

ANNUAL REPORT

2014
2015





LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff of Thrive, it is my sincere pleasure to present our 2014-2015 Annual Report. The Report highlights the programs and services offered by Thrive, and I take this opportunity to note a few new initiatives and thank those who make them possible.

In particular, I am pleased to recognize that Thrive formally launched Project Endure, a community capacity-building project that offers programming and supports in Brophy Place and Buckmaster Circle neighbourhoods in partnership with the MacMorran and Buckmaster Circle Community Centres. The Project serves youth and their families, and endorses a holistic approach to strengthening families and community. Thrive is appreciative of the continued funding and support offered by the Federal Government's Drug Strategy and Community Investment Fund for this initiative, and the collaborative efforts of our community partners.

Thrive also launched a new 12 week youth leadership program, by which it aimed to inspire, motivate and coach youth in our community. I am impressed not only by the efforts of our staff in this endeavour, but also by the leadership demonstrated by the participants with their fundraising efforts on behalf of those in need.

I am also pleased to recognize that Street Reach recently celebrated its 10 year anniversary, and expanded its services to the City of Mount Pearl. Like all Thrive programs, this grass-roots outreach service is dependent upon the generous efforts of staff, volunteers and community partners, and I thank you for your continued support.

2014-2015 has been an exciting year at Thrive, and I am confident that 2015-2016 will be as well. I am happy to acknowledge that Thrive has been approved for the development of a 5 year program proposal that will support people to safely exit sexually-exploitive situations. I look forward to seeing the hard work that will surely go into this initiative and the positive outcomes that will follow.

To this end, I must acknowledge the outstanding commitment and leadership provided by our Executive Director, Angela Crockwell, as well as the generous efforts of all staff and volunteers of Thrive. They say that a team is only as successful as the sum of its members, and what a team we have! On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your continued efforts and dedication.

Koren Thomson, Chairperson



PROJECT ENDURE

About the Program

Project Endure is funded through Health Canada's Drug Strategy Community Investment Fund. The project is focused on building skills, supports and community engagement which will reduce the likelihood for substance use & abuse. Project Endure has two Youth Outreach Workers and one Family/School Liaison worker who provide holistic interventions for the whole family.

Partnerships

Project Endure operates from MacMorran Community Centre and Buckmaster Circle Community Centre. The partnership with both these organizations is critical to the success of the project. The Community Centres provide office and program space, and most importantly allow the staff to become rooted in the neighbourhoods, therefore strengthening connections with participants.

Project Endure recognizes the strength of the family unit and the importance of community development by offering family events, which brings participants together from both communities to celebrate their successes in and out of the program.





OUR EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

Overview

The cornerstone of the Educational Initiatives at Thrive is youth engagement; this approach ensures meaningful relationships are built. This engagement is the beginning of a process whereby youth who continue to experience multiple barriers to educational opportunities, and subsequently employment, can begin to progressively move towards accessing greater program involvement. The Educational Initiatives encourage youth to set their own goals through a collaborative process with the staff. Youth are given the supports to achieve those goals on their own time and at a level they are comfortable with. This includes their eventual move towards accessing other programs and services outside of the Educational Initiatives.

The Youth at Promise Program (YAP) is a foundational math and literacy skills program whose underlying philosophy is to meet young people 'where they are' in making choices and changes in their lives.

The Springboard GED program prepares youth to challenge the GED exam and achieve high school equivalency. Thrive's main GED program occurs at Thrive, however, we have also partnered with Daybreak Parent and Child Centre to provide GED instruction to a group of 4 young mothers whose goal it was to return to school. Through funding secured by Daybreak, Thrive was able to leverage knowledge and skills in the area of GED preparation to provide the academic portion of this program. Daybreak supported the program through the facilitation of child minding and parent education sessions.

ROGERS™ The Rogers Break Thru Project has worked mainly with 12-16 year old youth who are at risk of not completing high school. Twenty four young people were supported with homework completion during drop in sessions; others worked one on one or in small groups towards high school credit completion in partnership with the Murphy Centre. As the Break Thru Program moves forward in the upcoming year it will work exclusively with high school aged youth who are not attending school but want to continue working on high school credit courses with the eventual goal of transitioning to the Murphy Centre where they would complete high school.

Intensive support of learners to address complex issues such as housing, addictions, street involvement, and justice issues plays a crucial role in the success of learners and the continued interest that youth have in the program. Through the efforts of staff, youth were supported with meeting various government departments, accessing support services of Eastern Health, advocacy work, and personal development. This support was critical to the learner's success in remaining connected to learning at Thrive or transitioning to other educational and employment opportunities.

Program Highlights

During the 2014/15 academic year, staff worked to deliver programming in a dynamic and engaging way.

The following key activities and outcomes have taken place:

61% of YAP/GED learners who began class this academic year **remained with the program until June**

Mt. Pearl Senior High has taken on the preparation of meals and snacks for youth attending the program. Once a week, the students in the **"Soup Group"** cook up healthy meals and snacks that are then delivered to Thrive for youth to enjoy throughout the week. Students completed meal preparation, had fundraising drives to cover the cost of food, and were able to gain needed volunteer hours for high school credit. **A real learning benefit to both groups!**

Connection of learners to intensive individual support through Thrive's Street Reach program & Thrive's outreach facilitator

Development of a partnership for high school credit with the Murphy Centre

Four students earned credits for math

143 learners were supported

**IN 2014
2015**

Eight learners have started working towards completion of **English courses (20 credits)**

GED pass rate:
84%

Development of a Pearson Vue online **testing center** for GED

Assessment of all eligible learners using **Canadian Adult Achievement Test (CAAT)** or other appropriate instrument

Regular lunch and learn and **skill building sessions** (provided by Eastern Health's Mental Health and Addictions Outreach Team, Barry Green, and Thrive's outreach facilitator)



STREET REACH

Overview

2015 marked the 10 year anniversary of Thrive's Street Reach program! Through weekly outreach and drop-in, Street Reach supports individuals who are struggling with food security, housing & homelessness, poverty, low literacy, mental health issues, sexual exploitation, and limited or no access to a strong social support network. Street Reach continues to provide such basic services as meals, warm clothing, footwear, toiletries, condoms and SWAP supplies, telephone access as well as a supportive network of knowledgeable staff and dedicated volunteers.

Our Partnerships for 2014/2015

Eastern Health's Mental Health and Addictions Outreach Team

ACNL's SWAP Program

Marguerite's Place SHOP Program

Gower Street United Church Community Lunch Program

Bishop's College After-School Soup Club

The G'rilla Knights

As well as numerous individuals, community groups, churches, and office groups.

Making a Difference

We served 750 individuals from 2014-2015

In 2014-2015 Street Reach provided 17,498 services!

Over the last ten years a grand total of **78,069** services have been provided. That's over **40,000** bowls of soup!

Our Volunteers Make it Happen. 182 Volunteers have worked with Street Reach over our 10 years. Ten current volunteers have been with us for more than 5 years, three of those have been with us for 10 years! **That's over 13,000 Volunteer Hours!**

What's Ahead?

A community consultation process was held in 2014 to determine some long term goals for the program and youth outreach outside of St. John's was noted as the highest need. In 2015 Street Reach will bring its Tuesday evening outreach for youth to Mount Pearl! Our goal is to connect with youth ages 16-24.



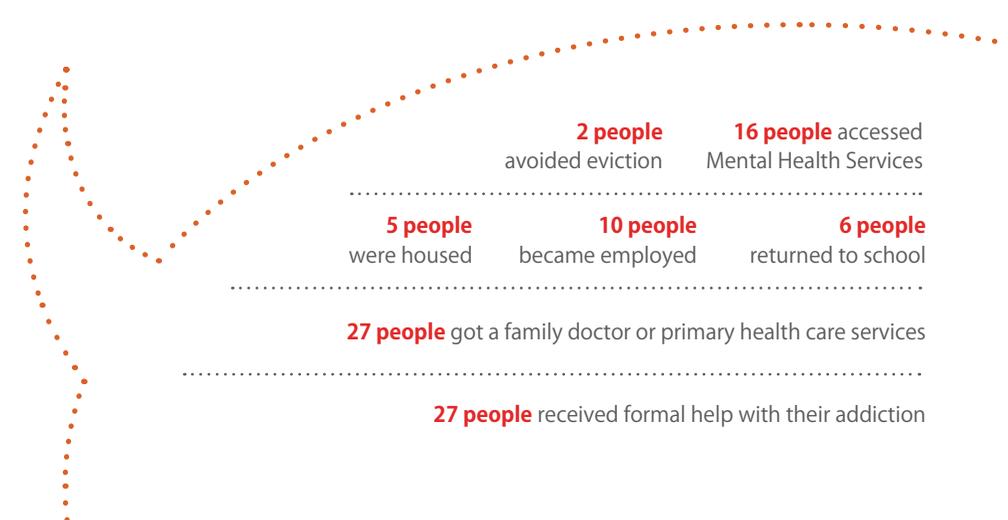
OUTREACH SERVICES & SUPPORTS

Overview

All participants who are involved with Thrive have access to outreach services & supports as part of our programming. This means we have staff to help identify barriers and challenges that participants are facing and help them address those challenges. Thrive staff embrace a harm reduction approach in their work with participants and recognize the importance of being flexible, open, innovative, and consistent in their support. At Thrive young people know that we "don't give up" and that we are able to "meet them where they are".

In 2014-2015 Thrive provided 6262 individual support services to participants. This included 540 referrals for services, transportation support, system navigation, crisis intervention, accompanying people to various appointments, housing supports, goal setting & supportive counselling. As a result of our work in this area the following are some of the outcomes that were achieved:

**IN 2014
2015**





BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY

Youth Leadership Program

During 2014 – 2015 Thrive piloted our first ever Youth Leadership Program. The program brought together 12 young people to learn the fundamental skills to become leaders. Sessions focused on topics like communication, team work, conflict resolution, diversity and inclusion. However the core focus was on identifying a community service project and then planning and implementing the project. The 12 young people decided to raise funds for a local food bank. Through organizing a car wash the youth raised \$630.00 for the local food bank!!

Thrive Talks

Monthly sessions were organized for service providers to learn about relevant topics or local services. Some of our Thrive talks included sessions on compassion fatigue, mental health, and tours of local agencies.

Community Advisory Panel

Thrive is committed to working collaboratively with the broader community to identify opportunities to partner, highlight gaps in services, and ensure our work is responding to the needs of the community. Thrive's Community Advisory Panel is our touchstone for ensuring the work we are doing is relevant and that we are aware of issues and challenges facing youth and service providers. This committee has been essential in supporting the development of our leadership program, identifying the theme for our Professional Development Day, and identifying the need to develop a program to support staff in supervision roles.

Awareness

In 2014 – 2015 Thrive began to embrace social media and we are now active on Twitter and Facebook! Thrive continues to share information with our 800+ subscribers to our "Newsflash" and maintains our online directory of services. In addition Thrive receives over 1000 calls per year from youth, parents, service providers and the general public looking for information to help navigate the youth services sector.

Training & Professional Development

On March 13th Thrive brought together 119 professionals in our sector to explore alternative therapies in youth work. We kicked off the day with Dr. John Digney from Ireland to learn about the therapeutic use of humor and then showcased local alternative therapies happening right here including equine, music, play and art therapies. There were also sessions on the nutrition and mental health connection, as well as effective youth engagement strategies.

Thrive also coordinated a three day training program with Hinks-Delcrest from Toronto on trauma informed practice. We were pleased to open up seats to our partner organizations to share in this training opportunity.

CASEY

The Coalition Against the Sexual Exploitation of Youth had a great year! An important part of our work is raising awareness and understanding of this issue and during the past year we provided over 10 different presentations to approximately 350 individuals. These presentations included speaking at the Canadian Bar Association's National Conference, Canadian Women's Foundations National Meetings, NL Human Trafficking Assoc. Provincial Conference, and Eastern Health's Public Health Nurses Professional Development Days.

A Letter of Intent was submitted to the National Crime Prevention Centre requesting funding to implement a 5 year program to support individuals to safely leave their exploitive situations. We are thrilled that CASEY's Letter of Intent was selected for full proposal development, and are hopeful we will see our program vision come to fruition in 2015 – 2016.

CASEY's video is now available on Thrive's YouTube channel and during the year the video had over 700 views. As well, CASEY members continue to work with the English School District to identify opportunities to support schools to show the CASEY video within the classroom setting.

CASEY remains a shining example of how a group of dedicated organizations and individuals can make significant changes in our society by working together and focusing on the issues. CASEY receives no funding to carry out our work, yet through the passion of our members and the organizations they represent we know we have changed the way our province understands sexual exploitation.



VELOCITY

Velocity continues to bring youth on outdoor adventures!!

Velocity proves to be a great way to connect and build relationships with youth, to challenge them to step out of their comfort zone, to learn new skills, be exposed to healthy activities, and become engaged in community life.

2014 – 2015 was a challenging year for our program, as our 5 year funding from the National Crime Prevention Centre concluded. We have been able to sustain the program with significantly fewer resources, therefore it is a scaled down version of our original program.

Even with a reduction in resources we were still able to work with 8 young people and engage them in activities such as hiking the East Coast Trail, overnight camping, paintball, a bonfire in Middle Cove Beach and water activities.

Financial Report

Thrive, CYN St. John's, INC.

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
Year Ended March 31, 2015

REVENUE

	2015	2014
Program and Project Revenue	\$991,263.00	\$907,290.00
Registration Fees and Other Income	\$17,569.00	\$41,230.00
Donations	\$68,354.00	\$10,628.00
Core funding – Office of Public Engagement	\$229,645.00	\$229,629.00
Fundraising Revenue		\$37,927.00
TOTAL	\$1,306,831.00	\$1,226,704.00

PROGRAM COSTS

Learning Initiative	\$380,188.00	\$364,886.00
Street Reach	\$383,740.00	\$342,747.00
Velocity Adventure	\$44,913.00	\$184,995.00
Other	\$72,177.00	\$70,953.00
CASEY	\$784.00	\$5,457.00
Project Endure	\$178,278.00	\$13,177.00
Meeting Future Labour	\$5,614.00	
TOTAL	\$1,065,694.00	\$982,215.00

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Amortization	\$3,828.00	\$3,776.00
Evaluation	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Insurance	\$4,468.00	\$3,081.00
Interest and Bank Charges	\$2,671.00	\$3,266.00
Meetings and Conferences	\$2,704.00	\$2,759.00
Occupancy Costs	\$55,088.00	\$27,484.00
Office	\$4,824.00	\$8,326.00
Printing, Promotions and Postage	\$10,531.00	\$6,454.00
Professional Development	\$1,789.00	\$1,437.00
Professional Fees	\$5,202.00	\$9,083.00
Repairs and Maintenance		\$3,881.00
Salaries and Wages	\$127,844.00	\$159,616.00
Telephone and Internet	\$3,051.00	\$2,038.00
Travel	\$1,014.00	\$1,412.00
Website Development	\$1,636.00	\$7,157.00
TOTAL	\$229,650.00	\$244,770.00

EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$11,487.00	\$(281.00)
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Funders

Government of
Newfoundland & Labrador
Rogers Communications
Government of Canada
Eastern Health
Newfoundland & Labrador
Housing Corporation
Husky Energy

Supporters

City of St. John's
Kids Eat Smart
Fortis Properties
Presentation Sisters
United Way of
Newfoundland & Labrador
MUN School of Nursing and
Centre for Nursing Studies
Legro & Motti Restaurant
Statoil
H. Shea & K. Mennie
The CST Foundation



Thrive
108 LeMarchant Road | St. John's, NL A1C 2H2
P.O. Box 26067 | St. John's, NL A1E 0A5

www.thriveycn.ca
Office: 709.754.0536
Fax: 709.754.0842