



HONOURING THE TIES THAT BIND.

ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25



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left: Halloween fun at Adsum.
middle: Adsum staff – Mackenzie, Natalie, Virginia, & Trina
right: Playing in the fresh air at The Rose.

Adsum for Women & Children operates in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. Adsum provides a range of shelter and housing support services in and near Kijipuktuk. We recognize that colonization has jeopardized Indigenous Peoples' history and connection to this land. We are committed to demonstrating practices within our organization that are rooted in reconciliation and decolonization. At Adsum, we understand that we are all treaty people.

Adsum recognizes that acknowledgment is meaningless without action. We aim to keep our commitment to reconciliation in all our approaches, and strive to reflect, ask questions, and seek guidance and direction from our relationships with Mi'kmaw knowledge keepers. We acknowledge the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples within the unhoused population. We are committed to hiring and retaining Indigenous staff, to trauma-informed practices that recognize the impact of the generational trauma suffered by many Indigenous women, Two-Spirit people, and families that seek our services, to educating our staff and seeking professional development opportunities whenever possible, and to working in partnerships with Mi'kmaw service providers.



LAST YEAR, ADSUM PROVIDED NEARLY
3,700 HOURS OF PROGRAMMING
ACROSS ITS LOCATIONS.

At Adsum, we believe that everyone has the right to safe, secure housing.



left: Members of the 2024/25 Board of Directors

2024-25 BOARD

Angela Rafuse, President
Flora MacLeod, Past President
Raelene Kennedy, Treasurer
Denise Bradbury, Secretary

Catherine Baker, Director
Courtney Brown, Director
Amanda Craig, Director
Shirley Hazen, Director

Natalie Isaacs, Director
Sue Kelleher, Director
Ciara Watton, Director

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PREPARING OUR SHARED MESSAGE FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT PROVIDES US AN OPPORTUNITY EACH YEAR TO PAUSE AND REFLECT ON THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS AT ADSUM FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN.

In the busyness of the day-to-day and month-to-month we don't always have the time to properly grasp the many milestones we've celebrated over the year or to process the losses and setbacks that also come with the work we do. Looking back, what stands out is just how vital relationships are to Adsum – and the many different types of relationships that exist throughout our organization.

Whether it's helping families regain the privacy and dignity of having their own home; caring for staff and clients on difficult days or celebrating with them on the positive ones; working with government partners to find creative ways to meet the diverse needs of the folks we support; connecting with volunteers who generously give their time to keep our operations running smoothly; or demonstrating our gratitude and accountability to the donors who make so much of our work possible – these are the relationships that move our mission forward. These are just some of the many ties that bind our community.

In addition to our ongoing operations providing emergency shelter, permanent housing, and programs

and services for people experiencing housing insecurity, Adsum continued to use its platform and voice to advocate for an end to homelessness and the issues that contribute to it including poverty, violence, and the lack of truly affordable housing. Through public statements, editorials, and participation in panels and Legislative Committee proceedings, Adsum has been vocal about many issues affecting Nova Scotians, and in particular, women and children. In a year that saw an unprecedented surge in deaths of Nova Scotian women as a result of intimate partner violence (IPV), we engaged with many partners to push for government recognition of IPV as an epidemic in our province and for greater investments in prevention. We launched public education campaigns to ensure



that housing, poverty, food insecurity, and IPV were issues that voters, and candidates, considered during last year's municipal and provincial elections.

As the housing crisis persisted, we received requests for support from an historically high number of families. Our Eviction Prevention program offered funding to 105 families to prevent the loss of housing or assist with arranging new housing. Shelter Diversion supported 198 families with 235 children in hotel rooms across HRM. Adsum's program that provides supports to African Nova Scotians, called Journey Home, worked with 18 families. Diverting Families assisted 55 families and another 90 families turned to Adsum for support through our Housing Clinic.

The dire shortage of safe, affordable housing for families has resulted in hundreds of people staying in hotels – sometimes for up to two years. A hotel room is not an appropriate space to raise a family. Working with the province, in late 2024, Adsum took on the management of an underutilized building that the provincial government is leasing and within weeks, families were moving from hotels into this new supportive housing that we call *The Rose*. By spring 2025, 18 families with 50 kids were living in their own apartments.

The Rose is just one initiative that Adsum has developed in recent years, in close collaboration with the provincial departments of Health, and

Opportunities and Social Development, to bring greater health, safety, and dignity to people experiencing homelessness in HRM. Last year saw a continuation of Adsum's role as the service provider for The Bridge, one of the province's largest shelters. The on-site health care and development of trust among clients is credited with the decreasing use of hospital emergency rooms in Central Region by people experiencing homelessness. Additionally, many residents of The Bridge have moved on to permanent housing from that location.

Across our locations and programs, Adsum employs more than 180 staff. We are proud, especially as a non-profit, to be maintaining our commitment to the

left: Angela Rafuse, Board President
right: Sheri Lecker, Executive Director

provision of living wages and other staff benefits. We are pleased to have reached a collective agreement with one of our unions in the last fiscal year, and initiated negotiations on a first agreement with a second union. As an employer, we recognize that the work that we do can impact our employees' physical and mental health; we have undertaken initiatives to maintain and improve staff wellness.

Today, more than 100 people live in safe, affordable, permanent housing that is owned by Adsum. Looking forward, work is underway to construct the second phase of The Sunflower in Lakeside. Additionally, last year Adsum purchased a four-plex on the Halifax peninsula which, after extensive renovations, will offer affordable housing to single moms and their families. While we also support hundreds of people in our shelters and temporary spaces, permanent housing like this is the true vision of our organization. It is a human right and one we will continue to work to see realized for all.

As we look back on the previous year, we experience mixed and conflicting feelings. We are angry and disheartened that the basic needs of so many of our

neighbours continue to be unmet. We continually adapt to the growing and changing needs of the communities we support but too many of the solutions we can offer are temporary. We are heartbroken each time we learn of another loss from violence or the impacts of poverty and homelessness. And yet, we are buoyed by the compassion and determination of our staff. We are appreciative of our volunteers who so generously give us their time and talents. We are tremendously grateful for the outpouring of generosity from donors.

Our work, and the need for our work, continues. Thank you to staff, volunteers, donors, and partners for bringing our mission to life. With your support, we move closer to our vision of every person having a home.

Angela Rafuse
Board President

Sheri Lecker
Executive Director



A JOURNEY OUT OF DARKNESS

TERRI SINGER



left: Terri tending to The Rose's community garden
right: Terri with two of her kids, Jacks & Rinoa



IF SOMEONE HAD TOLD ME THREE YEARS AGO THAT WE WOULD SOON EMBARK ON ONE OF THE MOST CHALLENGING JOURNEYS THROUGH HOMELESSNESS, I'M NOT SURE I WOULD HAVE BELIEVED THEM.

We packed up our meagre belongings with the expectation of living in a hotel for a few weeks, maybe a few months at most. What followed was months of uncertainty, grief, and shame. Many nights of soothing tears and nightmares later, we came to Halifax hoping for more resources—and we found Adsum.

Adsum supported us by placing us in a hotel while we waited for housing. Those months were some of

the hardest we've ever faced, waiting for housing that seemed too far out of reach. But Adsum stayed connected to us, offering support, kindness, and compassion, even when we were still in limbo.

I hesitate to think what might have happened had we not been connected with Adsum. Would we have been shivering in a tent during sub-zero winters? Or imposing on family and friends? Struggling to maintain even the basic decency of a bed? For many families, that's the terrifying reality.

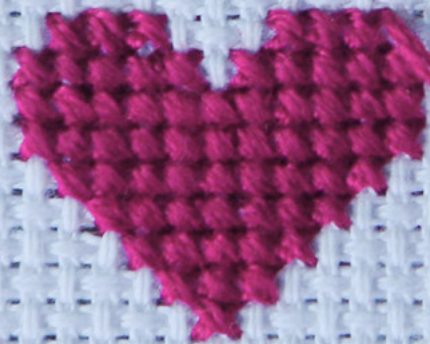
The day we moved into our four-bedroom unit, I let go of a breath I didn't know I was holding. I walked around the space with tears of gratitude running down

my face. My children ran through the rooms, laughing and claiming their spaces. For the first time in a long while, we felt safe.

We now feel encouraged and supported by staff—and more than that, we feel welcomed and accepted, which is key to healing from the trauma we've endured. Together with staff and other residents, we've even begun a community garden—hopefully one that is enjoyed for many years to come.

Adsum has been a saving grace—a shining light of hope in the darkness of doubt. We are finally learning to thrive again.

MORE THAN 15,000 MEALS
WERE PREPARED AT
ADSUM HOUSE.



GROWING SEEDS OF HOPE AT THE ROSE



Rose Marie
Comeau

OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, ADSUM HAS SUPPORTED RECORD NUMBERS OF FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING INSECURITY.

The housing crisis for families – a collision of a lack of affordable housing options, cost of living increases, and too often, a rise in intimate partner violence – has hit historic levels in Nova Scotia. Emergency shelters are not ideal for children and Adsum has supported hundreds of families in hotels while they wait to find permanent housing. But hotel rooms are not homes and the wait some families are

experiencing until finding housing has reached up to two years.

Last fall, Adsum assumed the management of an underutilized building in downtown Halifax that has been leased by the provincial government and quickly retrofitted the interior to create a transitional, supportive housing model for families. Within weeks of receiving the keys to the building, families began to move from hotel stays into their own apartments. Here, families are afforded privacy and dignity and benefit from facilities that include resource rooms, common areas, a playground, and gymnasium, as well as support services and programming.

This new model of housing was named *The Rose* in honour of two long-time special friends of Adsum – Rose Marie Comeau and Dolly Williams.

Rose Marie Comeau and her late husband John McKibbin started supporting Adsum's work more than 20 years ago. Recently, Rose Marie joined Adsum as a regular volunteer. Each week, Rose Marie spends an afternoon at Adsum House preparing and cooking dinner for the shelter's residents. She has also been regularly giving her time as a volunteer at The Rose where she has helped to create efficient systems for organizing donations like personal care items



ADSUM SUPPORTED
308 FAMILIES
LAST YEAR.

right:
Dolly Williams



and household goods that are distributed to Adsum's clients and to many folks in the community.

"I'M OVERWHELMED BY HOW ADSUM HAS GROWN AND ADAPTED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THOSE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS OVER THE YEARS," SHARES ROSE MARIE.

"In the years that I have known the organization, I've been so impressed by its operations and am pleased that I now have the time to get to know the organization close-up as a volunteer."

The rose is Dolly Williams' favourite flower. Dolly has been working with Adsum for 25 years as a casual Client Support Worker. A leader in Nova Scotia's Black community and lifelong social justice advocate, she works tirelessly to make life better for those living in this province.

When asked recently for her advice for those working to ensure that one day everyone has housing, Dolly offered these wise words: "Enjoy the work. Don't get tired." That is easier said than done but Dolly continues to serve as an inspiration to Adsum and our greater community.

We're grateful and privileged for the support and friendship of Rose Marie and Dolly and proud to be able to honour them in this way.

TODAY, 18 FAMILIES WITH 50 CHILDREN ARE LIVING IN THEIR OWN APARTMENTS AT THE ROSE, A PLACE THAT LIKE ROSE MARIE AND DOLLY, OFFERS HOPE AND DIGNITY TO THOSE WE SUPPORT.



629 CHILDREN RECEIVED
SUPPORT FROM ADSUM
LAST CHRISTMAS.

PARTNERING FOR CHANGE



The Bridge

IN THE SPRING OF 2023, THE BRIDGE OPENED IN A FORMER HOTEL IN DOWNTOWN DARTMOUTH.

Led by Adsum and in partnership with the provincial government departments of Opportunities and Social Development Seniors and Long-term Care, and Health and Wellness; the Office of Addictions and Mental Health; and supported by Nova Scotia Health, The Bridge is entering its third year of operation. Last year alone, nearly 300 people found shelter and support at The Bridge. While shelter is not housing and Adsum's vision is that one day, places like The Bridge won't be needed, until that day, partnerships

like this are allowing folks the dignity and safety of being indoors and providing them with access to vital supports and services.


Thanks to this first-of-its-kind partnership with the Department of Health and Wellness, The Bridge is having a significant impact on the health of people experiencing homelessness in HRM. This partnership is providing access to primary healthcare resources to residents at The Bridge and others in the community where they are.

"The Bridge is a great example of what is possible when government and the not-for-profit sector work together. Through this innovative partnership with

Adsum, government is able to better meet the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness," shared Joy Knight, Senior Executive Director of System Integration with the Department of Health and Wellness.

**"BECAUSE OF OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH
ADSUM COMBINING HEALTH AND
SOCIAL SUPPORTS, WE HAVE SEEN A 40%
REDUCTION IN HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS
FOR INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS WITHIN HRM."**

"Partnerships like this are changing lives and we are proud to partner with Adsum in this important work."



68 PEOPLE MOVED ON TO
PERMANENT HOUSING FROM
THE BRIDGE LAST YEAR.

A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT



Monthly donor,
Elizabeth Smith

ADSUM BENEFITS FROM THE SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY OF THE COMMUNITY AND MUCH OF THE WORK WE DO IS ONLY POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF DONORS.

Each year, hundreds of individuals, businesses, community groups, and foundations make extraordinary donations of money, gifts-in-kind, items, and time and talent that allow us to bring hope to the women, children, and families we support.

Over the past 25 years, Craig Sampson has been supporting Adsum in different ways. While he was a student in a post-grad program at NSCC in 2000,

Craig's instructor organized a group of his classmates to prepare a Christmas dinner for residents staying at Adsum House.

"It was my first real introduction to non-profit organizations and spending the day serving others had a tremendous impact on me," shares Craig. "The experience stayed with me and in 2002 I rallied a group of my co-workers to return to Adsum House to prepare a big turkey dinner around the holidays and a tradition was born."

For the next 18 years, each December Craig brought a group of friends, co-workers, and family members to the House – along with all the provisions needed for a big feast – and cooked and served countless

turkey dinners for residents. During these years, Craig also occasionally organized groups from his church to work together on painting, repairs, and ongoing maintenance at the shelter. When COVID began, the Christmas dinner tradition came to an abrupt end.

Craig's connection with Adsum and our work was deep, and he knew he wanted to find another way to give back. When he began coaching his daughter's basketball team at École Secondaire du Sommet, he organized a fundraising raffle in support of Adsum and with the funds raised each year, Craig takes the team to Walmart where they split up and compete to see who can cross off the most items from Adsum's Christmas wish list during the half-hour time limit and



within budget. This has become a new tradition for Craig and, in addition to the joy he finds in supporting Adsum, he's excited to be introducing a new generation to the importance of philanthropy.

ELIZABETH SMITH HAS SPENT THE PAST 25 YEARS WORKING AS A FUNDRAISING PROFESSIONAL WITH VARIOUS NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.

Last year, she was representing her organization at a 100 Women Who Care event when she heard Adsum's executive director, Sheri Lecker, speak. She had long been aware of the housing crisis in Halifax but hearing from Sheri about the effect this crisis is having on

hundreds of families really impacted her and she left the event wanting to do something to help.

"Learning that so many women and children were staying in hotel rooms – some for hundreds of days – had a huge impact on me. I spent many years as a single mom and although I experienced struggles and challenging times, we were always fortunate to have housing that I could afford," says Elizabeth. "Every family deserves a place they call home. Somewhere safe to sleep, a table to share meals together, a sofa to snuggle on."

While her philanthropic budget is limited and typically focused on the organization she's working with and one-time gifts in support of fundraising

events and appeals, Elizabeth immediately became a monthly donor to Adsum. "From my years in the fund development sector, I know that monthly gifts can greatly impact organizations' bottom lines. As a predictable and ongoing revenue stream, it helps organizations with planning. And for donors, monthly donations allow for more significant contributions to be made over a period of time," shares Elizabeth.

Adsum is grateful for all the ways people choose to support our organization, our work, and ultimately, those experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we are able to live out our mission by offering housing, support, and advocacy while we move closer to our vision of everyone having a home.

REFLECTIONS ON LOSS



AT ADSUM, WE'RE PRIVILEGED TO GET TO KNOW SO MANY PEOPLE THROUGH OUR WORK. EVEN WHILE MAINTAINING PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES, IT'S INEVITABLE THAT WE DEVELOP CONNECTIONS WITH MANY OF THOSE WE SUPPORT.

This often means celebrating with clients when they find safe, affordable housing or meet goals they've set for themselves. It can also look like supporting folks through significant setbacks and losses. The human experience can be heavy and we're honoured to share the perspectives of Cheryl MacIsaac and Rylee Booroff on the impact of loss on our community.

From Cheryl MacIsaac, Program Manager

OUR WORK AT ADSUM IS DRIVEN BY HOPE. WE BELIEVE THAT HOUSING IS A HUMAN RIGHT, EVERYONE DESERVES TO BE HOUSED, AND THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO END HOMELESSNESS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

It takes a lot of hope to sustain the conviction that things can and will change, especially during the current housing emergency and in an exceptionally grim global context.

We are privileged to witness many housing successes at Adsum, and we celebrate these regularly. But we also witness a lot of loss and suffering. When it feels

like nothing is working and change seems impossible, the flip side of hope, despair, can set in. Despair feels a whole lot like grief.

In our work, we lose people. The most obvious way we experience loss is when someone dies, and then we do our best to honour their lives and their time with us in ways that we hope they would approve of. Sometimes we process our shared grief formally, by writing memorials to share amongst staff and by coming together with clients to collectively remember and celebrate the person that has passed, or the version of them we were privileged to come to know. More often we manage the experience of loss in our work by regularly and informally sharing stories about folks who have passed or have moved on and recalling the ways in which their lives intersected with ours.

We keep in mind we only know a fraction of someone's life, and what we know might not even be what someone would choose to be remembered by. Staff occupy a unique role in folks' lives; we are not family or friends, but often we are someone's most consistent and reliable contact. Sometimes we only know a snapshot; for others, we have provided support for years, even decades. When that supportive relationship is severed, by death or otherwise, there is no playbook that tells us what is appropriate to feel, unlike a family member or friend.

Death is an obvious and profound loss, but grief in the work shows up in other ways, too. We meet many folks in shelter, but we also house hundreds of people in our permanent and emergency housing units, which means we have known some clients for significant portions of their lives and have seen many of them from adolescence and early adulthood to their senior years. We experience grief when we witness someone's health decline over time or in an abrupt health event, when a family is separated because someone's children were apprehended by child protection, when folks who have enjoyed a period of stability have that stability become disrupted, when multiple systems fail someone, over and over. Often it is the loss of never knowing what happens once someone moves on; we don't get to know if things have gotten better for them. Through the retelling of stories and our experiences of and with the folks that we grieve, we are saying, we remember you, and you mattered.

left: Cheryl MacIsaac,
Program Manager
middle: Rylee Booroff,
Shelter Director,
The Bridge
right: Memorial Book
at The Bridge



From Rylee Booroff,
Shelter Director, The Bridge

AT A CELEBRATION OF LIFE LAST WEEK, A CLIENT LOOKED AROUND THE CIRCLE AND SAID: "WE'RE HAVING WAY TOO MANY OF THESE."

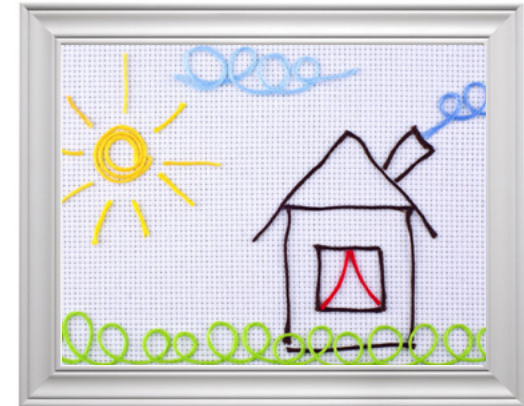
I nodded in agreement and looked at our *In Memory Of* book, filled with obituaries and handwritten messages sharing love, heart break, and wishes of peace. We experience loss regularly in our community. I use the word regularly to mark frequency, but caution against normalizing loss as 'part of the work.'

Each time we experience a loss, it is felt deeply across staff and clients. None of us are strangers to grief.

Grief, however, is an expression of how much each of us cares for those we have lost and a reflection of the impact that person has had on each of us. As part of our grieving process after a loss, we have a celebration of life for each person. We all come together, staff and clients, sometimes family and other community agencies, and share memories, stories, and the ways each person has impacted us. Getting to know each person we support is a privilege none of us takes lightly, and the celebration of life is a reflection and honouring of that privilege.

2024-2025 DONOR LIST

Each year, Adsum for Women & Children benefits from the extraordinary support of our community. We are grateful for the continued generosity of all our donors and acknowledge below gifts over \$1,000 made through financial and in-kind donations. (Personal and individual donations are not included here.)



FOUNDATIONS

Aqueduct Foundation
Black Family Foundation
Canadian Online Giving Foundation
Definity Insurance Foundation
Edmonton Community Foundation
Enterprise Holdings Foundation
Flemming Charitable Foundation
Grant Thornton Foundation
Halifax Protestant Infants Foundation
Halifax Youth Foundation
Hughes Family Charitable Foundation
J & W Murphy Foundation
MakeWay Foundation
Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia
RBC Foundation
Shoppers Foundation for Women's Health

Starbucks Foundation Charitable Fund
The Community Foundation of
Nova Scotia Society
The Johnston Family Foundation
The Joseph Frieberg Family
Charitable Foundation
The Windsor Foundation

ESTATES

A. Mary Holmes Trust
John and Elizabeth Godin Charitable Trust

FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Bethany United Church Local Outreach
Calvin Presbyterian Church
Christian Science Society
Grace United Church

Sisters of Charity
Society of the Sacred Heart

GOVERNMENT

Government of Canada
Government of Nova Scotia
Halifax Regional Municipality
Nova Scotia Health Authority
Wage and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE)

COMMUNITY

Affordable Housing Association
of Nova Scotia
Benefaction
Bluenose Bonspiel
Canadian Progress Club Halifax Citadel
Canadian Women in Medicine

Dalhousie Medical Students'
Society - Euphoria
Dalhousie Dentistry Class of 2024
Dartmouth Heritage Museum
Father Lloyd O'Neill's Legacy
Feed Nova Scotia
Gifffunds Canada
Halifax Seaport Cider and Beerfest
Hockey Helps The Homeless
IWK
Kids Upfront Atlantic
Nova Multifest Society
NSGEU#82
NSLC for the Community
Provincial Government Employees
Credit Union
The Halifax Assistance Fund
United Way of Halifax



Every year, the Dalhousie Medical Students' Society holds Euphoria! – a fundraising variety show. We are honoured to have been chosen as the recipient of the 2025 Euphoria! event which raised a record \$65,200!

BUSINESSES

2 Crows Brewing Co.
3009202 NS Ltd.
3268898 Nova Scotia Limited
Academic Pediatrics Incorporated
Acadia Siding Distributors
Aethera Technologies
Algonquin by the Sea
Anchor Property Management
Apex Sales Group Inc.
Arab Atlantic Investments Ltd.
Banana Republic Factory Store
Bell Media
Bliss Caffeine Bar
Burley Investments Inc.
Canadian Condominium Institute National
Canadian Tire Corporation Limited

Canadian Tire Halifax Dealers
Casino Nova Scotia
Chantele Joordens Limited
Chorus Aviation
Collabria Financial
Craig Gallant & Associates Inc.
CWIM Gather Inc.
DACKA Consulting Inc.
Dash Social
Deep Down Cleaning Services Ltd.
Donald C. Murray, Q.C. Barrister
Dr. Shalini Veerassamy Inc.
Eastern Fence Erectors Ltd.
EMC Inc. Emergency Medical Care Inc.
Evolve Fitness Ltd.
FedEx
Flynn Canada

FX 101.9
Gap Inc.
GBS Technologies
Genest Psychological Services
Green Diamond Equipment
Halifax Osteopathic Health Centre
Halifax Shopping Centre
Halifax Tides FC
Halifax Visiting Dispensary
Holy Father Productions Inc.
Hook, Line & Tinker
I. H. Mathers & Son Ltd.
iNova Credit Union
Intact Insurance
Intent
Jagger's Piercing Studio
JL Rhymes Inc.
John Allen Brewing Company
JTI-Macdonald Corp
Kandy Golf
Kent Building Supplies
Kinaxis
Lassonde
MAC Cosmetics
McInnes Cooper
Metrie
Metro Self Storage
Metropolitan Entertainment Group
Michael Byrne & Associates Inc.
North Brewing Company Ltd.
O'Regan's
Osheplin Inc.

Payzant's Home Hardware
Pivot Consulting Inc.
Precision Biologic
Pro Reit Management Inc.
Quannessance
Ramsey & Fernandez MD Inc.
RBC Dominion Securities
REGroup
Scotia Fuels Limited
Silken Lingerie
Skinfix Inc.
Smith & Touesnard Inc.
SMU Huskies
Sour Wood Cider
SWEB Development Inc.
Sylvie Marie Music
TD Bank
Telus Corporation
The Co-Operators
The Flower Shop Ltd.
The John Allen Brewing Company Limited
The Tire Man
Therault Financial Inc
Tim Hortons
Trisura Guarantee Insurance Company
United Mortgage Alliance
Vanity Fashions
Weldon McInnis
Wilson Fuel Co. Limited
World Financial Group
Xtra Document Solutions Limited



top left: Adsum clients & staff enjoy an outing to Peggy's Cove
 bottom left: Members of École Secondaire du Sommet's
 basketball team after their holiday shopping 'spree' for Adsum
 above: Adsum staff celebrating Pride

FINANCIALS

2024-2025 YEAR-END TREASURER'S REPORT

AUDITED STATEMENTS

The Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025 (the Financial Statements) were prepared and audited by Baker Tilly (the Auditors).

OPERATIONS

In fiscal 2025, the Association faced significant challenges due to the ongoing increase in homelessness and the high cost of living. These issues added complexity and additional work for the staff. Fundraising activities decreased this year, with total funds raised amounting to \$53,478, down from \$67,441 in 2024. Contributions for current operations included \$1.2 million from donations and major gifts (compared to \$1.3 million in fiscal 2024) and \$3.8 million from grants and fees for services (up from \$2.8 million in fiscal 2024). These funds were allocated to vital programming and housing support.

Due to the escalating housing crisis, Adsum collaborated with the province to manage accommodations for people staying in hotels. In 2024, the province continued to directly pay the hotels, resulting in a further decrease in funding. In 2025, the Association reported \$983,575 in revenue (down from \$1,982,402 in 2024) and \$983,580 in expenses (down

from \$1,982,632 in 2024). Additionally, \$761,000 in fees for services was received to manage The Rose, which provided supportive housing for families previously sheltered in hotels.

Throughout this challenging year, the Association worked diligently to meet the community's unique needs. As the organization recognized gains in revenue, the surplus was quickly redeployed into direct client supports, resulting in a break-even position at the end of the year.

THE BRIDGE

Adsum continued to provide support and administration of The Bridge in 2024-25. The project provides shelter and resources for approximately 200 people a month at the old Doubletree hotel in Dartmouth. The revenue for this project was 2025 \$8,627,765 (\$5,381,847-2024) and expenses directly related to the project \$8,804,333 (\$5,076,848-2024). Adsum provided additional supports such as clothing and food.

BUDGET

The 2025-26 Budget was drafted by the Association and presented to the Board. The board approved the budget at the June 25, 2025 meeting.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As I reflect on my tenure, it has been both a pleasure and an honor to serve as Treasurer on the Board of Directors of the Association. I am deeply grateful to the Staff and Directors of Adsum for their unwavering support in my role as Treasurer. I am continually inspired by the dedication, effort, and depth of knowledge that the Executive Director, Sheri Lecker, and the Finance Manager, Doreen Logan, bring to their work at Adsum. Their exceptional contributions to financial management are crucial to the long-term success of the Association.

OVERALL

The Association continues to demonstrate a strong financial position. Readers are encouraged to examine the audited accounts as published in the annual report.

Respectfully submitted,



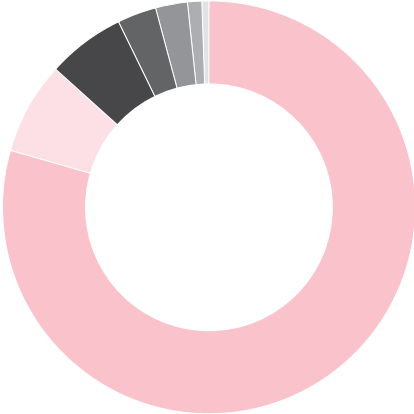
Raelene Kennedy, CPA, CMA
Treasurer

ADSUM ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2025

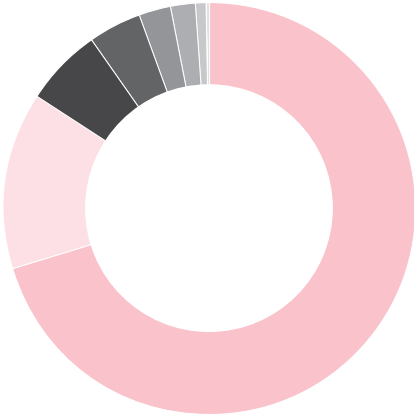
	2025 \$	2024 \$
REVENUES		
Donations	1,222,738	1,310,488
Amortization of deferred contributions – capital assets <i>(Note 9)</i>	391,021	374,773
Investment income <i>(Note 13)</i>	185,470	37,241
Fundraising events	53,478	67,441
Government fees for services		
Adsum	3,756,725	2,796,722
The Bridge	8,627,765	5,381,847
The Rose	761,244	-
Rental operations	515,901	433,389
Other	41,032	11,367
Reimbursement for hotel costs <i>(Note 14)</i>	983,575	1,982,402
	16,538,949	12,395,670
EXPENSES		
Administrative costs	307,093	218,166
Amortization	432,882	414,690
Bad debts	3,723	9,795
Interest on long-term debt	9,082	8,954
Hotel costs <i>(Note 14)</i>	983,580	1,982,632
Operations		
Adsum	2,372,031	1,962,873
The Bridge	8,804,333	5,076,848
The Rose	464,589	-
Promotion and fundraising	109,114	121,290
Property expenses	684,041	691,591
Salaries and benefits	2,297,292	1,855,204
	16,467,760	12,342,043
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	71,189	53,627
UNREALIZED GAIN ON INVESTMENTS <i>(Note 13)</i>	189,399	319,427
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	260,588	373,054

ADSUM ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2025



Revenues		
Government Fees for Services	79.5%	
Donations	7.4%	
Reimbursement for Hotel Costs	6%	
Rental Operations	3.1%	
Amortization of Deferred Contributions	2.4%	
Investment Income	1.1%	
Fundraising Events	0.5%	



Expenses		
Operations	70.4%	
Salaries & Benefits	14%	
Hotel Costs	6%	
Property Expenses	4.2%	
Amortization	2.6%	
Administration Costs	1.9%	
Promotion and Fundraising	0.83%	
Interest on Long Term Debt	0.05%	
Bad Debt	0.02%	

top: 3rd Carter Girl Guides and Pathfinders
bottom: Adsum staff, Virginia



THANK YOU

As we look back on our previous fiscal year, we continue to be amazed by the generosity of those who make our work possible. To our committed and compassionate staff; our loyal volunteers; our community and government partners; and our many generous donors – thank you for believing in our vision and supporting our mission. Together, we are moving closer to the day when everyone will have a safe, permanent home.

PORTRAITS BY EMMA LOMAS MEDIA
DESIGN BY KATIE GOODZ



top right: Enjoying a communal
meal at The Sunflower
bottom left: Laurie and Trevor
Dolhan of Hook, Line & Tinker
bottom right: Adsum staff's
holiday gathering



IN ADDITION TO THE FOLKS STAYING OR
LIVING IN ADSUM'S SHELTERS AND HOUSING,
NEARLY 10,000 PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY
WERE SUPPORTED AT OUR DROP-IN, OVER THE
PHONE, AND AT OUR DOORS.



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