



Pelletier

YOUTH IN TRANSITION

Bridging The Gap To Success



ANNUAL REPORT

2012 – 2013

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

One of the most rewarding aspects of my involvement with Pelletier Youth in Transition (“Pelletier”) is being part of an organization that helps youth thrive. I have witnessed many young people who, through no fault of their own, are faced with insurmountable challenges and experience difficulty in establishing themselves. They are often overwhelmed and unprepared for independence with a high probability of failure without the intervention Pelletier provides. After several months of support through our outreach programs, hope is restored, confidence builds and a future begins to develop. It is remarkable to see the transformation in these youth as they begin to realize their potential, live a fulfilling life and feel hopeful for the first time.

Pelletier services continued to effectively make an impact on youth last year. Pelletier assisted over 95 youth in 2012-2013 and has expanded capacity to assist over 130 in both programs in 2013-2014. The Hope for Youth program continued to reach out to at risk youth and facilitate a transition to living independently. Ground-breaking in this area, the Youth Spirit Mentor program is working with 45 mentors who change lives as role models and community connections for youth. Pelletier also extended scholarships to 18 recipients in 2012-2013 who successfully achieved admittance to post secondary educational institutions. We launched a tutoring component in 2012 as well to further support this segment of ambitious youth who are on the verge of success.

Another gratifying element of being involved with Pelletier is working with remarkable people. This organization benefits from a Board of Directors and volunteers whose passion and commitment are outstanding. They are bright, energetic and a pleasure to work with and I am honoured to do so. It is also wonderful to witness the generosity provided by our donors. Your support allows us to continue to reach more youth with the important work that we do and I am consistently astonished by your goodwill and generosity. And finally to our partners – Pelletier’s vision is to ensure that vulnerable youth get the help they need to be successful and you make that happen!

JUDY JARVIS, CHAIR OF THE BOARD

PELLETIER PROFILE

WHO ARE WE:

Pelletier was established in 2009 (formerly Pelletier Homes for Youth).

Pelletier is committed to helping youth 16-24 years old who are ageing out of care make the successful progression to independent living. At Pelletier our mission is to ensure that youth at risk will be given the opportunity and support to be the success we know they can be.

Pelletier runs a scholarship program and through partnerships provides two transitional programs. Specifically, the three programs are: 1) the Ross Caradonna Education Fund; 2) the Hope for Youth Program; and 3) the Youth Spirit Mentor Program Pelletier provides assistance to over 130 youth in transition annually.

MISSION:

Our mission is to lead the development of programs and services that guide and assist youth leaving care to make successful transitions to adulthood.

During this critical developmental phase, young people in the child welfare system face tremendous challenges and become solely responsible for themselves almost overnight. Through support, counseling, outreach and coordination we empower youth to maximize their potential. In many cases the child welfare system has invested years of care, support and counseling to youth in care. As the system currently operates, youth feel abandoned at the times when they need us most. Pelletier addresses this major gap in the system to provide a continuum of care to youth who are on the verge of success.

Pelletier has a 30-year history of providing youth a nurturing environment in which to flourish, support to face independence successfully and a chance to create bright futures. There are hundreds of women in our society who have benefited from the care they received at Pelletier and who are now living full and productive lives.

YEAR IN REVIEW

YEAR IN REVIEW

Strategic Highlights

- Experienced significant success in our programs and some remarkable youth are now living a brighter future
- Increased funding to expand all our programs
- Worked with various community agencies and the Ontario government
- Continued to increase our corporate and individual donor base
- Initiated brand awareness strategies through print and social media channels

Operating Highlights

- Solidified relationships with operating partners and expanded programs
- We welcomed three new board members this year

Financial Highlights

- Operating budget has increased due to additional donations
- Ongoing successful financial planning has increased revenue through interest on investments
- Investment income is used to pay for administrative expenses, as a result, over 90% of donated funds go straight to helping youth at risk
- Our cost base is very low by industry standards, at 7% of fundraising revenues

Communications And Special Events

- Updated Web site and social media including creation of a Facebook page and Twitter account
- For the 3rd year in a row Pelletier was a beneficiary of the Shorcan Charity Day
- Our “One Tooth For Youth” fund raising event was promoted across numerous local web sites and featured in the North Toronto SNAP newspaper
- The annual Pelletier Skating party attracted over 80 people and was a successful family event
- Annual Scotiabank event allowed Pelletier youth to share their inspirational stories
- Pelletier youth was a keynote speaker for the kick off of the TD Securities Underwriting Hope Charity and Auction

OUR PROGRAMS

OUR PROGRAMS

Pelletier provides outreach programs to over 130 at-risk youth annually through two transitional program partnerships and implements a scholarship program. A young person in a Pelletier program receives critical services required to successfully transition to adulthood, including:

- assistance in securing appropriate housing;
- instruction on accessing and navigating adult service systems;
- facilitating the development of life skills, including financial management and household management;
- assistance searching for employment opportunities;
- facilitating and supporting re-entry to school and/or job training;
- accessing community resources for mental health services;
- escorting youth to appointments i.e. treatment, probation/parole, court;
- providing individual guidance towards living independently;
- supporting relationships with family;
- promoting physical wellbeing including medical care and physical fitness; and
- providing essential emotional support.

The three Pelletier Youth in Transition programs are: 1) the Hope for Youth Program; 2) Youth Spirit Mentor Program; and 3) the Ross Caradonna Education Fund. Each is described below.

Hope for Youth Program

The Hope for Youth program is provided in partnership with Arrabon House since 2009. This support service focuses on delivering one-on-one counseling by matching troubled adolescence with a Youth in Transition Worker to assist in developing and executing a personalized transition plan to adulthood. Individualized preparation includes identifying goals, developing a framework to meet those goals and evaluating the progress made to a caseload of 80 youth per year. The Youth in Transition Workers provide a important stable relationship and strong emotional support to the youth in the program while focusing on building external sustainability to transition the youth successfully to independence. The Youth in Transition Workers are cheerleaders at graduation and often share holidays with the youth. With the help of this critical service, the majority of the youth gain the counseling, skills and self esteem to effectively transition to independence.

OUR PROGRAMS

PROGRAMS CONTINUED..

Youth Spirit Mentor Program

The Youth Spirit Mentor Program, which has been operating successfully since 2011, is executed in partnership with StepStones for Youth. This program integrates life skills development and recreational activities with focused goals by partnering young people with adult mentors. Mentors provide guidance and direction to help mentees develop self-confidence and essential life skills as well as personal, educational and career objectives. The goal of the program is to facilitate and maintain a successful transition to adulthood while creating natural long lasting relationships with responsible adults who will support and assist youth in transition and beyond. There are currently 50 youth in this program, 45 of whom are partnered with mentors. Through the development of skills and a community of support, participants in the Youth Spirit Program are increasingly successful in achieving goals, forging meaningful relationships and gaining self-confidence.

Ross Caradonna Education Fund

The Ross Caradonna Education Fund provides scholarships for post-secondary education and training. These scholarships can make the difference between whether a youth attends post-secondary education or not. Tutoring services are also provided to the students who receive scholarships. As of 2013 Pelletier Youth in Transition has distributed over 57 scholarships.

These statistics for the fiscal year ended March 2013 demonstrate the effectiveness of the Pelletier services.

OUR PROGRAMS

Hope for Youth Program

- 75% of youth have obtained a high school diploma compared to the 44% of youth in care who graduate in Ontario
- At present 24% of youth are attending high school, 44% of youth are attending post-secondary education and 32% have a job
- 18% of youth have received scholarships (all Pelletier scholarships) while only 3% had scholarships previously
- 69% had stable housing at time of intake, now 92% have stable housing
- 100% of those recognized as having mental health issues are receiving assistance
- At intake 3% of the youth had prior involvement with the criminal justice system, while none have become involved with the criminal justice system as perpetrator since involvement with Pelletier

Youth Spirit Mentor Program

- 74% of youth are attending school/educational institution compared to just 43% at intake
- At present 57% of youth are attending high school, 20% of youth are attending post-secondary education and 20% have a job (only 1 youth is not attending school or working)
- 20% of youth have received scholarships (all Pelletier scholarships) while none had scholarships previously
- 51% had stable housing at time of intake, now 86% of youth have stable housing
- 90% of those recognized as having mental health issues are receiving assistance
- At intake 40% of the youth had prior involvement with the criminal justice system, while none have become involved with the criminal justice system as perpetrator while in the program

Ross Caradonna Education Fund

- Awarded 40 post-secondary scholarships to past and present transitional program participants in last 4 years with 18 recipients in 2012/13
- Scholarships provided amount to over \$75,000 with \$33,000 given this fiscal year

SUCCESS STORIES

DETERMINED TO SUCCEED

Abigail lost her mother at a very young age and grew up living with her abusive father and sisters. At the young age of sixteen Abigail made the decision to flee her home facing the reality of surviving independently or living in shelters. This was a challenging time for Abigail and fortunately she was connect with a worker from the Hope for Youth program who supported her during her transition. Abigail has been a very active participant in the Hope for Youth program and often voices her thanks for



the support she receives. She takes part in group outings, individual counselling sessions and also attends the weekly drop in, where she has access to a food and clothing bank. Over the course of Abigail's two year involvement with the Hope For Youth program, she gained work experience, completed the St. Christopher job ready program and secured a full time job. She focused on saving money and is now financially established. Abigail had another dream to fulfill; she wanted a diploma. With the assistance of the Hope for Youth Program, she applied to college, was accepted to the Community Service Program at George Brown College, and began attending in September of 2013.

Abigail has learned that she can achieve her goals and dreams and is on the road to a bright future.

THRIVING IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

At the age of 17, Sarah was referred to the SPIRIT program from a social worker who was concerned she was not attending school and was socially isolated. Sarah has cultural and language barriers between herself and her peers. Academically she struggles, as she is an English Language Learner and had were gaps in her education.

Four years ago she immigrated to Canada from a war torn country. Sarah had left her family home due to the verbal and physical abuse. Sarah was increasingly isolated, feared her family was unsure how to navigate Canadian supports system. Since joining the SPIRIT program, Sarah has been matched with a mentor and started attending school again. She has career aspirations of being a journalist and is determined to do well academically. Sarah has received employment counselling and has had several job interviews. These positive steps have enabled her to actively seek employment.



Sarah is passionate about physical activity and is now on the school soccer team. Sarah has joined the tutoring program, cooking workshops and has utilized these skills. Sarah credits the Youth Spirit program and her mentor for helping her thrive.

SUCCESS STORIES

THE RIGHT DIRECTION

When Marie was fifteen her mother essentially abandoned her. Marie struggled with depression for many years and would detach herself, often refusing to attend school or social events. She had great difficulty trusting adults and lacked strong connections. Marie was referred to the Hope for Youth program and has been participating for several years.

At the age of eighteen Marie became pregnant and gave birth to a baby girl with a very rare and serious genetic disorder. Marie required significant emotional support during this time, as her daughter was made a Crown Ward and placed in a specialized home. Marie lost any desire for the future, became apathetic and began to isolate herself again. Her Hope For Youth Worker was persistent, developed a trusting relationship with Marie and sought formalized counseling to deal with the loss of her child.

Marie continues to see her daughter on a monthly basis and continues to work towards achieving goals she has set with her Hope for Youth Worker. She attends the drop in on a weekly basis using this time to discuss her goals and socialize with other youth. Marie has become very connected to her worker and to the Hope For Youth program, attending group outings regularly and utilizing supports. Marie has become extremely motivated and hopes to return to school to fulfill her dream of becoming a nurse. While there have been many obstacles on Marie's path, the Hope for Youth Program will ensure that Marie receives all the support she needs to achieve her goals and dreams.



ON THE VERGE OF SUCCESS

Mandy is an 18 year old female who referred herself to the program. Mandy does not know where her parents are and was living with her aunt. Mandy became the victim of physical assault by her aunt, she then left and became homeless. Mandy is part of the LGBTQ community and identifies herself as "two spirited". She gave birth to a daughter when she was 15 years old, and the child is now in the care of the father's family.

Mandy is seeking support from a drug rehabilitation program, food banks, and other support services. When Mandy became involved in the Youth Spirit program, she started attending school full time through an alternative school, and plans to graduate with a high school diploma in the next 18 months. She has been connected with a mentor and has a part time job. Mandy has aspirations of going to university and is more than capable of attaining this goal. Her writing skills are excellent as is her insight to the world. She is politically minded and concerned for the environment. Mandy is an enthusiastic and caring young woman.



TREASURER'S COMMENTS

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Pelletier is a registered charity under the Canada Revenue Act. Pelletier is fortunate to be able to count on a generous and diversified base of donors such that it isn't dependent on any particular organization to support the pursuit of its mission. Around 40% of our donors are individuals the majority of whom are repeat donors who have been supporting Pelletier's mission for a number of years. The rest of our funds are provided by various generous corporations and foundations most of which have also been long term supporters. In addition every year, volunteers organize community and corporate events, both to raise funds but also to develop awareness of the issues surrounding youth in transition.

The Board of Pelletier is made up of committed, hands-on individuals who together enrich the organization with their professional and life experiences. All Board members work on a voluntary basis. As such our cost base is very low by industry standards, at 7% of fundraising revenues. Pelletier has an investment portfolio (resulting from the sale of housing properties that were owned in the past) which is invested conservatively in the Canadian market. The portfolio's investment income is sufficient to meet all of our administrative expenses. Thus, we are able to allocate 100% of the funds that we raise directly to our various programs: our donors have the satisfaction of knowing that their entire donations are used directly to support youth at risk.

Pelletier continues to enjoy a healthy financial position, ensuring the continuity of our programs for the long term. For the year ended March 31, 2013 donations (including fundraising) of \$256k (2012: \$205k) were received, closely matching program expenditures of \$216k (2012: \$196k). A generous estate donation of \$120k was injected directly into our investment portfolio allowing its balance to raise to \$1.4m as at March 31, 2013. A mix of conservative equity investments and fixed income instruments generated investment income of \$44k (2012: \$15k) on the portfolio, which more than paid for admin expenditures of \$14k which have remained stable at this level for the last 2 years. Favourable market conditions created \$72.5k in unrealized gains on the investment portfolio.

Our program expenditures continue to increase as we aim to respond to the needs of a larger number of youth in need. In particular Pelletier spent \$183k on our successful youth Spirit Mentor program, an increase of \$20k from FY2012, allowing more youth to be paired with mentors. As in 2012 we again spent \$100k on our Hope for Youth program while scholarships and tutoring consumed \$33k, as they did in 2012.

2013 BOARD MEMBERS

NAME	TITLE
Judy Jarvis	Chair
Erin Needra	Vice Chair
Maryse Roy	Treasurer
Blake Kinahan	Secretary
Chris Milne	Director
Ella Jackson	Director
Lindsey Rigby	Director
Rebecca Kahn	Director
Chris McGirr	Director
Michelle Melas	Director
Kitrina Fex	Director

CONTACT INFORMATION

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