



2016 Annual Report

February 2, 2017

Public Good Society of Dartmouth

10th Annual General Meeting

February 2, 2017

10:00 a.m., 33 Alderney Drive, 5th Floor, Sideview Room, Dartmouth

AGENDA

- **Welcome & Introductions**
- **Review & Approval of Minutes of 2016 AGM held February 4, 2016**
- **Annual Steering Committee Report from the Chair**
- **Approval of 2016 Financial Statements**
- **Report of Nomination Committee**
 - Election of Steering Committee (Board Members)
- **Other Business**
- **Adjournment of Meeting**

What is right, what is just, what is for the public good?

The Public Good Society of Dartmouth

Annual General Meeting

Belmont House, Dartmouth

February 4, 2016 – 10 AM

Welcome & Introductions: The meeting was chaired by Doug Livingstone. Attendees included Board members – Doug Livingstone, Monique Mullins-Roberts, Dennis Pilkey, Marilyn More, Kate Watson, Lisa Scott, Matthew Spurway – and Barry Schmidl, Manager of Service Provider Relationships for the Department of Community Services.

Review and Approval of 2015 AGM Minutes: Motion to approve moved by Kate, seconded by Monique, motion carried.

Annual Steering Committee Report: Doug reviewed program highlights and thanked the Board and staff. Two small additions were made to the written report: 2nd line – added “is attached” at end; put “Dartmouth Housing Office” after Housing NS in list of financial supporters. Motion to approve moved by Matthew, seconded by Lisa, motion carried.

Approval of 2015 Financial Statements: Treasurer Dennis Pilkey presented the income/expense statement and balance statement. The organization is in a strong financial position. Our Market Watch account is proving its worth in terms of interest. Dennis moved his reports be accepted, seconded by Kate, motion carried.

Everyone present expressed their thanks to Dennis for his work as Treasurer.

Report of Nominating Committee: Moved by Monique, seconded by Lisa, that the 2016-17 Board of Directors include the following:

Chair - Doug Livingstone, Vice Chair - Monique Mullins-Roberts, Secretary - Judy McMullen, Interim Secretary – Marilyn More, Treasurer - Dennis Pilkey, Ralph Mackenzie, Jamey Piedalue, Matthew Spurway, Leigh Beauchamp-Day, Kate Watson, Lisa Scott.

Motion carried.

Other Business:

Summaries of the three programs were presented as written reports: *Connections That Work*, *Dartmouth North Community Van* and *Dartmouth Housing Help*.

There will be a public meeting in May or June to further describe our programs in the community.

Meeting Adjourned 10:40 AM

Recorded by Marilyn More, Interim Secretary

Chair's Report

It is my pleasure to present my report as your Chair of the Steering Committee (Board of Directors) of the Public Good Society of Dartmouth.

An overview of our Society and its current programs is attached.

The Dartmouth Housing Help Office on Wyse Road continues to assist those in Dartmouth who need help with housing requirements. It continues to provide ongoing and improved help to our citizens. We benefit from the dedication and hard work of our support worker Darcy Gillis. A special note of thanks goes out to our Board member Dennis Pilkey for his efforts on our behalf.

The Community Van Program, as will also be reported, has enjoyed another great year. Our Board member, Ralph MacKenzie is our champion of this worthy program which has provided much-needed transportation to many people.

Our Connections That Work program continues to be a beacon of hope and support for those who need help. Our coordinator, Kevin Little is dedicated to helping others. We are truly blessed to have Kevin in this crucial role and on behalf of the Board and the Society I thank him for his hard work and compassion. Our Vice-Chair, Monique Mullins-Roberts, deserves our thanks for her continuing hard work as our leader for this project.

This past year we contributed to nutrition in four Dartmouth schools and promoted awareness of hunger in our schools with a dinner event at the North Dartmouth Community Kitchen. It was hosted by board member Matthew Spurway.

We thank our financial supporters including: NS Department of Community Services (Connections That Work), Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission (Connections That Work), Imperial Oil Esso (Van), Nova Scotia Moves (Van), United Way of Halifax (Housing Help Office), and Housing Nova Scotia (Housing Help Office). We also thank those who have made financial donations to our Society and our advertisers. A special thanks to our many partners, but especially The Freedom Foundation of Nova Scotia, the Metro Non-Profit Housing Association and the Nova Scotia Brotherhood.

In December, we were invited to participate, as designated charity, in the Dartmouth Handcrafters Guild Christmas show and we have received from them a substantial donation.

I would like to thank my fellow Steering Committee (Board) members for your hard work, patience, generosity, and kindness over the past year. This is a great group of people who are involved to help others. We have lots of camaraderie while trying to benefit our community. In addition, I would like to recognize the long-term contributions of Jamey Piedalue, Leigh Beauchamp-Day and Judy McMullen (Judy died last August while serving as Board Secretary) and the more recent membership of Katherine MacDonald.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Livingstone, Chair

February 2, 2017

The Public Good Society of Dartmouth

WHAT IS RIGHT? WHAT IS JUST? WHAT IS FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD? ---JOSEPH HOWE 1835

Our Vision:

Dartmouth is a welcoming and inclusive community where people and organizations work together to support each other.

Our Mission:

To work with partner agencies serving Dartmouth and to share our resources and knowledge to better understand and address complex social issues facing our community members.

Our Goals:

- To alleviate the conditions of poverty and improve quality of life in Dartmouth by facilitating access to services; and
- To identify gaps and then research and develop plans of action for specific complex social and economic issues that affect residents of Dartmouth.

The Public Good Society of Dartmouth was formed in 2004, based on Joseph Howe's 1835 observation: "What is right? What is just? What is for the public good?" A key strategy of the Society is to carry out research to identify gaps in service and then work with other agencies and people to help alleviate or overcome some of the challenges faced by many people living in our community.

We have 3 Existing Programs:

Dartmouth Housing Help

Dartmouth Housing Help is an adjunct program of Halifax Housing Help which is an innovative approach responding to at-risk and difficult to house individuals who have significant challenges in obtaining and retaining housing stability. The program promotes housing retention and improved health and social functioning among individuals and families who experience housing instability. The Dartmouth Housing Help Office is a joint project of Metro Non-Profit Housing Association and The Public Good Society of Dartmouth. Funding is provided by United Way of Halifax and Housing Nova Scotia.

The Dartmouth office allows for:

- better, more convenient service for Dartmouth based residents
- improved inventory of Dartmouth housing options
- partnerships with groups who also have an interest in housing, e.g. Dartmouth Learning Network, local food banks, Dartmouth landlords, Nova Scotia Brotherhood Initiative.

Connections that Work

The Community Outreach Facilitator stands in food bank lines and talks with a range of people who are seeking help. This is one of the few, and perhaps only, on-the-street programs in Dartmouth. People are accepted where they are, listening, and identifying appropriate services. The facilitator works with individuals to get them the help they need. The stories are of overcoming barriers, supporting individuals who feel they have reached the end, and supporting their individual needs. The project started in 2006 with a survey focused on clients of the Feeding Others of Dartmouth program. The Connections that Work project has been funded by the Department of Community Services since 2008. Since its beginning, 1366 have been engaged and many have received ongoing support. These client interactions have resulted in 1104 service provider contacts. One hundred and nine service provider information sessions and 168 general client information sessions have been a key part of the "Connections" strategy. Mental health, housing and employment continue to be the three main areas of enquiries & referrals.

Dartmouth North Community Van

The Community Van is available to non-profit organizations who need this service to help those with few or no transportation alternatives. The community van has been in operation since January, 2012. This program is operated through a cooperative agreement of The Public Good Society of Dartmouth and the Freedom Foundation of Nova Scotia. The purchase of the Community Van was made possible by an HRM capital grant.

While the biggest use of the van is for those who go to food banks and have few resources, it provides NPOs with realistic opportunities to expand program options at an affordable cost. Their trips include such things as SPCA dog walking at Shubie Park, bowling and ice cream trips, Shakespeare by the Sea and The Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. The van was also made available to provide backup support for the Halifax Mobile Food Market. As of the end of December, 2016, the community van has traveled over 41,000 kilometers and transported over 14,500 residents. Demand for the community van has increased as more community groups are taking advantage of this resource. The Community Groups that use the van are: Stairs Memorial, Christ Church and First Baptist Food Banks, Dartmouth Family Centre, Dartmouth North Food Centre, Connections Dartmouth, Among Friends Social Club, Adsum House, Alice Housing, Solutions Learning, New Beginnings and the Freedom Foundation.

Hunger in Schools is a recent area of research initiated by the Society in the Spring of 2016. Over 100 people attended the Community Conversation about this important issue. The event was held at the Dartmouth North Community Food Centre on May 12, 2016. The report of the proceedings - "Hunger as an Obstacle to Learning" - is available from the top of the home page of our website (www.publicgoodsociety.ca).



The Public Good Society of Dartmouth

Income/Expense Statement

Administration	2015 Total	2016 Total
INCOME		
Donations Received	2,289.00	3,175.33
Other Revenue	934.13	2,903.22
Total Income	3,223.13	6,078.55
EXPENSES		
Events & Meetings	385.25	2,824.05
Advertising & Promotion	737.75	729.96
Business & Prof Fees, Services & Licenses	129.15	133.18
Board Liability Insurance	709.00	709.00
Training & Education	-	-
Project Support	300.00	900.00
Office Expenses	59.78	46.00
Total Administration	2,320.93	5,342.19
Dartmouth North Community Van		
INCOME		
Donations Received	-	-
HRM/NS Moves Grant	1,852.50	-
Revenues	2,399.62	3,614.90
Total Income	4,252.12	3,614.90
EXPENSES		
Operating (gas, cleaning, etc)	2,556.02	2,187.48
Gas Cards (capital expense)	3,000.00	-
Contract Drivers & Support	1,572.50	1,103.00
Repairs	-	-
Insurance & Licencing	1,668.00	1,710.70
Total Community Van	8,796.52	5,001.18
Dartmouth Housing Help		
INCOME		
Grants/Reimbursement	31,477.72	30,459.99
EXPENSES		
Wages	16,926.00	13,884.00
Benefits	1,130.75	886.00
Sub-total Wages & Benefits	18,056.75	14,770.00
Prof Dev Training & Education	-	-
Transportation	256.62	960.15
Office Expenses	2,468.28	567.67
Client Support	-	669.01
Total DHH	20,781.65	16,966.83
Connections That Work		
INCOME		
Grants	57,853.65	34,712.13
EXPENSES		
Wages	39,122.00	39,494.00
Benefits	2,793.12	2,821.26
Sub-total Wages & Benefits	41,915.12	42,315.26
Insurance	709.00	709.00
Prof Dev Training & Education	227.70	415.00
Transportation	75.00	-
Telephone	767.30	787.63
Office Expenses	1,276.35	2,095.98
Accounting Services/Bank Charges/Postal	98.90	-
Client Support	-	-
Total Connections That Work	45,069.37	46,322.87
Returned/owing to Community Services	2,480.17	-
Total Income	96,806.62	74,865.57
Total Expenditures	76,968.47	73,633.07

The Public Good Society of Dartmouth Balance Statement

	31-Dec-15	31-Dec-16
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Heritage Credit Union - Share	5.00	5.00
Heritage Credit Union - Dividends	112.22	114.45
Heritage Credit Union - Chequing	366.95	825.57
Heritage Credit Union - Market Watch	43,664.76	46,635.68
Accounts Receivable	407.20	645.80
Van Inventory	4,507.00	2,567.40
Cheques/cash to be deposited	219.30	200.00
Total Current Assets	49,282.43	50,993.90
Capital Assets	6,860.00	4,802.00
TOTAL ASSETS	56,142.43	55,795.90
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	6,599.83	7,751.97
Prepaid grants	25,083.81	24,703.71
Total Current Liabilities	31,683.64	32,455.68
TOTAL LIABILITIES	31,683.64	32,455.68
TPGSD Equity		
Dartmouth North Community Van	6,860.00	4,802.00
Project Reserves	11,331.00	12,514.57
Cash Reserve	6,267.79	6,023.65
TOTAL EQUITY	24,458.79	23,340.22

Note to financial statements:

HST Expense included in expenses not claimed
from CRA as of Dec 31:

	2015	2016
Total HST Expense	956.25	409.65
CRA HST Rebate	478.13	204.83

Note: Only July to December 2016 is still to be claimed.

2017 Board of Directors

Doug Livingstone, chair

Monique Mullins-Roberts, co-chair

Dennis Pilkey, treasurer

Marilyn More, secretary

Ralph MacKenzie

Matthew Spurway

Kate Watson

Lisa Scott

Gavin McCombie

Jesslyn Dalton

Connections that WORK Project
Community Outreach Facilitator: Kevin Little

Housing that WORKS Project (Dartmouth Housing Help)
Housing Support Workers: Darcy Gillis and Danielle MacDonald

What is right, what is just, what is for the public good?

Connections *that* Work – The Public Good Society of Dartmouth Year-in-Review

2016 was another productive year for the Connections *that* Work project of The Public Good Society of Dartmouth. The cornerstones of this success can be assessed by the specific comments received by the Community Outreach Facilitator from other agency staff, clients and members of the community at large. Many factors have contributed to this success; the continuity of the project for these past 8 years in North End and downtown Dartmouth, the continuity of the staffing of this work (almost all other local agency staff have moved on in these last 8 years), the fact that no other person beyond busy volunteers and stressed clients are at these foodbanks, and the “relational” approach taken by the CTW project, that stays in touch with clients, taking the clients for coffee, calling the clients, and encouraging the client to keep trying to achieve their long-term goal of employment.

In the 2016 consultations were undertaken by the Department of Community Services with clients as to the client’s experience of the Income Assistance program. One of the recurring themes was not hearing back after leaving voicemail or speaking to a caseworker. In many cases the Community Outreach Facilitator for the CTW project did not have new information or information that necessarily led to the end of the client’s crisis. The client was reassured s/he was not being abandoned, that an answer was coming and that there were resources in the community that could be helpful. Moreover 211 staff routinely call the Community Outreach Facilitator when the likely supports have all been contacted by the client. The CTW staff person is called upon often to “think outside the box” for possible solutions to client needs. One example was a mother with paid employment who thought she would have to quit her job because her child could not get a free breakfast when school came back into session. The CTW staff person was able to secure a meal from Feeding Others of Dartmouth for mother and child, thus the mother remained employed.

A few other highlights along the way in 2016:

- Gene arrived at a local Dartmouth foodbank some time ago desperately looking for employment. He was referred to the YMCA Employment Centre on Wyse Rd.
<http://www.ymcahrm.ns.ca/ItStartsHere/Opportunitystartshere.aspx>
Gene is now being sent to foodbanks by his employer to recruit others.
- Kevin has worked with a client who is very articulate, a mature learner, almost always over qualified for the work she applied for. In Kevin’s analysis this client tends to focus on very narrow details of the job description, usually calling, emailing, asking verbally, the hiring personnel for information that likely sends a red flag that she could consume a lot of time and work. Kevin has taken this client to coffee many times and subtly suggested this client needed to let “the small stuff go” and focus on the bigger picture. In her last interview, for a term position at Lakehead University in northern Ontario she took Kevin’s advice and she was hired.
- A client from several years ago lost her job at a Staples call centre and got very depressed. Lots of coffees with her, kept encouraging her, supporting her. Referred to YMCA Career Development Centre where she found another job, this one also call centre, with HGS.
- A new partnership was forged in 2016 between CTW and Futureworx in Dartmouth. One client Kevin met at a foodbank eagerly accepted the opportunity to apply for a program offered by Futureworx. When the client met with the staff there was a mutual agreement that the Environmental Services Technician program was the best fit.

Connections That Work Reporting Stats Fiscal Year Summary

Data as of December 30, 2016

	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017 To Date	Cumulative
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General

# New client contacts	148	195	180	166	179	176	131	1175
# Of previous clients assisted	277	291	422	403	425	351	216	2385
# Information sessions (SP)	12	20	17	12	12	22	14	109
# Information sessions (Clients)	49	30	21	14	16	22	16	168
# Service provider contacts	153	150	175	176	193	137	120	1104

Income Source

# IA recipients	96	118	122	119	119	117	82	773
# Disability Pension Recipients	8	5	6	3	2	3	1	28
# CPP/OAS recipients	9	13	12	9	9	16	13	81
# EI recipients	10	11	10	9	10	6	7	63
# Employed	12	17	13	11	4	11	10	78
# Self employed	0	1	1	0	3	1	0	6
# Reporting no income	15	16	13	10	25	7	15	101
# Reporting supported by family/other	11	10	4	3	7	12	4	51
# Youth ages 16-18	6	1	2	2	2	2	0	15

Enquiries and Referrals - General

# Enquiries related to mental health/illness	96	85	183	260	270	200	144	1238
# Enquiries related to general health	36	61	91	124	115	101	65	593
# Enquiries related to housing	89	95	105	133	117	119	78	736
# Referrals related to mental health/illness	96	85	183	260	270	200	144	1238
# Referrals related to general health	36	61	91	124	115	101	65	593
# Referrals related to housing	89	95	105	133	117	119	78	736
# Referrals related to parenting	13	12	26	30	37	39	19	176
# Referrals related to transportation	26	27	34	20	19	23	16	165
# Referrals related to addiction	12	30	63	65	43	39	15	267

Enquiries and Referrals - Employment

# Enquiries related to volunteer work	28	21	30	50	27	32	10	198
# Enquiries related to employment	117	158	219	251	237	169	112	1263
# Referrals to DCS employment programs/assistance	13	17	10	12	20	14	11	97
# Referred to DWAS/Solutions Learning Centre	37	48	38	75	108	82	43	431
# Referred to Lake City Employment	11	8	19	15	8	26	5	92
# Referred to DCDC (Y)	26	20	36	23	31	16	56	208
# Referred to Team/Work Cooperative	9	14	13	9	7	8	4	64
# Referred to Service Canada (employment related)	1	8	6	2	6	0	3	26
# Referred to Options	3	9	0	0	1	0	0	13
# Referred to Learning Kitchen	4	9	36	30	14	0	0	93
# Referred to WEO	3	0	0	1	0	0	2	6
# Referred to Dress for Success	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
# Referred to Dartmouth Learning Network	6	8	5	2	1	6	1	29
# Referred to Entrepreneurs with Disabilities	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
# Referred to reachAbility	3	0	7	8	6	2	5	31
# Referred to Our Thyme Café training program	2	0	2	2	0	1		7
# Referred to WEE	16	12	4	4	2	0	0	38
# Clients attached to a workplace	25	13	23	15	20	8	9	113
# Jobs facilitated	25	13	23	15	20	8	9	113
# Volunteer placements	14	5	9	4	5	5	6	48

Enquiries and Referrals - Education/Training

# Enquiries related to education/training	12	58	104	114	83	47	25	443
# Referrals related to education/training	12	55	104	114	83	47	25	440

Legal

# Enquiries related to legal issues	26	24	35	33	38	30	8	194
# Referrals related to legal issues	26	24	35	32	38	30	7	192
# Persons reporting legal/corrections history	24	27	35	28	28	17	6	165

Personal Support

# Persons requesting personal support	313	291	422	403	425	351	216	2421
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Dartmouth North Community Van

The Dartmouth North Community Van is available to non-profit organizations who need this service to help those with few or no transportation alternatives. While the biggest use of the van is for those who go to food banks and have few resources, it provides NPOs with realistic opportunities to expand program options at an affordable cost.

The community van has been in operation since January, 2012. This program is operated through a cooperative agreement of The Public Good Society of Dartmouth and the Freedom Foundation of Nova Scotia. The purchase of the Community Van was made possible by an HRM capital grant.

2016 Highlights

- A total of 14,584 passengers have been driven 41,110 km to the end of December 2016.
- The 3,073 passengers in 2016 were down slightly from 3,170 passengers in 2015. The 10,293 kilometres driven were up 14% and hours of usage were up about 10 percentage points. Increased use of the van to support programs of the NPOs have been the major reason for increased kilometres and hours.
- Eight organizations are directly involved in the use of the van with three others benefiting indirectly.
- Twenty-nine people have participated in driving the van to provide this community based service.
- Six drivers have transported over 1000 people each. Ralph MacKenzie continues to hold the lead at 2,563 passengers.
- Tom MacNutt from the Freedom Foundation has driven 6,440 km with Ralph MacKenzie, Richard Webber and Fred Lutes all approaching 5,000 km each.
- In 2016, the Community Van was used about 50 times to provide support to enhance programs and events conducted by the participant organizations.



Dartmouth North Community Van Summary Report

Organization	December 2016				Year-to-date			
	Number of Trips	Total Passengers	Km Driven	Hours Used	Number of Trips	Total Passengers	Km Driven	Hours Used
Adsum Court	1	6	15	3	7	35	177	25
Among Friends	1	6	34	3	27	105	2203	105
Christ Church	3	53	98	8	31	479	1115	71
First Baptist Food Bank	1	33	73	4	49	1060	2520	169
Freedom Foundation	2	9	76	8	25	61	1231	99
New Beginnings Ministries	2		115	10	2	0	115	10
Solutions Learning					5	26	236	17
Stairs Food Bank	3	70	128	11	50	1249	2067	168
TPGSD	1	1	4	0	37	58	629	63
Total	14	178	543	47	233	3,073	10,293	725
2016 as percent of 2015	93.3	83.2	104.8	111.9	100.4	96.9	114.3	110.2
			2015 Calendar Year		232	3,170	9,005	660
			2014 Calendar Year		251	3,434	8,922	732
			2013 Calendar Year		182	2,859	7,005	560
			2012 Calendar Year		163	2,048	5,885	514
			Cumulative Totals (since January, 2012)		1,061	14,584	41,110	3,191

Gas Usage

As of:	2012 Total	2013 Total	2014 Total	2015 Total	23-Feb-16	22-Mar-16	25-Apr-16	31-May-16
Km driven	5,789	7,096	8,916	8,869	1,165	768	606	801
Litres	983	1,275	1,638	1,617	231	139	110	138
Cost	\$ 1,289	\$ 1,671	\$ 2,152	\$ 1,721	\$ 207	\$ 123.00	\$ 112.25	\$ 145.43
litres per 100 km	17.0	18.0	18.4	18.2	19.8	18.0	18.3	17.3
Cost per km	\$ 0.22	0.24	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.19	\$ 0.18	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.19	\$ 0.18

As of:	24-Jun-16	22-Jul-16	30-Sep-16	25-Oct-16	22-Dec-16	2016 Total
Km driven	702	805	2,869	1,011	1,565	10,292
Litres	120	146	424	156	284	1,749
Cost	\$ 124.01	\$ 143.05	\$ 430.50	\$ 165.19	\$ 297.35	\$ 1,747.56
litres per 100 km	17.1	18.2	14.8	15.4	18.2	17.0
Cost per km	\$ 0.18	\$ 0.18	\$ 0.15	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.19	\$ 0.17

**Dartmouth North Community Van
Usage by Organization
(as of December 31, 2016)**

Organization	Trips	Km Driven	Passengers	Hours Used	Cost per Passenger
Adsum Court	12	243	59	37	
Christ Church	156	5363	2178	331	\$ 0.47
Dartmouth Seniors SC	4	58	4	4	
First Baptist	230	11329	4934	800	\$ 0.48
Freedom Foundation	185	7547	494	629	
Stairs Food Bank	235	9851	6351	817	\$ 0.33
TPGSD admin	191	3354	384	398	
Among Friends	41	3014	154	148	
Solutions Learning	5	236	26	17	
New Beginnings	2	115	0	10	
Total	1,061	41,110	14,584	3,191	

Notes:

Cost is the 2016 cost to the food bank to take their clients home with groceries.

TPGSD usage is mainly for van servicing and the NS Moves grant which includes driving for Dartmouth Connections as well as providing support for the Mobile Food Market.

**Dartmouth North Community Van
Driver Participation
(as of December 31, 2016)**

Driver	Trips	Passengers	Km Driven	Hours Driven
Ralph	152	2563	4720	507
Richard	146	2040	4988	311
Fred	100	1939	4771	340
Rob	56	1670	2433	187
Terry	80	1629	3695	271
Kenneth	49	1359	2800	186
Bill	55	916	2206	164
Martin	24	597	984	78
Kevin	22	519	858	76
Tom	169	428	6440	535
Steve	10	224	389	35
Jim	10	138	375	19
Renee	58	131	1570	126
Nick	34	128	1961	121
Sandra	37	70	281	29
Ferne	12	63	225	33
Shiela	3	39	124	9
Cheryl	11	29	443	41
unknown	4	27	140	7
Dennis	7	15	78	39
Greg	3	14	156	11
Brittany	4	13	626	16
Bev	2	10	355	9
Mike	4	7	157	13
Annette	1	6	26	4
Melissa	2	4	63	3
Gordon	3	3	50	4
Linden	1	3	81	7
Lester	1	0	25	2
Chris	1	0	90	8
Total	1,061	14,584	41,110	3,191

**Dartmouth North Community Van
Usage by Organization and year
(as of December 31, 2016)**

Organization	Trips	Km Driven	Passengers	Hours Used
Adsum Court	12	243	59	37
2014	1	13	4	3
2015	4	53	20	10
2016	7	177	35	25
Christ Church	156	5363	2178	331
2013	41	1308	496	85
2014	42	1459	566	85
2015	42	1481	637	90
2016	31	1115	479	71
Dartmouth Seniors SC	4	58	4	4
2013	4	58	4	4
First Baptist	230	11329	4934	800
2012	41	1713	629	140
2013	49	2276	955	171
2014	46	2432	1185	164
2015	45	2388	1105	157
2016	49	2520	1060	169
Freedom Foundation	185	7547	494	629
2012	64	2112	190	174
2013	33	1442	82	114
2014	34	1339	104	126
2015	29	1423	57	116
2016	25	1231	61	99
Stairs Food Bank	235	9851	6351	817
2012	49	1953	1215	183
2013	41	1717	1295	151
2014	48	2179	1379	159
2015	47	1935	1213	156
2016	50	2067	1249	168
TPGSD admin	191	3354	384	398
2012	9	107	14	18
2013	14	204	27	34
2014	80	1500	196	196
2015	51	914	89	88
2016	37	629	58	63
Among Friends	41	3014	154	148
2015	14	811	49	43
2016	27	2203	105	105
Solutions Learning	5	236	26	17
2016	5	236	26	17
New Beginnings	2	115	0	10
2016	2	115	0	10
Total	1,061	41,110	14,584	3,191

**Dartmouth North Community Van
2016 Program Support**

The Community Van enabled NPO participants to enjoy the following events and programs in 2016.

- Airport to pick up refugee family
- Airport tour
- Antique Car Show
- Apple picking
- Atlantic Fall Fair
- Attire to Inspire
- Aviation Museum & Community Outings
- Blueberry picking
- Bowling
- Christmas dinner
- Christmas light drive
- Christmas Party
- Grocery shopping x 8
- Golf tournament
- Holiday craft fair
- Hope for Wildlife
- Ice cream trip x 2
- Maritime Museum of Atlantic
- Mobile Food Market x 7
- Noggins corn maze
- Rainbow Haven trip
- Refugee event
- Shakespeare by the Sea
- Shubie Wildlife Park
- SPCA dog walking and Shubie Park
- TPGSD Video by NSCC
- Central Library
- Peggy's Cove
- Value Village & Gift Market trip x 2
- Victoria Park x 3



Dartmouth Housing Help 2016 Annual Report

Dartmouth Housing Help (DHH) is an adjunct program of Halifax Housing Help which is an innovative approach responding to at-risk and difficult to house individuals who have significant challenges in obtaining and retaining housing stability. The project promotes housing retention and improved health and social functioning among individuals who experience housing instability. The Dartmouth Housing Help Office is a joint project of Metro Non-Profit Housing Association and The Public Good Society of Dartmouth (TPGSD). Funding is provided by United Way of Halifax and Housing Nova Scotia. Ongoing funding for 2016-17 was confirmed at a level that allowed continuation of current staffing levels.

DHH is open daily 9:00 to 5:00 from Monday to Friday. The office is in the Professional Building at 260 Wyse Rd, Unit 101, Dartmouth, NS. DHH can be reached at info@dartmouthhousinghelp.ca or (902) 466-3483. The office is managed by Darcy Gillis with assistance from Danielle MacDonald.

Highlights

- The DHH office is becoming established as a dynamic entity within the Dartmouth community. The office takes pride in being knowledgeable in many different facets of housing and housing supports.
- As of the end of December, new homes were found for 100 people and 3 people were kept from being evicted.
- 19 different agencies made 99 referrals to DHH and DHH made 101 referrals to 12 agencies.
- DHH intervened on behalf of clients to Department of Community Services 120 times and to landlords 30 times.
- DHH continues a strong outreach component with 39 presentations to agencies and groups, 39 home visits and 165 landlord interactions. Darcy spoke on a panel for the Halifax Housing Conference which was put on by CMHC. His focus was on affordability of rental units, how programs such as DHH support individuals currently, how we would like to do more, aging housing stock in HRM, and government funding agreements ending in the near future. Darcy was part of a feature on affordable housing with Global Television which aired September 29th.
- Because of proven need, Danielle's time was increased from two days to three days per week.
- James Lively and Mary Ellen McRobie were part of our office working in internship roles. They provided much appreciated support and assistance to the office. Mary Ellen's untimely death in October caught everyone by surprise. Mary Ellen was a kind, gentle, and caring individual who could find the best in everyone.

Some successes

- Late in the afternoon on February 22nd it came to our attention that three young boys and their cat were being evicted from their apartment on February 23rd (DHH was originally informed their eviction date was March 1st). DHH had secured an apartment for them that wouldn't be ready until February 26th. They were at risk of losing all their possessions which hold great sentimental value after the recent passing of their mother. DHH reached out to many different organizations and churches who offered to help out the boys (Christ Church, First Baptist, Stairs Memorial, Freedom Foundation, TPGSD, MNPHA). TPGSD coordinated a U-Haul truck and hired movers from the Freedom Foundation. MNPHA offered a vacant unit for the boys' cat to utilize until their apartment was ready. Darcy arranged for the boys to stay at Metro Turning Point and transported them to and from the shelter. The boys received their keys on the morning of February 26th and moved in at that time with the assistance of enthusiastic helpers. Darcy followed up with the boys on March 1st who are extremely excited about their new accommodations. Subsequent follow-up determined that the three young men were all involved in employment programs and one of them started his first job in September.
- Danielle successfully advocated on behalf of a middle-aged man who has never had housing before and a lengthy criminal record. DCS initially rejected the individual due to the apartment being over scale (\$609). Danielle negotiated with a landlord to lower the rent (\$599) to ensure the individual could secure housing.

Some Challenges

- Increasingly there is a need for specialised and extended support services. Seniors, and especially with those in early stages of diminished mental and physical capacity, clearly need more assistance than we can provide.
- In addition, traditional moving services are both unreliable and expensive, well beyond current allowance rates of DCS.
- While we celebrate the many successes in improving the housing circumstances of the people we work with, there are cases that we can not help. Several individuals backed out of their arrangements at the last minute and two even just went missing after being in their apartment just one month. A few cases of addictions and threats of suicide resulted in police and mental facility involvement. Threats against staff and known long history of issues with individuals have also resulted in having to refuse direct service. In each case, every effort was made to try to get help for those involved.

Some Opportunities

- The success of the office and its strong outreach has demonstrated the level of demand for housing support services in the North Dartmouth area. There is a need for a fuller housing support hub. Moving services, more home visits, intensive senior supports, active development of an affordable and safe housing inventory, cleaning and education services, increased co-ordination and active development of partnerships related to housing are just some of the things to be considered for this hub.
- 2017 is the start of the final year of our four-year funding with United Way. We will need to actively work on renewal of this funding and seek out other major sources of funding for the office.

Dartmouth Housing Help Stats April 2015 - March 2016

Data as of December 31, 2016	2014-15 Total	2015-16 Total	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	2016-17 Total
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General

New contacts	65	189	21	17	19	10	20	25	26	17	10				165
Trustee Program Referrals	22	32	2	2	0	0	2	2	4	1	0				13
Other persons assisted	0	33	2	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	1				9
Total	87	254	25	19	21	12	22	27	32	18	11	0	0	0	187

Action Taken & Intervention Type

Placements	16	89	15	8	7	6	12	14	17	15	6				100
Lease Signings	0	20	3	4	4	2	3	2	3	2	2				25
Listing Appointments	51	91	3	4	8	5	7	6	3	7	3				46
Interventions (details below)	130	238	15	28	29	16	20	25	25	20	12				190
Total	197	438	36	44	48	29	42	47	48	44	23	0	0	0	361
Advocacy to DCS	77	100	10	21	12	11	14	14	15	14	9				120
Advocacy to Landlords	30	57	1	1	13	2	3	2	3	3	2				30
Advocacy to other	14	24	2	6	3	1	1	7	7	2	1				30
Referrals	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0				2
Eviction Prevention	1	12	1	0	0	1	0	0	2*	1	0				3
Case Conference	6	8	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0				3
TPGSD Moved (or assisted)		3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0				2
Other?	0	34	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0				2
Total	130	238	15	28	29	17	20	26	25	20	12	0	0	0	192

Referrals to Other Agencies

Adsum	1	12	3	1	3	0	1	0	0	1	3				12
Brunswick St Mission	5	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2				4
Connections that Work	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0				1
Dalhousie Legal Aid	2	9	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	2	2				9
Dartmouth North Com. Food Clinic	0	5	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	3	0				7
Food Banks	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	1	2				8
HRPD	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				1
Homeowners Finders	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
Labour Relations & Human Rights	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
Lake City Employment	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
Landlord	0	4	1	0	3	1	2	0	0	0	0				7
Metro Regional Housing Authority	4	27	1	1	2	3	2	1	2	2	1				15
Nova Scotia Power		3	1	3	3	0	2	3	4	3	2				21
Parker Street Food & Furniture Bank	0	5	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1				6
Tenancy Board	1	13	1	0	3	1	1	0	2	2	0				10
Veith House	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
Total	17	98	9	7	17	9	10	6	14	16	13	0	0	0	101

Agency Referrals to and/or Supporting DHH																
Alice Housing	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
Circle of Care	0	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0					2
Church	1	5	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0					3
Dalhousie School of Social Work		1	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0					4
Dartmouth Community Health	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					1
Dartmouth Community Mental Health	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
Dartmouth Family Resource Center		3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0					2
Department of Community Services	17	11	3	3	10	3	1	3	3	4	2					32
Elizabeth Fry Society	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
East Coast Forensics	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0					1
Family/Friend of Client	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3					6
F.O.O.D (Margeret House)		2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
Halifax Housing Help	4	23	3	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0					7
Hand in Hand	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
Healthy Minds	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0					1
John Howard Society	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
Landlords	10	8	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0					5
MLA	10	17	1	2	2	2	0	0	2	2	2					13
Metro Turning Point		3	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0					2
Mobile Crisis	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
MOSH	1	8	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0					3
Northwood	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
Nova Scotia Hospital - Detox	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	1	0					7
Phoenix Outreach	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0					2
Public Good Society of Dartmouth	11	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
Self-referred	2	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3					6
TEAMWork Cooperative	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
YWCA	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
Zipsure		3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0					2
Total	76	140	9	9	23	7	4	11	12	14	10	0	0	0		99
Outreach																
Agencies & Groups	8	41	4	6	4	3	2	3	5	8	4					39
Asissted with Paperwork	0	8	1	0	2	0	2	3	3	1	3					15
Home Visits	0	28	6	4	3	2	5	9	6	3	1					39
Landlord Interactions	0	162	24	22	19	15	22	18	16	15	14					165
Other?	0	31	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0					2
Viewings	0	22	10	4	7	6	27	16	20	7	10					107
Total	8	292	46	36	36	26	58	49	50	34	32	0	0	0		367

Updated: Janauary 4th 2017
Darcy G

Hunger as an Obstacle to Learning

On May 12, 2016, over 100 people attended a public meal at Dartmouth North Community Food Centre to discuss hunger in schools around Dartmouth North. The event was hosted by the Public Good Society (PGS), with some financial support from HRM councillors Mancini and McCluskey and MLA Bernard.

PGS screened their 10-minute video which had been recently produced by NSCC students and then a presentation was made to review the responses to a survey of teachers conducted in preparation for the meeting. A vice-principal, a family resource worker and a provincial representative each took a few minutes to discuss the issue from their perspective. A moderated discussion began with the audience, who offered many good ideas, perspectives, and thoughtful questions. Many of the participants provided more feedback on the evaluation forms.

Media coverage of the event was positive. [A report of the meeting](#) was written and distributed in the summer of 2016 which generated more positive media coverage.

Inspired by the report, a group of community members, led by the librarian at the Dartmouth North Public Library, is working with Harbour View Elementary to improve nutritional support in that school through enhanced breakfast, snack, and lunch programs. In September 2016, they secured \$1,400 from the Dartmouth Rotary Club for supplies. They are also working with the municipal government to consider a year-round greenhouse behind the school.

PGS was chosen to be the 2016 major recipient of the Dartmouth Handcrafters Guild DHG Gives Back initiative. Because of the continued momentum resulting from the meeting, PGS held a successful 50-50 draw, at the DHG Christmas Festival, with the funds earmarked for nutritional support in local schools. Further conversations about how best to distribute these funds and support schools' efforts in this area are ongoing.

Overall the public meeting started an important discussion about a pressing need in the community which has since triggered more focus and attention on the issue of hunger in schools, and created a template for PGS for future public meetings that could be used to discuss other topics.

The Hunger as an Obstacle to Learning report is available from the top of our home page: <http://www.publicgoodsociety.ca/>