



# ANNUAL REPORT

2021

HORIZONS  
FOR YOUTH

LEAVE THE STREETS BEHIND



## A WORD FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At Horizons we believe that homelessness is the result of poverty, alienation and abuse, trauma and illness and a lack of affordable housing. We work with the most vulnerable and marginalized people from all walks of life. The cost in human lives and the suffering is not an acceptable situation for any just or compassionate society.

Our clients have a long history of unstable housing and a complex variety of mental health and/or substance use issues, as well as other physical ailments. “Dry” housing for persons with substance abuse challenges has been determined not to be a rehabilitative service on its own and must be combined with extensive counselling and referrals to meet the requirement of rehabilitation. Homeless youth who reside in shelters, cannot be expected to live successfully in independent self-contained accommodation without having a transitional period in order to assist them to prepare for the responsibilities and opportunities of living in the community. For this reason, the services that we provide in the shelter are based on a transitional housing model.

Our focus is to ensure that every youth has access to support services not just in the shelter but also after leaving Horizons. Last year we helped the highest number of youth successfully reintegrate back into society than any previous year. We are an Emergency Shelter and as such we are mandated to follow the “Housing First” model, however, clients who just focus on finding housing, usually end up being homeless again because they haven’t acquired the life skills to cope on their own.

We are also very proud of how Horizons dealt with the looming pandemic during the height of COVID-19. Ontario health and safety guidelines were rigorously maintained, resulting in only one recorded case of Covid for 2021. This resolute compliance from staff and youth ensured that Horizon was able to remain open throughout the year, despite record-high cases across the country. We are confident that Horizon will continue this trajectory of safety throughout 2022.

It is a privilege to be involved with Horizons for Youth again. We would like to thank all those who help make Horizons for Youth such a successful, vibrant and uplifting organization.



**LYNNE BREJAK**  
BOARD PRESIDENT



**FILOMENA WILLIAMS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Rebirth & Rejuvenation: A Fresh Start

Sara, a Case Manager at Horizons for Youth, is an instrumental part in the continued success of Horizon's mission. Through her guidance and support, Sara creates an action plan with each individual resident to build-up their self-confidence and independence through specific goals. These goals range from education, employment, financial management, legal issues, personal identification and more. Sara also incorporates a strong level of compassion and utilizes her own life experiences to better connect with the residents.

When Sara was 17 years old, her life took a dramatic turn after she discovered that she was pregnant. Unsure of what to do, Sara sought help by going to a local help centre for young mothers, where she was able to get counselling and advice. Sara was so appreciative of one counselor in particular, that Sara saw her as a role model for her own life. For the next 21 years, Sara worked in the automotive industry, but her experience at the centre never left her, and she realized her true calling was to follow in that counselor's footsteps and help people.

Nervous but determined, Sara decided the best way to find that emotional connection was to go back to school and study to become a social worker. After graduating, she volunteered and worked for many organizations, but her sights were always on Horizons for Youth. That is where she ultimately wanted to work. Ten years later, Sara was hired, and has now been working at Horizons for little over a year and a half now. Despite only being a part of Horizon's for a relatively short period, Sara has been able to make strong connections with the residents.



**"I wanted to do something that hit me emotionally too," said Sara. "The way people treated me, that good feeling, I wanted to give that back."**

**"Some of them see me as a mother figure, and me being an older adult as well, they see that," Sara recounts. "I do not cross the boundaries, but they see that in me, so they want to thrive more. [They see] someone who really cares, that gives them that little extra TLC."**

Sara believes she brings guidance and structure into their lives, and ultimately wants them to feel rejuvenated and hopeful again. In fact, Sara had a huge impact on one past resident in particular...

At 16 years old, Alice initially came to Horizons for Youth unsure of herself and aimless. Having come from a broken home, her mother was dealing with substance abuse and with her father nowhere to be seen, Alice was quickly moved into the foster care system. Eventually Alice was adopted, but despite her new parent's proclamations of love, they kept an arms length and eventually cut Alice out of their lives. One day, Alice found herself kicked out of her adopted parent's home; forced to fend for herself on the streets. It was not until Alice met Sara at Horizons however, that everything began to change for the better. To Alice, Sara was the mom she never had.

**“When I first met Alice, she was distracted,” says Sara. “She didn’t want to do anything at all; didn’t want to even go to school, and being her age, at 16, education is so important. Little by little, we made schedules; we would do little activities, and just really be involved. Once we started to do those things, I started to build a rapport with her.”**

By giving Alice, the little extra attention that she needed, to feel that love from somebody, Sara was having a monumental impact on Alice's self-confidence. In time, Sara was even able to convince Alice to start going back to school. This eventually led to Sara finding a program for Alice, which offered life skills, budgeting, cooking classes, and more. After some finessing and luck by Sara's part, Alice was eventually accepted into the program.

The only problem was that Alice did not want to have to say goodbye, to Sara, or the rest of Horizon. She had been sheltered at Horizons for over a year and a half, and in that time, she built such love and admiration for the staff that she truly saw them as her family. She could not imagine herself letting that go. Ultimately, however, she understood that this program was a great opportunity for her, and she agreed to go. At first, it was a hard adjustment, but Alice soon found her footing and began to open-up to her new worker, who happened to also be named Sara.



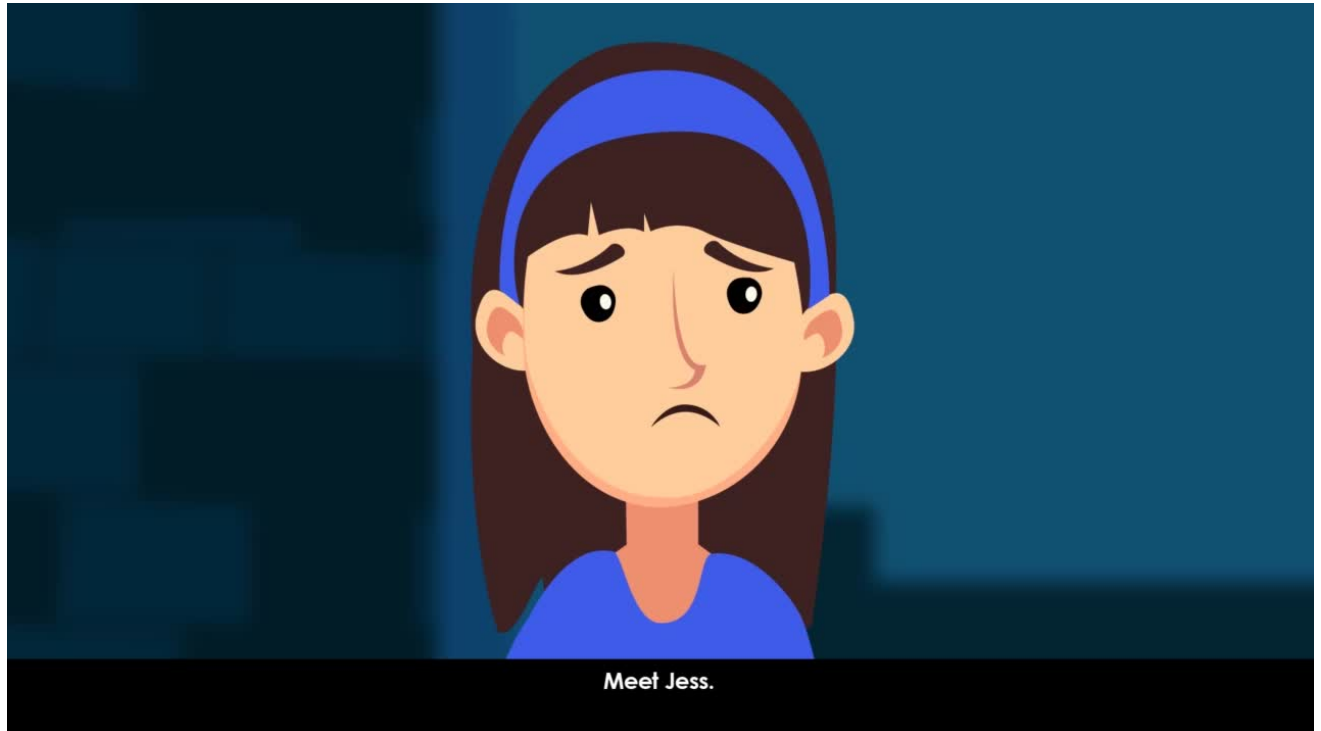
\*Name changed to protect the confidentiality of this resident

**Alice now has a bright future ahead of her, and she, like many other youths who have stepped through Horizons' doors this past year, deserve to have that second chance at life.**





# Jess's Story

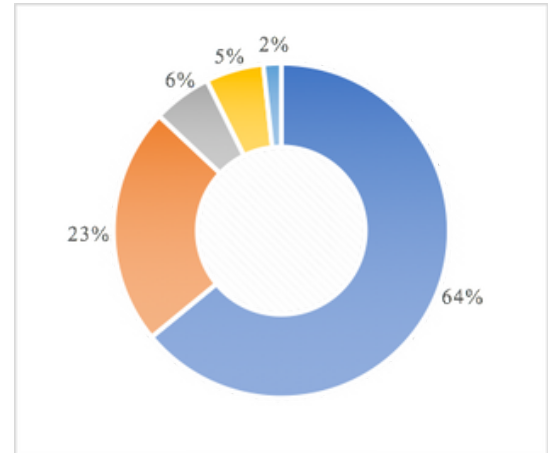


Meet Jess.

## 2021 Financials

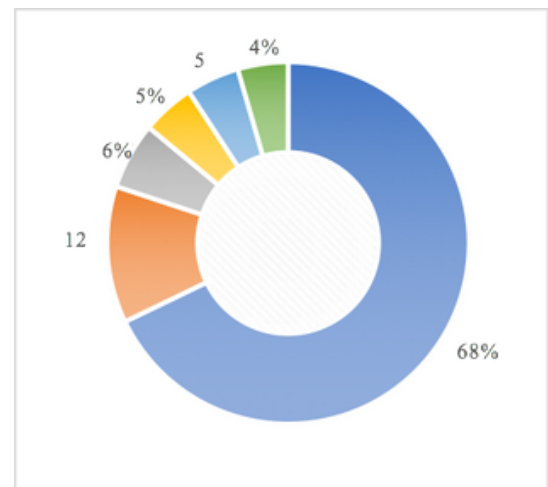
### Revenues:

Government funding	\$1,100,256
fundraising and donations	\$369,797
United way	\$97,369
PP&E grant amortization	\$96,087
Employment programs & Other	\$29,497
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b><u>\$1,693,006</u></b>



### Expenses:

Shelter program	\$1,084,029
Building maintenance	\$195,097
Amortization of property & equipment	\$95,236
Housing help program	\$75,693
Administration	\$75,918
Residents' needs & other	\$71,636
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$1,597,609</u></b>



**Excess of Revenues  
over Expenses**

**\$95,397**

## 2020 vs. 2021 Variance Analysis

<b>Revenues:</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Var (\$)</b>	<b>Var (%)</b>
Government funding	\$1,100,256	\$1,214,709	-\$114,453	-9%
fundraising and donations	\$369,797	\$421,053	-\$51,256	-12%
United way	\$97,369	\$106,226	-\$8,857	-8%
PP&E grant amortization	\$96,087	\$78,570	\$17,517	22%
Employment programs & Other	\$29,497	\$117,489	-\$87,992	-75%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$1,693,006</b>	<b>\$1,938,047</b>	<b>-\$245,041</b>	<b>-13%</b>

<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Var (\$)</b>	<b>Var (%)</b>
Shelter program	\$1,084,029	\$1,178,113	-\$94,084	-8%
Building maintenance	\$195,097	\$218,463	-\$23,366	-11%
PP&E amortization	\$95,236	\$103,041	-\$7,805	-8%
Housing help program	\$75,693	\$56,051	\$19,642	35%
Administration	\$75,918	\$78,282	-\$2,364	-3%
Residents' needs & other	\$71,636	\$71,740	-\$104	0%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,597,609</b>	<b>\$1,705,690</b>	<b>-\$108,081</b>	<b>-6%</b>

<b>Profit</b>	<b>\$95,397</b>	<b>\$232,357</b>	<b>-\$136,960</b>	<b>-59%</b>
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# A Word From Our Supporter

In the Fall of 2020, I lost one of my oldest friends to complications of homelessness and health. I had known him since kindergarten. We had classes together. We would hang out after school. We navigated adolescence side-by-side. He was someone I could always count on, someone that brought people together, and an eternal spring of happiness for the people that cared about him.

By 24 years old, he was gone, and it still doesn't seem real. I knew he was struggling but I didn't know how much. I haven't stopped thinking about him - you aren't supposed to lose the ones you love at such a young age. My friend was robbed of a lifetime of potential, and his loved ones were robbed of someone truly special who just needed more support. I wish I could have done more for my friend at the time. In light of that, I knew I had to do something to prevent others from losing loved ones to preventable causes.

My friend sought help at Horizons For Youth, and they provided hope for him when he needed it most. They treated him with compassion when he had nowhere else to go. I wish this story had a happy ending, but I know that Horizons For Youth did everything they could.

Horizons For Youth is more than just a roof over someone's head. They provide the care, counselling, and services necessary to help youth break the cycle of hardship. Most of all, they provide hope at times when not much else does. As I learned more about Horizons For Youth, I realized how necessary their work was, and that I wanted to do my part to support them. I was incredibly grateful for how our community came together to support Horizons For Youth this Fall, raising almost \$35,000.



**I miss my friend every single day. However, I take solace in knowing that his legacy will help others receive the care they need to live their best lives. I want to thank Horizons For Youth for their continued efforts to make the city a better place for homeless youth in Toronto.**



# Our Supporters

## Major Funding Partner (\$1,000,000+)

- The City of Toronto

## Benefactors (\$100,000+)

- United Way Greater Toronto

## Visionaries (\$25,000+)

- Evan Sambasivam
- The Ontario Trillium Foundation

## Leaders (\$10,000+)

- The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation
- Fredrick and Douglas Dickson Memorial Foundation
- Home Depot Canada Foundation
- Traquair Family Foundation
- Second Harvest Food Support Committee
- Hodgson Family Foundation
- Echo Foundation
- Aston Family Foundation
- Aubrey & Marla Dan Foundation
- Amp Energy

## Believers (\$5,000+)

- Erik Parnoja
- Richard Wilks
- Paul Nicoletti
- Greater Toronto Sewer & Water Contractors Association
- The Newall Family Foundation
- Johansen-Larsen Foundation
- The Hyclan Foundation
- The Hustler Young Men's Bible Class Foundation
- Lynne Brejak

## Advocates (\$1,000+)

- Nicholas Skrypek
- Jonah Kaplun
- Brian Courtney
- Silvia Probst
- Rosedale United Church.
- Courtney Priester
- Forest Hill Lions Club- E Bingo
- Semple Gooder Roofing Corporation
- Ontario Realtors Care Foundation
- Armen Kulidjian
- Patrick Brown
- Walmart
- Trek for Teens Foundation Inc.
- Gilad Cohen
- Ian Mason
- Maria Sbrocchi
- North Harvest Food Bank
- Tim Bissell
- MONAT Canada
- Woodbine Entertainment Group
- Christos Bourolias
- Jackman Foundation
- Carolyn Ridout
- Alexis Willis
- Dean Levitt
- Marilyn E Cook
- MNP LLP
- Silvia Probst
- Whole Foods Market Community Giving Program
- Athavan Thinakaran
- Christopher McElhone



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