



November 15, 2021

Dear Supporter,

As a past supporter of Blue Sky Opportunities, we want to provide you with an update as to how things are going in our organization.

We were hoping 2021 would allow us to return to some normalcy and be able to re-start our Fall Fundraiser event. Unfortunately, the current public restrictions make hosting an event such as ours difficult, so we have decided to cancel again for this year. We hope to see you in 2022!!

We are pleased to report as of Monday October 25th our Day Programs have re-opened! The day programs were closed for over 1 year due to public health restrictions, everyone is overjoyed to be back!

We are struggling with our ability to attract and retain staff. This appears to be a global concern for many businesses. Due to this, we have decided to downsize our residential services from 9 homes to 8. We had two vacant rooms in our 212 Residence, the 2 people currently living in our 5<sup>th</sup> Street Residence are moving into the 212, enabling us to have the 5<sup>th</sup> street staff fill vacancies in other homes. This certainly was not our first choice, but action was needed to sustain staffing levels at the remaining homes. The good news is we are supporting the same number of people. The board is working on plans for the future of the 5<sup>th</sup> Street home. Regarding staffing we are hoping the Province will recognize the need to increase agency funding so we can increase staff wages in our sector. We have not received a cost of living funding increase since 2011!

Fundraising efforts continue to be a challenge, public restrictions resulted in the cancelation of this years Cleanathon as well, again we are hoping to resume in 2022!

This letter is not intended to broadcast gloom, we have had many positives as well. Our wood shop had an extremely busy year, experiencing record sales in Crokinole boards and pallets! Wood supplies and costs have made things challenging, but staff was able to manage through this time.

In terms of fundraising, we have put any major capital plans on hold. We are planning to build to replace our oldest residence at some point. Due to the current economic climate, and the fact that there are many large fundraising projects happening in our community, we will wait for another year.

We have decided to focus on a few other projects, many which are mainly repair and maintenance. When you own 9 homes there is always work to be done! Some examples are:

- Replace the flooring in our 207 and 211 residences
- Upgrade the alarm panel at the 204 residence
- New kitchen cupboards and flooring at the 4<sup>th</sup> ave residence
- Purchase a storage container for the storage of our electronic recyclables at the Recycle Shop

These are just a few examples of ongoing expenses and projects we have on the go. As mentioned, Covid restrictions have once again sidelined our ability to fundraise in our usual manor. Your consideration of a donation to assist with these and other expenses would be greatly appreciated.

Donation cheques may be mailed using the enclosed envelope, or by credit card online at: [blueskyop.com](http://blueskyop.com).

We are thankful for your continued support, and wish you good health and success in all you do.

Sincerely,

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