



Annual Report

2008

Horizons for Youth Annual Report 2008

President's Report

It is always amazing just how quickly a year can go by. It seems like I just finished writing the summary of my first year as Board President at Horizons and I have now been asked for another one!

What strikes me when I reflect on the past year is the blending of change and constant that makes up every twelve month period. At Horizons, we have experienced much change during the last year. The economic crisis has hit the City hard and has put pressure on Horizons in so many ways. On the one hand, it increases the need for our many services.

Families on the edge get pushed over it in situations like this and Horizons is a vital place of safety for many youth. At the same time though, the economy puts pressure on the generous individuals, foundations and corporations that support our work. I want to take this opportunity to issue a special thanks to all those who continue to support us in this difficult time, especially given our increased needs. There was also change this year as we moved Career Horizons to a beautiful new space at Yonge and Eglinton. I would like to thank Brad Butt, President of the Greater Toronto Apartment Association for his assistance in securing this location.

But things stay the same as well. In particular the commitment and passion of all of the people working at Horizons, and their dedication to the youth of Toronto never change. We continue to evolve from being a Shelter to being an agency serving the youth of Toronto in many ways. I want to thank Filomena, Kelly, Dwight and all of the staff at Horizons for their dedication and look forward to more successes in the future!

Dave Ross, President

From the Desk of the Executive Director

I am pleased to write my first message in the 2008 Annual Report as Executive Director of Horizons for Youth. Last July, I started my new role anticipating a hard year of establishing myself as the new Executive Director in the midst of an economic downturn. It was hard not to worry with constant reports of layoffs and business failures. I prepared myself and the staff to embrace tough times ahead. Ironically, I learned a valuable lesson from the youth in the shelter. The news of pending gloom and tough times ahead of us seemed to have little impact on them. Although very young in age, the youth did not seem to be impacted by the uncertainty of our economy. Our youth seemed to be experts in dealing with vulnerability, poverty, hunger and loss.

Faced with such inner strength gave me the courage and creativity to motivate staff and supporters of our organization. Thankfully our supporters continued to believe in the work that we do, the impact of our intervention and continued to donate generously. Our Umbrella Day campaign in 2008 not only increased awareness of the plight of homeless youth, but it raised \$20,975 to help us continue and enhance educational and recreational programs for our residents. Furthermore, our 2nd Annual 'Racing for a Reason' Corporate Dinner at Woodbine Racetrack raised \$35,355.

Horizons for Youth continues to provide services and programs to homeless youth because of the support we receive from The City of Toronto, United Way, foundations, corporations and many individual donors. Despite the economic situation, the ongoing support we have received this past year is an indication that society has faith that with effective intervention, a vulnerable young population will succeed.

In closing, I would like to thank all the staff, volunteers, and Board of Directors at Horizons for Youth for their continued efforts and commitment to the clients and services we provide. As always, Horizons for Youth is under tight budget constraints and all donations make a huge difference in the lives of the youth we serve.

Filomena Williams, Executive Director

Horizons for Youth Annual Report 2008

Shelter Services' Report

The Year 2008 has been a difficult year for many of us. Many people have lost their jobs or are living in fear of losing their jobs. People have lost their homes and savings. Many who have never been in need of services, such as Unemployment Benefits and Ontario Works are learning first hand about these programs.

This has been a hard time for families when resources are limited, tensions run high and a situation that may have been manageable is no longer. We have seen many new young faces entering our doors and accessing our services for the first time.



We have also seen a marked decrease in the amount of donations that are made in terms of food and at the exact same time, we have see an increased demand on our shelter to feed the youth who live here, and from those who access Horizons for Youth for community support meals and food to take home to help make ends meet.

We are still here and we will assist our youth in these difficult times. We will work harder to ensure that they feel safe, receive adequate food and shelter, and start the work they need to do to find their way home.

Mental health issues are on the rise and we search for creative ways to meet the needs of young people who may be experiencing anxiety, depression, and the onset of schizophrenia.

It is times like these when places like Horizons for Youth show their true colours. Our team of dedicated Case Managers show their true colours everyday, as they ensure that our clients know that when they come to Horizons there will always be a friendly smile, a handshake, something warm to eat, and someone who cares about them. I am inspired everyday by their ability to plant seeds of hope in the young people they serve and to wait patiently to see new growth.

In closing, please let me take this opportunity to thank our donors and supporters for your continued support. We are grateful for your loyalty and we will continue to support our youth through this time of need.

Kelly Ferguson, Shelter Services Manager

Horizons for Youth Annual Report 2008

Day Program

The Horizons for Youth Day Program has undergone a number of changes over the last year. In 2008, the Day Program lost Danielle Harris as the facilitator, as she returned to school to obtain a Masters Degree in Social work. Danielle was replaced by Nina Rice- Pannel in September 2008. Nina came to Horizons for Youth with a background in music, art and a passion for knitting.

The structure and focus of our programs remains the same. Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm, we offer discussion based groups, workshops, life skills, group counselling and educational programs, combined with experiences outside of the shelter that incorporate community, physical activity, and entertainment. Our goal is to provide programs and experiences that will teach life skills, conflict resolution and emotional management. Ultimately, our focus is to provide youth who leave Horizons with the skills necessary to participate fully in their communities and create positive life experiences for themselves.

Art has always been an important focus within the Day Program, and this past year we have expanded on the already existing programs. Creative Arts continues to be a regular program at Horizons, one which has been very popular with our residents. In addition to this a Creative Writing Program, using activities that foster storytelling and expressing individual experiences has also been incorporated into the Day Program. Knitting is another program that has had success in the past year. Especially over the fall and winter months, knitting provides youth with practical skills they can take away from the program, gaining the ability to make their own scarves, hats and even clothes. Knitting has a number of positive effects, including fostering a sense of calm and increasing self esteem. The Day Program has also recently partnered with the SEDI program. SEDI is a national non-profit organization that uses innovative approaches to help low-income Canadians reach self-sufficiency. They have assisted us in facilitating our money management workshops with a focus on three areas: financial literacy, asset-building and entrepreneurship. Visit www.sedi.org for more information.

In 2008 we received a generous donation of six acoustic guitars, and with this contribution, we were able to start a guitar program at Horizons. Music lessons are something that many of the youth who stay at Horizons never had the opportunity to experience. Lessons are often expensive and require the purchase of musical instruments, equipment and music books. We are now able to offer the chance to learn guitar basics, including beginner's music theory and some simple chord progressions.

As one can see, the Day Program has made significant strides in the past year and we hope to continue the great work. Thank you to all of our donors who have helped make the Day Program such a success and positively impact the many youth who participate in our various activities.

Dwight Miller, Programs Manager

Horizons for Youth Annual Report 2008

Housing Report

When a resident of Horizons for Youth comes to seek housing services, they are initially looking to find their own place in the community with the financial support of Social Services. The realities become very real to them when they are given the eligibility amounts and provided with rental market rates. Their attitudes shift quite quickly with the barriers and realities presented to them. Through the housing intake and assessment process, residents are identifying more with what issues they need to work on to become housed independently. As well, they are being supported on how to work around their barriers to attain their ultimate housing goals. Providing housing services to our residents is not just about giving them listings and having them call landlords. It is about educating them on Ontario Works, ODSP, Toronto Social Housing Connections, Supportive Housing options, Employment programs, Maternity Homes, Tenant Rights and the Residential Tenancies Act, eviction prevention and the eviction process. It is about helping them deal with being discriminated against and looked upon as being irresponsible. It is on a larger scale about connecting them with landlords who will work with them and not against them.

One major change within the Housing Service this year has been that residents are being case managed through housing services. They are identifying their housing barriers and residing at the shelter until they can overcome those barriers and continue with their housing plan. This has enabled outcomes, such as those seen since September 2008. Residents that are getting housed are keeping their housing and staying connected through the Community Support Services. Since September 2008, the Housing Department has housed 28 residents, both in supportive and private market housing. To date none of these clients have ended up back at Horizons for Youth. Feedback given to the Housing Department has been positive and youth are sharing that at Horizons for Youth we have extended our services beyond just "housing help."

As a Housing Worker, my main goal is and will continue to be to provide residents with all the knowledge they will need to sustain their housing and to support them in breaking down their history of homelessness.

Luisa Tabone, Housing Worker

Community Support and Outreach

Community Support has been redefined here at Horizons in 2008. Our youth are being housed appropriately, with the focus on quality rather than quantity. An average of 60 clients were provided community support services each month at Horizons for Youth in 2008. Our records for 2008 show with the supports given, Community Support clients are maintaining their housing and are integrating more successfully in their communities. Community Support continues to provide the standard services to our youth living in the community, such as; providing monthly tokens, access to Horizons for meals and to our laundry facilities.

The following number of clients were provided with the following services on average each month for 2008:

TTC Tokens: 46 (an average of 4 tokens per month, 1104 tokens given out yearly), Food Packages: 36 (an average of 2 per month, 864 food packages given in 2008), Horizons' Laundry Facilities: 15, Phone Contact: 46, Care Packages: 10, Household Packages: 3, Horizons' visits: 40, Accompanied to appointments: 4, Community Resources Referrals: 24, Meals at Horizons: 15, and Home Visits: 7.

The Community Support Department serves an average of 75 youth per month, with myself attending up to 10 youth on some days, visiting outreach clients in their homes for reasons such as; monthly care packages, counselling and referrals in the community. As other shelters in the city, we have a food bank, supplied through Second Harvest and North York Harvest, where our youth are increasingly relying on accessing our food packages.

In 2008, Community Support made huge strides and we hope to continue this trend and offer even more services in the New Year with your support.

Horizons for Youth Annual Report 2008

Career Horizons

In March of 2008, Career Horizons launched its first pre-employment workshop. The program was partially supported by the Paloma Foundation, IBM, JVS, and the City of Toronto. The goal of the Career Horizons' program remained constant; to serve youth currently residing in shelters, those youth at risk of losing their housing, maintaining competitive employment and allowing individuals who may not have had access to the tools needed to secure stable employment.

From the start it became clear to the Career Horizons' staff that not only did our youth lack access to tools needed to secure and maintain employment, they faced many more personal obstacles, which impacted their ability to gain employment. Our Program Coordinators Rehana Logel and Barbora Sabova worked diligently with each youth in the program to create individual case plans, which included housing plans, medical appointments/treatments, legal, educational, family, counselling and of course employment.

In addition to the above mentioned additional services provided by Career Horizons, the program was able to adapt to individual needs to assist with skill development. The youth were provided with pre-employment workshops that focused on the skills needed to have long lasting success in the labour market.

In December of 2008, the Career Horizons program moved from 37 Varna to George Brown College for one month, where the last workshop of the year was completed during a period of transition. The program has since moved to a permanent location at 411 Duplex in the Yonge and Eglinton Centre.

In 2008, 58 males 38 females and 1 transgendered person were served. The participants in the Career Horizons program have learned a wide variety of skills from both Rehana and Barbora, who have made it their personal goals to have every youth in the program employed. Many partnerships have also been created over the year with guest speakers, partner agencies and other youth shelters. We are very happy with our first year's accomplishments and we cannot wait to see what 2009 brings for our Career Horizons Program.

Dwight Miller, Programs Manager

Individualized Case Management

What is a hero? Someone who is not afraid, doesn't worry, and always knows what to do. Or is a hero someone who is afraid but keeps on trying and is willing to take risks and believe when others don't? Our line-up of Front Line Workers at Horizons for Youth are our heroes. Our dedicated team of Front Line Workers at Horizons for Youth are the core of what we do. They are some of the most optimistic, hard working, and patient people I have ever been in contact with.

This energetic team has made it their mission to aid our youth in any way possible and their diversity enables us to provide counselling and support for a number of different issues, including; addictions, abuse, sexuality, employment, mental health issues, and an abundance of others. As a team, we hope to continue providing supportive counselling to our clients to allow them to reach their goals. Thank you team for your hard work and dedication in 2008.

Kelly Ferguson, Shelter Services Manager

Horizons for Youth Annual Report 2008

Development Report

The year 2008 has been another exciting year at Horizons for Youth. Once again you, our donors, including individuals and corporations, have made the commitment to help homeless youth with your generous donations.

As it was my first full year on the job, I was continuously learning and gaining new experiences, all while trying to expand our reach within the community. One thing that was very evident from the beginning and continues to be ever more important, was the skill of multi-tasking. Whether it is corresponding with donors, writing communication pieces, or organizing an event, every day is different in development.

The year 2008 was exciting and tiring, but most importantly, it was a year of great learning for me. Looking back, I would not have had it any other way. I have tremendous appreciation and respect for the youth that benefit from our services, and by watching and learning from them, I have gained greater insight into their plight.

In one year, we were able to have our most successful Umbrella Day ever, increase our third party events, increase the size and scope of our Woodbine Event, increase our in-kind donations, team up with the United Way Days of Caring, establish a Volunteer Program, revamp our Development Committee, establish our relationships with other agencies, continue to receive a tremendous amount of support from our major sponsors, and create a 3 year strategic plan for the Development Department moving forward.

Moving Forward

As Horizons for Youth moved forward in 2008, we accomplished many feats. As a result of creating awareness of our cause, our Third Party Events increased. We have support from all sorts of groups, including a group of Ryerson students putting on a concert on our behalf, high school students doing a bake sale, and a group who hosted a charity casino night, just to name a few.

We increased our marketing in the community by teaming up with the United Way Days of Caring Initiative. This involves the United Way organizing groups of volunteers from corporations to do a day of volunteering in various agencies within the city. We have had so many groups come through our doors; and I am happy to report that our upstairs hallways are now beautifully painted and our garden expertly landscaped!

Another result of getting our name out in the community, is the establishment of a Volunteer Program in late 2008 which has taken off with a total of 30 volunteers helping out throughout the week here at Horizons. Volunteers are doing everything from helping out in the Day Program, to preparing lunch, tutoring, and administrative duties. We could not have accomplished as much as we did in 2008 without the help of our many volunteers. Thank you!

Keith Clarke, Development Associate

5th Annual Umbrella Day

Our 5th Annual Umbrella Day was our most successful yet, as we raised \$20,975.00 for our shelter. We expanded our event this year to include 11 locations both in the TTC and the PATH. Umbrella Day is Horizons' signature event where staff and volunteers collect donations and give a gift of an umbrella for those who gave \$20 or more. Special thanks to our long time event sponsors, Headline Sponsor - Guarding Group of Funds and our Premium Sponsor - Scotia Capital for once again supporting us in a time of need.

The Umbrella Day Public Awareness Campaign once again accomplished our two main goals; raising awareness of the issue of youth homelessness and raising much needed funds for our shelter. Thank you to all Horizons for Youth staff, Board Members, former and current clients, as well as the many important volunteers, who took the time to help us raise money throughout the day on April 17th, 2008.

Horizons for Youth Annual Report 2008

2nd Annual 'Racing for a Reason' Dinner

On Wednesday, June 25th, Horizons for Youth hosted Integrated Asset Management's 2nd Annual 'Racing for a Reason' Dinner at Woodbine Racetrack. Once again, it was a huge success, as we managed to raise \$35,355.00. This could not have been done without the hard work and dedication from our Chair, Mr. John Robertson, whose tireless efforts do not go unnoticed.

We expanded the dinner again this year and moved downstairs to the Trackside Tent at Woodbine Racetrack, overlooking the renowned E.P. Taylor Turf Course. The Trackside Tent proved to have all the luxuries of the indoors, in the great outdoors, including exquisite food and beverage service.

During the course of the evening, guests enjoyed the delights of Executive Chef Joseph Lesch, heart touching speeches, and nine races from our private patio. Overall the evening was fun and exciting and we could not have raised the amount we did without the support of our corporate sponsors and the on-going generosity of Woodbine Entertainment Group for their sponsorship and providing the venue again this year.

This year we were able to fill 15 tables with corporate support from; Integrated Asset Management, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP, Kodak Canada, Deloitte and Touche, Cassels Brock and Blackwell LLP, Roynat Capital, PricewaterhouseCoopers, ThorntonGroutFinnigan, The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario, Cushman Wakefield LePage LLP, Marsulex, Contrans Income Fund, Manulife Financial and Integrated Private Debt.

Thank you to all those who attended and made this year's event our most successful yet! Your support will directly help homeless youth living at Horizons and give them a chance to get back on their feet.



Occupancy Statistics Comparison

Month	Occupancy 2008	Occupancy % 2008	Occupancy 2007	Occupancy % 2007
January	735	67.74%	1,061	97.8%
February	936	95.51%	810	82.7%
March	836	77.05%	881	81.2%
April	832	79.24%	802	76.4%
May	918	84.61%	897	82.7%
June	989	94.19%	699	66.6%
July	890	82.03%	794	73.2%
August	857	78.99%	970	89.4%
September	840	80.00%	846	80.6%
October	962	88.66%	901	83.0%
November	979	93.24%	776	73.9%
December	778	71.71%	712	65.6%
TOTALS	10,552	82.75%	10,149	79.4%

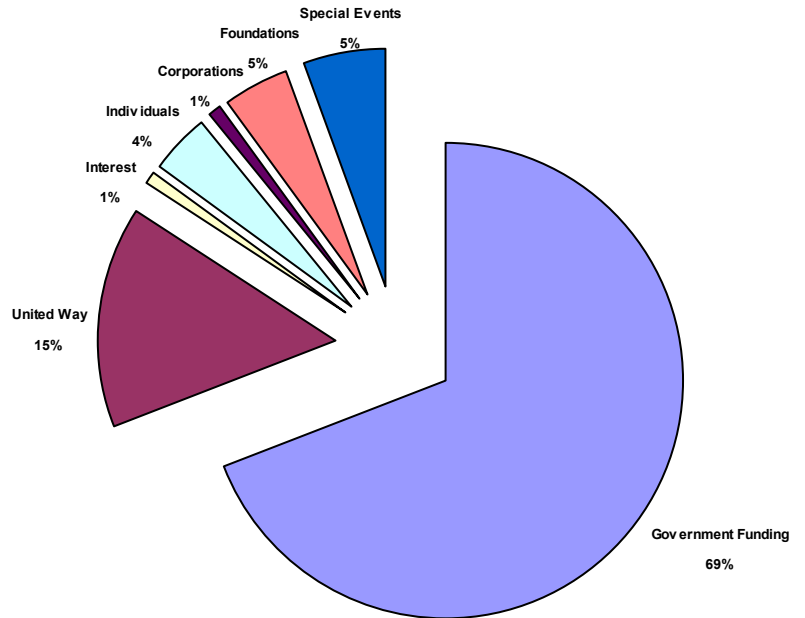
Horizons for Youth Annual Report 2008

Financial Statement

Revenue

Government Funding	\$ 842,588
United Way	\$ 181,725
Interest & Other Income	\$ 10,907
Individuals & Membership	\$ 49,466
Corporations	\$ 10,865
Foundations	\$ 55,980
Special Events	\$ 66,680

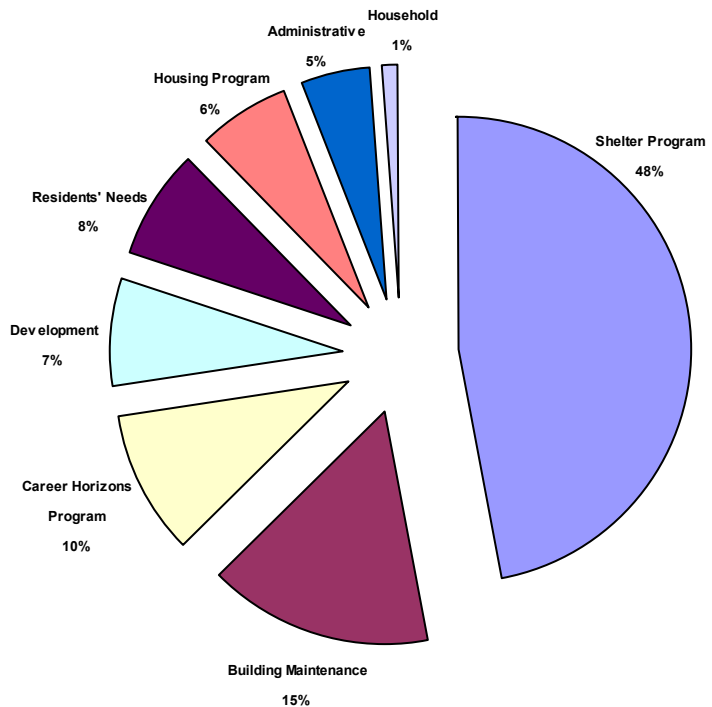
Total Revenue \$ 1,218,211



Expenditures

Shelter Program	\$ 592,251
Building Maintenance	\$ 194,304
Career Horizons Program	\$ 124,986
Development	\$ 94,005
Residents' Needs	\$ 97,433
Housing Program	\$ 80,382
Administrative	\$ 60,275
Household	\$ 14,643

Total Expenditures \$ 1,258,279



Annual Report 2008

A Special Thank You to our 2008 Donors of Distinction

Greater Toronto Apartment Association in Trust ~ The Paloma Foundation ~

REALTORS Care Foundation ~ Eastman Kodak Charitable Trust ~ Integrated Asset Management

Corp. ~ F.K. Morrow Foundation ~ Deloitte & Touche Foundation ~ Ad Club of Toronto ~

Woodbine Entertainment Group ~ The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario ~

Dr. Mohsen Assaad ~ Guardian Group of Funds

The Hustler Young Men's Bible Class Foundation ~ Kodak Canada ~ Marsulex Inc. ~

Scotia Capital ~ Contrans Services LP ~ Integrated Private Debt Corp. ~ Roynat Inc ~ Fifth Wheel Corp. ~

Borden Ladner Gervais LLP ~ Cassels Brock and Blackwell LLP ~ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP ~

ThorntonGroutFinnigan LLP ~ Cushman & Wakefield LePage ~ n-gen People Performance Inc.

You can help! Volunteer or Donate to Horizons for Youth

Volunteers are people from all walks of life, all ages and stages. What they have in common is the desire to make a difference in their community –and in their own life –by giving their time, their expertise and themselves.

Current Volunteer opportunities for Horizons for Youth include:

- Organizing contributions of financial and/or material goods.
- Join our Development Committee and help plan the next Umbrella Day or 'Racing for a Reason' Dinner.
- Participation as a member of Horizons for Youth's Board. We are accepting resumes and letters of inquiry.

We anticipate new, exciting volunteer opportunities that will emerge in the future. If you are looking at volunteering in any capacity, please contact us at 416-781-9898 ext. 27 or visit www.volunteertoronto.ca for opportunities.

Horizons for Youth

422 Gilbert Avenue
Toronto, ON M6E 4X3
Phone: 416.781.9898
Fax: 416.781.1933

You can donate through our website

www.horizonsforyouth.org

or call us at

416.781.9898 ext.27



**United Way
of Greater Toronto**