

2022-2023 Annual Report

Our Vision

A community that embraces each of its members.

Our Mission

To provide spaces of welcome and connection to our guests, our organization and our community.



SAFE HARBOUR

Providing First Steps To Recovery



Message from our Board Chair

STEADY AS SHE GOES



I would like to begin by acknowledging the continued responsible stewardship of Safe Harbour. Finances remain stable, management and frontline staff continue to adapt and improve daily, the infrastructure is sound, and the board is engaged. Kath Hoffman is an established

collaborator with community partners and is adept at working with our valued funders to establish rationale for resources.

I am new to the position of Board Chair. I was elected in October 2022, but have been a board member since 2018, or “harboured” as Kath would say. Prior to my board involvement, I was a Safe Harbour employee as nurse manager of the medical detox. Safe Harbour has proven again and again to be an agency ready to change in order to improve the lives of those they serve.

The year 2022-2023 saw some of the same challenges of years previous with shelter organization and capacity. Amid an uncertain future regarding the location and operator of the much-anticipated new shelter, Safe Harbour continues to welcome increasing numbers of complex people needing shelter. The board has been living this uncertainty with Kath and the staff. While we live in this state of not knowing the board has heard about many heroic efforts of staff, many heartbreaking moments, and countless acts of compassion.

Safe Harbours other programs: Many Healing Blankets which encompasses Indigenous ways of knowing through Mending Broken Hearts, Warrior Down, and Wellbriety. Coordinated Entry, Outreach, Social Diversion, and the Medically Supported Detox, are all serving people to improve their lives and assist with recovery. This vital work is often not given the same spotlight as the shelter; however, it is important to acknowledge the recovery work that happens in a much quieter way in these programs. The board is in awe of the work being done in all the programs. The needs of people seeking services are diverse and increasingly more medically and psychiatrically serious.

Our board has said good-bye to two long-term members. The first one is Johnny Bachusky, who was a board member for 12 years and offered many contributions from his expertise as a newspaper

reporter in various roles on the board. The second board member to resign is Jennifer Cross. Jennifer has not really left Safe Harbour. She served in various board positions for many years, then left to be nurse manager of the detox, and then returned to the board briefly, but this year has again been called to the front line to become nurse manager at the shelter. Jennifer is an amazing gift to Safe Harbour!

We have gained two board members. Our first new member is Susan Knopp. She is a retired business owner and has proven to be an excellent secretary along with her compassionate views and passion for fairness. Our second new board member is Edie Hiebert. She is a retired corporate consultant with a plethora of community advocacy experience. From her first board meeting, Edie has contributed valuable insights into the governance of Safe Harbour.

Our board has been aware of the long difficulties of retaining staff, so after much consultation with Brad Beeler from Canada Life, the board passed an optional RRSP package for Safe Harbour staff to begin in August 2023. We feel this was an important and necessary addition to Safe Harbour.

Safe Harbour serves the often described “hard to serve” population. I do not think staff would describe the population using this term. I think they would instead see this population as underserved because of fear, stigma, and discrimination. Too often people who are experiencing homelessness, addiction, or mental health issues do not feel worthy of care; the crew at Safe Harbour is welcoming and insists on caring. The board expresses sincere appreciation for each staff member and their hard work and dedication.

I would like to end by acknowledging the executive director of Safe Harbour, Kath Hoffman. Kath takes her role as captain seriously. Don’t be fooled by the hat, she means business. She is a fierce advocate for the homeless and for persons experiencing addiction and mental illness. She fights for what staff need to do their jobs. She recognizes when the agency needs to change, and she recognizes when she needs help to change the direction. She partners with community agencies; she meets with politicians from all sides, and she actively looks to improve the agency. Kath’s leadership was recognized in January 2023 with a Jubilee Award of Excellence. The board respects and trusts Kath. She keeps us informed and she seeks our input. Thank you, Kath Hoffman, for another year of excellent leadership.

Kathy Schepp, Chairperson
September 14, 2023

Indigenous Support

1ST INTERNATIONAL WELLBRIETY GATHERING



From September 22-25, 2022, Safe Harbour and White Bison Inc, along with various partners, hosted the first International Wellbriety All Addictions Recovery Gathering in Red Deer, drawing over 200 attendees.

This unique event saw the Indigenous community welcoming both Indigenous and non-Indigenous individuals to explore the Indigenous approach to addiction recovery, known as the “Wellbriety Movement”. This movement promotes a holistic recovery, encompassing physical, emotional, and spiritual healing, and fostering unity within families and communities.

Highlights of the Event

Heart of the Gathering: Indigenous ceremonies were central to this event, encouraging a deep healing process. The Hoop of 100 Feathers introduced four pillars of healing to Red Deer: Hope, Healing, Unity, and the power to forgive the unforgivable.

Knowledge Exchange: The event facilitated a rich exchange of insights and resources from Indigenous addiction recovery experts. Keynote speakers included Dr. Darlene Auger, who discussed the healing attributes of the wiwip’son Therapeutic Swing, and White Bison Trainer Sheryl Whitehawk, who introduced the Well-a-non program.

Networking Opportunities: The gathering fostered connections and friendships, with attendees drawing strength and encouragement from sharing stories and experiences.

This Wellbriety gathering, an extension of the Alberta Recovery Model, highlighted the importance of integrating Indigenous culture as both a preventative and healing force in addiction recovery.

We have weekly Wellbriety meetings online and in person. More information available on our website at www.safeharboursociety.org.

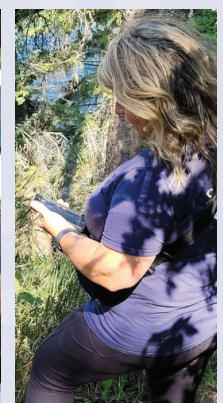


Harbour Highlights

RECOVERY IN NUMBERS

From answering calls and assisting those in distress to fostering harbours of healing and recovery, each of our programs has served as a guiding lighthouse for the path to recovery.

- 211 Social Diversion responded to 1994 calls
- Camp Outreach visited 457 camps
- Detox served 604 people and 76 were able to go directly to treatment
- Shelter welcomed 1150 individuals
- Many Healing Blankets had 3,584 attend events, 480 people attend Wellbriety circles and 624 adults and adolescents received Elder and Elder helpers one on one counselling
- Of note: There were a 168 overdoses from January – December 2022 and already from January – August in 2023, we have had 281 overdoses.



Financial Statement

Our Commitment

For over 20 years, Safe Harbour has been the experienced leader in providing a recovery-oriented, housing-focused response to the people of Central Alberta.

We...

- are a recovery-oriented and housing-focused organization
- provide spaces of welcome and connection to our guests, our organization, and our community
- ensure people experiencing addiction, mental health issues, and homelessness can move into housing and onto the road to recovery
- serve our clients with compassion, respect, and understanding to provide hope and a pathway to a better future
- listen to and build relationships with our community and our leaders to collaboratively support the well-being of everyone
- are dedicated to building safe and healthy communities through our services

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the period ending March 30, 2023

ASSETS	2023	2022
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 1,116,728	\$ 2,363,180
Accounts receivable	\$ 81,748	\$ 117,583
Goods and services tax receivable	\$ 33,430	\$ 14,062
Prepaid expenses & deposits	\$ 33,720	\$ 27,682
	\$ 1,265,626	\$ 2,522,507
Long-term investment	\$ 1,000,000	\$ ---
Tangible capital assets	\$ 1,442,098	\$ 1,405,080
	\$ 3,707,724	\$ 3,927,587
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accruals	\$ 173,678	\$ 85,930
Salaries and benefits payable	\$ 194,096	\$ 191,300
Deferred contributions	\$ 522,617	\$ 893,296
Callable debt	\$ ---	\$ ---
	\$ 890,391	\$ 1,170,526
Unamortized deferred capital contributions	\$ 743,457	\$ 783,211
	\$ 1,633,848	\$ 1,953,737
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	\$ 1,375,236	\$ 1,351,981
Invested in tangible capital assets	\$ 698,640	\$ 621,869
	\$ 2,073,876	\$ 1,973,850
	\$ 3,707,724	\$ 3,927,587

For a complete Financial Statement please check our website.

Thank you to our Funders:



Employment and
Social Development Canada

Emploi et
Développement social Canada



Safe Harbour Society

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Follow us!

Accreditation Primer Award

By receiving the Accreditation Primer Seal, Safe Harbour demonstrates the commitment to providing quality care and service to the community.

