



2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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VISION

To end the struggle against poverty and empower those in need.

MISSION STATEMENT

Project SHARE provides essential support services that improve the lives of Niagara Falls individuals and families in need.

OUR VALUES

We believe in:

- Interacting with all members of our community with dignity, respect, compassion and understanding.
- Working as a team, within Project SHARE and with our community, to provide whatever help is needed.
- Providing services based on inclusivity, equity, cooperation and collaboration.
- Growing an effective organization through open communication and fiscal and social responsibility.
- Investing in opportunities for our staff to develop in their roles.

Message from the Chair

I've been truly humbled and honoured to be in the role of the Chairperson of Project SHARE for the past year. This past year we formed a client empowerment committee to hear firsthand how we can better meet the needs of those who rely on us for emergency support services. The number of services we offered grew to include new Financial Literacy programming, and the first of a two year Out of the Cold pilot program in partnership with Niagara Region and St. Andrew's United Church. One of the pillars of our mission is to adapt our services to respond to changes around us. While more clients came through our doors we continued to look for new partners and opportunities to provide client centered services.



Our community truly is at work to help support our neighbours in need. We can't do this alone and are so grateful for the dedication of our community partners, donors, staff and volunteers who carry out our mission providing emergency support services to over 125 families every day who are less fortunate in our community.

I am grateful to work alongside these stakeholders and our dedicated Board of Directors as we lead the fight against hunger and empower those in need.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irma Sebastiano'.

Irma Sebastiano, Chair
Board of Directors, 2018-2019

Board of Directors 2018-2019

Irma Sebastiano, Chair

Anna Luciano, Vice Chair

Brian Pellow, Past Chair

Mick Wolfe, Treasurer

Trent Dark, Secretary

Wayne Campbell/Carolynn Ioannoni
City Council Representative

Julia Fabiano, Director

Jim Ferraro, Director

Italia Gilberti, Director

Paisley January-Pool, Director

Lori Lococo, Director

Ryan Seravalle, Director

Tom Snodgrass, Director

Message from the Executive Director

In December 2019 I became the Executive Director of Project SHARE when Diane Corkum retired. Diane had been with Project SHARE for more than 30 years, 3 of them as the Executive Director. Her departure left me with both very big shoes to fill and the task of presenting the accomplishments of Project SHARE in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.



In this annual report, you will read about the accomplishments of Project SHARE and how long-standing services such as our Emergency Food, Christmas and Utility Programs have continued and are helping those living below the poverty line in Niagara Falls.

These pages tell the story of a successful year at Project SHARE led by Diane Corkum as the Executive Director. I know Diane would want to thank all of you for your continued support, time commitment and dedication to Project SHARE over the past year.

Carolyn Bones-Poley
Executive Director



Staff

2018-2019

Diane Corkum
Executive Director

Pam Sharp
Director Community Engagement

Joseph Veltri
Client Services Manager

Kate Adams
Intensive Case Facilitator

Cari Allen
Recycling Program Coordinator

Fran Berry, Client Support Worker

Pat Burke, Driver

Angela DiMartino
Financial Literacy Coordinator

Hayley Evans, Client Support Worker

Pat Inneo, Client Support Worker

Chantell Jolivet
Client Support Worker

Jo Low
Volunteer Wellness Coordinator

Janet Morettie
Food Room Coordinator

John Morse
Warehouse Co-Administrator

Rachel Muscat
Administrative Assistant

Gennie Parker
Financial Literacy Coordinator

Cathy Robertson
Financial Administrator

Shane McKee
Warehouse Co-Administrator

Adam Warriner
Fundraising Events Coordinator

Carole Wallwork
Client Support Worker

Jonna Wolfenberg, Reception

Spencer Wyllie, Program Coordinator

OUR SERVICES

a snapshot

FOOD SECURITY

"Without Project SHARE I would have an unhealthy lifestyle. I would not be able to afford the nutritious food I do receive here since it is so expensive at the store."

Joe



827,395

pounds of emergency food distributed

7,397

people fed

\$2,151,227

value of food distributed

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

4,148

total people were helped with a holiday meal

\$103,812

value of holiday meal gift cards distributed

1,482

children received Christmas gifts

10,421

pounds of toys distributed

\$156,315

value of toys distributed



"Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Many thanks for the help for Christmas. They are very responsible and caring family who need help, many thanks to all of them."

Sam

OUT OF THE COLD SHELTER



20

Out of the Cold emergency shelter beds provided

2,388

occupancy by homeless receiving overnight emergency warming

161

nights the Out of the Cold shelter was open

\$132,188

cost of Shelter operation

OUR SERVICES

a snapshot

EMERGENCY SUPPORT

362

households received assistance with utility payments

3,025

households assisted with transportation

\$170,310

value of utility help provided

\$14,000

value of Niagara Transit bus tickets purchased



COMMUNITY GARDENS



3

community garden sites offered

145

garden plots for families to grow their own produce

25

volunteers tended large plots which grew food for our emergency food program

5

corporate groups volunteered in our gardens

3,500

pounds of leafy greens were grown for distribution to clients

You can help ensure none of our neighbours go hungry or without the help they need!

- **Donate easily and securely online at projectshare.ca**
- **Leave a gift in your will**
- **Sign up to become a monthly donor**
- **Grow a row for Project SHARE in your backyard garden**
- **Volunteer**

**For more information call 905-357-5121
or email info@projectshare.ca**

VOLUNTEERS

a s n a p s h o t

13,420

Volunteer hours were given

196

volunteers

1

goal – to ensure those living in poverty do not go hungry and receive the help they need to live with dignity



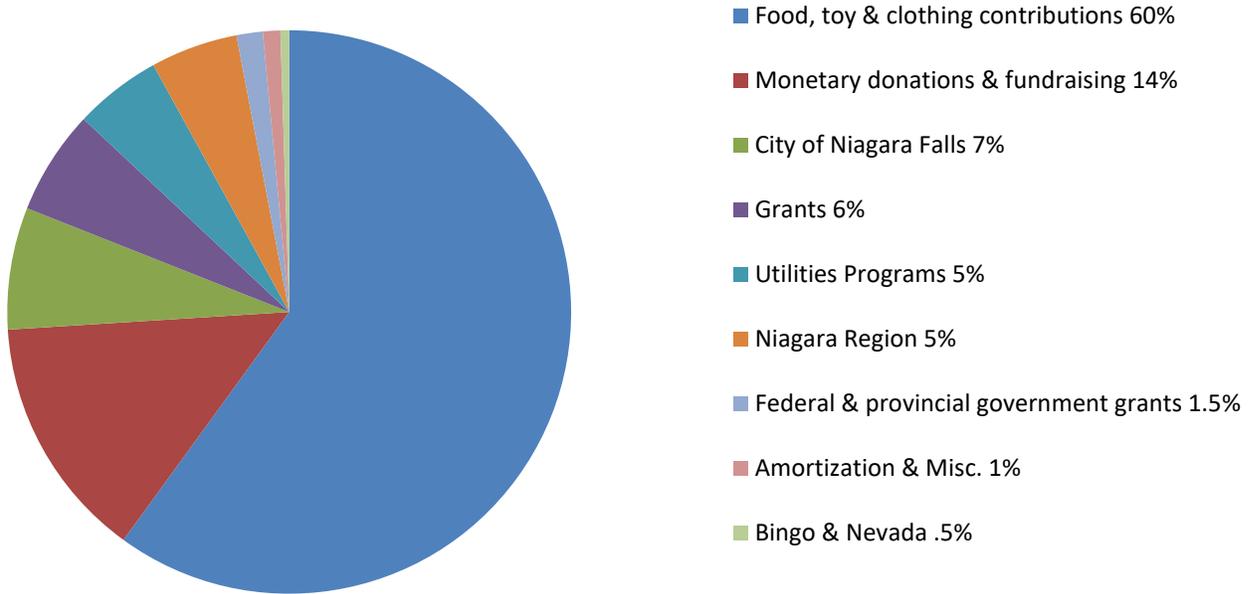
Our volunteers make it possible for us to operate.

THANK YOU!

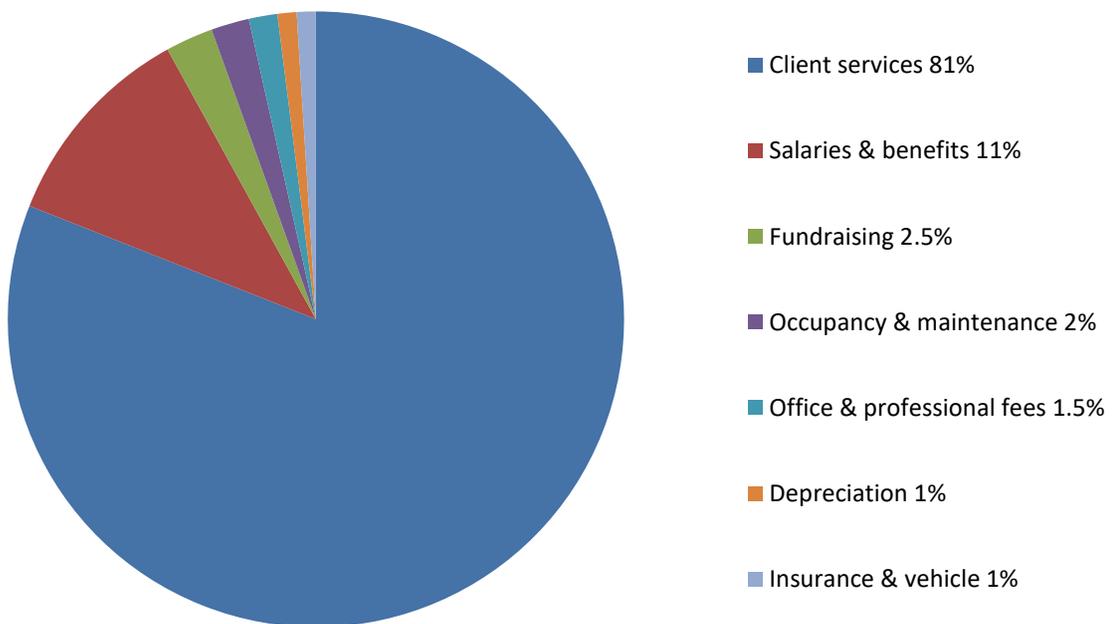
OUR FINANCES

a snapshot

2018-2019 Revenue \$4,149,475



2018-2019 Expenses \$4,206,880



OUR PROGRAMS

a s n a p s h o t

EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM

Clients can come once a month for both perishable and non-perishable groceries, and weekly for perishables including bread & produce.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Christmas program provides a holiday meal & gifts for children.

HOUSING AND INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT

Assistance with the search for affordable housing, Niagara Regional Housing applications, referrals & transportation to emergency shelters.

OUT OF THE COLD SHELTER PROGRAM

Overnight emergency shelter offered at St. Andrew's United Church from November-April for individuals experiencing homelessness.

UTILITY SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Emergency funding to prevent utility disconnection for gas or hydro. Other means of help include hydro deposit waiver letters along with referrals to partner agencies who may be able to assist further.

ONTARIO ELECTRICITY SUPPORT PROGRAM (OESP)

OESP helps low income individuals with a monthly credit towards their hydro bills.

COMMUNITY GARDENS & WORKSHOPS

Volunteers & clients tend plots at Our Lady of Scapular Church, The Gate Alliance Church & Westlane Secondary School that grow food for our Emergency Food Program as well as for their own need. Workshops teach the basics of gardening, preparing & preserving healthy produce to enhance clients' nutrition.

SHOE/BOOT PROGRAM

In memory of Carmen Elefante, shoes and boots (both new and used) are given to people in need of proper footwear. This program is reliant upon donations and funding is limited.

CLOTHING REFERRAL

Partnerships with Goodwill Industries and St. Andrew's United Church Shoulder to Shoulder Program provide clothing necessities.

LAUNDRY PROGRAM

Laundromat vouchers and laundry soap are given to families without facilities so they will have clean clothes and bedding.

RECREATION FUNDING

Project SHARE is a Niagara Falls partner for Canadian Tire Jumpstart, assisting children with the cost of playing organized sports and recreational activities. We also assist with recreation & leisure funding applications to the Bob Gale Recreation fund.

EMERGENCY PRESCRIPTION FUNDING

A partnership with Boggio & MacKinnon Pharmacy assists clients with emergency prescription expense once per year (pain-killers or narcotic products excluded)

OUR PROGRAMS

a s n a p s h o t

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Assistance with the cost of transportation in the form of a gas voucher or bus ticket to a medical appointment once per year. Families can also receive a local bus ticket to return home after accessing monthly services.

GIFT OF SIGHT PROGRAM

A partnership with Walmart to assist clients who are in need of eyeglasses without any other assistance available. The client pays for half of the cost for basic glasses.

BRUSHED ASIDE AND DENTAL CLEANING PROGRAMS

The United Way Niagara Brushed Aside program helps clients in need of dentures or extractions with an interest free loan of up to \$1000 with a minimum repayment of \$10 per month. The Dental Cleaning Program can cover the cost of one cleaning per client per year for those without coverage, when funding is available.

CLIENT EMPOWERMENT COMMITTEE

A group of people with lived experience of poverty who use the services of Project SHARE meet monthly for discussions to improve the day to day lives of families who live on a low income.

STREETWORKS PARTNERSHIP

Provides clients with harm reduction supplies. Staff are also trained in how to inject Naloxone which can temporarily reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM

Clients receive training in basic budgeting, income tax and the Canada Learning Bond in private sessions with intake staff. Workshops are offered in a group setting.

BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Students receive shoes, backpacks, snacks and school supplies through Snacks 'n' Sneakers in partnership with Canadian Tire Jumpstart or supplies through private donations.

RENTSMART ONTARIO

Tenants receive training in basics on successful renting one-on-one. Workshops are offered in a group setting with a goal to helping people retain and maintain adequate affordable housing.

***Project SHARE programs are funded in part by the
City of Niagara Falls
and the
Regional Municipality of Niagara
through the Niagara Prosperity Initiative.***