absence of his mother has caused additional stress on the family and recently the Ministry of Social Services also became involved with the family. Staff have been mindful of reasons behind Joe's attendance and engagement within program, offering support in a gentle form with additional support of food hampers and any basic needs such as clothing and hygiene are available to him and his brother. Joe still has goals of returning to the education system in the near future.

DAY PROGRAM 18

Jessica is a 14-year-old female who was referred to the Day Program while she was residing in Open-Custody. Originally from Regina, Jessica had grown up in care, with placements in multiple group homes throughout the province. She was frequently running away from these homes as she felt unsupported in them. While in Saskatoon she was taken in by a woman who had found her living on the streets. Jessica has shared that she experienced her greatest sense of stability while living with this woman prior to her arrest. She described this placement as supportive and consistent, noting that she felt understood and safe in that environment. Here Jessica was able to take responsibility for her actions and dealt with her criminal matters. She was sentenced to eight months of custodial time following convictions for robbery, assault, and several breaches of court orders. Prior to her sentencing, she had multiple interactions with the youth justice system, often connected to difficulties with emotional regulation, impulsivity, and peer influences. Her custodial sentence provided an opportunity for structured intervention and consistent support, which appears to have contributed positively to her recent presentation. She carries multiple mental health diagnoses, including Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD), Adjustment Disorder, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, and an anxiety disorder. Her mental health challenges have been significant and longstanding. At one point, her depression escalated to the extent that she required a two-week inpatient psychiatric hospitalization.

Although staff have only known Jessica for a few short months, she consistently demonstrates initiative, engages positively with staff and peers, and completes assigned tasks independently without the need for prompting. She arrives prepared, participates appropriately in programming, and has shown insight into her behaviors and goals for the future. To date, there have not been any concerns regarding her participation, attitude, or behavior within the program. She is as a resilient and capable young person who benefits from structure, clear expectations, and supportive adult relationships. Continued stability in her living situation upon her release from custody, along with ongoing mental health supports and community-based programming, will be essential in promoting her long-term success and reducing the likelihood of further justice involvement.

SCHOOL SUPPORT

The EGADZ School Support Program is designed to provide inclusive support to youth, their guardians, community youth workers, and schools, with the shared goal of promoting educational engagement, stability, and long-term success. The program recognizes that barriers to education often extend beyond the classroom and seeks to address both academic and personal challenges that may interfere with consistent school attendance and achievement.

Youth between the ages of 12 and 18 are eligible for referral to the program through a variety of sources, including the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Social Services, Public and Catholic School Divisions, family members or guardians, and other community partners.



School Support Youth Receiving Services April 1st, 2025–March 31st, 2026

Statistics	
Total Clients Served	32
Males Receiving Services	19
Females Receiving Services	12
Trans Individuals Receiving Services	1
Average Age of Clients	16.5 years

The program is staffed by three dedicated team members, each capable of transporting up to 12 youth daily. Each morning, staff provide transportation to school while also offering drinks, healthy snacks or fruit, and bus tickets to help reduce practical barriers that may prevent attendance. These morning drives often serve as a crucial point of connection, as many youths use this time to open up about personal, family, or school-related challenges they are experiencing. These one-on-one interactions help build trust and rapport, allowing staff to gain a deeper understanding of each youth’s circumstances and to respond with more individualized and effective support strategies.

 **I love EGADZ, it’s a great program!”**

Over the past year, the program has experienced a significant increase in school support referrals from the justice system, highlighting the growing need for targeted educational interventions for justice-involved youth. The majority of referred participants are actively engaged in the program, and many have demonstrated measurable improvements in school attendance and overall engagement. These outcomes reflect the importance of consistent, relationship-based support in helping youth overcome barriers and remain connected to their education.

DAY PROGRAM 21

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

Statistics	
Client Support	63
Nutrition	99
Homework / Education Support	157
Transportation	982



At the end of summer, a referral from **Lucy's** community youth worker was submitted to enroll her in the School Support Program for up coming school year. At the time of the referral, it was indicated that as a condition of Lucy's release order she was not permitted to ride city buses, stemming from a robbery charge she was facing. Lucy had also been charged with common assault. She was enrolled in the STEPS program at a public high school, however the school is on the opposite side of the city from where she resides. Prior to this year, Lucy attended school only two days per week for half days, which she advised was due to previous experiences with bullying. With the change of schools, Lucy planned to attend five full days per week. In November 2025, Lucy was sentenced on the common assault charge, and the robbery charge was dropped. As part of her probation order, she has a curfew from 10:00pm to 7:00am and is not permitted to have contact with the victim of the assault. Lucy was allowed to ride the city bus again, however given her commitment to her education, as she is the most engaged youth in the School Support Program, she identified the relief of the transportation barrier was contributing to her ongoing success. Lucy has asked staff for assistance with re-enrolling at her previous high school for the fall of 2026/2027.



School Support makes going to school easier, because I don't have to wake up as early, to catch a bus."

Mario is a 16-year-old student currently enrolled in an alternative program at a public high school. His first connection with EGADZ began when he started attending First Avenue Campus (FAC) in the fall of this year. During his elementary school years, Mario received English as an Additional Language (EAL) support until the end of Grade 6. By Grade 7, his report cards indicated that he was meeting grade-level expectations. Throughout the first of semester of high school, he received four suspensions, three related to fighting and one for being present during an incident, although he was not directly involved. Despite being given several opportunities to improve his behaviour, Mario was expelled during the second semester after bringing a cap gun to school and firing it close to another student's ear, which resulted in permanent hearing loss for that student.

Following this expulsion, Mario was placed in the STEP classroom at another school for Grade 10. During the first semester, he experienced moderate academic success, earning five credits. In the second semester, he was permitted to return to his previous school however, the transition was not successful. He was expelled a second time following a serious incident in which he brought an imitation firearm to a nearby mall and pointed it at a student from a neighbouring school. At that time, he was also failing four classes. Mario was then referred to begin the 2025–2026 school year at First Avenue Campus.

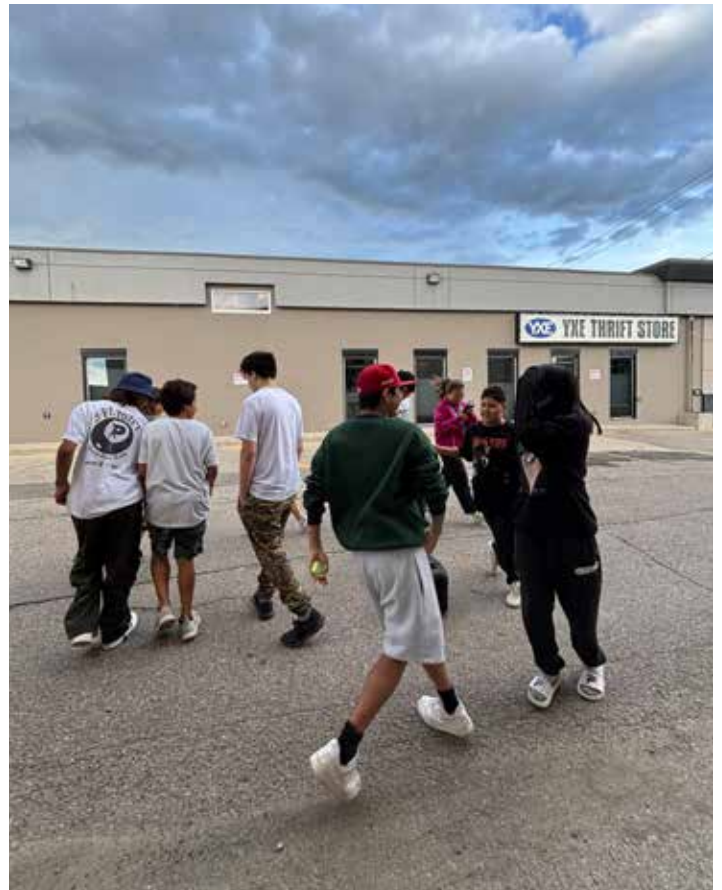
During his time at FAC, he demonstrated significant and consistent progress. He was not involved in any behavioural incidents, maintained one of the strongest attendance records among students, and successfully earned his Workplace Apprenticeship 10 credit as well as his Math 20 credit in the first semester. He adhered to all of the conditions of his sentencing, including attending all court mandated appointments. At semester turn around, Mario was hopeful to transition directly into a mainstream program, however due to his past history within those school settings, he was required to enroll in an onsite satellite program at another high school. A natural transition from FAC to School Support occurred and he continues to thrive with his education, attending school almost every day. Mario's goal is to successfully complete the Omega Program and transition into a regular classroom for the 2026–2027 school year. School support will continue to be provided to help him achieve this goal.

**DROP IN CENTRE**

The Drop-In Centre (the Centre) is a supportive and inclusive space, that provides a wide range of services ranging from assisting with meeting basic needs of youth, to addressing more complex needs such as crisis and mental health. Often the first point of contact for many youths who eventually access other EGADZ services, the Centre is a safe place where youth are able to express themselves freely without judgment. Many youths who access the Centre's services face a variety of barriers in the community which include mental health, addictions, housing instability, family struggles, physical health concerns, trauma, and difficulties at school and in the community. With an increased number of new and younger youth attending the Centre this year, staff focused on building meaningful relationships, recognizing these connections as the foundation for effective and supportive work. Through this approach, staff were able to develop a deeper understanding of each youth's unique situation and tailor programming and resources to meet individual needs.

The Centre is a space where youth have the ability to participate in both structured and unstructured activities. A monthly activity calendar provides youth the opportunity to participate in activities such as pool tournaments, laser tag, yoga, BINGO nights, special presentations, craft nights, and a new favourite this year– The Monthly Spicy Noodle Bowl Challenge. Other times youth simply come to meet-up with their friends and access the computers and WIFI. Youth also have the ability to do their laundry, have a shower, and have access to clothing and personal hygiene as needed.





Clients Accessing Services April 1st, 2025- March 31st, 2026

Statistics	
Males	379
Females	392
Trans	16
Total Number of Individual Clients	787

787 clients accessed supports and services for a total of **9351** times.



One of the greatest barriers that many youths are faced with in a day is wondering where their next meal will come from. At the Centre, with the support of the Community Initiatives Fund, a full-time cook is employed 5-days a week, preparing healthy after school snacks and supper Monday thru Saturday at 5pm. Many youths often head straight to the kitchen when they get to the Centre, grabbing a snack and seeing what is for supper. Youth have the opportunity to participate in meal planning with the cook, preparing supper and snacks, and serving supper to their peers. The Centre encourages youth the explore new opportunities and build life skills by giving youth the option to assist with daily contributions which include sweep and mopping floors, wiping down counters and tables, or helping with dishes. Many youths enjoy being able to contribute to the space, and express pride in a job well done. The Centre is grateful for donations received from the Safeway Second Harvest Food Resource Program, various Delta-chain hotels in the city through the Hotel-La Tablee des Chefs Food Recovery Program, and Olive

The Place... **FOR NEW BEGINNINGS**

DROP IN CENTRE

Garden. These donations not only assist with support at the Centre, but allow us to provide short-term Emergency Food Packs for youth to take home to their families when they are feeling the extra strain of food insecurity.

This year saw an increase in youth accessing the Centre to meet these nutritional needs, as the community wide issue of food insecurity continues to rise. EGADZ would also like to thank the many other individuals and businesses who have made donations of snacks and meals throughout the year to support youth in need.





Nutrition Accessed April 1st, 2023–March 31st, 2024

Statistics	
Supper	5708
After School Snack	8133
Emergency Food Pack	290

During the winter months, the Centre ensures that youth have access to essential winter clothing, including boots, coats, toques, mittens, and socks. The staff make it a priority to ensure that any youth who visit the Centre leave with warm, weather appropriate clothing to keep them safe and comfortable during the colder season. Staff also ensure that youth have safe rides home away from the elements with the assistance of the Ground Zero Outreach.

Services Accessed April 1st, 2024–March 31st, 2025

Statistics	
Clothing and Winter Gear	580
Personal Hygiene	54
Shower	125
Laundry	166
Transportation (Bus Ticket / Pass)	1040

The Centre is dedicated to hosting special events for youth throughout the year, by celebrating various holidays such as Valentines Day, St. Patrick’s Day, and Halloween. These events are planned by staff and offer a variety of games, crafts, and prizes, with snacks and meals created in theme of each celebration. These events are extremely successful and always bring many youths from all of the EGADZ programs together to celebrate, laugh, and have some fun. Thanksgiving dinner is also hosted annually out of the Drop-In Centre for all youth and residential client who access EGADZ services. This is a special time for youth, families, and staff to come together and share in a holiday meal together. Each residential home, and the Drop-In Centre, contribute to the preparation of the meal, providing the youth the opportunity to share in creating a memorable event for everyone.

The Centre hosts to the annual EGADZ Christmas dinner and party for all residential clients and youth who access other EGADZ programs. Throughout the Christmas Season EGADZ receives various donations of goods including gifts, clothing, hygiene products,



winter gear, nutrition, and in-kind donations, which assist in ensuring that all youth are able to have their needs met throughout the season. This year's Christmas party was hosted on December 17, 2025, and despite the winter blizzard that was occurring outside, the party carried forward with as much energy and excitement as ever before. The evening started by enjoying a home-cooked Christmas dinner prepared by staff and youth from varying programs. Following dinner, made possible by a very generous donation from the Deplaedt Charitable Foundation, Santa, Mrs. Clause, and the Grinch visited the party with gifts for all of the children and youth. The rest of the night was filled with laughter and joy as youth played a variety of games in which they were able to win tickets to purchase gifts from the EGADZ Christmas store to give to their family and friends.









Claire is a 19-year old youth who has been attending the Drop-In centre regularly since 2022. She is quiet and tends to keep to herself, but maintains friendships with other youth. She is respectful to both staff and peers and is often seen playing Fortnite on the PS5, and when the console is occupied, she willingly joins in other games like Uno or Monopoly with staff and other youth, often playing for extended periods of time.

Claire uses the centre to do her laundry and access the shower room when needed. She grew up in a large family, with many siblings between her parents and had spent her youth and childhood growing up in and out of care. In the summer she had been staying with her aunt, but they had been evicted from their home. They spent several months moving between campsites, relatives' homes, and shelters. Often times, Claire and her siblings would come to the Centre not knowing where they were going to sleep that night. They had minimal possessions and lacked basic necessities such as food, hygiene, and clothing.

Centre staff ensured that they were continuously safety planning with Claire, connecting her with Street Outreach and Ground Zero Outreach support. They navigated communicating with the Ministry of Social

Services in regards to her younger siblings, but given that Claire is now an adult, support services were limited for her. During this time Claire was beginning to feel the pressure with her current challenges in life and was struggling with her alcohol use. On several occasions she was found by outreach supports in the community extremely intoxicated, and struggling with her mental health. Claire was open and honest with staff about how her substance misuse was impacting her life, and while she was not in a place where she was ready to attend detox or treatment, she expressed the desire to become sober as she wanted to be a better influence for her younger brothers.

Throughout the year, staff observed significant growth in this area, seeing a significant decrease in situations of extreme intoxication. Resources for outpatient addictions services have been provided to Claire for when she is ready to pursue this option. In the fall, Claire could no longer stay with her aunt, who struggling with her own mental health and addictions, and spent some time staying at the homeless shelter while she navigated next steps for herself. She had informed staff that once her brother's dad was released from jail, she was hopeful that they would be able to find longer-term housing together. Claire expressed that this dad had always been a strong father figure in her life, and felt that he was the only viable family support that she has. Unfortunately, this plan did not end up working out for Claire, however she was able to find an apartment to rent with her cousin, and has maintained housing stability for the past 6 months.

Claire is a bright, capable young woman with a promising future. Despite the challenges throughout the past year, she regularly attends school and shows a strong interest in Science and Math. She enjoys learning and has shared her goal of finishing high school and pursuing post-secondary education. She is particularly interested in hands-on work and has expressed a desire to enter the trades. As Claire will be aging out of the Drop-In centre services in the coming months, staff are beginning to assist her with case planning for access additional adult services within the community, while ensuring she is aware of services still available to her through EGADZ Street Outreach.

"I like coming to hang out at the centre to hang out with my friends so I don't have to stay at home. Home isn't a good place right now so it's nice to be able to come here."





Avalon is one of the younger youths who began attending the Drop-In centre this past year. She first became connected with EGADZ after her mother called a program supervisor reaching out for support. The family has been connected to the organization for the past couple of years, so when concern for Avalon's mental health and safety began to grow, her mother reached out.

At the time of first contact with Avalon, she was frequently running away from home, often being located by police at an older man's house where she was consuming drugs and alcohol. She had also been suspended from school due to increased behavioural challenges, which resulted in a fight with another student. Avalon has a history of struggling with her mental health, including diagnosis of severe depression, anxiety, ADHD, self harming and suicidal ideation, and alcohol and marijuana use. She also has experienced significant trauma for her age, including instances of sexual abuse. All of these challenges came to head in the winter, when she was intoxicated and attempted suicide. She had been hospitalized for several weeks, and it was during this time that EGADZ first connected with her through the Operation Runaway program.

Avalon has a lively personality and is easy to engage with however struggles with her boundaries. She often

wants to be in the know of everything that happens around her, which at times can pose problems for her. She also presents amongst her peers as someone who is care-free, however at her core, her vulnerability comes out when she is feeling safe. When she first started coming to the centre Avalon was asked on a couple of occasions to leave the Centre for the day for being "hands on" with other youth. By continuing to reinforce the boundary of personal space and respecting others at the Centre, Avalon was able to better regulate her behaviour and soon became one of the youths whom others looked up to by the positive example she was setting. She can often be seen helping serve supper, and calls out other youth for poor behaviour. While she has a naturally guarded personality, she is very open with staff whom she feels comfortable and supported by.

Throughout the winter there were instances in which her mental health struggles would increase, but before it would hit a critical point as it did in the past, she would talk to staff and safety plan with them to ensure that her needs were being met. This is a huge milestone for Avalon, as prior to becoming involved with EGADZ she resisted all supports offered to her. After Christmas she was also enrolled in a new school, into a specialized behavioural classroom. While she was initially upset about not being able to return to her previous school, she was able to change her mindset and acknowledge that her growth and participation in this new classroom would get her back into a traditional school setting. Since starting school again, she has strong attendance and engagement, and speaks more positively about school than she did before.



EGADZ gave me a place to stay when I needed it and helped me with my addictions."



Luke is a 13-year-old youth who started coming to the Centre in the summer. He has a lot of energy and when with his peers, is often the leader of the group, presenting with a very tough exterior. When he first started coming around the centre his behaviour was erratic and he struggled with his boundaries.

Luke has a very traumatic history which involves losing his mother at a young age, and growing up in a household surround by violence and addiction. Prior to coming to the Centre, he was recently apprehended from his father's care and placed in a group home. This change escalated existing mental health struggles of Luke's which include depression, anxiety, ADHD, and ODD. He also experiences extreme suicidal ideation, with violent means behind it.

Throughout the summer and fall staff worked with Luke on safety in the community, as he was often on

the missing persons list, and breaking down every placement that he had. He was struggling with his alcohol and marijuana use, and was engaging in reckless behaviour in the community. One day this winter he had been walking around the downtown area with an imitation weapon, threatening individuals with it. While Luke did not accrue any charges from this, staff had a conversation around safety and how simply having that on him could put himself in harms way. This conversation seemed to resonate with him, as staff saw mild improvements in his demeanor when he would come to the centre. When he previously would be one to start disharmony or altercations with other peers, he was now choosing to disengage and stay out.

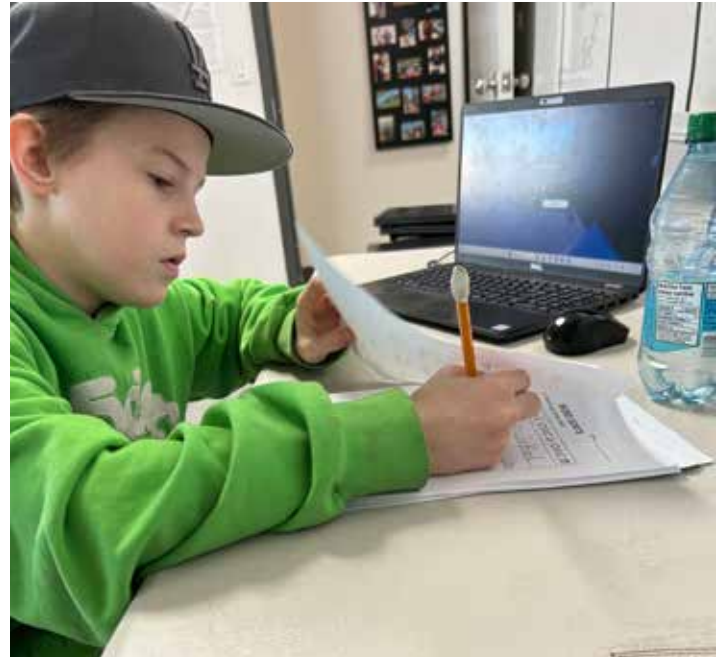
While still guarded in nature, and not fully opening up and trusting staff, in the early spring, after another placement breakdown the Ministry of Social Services was able to place him in one of the EGADZ therapeutic homes. While Luke is still experiencing significant behavioural challenges, he has managed to maintain this housing placement longer than any previous, which shows significant changes to his commitment to seek stability in his life. He is returning home most nights and his missing persons reports have significantly decreased. He is receptive to receiving support for his mental health, and is slowly beginning to build relationships with staff.





The First Avenue Campus (FAC) is a unique educational program that demonstrates the power of collaboration in supporting vulnerable youth. Through partnerships with EGADZ, the Saskatoon Catholic and Public-School Divisions, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Education, FAC operates as a transitional satellite school for youth involved in the criminal justice system. The program provides educational opportunities for up to 6 students aged 12 to 18 whom have criminal justice involvement, helping them successfully reintegrate into traditional school settings by offering a structured, supportive learning environment. FAC addresses a critical gap for youth who face significant barriers to education. Many students arrive below grade level and lack academic confidence due to complex familial and societal challenges. These may include unstable

housing, limited transportation, and reduced access to essential community supports such as counselling and legal services. Such barriers often make success in a traditional school setting difficult. FAC works to reduce these obstacles by providing wraparound supports that ensure students' basic needs are met, including access to food and referrals to stable housing. The program allows for students to enroll on a part-time or full-time basis, determined on a case-by-case situation.



First Avenue Campus Statistics April 1, 2025–March 31, 2026

Statistics

Total Referrals Received	36
Total Students Enrolled	19
Credits Received	14
Transitions to Mainstream School Placements	5
Chose to Stop Attending / Left School	4

With a small class size and dedicated staff, including an education teacher from the Saskatoon Public School Division and a Youth Support Worker from EGADZ, students receive highly individualized instruction and support. This personalized approach helps students strengthen their literacy and numeracy skills while earning high school credits essential for transitioning back into mainstream education. The low student-to-teacher ratio creates a safe, non-judgmental environment where students feel supported, heard, and motivated to achieve their academic goals. Relationship-building is central to the program’s success. EGADZ youth workers play a vital role in fostering trust, confidence, and stability for students. Through consistent guidance and mentorship, youth workers support students in navigating personal challenges and empower them to make positive changes in their lives and communities. By addressing the whole person not solely academic achievement FAC fosters resilience and creates meaningful pathways toward brighter, more stable futures for youth who might otherwise struggle to complete their education.



Services Received April 1st 2025–March 31st 2026

Statistics

Justice Support	185
Nutrition	620
Transportation	117



Romeo enrolled at First Avenue Campus in October 2025 and is the youngest student in the classroom, being only 13-years-old. In Grade 3, Romeo was assessed by an educational psychologist, who recommended a follow-up assessment prior to high school. While he was not diagnosed with a learning disability or intellectual developmental disorder he demonstrated significantly low performance in several areas. The school division had planned to complete a Kauffman assessment during the previous school year; however, this was delayed due to lack of consent. Consent has since been obtained for the 2025–2026 school year, although the assessment has not yet been completed. Romeo currently has Intensive Supports status and an Individual Intervention Plan in place, outlining goals and accommodations in task performance, personal and social well-being, academic achievement, transitions, and safety. Romeo has a diagnosis of ADHD and when he consistently takes his prescribed medication he demonstrates improved focus and behaviour regulation. Historically, maintaining consistency with medication and attending follow-up medical appointments has been a challenge due to difficulties within the family home. At present, Romeo takes his medication at school to support daily consistency. He has experienced several significant behavioural and safety concerns that led to his referral to FAC. In Fall 2024, there were incidents involving physical aggression and inappropriate sexualized behaviour. In August 2025, he was involved in weapons-related charges, and he was also the victim of a stabbing incident that same summer. An intervention plan was established at his previous school prior to his transition to FAC. In September 2025, Romeo was charged with assault and possession of a prohibited weapon and these matters are currently before the court. He has retained private legal counsel, attended several meetings, and has a trial date scheduled for May 2026.

When Romeo first came to the classroom, there was significant parent-teen conflict in his home. His father has strict guidelines and rules at home, which Romeo was not adhering to. There were nights when Romeo would roam the streets after missing curfew and being locked out of the house. He was also experimenting with marijuana and alcohol which was creating added tension at home. During this time period, Romeo had moved out of his father's home and was residing with a friend, who also attended another EGADZ program. Romeo is a capable and engaging student, that benefits

from redirection, particularly when working on tasks he finds challenging or less engaging. His attendance has been somewhat inconsistent, however challenges with his relationship with his father, and lack of adult oversight at his friend's house are highly contributing factors. In early February, contact with Romeo was temporarily lost after he was asked to leave his residence he was staying at in the community. Prior to this loss of contact Romeo had several conversations with the program supervisor in which he asked for help with reconnecting with his dad. He stated that living at his friends was not longer going well, and that he missed his dad and his younger siblings. He asked for assistance with setting up a meeting with his dad so that they could talk through their issues. Romeo was wanting to go to family counselling and work through their challenges. He reconnected with the school at the end of February, when his father informed staff that he had returned home. The pair had worked through their differences and were able to compromise on the points that they disagreed on. Romeo also became connected with Ground Zero Outreach to assist with transportation home in the evenings when he was in the community. He has grown comfortable with asking for support whether it be for food packs, advice, conflict with his peers, or just having casual conversation with staff.

Since enrolling at First Avenue Campus, Romeo has made notable academic progress, particularly in reading and writing. His skills were initially assessed at approximately a Grade 2–3 level; over the past five months, he has progressed to a Grade 5–6 level. He will continue at FAC for the remainder of the school year, with a planned transition to the Grade 8–9 transition classroom at Nutana Collegiate.



"I like FAC because the teacher and the staff are nice, and they support me."

Bert is one of the newer students to begin attending FAC, having started at the end of January after transitioning from the Day Program. This transition represents an important milestone for Bert and reflects the significant effort he made to move forward in a positive and productive direction. Returning to a structured school environment after nearly two years away from formal education is a meaningful step, and it demonstrates Bert's willingness to re-engage with his academic journey. Prior to this transition, Bert attended school in Prince Albert. During his time there, he experienced several challenges, including difficult interactions with peers and receiving negative feedback from some teachers. These experiences contributed to a challenging school environment for him and ultimately impacted his relationship with school.

Before relocating to Saskatoon, Bert lived with his mother and stepfather. Unfortunately, he did not have a positive relationship with his stepfather, which made the home environment difficult for him. As a result, Bert often spent time away from home and frequently stayed with friends. Over time, he came to feel that Prince Albert was no longer a place where he felt comfortable or supported, particularly while living in that household. In June 2025, Bert moved to Saskatoon to live with his kokum and mushum, which provided him with a more stable and supportive living arrangement. However, in August of that same year, Bert was found carrying a machete and was subsequently charged with carrying a concealed and dangerous weapon. While this incident was a serious matter, it is important to note that Bert did not re-offend while he was on his release order. On January 27th, he was sentenced and received a six-month conditional discharge.

As part of his court order, Bert is required to complete 10 hours of community service, attend counselling sessions, report weekly to a community youth worker, refrain from possessing any weapons, and reside at an approved address. These conditions are intended to support accountability while also helping Bert continue moving forward in a positive direction. When discussing his future goals, Bert shared that he would like to become lawyer one day. This is an ambitious and

admirable goal, and it reflects his interest in pursuing a meaningful career that could allow him to advocate for others. With continued support, stability, and commitment to his education, Bert has the potential to work toward achieving this goal with a lot of hard work.



"They make feel included while being at FAC."

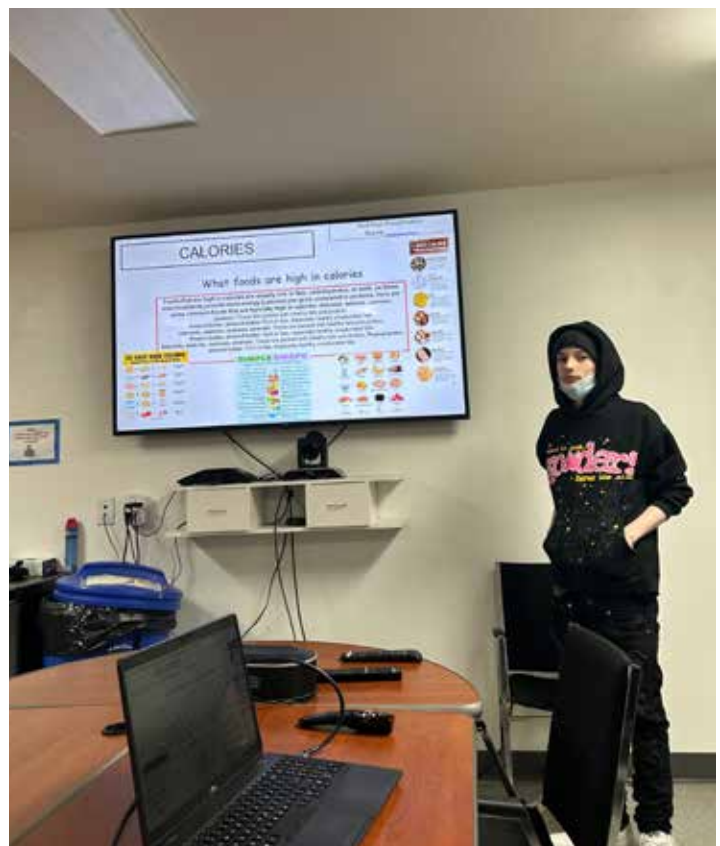
Initial interaction with **Ernie** took place during a scheduled motivational meeting shortly before he began attending the program. The meeting did not proceed as intended, as Ernie presented as uncooperative and engaged in disrespectful behaviour, resulting in the meeting ending prematurely. While this was a challenging start, it is not uncommon for students in similar circumstances to require time to adjust to expectations and build trust within the program. Furthermore, Ernie has a benign brain-tumor that while currently is stable, posed challenges previously to his mood and abilities. A year prior he had undergone surgery to partially re-sect the tumour and long-lasting effects are unknown at this time. His home life also poses a challenge, with a father who does not live in the province, and a mother who struggles

with addiction and there is often ongoing parent-teen conflict in the home.

Ernie began attending FAC in September 2025. At the time of enrollment, he was subject to strict probation conditions, including a 24-hour curfew that significantly limited his movement within the community. His probation order does allow for a small amount of designated leisure time each week, provided he complies with court-imposed conditions. Ernie experienced a setback early in the school year as, he was arrested for being present at a location prohibited under the terms of his probation. This incident was serious and underscored the importance of adhering to his conditions. However, it also provided an opportunity for reflection. Since that time, Ernie has shown an increased awareness of the need to make responsible decisions and avoid high-risk situations. He continued to make efforts to attend school and engage in his learning. During September through December, Ernie demonstrated notable progress, particularly in attendance and academic engagement. He showed increased responsibility and commitment to being present at school and achieved the highest overall attendance rate among FAC students in November, with 100%. This marked a significant improvement in his attitude toward school and reflected his efforts to establish a consistent routine. Academically, Ernie worked diligently in his Math 10 course and successfully earned the credit. He demonstrated steady improvement in his understanding of the material and increased willingness to participate in class activities. His growing confidence was evident, and he made positive strides through consistent effort and engagement during his first months in the classroom.

Following the Christmas break, Ernie's progress declined significantly. His attendance dropped to below 50% and when he was present his was growing increasingly disengaged. The reasons for this decline remain unclear, as Ernie tends to be withdrawn and communicates minimally with both his teacher and EGADZ staff. Staff remain concerned for his well-being and hope that he is safe and engaged in positive activities during his time away from school.

I like coming to FAC because it helped me improve myself over the time I have been here."



Before joining FAC, **Elaine** attended two previous high schools. Elaine is currently involved with Community Corrections and had faced charges of assault with a weapon and uttering threats. Her release conditions included regular check-ins with a youth worker, living at an approved residence, observing a curfew from 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., and adhering to no-contact requirements. She resides with her mother, stepfather, and her 16-year-old twin sister. Over the 6 weeks Elaine has been enrolled in the classroom, staff have developed a better understanding of her strengths and needs. She presents as polite and cooperative, and has shown a growing commitment to her learning. One of her greatest barriers however, is her serious addiction to alcohol. Elaine binge drinks in excess, for days on end and often ends up in unsafe situations. She was able to recognize the impact that alcohol has having on her day to day life, and her risk of being kicked out of her home because of it. After her sentencing she made the proactive decision that day to admit herself to Calder Detox Centre. Once she completed her stabilization at detox, Elaine returned to the FAC classroom. She has made progress in her Math Workplace Apprenticeship 10 course and has goals of earning this high school credit before the year is complete, with a transition back in to a traditional school setting in the fall.



The Fusion 22 is an independent living program that provides vulnerable families a safe and sober home with ongoing support, knowledge and life skills to help them become successful. There are 21 suites available to single and dual parent families, or youth who have aged out of care and are needing the extra support in the transition of interdependent living. The building also houses the Action to Employment office, Fusion 22 office and the Transitional Outreach program.

Goals and outcomes for the staff to achieve with the families include, educational success, employment support, stronger family units, strengthening community support systems, emotional and spiritual healing and acquiring parenting and life skill tools.



Donations and support from individual community members and agencies, has largely contributed to supplying each family with furnishings, linens, small appliances, kitchen ware, curtains and other household needs.



Coming to FAC has helped me do more work, then I did in a high school."

From April 1st 2025 to March 31st 2026 the program supported **29** adults and **30** children.

3 single fathers, **10** single mothers, **2-2** parent and **8** individuals who are sibling groups.

The Fusion 22 program has supported me in so many ways since I arrived, they even provided furniture and supplies when I needed them. The program allowed me secure a safe place to call home when I needed it most, while I was heavily pregnant. The staff have been an incredible source of support whether it's watching my daughter when I need to step out, providing transportation and knowledgeable conversations that guide me forward. The staff have helped me figure out my next steps as well as working hard to keep the building safe and welcoming. I have always felt supported and cared for no matter the situation. I can say I am truly grateful for everything they have done and for the opportunity to be a part of this program." – A.G.

Naomi and Heaven are two young sisters who have over come so much in their short lifetime. Growing up surrounded by addiction and abuse, the sisters took on the responsibility of raising their younger siblings. Both were eventually placed in the care of the Ministry of Social Services due to neglect. As the years went on and the secrets in the family accumulated, both sisters were struggling to find any sense of hope. Now homeless, one was trying to finish her high school education and the other was isolated and struggling with anxiety. Desperate to escape their dysfunctional cycle, the younger of the sisters took a chance and reached out to EGADZ for help. At first, they were very quiet, they were used to keeping things inside and were too afraid to accept help from staff. As the relationships built, they learned to trust, ask questions and take the support that all young people deserve. Heaven is currently in her last year of high school and will graduate this summer. Naomi applied into

Saskatchewan Polytechnic where was accepted and will begin working on her Adult 12. Both have gained the courage to address their mental health struggles and they are seeing the impact in positive outcomes. They are excited for what the summer has to bring and look forward to spending time at the EGADZ Wakaw camp and making new friends in the building.

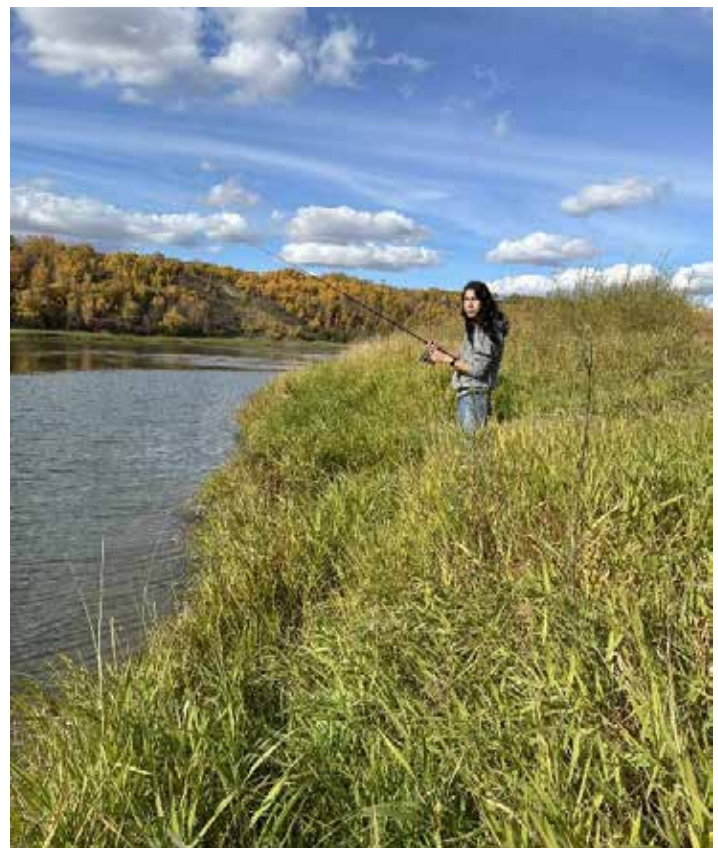
Fusion 22 has been a life saver for myself and my children. The resources they provide are extremely helpful especially when you are starting from scratch. They provided everything a person needs for their home some of which include; beds, bedding, couches and kitchenware of all kinds. Fusion is a safe zone for my children and myself. Which is most important when it comes to self-healing and healing for my children. Each worker here has such a big heart and really listen to what you share with no judgment. They share experiences in their own lives, which builds trust. The support workers really want success for families and do not look down on your mishaps. They are a huge part of why I am on the path of success. I am so grateful for this program and forever thankful for everyone that works here. I do not know where we would be or if I would have so much accomplished if we were not here at Fusion. I do know we will have a great future with what I have learnt from my supports. When I was in my dark days, I wished that I could have had a place to start over with my kids and stay on the straight and narrow path of a healthy lifestyle. I have been able to since find myself again while living her. I am forever grateful of Fusion 22."



Devon and Tatum are two brothers who transitioned from a homeless shelter where they had been residing temporarily. With no home to go to, the brothers were both attending high school and trying their best to keep a routine going. Identified by the Saskatoon Hub as at “acute risk”, the brothers were referred to the Fusion 22 program. The boys were moved into the program immediately after their first meeting at Fusion and each only had 1 back pack of belongings. Both were excited but scared too as neither had any idea of how to live independently or what they needed to do next. Staff assisted them with setting up their home and made sure that they had all of the necessities. From that moment staff began teaching the boys the basic life skills that they needed to be independent and created self sufficiency.

Having a home in a safe environment that is drug and alcohol-free has given them hope that they will break the inter-generational cycle of addiction that has plagued their family. Although both are timid, they have been able to challenge their anxieties and allowed themselves to join the Fusion community. Both are also connecting with a counsellor for their mental health and have accessed the Transitional Outreach where Devon gained his Learner’s license. When the boys were offered the chance to attend a night stay at the Wakaw Lake camp they were very excited. Not

only did they jump on the opportunity, they also were fully involved in planning and arranging a fishing trip. Tatum was excited to be the only person to catch a good size walleye that day.





Melissa and her partner **Gerald** came to Fusion 22 in March of 2023. Pregnant and struggling to find stability, Melissa feared independence and leaving her siblings behind. That summer she gave birth to a beautiful healthy baby girl and settled into motherhood. Melissa is another young adult who grew up caring for her younger siblings, made sure they ate, and that they were up and ready for school. Through her teens she developed struggles with her mental health and an addiction to alcohol.

After her baby was born, Melissa had yet again another barrier to get through with postpartum depression. To help her break down these barriers we connected Melissa with a counsellor who specialized in postpartum depression, and outpatient treatment and Narcotics Anonymous for her addiction. Staff assisted with enrolling her at Saskatchewan Polytechnic and she is currently upgrading her grade 12 and would like to pursue a career in Indigenous Practical Nursing.

Melissa and Gerald are expecting their second child later this summer and are excited to be expanding their family. Melissa is much more confident in her parenting skills and is supported by Parent Support as well. Together they are working on speech therapy for her daughter, Milestone Development, pregnancy anxiety and prenatal support.



The Staff at Fusion 22 has supported me and my family in so many ways, either when I needed someone to talk to or advice on parenting. They also helped in transportation to and from my appointments and food hampers when I was struggling financially."

– Melissa



Nicole, along with her life partner **Kalum** and their daughter Candice moved into the Fusion 22 program in April 2023.

Kalum is very empathetic and forgiving, and Nicole is protective of her family. Both have said that their main goal is to be better than their parents and raise their children to have confidence and feel loved.

Nicole grew up mainly with her mother who has always struggled with addiction. She spent her childhood witnessing alcohol and drug fueled parties and feeling unloved and neglected.

Kalum spent his childhood in foster care and was violently abused by a family member. He has no relationship with his father and his mother recently passed away from Cancer. He feels as though the majority of his family have written him off because of his past choices and has only recently connected with one sibling who is sober but unfortunately, has been diagnosed with a cancer himself.

As a child Nicole found school extremely difficult. She felt that because she struggled to learn, her teachers would deliberately embarrass her in front of the other students. She would later learn that she had dyslexia. The diagnosis clarified many things for her and she began to consider returning to school.

Prior to Fusion Kalum and Nicole struggled with addiction and living a high-risk life style. Plagued with both trauma bonding and codependence, Nicole has worked hard on building herself up in the areas of her confidence, and her independence. Finding her strength and believing in herself, she has been able to overcome a lot of what life has dealt her and is able to face new challenges with a positive attitude. With the help of the program Nicole worked at creating a new life and was successful in getting her son from a previous relationship back in her care full time. Both Nicole and Kalum attend weekly Narcotic Anonymous meetings to continue on their sober journey. She also acquired her learner's and her driver's license this year and was able to purchase her first vehicle. This has added another level of independence and confidence for her and she now transports herself to N.A. meetings and a women's support group.



What Fusion means to me is a program where staff help you no matter what, they don't judge you and all they want is for you to do good in the world for when you're ready to move on into the community."

-Nicole



 GARDEN OF HOPE

Garden of Hope opened December of 2023, and is a partnership between the Ministry of Social Services, Saskatchewan Health Authority, and EGADZ. The home was open after seeing the success of our Retreat Home, and in recognizing the need for more housing specialized to youth’s mental health. 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.



April 1st, 2025 – March 31st, 2026 Mental Health Statistics

Statistics	
Addictions Support	202
Crisis Support	38
Connected to Community Resource	44
Mental Health and Addiction Related Incident Reports	112
Mental Health Related Hospital Visits	23
Dube Admissions	2
Attended Treatment	2
Youth Lead Safety Plans Completed	54

Garden of Hope was created for youth by youth, to support the identified need for additional mental health and addiction support for youth in the community. The program practices our youth centered approach, supporting 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. This allows the youth to share their voice and lead their own plan.





There are 10 bedrooms for all gendered youth, ages 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 the support needed for a crisis, emergencies, crisis prevention, immediate and ongoing care.



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



Harry first came to EGADZ in the Ground Zero program, he had an incredibly traumatic background that effected his development as a child and continued as he grew into his teenage years. From witnessing his mother being taken from him at the hands of his father, to losing various other family members to gang violence, Harry did not know what it was like to feel safety. He has remained on high alert which nearly cost him his placements in the past. This was due to his actions feeling aggressive to those around him, even though he always refrained from physical violence.

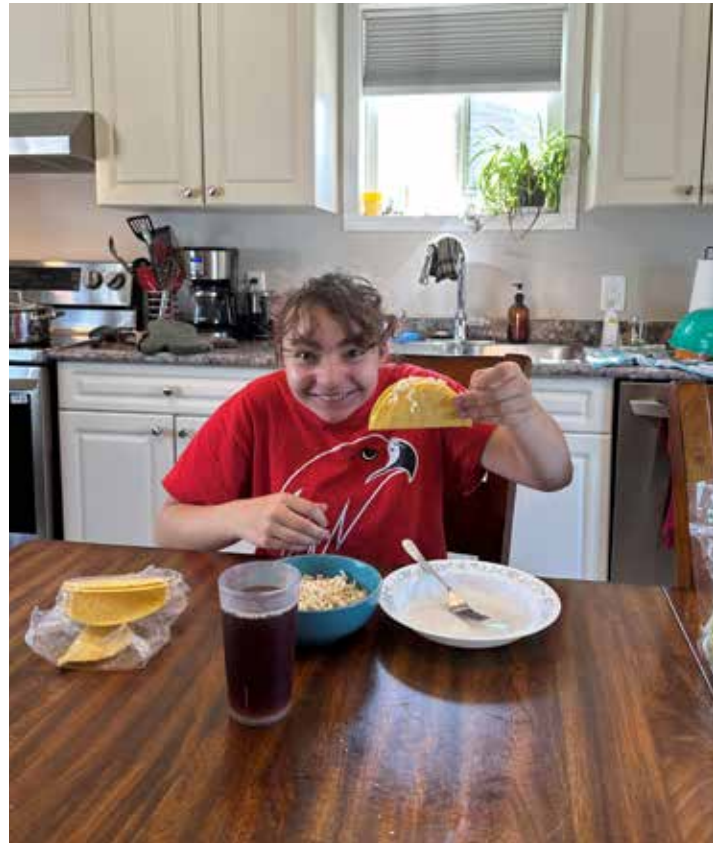
Harry moved into the Garden of Hope in May 2025 as his mental health continued to unfold as he adjusted to stable housing and being safe. He had a lot to say when he would come back from being in the community, telling grandiose stories that sounded like a lot for the time spent out. Once settled into the home Harry stayed home more and more, but the stories did not stop, revealing that he may be having complex PTSD symptoms from his upbringing. Harry struggled to accept help with his mental health but eventually got on board with taking medications regularly, using his supports through EGADZ, STC and Mental health & Addictions services, as well as opening up to those around him.

Throughout the year Harry has been consistently taking himself fishing at the Wildlife Federation trout pond or down at the river. He was even able to go ice fishing a few times throughout the winter. This has been an activity that Harry can enjoy in solitude and does not trigger any CPTSD symptoms, as well he feels connected to the land through providing for himself and the home he lives in. In recent months he has taken on a mentorship position with younger youth in the home and is not shy to come chat with any staff on shift.



Roberta had a turbulent childhood as she had many siblings and did not get along with her mother, she often felt her voice wasn't heard and felt her mom chose her boyfriend over her children. This combined with disclosures of neglect, Roberta was welcomed into EGADZ. After a short period at Ground Zero they moved into our Garden of Hope home in June 2025.

Roberta struggled with her mental health as she had diagnosis of ADHD, ODD, anxiety and depression, as well her ADHD gave her a lot of excess energy that could be difficult for them to manage. Roberta is good with taking their medication and still learning new ways to be a functional member of society. They obtained employment through our Action to Employment crew then went on to get a job independently in order to keep working on their skills. They have been able to work toward their high school diploma via online schooling and turned 18 at the end of 2025. They now are motivated to continue building their adult skills and work toward living in the EGADZ My Homes.



In June 2025 **Louise** was in the care of her mother but they did not have a home. Ultimately her mother was concerned with spending time with her boyfriend and ended up leaving Louise at a convenience store and disappearing for several months. Louise went into care and was placed at Bethany Home, in the meantime, the Ministry of Social Services wasn't able to locate Louise's mother so a plan for reunification could not be made. Louise moved into Garden of Hope in December 2025. She had many self-harm scars and was very shy for the first while, only coming out of their room for food and not talking much. Slowly they adjusted to the home.

Louise now comes out to talk to staff and has made friendships with the youth they live with. She is starting to open up more with one-on-one hang outs with staff and feeling like they have a space of their own in the home. They are engaging in a positive way and starting to work toward their own wellbeing.



April 1st, 2025 – March 31st, 2026 Youth Transitions

Statistics

Returned to EGADZ Home	3
Continued Placement at Retreat from Respite	1
EGADZ Staffed Home	3
Other MSS Approved Placement	2
Community	3
Other	1



Gerry had been struggling with her mental health growing up in their family home. Her father was unable to keep her safe while he was caring for other children, so Gerry was put into the care of the Ministry of Social Services. Her mental health declined even more in this process and after multiple attempts on ending their life, Gerry was admitted to the Dube Center and her placement was closed.

Gerry ended up staying at Dube for 6 weeks as her social worker struggled to find a suitable placement. Upon moving Gerry in to Garden of Hope in July 2025, it was apparent she was incredibly shy and continued to have the goal of going home to her family as soon as she could. In order to achieve this, Gerry had to stabilize her mental health and reintegrate back into school. She had a goal of moving home by Christmas 2025 but was not able to get to a point where school was happening, she had more work to do with her mental health as she still self-harmed often, but, did not attempt suicide like they had before Garden of Hope.

Gerry is continuing to work on her mental health along with her counselor, psychiatrist, outreach workers, and EGADZ supports. She is working with her supports to find a school program that she can be successful at so she can start making plans to reunite with their family.





**GROUND ZERO**

Ground Zero provides safe, emergency housing for youth of all genders between the ages of 16 and 18 who are experiencing housing instability, including homelessness and couch surfing. Many of the youth accessing the program have fallen through gaps in existing systems of care and require immediate, low-barrier support to stabilize their circumstances. Ground Zero offers a secure and welcoming environment where youth can pause, regain a sense of safety, and begin to rebuild toward long-term success.

The program prioritizes youth-centered, strengths-based case planning, ensuring that each individual is supported in a manner that reflects their unique needs, goals, and lived experiences. During their stay, youth have access to comprehensive wrap-around services, including mental health and crisis support, life-skills development, and connections to education and employment opportunities. The residence is designed to foster stability and belonging, featuring 10 private bedrooms, nutritious meals, laundry facilities, and shared living spaces that encourage positive social interaction. Structured programming and recreational activities further support personal development, routine, and overall well-being. The home is staffed 24/7, providing consistent supervision, guidance, and care.

Ground Zero Outreach extends these supports beyond the residence, engaging youth in the community who may also be experiencing housing instability or are at risk of doing so. Outreach services focus on early intervention, ongoing support, and aftercare, helping youth maintain stability as they transition to more permanent housing. Services include mental health and crisis response, advocacy, system navigation, and support in accessing education, employment, and community resources. Outreach operates seven days a week, ensuring accessibility during critical hours.

After my first night, I felt so comfortable and at peace. I love it here and I love my bedroom"



"I never want to leave. It's hard to be sad at Ground Zero because there are a million reasons to be happy"



Over the past year, Ground Zero supported 101 youth through emergency placement, while an additional 390 youth accessed services through Outreach, for a total of 491 individuals served. Of these, 181 identified as male, 293 as female, and 17 as transgender. Demand for longer-term housing continues to exceed available resources, resulting in extended stays for some youth beyond the intended short-term duration. A total of **43** youth required extensions, with lengths of stay ranging from 31 to 250 days and an average duration of 71 days. This trend highlights ongoing system pressures and reinforces the critical role Ground Zero plays in providing stability for youth who might otherwise remain without safe and appropriate housing.

Youth Previous Placements April 1st, 2025 – March 31st, 2026

Statistics

Living Unapproved/Unsafe in Community	37
MSS Placement Breakdown	19
Homeless	13
Couch Surfing	24
Discharge from Detox/Treatment	7
Released from Kilburn	1

Youth Transitions April 1st, 2025 – March 31st, 2026

Statistics

Family	21
Long Term EGADZ Housing	17
Other MSS Approved Placement	17
Community	18
Detox/Treatment	8
Intense Stabilization	7
Independent Living	3

Additional Notable Statistics April 1st, 2025– March 31st, 2026

Statistics

Justice Support	160
Addictions Support	524
Mental Health Support	6,912
Employment/Education Support	1,566
Connection to Community Resource	1,143
Health Support	1,831

I never stayed in a placement longer than a week but Ground Zero really feels like home and is actually a place I want to return to every night”



Ground Zero gave me the chance to get what I needed to get done, then move on to what comes next”

"I never want to leave. I finally have been at peace with my life and working on things I never thought I would work on."

"Ground Zero helped me have a stable place to live and by doing so, I was able to finish school and gain my credits."

Abby moved into Ground Zero on October 5th, 2025, after being brought from Prince Albert following involvement with the justice system. At the time of her admission, she had been living with her mother; however, due to the circumstances related to the charges, she was no longer able to remain in the home. Abby was initially admitted on a 30-day placement, which was later extended on a week-to-week basis as she continued to benefit from and engage in the program. She remained at Ground Zero until January 26th, 2026.

When Abby first arrived, she presented as quiet, reserved, and shy, often choosing to remain in her room except for meals. Over the first couple of weeks, she gradually began to feel more comfortable in the environment and started spending more time in shared spaces. As her confidence grew, Abby began building positive relationships with staff and slowly increased her engagement in daily programming and home life.

Over time, Abby became more active in the program and began participating in everyday routines and activities. She accompanied staff on community outings such as grocery trips and took part in recreational programming, with one of her preferred activities being attending the Saskatoon Blades games. Abby also benefited from one-on-one time with staff, where she was able to talk about school, her experiences, and recent activities in a supportive and informal setting.

Abby developed positive peer connections during her stay and was able to maintain these relationships throughout her time at Ground Zero. She also established a strong support network in Saskatoon, including connections with program staff and the EGADZ Community Recovery team, which contributed to her overall stability and engagement.

A key focus during Abby's placement was addressing her legal involvement and working toward resolution of her charges. She attended monthly meetings with her probation officer and participated in mediation with involved parties. Through this process and her ongoing engagement, Abby's charges were ultimately dropped, marking a significant milestone in her progress.

Throughout her stay, Abby maintained sobriety from alcohol and cannabis, both of which had previously contributed to challenges in her home life, education, and overall well-being. With this stability in place, she was able to re-engage in her education and returned to attending school full-time.

During the Christmas break, Abby returned home for a one-week visit with her mother and sister, which provided an opportunity for reconnection and reflection on family relationships. Following this visit, Abby expressed a shift in her goals and indicated that she would like to work toward returning home rather than pursuing long-term placement through My Homes. After continued mediation with her family and the resolution of her charges, Abby successfully transitioned back to her mother's residence in Prince Albert on January 26th, 2026. Abby continues residing at home with her mother and attending high school full-time.





This place has changed my life. I cannot thank Ground Zero enough for all they have helped me with."

Thank you for being patient and always understanding that life isn't always easy."

Brad, a 17-year-old youth, first arrived at Ground Zero in July 2025 after being asked to leave his family home. While living together was no longer possible at that time, both Brad and his father-maintained hope that they would be able to rebuild their relationship in the future. Brad came into the program during a period of significant change and uncertainty, requiring stability and support to help him move forward.

Brad quickly established positive connections with both staff and peers. He was highly engaged in the home environment and often connected with others through his strong interest in music. Brad is a talented songwriter and frequently shared his work with staff, taking pride in his creativity and responding positively to encouragement and feedback.

Brad's personality was outgoing and energetic, and he consistently contributed to a positive atmosphere within the program. He was supportive of staff and peers and assisted around the home when needed. He also benefited from one-on-one supports, including drives and informal check-ins, which provided him with opportunities to reflect, process challenges, and talk through personal goals and concerns.

Socially, Brad remained very engaged with other youth in the program. He participated in recreational activities, spent time in shared living spaces, and built connections through shared interests such as multiplayer gaming and music. He shared his creative work with peers, encouraging feedback and using these interactions to further develop his confidence and skills.

During his time at Ground Zero, Brad made notable progress in several areas. He attended school regularly, remained actively engaged in programming, and began performing his music at local events in Saskatoon. He also worked with Ground Zero staff and school

supports to ensure he had appropriate outlets to discuss and address personal challenges. As part of his engagement with supports, Brad signed a Section 10 agreement with the Ministry of Social Services, supporting his continued stability and access to services.

In September 2025, Brad transitioned from Ground Zero to Quint Youth Lodge. Since that time, he has secured long-term independent housing and continues to maintain connection with Ground Zero staff. He remains engaged in his music and continues to pursue opportunities to share his talent and grow creatively.

Ground Zero got me where I wanted to be in life last year and I know I can do it again. Everyone is so caring and supportive."

I've been in so many placements my whole life, and I have never felt more at home or had as many relationships with people than with the staff and youth I met at GZ."

Chester, a 17-year-old youth, accessed Ground Zero after experiencing a period of housing instability, including couch surfing, as a result of challenges within the family home related to his gender identity. At the time of intake in November 2025, returning home was not a safe or viable option, and Chester required a stable environment to support his well-being and continued development.

During his stay, Chester demonstrated a strong commitment to his personal goals and made meaningful use of the supports available to him. With access to consistent housing and a structured environment, he was able to attend school regularly, an important achievement given the disruptions he had previously faced due to housing insecurity. Chester actively engaged in both in-house and community-based recreational programming, which supported his confidence, social development, and overall sense of belonging. Over time, he built positive relationships

with both peers and staff, becoming more comfortable and connected within the program.

Chester independently accessed a range of community resources to further support his progress. He regularly utilized services through EGADZ, including the drop-in centre, where he was able to maintain important connections with his siblings. Following his initial 30-day placement, Chester worked with staff to extend his stay while pursuing longer-term housing options, including submitting a referral to the EGADZ My Homes.

As part of his ongoing growth, Chester made the decision to engage more formally with external supports. After initial hesitation, he independently chose to sign a Section 10 agreement, marking a significant step in his willingness to engage with additional systems of care. He also began attending the Possibilities Recovery Center and consistently participated in counselling to address his mental health needs, including challenges related to self-harm and suicidal ideation.

Throughout his time at Ground Zero, Chester continued to strengthen his natural support network. He was able to re-establish a relationship with his mother, and together they developed a plan for reunification. In the New Year, Chester successfully transitioned out of the program and relocated to Edmonton, where he reunited with his family.



“Ground Zero made me feel safe and like I was able to achieve anything I worked hard towards and set my mind to.”

“Where I was staying previously was constant stress, at Ground Zero I feel like I can breathe. I used to be so angry and act out when I had no freedom, but being here has just been a huge sigh of relief.”





The My Homes program provides supported housing for youth ages 12–23, who are working toward stability, independence, and positive personal growth. The program is crafted to meet youth where they are at in their individual journeys and includes three models of housing support: staffed, mentored, and independent living. These models allow youth, including young mothers and fathers, to access the level of support most appropriate to their needs while providing opportunities to transition between housing models as they develop increased independence and life skills.

The program offers youth the opportunity to make their own choices and build autonomy within a supportive environment that provides consistent guidance and care. Through individualized support and relationship-based programming, youth are encouraged to develop confidence, strengthen decision-making skills, and work toward their personal goals.



Referrals to the program are received from a variety of community partners, including the Ministry of Social Services, Mental Health and Addictions Services, school divisions, community outreach programs, and through self-referral. Youth residing within My Homes are supported by trained staff who provide mentorship, advocacy, and assistance connecting to community resources and services. Additional supports are available through the Community

Recovery Team, which provides access to mental health and addictions counselling for youth requiring specialized support.

The program also incorporates therapeutic and relationship-based supports through resident support dogs, Mufasa and Buddy, who provide comfort, companionship, and emotional support to youth across the homes. Youth are encouraged to participate in the care of the animals, helping to build responsibility, routine, empathy, and self-confidence through meaningful daily involvement.



Mental Health and Addiction Statistics April 1st 2025- March 31st 2026

Statistics

Accessed Counseling for Mental Health and Addictions	37
Admitted to Dube	4
Attended Detox and/or Treatment	6

"I finally feel like I am living in a place where people care about me. This place is the best!"



The staffed My Homes are comprised of four female homes, and one male home, supporting up to 25 youth at a time. The staffed My Homes provide 24/7 in-house support for youth residing there. The staffed My Homes give youth the wrap-around support needed to build positive relationships, enhance confidence, and strengthen communication skills so that they are equipped with skills that are integral to ensure their safety and well-being. The staffed My Homes also help connect youth to supports outside of the My Homes that will follow them through different housing transitions.

"I like living in the My Homes. I can actually tell you guys about my mental health and get help."

From April 1st, 2025 to March 31st, 2026 the staffed homes supported 50 youth.

Statistics

Attended High School	35
Attended Elementary School	6
Graduated High School	4
Maintained Employment	5
Transitioned to Family	3
Transitioned to Mentored Housing	7
Transitioned to Supported Independent Living	2
Transitioned to Community Placement	10
Transitioned to Intense Stabilization	2



Stacey simply knew of no other way to live than what she had experienced growing up in a household victimized by addiction. Her only memories were of her mother lost in addiction, while leaving her in a lonely existence. She recalled playing catch with a rock as a way to have fun as a child. When addictions eventually took her mother's life, Stacey moved in with a cousin who only wanted her in the home as a caregiver to the children in the home. Stacey decided to advocate for herself and what she wanted out of her life, and took steps to move into the My Homes for the support she needed.

Stacey arrived in the My Homes from Ground Zero at 17 years old, needing substantial help with her addictions, as substance use was the only way she knew how to cope. An entire lifetime witnessing and engaged in addiction was going to be difficult to overcome, but Stacey was determined to do the work. Stacey shared her story with her new supports in the My Homes, understanding that sharing her past trauma would assist her in moving forward in her life. Stacey chose to connect with an addictions' counselor from the Community Recovery Team and to try outpatient treatment.

Stacey found a passion for cooking while exploring positive outlets to deter her from relapse. Stacey learned to cook all types of different meals in the My Homes, and would often come home straight after school to help cook supper for herself and the youth living in the home.

Despite developing healthy coping mechanisms, Stacey continued to struggle with her sobriety and often put herself in dangerous situations in the community. She remained engaged with staff and continued to have conversations regarding attending detox and treatment. As My Home staff and Stacey's addiction worker worked to take the stigma away from inpatient addiction services, Stacey finally agreed to try. Stacey attended Calder and had a great experience there. She found that learning more about addiction and applying these ideas to her own lived experience was very helpful to her. By taking the support of the My Homes, Stacey learned many new tools and accessed new resources for her sobriety that she would not have ever accessed alone.



Living in the My Homes has been so great. I feel like I can be myself and that staff encourage me to be who I am."

Jasper was diagnosed with a mild intellectual disability as a child, as well as anxiety and depression. These diagnoses created an ongoing struggle for him to maintain safety, regulate his emotions, and learn important life skills needed for his future independence.

Jasper moved to the My Homes in March 2023 following movement through over a dozen community placements, and after placement with his adoptive parents broke down due to Jasper's ongoing mental health struggles. Shortly after his move to the My Homes, Jasper's mental health hit a low point where he stopped attending school regularly, began seeing hallucinations, hearing voices, and was struggling to keep himself safe in the home.

After months of ongoing battles with his mental health, Jasper made the courageous decision to visit the hospital to have his mental health assessed. He was able to advocate for his medications to be adjusted and was connected with outpatient supports through the CRT team following his discharge back to the My Homes. Having these supports in place to help him to learn how to work through difficult situations and manage his mental health in a positive way allowed Jasper to have a new outlook on life where he was able to get back into his routine.

Jasper's school attendance improved significantly; he especially enjoyed and was successful at his work experience classes, giving him the confidence to apply for, and accept, a summer position with Action to Employment.

In June 2025, Jasper successfully graduated grade 12 and received his diploma, walking proudly across the stage. Throughout this time, Jasper also continued building life skills, and improving communication and relationships with staff and other youth. In late July, Jasper transitioned into an Adult Mental Health home in the community, ready for this next step into independence and adulthood.



Macy moved into the My Homes in August 2025, at just 13 years old, after moving around to multiple placements, struggling with addictions, and having recently attended Calder Detox and Treatment Center.

Macy's upbringing was tumultuous, having moved from different family, and community placements for a few years due to her parents being unable to care for her and her siblings due to their own personal struggles with addictions and mental health.

At the start of her My Homes journey, Macy struggled with substance use and trying to fit into peer groups that were not supporting her path of sobriety. This led to multiple incidents involving substance use and frequent running from the home. Macy reached a point where she no longer wanted to fall into that lifestyle and wanted to start making positive changes for herself.

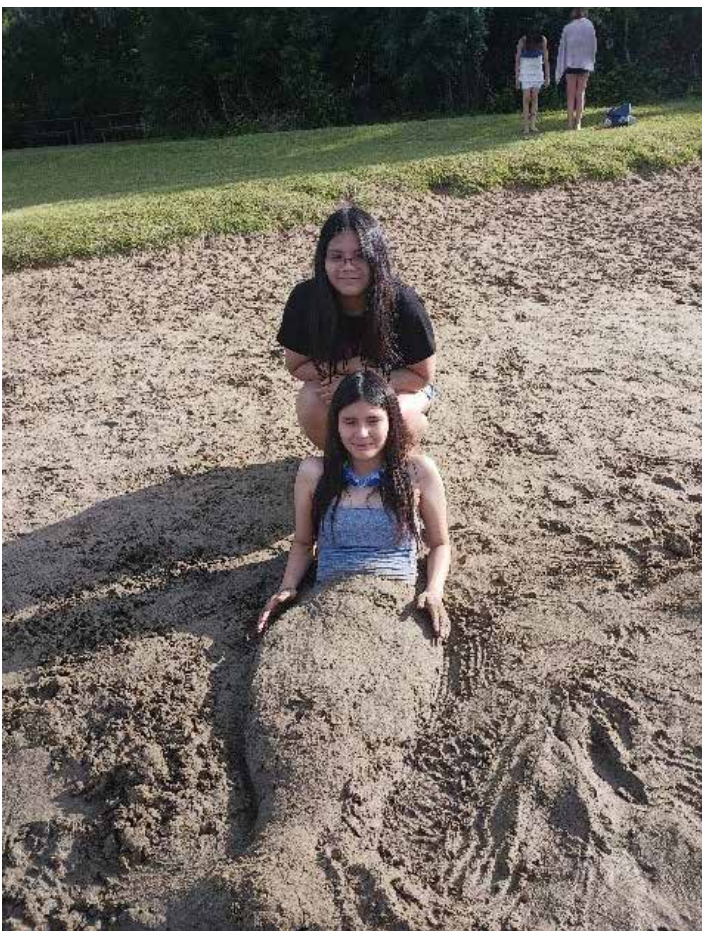
She changed her friend group to surround herself with friends that supported her choice for sobriety and safety. She advocated for, and was connected with, a support worker for her mental health and addictions through CRT. Around the home, she engaged with staff and contributed to the overall household by planning

meals with staff and helping with groceries and cleaning.

Macy's school attendance was perfect while living at the My Homes and she was receiving recognition awards for her consistent attendance each month. She worked hard on re-stabilizing herself and created an environment that she knew she would thrive in. In January 2026, Macy was offered the opportunity to live with her older brother who was willing to assume care of Macy and her siblings. She was apprehensive about the situation at first due to her past experiences and concerns that she would fall back into her old habits. Macy, however, knew that all the hard work she had done would give her the best possible chance of continuing to make positive changes in her life, regardless of where she was living. Macy successfully transitioned back to her family on January 16, 2026.



EGADZ helped me reach my goals by being there for me when I was actively drinking, then supporting me when I quit completely. Also, keeping me going to school; my staff had me awake every morning, helping me step-by-step to continue to reach my goals of graduation. EGADZ helped me grow as a person. I wouldn't be where I am today without them."



Linda had lived in various foster placements and group homes throughout her life due to her mom's ongoing struggle with substance use. She moved from an intense stabilization group home to the EGADZ Retreat when she was 14 years old.

Linda spent a few months at the Retreat home working on emotional regulation then successfully transitioned to one of the staffed My Homes. Linda spent the next three years at the staffed My Homes, working on independent skills such as cooking, baking, cleaning, utilizing city transit, and improving her coping skills and emotional regulation.

In June of 2025, Linda graduated High School and transitioned into a mentored My Home. This transition was difficult for her, but it was good for her to see that she had the capabilities to be successful in this next step towards her independence. While in the mentored home, Linda applied and was accepted to University for the Fall of 2026. In the mean time, she gained summer employment before enrolling in online classes for the Fall of 2025.

Linda continued working on her independent skills and started to get the hang of utilizing different supports as needed. In January of 2026, staff observed that Linda was quite independent and had the skills to transition to an independent home. Linda discussed the transition with staff and decided that she was ready for this next step. After it taking three years for Linda to feel ready to move to a mentored home, it was incredible to see that she now had the confidence in herself to transition again so quickly. Linda moved into an independent My Home in late February 2026

Despite growing up with amazing love and support from her adoptive parents, **Jane** began to show struggles with her mental health as she got older. These struggles included visions of harming her mom, dad, and younger brother. Her adoptive family connected her with every type of support available to help her to manage her symptoms, but Jane needed more support than her family could provide in their family home. Entering into care with her family's support, at 16 years old, Jane began her own journey towards mental health wellness within the My Homes.

Jane first lived in the EGADZ Youth Driven Therapeutic homes in April 2025. Her initial hopes of finding a mental health solution that would let her move back home quickly did not come to fruition, however, she started to carve out new goals for herself while living independently from her family. As she worked on positive coping strategies and self-regulation skills in a safe and supportive environment, her school attendance increased and she even obtained a summer job with EGADZ Action to Employment. By July 2025, Jane was ready to transition to a staffed My Home. There she continued attending work and started the school year on a positive note. However, in December 2025, Jane's mental health took another dip as she again began to struggle with hallucinations and urges to hurt herself and others.

Being in the My Homes through this crisis period provided an environment where Jane could explore the most difficult aspects of her mental health, while having staff to support her safety and the safety of those around her. This ability to explore some of the thoughts that had scared her and her family in the past has helped her figure out ways to cope with these intrusive thoughts and voices. Jane has now learned more about these symptoms of her mental health and how to deal with them in a constructive way, instead of coming at it through a lens of fearfulness where intense stabilization is needed.

Jane continued to work with her supports for the next few months to stabilized again. With a few medication changes, a new counselor, and continued support from community, family, and My Home supports, by mid-March 2026, Jane was able to focus again on goals beyond her mental health.





Paige grew up with her grandmother, who was also taking care of all her siblings. As her grandmother struggled to take care of them, Paige let many of her needs go unnoticed in order to ensure that she and her siblings were all together. Wanting desperately to stay with the only family she had known, Paige would never speak publicly about the lack of food at home, her struggles at school, and the reality that she was not being taken care of properly. Eventually, these issues were observed by external sources, and Paige was brought into care at 12 years old in June of 2023. Paige moved to emergency housing before arriving at the My Homes in January 2024. Her older sister already lived at a My Homes, which helped with Paige's transition, as they visited each other often.

Transitioning into the My Homes and away from her family home, Paige's struggles came to the surface. Although she no longer needed to hide her problems from others, it was a challenge at first for her to trust that other people cared and wanted to help her. As staff continued to engage with Paige, she started to open up more about her struggles and needs, and staff were able to connect her with more supports. Paige started seeing a mental health nurse, started on medication, and attended school with a new desire to succeed.

The relationships that Paige built with staff, and the work that Paige had put in with her supports, helped her when she unfortunately was the victim of an assault in the community in October 2025. Utilizing her supports, she was willing to do all the police reporting, medical reports, and testing. Many people are unable to go through the process of reporting their abuser, and Paige's willingness to go through the process ultimately saw her abuser arrested and convicted of their crimes.



Jackie moved into the EGADZ Retreat home in September 2022 when she was 14 years old from another community placement. While living at the Retreat, she focused on emotional regulation as she struggled with depression and anxiety which would often lead to self harm. As Jackie slowly worked on improving her school attendance, she was able to transition to a staffed My Home in March 2023. However, school continued to be a struggle for her, so her My Home supports helped advocate for an education psych assessment, which resulted in a diagnosis of a learning disability. This meant that Jackie would be accepted into different educational programming that would be better suited to her needs, and help her to succeed to her full potential. Jackie's attendance continued to improve, and her anxiety decreased, as she started to feel like she was understanding the content being taught to her. She faced a new educational challenge when she decided to get her learners' license, as there were no modifications available for drivers' education. Jackie was aware that this would be a challenge for her, but decided to try her best, regardless of the outcome, and succeeded in getting her learner's license in March 2026. This was a huge milestone for her; not only because she now has her learner's license, but also because she is now in a place in her mental health journey where she can challenge herself without being overcome by crippling anxiety.



There are three Mentored Model homes within the My Homes program that support up to 15 youth and young mothers. Each of the Mentored homes has a live-in mentor, who acts as a “big sister” in the home, modeling an independent, productive, and positive life for the youth in the home to aspire to. The mentored homes have dedicated support staff who assist the youth with getting to school and appointments, and connecting them to resources.

From April 1st, 2025 to March 31st, 2026, the mentored homes supported 33 youth.

Statistics	
Attended High School	27
Graduated High School	2
Attended Post-Secondary	1
Maintained Employment	8
Transitioned to Staffed Housing	1
Transitioned to Supported Independent Living	4
Transitioned to Independence	7
Transitioned to Intense Stabilization	3

Aria spent her early childhood living with her mom who struggled with addictions and was unable to provide the proper care for Aria and her siblings. When Aria was 10 years old, she started living with her older brother, but her brother also struggled with mental health and addictions. He was unable to provide basic necessities for Aria, leading to an eviction from the home they were living in. Aria then went to live with her aunt and uncle, but addictions and instability continued to surround her at that home as well. She then tried to live with her boyfriend's family, but quickly became caught up in a cycle of domestic abuse and control. With no safe family members to live with, she found herself at Ground Zero, and was able to obtain emergency placement.

Aria had a lot of emotions and trauma to unpack by the time she arrived at Ground Zero. After a short stay, Aria and her brother were able to move in together to an Independent John Howard home. During this time, she began experimenting with alcohol, and before she knew it, she was regularly drinking to cope, and developing a problem. Realizing that she did not want the generational cycle to continue, she reached out to Ground Zero for help and support with her addictions.

She was able to move back to Ground Zero, and was quickly set up with a stay at detox. Aria was able to build some great connections with staff members, and started talking about her past trauma in order to heal. Aria continued to struggle with alcohol addiction and eventually started abusing Xanax as well. Aria did not like the person she was becoming, and was able to navigate healthier ways to cope with her trauma, such as attending Possibilities Treatment Center, and spending time with her housemates doing positive activities.





It's a place where I feel safe. A place where I can be myself. I can be me without the worries of being judged. I can make my own choices, and be supported when I do."

Hazel was apprehended at a young age when she arrived at the emergency room following a suicide attempt. Her mother was extremely intoxicated while at the hospital with her. Given the significant concerns surrounding her home environment and her mom's alcoholism, Hazel struggled with intense mental health needs, substance abuse, suicidal ideation, and an eating disorder. She spent time living in various placements before coming to live at the My Homes in 2019 at the age of 13.

While at the My Homes, Hazel was really longing for a relationship with her mother, and the opportunity to have unsupervised visits, but her mom was not making these visits a priority. Hazel's depression was overtaking her motivation to do anything, and she had a very hard time opening up to others about how she was feeling. Hazel would turn to self-harm, alcohol, and isolation to cope with how she was feeling. Eventually she began opening up to her supports about her trauma, struggles, and eating disorder. She found non-judgemental support from staff, and started to meal plan and work towards making healthy recipes for herself and her housemates. Hazel also received extra support by going to the Dube for stabilization, attending counseling, and creating a safety plan for when she felt like harming herself. She was able to manage her eating disorder and depression, and eventually was able to transition to a Mentored My Home in 2021, where she would have more independence, and more responsibility to keep herself safe.

While at the Mentored Home, Hazel continued to take strides towards her healthy future. She was hired on for the Action to Employment Wakaw crew for the summer, and she found the experience of working outdoors to be soothing to her soul, and helpful in her healing journey. The job also helped her to work towards a goal of buying herself a vehicle, which she was able to do in 2024, even before she had a drivers' license. Her purchase of her new vehicle highly motivated her to want to obtain her drivers' license, and a few months later, she successfully passed her

drivers' exam and road test. Hazel was so excited to share the news with everyone around her, and her pride in herself for what she had accomplished.

For the first time in her life, she started to consistently attend school, and communicate her dreams for her future. Hazel worked hard to finish her school credits, and graduated high school in 2025. Shortly after graduation, she decided she was ready to go out into the world on her own and, after planning for a smooth transition with staff, she successfully transitioned into Supported Independent Living at another placement.



EGADZ is a place where I can learn, love, and grow. It teaches me patience and empathy; it shows me that I'm not alone. It allows me to find long time friendships; it's a place that allows me to have people I can proudly say are my family."

Ivy was adopted as a young child but ran away from the home when she was 16, due to allegations of physical and sexual abuse. She was also struggling with immense grief from the recent passing of her brother the same year. She tried living with her biological mother following this, but was unable to, leaving her couch surfing, at the YWCA, and at risk for homelessness for a period of time. Ivy experienced many traumas throughout her life, and struggled with depression, PTSD, anxiety, and bulimia. She also struggled with suicidal ideation and self-harm. Ivy connected with Ground Zero for temporary housing in 2024. By this time, she was deep in a cycle of alcohol and substance use that was causing her to spiral out of control.

Ivy was hospitalized many times because of her alcohol use, and was brought to Secure Detox after being found unresponsive in the community. Her addictions also contributed to her being charged with assault, showing that her judgment was cloudy when under the influence. Despite almost losing her life more than once because of her alcohol and substance use, Ivy initially denied having any problematic addictions, and refused treatment or extra support. However, after losing a few people close to her to overdoses, she decided she wanted help to get sober, and was

connected to a CRT worker, started attending NA meetings, attended treatment, and started seeing a counselor and psychiatrist regularly. Ivy was placed at the Retreat Home, where she focused on her sobriety, stabilization, and self-care for eight months.

After stabilizing at Retreat, Ivy transitioned to a Mentored My Home, where she continued to manage her sobriety, and work through her legal charges and conditions, putting them behind her. She demonstrated strong independence and leadership skills, helping her to become a role model, and the junior mentor in the home. Ivy also joined the EGADZ Youth Committee, where she voiced her opinions for youth issues and helped plan new youth-driven programs within EGADZ. In March 2026, Ivy applied and was hired for a job as a sales associate in the community. She continues to remain committed to her sobriety, and has been sober for 10 months. Ivy's continued accomplishments are testament that she can achieve any goal she sets her mind to.



EGADZ is an incredible resource for youth and young adults who want the opportunity to better themselves and build meaningful, positive lives. To me, EGADZ represents support, opportunity, and a sense of community for young people who may not have those things elsewhere. It provides a safe space where youth can access help, guidance, and programs that encourage personal growth and independence. One of the things I really appreciate about EGADZ is that it is largely youth-focused and youth-driven. The staff and coordinators work hard to guide young people towards making positive choices, but they do it in a way that respects our independence. Instead of controlling what you do or forcing decisions on them, they provide options, encouragement, and support so that youth can make their own choices. I think this approach is really important, because many young people are less likely to listen when they feel like they are being told what they have to do. When youth are given the chance to choose their own path with guidance and support they are more likely to engage, learn, and grow. EGADZ also means empowerment to me. It shows youth that their voices matter and that they are capable of making good decisions about their futures. Programs like this help young people build confidence, learn life skills, and find healthier directions for their lives. Having a place that believes in youth, supports them, and meets them where they are can make a huge difference. Overall, EGADZ is more than just a program, it is a place that helps youth feels supported, respected, and capable of creating a better future for themselves."

The Independent My Homes provide young women and mothers, between the ages of eighteen to twenty-three, the opportunity to develop skills that will help them successfully transition independence. The two independent homes are supported by mobile staff members who ensure that the youth have the transportation they need, and are connected to the resources that will benefit them in their journey towards independence.

I feel like I've learned so much since I've been in the Indy homes. I've learned a lot of skills. It feels like it isn't a group home, it feels like a home."

From April 1st, 2025 to March 31st, 2026, the independent homes supported 19 youth.

Statistics	
Attended High School	9
Graduated High School	1
Attended Post-Secondary	3
Maintained Employment	15
Transitioned to Staffed Housing	1
Transitioned to Mentored Housing	1
Transitioned to Supported Independent Living	1
Transitioned to Independence	7

Jasmine had resided with her mother and brother most of her life, witnessing cycles of domestic violence and instability in the home. When she was 17, her mom became involved with a new boyfriend that struggled with addictions. This led to Jasmine's mom developing her own substance use issues, experimenting with cocaine and crystal meth, which turned Jasmine's home into an unsafe space. Her brother went to live with their grandparents, but there was no room for Jasmine there. Jasmine's mom eventually lost her home, and Jasmine moved in with her uncle's friend in search of stability. When that placement broke down, Jasmine moved in with her boyfriend, but started experiencing domestic violence, still unable to find peace. She fled the relationship and found temporary safety at Interval House, and then another temporary placement at the YWCA. Jasmine connected to the Transitional Outreach Team, who introduced her to the My Homes

program. In search of a “real home”, Jasmine moved into an Independent My Home in July 2025 at the age of 19.

When Jasmine moved into the My Homes, it was obvious that her confidence was severely lacking. She was unable to make eye contact, focusing on the ground in front of her, in what seemed to be an attempt to disappear. Over time, she began making connections with staff and other youth in the home, and developing trust in the support that was around her.

Jasmine began to focus on her own mental health by connecting with a counselor through the CRT. This support provided her a safe place to release her thoughts. She also prioritized her physical health, obtaining dental benefits and connecting with a dentist. Jasmine also consulted a doctor about a health condition and started much needed medication to manage her diagnosis.

Once she felt like she was stabilizing in the home, she then turned her focus on finding employment. Jasmine updated her resume, and was able to obtain a job with ATE. Action to Employment helped her improve her social skills and confidence, her growth eventually leading to her promotion to Junior Crew Lead. Outside of work, she worked on independence skills, such as cooking, cleaning and budgeting. Jasmine has been saving for her future in hopes of moving into her very own place. She is also saving for her education, planning to attend post-secondary in the near future.

When **Celeste** moved into the My Homes more than 9 years ago, she was consumed by immense trauma which surfaced in her anger, addictions, and mental health. Celeste had lived in over a dozen different placements before arriving at the My Homes, and greatly struggled with trusting staff and had difficulty with emotional regulation. Over time, she built strong relationships with staff, began to trust again, and began to open up about her past so she could begin to heal.

In 2019, Celeste gave birth to a baby boy. Celeste knew she wanted to provide for him the things in life that she did not receive as a child; love, kindness, and proper care. The care that Celeste received growing up left her confused and unsure on how to parent her own child. She worked with staff and Parent Support over a long period of time to build her confidence in parenting, and she worked through the difficult hurdle of potty

training her son, which was a huge obstacle she was facing.

Celeste gradually accepted counseling, started working with her psychiatrist, and was connected with a CRT worker. She began to recognize that she deserved to be happy, and started to take more ownership in her life and build more independence. She started making her own appointments, taking her medication consistently, and regularly attended counselling. Celeste prioritized teaching her child life skills. She created a bedtime routine for her son, enrolled him in school, and got him started in daycare.

Celeste moved into an Independent My Home in 2024 after she graduated from high school. She decided she wanted to further her education and give back to her community, enrolling in a childcare program. She successfully completed the program and received a job offer from the organization that she completed her practicum, which she accepted. With the stability and consistency that Celeste had worked so hard to achieve, she felt ready to move into her own home; a place for just herself and her child. Nervous but excited, Celeste applied for housing at Fusion 22, and was accepted. Celeste and her son successfully transitioned to their new apartment in September 2025.





Tracey first moved to the My Homes in the fall of 2022. At the time, she had moved to Saskatoon from her reserve to escape unstable and unhealthy family relationships. She herself was struggling with addiction and mental health and reached out to her counselor on reserve almost daily, expressing suicidal ideation. Tracey's counselor encouraged her to move into the My Homes to receive the support needed to work through her past trauma. Although Tracey attended school, had a job, and attended treatment during this time, she still struggled with alcohol use, which would often have a negative impact on both herself and others. Tracey had built up strength in herself and was determined to try to make change for herself independently. Tracey decided to move back to her reserve in January of 2024.

While at her reserve, she connected with some positive community members and began working more diligently on her sobriety. She continued to work on independent skills and gained employment. Unfortunately, forest fires spread throughout her reserve, requiring her to evacuate in September of 2024. Tracey was displaced to a hotel with her family for the night, and relapsed on alcohol. While under the influence, she became a victim of assault.

Feeling broken with almost no belongings, she reached out to a safe place she knew, EGADZ. She moved into Ground Zero, attended detox, and obtained employment with ATE while she awaited treatment. In December of 2024, Tracey returned to the My Homes, and moved into an Independent Home. She focused on finishing school and obtaining employment in the community. Her goal was to stabilize and move into her own place.

Tracey started engaging in healthy activities, such as going to the gym, and started seeing her mental health and addictions counselor regularly. When she received a lump sum payment from her band, she invested in her future by opening a savings account and purchasing herself a vehicle and insurance. Even though she had her own vehicle, she still needed to obtain her drivers' license. She worked hard to pay off some SGI fees, started completing practice drives, and finally took the road test to obtain her license.

Having her own vehicle and license gave Tracey a lot of independence, as she was able to get to places on her own without relying on others. She completed the rest of her grade 12 education at the end of 2025, and applied to a Financial Literacy program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. She was accepted to the



program, and continued to work with ATE while going to school. In September 2025, Tracey was ready to transition to independence, moving into the community on her own.

A positive thing is the support we get and the home we have."



Shelby had no family able to care for her, and moved into a Staffed My Home in 2022 at the age of 15. At the time, she struggled with substance use, and was not interested in getting help for her addictions and ultimately decided that she was not ready for the program at that time. Leaving the My Homes acted as an eye opener for Shelby; she realized that she did want to make positive changes in her life, and work towards a better future. She started to attend school regularly, and stopped using the hard drugs that were having such a negative impact on her life.

In 2025, Shelby advocated for herself to return to the My Homes, and moved into a Mentored Home at the age of 17. She continued to attend school and appointments, and started taking care of her physical health by adjusting her medications. She was also connected to a dentist, optometrist and Addictions Worker where she attended weekly appointments in order to manage her sobriety.

Shortly after turning 18, Shelby made the transition to an Independent Home. She began focusing on obtaining employment by updating her resume and practicing mock interviews with staff. Shelby worked



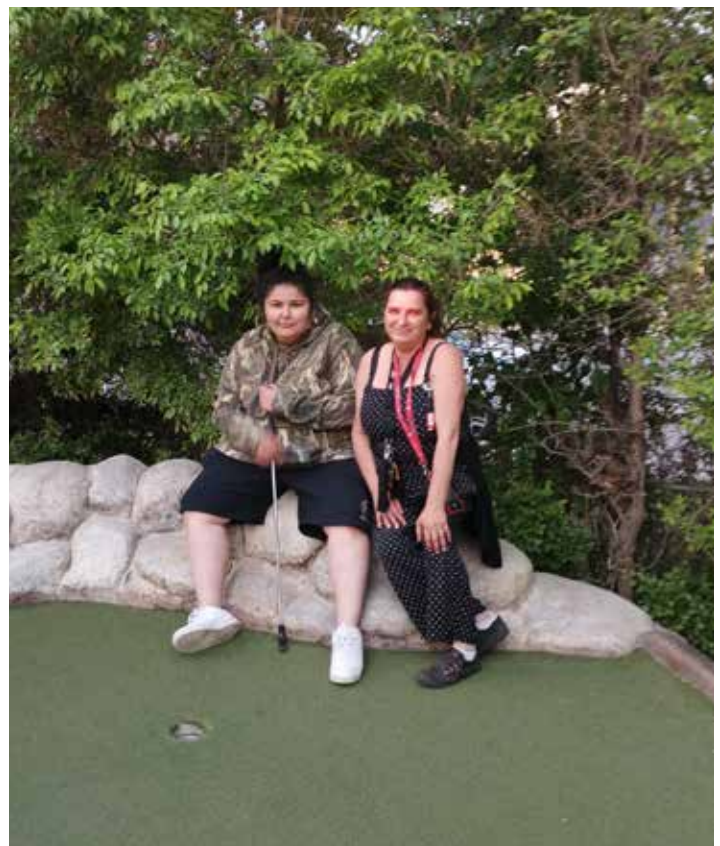
hard to call potential employers and follow up on her applications. This dedication to her job search paid off when she was asked to come in for an interview during one of her phone calls with a manager. She attended her interview the following day, and was hired on the spot, starting her new job in February 2026.

After securing employment, Shelby continued to grow, applying for a Youth Care Worker Course. Unfortunately, the program was cancelled for the year due to low admission rates. Shelby did not let this discourage her; she decided to pursue a nail tech course at MC College, where she was accepted into their upcoming course in April 2026.



The Independent homes have helped me grow more independent in just being on my own, and knowing how to practice communication with a roommate. It helped me grow my independence."

Due to the instability and challenges many youths have experienced throughout their lives, opportunities for recreation, social connection, and positive childhood experiences have often been limited. The My Homes program recognizes the importance of recreation in supporting overall well-being, healthy development, and positive peer relationships. Through weekly activities within each home, as well as monthly program-wide recreational events, youth are provided with opportunities to build confidence, strengthen social connections, and engage in positive experiences that support both personal growth and a sense of belonging.



 OPERATION HELP

Sexual exploitation and human trafficking are growing concerns throughout the city and province as more individuals are experiencing exploitation in both urban and rural communities. For 26 years, Operation Help has supported individuals who are involved in the sex trade and wanting to exit safely, or at risk of, or experiencing sexual exploitation and human trafficking. Supported by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Social Services, Operation Help outreach workers meet clients where they are at, providing emergency support and immediate access to essential basic needs, including safe housing through the EGADZ placement protocol for exploited youth, food, clothing, and hygiene. Outreach workers assist individuals with breaking down barriers that increase their risk level which include, but are not limited to, homelessness, mental health and addictions, childhood trauma, and domestic violence. Referrals come from community members and organizations, ministry workers, health care workers, educational professionals, police, mental health and addictions services, and self-referrals. Operation Help empowers individuals by giving them the opportunity to create their own case plan and supporting positive changes, while providing information, connecting clients to community and health resources, and celebrating their successes.



April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026 Program Activity Statistics

Statistics	
Activity/Resource	Amount
Addiction Detox & Treatment Support	123
Connection to Community Resources	83
Crisis Support & Mental Health	194
Long-term Housing Support	22
Education & Employment Assistance	19
Emergency Nutrition (Food Packs, Snacks)	58
Personal Needs	19
Transportation	459
Relationship Building Activities	480
Client/Case Planning	161
Recreation Activities	1134
Home Visits	155
Advice & Advocacy	226

Operation Help Program supported 66 youth.



Operation Help works closely with individuals identified through the Sexual Exploitation Intervention Committee, known as Operation NoGo. This committee brings together representatives from the Ministry of Social Services, Saskatoon Health Region, Saskatoon Police Service, and EGADZ to provide wrap-around and fast-tracked support for children, youth, and young adults at risk of, or actively experiencing, sexual exploitation. Clients are invited to monthly circles, offering a safe space to share their stories, raise concerns, and receive immediate access to support. The committee works to break down barriers related to homelessness, mental health, and addictions, while fostering positive lifestyle changes for those willing to accept support. Operation Help is a voluntary program, allowing individuals to leave and re-engage as needed, recognizing that the path to safety and stability can be a gradual process.

THE ANNUAL DAY OF MOURNING is an important part of the Operation Help program, bringing the community together each year on August 14 to remember and honor those who have lost their lives because of the sex trade—whether through violence, illness, suicide, or those who are still missing. It is a day to reflect, grieve, and support one another, showing that no one is forgotten.



The youth on the Day of Mourning Committee play a leading role in making the event meaningful. This year, 7 youth took charge, putting together their creativity, energy, and care into every detail. They designed t-shirts, prepared thoughtful gifts for the special guests and community leaders, and organized the shared meal of BBQ burgers and hotdogs. They also added a deeply personal touch by creating smudge boxes with Sage that they hand-picked themselves from our Wakaw camp. Being part of the entire process—from gathering the Sage to creating the finished pieces, made their contributions feel especially meaningful. They help decorate the space, set up the Centre, prepare food, and greet guests with warmth and compassion, creating a welcoming and respectful environment for everyone.



The day itself begins with prayers from Elders, followed by greetings from special guests and a cultural performance with singers and drummers. The community then takes part in candlelight vigil and, followed by the reading of the names of the lives that were lost, and a balloon release in their memory. The day ended with a shared meal, giving everyone a chance to connect, reflect, and support one another. Through these acts of remembrance, care, and community, the Annual Day of Mourning honors the lives lost because of the sex trade and reminds the community of the importance of hope, healing, and standing together. This year **9** new names were added to the memorial card.





Rose began working with Operation Help after a referral was sent in to the Operation NoGo committee from staff at her group home. While in the home, Rose was friends with another youth who introduced her to selling pictures in exchange for money and gifts. During this time, she was struggling immensely with her alcohol addiction, so having this extra money had caused significant concerns for her health and safety, paired with the sexual exploitation that she was engaging in. Rose was also struggling with her mental health and had several self-harm incidents that required a hospital visit. She was not interested in detox/treatment or exploring different avenues to take care of her mental health. Unfortunately, she made the choice to leave her group home and began living in the community. Operation Help began connecting with Rose and worked to educate her on what exploitation is, the dangers of the lifestyle, and strategies to keep herself safe. Rose led her case plan and identified activities that were more positive including beading and going for walks, which Operation Help staff were able to support by providing supplies and scheduling times to do these activities with her. She was then connected with other EGADZ programming, including the Transitional Outreach, to focus on building a resume and gaining employment to refrain from selling pictures. Over time, Rose and the Operation Help staff were able to build a strong rapport with one another and she was no longer engaging in sexual exploitation or self-harming behaviors. Her drinking habits had significantly decreased and she was beginning to unpack some of her childhood trauma that triggered her addiction tendencies. She does not have a healthy or supportive relationship with most of her family, and grew up experiencing significant abuse.

In the spring, Rose graduated high-school and staff from multiple EGADZ programs were able to attend to support her. Shortly after, she moved to her reservation to live with her older sister and gained employment with the temporary warm-up shelter and as a radio co-host for the local station. She frequently checks in with staff and updates them with any current news.





Kinsley was on the radar for support after a referral was sent in to the Operation No-Go committee back in 2024. A staff from Mobile Crisis received a report that Kinsley was being forced into sex work by either her mother or her 23-year-old boyfriend. At only 12 years old, Kinsley has already been exposed to and unknowingly engaging in extremely risky behaviors surrounding sexual exploitation and substance abuse. The majority of her family lives on the streets, and are struggling with their addiction and mental health, leaving no positive or reliable support systems for Kinsley to lean on. During this time, she would be reported missing for weeks at a time from her Ministry

of Social Services placement and would often be found in the community with adults who are in active addiction.

Over the course of the next year and half, Operation Help staff made attempts to connect with Kinsley, however were unsuccessful due to her transient and high-risk activity. Earlier this year, a secure detox warrant was issued for her and she was found in a vulnerable state, with multiple substances in her system including Ketamine and Fentanyl. After her stay at detox, she was placed at Ground Zero. Unfortunately, she only stayed for a couple of minutes before leaving and going back into the community. Operation Help was once again, unable to get into connect with Kinsley due to not having a cell-phone.

One day staff had received a report from another community organization that a young girl had been seen outside, with no shoes on, in the middle of winter, and based on the description staff believed that the youth was Kinsley. Operation Help and Street Outreach staff went into the community to look for her, and found Kinsley in a very distressing state and visibly struggling with her addiction. Support was offered but once again, was denied by Kinsley at the time. A few months after, she made the courageous decision to accept placement at Ground Zero. Operation Help staff were able to meet her at the house and helped her get settled into the new home. Since then, she has been slowly warming up to her supports and opening up about her interests, such as baking and reading books. She began opening up and building a relationship with Operation Help staff, wanting to go for hangouts where she slowly shares little pieces of her history, and has expressed interest in her goals of working on her sobriety and returning to school. She has also started to speak openly and honestly about her involvement in sex work, and is starting to recognize the potential dangers and risks of engaging in the work. Operation Help workers will continue to work with Kinsley and her other supports to assist her with achieving these goals.



Casey has been working with Operation Help after a referral was sent in to the Operation No-Go committee. Casey is only 17 years old and has been exposed to a lifetime of trauma relating to drug addiction and sexual exploitation. From a young age, she has experienced unstable housing, living in group homes, and coping with the lack of healthy supports in her life. On top of that, Casey has many family members who are gang affiliated and has had to witness that lifestyle. She has been struggling with her own substance use issues starting at a young age and has been unknowingly engaging in risky and unsafe behaviors. Some concerns were brought forward after Casey disclosed that she is in a sexual relationship with a 30-year old man in the community.

Operation Help staff began reaching out to her but received no response for months. Casey is frequently homeless, so it had been very hard to connect with her as she does not have a cell-phone. However, she does reach out on social media when she has access to the computer. Fortunately, on several occasions, Operation Help staff had the opportunity to meet with Casey and were able to provide her with the basic necessities such as food, water, clothing, and personal hygiene. Throughout these interactions, Casey was open to Operation Help staff regarding her addictions and what she has gone through because of it. Although she was not open to attending detox and treatment, she was still

given the opportunity to talk through her feelings and experiences in a non-judgmental environment. Casey was given placement at another group-home in the city but is still often AWOL from it. She has not been engaging with her in-house staff as she has been really struggling with her addiction and the loss of a family member. Operation Help staff will continue to be here for Casey when she is needing help, or is wanting support and assistance to exit this lifestyle.



EGADZ first connected with **Skylar** in 2021 through the Operation Runaway program. She remained engaged with this program, as well as other EGADZ services, over the years, building strong relationships with staff. She was adopted at a young age by her parents, never having a connection to her birth family. At the time, she was frequently reported missing from her home, as she was experiencing parent-teen conflict. In April of 2024 her connection with supports became inconsistent and eventually she stopped reaching out, and was not responding to staffs attempts to connect.

One year later, Skylar returned to the EGADZ Centre in crisis seeking familiar supports following an incident in which she had been intercepted by the VICE unit while in a vehicle with her then-boyfriend. She disclosed that she had been living in a hotel for several months and had been working the sex-trade industry. Through further conversations workers learned that her boyfriend had been collecting all of her proceeds and that she had very little possessions of her own. This conversation indicated that Skylar was experiencing exploitation within that relationship however, she did not recognize it as that at the time. She was scared and in crisis as she did not know how she was going to survive while her boyfriend was in jail. She required significant support, including immediate access to safe and stable housing. EGADZ was able to facilitate placement at Ground Zero that day.

Operation Help supported Skylar during this period of heightened vulnerability and uncertainty by engaging in positive activities such as sharing meals together, and driving around while listening to music. Staff were also able to provide Skylar with a non-judgmental environment where she was able to vent and talk openly about what she was feeling and eventually coming to terms with what she had experienced, while also being there for her during times of crisis. During this time Skylar was also able to advocate for medical support as well as utilized other community resources such as the police and victim services to address her growing mental health concerns as she began to realize that she was a victim of human trafficking. In the fall of 2025, Skylar expressed a desire to leave the city reporting feeling unsafe in Saskatoon as her ex-boyfriend's friends were still around, experiencing challenges in her relationships with family, and identified a need to focus on her personal well-being. Operation Help assisted in a conversation between Skylar and her adoptive mother but unfortunately, Skylar was still unhappy in her environment.

In December 2025, Skylar made the decision to transition to a program in another province that supports women exiting sexual exploitation and human trafficking. She is still there today, participating and enjoying the program. Staff are in touch via text from time to time to check in and continue to offer emotional support from afar.



Hannah has been connected with EGADZ services since 2024 and has been living at the mental health and therapeutic homes. For several years, Hannah has struggled with her drug and alcohol addiction. Growing up in a very unstable environment, Hannah had been exposed to sexual exploitation throughout her childhood from her family members. This lifestyle had become the norm for Hannah and she began to cope with her childhood trauma by consuming drugs and alcohol in excess.

In 2025, Hannah had begun opening up to staff about meeting up with men that she was online, exchanging sex for money to buy marijuana. She was connected with Operation Help to offer more support to her during this time. Workers were able to safety plan with Hannah and had been planning regular recreation activities to keep her busy. During this time period she also received her Agricultural Benefits which was a significant amount of money. The idea of having a large sum of money was scary for Hannah, and also triggering to spend it on drugs. Hannah worked with Operation Help to set up a bank account, and made a budget as to how she would spend some of her money on positive things for herself, while putting the rest of it away in a locked savings account.

In the summer Hannah decided that it was time to invest in her sobriety and chose to attend detox and treatment. For several months following treatment, Hannah had been creating healthy boundaries for herself and her relationships, both romantically and with her family. She was focused on her sobriety and was engaging in regular counselling and mental health appointments. However, after a period of time, Hannah began to decline both mentally and physically after she started experiencing some serious physical health concerns. After some time, it was determined that Hannah had ovarian cysts that had been causing her intense pain. Unfortunately, nothing could be done to help alleviate her discomfort besides over the counter pain medication. She had a hard time engaging in her regular activities and her school attendance began to drastically decline as well. The cysts eventually disappeared but the pain is still present. While in the midst of her health issues, she started a new relationship with someone that she has known for a few years. The relationship has been unhealthy and unpredictable and she began withdrawing from all of her supports. The relationship ended after an incident occurred in which she was assaulted and restricted from leaving his home. Given her history of trauma

and abuse, this incident sent Hannah down a dark path. She opened up to workers about meeting up with men again and disclosed that she was purposely putting herself in unsafe and risky situations in hopes that something bad would happen her. Alongside this suicidal ideation, she began experiencing thoughts and visions of harming other people. While these behaviors were cause for significant concern, her openness and willingness to ask for help is a testament to her growth since first becoming connected to the Operation Help program.

After talking with staff and other supports through the Operation No Go committee, she was taken to the hospital for a critical psychiatric assessment but ultimately left after waiting for 12 hours without being seen. She was able to connect with the PACT team following this, committing to creating a safety plan and has been reengaging with her therapist, counselor, and other EGADZ supports consistently. Communication remains open and Hannah continues to demonstrate determination and growth in living a more positive and healthier lifestyle.



**OPERATION RUNAWAY**

Operation Runaway is a relationship-based support program designed to engage youth who are at heightened risk of going missing, experiencing harm, or becoming disconnected from traditional systems of care. The program focuses on meeting youth where they are at by providing individualized, youth-centered support that prioritizes safety, trust, and long-term stability. Through a collaborative and proactive approach, Operation Runaway works to reduce risk factors associated with running behaviours while strengthening connections between youth, caregivers, and community supports.

The program is built on strong inter-agency collaboration, bringing together partners from EGADZ, the Ministry of Social Services, Mental Health and Addictions, and the Saskatoon Police Service Missing Persons Unit. On a weekly basis, these partners participate in coordinated support “circles” focused on identifying the unique needs, strengths, and challenges of each youth. By working collaboratively, the team is able to reduce barriers to service access, improve communication between systems, and provide timely, coordinated interventions for youth who are often considered difficult to engage.

A key focus of the program is building positive, trusting relationships with youth in order to better understand the factors contributing to running behaviours and instability. Through consistent engagement and individualized support planning, youth are connected to services and resources that align with their identified goals and immediate needs. Supports are flexible and responsive, recognizing that meaningful engagement often begins with meeting basic needs, building rapport, and creating safe opportunities for connection.

Operation Runaway employs two full-time support staff who are available seven days a week from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Staff provide comprehensive wrap-around support in areas including mental health, substance use, education, employment, family reunification, and community engagement. The program’s flexible approach allows staff to support youth in ways that are most meaningful and effective

for them, whether through crisis intervention, advocacy, transportation, informal check-ins, or recreational and relationship-building activities.

Communication breakdowns between youth and caregivers are a common factor contributing to missing person reports and increased risk of harm. To support improved communication and safety, Operation Runaway partners with Prairie Mobile to provide donated cell phones and prepaid phone cards to youth actively participating in the program and attending support circles. Access to reliable communication allows youth to maintain contact with caregivers and support systems, helping to reduce unnecessary police involvement and decrease the frequency of missing person reports.

Through relationship-based engagement, collaborative partnerships, and flexible wrap-around support, Operation Runaway continues to play a critical role in increasing youth safety, reducing harm, and helping vulnerable youth remain connected to supports and services within the community.





“They are someone who you can talk to when you don’t want to talk to anyone else. They get me out of the house when I need to leave, but I don’t want to run away”

From April 1st, 2025 – March 31st, 2026 Operation Runaway provided support to 70 youth.

Statistics

Donated Phones	22
Phone Cards	252
Connected to Community Resources	191
Addictions Support	89
Mental Health Support	205
Recreational Activities	876
Nutrition	436
Transportation	809
Education/Employment	56
Client Support	5,215



“You guys help me stay on track and push me to do my best”

Operation Runaway first received a referral for **Lea** in November 2024 from her Ministry worker due to ongoing concerns regarding repeated episodes of running away from Ministry-approved placements. Lea had experienced significant instability throughout her childhood, moving frequently between Ministry care and her mother's home. This lack of consistency contributed to ongoing challenges with trust, connection, and maintaining stable placements.

When initially introduced to the Operation Runaway program, Lea stated that she did not feel she needed support at that time, but expressed interest in remaining connected to the program. During the first several months, Lea was quiet and hesitant to engage directly with staff. Rather than pushing formal intervention, Operation Runaway staff focused on building trust through consistent support and ongoing with Ground Zero outreach.

Throughout the summer of 2025, Lea and her mother experienced homelessness and periods of housing instability. During this time, Operation Runaway staff maintained regular contact with Lea, often providing transportation, meals, and a safe space for her to decompress and connect with support staff. As relationships strengthened, Lea began opening up about the realities she was facing, including experiences of victimization and having all of her belongings stolen while living unhoused.

One of the needs Lea identified was access to reliable communication. She expressed that having a cell phone would allow her to maintain contact with support staff and access help during times when she felt unsafe. Through the Operation Runaway partnership with Prairie Mobile, Lea was provided with a phone and SIM card, improving her ability to stay connected and access support when needed.

Although several placement opportunities were explored, Lea struggled with the idea of leaving her mother while she remained homeless. Throughout this period, Operation Runaway staff continued providing flexible, relationship-based support, including helping Lea register for school and engaging her in regular one-on-one activities aimed at building trust, consistency, and positive connection.

In December, Lea independently presented herself at the Ministry office requesting placement support. Operation Runaway staff encouraged collaboration

between Lea, her ministry worker, and her support circle to identify an appropriate housing option that aligned with her needs and goals. During this process, Lea accepted placement within the EGADZ Therapeutic Housing, marking a significant step toward stability and prioritizing her own well-being.

Since entering the program, Lea has begun developing healthier routines and engaging more consistently with supports. While she continues to experience challenges, including periods of going missing, her current placement has been the longest she has successfully maintained. The increase in Missing Persons reports reflects the higher level of monitoring and reporting requirements associated with supportive housing placements for high-risk youth, rather than increased instability alone.

With access to stable housing and trusted supports, Lea has begun focusing on her personal goals, including reducing her substance use. She currently works with an addiction's worker through the Community Recovery Team and remains actively connected to Operation Runaway staff, engaging multiple times each week and regularly attending support circles. Lea has also participated in group activities with other youth in the program, including community outings such as rock climbing, which have helped strengthen positive peer connections and build confidence. Lea has begun to establish trust, build stability, and make choices that support the future she wants for herself.



Claire, a 16-year-old female, has been in the Operation Runaway program for roughly three years. She was initially referred due to running from Ministry approved placements, not keeping in contact with her supports, which would result in frequent missing reports. For much of the year, Claire was living unapproved in the community with her boyfriend.

While living in the community, Operation Runaway staff had limited communication with Claire, as she often did not respond to messages. She typically checked in every 2–3 weeks, usually just saying “hi” or asking for nutrition support such as food hampers or snacks. When Claire did reach out, it was crucial for staff to meet her in person to show reliability and build trust.

At the beginning of June 2025, Claire reached out asking if staff could bring her a snack and a pregnancy test. Staff met her at a gas station, and a few hours later she sent a photo of a positive test. Staff had an open conversation with her about her options and supports available to her, ensuring she could make an informed decision. Claire decided she wanted to continue the pregnancy. Claire’s communication increased significantly, she began checking in multiple times a week and holding conversations with staff. This was an important outcome, reflecting the trust she was beginning to build.

Claire accepted placement at Ground Zero in October 2025. She was frequently in and out of the house, often only coming home to sleep or grab food. Majority of her time was spent staying with her boyfriend in the community. When Claire was home or responding to messages, Operation Runaway staff took her out for short drives to listen to music, grab snacks, and talk.

Throughout Claire’s pregnancy there were many medical concerns as she did not trust medical supports. With refusing prenatal care, Operation Runaway worked alongside her other supports to try and help facilitate her medical needs. In February of 2026, she gave birth to her beautiful baby girl. While in the hospital, Claire advocated to her ministry worker that upon discharge, both her and baby could move in full-time with her boyfriend and his family. Through safety planning of the home, Claire’s wishes were honored, and she now resides with her boyfriend, his family, and her daughter in the community.

Since becoming a new mom, Claire’s communication has increased, she now reaches out multiple times a

week and asks to hang out. Staff have been helping Claire and her daughter get to and from medical appointments. Claire has shown independence by booking her own appointments and being ready on time. She is actively engaged when working with staff, receives advice, and seeks parenting support. Claire took steps allowing her to grow into a mature, independent young parent. As she continues settling into her home and navigating early parenthood, she remains encouraged by the independence, maturity, and openness she now has. Claire’s progress highlights the impact of consistent, patient, relationship based support.



“They don’t judge me for my past. They just help me move forward”

“They make me feel like I’m not alone”

Operation Runaway received a referral for Sky in July 2025. At the time, she was living outside of an approved placement with her father after leaving a stable placement with her aunt. Concerns were raised regarding her safety, inconsistent communication, substance use, and possible gang involvement. Sky had a history of PTSD, ADHD, and substance use challenges, with supports identifying that she was most vulnerable to running when emotionally overwhelmed or triggered.

Operation Runaway staff reached out to begin engagement, and Sky responded quickly, agreeing to meet and learn more about the program. During the initial months, Sky remained somewhat guarded and did not openly share much about her experiences; however, she consistently engaged with staff and appeared to value having a safe and supportive space where she could talk, spend time, and feel connected without judgment.

As trust developed, Sky identified the challenges she was facing, including struggles with alcohol, methamphetamine, and fentanyl use. She also shared important personal goals, including graduating high school, finding stability, and eventually reconnecting with her aunt in a healthier and more sustainable way. Early in her involvement with the program, Sky worked with staff to create a safety plan that reflected her individual needs, including identifying triggers, coping strategies, and trusted supports she could access during difficult moments.

Sky spoke openly about interests that brought her comfort and stability, including drawing, reading, and spending time outdoors. With her agreement, she was connected to The Community Recovery Team to begin working with an addictions counsellor and strengthening her recovery supports.

Throughout this period, Sky moved between several Ministry-approved placements, often leaving due to conflict with peers within the homes. During times when she was not accessing placement, communication with her became inconsistent, with periods of several days where staff and supports were unable to reach her. Given her substance use and the associated risks to her safety, Operation Runaway staff made ongoing efforts to locate and reconnect with her during periods when she was reported missing.

After nearly a month without contact, Sky reached out to staff requesting to attend her support circle. During

that meeting, she openly shared her desire to “start over” and work toward rebuilding stability in her life. Following the meeting, Sky independently connected with Ground Zero to request placement support.

During the following weeks, Sky focused on re-engaging with supports, returning to school, and reconnecting with positive outlets such as art and reading. She regularly attended support circles and often shared her drawings and poetry with staff and peers. Sky’s outgoing personality and creativity allowed her to form positive relationships within the program, and she became increasingly engaged in activities and supports.

In December 2025, staff observed a significant decline in Sky’s well-being as she relapsed. During this time, her physical and mental health deteriorated to the point where emergency services were required on several occasions for medical support and de-escalation. Despite these setbacks, Sky continued to demonstrate insight into her situation and, approximately one week later, made the decision to access detox and treatment services. Operation Runaway staff supported her throughout this process, assisting with coordination and maintaining consistent contact while she was in treatment.

During her time in detox, staff remained connected through weekly visits and phone calls, supporting Sky as she worked through her recovery and developed new coping strategies. To encourage her continued connection to healthy outlets, staff also brought art supplies and sketchbooks, which remained an important source of comfort and self-expression for her.

Sky successfully completed detox and treatment and was discharged on New Year’s Eve. Shortly afterward, she transitioned into a long-term placement in Saskatoon, where she continues to reside. Operation Runaway remains actively involved in her support network, continuing to provide relationship-based support through regular check-ins, drives, recreational outings, and opportunities for positive connection.



 **They help you stay sober."**

 **They are my closest supports."**

Mia was referred to Operation Runaway in January 2025 at the age of 16, shortly after moving into Ground Zero. When she first connected with the program, Mia was quiet, guarded, and hesitant to engage. Over time, through consistent and low-pressure interactions, she gradually became more comfortable building relationships with staff and supports. As trust developed, Mia began opening up about her experiences, sharing more about her life and actively participating in conversations about her goals and future.

Mia shared that she had been raised by her uncle since the age of four and had spent much of her adolescence disconnected from home and spending significant time in the community. Through ongoing conversations and support, Mia disclosed that she had experienced sexual exploitation and was at significant risk within the community. She also shared concerns that individuals involved in her exploitation had intentions of relocating her to another province for the purpose of trafficking. Mia's willingness to speak openly about these experiences demonstrated tremendous courage and allowed supports to better understand the risks she was facing and collaboratively plan for her safety.

Recognizing the importance of meeting Mia where she was at, Operation Runaway staff focused on building connection through activities that felt safe and meaningful to her, including drives, music, crafts, and walks along the river. Within her first two weeks in the program, Mia began attending Operation Runaway support circles. During these meetings, she started identifying goals for herself and asking for support in the areas she wanted to strengthen. Although Mia initially struggled to recognize her own progress and strengths, she consistently demonstrated resilience, insight, and a willingness to continue moving forward despite the challenges she had experienced.

In the spring of 2025, Mia transitioned from Ground Zero into a Therapeutic Home as she continued working toward greater stability and independence. During this time, she made the decision to re-engage in her education and began attending school regularly. At one of her support circle meetings, Mia identified

that she wanted additional academic support and independently requested assistance finding a tutor. Through community connections, she was linked with tutoring support at the Drop-In Centre. Mia remained committed to her studies and successfully completed her academic credit.

As Mia's confidence continued to grow, she began focusing more on her strengths and interests, particularly her passion for cooking and baking. During a support circle meeting, Mia proposed the idea of baking for other EGADZ programs and expressed interest in gaining employment experience through this skill. Following these discussions, she was offered an opportunity to begin working as a baker for all of the residential homes, a role she continues to hold today. This accomplishment marked an important step in Mia's growing independence, confidence, and sense of purpose.

Mia has also made significant progress in her personal safety and communication. In 2025, she had five Missing Persons reports connected to periods of running and disconnection from supports. In the first months of 2026, she has had none. Mia now consistently communicates with her support network, informs staff when she is leaving, and ensures supports know she is safe when spending time away from home.

In the summer of 2025, Mia transitioned into a Mentored My Home as she continued developing independence and life skills. In February 2026, after reconnecting with her biological parents, Mia recognized that she needed additional structure and support during this transition. Demonstrating strong self-awareness and self-advocacy, she requested to return to the Therapeutic Home to ensure she remained supported and stable.

Although Mia is no longer running from placements and has developed a strong network of trusted supports, she continues to maintain connection with Operation Runaway as needed. Mia has made significant progress in building stability, recognizing her strengths, and making decisions that support her long-term well-being. Her journey reflects resilience, personal growth, and an increasing ability to advocate for herself while working toward the future she wants to create.



**"You were there for me at my lowest,
and you never judged me."**

**"You guys will help me get out of the
house when I'm stuck in my head."**

**PARENTAL SUPPORT**

The Parent Support program is accessible to any family who is currently residing in an EGADZ residence, or, has transitioned into the community. Staff have extensive knowledge and training in prenatal health and wellness, infant and child development, and family systems. Applying trauma-informed care and using a strength-based approach, each case plan focuses on the individualized needs of the family. By providing continued support and opportunities for growth, parents gain the knowledge and confidence to develop the parenting skills and tools necessary for each stage of their child's life.

This year saw an increase in need for prenatal health and wellness support and connections to addictions and mental health services in the community.



Mila was homeless in Lloydminster moving between detox centers and shelters. Her son was placed with family in Onion Lake as she struggled to commit to changing her lifestyle. Family were keeping a close eye on him and limiting Mila's interactions because of her substance use. In the spring after several discussions with her and her Family Service worker, she moved into Cameron House. Mila worked on bringing her son home which began with short visits then overnights. While rebuilding her trust and bond with her son, Mila found out she was pregnant. The last time she was pregnant, she was young, struggling with her mental health and addictions, and in a toxic relationship.

She could not remember much of her previous experience and the parts she could recall were scary, isolating, and confusing. Determined to be better educated about prenatal care and child birth she reached out to Parent Support to help her navigate her journey.

Parent Support connected her to community resources, attended prenatal appointments and ultrasounds, resourced information and education regarding each stage of fetal development, and encouraged Mila to advocate for her prenatal health and wellness. As she progressed through her pregnancy, Mila continued to build her relationship with her son and successfully have him returned to her care. Eventually she decided she would like to transition into the community so that she and her partner could raise their children together. Parent Support assisted Mila in her search for housing, taking her to viewings, and finally helping to move into her new home. As her due date approached, Mila requested labour and delivery support to ensure that she and her partner were prepared for their big day. Parent Support met with the couple and provided education and information regarding; stages of labour, pain management, medical procedures and monitoring, comfort measures, breastfeeding and postpartum care. Supporting Mila throughout this journey has allowed her to feel empowered by the knowledge she was acquiring and secure in her abilities to advocate for the birth she envisioned. Towards the end of the summer, she gave birth to a beautiful, healthy baby girl.

Shortly after the birth, Mila noticed a recurring rash on various parts of her daughter's body. Repeated visits to doctors, left her feeling frustrated and ignored, as time and again her concerns were dismissed or

misdiagnosed. Parent Support continued to support Mila's intuition and encouraged her not to give up and to remain steadfast in her advocacy on behalf of her daughter. After months of tests and visits with specialists, they finally received a confirmed diagnosis which allowed Mila to obtain the correct medications that would limit flare ups of her daughter's condition. Parent Support's continued assistance and encouragement as they navigated this medical journey has facilitated a growth in Mila's confidence as a parent and her ability to advocate for her children.

Looking forward, Mila plans to continue her education in the fall at the University of Saskatchewan. She continues to utilize Parent Support on a regular basis.

I've been reaching out to Parent Support for quite some time now. Parent Support gives me feedback when I'm going through problems at home. I feel like it's one of my safe places, and enjoy the time I spend cause I do feel lost at times. I am happy to have Parent Support in the community and I'm sure others do too."

-C.W.



River and Willow were referred to Parent Support back in 2019, after moving into the Fusion 22 program. Over their many years working together, Parent Support has provided guidance and assistance with, not only, a variety of parenting concerns but also through the general ups and downs of life. Their time spent living at Fusion 22 saw them attain many life goals and successes. They had another child, got married, completed their education and gained full time employment. They were ready to transition into the community and Parent Support was there to assist the couple as they made their big move towards an independent life. For a while, they did well adjusting to the demands of life and parenthood. With their successes came a reduced need for Parent Support's involvement, but they continued to keep in touch, seeking guidance when necessary. Unfortunately, this year the couple began to suffer through greater challenges. In April 2025, River and Willow began utilizing the Parent Support program more frequently as both had lost their jobs, their home, and were struggling with their mental health and addictions. They felt ill-equipped to handle the hardships and family losses they were experiencing and requested Parent Support's help getting back on track. Staff aided the family in obtaining affordable housing, re-entering the Saskatchewan Income Support program and facilitated connections to community supports that could provide counselling and addiction services. Shortly after moving into their new home, their struggles were compounded by the revelation that their daughter had experienced sexual violence at the hands of a close family member. Parent Support provided guidance and support as they navigated the appointments with Saskatoon Police Services and their Victims Services Unit, facilitated connections for counselling for their daughter and assisted the parents with the emotional and behavioural changes they were seeing in their child. During this time, River and Willow continued to suffer more hardships. Enduring multiple deaths of close family members, difficulty within their marriage, and more frequent relapses, ultimately led to the risk of their children being apprehended. After completing treatment, Parent Support advocated for the family to re-enter the Fusion 22 program so they could receive the full wrap-around services that the EGADZ continuum could offer.

Providing River and Willow continued support and guidance throughout the years has allowed them to experience life's successes and hardships while feeling secure in the knowledge that they are never truly alone and that a fresh start is always possible.



I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Parent Support staff who stood by me through some of my most challenging times. Your encouragement, understanding, and compassion made an enormous difference when I needed it most. Thank you for believing in me, for listening without judgement, and for reminding me that I wasn't alone. Your dedication and kindness truly changed my journey for the better!"

-C.A.

Parent Support has helped me so much in the last year especially with my transition into the community to go smoothly. They have been nothing but kind, patient, considerate, and highly knowledgeable. They are very easy to talk to and always has the best advice and offers her opinion where it's needed. Parent Support has made a significant impact in my life in the short time I've known her. I am so grateful for everything they have done for me and my family. My partner has also been very thankful that they are a part of our lives because he can't always be there to support us in ways that Parent Support has been able to. I would like to say thank you Parent Support program for everything that you do."

-T.R.

From an early age **Savannah** has struggled with her mental health and in her teens discovered the use of substances as a means to cope with hardship and trauma. Throughout her chaotic childhood, Savannah lived in many group homes due to her mother's addiction but through it all, continued a strong bond with her. Her mother's passing coupled with the passing of her own child, created an immeasurable void that Savannah has struggled to heal from. Consumed by her grief, her capacity for coping was exhausted and she began using substances as a way to survive her trauma. Parent Support provided as much guidance and support as possible during this painful time, unfortunately, communication with Savannah lessened over the next few months as her mental health diminished and her substance use increased.

In the summer of 2025, she once again re-established connection with Parent Support requesting assistance. Savannah believed she was pregnant and asked for guidance and support as she navigated her hesitations and fears regarding this pregnancy, her declining mental health, and her continued struggles with substance use. Utilizing a trauma informed approach, Parent Support provided a safe and compassionate environment for her to discuss her prenatal health,

fetal development and the impact of substance use during pregnancy. Parent Support also resourced information and education regarding mental health and addictions resources within the community. At the beginning of March, Savannah gave birth to a baby girl. Due to concerns expressed by both hospital staff and members of her community, child protection workers were called to discuss the next steps. Given her mental health and addictions struggles, they felt it was unsafe for Savannah and her children to be discharged back into the community. Savannah reached out for Parent Support's assistance with guidance and advocacy, as she did not want her family to be separated. She recognized the moment as an opportunity to create healthy change. After presenting various options for sober and supportive living, Savannah decided to enter the Baby Steps Program. Since moving in, Parent Support has assisted Savannah and her children with the transition, transported and assisted her to baby's first doctor's appointments, addressed breastfeeding challenges, and is currently guiding her through postnatal health and wellness. Although Savannah is only at the beginning of this journey, she is looking forward to a healthier future. Providing an opportunity for Savannah and her children to remain together has alleviated her fears of separation while allowing her to focus on, not only her mental health and addictions concerns, but also help her to prioritize her parenting in a safe and healthy environment.

**RETREAT HOME****YOUTH-DRIVEN THERAPEUTIC HOUSING**

The specialized programming Retreat provides is based on a dedication to youth-centered care, increased in-house support, and personalized youth plans, in a home setting that offers youth a safe environment to work on their mental health and addictions. Daily programming is individualized to the youth emphasizing on personal growth and a holistic approach. The home has two staff on shift 24/7 to offer an increased one-on-one presence and opportunity to build strong relationships through mentorship and support. This helps lower the risk of suicidal ideation and self-harming behaviors. Retreat home houses up to 5 female youth between the ages of 12-18.

Over the years it has become apparent the youth of today are struggling with their mental health, and with that addiction often follows. Factors that contribute to this come with the rise of technology, disruption of education & basic social integration from a pandemic lockdown, and the various obstacles people face with rising costs. Since opening in October 2019, the Retreat Home has housed 87 youth who didn't just need somewhere to live, but struggled with their mental health profoundly. Since the Retreat Program began the needs have only increased and become more complex, citing the need for expansion, more beds and more support for the youth. After opening a 10-bed home in December 2023 the progress continues. When this year came to an end Retreat home began to prepare for yet another expansion and move to double their bed capacity from 5 to 10. With this change will come a fresh start, a new name, and more residents to live and benefit from additional support for their mental health. EGADZ Residential Housing is continuing to look to the future with our youngest generation in mind, being in the home with the youth is understanding that our youth not only need a safe house to live in – they need a caring home where their voices will be heard.



April 1st, 2025 – March 31st, 2026 Mental Health Statistics

Statistics	
Received Crisis Support	37
Connected to Community Resource	22
Mental Health and Addiction Related Incident Reports	57
Mental Health Related Hospital Visits	16
Dube Admissions	2
Detox Warrants	1
Attended Treatment	2



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



April 1st, 2025 – March 31st, 2026 Youth Transition Statistics

Statistics	
Returned to EGADZ Home	2
EGADZ Staffed Home	3
High Cost Placement	0
Other MSS Approved Placement	0
Community	0

8 youth lived at the Retreat Home. An additional **2** youth from other EGADZ housing utilized the home for respite purposes.

The Retreat Home features a dedicated “soft room” that provides youth with a safe and supportive environment to emotionally regulate, learn about their mental health, connect with staff supports, and decompress during challenging moments. Youth have full access to this calming space, where they can build self-regulation skills through sensory play, creative art activities, fidget tools, and comfortable seating such as beanbag chairs.

In addition, The Retreat Home is home to a canine companion, Mikita, whose calming presence offers comfort and emotional support to youth in times of crisis or distress. Regardless of the challenges a youth may be experiencing, Mikita remains a steady source of companionship, often helping youth find a sense of calm and safety through her gentle nature and affectionate presence.



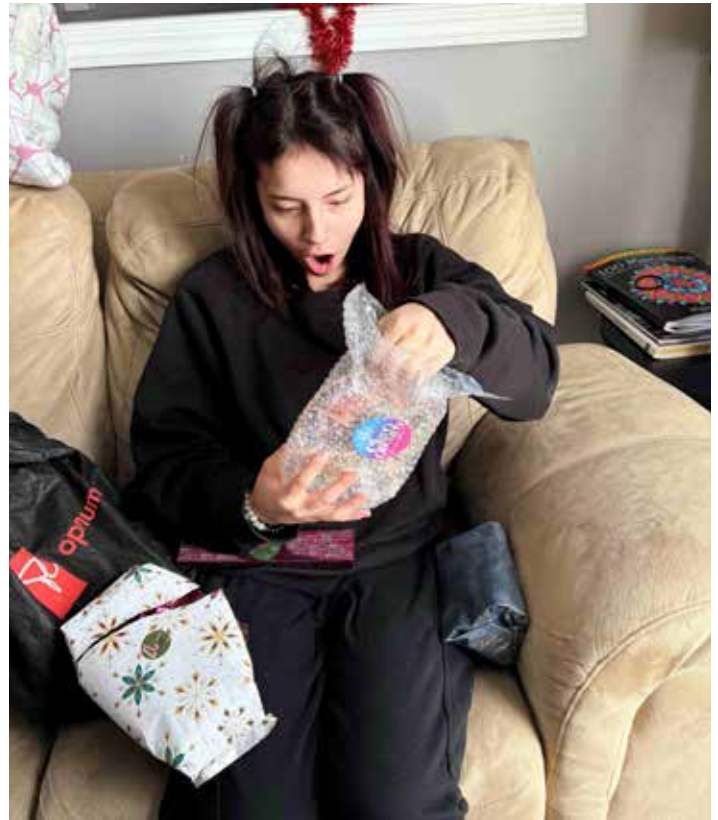
Stacy was adopted at a young age, but she had relationships with both adoptive and biological siblings. At 16 years old Stacy's biological brother passed away, resulting in a moment so painful she decided to run away. Stacy slid into addiction as a way to cope, enduring more personal trauma in the process. After she witnessed multiple friends and loved ones lose their lives to addiction she made a choice to strive for more in life. This began with her finding stable and safe housing at the EGADZ Ground Zero program, successfully transitions to the Retreat Home in March 2025. This took hard work and dedication to sobriety, Stacy distanced herself from negative influences in her life which came at a cost to her safety at times, but she continued to utilize the help that was offered.

Stacey was determined to choose sobriety even when she had moments of weakness, she returned to Calder for Detox and Treatment firm in her decision to be there. With each stay she mastered the ability to reach out for support when needed, and began to advocate for others in the home like a mentor. Stacy turned 18 while living in the Retreat home and quickly became every youth's big sister and a champion for support. She practiced what she preached by utilizing various supports and working on graduating high school. Stacy successfully moved on to Mentored living in the My Homes program before the end of 2025.



Carla has struggled throughout childhood, with housing, sobriety and the overall feeling of being unsafe. She endured many traumas from living on the streets, being introduced to drugs at a young age and being around unsafe adults. Carla broke this cycle by getting off the streets and joining the Ground Zero program. She struggled to remain sober but kept being willing to re-do detox and get treatment.

Carla moved into the Retreat home in September 2024 with nearly 100 sober days already but still struggled to make meaningful and healthy connections, which eventually led to a relapse. She was honest with herself and her supports and began her journey to sobriety again. This all came at a pivotal time in her life, she was turning 18 and about to get a large sum of money from her reserve. On top of that she would not be in the care of the ministry anymore and had to make some big decisions for herself. She advocated for herself to stay with EGADZ on an exemption. Carla could see that she was struggling too much to have a large sum of money to herself so she locked in her funds to grow for a year, along with this she opted for more treatment at Calder. She successfully completed treatment and is now coming up on 1 year sober. Throughout the rest of this year Carla was able to work on healthy family connections with her sister and newborn nephew, creating their legacy and rewriting their destiny.





Sandra first came to our program at 13 years old. She had two older sisters that had been in our homes but were already on their own. Sandra felt very alone as most youth in care do. She struggled with a lot of anxiety surrounding school and groups of people. She did not know what to do to cope, so she engaged in a lot of self-harming behaviors, especially when she felt she could not leave a situation. She spent about 9 months in our Garden of Hope home but did not enjoy being in a home with 9 other youth and struggled to find her voice. Then, one of her sisters suddenly passed of an overdose. Sandra and her family members, understandably, struggled to deal with this loss. Sandra eventually decided that she would like an opportunity to move to the Retreat home for a fresh start, with some luck and patience a space was available to make the switch in July 2025.

Since residing in the Retreat home Sandra's self-harm has decreased significantly. She has become close with the staff working there and prefers the smaller setting. Sandra built relationships with their supports and attends high school regularly. They have since had issues with bullying in school but are able to speak with staff to work toward feeling safe and getting their education.



**STREET OUTREACH**

The EGADZ Street Outreach program provides essential, front-line support to vulnerable individuals across Saskatoon seven nights per week. The Outreach van operates from 1pm-1:00am, Monday through Saturday, and from 4:00pm to midnight on Sundays and holidays. While services are available to all members of the community, priority is given to children, youth, and females involved in the sex trade or experiencing sexual exploitation or human trafficking.

The Street Outreach team is widely recognized as a trusted safe presence within the community and to those they serve. Staff approach each interaction with compassion, respect, and a non-judgmental lens, responding to a diverse and often complex range of needs. Services include crisis intervention, wellness checks, overdose response, and transportation to safe locations such as shelters. The outreach provides necessities including food, water, hygiene supplies, clothing, blankets, along with advocacy and support in accessing emergency housing and other critical services.

In addition to designated “stop points” along established routes, individuals can access support by signaling the outreach van directly. While the program has traditionally focused on core neighborhoods, the increasing prevalence of encampments throughout the city required the team to remain flexible and responsive to reach those most in need. The team also provides emergency supplies such as diapers and formula to support families in crisis. Over the past year, the economic pressures have contributed to increased financial hardship among families, further emphasizing the importance of accessible, community-based supports.





Daytime supports often involve accompaniment to medical and mental health appointments, assistance in accessing addictions programming and detox or treatment services, justice system support, and advocacy related to income assistance and housing. Staff provide nutritional supports through food bank access or emergency food hampers when available, and work collaboratively with individuals to secure both short-term and long-term housing. Consistent with previous years, the housing crisis remains one of the most significant challenges facing the community. Increasing numbers of individuals who are experiencing homelessness, include those living in encampments, shelters or unstable housing situations such as couch surfing. Street Outreach staff observed a continued rise in youth experiencing housing insecurity, compounded by limited placement options with the social services system. These ongoing challenges highlight the critical role of the Street Outreach in providing immediate support, fostering relationships, and connecting individuals and families to essential resources within the community.



The staff are highly approachable, empathetic, and attentive, offering not only practical support but also meaningful human connection during difficult circumstance.”

From April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026 Street Outreach connected with 1268 clients



Statistics

Emergency Crisis Support (including emergency housing)	205
Mental Health Support	1,240
Addictions Support (not including wellness checks)	324
Emergency Food Pack	246
Lunch	10,745
Snack	12,169
Bottled Water	9,458
Blankets	1,120
Condoms	1,364
Hygiene	700
Clothing & Winter Gear	1,628
Mitts	1,033
Emergency Formula	572
Emergency Diapers	3,244
Hand Warmers	521

This year Street Outreach provided transportation and assistance with accessing resources in the community and ensuring clients were able to attend appointments **4776** times.



The Place... **FOR NEW BEGINNINGS**

The Street Outreach extends its sincere appreciation to many individuals, organizations, and businesses in Saskatoon and the surrounding area for their ongoing support. Through generous contribution's including but no limited to; non-perishable food items, monetary donations, winter clothing and hygiene supplies. Community partners play a vital role in in sustaining and strengthening our services. These contributions directly support the continued delivery of critical outreach programming and enhance our ability to respond to the needs of those we serve.



STREET OUTREACH



EXTREME WEATHER RESPONSE

EGADZ plays a vital role in the city of Saskatoons Extreme Weather Response as this is an initiative in which community organizations work in a greater capacity to support vulnerable individuals in the community during extreme weather situations in Saskatoon. The Street Outreach provides additional resources during periods of extreme cold or extreme heat days. In the winter, the Street Outreach focusses on ensuring that individuals are able to get to a safe and warm space, whether it be at the emergency shelter, or one of the varying winter warm up locations throughout the city. Outreach workers assist with providing transportation to individuals, providing warm-ups in the van, distributing warm winter gear and blankets, advocating for safe shelter, and connection to resources that can provide long-term housing options. During the extreme heat days, the Street Outreach provide van-cool downs, distributes water and freezies, and assist individuals with getting out of the heat by accessing designated cool-down locations. A significant barrier during the extreme cold this year saw an increased number of people who were not able to access warm-up locations or shelter spaces due to having restricted services related to safety at these locations. During these times street outreach workers were busy assisting individuals with further planning to find shelter at friends or families houses, and ensuring they had necessary warm clothing to assist with limiting frost bite exposure and other weather-related illnesses. This year saw the Extreme Cold Weather Response activated for a total of **22** days.



Bailey, a young mother of a two-year-old son, connected with Street Outreach to access parenting, relationships, and crisis support, while managing her own mental health challenges, including depression, bipolar disorder, and the impacts of past trauma, Bailey demonstrated resilience and a willingness to seek help during difficult periods.

At the beginning of the year, Bailey experienced a significant life transition as her long-term relationship ended due to abuse, leaving her to navigate single parenthood with limited financial and social supports. During this time, she faced increasing challenges and began entertaining the idea of engaging in sexual exploitation and other unsafe coping strategies in order to best provide for herself and her child. Recognizing the need for support, Bailey opted to connect further with the outreach team, where she was able to receive access to consistent, non-judgemental support, allowing her other alternatives.

Bailey was able to receive supports in securing stable affordable housing, accessing food resources, and began attending important appointments. Just as importantly, she had a safe supportive space to process her experiences and build coping strategies. With this foundation, she began to stabilize, and her mental health showed signs of improvement.

Following a traumatic incident involving her son, Bailey experienced a significant setback that impacted her mental health. In response, she worked with the outreach in accessing counselling and psychiatric services, while receiving emotional and practical



support from the team. During this, Bailey made the difficult but thoughtful decision to have her son temporarily cared for by a family member while she focused on her own wellbeing.

With ongoing encouragement and support from the program, Bailey worked toward rebuilding her stability. She received assistance with her employment readiness, including resume development and job searching, as well as support in continuing her education. Outreach continues to assist with transportation, appointments, and emotional support as she engaged in her healing journey.

Over time, Bailey secured employment, began to stabilize financially, and worked closely with her supports to find an effective treatment plan. With improved mental health and increased stability, she was able to welcome her son back into her care. Bailey continues to move forward with greater confidence, balancing her responsibilities while maintaining her supports to continue maintain and see progress.



At a time when I was facing significant hardship, EGADZ responded with remarkable compassion, professionalism, and a genuine commitment to helping. Their level of care and dignity truly sets them apart."



Trey was identified by Street Outreach at age 17 after leaving home due to ongoing family conflict and spending several nights unsheltered. While he was not deemed eligible for the 16/17 program, he actively engaged with outreach supports to secure temporary accommodation through the EGADZ Ground Zero program. During his stay, Trey demonstrated motivation toward independence by consistently seeking employment, exploring options to return to high school, and planning for his transition into adulthood. With support from staff, he participated in mock interviews to strengthen his job readiness skills and successfully obtained summer employment through the EGADZ Action to Employment program, contributing to increased confidence and skill development.

Trey also took initiative in rebuilding family connections, participating in facilitated meetings with his mother and gradually re-establishing contact through regular visits. Although he later experienced challenges related to peer influence and substance use, which resulted in the loss of employment and his decision to leave the shelter program, he continued to demonstrate resilience by accessing outreach services during periods of crisis. Throughout the fall, Trey sought support for basic needs, including nutrition and hygiene, and engaged with staff to access mental health resources. While contact has decreased since December, Trey's earlier efforts reflect a willingness to engage with supports, build life skills, and work toward greater stability and independence.



Tanya and Mike are a married couple who experienced chronic homelessness for over a year prior to connecting with Street Outreach. Their initial engagement occurred during the summer when outreach workers met them at an encampment. Both individuals had encountered significant personal challenges in recent years including struggles with addiction, which they openly acknowledged as contributing factors to their current circumstances.

Despite having adult children residing in the city, Tanya and Mike remained unsheltered, only seeking temporary shelter with family during periods of extreme weather due to limited space. Over the course of two winters, they lived outdoors in a tent, facing increasingly difficult conditions.

Street Outreach maintained consistent contact, conducting nightly wellness checks and providing essential supports such as food, blankets, and winter clothing. Recognizing the couple's hesitancy to access traditional shelter environments, staff prioritized meeting them where they were at, building trust while offering ongoing encouragement and assistance with securing stable housing.

Throughout the year, Tanya and Mike regularly explored housing options with the outreach however, they faced barriers in taking the necessary steps towards change. By January, their situation had become more urgent as prolonged exposure to harsh weather began to significantly impact their physical health. Due to their continued efforts, they were approved for a rental unit an important milestone in their journey.

With limited financial resources, transitioning into the housing presented additional challenges. Street Outreach was able to coordinate community donations to help them in furnishing their apartment and ensure it was liveable upon moving in.

Today, Tanya and Mike remain in stable housing and continue meaningful progress. They supplement their income through occasional work and are demonstrating increased stability and well-being.



In Early December **Logan** connected with the Street Outreach team to request transportation to collect a Salvation Army Christmas food hamper. Having previously engaged with outreach services for support, Logan and his family were already known to the outreach team. At the time, the family was living in a hotel while navigating ongoing financial challenges and impacts of disability.

Upon arrival, Logan learned that he was no longer eligible for the Christmas hamper due to changes in age requirements. This was particularly difficult, as he had been relying on the hamper to provide a special holiday for his family. Logan's circumstances were further complicated by his wife's severe disability following a stroke and the increased caregiving responsibilities placed on his daughters.

Shortly before the holidays, Logan experienced a serious health set back himself and was hospitalized where he was diagnosed with COPD and required an extended stay. During this time, Street Outreach maintained consistent contact with his family, offering emotional support and assistance, including ensuring that Logan had what he needed while in the hospital. Additional outreach efforts ensured the family had access to food, household supplies, hygiene supplies, and other essentials during his absence.

Following his recovery and discharge, Logan was able to reunite with his family. With ongoing supports from Street Outreach including transportation to appointments, Logan has been able to stabilize his situation. His continued willingness to access and stay connected to services has been a key factor in improving his family's well-being and in maintaining housing stability.



I appreciate everything you guys did for myself and my family while I was in the hospital. We are doing a lot better now. I hope you guys keep up the great work you do to help families."

Brittany is originally from Ontario and had to traveled to Saskatoon with her partner to visit his family. During this time, she experienced a sudden and traumatic situation of abuse that left her without any belongings, financial resources or local supports in an unfamiliar city. Demonstrating resilience, Brittany removed herself from the unsafe environment and sought help.

With limited options and no immediate way to return home, Brittany connected with Street Outreach. She actively engaged in identifying next steps and advocating for her immediate safety and stability. While awaiting travel arrangements, she focused on securing short-term accommodations and ensuring her basic needs were met.

Brittany worked collaboratively with the staff to coordinate her return to Ontario, including arranging transportation and, maintaining communication with her family. Within a short period, she was able to safely access travel and successfully return home.

Since her return, Brittany continues to communicate with the Street Outreach and has reported that she is doing well and continues to focus on her recovery and well-being. Her ability to navigate a crisis, seek support, and follow through with a plan to return home safely reflects significant strength and determination in overcoming a highly challenging situation.

Thank you, guys for all of your help! Thanks to you I was able to make it back to my home community safely and sound where I belong. I wouldn't have gotten there without you guys finding me a safe place to stay and providing me with food and clothing. I truly appreciate everything you do."



**SWEET DREAMS**

The Sweet Dreams program was created to be a safe place for mothers and children—a place where healing begins, lives are rebuilt, and hope is infused. Through a combination of safe housing and compassionate, trauma-informed support, Sweet Dreams empowers families to face life's challenges with courage and dignity.



Mothers and children come to live at Sweet Dreams for various reasons, some are fleeing domestic violence or other unsafe situations, others are in need of a sober living environment and are struggling to maintain a healthy lifestyle, and some are youth transitioning from group homes with their children.

With support, each family creates a plan that they feel will assist them with overcoming obstacles, eliminating barriers and strengthen their family unit.

Together mothers and staff actively implement plans and activities for financial stability, addiction recovery, mental health and wellness, and education and career objectives. With guidance and support, families gain tools, strengthen their skills, and build the confidence and self esteem to move from surviving to thriving.

In 2025/2026, Sweet Dreams was home to **8** mothers and **12** children.

Sweet Dreams has given me a safe place to call home, I don't know where we would be if we did not have the Support of Sue, Krystal and Tamara. I struggled with my sobriety and now being here I know that I no longer ever want that life, being here has been a gift because being supported by a support who understands addictions because she had her own allows me to hear what she did to get where she is. She pushes when I need a reminder to do the work and reminds me my past was who I was not who I am. I want to be a good mom and not be like the mom I had, I want to protect my child from hurts that a child should never see in addiction I didn't care about those things because that is all I knew. Now I am focusing on school, a future career and teaching my child to be an independent woman, I have learned through this program and Tamara that Self-care and boundaries are my weapons to have the independence I want and to be the best and healthy me I can be. Tamara you have given me strength, to have someone like you as support is the greatest to show me I am not alone, and there is someone who gets me. Thank you for all the EGADZ programs do."

Blue is a 27-year-old mother of two who became involved with the EGADZ community in her teenage years. In 2024 she faced significant challenges, including homelessness, exploitation, and addiction. During this period, she found out that she was also pregnant. Blue came to the decision that she wanted to give her child the best start she could and a safe future free of instability. This would mean immediate changes and commitment. Blue reached out to the coordinator of the Mah's program and was connected with the supports to help her through her pregnancy and stabilize her life. When she gave birth to her first child she had many struggles when it came to her daughter's health. Blue had medical anxiety but with the help from staff, she was able to overcome it and become more confident in her parenting skills.

Blue transitioned to Sweet Dreams feeling secure in her independent abilities and to begin addressing other barriers in her life. However, she was now pregnant with her second child and experiencing doubts about her ability to provide for two children and raise them alone. She initially struggled with negative thinking patterns, feeling incapable of managing transportation or outings with her children. At times, she would cancel plans and appointments out of fear or frustration. With the support of EGADZ staff, Blue was encouraged to trust her abilities as a mother. Together, they implemented strategies such as planning outings and appointments the day before to reduce stress. Blue learned to navigate bus routes and manage transportation independently after purchasing a double stroller to make trips more manageable. After three months, she could transport herself and her children without assistance something she did not think was possible.



Due to childhood and parenting trauma, Blue has recognized recurring patterns in her co-parenting relationship with her children's father. To address this Sweet Dreams assisted her with finding a therapist to address anger and unresolved resentment toward men in her life. Blue successfully enrolled in a trades course to further her education and also applied to an aesthetic school. She is motivated by a desire to create options for herself and to demonstrate to her children that anything is possible when you set your mind to it.

In addition to these accomplishments, Blue has made great strides in other areas of her goal plan. She has developed a step-by-step vision of the life she wants for herself and her children, maintained sobriety for 2 years, explored educational opportunities, and focused on programs to help identify a fulfilling career path. Through this journey she has demonstrated growth, self-awareness, and an emerging sense of understanding and love for herself.

Renna spent most of her life in Northern Manitoba, carrying the weight of many losses and painful experiences. Growing up she found herself caught in the grip of addiction, feeling trapped and alone, with no healthy support or understanding of how to break free. For a long time, it seemed as though hope had slipped entirely from her life. Her addiction made her vulnerable to dangerous relationships and put her safety and the bond with her son at risk. At one point she even began moving drugs for others just to survive and to fuel her addiction. Her relationship with her son became strained, creating chaos and heartache for both of them.

Renna attended multiple treatment centers, but each time she returned to her community, it only led her back to the cycle she desperately wanted to escape. With nothing but determination, courage, and trust in her Creator, she decided to take one more chance and traveled to Alberta for treatment. While in treatment she learned about programs in Alberta and Saskatchewan, including EGADZ. After connecting with the Coordinator, a plan was made for her to come into the Sweet Dreams program with her son.

Renna and her son had many adjustments to get used to when they moved to Saskatoon. New city, new home, new schools, new support system and new sober life. Unforeseen setbacks such as being denied

funding for school, family loss and lengthy waits for employment call backs challenged her strength, however, she was unwavering and refused to give up. With the support of staff, she updated her resume and applied for more jobs, when she began to feel discouraged, encouragement from support reminded her of how far she had already come. Her perseverance was rewarded when she received a call for a position at the casino daycare and housekeeping, her first step toward stability and independence. Renna also started focusing on her mental health, worked with Sweet Dreams support on budgeting and paying off debts, and participate in cultural activities with her son. Her love for him was a guiding light through every challenge.

Although she had to return to her hometown in the summer of 2025 to face family losses, she stayed connected with Sweet Dreams support, maintaining her sobriety and leaning on guidance and encouragement to stay on track. When Renna returned home to Sweet Dreams, she arrived stronger and more determined than ever. She began attending post secondary school, working toward certification in Mental Health and Wellness, a field she is passionate about. She celebrates her 2-years of sobriety with pride, cherishes her deepening relationship with her son, and continues to navigate the pain of past losses with courage and grace. Renna's journey is a testament to resilience, hope, and the transformative power of self-belief. Despite the challenges she has faced, she has found a path forward one filled with love, purpose, and the unwavering determination to create a better life for herself and her son.



Ali has been connected with EGADZ since her youth, first through Street Outreach and later through the My Homes program. She was a child who grew up caring for her younger siblings until they were identified as children who had no one willing or able to care for them. Since then her family connections had been strained and she carried the deep weight of abandonment and loneliness. Unable to navigate her emotions, Ali turned to drugs and alcohol to mask her feelings. Despite many efforts to stay clean, the pain of loss and isolation repeatedly pulled her back into old patterns. Through the Baby Steps program, Ali began learning how to navigate life as a single parent while maintaining her sobriety. This experience gave her confidence and independence, and she later transitioned into the Mah's Home. By the time she was ready for Sweet Dreams, Ali had shown remarkable growth and was ready to take bold steps toward creating the life she had always dreamed of. When she arrived, her first goal was to confront her fears—her anger, her past, and the barriers that had held her back. She worked on moving beyond the resentment she carried toward her daughter's father and learned to make choices rooted in love, strength, and hope.

One of Ali's biggest challenges was teaching her daughter independence. Out of a desire to make up for the parenting she herself had missed, she felt compelled to be with her daughter at all times and to do everything for her. With the support of Sweet Dreams staff, Ali began developing a self-care routine and enrolled her daughter in daycare. She learned that allowing her daughter some independence didn't make her a bad mother it allowed both of them to grow and thrive.

Alongside this, Ali focused on her education and goal of pursuing a career in welding. Sweet Dreams staff supported her with researching program requirements, meeting with schools, and gathering transcripts, laying the foundation for a future she had once thought impossible.

Ali's dedication to self-care, sobriety, and her daughter's well-being has allowed her to grow in countless ways. She has been rebuilding sibling relationships, nurturing her own identity, and strengthening connections with supportive adults. She models resilience and independence for her daughter, showing that with patience, care, and determination, a brighter, fuller life is possible. Ali's journey is a testament to courage, love, and the power of investing in oneself. Every step she takes toward her dreams and her daughter's future reflects the unwavering strength she has discovered within herself.



SWEET DREAMS EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

Sweet Dreams ELC opened their doors in September 2017. The center is licensed for 18 children, six infants, five toddlers, five preschoolers' and two flex spaces. Over the last year the Centre has provided care to **29** children from **25** families.



I have never felt safe leaving my daughter with anyone before, the daycare has been such a blessing and the staff are always so friendly."

-Jordann

The Place... **FOR NEW BEGINNINGS**

Over the course of the past year we have focused on emergent curriculum and play based learning. The Centre also promotes outdoor play and exploration in every weather and season. Staff work closely with the children, their families and their support systems to ensure the development of strong long-lasting relationships.



SWEET DREAMS EARLY LEARNING CENTRE



"Thank you for taking such amazing care of my grandbaby, it is clear how loved the children are!"

- Evan

"I love that the daycare staff take the time and effort to celebrate every child and their development and milestones!"

- Paige

Over the course of this past year the Early Learning Centre has really focused on play-based learning. Every child's interests were addressed with different opportunities to support their learning. Some of their interests lead us to various types of field trips though out the summer months. This allowed the children to learn about their interests in a new environment and from other people.

The Place... **FOR NEW BEGINNINGS**

The children have great interest in sensory play. The children have access to different types of sensory bins including sand, water, play-doh, slime or snow. Staff created sensory walls in both classrooms for the children to explore on a daily basis.



SWEET DREAMS EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

Over the summer we were able to take a minimum of one field trip per week. The older children were able to enjoy bowling, mini golf and a trip to Crickle Creek. Bowling and mini golf were beneficial for the children as they were able to work on different aspects of development such as balance, hand-eye-coordination, problem-solving, and turn taking/patience. While at Crickle Creek, the children were able to form stronger social bonds with each other and experience challenging physical activity.





All children were invited in attending day trips to the Saskatoon Forestry Farm and Zoo, ten-year celebration of Kinsmen park, and Wanuskewin. At the zoo the children were able to walk around the zoo and get physical activity, learn more about the animals that live in the zoo and have a picnic all together before playing at the playground. The city held a ten-year birthday party for kinsmen park where the children were able to ride the different rides. The children also got to do a scavenger hunt, get their faces painted, listen to music, and watch a juggler and a woman walking on stilts. During our time at Wanuskewin the children played on the playground, learnt about the history of the site and watch and listen to traditional dancers.

At the daycare we focus on healthy eating and creating fresh foods using as little processed foods as possible. Staff make fresh whole wheat bread, buns, and garlic breads. We have switched over to whole grain rice and pasta.





We are very happy with Sweet Dreams!! They were so accommodating and understanding through the transition! They make delicious food for the children, including homemade bread, and our son always has fun crafts to bring home."

This past year we were grateful to benefited from a Fruit Grant provided by the Community Development Corporation. The children were able to indulge in a variety of fresh fruit daily and were introduced to many that were new to them. Staff also incorporated the fruits smoothies, fruit sauces, fresh jams and muffins.



The Place... **FOR NEW BEGINNINGS**

Staff take every opportunity to celebrate the special occasions with the children. Each child's birthday is celebrated at the centre with either cupcakes or a cake. The children and staff sing "Happy Birthday" and the birthday child receives a gift that has been specially chosen based on their individual interests.



SWEET DREAMS EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

Thank you for taking such great care of our girls over the years, we will miss you all so much."

- Jennifer

We celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas with a full turkey meal, and for gifts this year, they were given a set of pajamas with a Christmas/winter print, a Christmas book with crayons, or a small Christmas themed book for the babies and a new stuffed animal. For Halloween that children and staff dressed up in their costumes for the day, listened to Halloween music and ate Halloween themed snacks. Valentines was celebrated with the children bringing in their own Valentine's cards to hand out to their friends, and by eating homemade heart shaped pizzas and chocolate covered strawberries.



I love that the daycare staff take the time and effort to celebrate every child and their development and milestones!"

- Paige

**TEEN PARENT OUTREACH**

The Teen Parent Outreach is a mobile program funded by the Community Action Program for Children and created to assist parents under the age of 20 years old who are either living in high risk communities, or participating in an EGADZ program. The program employs 1 staff member who creates plans with the parents based on the parent's current skill set or parenting struggles, and use an "active participation" approach. The Teen Parent Outreach is able to meet the parents in their environments and spend quality time educating the parents and demonstrating by example.



They are also able to offer support with resources and options that may decrease the family's levels of risk such as housing, nutrition resources and mental health or addiction counselling.

The program can assist teen parents throughout their prenatal experience with education, doctor's appointments, labour and delivery planning and coaching. Postnatal care and support including breast feeding support are also available to the parents.

Along with the education and hands on teaching, the Teen Parent Outreach is equipped to assist parents of all ages when they are in a financial crisis by supplying them with emergency diapers, formula and other baby supplies.

This past year Teen Parent Outreach has supported 29 teen parents and their children with;

Statistics

Healthy Eating & Nutrition	50
Immunization & Vaccines	39
Budgeting	30
Life Skills	153
Mental Health Support	136
Medical Appointments	66
Medical Information Clarity Support	104
Medication Support	29
Child/Parent Relationship Building	86
Resource Connection	254
Parent Workshops	
(Prenatal, Infant/Child Milestones)	55
Housing Placements	10
Family Reunification Visits	85
Labour & Delivery Support	4
Postnatal Care including Postpartum Support	11

Emergency Supplies

Emergency Diapers	4,342
Formula	1,295
Other Baby Supplies	2,085



Being apart of this program has made such a difference for me this year. I've felt heard and supported when I needed it the most. The information that my support worker provided me helped so much, and I will continue to reach out to Teen Parent Support."

Avez is 21 years old she is a mother of a 1-year old boy named Max. She grew up in foster care, where she experienced multiple placements and inconsistent caregiving. Her relationships with her biological parents was strained and unpredictable, which impacted her ability to form secure attachments and trust support systems. Avez entered motherhood with limited positive parenting role models, difficulty regulating stress/mental health and low confidence in her ability to meet her child's needs. Despite these obstacles she has faced, Avez has always been determined to create a better future for herself and her son. She was referred to Teen Parent Support while utilizing another EGADZ program. She was feeling overwhelmed with daily caregiving responsibilities, struggling to establish consistent routines, and experiencing anxiety related to feeling she was not meeting her sons needs. Over the past year, Avez has worked closely with Teen Parent Support to strengthen her parenting skills, manage stress and build a stable home environment. This was supported through weekly home visits, staff providing hands on guidance and emotional support. This support directly benefited Max, as Avez became more responsive, patient, and consistent in her caregiving, which helped him build a sense of safety and attachment. Avez participated in a variety of activities focused on skill-building and practical strategies for child care and development, while also focusing on her own mental health. These included creating a structured daily routine, practicing age appropriate play (sensory play, fine motor development, reading), and learning how to recognize and respond to Max's cues. Staff modeled interactions like getting down to the child's level, using positive language, and supporting emotional regulation during moments of distress. Teen Parent Support connected Avez to several community resources, including a parenting group to further her parenting skills and reduce isolation, and mental health counselling to support her emotional well-being. Staff also supported her in attending appointments and encouraged her to advocate for her needs. By working collaboratively with staff, she gradually began implementing new skills independently. She started maintaining a consistent routine and using calming techniques when Max became upset. Staff reinforced these successes, helping her recognize her growth in her ability to problem-solve and build confidence in her parenting skills. With continued support, Avez is developing stronger parenting skills, learning new strategies to improve emotional regulation, and creating a stable home environment. Her growth in parenting skills has increased her confidence, and has shown resilience and determination to provide a nurturing home for her son.



Jasmine is a young mother of 2-year-old Sara, whom grew up in Saskatoon navigating a number of challenges including periods of instability during her upbringing with her birth family, but has had consistent support from her adoptive family. Throughout her childhood she experienced periods of housing uncertainty, difficulty maintaining routines, and challenges with independence. These experiences contributed to her initial struggles with managing finances, maintaining housing, and feeling confident in her parenting. Jasmine was referred to Teen Parent Outreach when she moved into the independent living houses at the My Homes. At the time of the referral, key concerns included housing instability, limited income, difficulty maintaining cleanliness in the home, consistent routines for her child and feeling overwhelmed by the responsibilities of parenting. Jasmine expressed that she often second-guessed her decisions and lacked confidence in her ability to provide structure and stability alone as Sara's dad is not involved in her life. When she moved out on her own, Teen Parent Outreach continued to support both Jasmine and her daughter by providing consistent guidance and helping her access essential resources such as financial assistance programs, secondary education, childcare resources, mental health supports,

community parenting groups and one on one support working on life skills and parenting education to help meet her child's developmental needs. Staff also helped her navigate applications, attend meetings, and follow through with services which helped reduce barriers and increased independence. Jasmine participated in a range of activities, including routine building exercises, parenting education through structured play, budgeting support, and building a daily routine to help maintain cleanliness in the home while balancing the demands of parenting. Staff worked alongside to help Jasmine create a daily schedule that included mealtimes, playtime, bedtime and other daily tasks. Staff also modeled positive parent-child interactions, such as reading together, encouraging language development, and using praise to reinforce positive behaviors. Staff guided Jasmine through organizing her home to create a safe play space, discussed appropriate supervision, and provided support on managing challenging behaviors. Staff also helped with preparing her for appointments and practicing communication skills when interacting with service providers. Through consistent support, Jasmine began to implement the skills she learned. She became more consistent with routines, and more proactive in accessing supports available. Staff gradually stepped back as she demonstrated independence, while continuing to provide encouragement and guidance when needed. Jasmine's growth is evident in her increased confidence, improved parenting skills, and ability to maintain a stable environment for her daughter. She has built a strong support network and feels comfortable to reach out for help, which has been key to her success. She recently found out she was pregnant again, with her confidence in parenting skills and supports available to her Teen Parent, the support of her family and outreach workers, she is ready to become a mother of two and start this new chapter.

Teen Parent Support helped me so much, since I found this support was available to use. I was given resources when needing help, from finding housing to helping me with new life skills. They give great advice and tips when it comes to parenting and I feel comfortable to reach out to them."
- Jasmine



Kathy is 18 and has a son named Daniel who is 2 years old. Kathy was raised primarily by her grandmother, who provided stability and support to her and her siblings; however, Kathy had limited exposure to independent decision-making and adult responsibilities prior to becoming a parent. She was referred to Teen Parent Outreach while residing in an EGADZ home. At the time of the referral, concerns included limited confidence in managing her child's routines, difficulty understanding age appropriate expectations for her son, and feeling unsure how to respond to challenging behaviors and signs of developmental delays, particularly in speech and language, as well as some delays in social interactions and emotional regulation. She also required support in developing life skills such as time management, organization, and accessing community resources. Teen Parent Outreach supported Kathy by providing consistent mentorship and hands on guidance and helping her understand child development. Staff worked with Kathy to identify developmental milestones and recognize areas where Daniel may need additional support. Staff incorporated targeted activities into their visits to support Daniel's development and teach Kathy how to help support him. These included modeling simple language building techniques such as naming objects, repeating words and encouraging turn talking play. Staff also demonstrated interactive play strategies like reading books, singing songs and showing fine and gross motor skill play. Kathy was coached on how to slow down interactions, give Daniel time to respond, and use positive reinforcement to encourage progress.

Staff demonstrated for her how to create a structured environment to support learning, how to use routines to reinforce predictability and how to respond calmly during movements of frustration. Teen Parent Outreach connected Kathy to several specialized resources to help support Daniels developmental delays. This included Early childhood intervention services, speech and language support programs and community-based child development services. Staff also supported Kathy in completing referrals, attending appointments, and advocating for her sons needs. Through this process staff actively supported her with implementing new skills by practicing strategies together during visits and encouraging her to continue them independently throughout the week. Kathy became more confident in engaging with Daniel in ways that supported his development. Over time, Kathy has shown significant growth. She has developed stronger parenting skills, improved her understanding of child development, and has become more confident in supporting her sons needs. As a result of consistent support and access to resources, Kathy is creating a more structured and nurturing environment. Daniel is learning from increased targeted developmental support, while Kathy continues to grow into a capable and confident parent.



TRANSITIONAL OUTREACH

The Transitional Outreach is a program that was designed for youth, by other youth. The main focus for Transitional Outreach is to offer life skills that will support the youth in preparing independence as they enter into adulthood. The program is available to any youth who is ready to actively engaged and have goals they want to achieve. Referrals come from all agencies in the community, parents and from the youth themselves.

The team that works in the program work alongside the youth to create an individualized plan that is unique to each youth. Youth work with staff one on one, in a group setting, in the office and out in the community. Tours and workshops with universities, Skill & Trades Schools, local businesses and community organizations are on going throughout the year. Presenters are invited in to educate the youth on their field of specialty, what knowledge and education and skill set is required. Every presenter is chosen based on the youth's career goals and interests.



Transitional Outreach has helped me by making it easier to look for a job. They help me hand out resumes in person and they helped me practice interview questions and what to say to stores when I am handing out resumes."



Being supported by transitional outreach has helped me with every step of my goal to get into University. They helped me with the applications and understanding what I needed to submit. They have also helped me apply for lots of scholarships and grant and have kept me on track with all the things I need to remember for this process."

Each youth's plan dictates the types of activities that the youth and staff need to engage in and the resources that need to be utilized to achieve their goals.

I joined transitional outreach to gain more independence, knowledge and life skills. I have learnt tools to help me with my education, my financial skills and employment opportunities."

This year there were a total of 90 youths supported through Transitional Outreach.

Statistics

Application Forms	326
Connection to Resources	554
Registrations	65
Resume Assistance	88
Job Searches	113
Bank Accounts Opened	5
Medical Appointments	30
Medication Support	9
Houseing Search	35
Housing Applications	30
Life Skill Activities	826
Budgeting Sessions	218
Mental Health Support	120
Emergency Food Pack	27
Tax Preparation	45
Social Service Contacts	114
Workshop & Life Skill Training	288
Transports to Appointments, Education & Employment	846

I have really bad anxiety and was struggling to with finding employment after I graduated. I have had trouble applying for jobs because I have a hard time building the confidence to talk to strangers. This program helped me practice what to say when I hand out resumes in person. Once I got a job interview they helped me practice interview questions and made me feel more prepared. They helped me and encouraged me when no one else was available."

Statistics

Identification	89
Birth Certificate	19
Health Card	21
SGI Photo ID	15
Social Insurance	6
Treaty Card	25
Passport	2
Metis Citizenship	1
Taxes Filed	19
Learner's License	6
Accepted into Secondary Education	11
Training Certificates	22
Found Employment	14

Megan called to inform that she had left an abusive relationship and was now needing support in finding somewhere to stay. With support from the program Megan called the YWCA and Interval house. Interval house had a bed open for her that evening. Megan was assisted in gathering the emergency necessities she would need. After completing her stay at Interval House, Megan moved around a bit. Through the Transitional Outreach, Megan learnt about the different residential options available through EGADZ and asked to be referred to the My Homes program. Megan communicated with the My Homes and obtained the opportunity to have an age exemption meeting to advocate for her acceptance into the My Homes program. She was successful and moved into an independent My Home and continues to reside there. We continued to support her with her goals and assisted her with building a resume and handing them out. She has since gained full-time employment on the Action to Employment crew. To further work on gaining independence, Megan set herself a goal of studying over summer and in the hopes of obtaining her learner's license by Halloween. She booked herself time with Transitional Outreach ever week so that she could receive support in preparing for her exam. Two days before Halloween Megan was successful in obtaining her learner's license. Her next goal was to work on adding to her resume by completing online training certificates. She has now completed her WHMIS and Serve It Right courses. Although she works full time, she has attended many workshops with Transitional Outreach; multiple cooking classes, a Coping with Stress and Triggers presentation, a tour of a fire hall, Mentor Ability workshop, a personal training workshop, post-secondary education tours and a harm reduction workshop. This year Megan learnt to file her taxes and she is now working on budgeting for her 6x6 drivers training in order to be eligible to take her road test.

I love being in transitional outreach. This program has had an amazing impact on my life. All the support and love keeps me dedicated and motivated to keep working on my own goals. I have referred my siblings into this program and I suggest it to any youth who are ready to start a new path and a new beginning."





Joelle self referred into Transitional Outreach program only wanting support in ordering a birth certificate for her daughter. After learning more about the program, Joelle has made huge steps towards independence in such a short time. Within the first month we ordered her daughter's birth certificate, taught her the process for obtaining her own Alberta birth certificate which included, finding a processing service to review her application, finding a notary to sign her documents and filling out the paper work. We also helped Joelle obtain her Saskatchewan Photo Identification card as well. Her goals with us have now expanded to looking towards her future and making a plan that allows her to support and care for her daughter independently. She then began studying and practicing to obtain her learner's licence which led to discussions about going back to school to gain her grade 12. To keep with the momentum, we invited her to attend a workshop with Transitional Outreach at Saskatchewan Polytechnic where she learned about the different adult programs they offer, the application process and have a tour of the campus. During the event she was assisted on the spot with applying for the upcoming quarter. She then attended an intake meeting with a school counsellor to pick her classes and choose the best education plan. She has now been accepted into the Adult 12 program.



Transitional Outreach gave me the little push in the right direction I needed to get back into and finish my schooling, which I really needed. They made everything so easy and stress free. They helped me get things done that I had been putting off for a long time. I am super grateful for all of the help and support I have gotten from them."



Brett's main goal was to have a job lined up for the summer school break. He received support in creating a resume and practicing mock interviews to prepare himself for applying to work for the EGADZ Wakaw crew. He was successful and gained employment on the Wakaw crew. In order to prepare for starting his employment, we assisted him with opening a bank account and retrieving direct deposit documents. After two weeks on the crew he was excited to show staff his first ever pay cheque. We picked him up and took him to the bank and taught him how to deposit a cheque into his bank account. In the fall when school had started back up again, he was scheduled to attend in the mornings so his new goal was to find a part-time. Brett updated his resume and created an indeed account. He learnt how to upload his resume to indeed and how to apply for jobs on the app. He also attended the Build Up workshop with Transitional Outreach. At

the workshop he handed in his resume and was able to speak directly to the program manager, support worker and some of the employees. Brett obtained a job interview for Build Up and received employment with them. With support from the Transitional Outreach, we were able to supply him with all of the required gear and clothing for the job. Shortly after Christmas, Brett became the proud father of his second child. Brett continues to attend school in the mornings and work in the evenings, and attended the driver's education program over lunch hour. He was successful in completing his driver's education program and has obtained his learner's license. Through our program he also obtained his WHMIS certificate and he is currently working on his SCOT training. Brett's future goals are to finish high school and continue with a career in the trades.

Transitional Outreach helped be not only figure out what I want to do with my future, through our meetings and campus tours, but also it helped me successfully apply to my post-secondary programs. They gave me access to a computer to apply, helped me organize my thoughts into essays and funded my application fees. I am now enrolled in two post-secondary programs and I am excited about my future."



**YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
YOUTH ADVISORY TEAM**

The Youth Advisory Team is a provincial initiative that works alongside their co-teams in Regina and Prince Albert to create positive changes for youth in care throughout the province. Comprised of the Ministry of Social Services, community-based organisations and youth partnerships, the Youth Advisory Team (YAT), is designed to ensure that youth have a voice and are empowered to engage in the development of services/ provide advisement on improvements to services and programs that directly effect and impact all youth in care. Engaging youth with lived experience drives 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 youths safety, comfort and success in a family-based home setting.

The Youth Advisory Team is made up of youth living in Saskatoon who have all been in care at some point in their lives. Some of the youth are currently in care, some reside in group homes and some live in the community. They all share the goal of creating better lives for youth just like them.



This year the Youth Advisory Team had 26 official meetings.

The Youth Advisor Team are responsible for electing two youth co-chairs. The co-chairs are responsible for maintaining group focus, being strong advocates for their other team members and overall promoting a positive and supportive environment for the entire team. The co chairs also attend smaller meetings and present on behalf of the Youth Advisory Team.



Before I joined the Youth Advisory Team, I felt like I never had a voice or was heard by adults. Being on this team has brought back my voice and made me feel like people are actually listening."

The Youth Advisory Team's from the province, Saskatoon, Regina and Prince Albert work on regional and provincial action items to present yearly at a Round Table. Their regional and provincial action items consist of all the work they have completed over the year, and what their new ideas are for improving the lives of youth in care. The round table meeting is an important event for the youth because they attract the attention of many policy and decision makers. The Saskatoon team presented on topics such as; the development of the Transitional Outreach program, their involvement in the Day of Mourning, their continued work on physical intervention policies, their revision of the annual Review for youth in care, their drop-in upgrades, the Wolf Homes, Lou's Place and a provincial youth housing initiative.

Being on this team means a lot to me, from helping the youth in the community to learning more about the social services system. Being on this team comes with endless opportunities which are great, from learning about the justice system, family care, the Ministry of Social Services, and many more that are important to me as a youth."

The Youth Advisory Team was involved in the development of two new mental health and addictions homes for youth. They chose the name Mahihkan Waskihikan which means Wolf Home in Cree, Mahihkan (Wolf) which reflects their YAT logo, and Waskihikan (home) because they wanted the people living there to feel that the space is not just a house but a home. The team also created the Responsibilities and Guidelines that will be used in the Homes.

The YAT was informed of an opportunity from the Deputy Minister of Social Services requesting that

EGADZ open a second apartment program for younger youth who are working on their independence The YAT has decided to be the youth team who will be involved with developing this program.



The co-chairs attended a meeting with, Foundations Learning & skills Saskatchewan, to discuss the opportunities they could offer for youth entering the Fusion Plus program. During the meeting, Foundations explained what they could offer in adult literacy, financial literacy, youth volunteer initiatives and other volunteer opportunities. The co-chairs were excited about what this partnership could look like. The co-chairs brought the information back to the team members and the YAT discussed their thoughts and opinions on Foundations and have agreed to further discuss their partnership.

Two Youth Advisory Team youth presented to the different First Nation Agencies in Saskatchewan about the YAT's involvement in creating group homes for youth. After their presentation, they answered questions from the different First Nation Agencies about their success in creating youth centered group homes. They discussed their ideas behind each home and their personal involvement in each house. They presented on what makes the homes unique and how the YAT continues to be involved in each home.





WAKAW LAKE

The Wakaw Lake camp property, provides a safe and supportive recreational environment for youth, families, and clients accessing programs and services throughout the summer months. The camp creates opportunities for swimming, boating, outdoor recreation, and social connection while supporting positive mental health, reducing stress and anxiety, and providing meaningful experiences.



Many youths express that having the opportunity to leave the city provides important benefits for their overall well-being and development. Time away from the pressures, noise, and stress of daily urban life allows youth to relax, recharge, and experience a sense of calm and safety in a natural environment.





The Grounds Maintenance Labourer positions play an important role in ensuring the camp property remains safe, welcoming, and well maintained for all participants. These positions also provide valuable employment opportunities for youth involved in EGADZ programming, supporting personal growth, stability, responsibility, and hands-on work experience. Each summer, EGADZ hires three youth to work alongside a team lead to support the daily maintenance and operation of the camp property.

The Place... **FOR NEW BEGINNINGS**

These positions contribute directly to creating a safe, inclusive, and positive recreational environment where youth and families can build connections, reduce stress, develop employment skills, and participate in meaningful summer experiences.



WAKAW LAKE

Throughout each program you will find pictures and testimonials signifying the important role that Wakaw Lake plays throughout all EGADZ programming. This would not be made possible without the continued help and support of the Dave Daplaedt Foundation.





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The Place...
For New Beginnings