



Project **SHARE**

Our Community At Work

2017-2018 Annual Report



Message from the Chair:

In many ways, 2018 has been for me an eventful year. One of the more significant events for me is passing on the chairmanship of Project SHARE. It has been my privilege to have been Chair for the past 8 years and during that time we have seen many challenges and successes.

Over the years the demand for our services have increased greatly due to the economic uncertainty, decreasing employment opportunities and other factors out of our control. We have also had some challenges with respect to funding our programs. Donations fluctuate and we always found a way to survive. During this time we lost our United Way funding but at the same time increased our fundraising efforts.



Several years ago, we developed a strategic plan to provide a path for the future. I am pleased that all of the goals have been completed or are in process. This will ensure that we continue to serve our clients properly.

We are now beginning a new plan for the next 5 years with the goal of providing even better service while maintaining our excellent reputation in the community.

The challenges I see for the future are simple. We need to capitalize on our strengths and continue to adapt to the changes in our community to remain relevant.

The reason for our success is the fantastic people that surround us. From the terrific staff to the dedicated volunteers to the amazing board of directors.

I know that, with Irma as chair, Project SHARE will continue to serve the community well.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Pellow', written in a cursive style.

Brian Pellow, Chair Board of Directors 2017-2018

Message from the incoming Chair:

I am truly humbled and honoured to be taking on the role of the Chairperson of Project SHARE. During the past 5 years on the board, I have seen Project SHARE grow and evolve in so many areas. I look forward to continuing on this successful path and ensuring that the service we provide is maintained at our first priority. It is with great pleasure as I look forward to working with our community, donors, staff and board members.



Irma Sebastiano, Incoming Chair for 2018-2019



2017-2018 Board of Directors

Brian Pellow, Chair

Anna Luciano, Vice Chair

Jim Ferraro, Past Chair

Mick Wolfe, Treasurer

Lori Lococo, Secretary

Wayne Campbell, City Council Representative

Jillian Ali, Director

Trent Dark, Director

Julia Fabiano, Director

Paisley January-Pool, Director

Irma Sebastiano, Director

Ryan Serravalle, Director

Tom Snodgrass, Director

Message from the Executive Director:

I have had the privilege of working for Project SHARE since its inception on April 1, 1989 – the result of vision, research and evaluation of need by the Social Planning Council of Niagara Falls. Many residents who found themselves out of work in the late 1980s walked away from their homes in the middle of the night during this time of high mortgage and interest rates and recession. Everyone involved thought of the agency as a temporary solution to a crisis and that people would return to good, secure jobs and stable households.



Unfortunately we weren't able to close our doors. We are now facing a housing crisis with 0% vacancy rates for apartments in Niagara Falls and the cost of a house is more than most young families can afford. Our new programs – Rent Smart and Financial Literacy – help prevent homelessness by increasing the knowledge of tenants who live on low incomes.

People who ask for help are as different as possible. I remember the gratitude of a single mother who was supporting her twin boys by doing tailoring in the evenings who had broken her glasses. Tears flowed when a new pair was purchased, ensuring she could continue to support her family. We are seeing more and more newcomers to Canada who are facing so many challenges other than becoming fluent in a new language – English. Santosha, our International Food Educator from India, had never seen snow before and she told me she thought she might die, it was so cold! She taught our volunteers how to better serve the populations who rely on rice instead of potatoes and use beans and lentils in almost every dish.

All of our programs are helped by our volunteers, who are as diverse as the people we serve – retired professionals working alongside a single mom who had just been in for food and wanted to “give back.” I would like to thank the volunteers who keep our programs running. I would like to thank our Board of Directors for their dedication to our mission, vision and values, and our staff for their professionalism, hard work and client centered approach to helping others. I would also like to thank our donors for their commitment and partnership in ensuring none of our neighbours go hungry. We are all fighting the same enemy – poverty – and we are all working toward making the city of Niagara Falls a place where people flourish instead of just existing.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Corkum". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Diane Corkum, Executive Director

2017-2018 Staff:

Diane Corkum, Executive Director
Pam Sharp, Director Community Engagement
Joseph Veltri, Client Services Manager
Adam Warriner, Warehouse Manager/Events Coordinator

Kate Adams, Client Support Worker
Katie CuvIELlo, Fundraising Events Coordinator
Angela Di Martino, Financial Literacy Coordinator

Liz Dionne, Financial Administrator
Hayley Evans, Client Support Worker
SantoshA Goda, International Food Educator
Pat Inneo, Client Support Worker
Chantell Jolivet, Client Support Worker
Desiree Homolka, Brock University Intern
Jo Low, Garden & Wellness Educator
Janet Morettie, Food Room Coordinator
John Morse, Driver

Rachel Muscat, Administrative Assistant
Eliza Payette, Volunteer Program Assistant
Cathy Robertson, Financial Assistant/Financial Administrator
Shane McKee, Shipper Receiver
Carole Wallwork, Client Support Worker
Spencer Wyllie, Financial Literacy Coordinator



Hunger facts:

- Over 116 families came to Project SHARE every day for emergency services, resulting in help given 50,552 times
- 30% of those who received help from Project SHARE were children
- Niagara Poverty Reduction Network calculates the cost of living for a family of 4 in Niagara to be \$65,474, and the living wage to be \$17.99/hour
- 13,125 households in Niagara Falls are living on a low income



Our Community At Work:



831,525 lbs. of emergency food was distributed to 6,399 people



470 children were helped through our expanded Back to School Program. We started a new partnership with Canadian Tire Financial Services to host Snacks n Sneakers Days where children received new backpacks, sneakers and school supplies



197 families were connected with the Ontario Energy Support Program to receive a reduction in their electricity bill



With the financial support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Healthy Kids Community Fund we developed a new community garden and outdoor classroom partnering with Westlane Secondary School



15,343 volunteer hours were given



A new financial literacy program was launched, funded in part by the Niagara Region through the Niagara Prosperity Initiative



3,650 people received assistance in their search for adequate, affordable housing

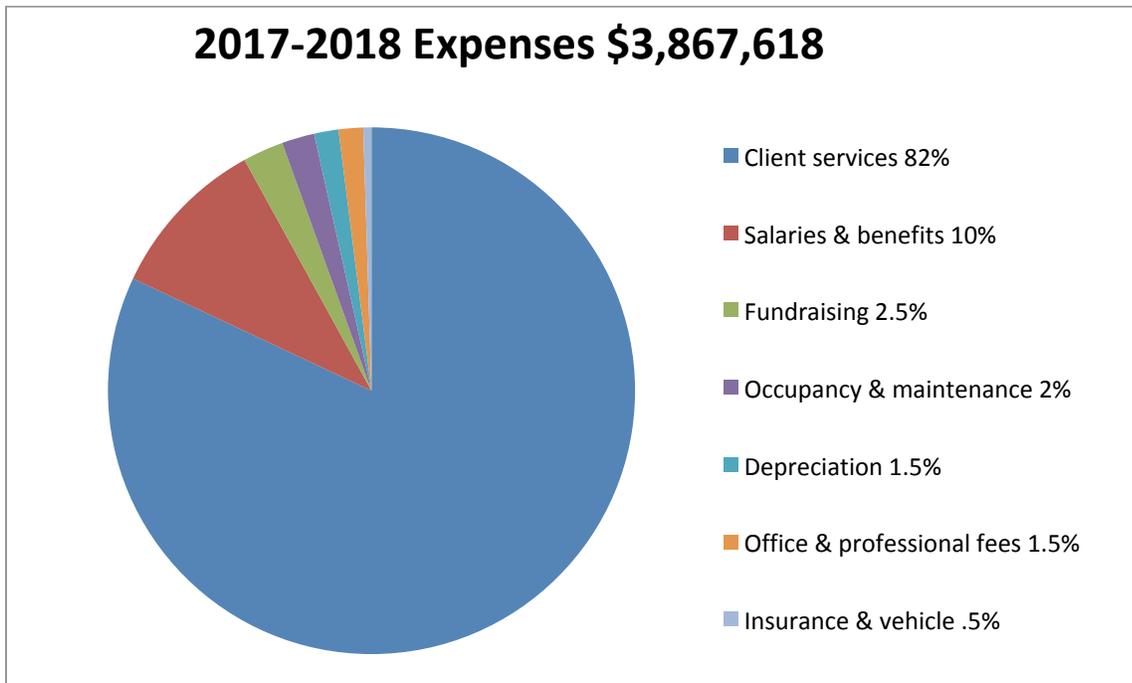
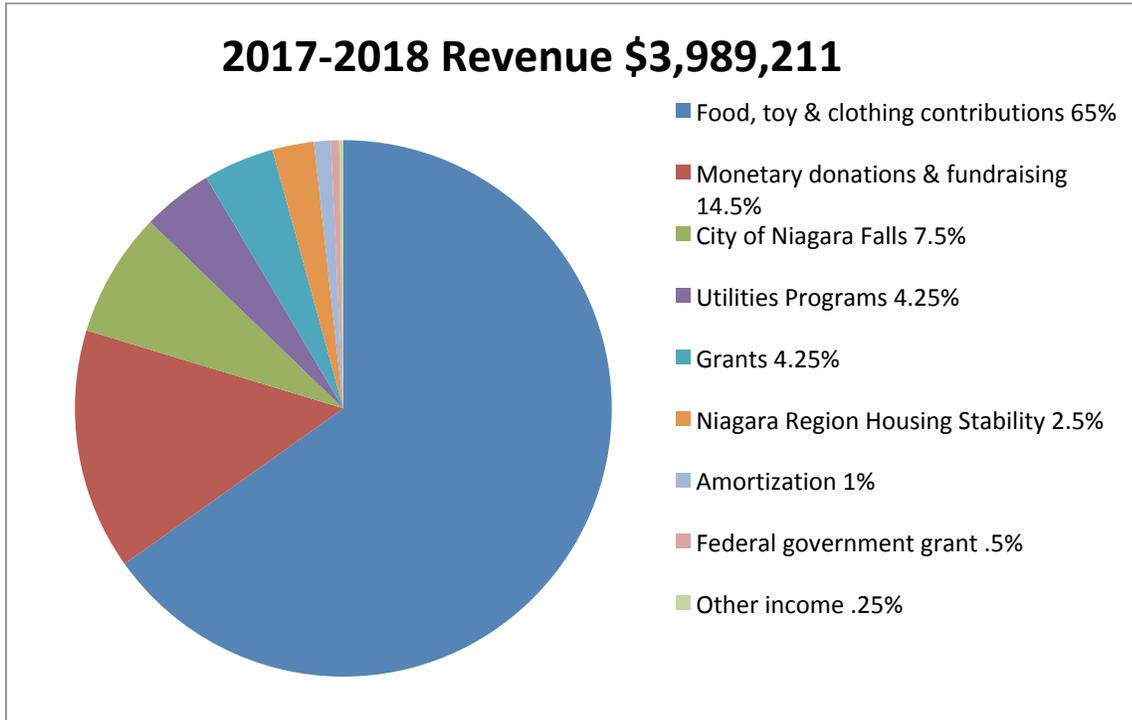


100 dental cleanings were provided to low income adults, funded in part by Green Shield Canada and the Niagara Region through the Niagara Prosperity Initiative



3,966 people were helped with food and gifts at Christmas

Financial Overview:



Our Programs:

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.

UTILITY SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Emergency funding to prevent utility disconnection. Other means of help include hydro or water deposits 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, Glengate Alliance Church & Westlane Secondary School that grow food for our Emergency Food Program as well as for their own need. Workshops offered teach the basics of gardening, preparing & preserving healthy produce grown in our community gardens to enhance clients' nutrition.

COMMUNITY ROOTS PROGRAM

Local students from age 4 to 19 participate in workshops focusing on nutrition, simple food preparation, the importance of a healthy diet and social justice issues.

SHOE/BOOT PROGRAM

In memory of Carmen Elefante, shoes and boots (both new and used) are given to people in need of proper footwear.

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 the Niagara Falls partner for Canadian Tire Jumpstart and The Big Play, 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

Assists clients with emergency prescription expense once per year (Project SHARE is not able to help with pain-killers or narcotic products)

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Funding for the cost of transportation to out of town emergency medical appointments. Families can also receive local transit tickets from Project SHARE to return home after accessing 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.

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.

RENT SMART 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, Niagara Region through the Niagara Prosperity Initiative and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.



None of our neighbours should go hungry

- Donate quickly & 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 on ways you can help call 905-357-5121 ext 35 or pam.s@projectshare.ca

Connect with us on social media!



ProjectSHARE_NF



Project SHARE of Niagara Falls



@ProjectSHARE_NF



Project SHARE of Niagara Falls



2-4129 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls ON L2E 7H3

905-357-5121

projectshare.ca

Charitable Registration Number 107861338RR0001