

WV

2008 - 09 ANNUAL REPORT

Enabling people of all abilities

Accessible Housing Society





LEADERSHIP MESSAGE



Thanks to Accessible Housing for their kindness. I really don't know how to express my gratitude but I can do things I couldn't before and that leaves me with a happy heart as I return home.

~ AHS Client

On the momentum of a transformational year, Accessible Housing Society delivered remarkable results in 2008-09. With a new service framework firmly established, AHS began the year focused and ready to address community need, and that is exactly what we did.

Since the completion of the United Way funded research study on People with Physical Disabilities and [In]appropriate Housing In Calgary, AHS has focused on two urgent priorities—the need for greater advocacy on issues of inclusiveness using the concept of universal design, and the need to expand the range of housing options for persons with physical disabilities and mobility issues, as a benchmark for equality.

AHS was fortunate to receive funding this year for a Community Development Specialist to assist with its key priorities, and to engage service providers, landlords, builders, government, and community members with lived experience. The goal is to develop a local collective voice to address issues of accessibility related to housing. Much of this work has already begun, with the formation of the Affordable and Accessible Housing Working Group, a committee comprised of representatives from various sectors and the community. Thank you to all of the participants for your energy, insight, and ongoing commitment.

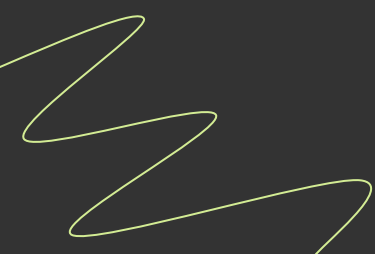
As we reflect on the past year, there is little doubt that what made 2008-09 truly remarkable was the acquisition of a new supported living facility in the community of Mount Pleasant. This was a momentous achievement for the Society that directly increases the inventory and range of housing options for our population. In the coming months, this facility will provide housing, personal care, and support services for up to eight individuals with physical disabilities and mobility issues.

An added feature of the Mount Pleasant initiative is that half of the individuals served will be people experiencing homelessness, which means the scope of our work in the community will expand. This is a welcomed opportunity for AHS and a strong indication that we are responding to the diverse and changing needs of our community. This initiative would not have been possible without the tremendous support of our partners and funders, who provide the resources to keep our programs operating at full capacity. We thank you for your sustained commitment to AHS and to the housing needs of our community clients.

We also want to recognize our staff and volunteers. These are the people who produce our achievements and address community need on the front lines—for this we are truly grateful. With the support of our staff and volunteers, board members, community partners, funders and donors, we look forward to another dynamic year, and to enabling people of all abilities through the creation of new housing opportunities.

QUENTIN SINCLAIR
ACTING BOARD CHAIRPERSON

SORAYA SALIBA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





Choice is the foundation for independence



Outreach & Assessment Services

Outreach and Assessment Services (OA&S) operates two programs that share one common purpose—to create housing opportunities for individuals with mobility issues. While one program seeks to locate and obtain housing, the other works to keep people in their homes. Both aim to shelter, maximize independence, and improve quality of life.

This year, the AHS Housing Registry and Residential Assessment and Design (RAD) program served a combined 380 clients, a number that keeps pace with last year's ten per cent increase over the previous year. To sustain this growth, we continued to provide clients with home assessments, barrier-free design information and drawings, assistance with funding applications, and connections to contractors. We also matched clients accessibility requirements with available units, and provided linkages to other social resources. These efforts resulted in 85 clients completing proposed accessibility modifications and/or obtaining appropriate housing in the fiscal year.

Equally notable are the connections that were reinforced and established within the housing and service provider community. A long standing relationship with Horizon Housing became stronger as 11 new accessible units were designated for clients of AHS. We also continued to build on our relationship with Trinity Place Foundation, a long-time friend and partner of our Society. And as the organization evolves with the needs of the community, our program has responded by partnering with the Mustard Seed to assist in the creation of an accessible emergency shelter, and to establish a referral process for clients to obtain housing at our new Mount Pleasant facility.

As we prepare for the coming year, we take with us an understanding of the complex needs of our clients. As part of this recognition, our priority going forward is to integrate a broader support system into the program as a way to further enable clients of all abilities to thrive in their homes and in the community long-term.



KRISTA CATAFORD
PROGRAM MANAGER

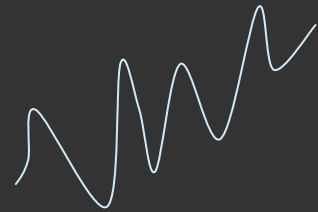
OUTREACH & ASSESSMENT SERVICES

Finding my way home—a journey to appropriate housing: client testimonial

It's been a long road to my new home. I have been diagnosed with a progressive illness called muscular dystrophy. This illness causes severe muscle dysfunction and weakness. I've been frustrated by the lack of affordable and accessible housing available in Calgary.

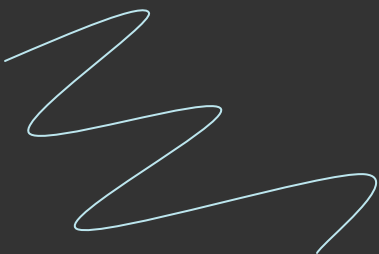
The reality is that it's not my illness that causes stress, it's my living environment that causes me to be more disabled. I'd been couch surfing and approaching the edge of homelessness for some time. My living situation was getting worse until I contacted Accessible Housing Society. The AHS Housing Registry has worked diligently to find a permanent place that is both affordable and accessible—to ensure I remain independent despite my illness.

After much time and energy, and even a few setbacks, I have a place to call home. It's accessible, affordable, and they provide residents with supports.

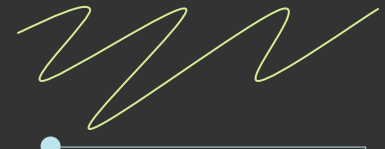


"I don't want some mansion in the mountain, just something that is affordable and accessible, and as you know, like a laundry room in the apartment or house so we don't have to carry laundry around."

~ AHS Client



Residential Care & Support Services



Mount Pleasant Supportive Living



Chinook House



McLaurin Village



Fourth Dimension (4D) Group Home

In 2008-09, the Residential Care and Support Services (RCSS) program continued to encourage maximum independence, community integration, recreation and leisure, employment and education, and the development of life skills. We did this by providing residents with appropriate housing, and by maintaining the highest standards of care in the residences that we operate.

In reflecting on the 2008-09 fiscal year, my starting point must be to recognize the work that has been done to increase the availability of housing options for future residents of the Society. The acquisition of a new supported living facility in the community of Mount Pleasant gives RCSS another platform to encourage persons with physical disabilities and mobility issues, and allows AHS to deliver on its commitment to create housing opportunities. With this initiative, we look forward to expanding our capabilities and to extending our support to the individuals who will live and thrive at our new site.

In the process of expanding our operations, we also took significant strides to enhance the services at existing locations. We developed the first resident information handbook for 4D, which outlines everything a resident may need to know about the facility and its operations. We improved our admission procedures, including policies, applications for service, eligibility criteria, and intake assessments. We developed a vision statement for our program, based on the Society's guiding statement. We implemented social, leisure and recreation opportunities. And as residents progressed, we developed goal planning and review processes at all three residential locations.

This year, RCSS looks to enhance evaluations and outcomes that support resident services, and to work toward our vision of enabling residents to maximize their independence through self care, the development of life skills, community integration, recreation and leisure, and employment and education.

CARRIE FIELD
PROGRAM MANAGER
RESIDENTIAL CARE & SUPPORT SERVICES

A better life at the Fourth Dimension (4D) group home: resident testimonial

I got in, I must be dreaming. I have been at 4D for two month's now and after what I have been through, I will never take this place for granted. Someone recently asked how I liked my new place. This is how I answered—I get to sleep until 8 a.m. or 9 a.m., if I want, or I get up at 7 a.m., if needed. I have the freedom to go out past 8 p.m. AHS will still help me if I go to a movie. I'm no longer tied to the time of others. I'm allowed to have a life.

I have eaten more fruit and vegetables in the first three days at 4D than I was fed in five month's at the last place. We have a cook who makes such good meals—veggies everyday, and fruit as well. It brings a smile to my face to see that they do my laundry twice a week and clean my wheelchair every week. Residents at 4D are truly free, yet looked after; residents are also worry free as far as living, eating, and being cared for is concerned.

Accessible Housing Society can hold its head high. My life was saved. I went from a dark place to the beacon of hope that is 4D.



"I think I am receiving exceptional care and am staying in good health. That's all I can ask." ~ AHS Resident

Community Development

Much like the foundations laid for AHS in 1974, now those foundations are being reinforced to construct a stronger community and organization embracing safe, affordable/barrier-free housing in Calgary. How will we accomplish such a mission? I suggest not only through the dedicated work and collective action between our clientele, volunteers and staff people, but through mobilizing our communities to address our housing needs.


This year, Community Development has expanded its foundations through connections with civic and provincial government officials, through membership on relevant committees and boards, through consultation with those having lived experience and professionals working with people having varied physical disabilities. We have initialized partnerships with committed stakeholders who possess the interest and influence to create positive change.

The three "branches" of this foundational work will continue to be: 1) the governmental sector; 2) the private sector and 3) the sector both surrounding and involving those with lived experience. The first word in Community Development is where we will witness hope, growth and reaching toward our overall vision; for "community" actually means "a coming together; a mutual caring for one another; and having a sense of togetherness.



MARK IANTKOW

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST



"To live comfortably and at peace with ourselves in comfortable housing."

~ AHS Client



Fund Development & Communications

In the report delivered last year, it was noted that FD&C had acquired capital funding for the purchase of a new group home. The department added to that result this year by securing operational funding for its new facility. The funding is for a Case Worker position, which allows AHS to reach beyond the provision of basic care to assist residents to further maximize their independence.

Despite operating in an increasingly difficult fundraising environment, FD&C was able to generate nearly \$30k in general donations to offset program gaps and build capacity. Sustainable funding was also secured for core programs, and for the addition of a Community Development position to assist the Society with emerging priorities and to build a collective voice around accessibility.

FD&C also developed public awareness of the Society's purpose and activities through the production of educational materials and information including a bi-annual newsletter, banner stand, brochures, and the annual report.

As we embark on a new year and a new set of opportunities, I thank our funders, donors, volunteers and community partners for your tremendous commitment and continued contribution to AHS.



JASON YULE

MANAGER,

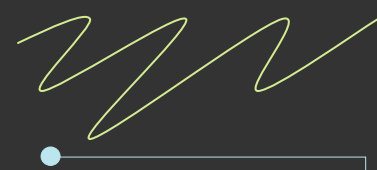
DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS

"AHS provides me with a stable and comfortable place that helps me to maintain my ties with my community network."

~ AHS Resident



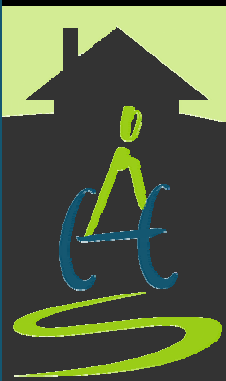
Condensed Financial Statements



Accessible Housing Society

Statement of operations year ended March 31, 2008

Revenues	March 2009	March 2008
Government Funding	1,134,138	1,084,118
Residents' Rental	113,786	106,463
Interest	4,653	6,954
Memberships	-	85
Deferred Contributions — Expended during the Year	197,642	218,944
Amortization of Deferred Contributions — Capital Assets	26,487	25,015
Other Income & Donations	125,966	128,610
Sub-total	1,602,672	1,570,189



"The assistance staff provide enables me to continue to be as independent as possible and also to continue working."

~ AHS Resident



Expenditures	March 2009	March 2008
Administration Staff/Client Development Staff	1,173,551	1,191,688
Direct Client Costs	35,431	33,564
Depreciation	49,572	49,712
Facility Expenses	209,936	202,584
Interest on Mortgage	16,635	17,049
Administration Expenses	129,796	104,563
Sub-total	1,614,921	1,599,160
Excess (deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures	(12,249)	(28,971)

Phone: (403) 282-1872
 Fax: (403) 284-0304
 Website: www.ahscalgary.ca
 Registered Charity Number: 10668-2032-RR0001

Staff & volunteers

Soraya Saliba	Roberta Allen
Carrie Field	Kayla Simonsen
Jason Yule	Shana NG
Krista Cataford	Anne Berlinguette
Mark Iantkow	Dave McKinney
Ryan Arsenault	Charo Brown
Joleen Nielsen	Clinton St. John
Valerie Lonsdale	Joyce Ogunleye
Barb Filkohazy	Maureen Zhauki
Jack Sim	Adenike Oseni (Niki)
Cameron Schnurr	Oscar Jarquin
Natalie Walcott	Harmena Radsma
Gloria Vazquez	Melanie Johnson
Barbara McLarty	Katrina McInnis
Janice Miller	April Noel
Sherife Alizoti	Diana Alexandrova
Margarita Salazar	Rachel Giek
Maroucha Sirakova	Clement Uwoghiren
Hydie Symes	
John Zhou	

Board of Directors 2008-09

Quentin Sinclair , Chair Canadian Mental Health Association	Jake Mayell , Director Mayell Architect Ltd.
Dennis Auger , Treasurer KPMG	David McElhanney , Director Consultant
Jessica Armstrong , Secretary Resident Director	Peggy Morton , Director Alberta Health Services
Monique Britten , Director Hallmark Tubulars Ltd.	Ex Officio Soraya Saliba , AHS Executive Director
Brenda Jack , Director Alberta Health Services	

Contributors 2008-09

FUNDERS

Calgary Region Community Board
for Persons with Developmental
Disabilities—PDD

United Way of Calgary and Area

Calgary Homeless Foundation

The Calgary Foundation

Catholic Charities Foundation

Alberta Seniors and Community
Supports

Community Initiatives Program

Alberta Real Estate Board

Anonymous Donor

DONORS

7-Eleven

Edmond Aboussafy

George Adam

Terry and Janet Allen

Alliance Pipeline Limited

Bill Christensen

ARC Resources

Debra Brabant

Evelyn Brandt

Carma Developers

Canadian Oil Sands

Shirley Clark

John Collins

Sawgrass Investments Ltd.

Janet Dewar

Encana

Patrice and Richard Henson

Julie Hirsche

Husky Oil/Mohawk

Wendy Jabusch

John Jaggard

Gerald Knowlton

Wilhelm and Gladys Kunsch

Teddy Lawrence

Eugenie Love

Jake Mayell

Ross and Maria Mirka

Richard Odland

Sue Pearson

Peter Boland & Associates

Pipella & Co.

Rice Financial

Roger Smith

Rod Tomlinson

Dennis and Maida Wearmouth

Ed Wollbaum

Rod Ziebarth



*"The great care leads to good
lives for AHS residents."*

~ AHS Resident

