



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023





LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge we are on First Nations land, Turtle Island, inhabited by First Nations from time immemorial.

For thousands of years, First Nations people—the Anishinaabe, Cree, Dakota, Dene, and Anishininew Nations—walked and lived on this land and knew it to be the centre of their lives and spirituality. The Anishinaabe call this land Manitou Ahbee, the place where the Creator resides.

We acknowledge this became the homeland of the Métis people.

We acknowledge and welcome the many people from countries all over the world who have come to join us, Turtle Island's First Nations, in calling this land our home.

We acknowledge we are now all bound together by Treaty 1.

-Theodore Fontaine



VISION

A comforting place for victims and survivors of crime.

MISSION

Our mission is to provide a safe and comforting day refuge for victims and survivors of crime navigating the court process.

Candace House will offer access to holistic and culturally appropriate resources and referrals as well as victim support services in a way that promotes empowerment and resilience.

Candace House will endeavor to contribute to the leadership in the victim services sector through effective and strategic use of collaborative partnerships.

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CANDACE HOUSE BOARD & STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carla Loeppky, *Board Co-Chair*

Brian Bell, *Board Co-Chair*

Darryl Stewart, *Secretary*

Terri Scott, *Treasurer*

Odia Reimer, *Director*

Katherine Stanley, *Director*

Sande Higgins, *Director*

Terri Scott, *Treasurer*



STAFF

Cecilly Hildebrand, *Executive Director*

Taylor Kerelluke, *Director of Operations*

Danielle Gzebb, *Victim Family Support Liaison*



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It hurts, and it's beautiful. If I were to summarize the last few years that's what I would say. It has been the honour of my life to walk with people in their trauma and grief. And since Candace House opened, we have had the privilege of doing so with over 1000 people in connection to over 100 homicides. But there is nothing like the sound of a mother's wail. It is something that rips at your soul unlike almost anything else. Yet, the courage we bear witness to, the way families remember the life of their loved one, and the relationships that we have formed with our partners, that is beautiful.

Now, five short years after opening the doors to our new and first-of-its-kind space, we're doing it again. In the spring of 2022, Candace House signed a lease and took possession of Suite 1A at 183 Kennedy Street, the building we currently occupy, overly doubling our size. With homicide rates having doubled in the past five years over the five years prior, our expansion could not be coming at a more critical time. This last year alone we were often hosting anywhere from 2 to 7 families, meaning we often had to heartbreakingly turn some away. As homicides often take years to work through the court process, we know we will continue to be busier than ever before.

Our Honouring Courage capital campaign for renovations and start-up costs kicked off last summer and now is well underway and we are so grateful for the tremendous support we have already received. We want to thank Sputnik Architecture for the work they have already undertaken in terms of design, as well as a huge thank you to Dr. Barb Toews for her research and evaluation study that has helped lay our path forward. We excitedly anticipate the opening of this additional space in the summer of 2023.

This expansion will allow us to better meet the increased demand for our services, enhance current programming, and develop further ground-breaking services. We are tremendously grateful for the partnerships we have and are continuing to grow in our community that help us collaboratively care for our families and develop new and innovative ways to meet the needs that exist. I want to specifically acknowledge elders Leslie Spillett, Thelma Morrisseau, and Stan LaPierre, Medicine Bear Counselling, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, and Winnipeg Police Services, for their incredible ongoing engagement and collaborative work. We also look forward to hiring additional Candace House staff and growing our team!



As I look towards this next year, I am overwhelmed with emotion knowing the impact our increased capacity will have. On behalf of the families who will find refuge at Candace House, thank you for your incredible support.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cecilly Hildebrand". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CECILLY HILDEBRAND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

The last year was one of growth. The “Honouring Courage” campaign has been extremely successful: within a few months, Candace House has already raised several hundred thousand dollars towards the expansion aimed to double intake capacity. Different levels of government, local organizations, and personal donations all combined to make our fundraising goal a reality.

The first time I walked into the additional space I was filled with a sense of deep satisfaction. Over a very short period, Candace House had grown, giving us the space to journey alongside even more families. You could instantly see how people will be able to sink into the couches, sit around the dining table, and feel comforted by the caring Candace House team. Seeing the plan coming to fruition is extremely gratifying.

Let me get back to the HOW because we had a lot of help to get us to where we’re at. Our incredible fundraising team, Dr. Barb Toews, Sputnik Architecture, and so many donors!

The donations have been the foundation of our campaign: we can’t do it without YOU. From monetary gifts to gifts of plants and quilts... our space is coming together because of YOU. I want to extend a very special thank you to YOU; your support made this all happen.

I also wanted to take some time to thank two foundational members of the Board – Darryl Stewart and Brian Bell—who completed their time with Candace House this year. I am so thankful for the gifts of leadership that each of them brought to the Board. Darryl served for 9 years primarily in the capacity of Board President. His vision, positive attitude, and commitment to Candace House contributed immensely to Candace House coming to fruition. Without him, I am uncertain we would have opened the doors back in 2018. He embodies the definition of “servant leader” and we benefitted from his approach to life. Brian served on the board for 7 years as a Director and Co-President. His extensive experience in the legal world as well as his commitment to the Derksen family made his time on the Board valuable in so many ways. I always appreciated Brian’s ability to balance a discussion and his desire to keep Candace House’s vision consistent and clear. To both Darryl and Brian: your insights and spirit will be missed.

I also want to acknowledge the passing of Cliff Derksen in May of 022. Cliff, together with his wife, Wilma, were the visionaries behind Candace House following the murder of their daughter, Candace, in November of 1984. Cliff was an incredible husband, father, and grandfather, and will be dearly missed.

So what’s next? As I reflect on the year ahead, I am looking forward to bringing on new Directors to the Board, continuing to build the Candace House team, and settling on the new path the expanded space allows.

With gratitude,



CARLA LOEPPKY
BOARD CHAIR



SERVICES & PROGRAMS

HEALING HAVEN

The **Healing Haven** is the core Candace House program, and the service that our organization was built on. The Healing Haven provides wrap-around support for those impacted by violent crime, predominately homicide, while attending court proceedings.

39 unique families supported **367** unique individuals **1222** contacts

Through our Healing Haven, we offer various types of support and care.

A safe and comforting refuge

Our Healing Haven offers a private and safe space that families can call their own daytime home-away-from-home. It is a place to wait during breaks, lunches, and jury deliberations, to hang out while other family members attend court, or to participate in court virtually. A place where they can put up photos of their loved one, bring items of comfort from their home, and invite friends and supporters to come and be with them

This space includes a living room with ventilation for smudging, a kitchen, an accessible washroom, reading nooks, a quiet room, and a resource area. Amenities available include items such as slippers, WiFi, phone, TV, musical instruments, games and crafts, and books.



"[The defendant supporters] were laughing in court. It was just very, very difficult for us. And we were trying to control our tears. And gain an understanding of what actually was happening. So, to be able to go to a place where we could be open and say whatever we wanted to, and ask any questions, without worrying about somebody overhearing us. I think that was the big thing.

- Family Survivor

SERVICES & PROGRAMS HEALING HAVEN

Emotional and practical support

Staff walk alongside individuals and families to provide care and emotional support in the wake of violence. **Staff meet individuals and families where they are at, creating safe spaces for the expression of all emotions.** Candace House staff also offer coping skills and techniques, helping to distract, de-escalate, and debrief, and to address issues related to anxiety, trauma, substance use, and depression. Staff also encourage resilience and help to empower victims and survivors by offering ideas on meaning-making activities.

“ I feel like the staff kind of have this role of like a granny or a Kookum. Coming from an Indigenous background, for my generation, I looked at my grandma, and my granny. They were the ones that just kind of cared for us. They would watch over us. If we needed something, they would get it. But if we ever needed just a moment, we would just sit there with them. And they were always there for us. So, I guess it’s like the backbone of our family was always our grandmothers. And so, I kind of see the staff as the younger grandmas.

- Family survivor



Candace House also offers support to individuals and families by recognizing and working to address practical needs that exist. For example, this includes placing calls to help individuals make vaccine appointments, helping to fill out paperwork for compensation, EIA, and housing, searching for financial support options for travel and accommodation, or making referrals for counselling and therapy. Staff are flexible and adaptable, and ready to do what they can to help.

537 staff hours providing emotional and practical support

SERVICES & PROGRAMS

HEALING HAVEN

Nourishing the heart

Candace House offers a full meal program, with coffee, tea, snacks, and full lunches and suppers available. Families no longer have to worry about preparing or purchasing food. It also means that while trauma may have either fractured relationships or brought people closer together, whether they are living in the same city or coming from provinces apart, families are able to gather and 'break bread' together, re-establishing and strengthening relationships.



As needed, Candace House also sends meals and hampers home. This helps to further reduce both the associated financial and mental burden of having to find food and prepare a meal after a long and draining day.

1006 meals provided **378** meals sent home **1063** snacks provided

"I found out that first day that they were going to supply us with food. I mean, it's small, it's a small thing. But it's a really big thing. [It said] they care. It's family. You know, if you have family that comes over, you feed them. And that's part of the whole feeling of comfort."

- Family survivor

SERVICES & PROGRAMS HEALING HAVEN

Court accompaniment and legal system information

Candace House staff offer court accompaniment for families. **Providing information on the court process, explaining case-specific information, translating the legalese, answering questions, and helping to facilitate a connection to Crown attorneys to provide additional clarification and establish further rapport.** Working together with provincial Victim Services' staff, we ensure that families always have someone with them.

With COVID, accompaniment made a shift as courts began to allow individuals to participate in proceedings virtually. We continue to work together with court staff, Judges, Crowns, and Victim Services to continue to **facilitate virtual attendance and participation by live-streaming proceedings from court to Candace House.** This allows for a trauma-informed approach, providing families with a choice to attend in person or from the safety and comfort of Candace House.

"And if we hadn't had their [Candace House staff] guidance, I don't know whether we could have done it or not. They understand what we were going through, and they were able to answer our questions in a way that we could understand. And they were just so supportive.

- Family survivor



244 staff hours of court accompaniment **117** days of court **26** days of virtual court

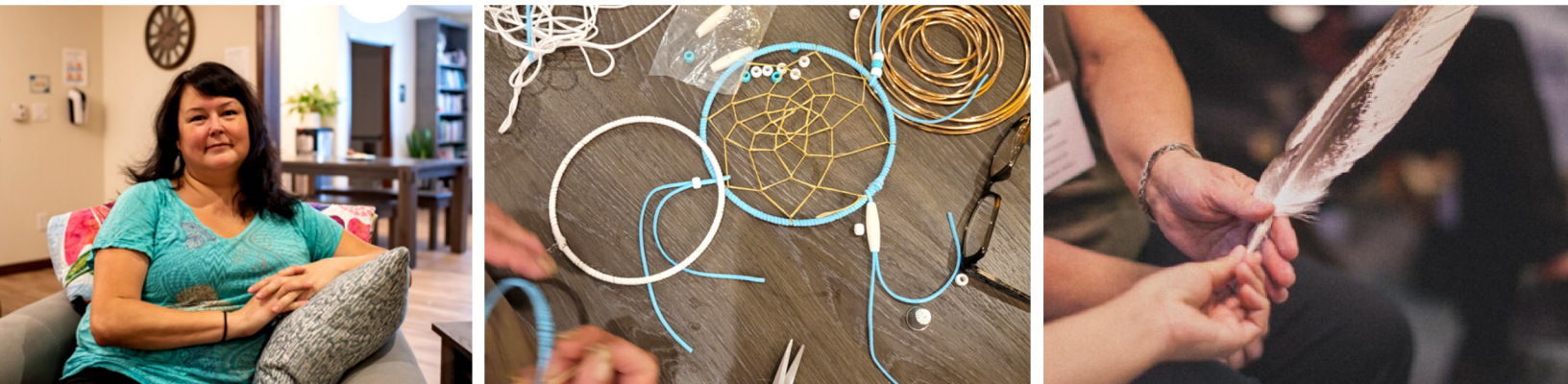
SERVICES & PROGRAMS

HEALING HAVEN

Cultural and spiritual care

Through our Healing Haven program, we offer various services that support Indigenous worldviews and needs related to healing and justice. This includes proper ventilation to make space for smudging indoors and access to medicines.

Elders, grandmothers, and healers are welcomed and asked to provide cultural and spiritual support to families during this time. Candace House has also hosted staff and leaders from the Family Indigenous Liaison Unit providing support to MMIWG2S+ families, Ka Ni Kanichihk, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO), First Nations Family Advocate Office, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Southern Chiefs Organization, Wa-Say Healing Centre, and Southeast Resource Development Council.



"One of the things we have been able to do that's been really good at Candace House, and one of the things that they facilitate, is being able to smudge and elders being able to come in. And Candace House always has medicine on hand for families... I've been there with many families, where we've smudged and elders have prayed with the family. We pray at the beginning of court, and we pray at the end of court, and that sort of thing. And I think it's really important, because Candace House has been able to do that and that was important for them to be able to have that space...because we don't allow for a lot of that in the courthouse.

- Justice practitioner

SERVICES & PROGRAMS HEALING HAVEN

Collaborative care

Recognizing and embracing that it is only through this approach that collective impact can be made, and that this is done most effectively and efficiently by reducing duplication. In close partnership with government agencies and community organizations, Candace House provides wrap-around care during court proceedings. **This collaboration between Candace House and allied justice partners creates a circle of support around survivors.**

We work closely together with provincial Victim Services to coordinate Healing Haven support for families. As well, along with various Indigenous organizations and agencies, the Healing Haven has provided a place for staff from the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCOM), Toba Centre (formerly Snowflake Place), and the Canadian Centre for Child Protection to meet with families and provide additional care.

“It was like coming home. The smell of coffee brewing – for me, food is a huge comfort.... [and] seeing that there’s snacks somewhere and people treating the kitchen like it’s their own. It creates that feeling of belonging, I think. And I felt like I belonged, and that we were all there for a common purpose which was a support. As opposed to when you walk into a boardroom, it feels like I’m here to do business, and that was a very much a different feeling when I was there.

- Justice Practitioner



141 visits by allied justice system professionals and community supports

SERVICES & PROGRAMS

HEART SPACES

Our **Heart Spaces** program works to increase wrap-around support for those impacted by violence by **offering trauma-informed and survivor-centered spaces for meetings to occur between victims, survivors, families and justice system-related personnel** as well as those who offer support. This includes Winnipeg Police Services, RCMP, Crown attorneys, provincial Victim Service workers, and various other social services organization staff such as those from Manitoba Organization for Victim Assistance (MOVA) and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).



These meetings occur for a variety of reasons. For example, in the immediate aftermath of violence to provide crisis information, while an investigation is ongoing to give in-person updates, to talk about the court process and what will happen, to prep those who will be testifying, to discuss an unsolved case, and as a safe place for community groups to meet with that is away from the public eye.

11 meetings **65** unique family contacts **58** external justice/community staff contacts
46 meals served **115** snacks **92** staff hours providing support

We have also worked together with Manitoba Organization for Victim Assistance and Mothers against Drunk Driving, who have used our space on numerous occasions to host their support groups, not having facilities of their own.

9 community organization support group meetings hosted

SERVICES & PROGRAMS SUPPORT SERVICES

Our **Support Services** program provides emotional care, justice-system information, and connections to additional resources and referrals for those impacted by violent crime. This support is offered beyond any connection and care given in relation to other programs. Support is offered by phone, email, social media, and in-person meetings.

To assist those impacted by violence from falling through the cracks, and with the understanding that it is hard to know what you do not know, Candace House staff also provide general justice system information and resources through books, brochures, social media content, and through our online knowledge base.



“With Candace House, we all become more of one cohesive group and you gain strength from others. And just being able to sit there and say whatever you felt and ask any question. It didn’t matter how foolish it might have sounded to you. Everyone was very accepting and understanding of what we all were asking... We all seemed to have the same feeling that when we’re together we’re strong. I don’t know how else to describe it. It’s just there were strength in our numbers and in the comradery... that’s not the right word, but the closeness, I guess. That we felt being in this situation that none of us ever expected... It couldn’t have [happened in the courthouse]. Because you couldn’t have been open.

- Family Survivor

38 unique individuals supported **47** contacts **83** staff hours providing support

PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT MKO MMIWG2S LIAISON UNIT

Hello, my name is Tobi Jolly. I am the Community Engagement Coordinator with Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2-Spirit Liaison Unit. **Our unit works with those impacted by MMIWG2S+, gender-diverse folks, and survivors of gender-based violence.** Winnipeg and Manitoba have historically been and continue to be a highly impacted area for MMIWG2S+ cases. Additionally, it has become necessary for our unit to begin working with families of Indigenous men and boys, as this number in Winnipeg is also astronomical. **The last two years have hit our community hard with many Indigenous people losing their lives to violence.**

During my time working with MMIWG2S+ families, I have worked with Candace House extensively and I am constantly looking to partner with them further. They have supported many of my families through every type of criminal proceeding. We have been there with families celebrating the birthdays of loved ones, anniversaries of their deaths, and generally honouring the lives and deaths of people who are loved and missed. **I have spent hours in their space, finding it a place to experience devastation, as well as a source of comfort for our families and myself as a service provider.**

In the last two years, many community organizations have come together in support of families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People. We have become a team made up of many organizations, including Candace House. This team supports families through some of the most difficult times and with navigating a justice system that is not designed with their care in mind. Candace House is a central hub for making this work possible. **Everything about Candace House's operations, staff, and space has been designed with families and survivors at the heart.** It is often the only place during justice proceedings where family needs are treated as the most important.

Our inter-agency team has recently been pushed to support multiple families at the same time, due to the high number of homicides in Winnipeg. We are often in multiple spaces, providing support to many people and families at once. Candace House takes on most of the logistical planning for these proceedings. As well, their staff and space played host to all partner meetings, planned debrief sessions, and Crown meetings for families. spiritual care for service providers, and much more. Candace House provides much-needed warmth when we are all navigating a very cold system.



Candace House is doing something completely unique in the way they support people. Their work has encouraged myself, my program, and my community partners to push even harder for what our families deserve. Candace House and I hope that the rest of our team will be a part of changing the way the justice system works. I hope that you will be a part of that by supporting Candace House.

Sincere regards,

Tobi Jolly

PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

DR. BARB TOEWS

Over the course of a year, Dr. Barb Toews, Associate Professor in the School of Social Work & Criminal Justice at the University of Washington Tacoma undertook research to explore and evaluate the services and supports that Candace House provides. This included an environmental scan and close look at trauma-informed design principles. We are so grateful for her tremendous work, and to the families and justice practitioners that took part.

Evaluation of Candace House and Healing Haven

2: Judicial Context in which Family Survivors Experience Candace House

Fully understanding the characteristics of the judicial system, answer questions, and offer other types of support and advocacy as needed. As practitioners and in government departments, they are, at times, limited in the services they can provide. Environmental policies and procedures, such as the presence of multiple survivors with long wait times, can be challenging.

...ability to get away from court and their... are rarely able to get away from their supporters. The... and the bathroom... and during... a lack of safety, but... verbal altercations... unable to proceed...

Ability to get away from court and their supporters

...are rarely able to get away from their supporters. The... and the bathroom... and during... a lack of safety, but... verbal altercations... unable to proceed...

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Evaluation of Candace House and Healing Haven

4: Impact of Candace House on Family Survivors and Justice Practitioners

The combination of staff, services, and space led to specific impacts for family survivors contributing to an overall experience of "making oneself at home." Justice practitioners are also impacted by their engagement with HH while serving family survivors.

emotions (including joy), and attended to their needs. Families felt affirmed, heard, and seen.

Being in control: HH affords families many opportunities for being in control of their experience, in both big and small but meaningful ways. For example, they could get themselves a cup of coffee or snack when they want one. They could move furniture around to accommodate relationships and activities. They could choose whether they wanted to be with others or be alone. The family survivors welcomed justice practitioners into what felt like their survivor-dedicated space, rather than justice practitioners welcoming them into their practitioner space.

“ [Cecily and Taylor] both introduced themselves to everybody as we were coming in and taking off our coats and everything. And they have slippers on, too, for you if you want to just haul everything organized on the table, and you could help yourself. And they made everybody coffee and tea. I don't know. They just made you very welcome there.”
- Family Survivor

“ I can't imagine having any families go through an entire trial without a space where it's just like this is, for them... the most common thing I've heard from families is that court proceedings are for the accused. It respects their rights... their dignity and worth. But it often makes it seem like the victims don't get to have that same respect, don't have that same focus. So, it's nice to have a space that's like this is for the victims and their families.”
- Justice Practitioner

Evaluation and Findings

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Make Yourself at Home



Evaluation of Candace House and Healing Haven

Barb Toews, Ph.D.
School of Social Work and Criminal Justice
University of Washington Tacoma

November 2022

To view the full report, visit: www.candacehouse.ca/make-yourself-at-home

SERVICES & PROGRAMS IMPACT

Since opening in November of 2018, across our services and programs, Candace House has....

Supported
1000+
unique family members

Had
3200+
contacts with family members,
victims, and survivors

Had
600+
contacts with staff from
partner organizations/agencies

Spent
2600+
hours providing direct support
to those impacted by violence

Following the loss of 104 individuals due to violent crime



SERVICES & PROGRAMS IMPACT

For Victims and Survivors

"It was light for us in a dark time and I'm probably a better person for having gone there because... I would never have known what kind of help is out there for people going through being victims of violence. I would think that they would be left to fend for themselves, and it's actually really refreshing to know that there is somewhere for you to go when you can be like us, and be yourself, and be together, and just get through the hard times, but together."

-Candace House Guest

Improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being

Builds and strengthens family connections and relationships, fostered connections with family, supports, and community

Promotes increased access to justice and participation in the justice system

Reduces the financial impact of violence for victims and survivors

For Partners, Community and Society

"[Candace House is] a really important part of building that relationship with families, and helping families to feel at ease throughout the court process... And the staff there have been instrumental in helping me keep the sanity, sometimes. I think we all really work together to support families.... I think it's really good work that they do. It's really good. The space is amazing, and there just needs to be more of it so we can have more families being able to use it at one time." -Candace House Allied Justice Professional

Promotes adherence to the TRC and MMIWG Inquiry Calls to Action and work towards reconciliation

Encourages organizations and agencies to identify victim needs and gaps in services, and to develop and deliver programs, services, and assistance

Increases the capacity of partner organizations and agencies

Increase knowledge and awareness of the impact of victimization, and the available services, and relevant legislation that is in place to assist

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

Presentations

This past year Candace House had the opportunity to give several presentations. This included two sessions for the **Winnipeg Police Services Dispatch Unit** with over 100 people attending, a presentation for the annual **National Restorative Justice Week** conference with over 50 people in attendance, and for **Victims and Survivors of Crime Week**, where nearly 700 people registered for our discussion.



Last June, staff also traveled to Chicago for the **National Association of Community and Restorative Justice** conference where Candace House presented with other panelists on the topic of trauma-informed design.

Donor and Funder Tours

Throughout the year Candace House welcomes community members and donors for a tour of our space and the chance to see firsthand the comforting refuge that has been created and wrap-around support that is provided. We want to thank all of our donors and funders for taking the time to learn more about what we do and for their continued generosity.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

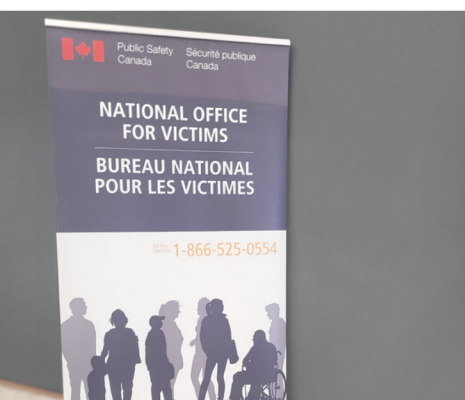
Community Engagement

Community engagement is paramount as it fosters a sense of shared responsibility and collective support within our community. Connecting with the broader community also enhances our ability to provide relevant and responsible services, encourages collaboration with local resources, and strengthens the network of support available to those in need.

This past year Candace House was honoured to take part in various events. This included several **vigils and community gatherings** held in connection to recent homicides, the **Manitoba Organization for Victim Assistance march**, an invitation to attend the **Engagement with Services Providers for the Development of the Winnipeg Safe City Initiative Strategic Plan**, and the **Winnipeg Police Services Victims' Week training day**.



Candace House Executive Director was also invited to attend the **National Victim's Roundtable on the Implementation of the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights in Ottawa** last March. While there, she had the opportunity to meet with representatives from various federal departments, including Crown-Indigenous Relations, Correctional Services, Parole Board of Canada, and Indigenous Services Canada. She is now also sitting on the Frontline Service Provider Advisory Circle through the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime office.



CANDACE HOUSE IS GROWING!!

Since opening in November of 2018, the homicide rates in Winnipeg have nearly doubled. With the average time from a murder occurring to the court process getting underway taking three years, we knew without question that we were not going to have enough space to meet these needs as we were already having to turn families away.

Then as COVID dragged on, an opportunity arose to take over the front suite of the building we already occupy. **In the spring of 2022, Candace House signed a lease and took possession of Suite 1A. The timing could not have been more perfect or critical.**



"Before" photos of Suite 1A at 183 Kennedy Street

Parkka Fundraising Solutions was brought in to assist Candace House in developing a fundraising strategy. **A case for support was developed, and interviews were conducted to gauge support for a \$1 million goal to renovate and furnish the new space.** Our public campaign, *Honouring Courage: Creating Heart and Healing Spaces*, kicked off with a media event announcing a \$200,000 grant from the Province of Manitoba and a Smash That Wall! social media campaign.



CANDACE HOUSE IS GROWING!!

The services of Sputnik Architecture were retained to begin the design work last spring. An agreement was then signed with Vantage Builders in the fall of 2022, and demolition construction got underway a couple of months later in December. **Renovations are still underway and we are excited to announce that we expect to be in our new space by summer of 2023!**



Demolition and renovations are underway!

We are so grateful to all the incredible donors who have already extended their tremendous generosity to support our campaign. Thank you for all that you do!



Candace House Board Chair Carla Loeppky, on the cusp of her 50th birthday, decided to throw caution to the wind and applied for the New York Marathon lottery. And won! She decided to use this as an opportunity to kick start her own personal fundraising and awareness campaign for Candace House's expansion. On November 6, 2022, together with her son, Henry, they completed the marathon and raised over \$15,000!

Honouring Courage: Expansion Campaign Donors

CEDAR

\$100,000 - \$300,000+

Province of Manitoba
The Winnipeg Foundation

OAK

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Kinsmen Club of Winnipeg
Government of Canada
Wellington West Foundation
Anonymous Donor-Advised
Concord Foundation
City of Winnipeg

PINE

\$10,000 - \$49,999

Assiniboine Credit Union
Sputnik Architecture
Thomas Sill Foundation
Downtown Winnipeg Biz
Carolyn Sifton Foundation
Dufresne Foundation
Telus Friendly Future Foundation

MAPLE

\$2,000 - \$9,999

Waterfront Foundation
Manitoba Realtors Shelter Foundation
Advance Electronics
Mary and Gregg Hanson
Connie and Ron Loeppky
Cunningham Business Interiors

TAMARACK

\$1,000 - \$1,999

Ben Sparrow
Mark and Kim Duerksen
Sheri Blake

WILLOW

\$500 - \$999

Helmut and Andrea Plett
Matthew Cutler
Paul Cooper

Honouring Courage: Expansion Campaign Donors



Claudia Klemens
Davinder Singh
Carla Loeppky and Shelley Smith
Lisa and Peter Hargraves
Michael Silicz
Richlu Manufacturing
Roger and Ruth Groening
Rosalie Loeppky
Shelly and Carla Smith
Stacey Soldier
Tanice Houston
Ann and Mark Poole
Hiren Shah
Garry and Joann Kakoske
Gerald and Grace Loeppky
Paul Kutcher
Lisa Mendez
Calvin Bergen
Darryl and Getty Stewart
Dave Collignon
Jill Hildebrand
Melanie Murchison
Tony Shaw
Amy Groening
Cheryl Cohan
Daryl and Natasha Loeppky
David Friesen

Dee Dee Rizzo
Doreen Klassen
Florence Carey
Ginette Vincent
Jennifer Y
Joanne Parsons
Kim Holgate
Michelle Kowalchuk
Pat Fritschij
Robert Cunningham and Jean Bodnar
Robert Eunson
Ruth Luff
Todd Burkhalter
Katarina Ens
Julie Kentner
Nancy Ottawa
Kayla Rivett
Victoria Weir
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Thank you as well to all our anonymous donors!

SERVICES & PROGRAMS IMPACT

*"Candace House does a lot of the support to make sure that a lot of this stress is alleviated from you. We really do thank them for everything they've done for us. **With them getting another space I know that more families will be able to benefit from their care.**"*

-Edward Balaquit

Eduardo Balaquit was born in 1959 in the Philippines. High school lovers, he met his best friend and future wife, Lumie, in 1972. They were married eight years later.

In 1979, Lumie immigrated to Canada, sponsoring Eduardo and bringing him to Winnipeg for them to begin their new life. A few years after that, their first son Erwin was born, and shortly after, their son, Edward.

The Balaquits have always been an incredibly close family - they spend time celebrating birthdays and anniversaries and making countless memories together. **Eduardo loved his wife deeply, driving her to work every day and picking her up again once she was finished.** Going into the summer of 2018, he was loving his position as a cleaner, was rocking his side gig as a DJ for weddings and socials, and was excited about his son's upcoming wedding.



Eduardo Balaquit and his family

Then on June 4, 2018, Eduardo disappeared from his job. It quickly became apparent that foul play had occurred. The following sleepless months were spent desperately searching for some sign he was still alive. However, Eduardo was not seen or heard from again.

Despite Eduardo never having been found, enough evidence was gathered to lay large charges. Four years after his disappearance, the court process got underway for the man accused of his murder. **Suspended in their grief, the Balaquits still hoped that Eduardo was alive... but knew he was gone.**

The six-week-long jury trial began in May of 2022. **Due to COVID restrictions that were in place, only three individuals were allowed to attend proceedings in person.** The remainder of the Balaquit's large extended family, often twenty or more people, gathered at Candace House where a live stream was set up for other family members to be able to listen in together.

*"It's not a positive experience being in court as the victim. It's a lot of the unknowns that made it more of a suffocating atmosphere for us. I mean, **although I was there with my mom, brother, and wife, you still felt like you're alone when you're dealing with all these emotions individually even though you're there together.**"*

Adding to this difficult experience of attending court on their own, Eduardo's wife and two sons all took the witness stand to testify to the loving person they knew Eduardo to be.

*"Going into court itself there was a lot of unknowns. What are we going to be doing, what are we going to see, how long will this take. We went there to witness the trial and also be witnesses, to testify in trial. **Mentally, it was not easy. We learned things we wanted to know but was difficult to hear...** You're sitting there trying to be composed while also being in front of the person accused of doing this to your family."*



A place to take your shoes off... Over twenty family members would gather at Candace House each day

This stress only heightened when three days into the 6-week long trial members of the jury tested positive for COVID. It was decided the trial would break for 5 days and then attempt to reconvene. The Balaquit family, Candace House staff, the Victim Services Worker, and Crown lawyers gathered at Candace House to debrief over lunch.

Everyone was deflated and disappointed, especially as there was a very real concern that the trial could be canceled and rescheduled for the following year. **Together, though, we 'broke bread', and took time to connect, build relationships, and discuss the next steps to ensure the Balaquits had all the information and support they needed to get through the unknowns.** A week later, following another delay due to a snowstorm, the trial once again got underway.

The Balaquits began to settle into a routine, meeting at Candace House every morning for coffee and what became a must-have favorite, cream cheese cinnamon buns. Then Lumie, Edward, and Erwin would head off to court with staff, while the rest of the family would settle in to listen to the morning proceedings. Some would sip tea on the couch and others would curl up under a blanket on the recliner. Another family member, a graphic novel artist, would set up at the dining room table, and over the course of the trial completed her book.



Sharing fresh snacks, making art, and honouring memories, Candace House is a place to just "be human."

During lunch, everyone would gather over a meal provided by Candace House, helping reduce the practical and financial burden that families are otherwise left alone to carry.

*"Finding lunch, I mean it sounds like such a small thing but it's actually a pretty big thing. You don't know what you want until you need it. **And food is a pretty big need for self-care. They made sure we ate and we didn't have to pay for that expense.**"*

It also happened to be that Eduardo's birthday and his and Lumie's wedding anniversary fell in the middle of the trial. Chatting with the family, Candace House staff asked if they would like to recognize these dates, knowing the complicated emotions. After further conversations, a cake was ordered and together we remembered Eduardo.

Unfortunately during the trial three other homicide matters were proceeding at the same time. Because of this, Candace House did not have enough room and was unable to accommodate the various families every day, including the Balaquit family.

*"There was a couple of days that we didn't have access to Candace House. **And you don't realize how much stress you get from being in court until you don't get the help from a place like Candace House. We didn't have a place to release that stress of being in court.**"*

The exhaustion from constantly reliving the loss hit like a tidal wave. Candace House worked hard to create a safe refuge to recognize and honour the many expressions of the Balaquit's family grief – offering a soft place to fall, space for the Balaquit family to cry, share memories, laugh loudly, and give and receive all the love there was to offer.

As the jury finally began their deliberations several weeks later, everyone huddled together at Candace House, anxiously waiting. When the call came that a verdict had been reached, all the breath left the room. Tears of stress and fear flowed as we walked to court. Then as the jury read out the guilty verdict, tears of relief mixed with deep pain – No matter what the verdict, Eduardo was not coming back.



Candace House expansion media conference



Eduardo's wife, Lumie, and Executive Director, Cecilly

A few months later following the sentencing arguments, the Balaquit family invited Candace House staff out for lunch with them. A time to once again share in each other's company. Since then, Candace House staff has continued to connect with Eduardo's family, offering care, support, and developing a growing friendship.

At a news conference announcing the plans to expand Candace House, Edward reflected on his family's experience at Candace House and what it means to expand.

"We heard that other families wanted to also access the support. Unfortunately, they [Candace House] didn't have the space at that time. We don't want this to happen to anyone else. Just knowing that they were turned away, and picturing ourselves in that situation, that made it really difficult for us. You don't want others to not get the support that's needed.

What we hope is that other than this not happening to anyone else, our same loss, is that they don't get turned away, any more families. The process of being in trial as a victim's family is a very heavy experience... you're just exhausted all the time.

*Candace House does a lot of the support to make sure that a lot of this stress is alleviated from you. We really do thank them for everything they've done for us. **With them getting another space I know that more families will be able to benefit from their care.**"*

We are so grateful to the Balaquit family for being willing to share their story and experiences with us and Candace House supporters, and for the countless ways they continue to give back to other families through their generosity and kindness.

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Thank you as well to all our anonymous donors!

November 22, 2023

Board of Directors
Candace House Inc.
1B - 183 Kennedy Street
Winnipeg, MB
R3C 1S6

Dear Board of Directors:

We have completed our audit of the financial statements of Candace House Inc. for the year ended March 31, 2023. The primary objective of our audit was to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free of material misstatement. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards and accordingly included such tests and other procedures, as we considered necessary in the circumstances. Our audit was not designed for the purpose of identifying all matters that may be of interest to management and it is inappropriate to conclude that this letter is a comprehensive assessment of such matters.

As part of our audit, we performed a walk-through of your systems of internal control in place to determine that they have been properly designed and implemented and have noted no discrepancies. However, our review of internal controls was limited to those internal controls in place and was not designed to be a comprehensive assessment on the adequacy and effectiveness of internal controls over all transaction streams. It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors and management to maintain effective internal controls that safeguard the assets of the organization and prevent and detect fraud.

We are pleased to present to you some commentary and recommendations for your consideration in the paragraphs that follow:

1. AUDIT RESULTS

For the year ended March 31, 2023, we have issued an unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements of Candace House, Inc. During the course of our audit, we did not discover fraud nor any illegal or possibly illegal acts.

2. CURRENT YEAR OBSERVATIONS

We noted no findings as part of our March 31, 2023, year-end audit.

This communication is prepared solely for your information and is not intended for any other purpose. We accept no responsibility to a third party who uses this communication.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the personnel of the organization for their assistance and cooperation during our audit.

Yours very truly,

Fort Group Chartered Professional Accountants Inc.



PER: Bradley Keefe, CPA, CA, Partner

**CANDACE HOUSE INC.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
MARCH 31, 2023**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 996,349	814,339
Short-term investment (Note 3)	3,104	3,033
Grants receivable	103,200	9,119
GST receivable	10,173	1,447
Prepaid expenses	<u>23,811</u>	<u>5,098</u>
	1,136,637	833,036
TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 4)	<u>447,875</u>	<u>186,150</u>
	<u>\$ 1,584,512</u>	<u>1,019,186</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 5)	\$ 98,187	20,456
Deferred program contributions (Note 6)	130,772	134,942
Deferred capital campaign contributions (Note 7)	363,693	298,055
Current portion of deferred capital contributions (Note 8)	16,819	13,756
Current portion of deferred tenant improvement allowance (Note 9)	<u>5,504</u>	<u>-</u>
	614,975	467,209
DEFERRED CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS (Note 8)	326,879	51,686
DEFERRED TENANT IMPROVEMENT ALLOWANCE (Note 9)	<u>33,021</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>359,900</u>	<u>51,686</u>
	<u>974,875</u>	<u>518,895</u>
NET ASSETS		
Invested in tangible capital assets	104,177	120,708
Unrestricted	<u>505,460</u>	<u>379,583</u>
	<u>609,637</u>	<u>500,291</u>
	<u>\$ 1,584,512</u>	<u>1,019,186</u>

APPROVED BY THE BOARD:

_____ Director

_____ Director

**CANDACE HOUSE
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023**

	INVESTED IN TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS	UNRESTRICTED	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 120,708	379,583	500,291	407,189
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	(17,978)	127,324	109,346	93,102
Deferred capital contributions	(295,490)	295,490		
Purchase of tangible capital assets	<u>296,937</u>	<u>(296,937)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 104,177</u>	<u>505,460</u>	<u>609,637</u>	<u>500,291</u>

**CANDACE HOUSE INC.
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
REVENUES		
Grants	\$ 329,877	253,769
Donations	85,039	61,159
Interest income	21,749	5,684
Amortization of deferred capital contributions (Note 8)	16,859	13,756
Other income	285	430
Membership dues	200	600
	<u>454,009</u>	<u>335,398</u>
EXPENSES		
Advertisements and promotions	4,743	1,419
Amortization of tangible capital assets	34,837	31,672
Facilities and maintenance	76,436	40,499
Insurance	6,073	4,726
Office	12,947	9,622
Professional services	13,350	39,730
Programs and services	33,848	18,353
Professional development	6,218	6,894
Salaries and benefits	147,028	120,559
Telephone, internet and website	4,331	3,138
Travel and meetings	4,852	1,830
	<u>344,663</u>	<u>278,442</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES BEFORE OTHER INCOME	<u>109,346</u>	<u>56,956</u>
OTHER INCOME		
Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (Note 12)	-	9,799
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (Note 13)	-	26,347
	<u>-</u>	<u>36,146</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$ 109,346</u>	<u>93,102</u>

**CANDACE HOUSE INC.
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN):		
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 109,346	93,102
Add back (deduct) non-cash item(s):		
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	(16,859)	(13,756)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	<u>34,837</u>	<u>31,672</u>
	127,324	111,018
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Grants receivable	(94,081)	(5,305)
GST receivable	(8,726)	2,593
Prepaid expenses	(18,713)	(69)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	77,731	3,229
Deferred program contributions	<u>(4,170)</u>	<u>101,008</u>
	<u>79,365</u>	<u>212,474</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of tangible capital assets	(296,937)	(810)
Purchase of short-term investment	(3,104)	(3,033)
Proceeds on maturity of short-term investment	<u>3,033</u>	<u>3,003</u>
	<u>(297,008)</u>	<u>(840)</u>
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Deferred capital contributions received	<u>399,653</u>	<u>298,055</u>
CHANGE IN CASH	182,010	509,689
CASH, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>814,339</u>	<u>304,650</u>
CASH, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 996,349</u>	<u>814,339</u>

**CANDACE HOUSE INC.
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN):		
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