



2022-2023 BRANTFORD NATIVE HOUSING ANNUAL REPORT





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Brantford Native Housing Annual Report 2022 - 2023

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Registered Charitable Number 102402393RR0001



Mandate

To provide safe, secure and affordable housing to low-income Indigenous families living in Brantford.

Vision

All Indigenous peoples will have safe, supported, affordable housing.

Mission Statement

Brantford Native Housing provides a continuum of housing services including:

- Transitional housing
- Rent-geared-to-income housing
- Affordable home ownership

We provide culturally appropriate support services and referrals such as:

- Health education
- Life skills
- Legal navigation
- Personal development

From the Executive Director

As I reflect on the past year, I am humbled and grateful to have had the opportunity to continue on this housing journey with the support of the most incredible team and supportive board of directors at Brantford Native Housing. For the past 37 years, Brantford Native Housing has been providing wrap-around support with transitional housing, advocating for our urban Indigenous community, and working tirelessly to provide suitable housing options.

Throughout this past year, our team has worked diligently towards mobilizing and advocating for equitable housing funding for new repairs and builds. The work is far from complete as we continue to advocate for funding to fix our housing stock and create second-stage housing models that are more appropriate to the system needs of our community. We are also dedicated to tirelessly building new housing for our Indigenous community.

I am immensely proud of the hard work and dedication of our team, as they have never faltered in their commitment to pushing forward despite the systemic hurdles we have encountered. I am also deeply grateful to our board for keeping a vision of For Indigenous By Indigenous (FIBI)-centred housing that is dedicated to our community. It is because of their unwavering support and dedication that we have been able to make significant strides in advocating for and creating better housing options for our community.

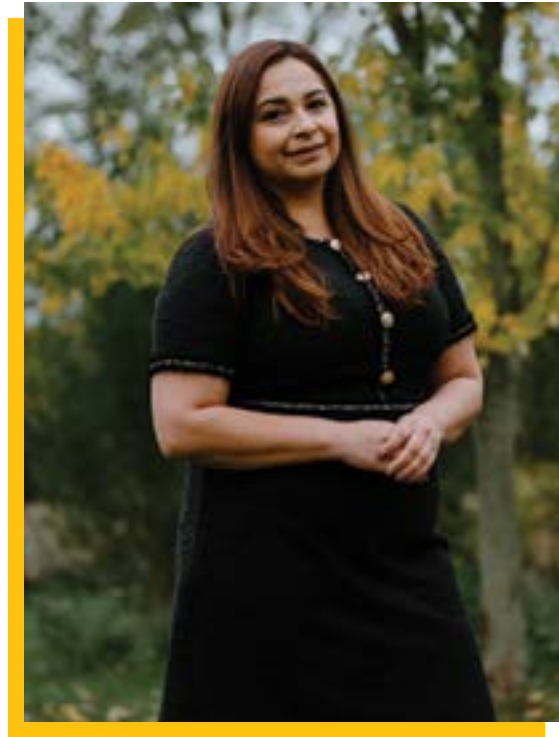
As we continue on this journey, we are committed to advocating for housing solutions that address the unique needs of our urban Indigenous community, whether it be addressing urban Indigenous homelessness, providing housing for our underserved population, or pushing the envelope to create more sustainable housing options.

I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to continue this vital work, and I am honoured to be surrounded by such an incredible team and supportive board. I am excited for the future and look forward to the continued progress and impact we will make in the years to come.

Miigwetch,



Alma Arguello,
BNH Executive Director



From the President of BNH

As President of Brantford Native Housing, it is with great pride and a deep sense of responsibility that I share our accomplishments and challenges over the past year.

First and foremost, I want to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our dedicated staff, committed partners, and the communities we serve. Our mission to provide safe, sustainable and culturally appropriate housing for Indigenous peoples is a mission rooted in respect, resilience and community.

We have successfully completed several housing projects, providing many families with quality homes that respect and reflect their unique cultural traditions. These homes are more than just structures. They are symbols of hope, empowerment and the preservation of heritage.

Our commitment to the principles of self-determination, community-led initiatives and empowerment remains unwavering. We continue to collaborate with Indigenous leaders and community members to ensure that our housing solutions are not imposed but rather co-created with the people they are designed to benefit.

We remain vigilant in our pursuit of justice, equity, and the elimination of housing inequalities that persist in Indigenous communities.

As we look to the future, we recognize that there is much work to be done. We are committed to expanding our efforts, securing the necessary resources. We will continue to prioritize sustainability, cultural preservation and the well-being of Indigenous peoples in all our housing projects.

In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude to our incredible team, partners and the Indigenous community who entrust us with their housing needs. Your resilience and strength inspire us every day.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,



Dr. Andrew Wilson Trevor,
BNH President



Value Statements

Leadership - We will inspire and motivate our community towards a vision of safe, supported and affordable housing. This includes a self-awareness of how all our actions will further the vision of the organization. We will provide clear direction of our goals and objectives and empower our employees and community to take initiative and offer solutions.

Integrity - We will conduct ourselves with honour, honesty and fairness and align our actions with our words. We will demonstrate our commitment to this value in our work ethic and the provision of equitable services. This will create an environment of trust among community, staff and stakeholders.

Accountability - We will accept responsibility for the achievement of the mission of the organization. We will regularly evaluate our path, acknowledge our success and identify areas for growth. This will result in responsible, informed decision-making that demonstrates high-quality service to our community.

Respect - We will treat all employees, clients and stakeholders with dignity. We will value the diversity of culture, skills, backgrounds, perspectives and ideas of our community and staff. This will result in a nurturing, compassionate and respectful environment, which will contribute towards the achievement of our mission.

Communication - We will willingly disseminate information and also seek input, listen and consider feedback and suggestions from others. Communication will be done honestly, respectfully and with compassion, and people will take ownership of their words and actions. Transparent communication will result in a collaborative environment, facilitating effective teamwork.



Governance

Brantford Native Housing (BNH) is fortunate to employ a dedicated team of knowledgeable staff members who possess extensive experience and the necessary skills to ensure that Indigenous households receive appropriate housing and support. BNH is committed to delivering culturally sensitive care and assistance to a wide range of Indigenous households, including but not limited to families with children, single parents, individuals with disabilities, seniors, those who identify as non-conforming or gender-conforming, and members of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community.

As a “For Indigenous By Indigenous” (FIBI) agency, BNH takes pride in its substantial number of staff members who identify as Indigenous. Our agency’s primary objective is to serve the homeless and Indigenous populations in Brantford, and our unique strength lies in the inherent understanding among our Indigenous staff members of how best to support and uplift our Indigenous community. With a diverse and experienced team of Indigenous staff, our agency is exceptionally equipped to comprehend and meet the needs of our valued clients.



Staff members



Board of directors

Staff photo courtesy: Kimberly de Jong/Brant Beacon



Current Board of Directors and Officers*

Name	Title	Current Occupation
Dr. Andrew Trevor	President	Medical Doctor
Shane Bomberry	Vice-President	Case Manager
Wayne Staats	Secretary	Finance Manager, Economic Development
Carol Burke	Treasurer	Indigenous Victims Services (IVS) Manager
Sheri Yake	Director	Mental Health Nurse
Cathy Thomas	Director	Nurse Practitioner

* Five of the six members of the board of directors identify as Indigenous.

Governance & Staff

Brantford Native Housing is governed by a board of directors with six members. It was important for Brantford Native Housing, being an Indigenous organization and providing services to Indigenous populations, to have respective representatives as leaders. Currently, the board of directors has a total of five members who identify as Indigenous (80%). The board was elected by members of the non-profit to oversee the management and strategic direction of the organization. The board of directors’ responsibilities include:

1. Establishing the organization’s mission, vision and values, and setting long-term goals and strategic objectives
2. Hiring, evaluating and managing the organization’s executive leadership, including the Executive Director, Directors and other key staff
3. Ensuring that the organization operates in compliance with applicable laws, regulations and ethical standards
4. Reviewing and approving the organization’s financial statements, budgets and major expenditures
5. Overseeing risk management and mitigation strategies, including financial, legal and reputational risks
6. Identifying potential opportunities for growth and development, and providing strategic guidance and direction to the organization

Organizational Chart



A single blade of sweetgrass is easily broken, but when woven into a braid, it becomes remarkably strong. The braided sweetgrass symbolizes strength of family and community bonds through connectivity. The combined experience and knowledge of our incredible team, when intertwined, hold the potential to profoundly uplift and support our Indigenous community in Brantford, Ontario.

Who We Are

Brantford Native Housing (BNH) has been successfully operating since 1986 with a mandate of providing access to safe, dignified and equitable housing and programming options for Indigenous peoples in the Brantford area. BNH's governance (board of directors) and leadership proudly represent the community it serves. BNH's strategic plan, mandate, mission, vision and values are aligned with creating development opportunities that continue to increase the capacity at which we can support our ever-growing waitlist for Indigenous-supportive housing and programming services in the urban Brantford area.

To date BNH owns and manages more than 200 Indigenous-occupied transitional and affordable supportive units in the City of Brantford, providing access to culturally appropriate supports and activities for the Indigenous residents it serves. BNH has been working hard to develop more affordable housing solutions and repair its existing housing facilities so that we can address the growing needs of the community and serve our vastly growing waitlist for housing and programming supports. With a lengthy waiting list and an average housing wait time of seven to 10 years, BNH has a dire need to uphold its supportive housing capacity and work to provide more affordable living solutions and needed program supports.

Who We Service

Brantford Native Housing (BNH) remains committed to its mission of providing services and support to all Indigenous people, irrespective of their official status. To determine eligibility for BNH housing or programming services, individuals are required to provide ancestry supportive evidence. BNH recognizes that Indigenous populations encompass a broad range, including but not limited to First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities.

Our close working relationship with Six Nations of the Grand River, the City of Brantford & Brant County and the Ganohkwasra shelter at Six Nations of the Grand River Reserve has been a key relationship in supporting prospective BNH clients enter into our housing and/or programming system. The collaborative support between all parties has enabled many Indigenous households to be re-integrated safely and take part in the urban Indigenous community when and if they are ready.



Every Child Matters

History

- 1986**
 - Incorporated Hotinohsioni Inc.
 - Acquired 10 units
 - Staffing: project manager and 3 trainees (tenant relations, maintenance and administration)
- 1989**
 - Acquired main admin office
 - Achieved charitable status
- 1990**
 - Acquired 20 units from Province with a Native mandate (to combat racist NIMBY attitudes, these were often purchased in the name of Chel Niro, former CEO, and then turned over to the organization)
- 1993**
 - Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) closed; as a result, most other organizations stopped growing their housing stock, but BNH continued work
 - Acquired 85 units
 - Began programming services
 - Started the Touch the Earth home improvement contest
- 1994**
 - Created Brant Native Homes Incorporated
 - Secured funding and acquired 4 units
- 2000**
 - Bought 8-unit apartment building using secured funds
 - Participated in development of Brantford's Aboriginal Homelessness Alliance (BAHA)
 - Using tax funding, bought 2 houses, sold 1 and bought land
 - Became property manager for Canada Mortgage Rural and Native Housing Program
 - Initiated Homelessness Program
- 2006**
 - Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) asked us to take on programs (Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy [AHWS], anger management, court workers, etc.); to do this, received 3-year allocation for \$1 million
- 2007**
 - Opened Ojistoh House (housing facility for women): 3 units with 14 beds
- 2009**
 - Amalgamated Hotinohsioni Incorporated and Brant Native Homes Incorporated
 - Acquired 6 units on Walnut Street
 - Acquired 10 units via funding from Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS)
 - Moved head office to Woodland Cultural Centre
- 2012**
 - Received/fundraised \$2.3 million to purchase 16 properties; purchase remains on hold as funding is still insufficient
- 2012 - 2014**
 - Developed 10-unit affordable housing project, which allowed for purchase and renovation of 6 apartments and allowed for the expansion of our current office space
 - Developed 24-unit project, which included construction of a 17-unit building for older adults, and a purchase/renovation project that includes 5-acre property converted to transitional housing for 4 men

- 2018**
 - Moved head office from Ohsweken, Ont., to Colborne Street, Brantford
 - Received funding from Urban Programming for Indigenous People, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), to continue staffing for Youth Cultural Co-ordinator
 - Rented office space to Niwasa and agreed to utilize a shared space in current main office address
- 2020**
 - Signed agreement with OAHS for a Youth Transitional Housing Program
 - Converted existing Men’s transitional home to a 6-bedroom home to be used as the Youth transitional home; the Men’s transitional home was relocated to another facility
 - Received \$75,000 from the Rogers Foundation for Transitional Housing Program; also received funding from OFIFC through the Reaching Home program to provide supports for tenants and community related to the pandemic
- 2021**
 - Received funding from OFIFC to develop land and built a Family transitional home
- 2022**
 - Redeveloped a deteriorating home into a 2-unit housing facility
 - Was awarded funding from the federal government (EAF) for accessible enhancements for capital projects
 - Became BAHA committee leaders to resurge council following pandemic pause
 - Retained seed funding from CMHC for housing development projects
 - With funding through the Canadian Heritage Grant, hosted a 700+-person community event on National Truth & Reconciliation Day
 - Retained WAGE – funding from federal government to help with organizational capacity building
- 2023**
 - Two new redevelopment projects underway, including demolition of deteriorating housing facilities
 - Revitalization of our housing model; renovated and sold a home at market price
 - Became Orange Door Partners with The Home Depot Foundation
 - Received summer student funding to hire 4 summer students
 - Received funding from the Laidlaw Foundation to revitalize BNH’s recreational and cultural programming at our Family transitional house
 - Enhanced street outreach services through our revitalized outreach vehicle, “The Journey Van;” hired an Indigenous artist with Windigo Army Group to design and paint van and give it character
 - Awarded funding through the Ontario Trillium Foundation that allowed for new staff hire
 - Awarded feasibility funding through the federal government to do early stage pre-development work on some of our properties

Our Agency

Our Services

Through a culture-based approach that addresses the holistic needs of clients, Brantford Native Housing (BNH) provides short-term transitional housing and long-term affordable housing to various Indigenous households that are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing homelessness in Brantford. To date BNH owns and manages over 180 Indigenous-occupied transitional and affordable supportive units in the City of Brantford. Our goal at BNH is to secure safe and suitable housing solutions for our homeless community and provide Indigenous households with opportunities and resources to move along the housing continuum and into transitional, affordable and market level housing.

BNH provides outreach support services to our Indigenous and homeless community in the urban Brantford core. BNH's support services work to provide our community the opportunity to access food security, family support, education and information, culturally appropriate support and much more. In addition to serving our homeless community, BNH also offers programming support directly to our housed clients currently living in our short-term transitional or long-term affordable housing units.

BNH is a community organization with successfully proven practices that integrate culturally relevant social service delivery. As a For Indigenous By Indigenous (FIBI) agency, our knowledgeable staff and board of directors understand and know how to address the holistic needs of our clients: physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs.

Programming

We proudly extend an extensive array of enriching opportunities aimed at fostering a profound connection, or reconnection, with cultural heritage for the urban Indigenous community of Brantford. Our comprehensive suite of resources encompasses an assortment of programs, classes, workshops, enlightening information sessions and other necessary engagements required to support the various needs of our clientele.

In essence, our mission is to create an immersive and holistic cultural revival experience. We look to support individuals' and/or households' personal growth, communal bonding, and the rekindling of ancestral ties. Through these multifaceted offerings, we strive to empower and enrich the lives of the urban Indigenous population of Brantford, nurturing a deep sense of connection to their heritage and a renewed sense of identity.



Housing Services

Brantford Native Housing proudly services more than 180 affordable and transitional units for Indigenous households in Brantford, Ontario. Clients include, but are not limited to: seniors, people with disabilities, single-parent households, youth and members of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community. BNH staff work hard to help households search for housing that suits their situation best. If they are not placed into one of our housing units, our staff can support households connect with landlords, discuss home listings, and resolve issues that may put a tenancy at risk.

In the tables below, BNH defines the term “Transitioning” as someone who moves from precarious living conditions into one of BNH’s operational transitional housing units. Please refer to the transitional stats from our Q1-Q4 2022-2023 year and Q1 – Q2 in this 2023-2024 year (see right-hand page).

In response to the emerging and growing needs, BNH introduced a new motel housing initiative. In partnership with the City of Brantford, our agency commenced a program to accommodate individuals who self-identified as homeless in local Brantford motels. The homeless-to-housing table shown below reveal that, by the midway point, BNH has nearly exceeded the housing services provided in the preceding fiscal year. To sustain our efforts to get individuals out of homelessness and into housing models, BNH provides clients with expense support such as utility arrears, utility deposits, housing-related arrears and last month’s rent.

BNH stands as a pivotal force within the community, spearheading initiatives to address housing needs, particularly among the Indigenous populations. As a dynamic agency, we are committed to creating meaningful and sustainable solutions for those facing housing challenges. Our innovative programs, developed in collaboration with local partners, reflect a dedicated effort to provide shelter and support to individuals in need. By fostering a sense of community and respect for Indigenous traditions, BNH goes beyond the conventional to ensure that everyone has a place to call home, embodying a beacon of hope and empowerment for our community members.

Development Projects

Over the past year Brantford Native Housing has put in significant effort to revitalize many of its housing properties, retrofit housing facilities and develop brand new housing models. In 2023, BNH’s maintenance team completed over 145 work orders across 100 units and five complete home revitalization projects across our entire home portfolio. Through the revitalization and repairs of our existing housing stock, BNH is ensuring our housing units are operational and safe from natural aging degradation.

Over the past year, BNH completed a full redevelopment project on one of our owned properties. Through this development project, we demolished the former deteriorating home on the property and constructed a new two-unit affordable housing facility. With the redevelopment projects of our old housing stock, BNH can increase units on our

Q1-Q4 2022-2023 BNH Housing Client Continuum

Q1 March 2022 – Q4 Feb 2023	Transitional	Permanent Supportive	Affordable Housing
Street to	15		
Motel to			
Emergency shelter to	41		
Hidden homelessness to	90		
Transitional to		2	
Permanent supportive to			49
# In more stable housing	146	2	49
Grand Total	197		

Q1-Q2 2023-2024 BNH Housing Client Continuum

Q1 March 2023 – Q2 Sept 30, 2023	Motel	Transitional	Permanent Supportive	Affordable Housing
Street to	16			
Motel to		3		
Emergency shelter to		75		
Hidden homelessness to		57		
Transitional to			16	
Permanent supportive to				7
# In more stable housing	16	135	16	7
Grand Total	174			

owned properties and house more clients. In the upcoming 2024 year, BNH has four exciting housing construction projects that are in pre-development stages and planned for future development. Projects planned for future development include:

- Developing a new 10-unit transitional housing facility for women, children, non-gender-conforming individuals and members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community
- Re-developing two deteriorating single-unit bungalow properties into double unit affordable housing facilities
- Developing a new 10-plus unit modular affordable housing facility

Statistics

Housing Stats

BNH operates:

120 + properties

180 + units

269 + beds

Programming Stats

The following data reflects the number of people over the past 5 years that have used BNH’s programming support and services. BNH logs the number of clients served monthly through our programming log. BNH’s programming log enabled our agency to monitor user trends and needs.

BNH Programming over the past 5 years

YEAR	Total Clients Serviced	Yearly Change %
2019	896	-
2020	1,743	94%
2021	11,542	562%
2022	5,993	-92%
2023	15,577	160%

Brantford Native Housings programs include but are not limited to rent bank support, case worker support, cultural activities, community socials, gatherings, sweat lodges, social well-being programs, food & clothing provisions and much more. In 2023, BNH serviced over 15,577 peoples through our programming stream. Since 2019 and over the years, BNH has witnessed a growth in our programming needs by 1,638%. This remarkable increase in programming needs since 2019 underscores BNH's vital role in fostering the social and cultural well-being of our urban and rural Indigenous community.



Transitional Housing

Ojistoh House – Women’s Facility

Ojistoh House is Brantford Native Housing’s transitional home for Indigenous people who identify as female who are motivated to begin their journey towards balance. At least 50% of the family (female-identifying applicants bringing children) must be of Indigenous ancestry. This community-based healing house offers programs and supports in an environment of safety, healing and togetherness. The main objective of programming and living at Ojistoh House is addressing intergenerational trauma, root causes of domestic violence, and chronic homelessness. With the goal of reducing recidivism, the programs’ healing practice is anchored in traditional cultural supports and one-on-one case management, including counselling and life-skills development. BNH encourages participants to identify and achieve their personal goals. This is done by providing wrap-around services that include planning for the transition to independent living, education regarding affordable housing support services, financial supports, and aftercare programming. Since launching Ojistoh House in 2007, we have celebrated a number of successful graduations. BNH is privileged to maintain a strong supportive relationship within our sisterhood. Graduates leave strengthened by community and a sense of belonging that continues long after they have graduated.

Karahkwa House – Men’s Facility

This program offers Indigenous men safe, supportive housing and a culture-based learning environment to develop the skills they need to succeed as strong, confident and self-sufficient men in the broader urban environment. The transitional housing program provides accommodation for four residents in self-contained units. Upon starting the program there is a mandatory Life Skills course. There is a gathering place and a sweat lodge available for the residents’ use. Residents may participate in the program for up to one year and are expected to actively work with staff towards achieving the goals identified in their personal care plan.



Transitional Housing

(continued)

Ehnita House – Youth Facility

Our youth transitional housing program provides housing supports for Indigenous peoples from the ages of 16 to 21 years of age. This housing facility is geared to Indigenous youth (those identifying as men or women with or without children). Our transitional housing program provides: 24-hour on-site staff support, one-to-one case management, after-care support upon graduation, food and laundry facilities, and cultural support and care. Indigenous residents with children are able to access housing supports in a safe and healing environment with programming grounded in culture. The staff are there to provide culturally appropriate support and guidance as clients transition from young adults to adulthood.

Odehaot House – Family Facility

BNH family transitional housing units offer accommodation to families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. All services and supports are geared towards assisting families in achieving sustainable housing and greater stability in the community. BNH staff recognizes that each family has unique needs and strengths. All of our services support families in building on those strengths to achieve their short- and longer-term goals. BNH staff work closely with families to help them identify and access the resources required to find housing and build effective support networks that will enhance their quality of life in our community. In our family housing facility, BNH offers a full range of supports including emergency food and clothing, housing assistance, supportive counselling, advocacy and referral to community services. The family transitional house offers private, accessible family accommodation in the form of self-contained bachelor, one- and two-bedroom units. Each unit has a private kitchen, washroom, living/dining room and bedroom(s) and washer and dryer.

Affordable Housing – Long-term Housing

BNH provides long-term affordable housing solutions to the community. BNH's affordable housing units are geared to support households who have steady income and are still unable to secure market average rental units in the City of Brantford.

To provide a range of affordable housing solutions, our housing portfolio has agreements on title with different federal, provincial and municipal groups to help us make living attainable for our clients. Through our agreements with the federal government through the Urban Native Federal Housing Program, BNH is able to deliver certain units to qualified households at subsidized rent levels no more than 25% of the combined family household income. Through our partnership with the provincial government, BNH is able to deliver certain units to qualified households at subsidized rents of 30% of the combined family household income. Furthermore, BNH has multiple portfolio units at which the agency works with clients to determine appropriate agreements for subsidized rental levels so that we service as many households seeking affordable living solutions in our community as possible. Notably, eligible clients for our affordable housing models must work with our dedicated staff to ensure households do not regress back to homelessness or get put in a situation where they are at risk of homelessness.



Transitional House Client Success Story

Koolimalsi,

My name is Cheyenne. I am a 28-year-old single mother with a three-year-old daughter. I was accepted into the Ojistoh House program in September 2021. I heard about Brantford Native Housing's transitional home from a family friend who said it could help bring me and my child out of the environment we were currently living in every day.

Our environment consisted of drug abuse, alcohol abuse, and mental, physical, emotional and spiritual abuse. I was in need of a better life, and I felt I was at my end. I hit my rock bottom, but the good thing about hitting rock bottom is, you have nowhere to go but up.

Thankfully I got placed to the Ojistoh housing program. I had one part-time job when I moved in. I stayed for seven months with a few goals in mind: get my daughter into daycare, find myself a full-time job and a new home for the two of us, and work hard on my sobriety.

If my story seems short and sweet, it's not. It was hard work – hard, hard work. In seven months, I turned my and my daughter's life around, and left unhealthy, toxic coping mechanisms and people in my past and found myself, truly found myself. I found my identity, I found what it was to finally shut off autopilot and survival mode, I found out what it was like to be free and live for myself.

After seven months, I had three jobs and an apartment as well as my sobriety under my belt. I have never been so proud of myself. My daughter and I are living a healthy, loving, free life. I am so thankful for all the support I got while being at the Ojistoh House.

A year ago today, if you had told me I would be living on my own, with my child, living a sober, healthy and free life... I would've laughed. A year ago today, I didn't think I would live to see another year. A year ago, I decided to stand up and make a change for myself and my child, and I couldn't have done it without the love and support from our chosen family and BNH's Ojistoh program.

Many Anushiiks (thank you).



Outreach Services

Brantford Native Housing provides services to Indigenous households in Brantford and the urban homeless community. Even though BNH is an Indigenous-led agency whose mandate is to serve Indigenous peoples, our agency is inclusive to everyone in the Brantford community who requires essential housing support services. BNH provides the following services throughout our homeless service window and in our office:

- Food provisions
- Cultural supplies – e.g., smudging items
- Clothing and hygiene products
- Harm reduction supplies
- Safe contraception supplies
- Access to BNH housing information & applications
- Identification clinics: birth certificate, health cards and other ID forms

In addition to BNH's service window, our Street Outreach Team conducts routine check-ins with our homeless clients at their motels, encampment sites and other common urban Brantford areas. It is important for our agency to coordinate with our homeless community members and ensure information and resources are circulated. BNH uses its Journey Van (outreach van) to connect with our homeless community. BNH uses its Journey Van for the following services:

- To promote BNH's housing services for urban Indigenous peoples and support our existing clients
- To provide outreach in encampments and connect people with support services
- To distribute essential items to the homeless
- To help deliver harm reduction tools and strategies

Journey Van

As a For Indigenous By Indigenous (FIBI) agency, it was important for us to showcase a piece of ourselves and our community in the reconditioning and designing of our programming van. Our Journey Van will be used to support our various BNH clients, housed families and homeless community. The Journey Van will also be used to distribute essential items and tools to the community.

BNH is grateful for the community's input in the naming of our van and, furthermore, the opportunity to work alongside such talented Indigenous artists (Windigo Army) to make this project come to life.



Events

1



3





2



4

1. Recent National Truth & Reconciliation Day Event

September 30th – Hosted by BNH in partnership with the City of Brantford, Niwasa, Aboriginal Health Centre.

2. Recent Thanksgiving Day Event

Fed more than 30 individuals housed with BNH services.

3. Back to School Backpacks

This past August, Brantford Native Housing hosted a Back to School Backpacks event for students going back to school in the fall. BNH proudly gave out 167 free student bags and supplies to support students' needs for the upcoming school year.

4. Halloween Transitional Client Pumpkin Carving Day

Acknowledgments/Donors

Thanks to the kindness of our donors and sponsors, we can fulfill our purpose of providing suitable and safe housing solutions to our community members in need. Through your generous and steadfast support, we are empowered to assist our clients in re-integrating into the community and becoming healthy, productive members of society. Your unwavering dedication enables us to provide the necessary resources and guidance for their successful transition.

Programming and Cultural Support Partners

Niwasa Kendaaswin Teg – Child and Infant

Brant Sexual Assault Centre

Six Nations of The Grand River

Brantford Friendship Centre

Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC)

Woodland Cultural Centre

Aboriginal Health Centre

Brantford Regional Indigenous Support Centre (BRISC)

NPAAMB – Niagara Indigenous Youth Employment & Training Centre

The Shoebox Project – Brantford-Haldimand-Norfolk County

Partners In Education & Research

McMaster University

Laurier University

Membership Collaboratives

National Indigenous Collaborative Housing Incorporation (NICHI)

Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association (ONPHA)

Brantford Aboriginal Homelessness Alliance (BAHA)

Government & Funding Affiliations

The City of Brantford

The Government of Canada – WAGE (Women and Gender Equality Canada)

The Government of Canada – Ministry of Employment and Social Development, Canada Summer Jobs

The Government of Ontario
Community Housing Transformation Centre
Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS)
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Brant Community Foundation
Home Depot – Orange Door Foundation
Royal Bank of Canada
Laidlaw Foundation



Scan this QR Code to make your donation!

Thanks to the kindness of our funding partners and donors, Brantford Native Housing can fulfill our purpose of providing suitable and safe housing solutions and culturally appropriate supports to our community members in need. Through generous and steadfast support, we are empowered to assist our clients in reintegrating themselves into the community and becoming healthy, productive members of society. Our current partnerships enable us to provide the necessary resources and guidance for client transition from homelessness into one of our various housing models. Furthermore, donor contributions and funding partnerships enable us to foster a more inclusive world where Indigenous members of our community can live with honour and esteem. We cannot express enough gratitude.

With boundless gratitude, Brantford Native Housing | Hotinohsioni Inc.

"The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything."

"If you can dream it, you can do it."

"Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, but learning to dance in the Rain."

Life is 10% what you and 90% how you React to

+ people I know are evaluating and judging themselves. The people are usually evaluating and judging others.

"Attack the evil that is within yourself, rather than attacking the evil within others"

"I hurt an overthinker who already seen it but just proving it right."

"Family is not about blood, it's about who is willing to hold your hand when you need it most."

"If escaping chaos and peace is not possible, learn to find peace."

get jealous, I'm territorial. Jealousy is when you want something territorial is protecting what

Sees what you are, Few experience really are."


"Nothing can destroy a person's mind set."

"If you have been hurt many times and you still know how to smile, trust me you are the strongest person in this world."

"Even if you hear a bad story about me, understand, there was a time I was good to those people too, but they won't tell you that."

don't open doors"

are, and say what those who mind, er, those who not mind.


You are loved 

"Someday someone will break you so badly that you will become unbreakable."

You deserve love after years of abuse even if you still have symptoms of trauma

Act as if what you do makes a difference if does." -William James

"Never React to anything that has happened in your life, it cannot be changed, undone, or forgotten so take it as a lesson learned and move on."

"You're off to work today is your chance to shine... so Dr. Seuss 

"Life is Short, and it is here to be lived" -Kate Winslet

"Today you are you That's truer than true There is no one alive who is more you-er than you." -Dr. Seuss

It's okay to

There is a nobility in compassion, a beauty in empathy. A grace in forgiveness.

All great changes are preceded by chaos.

"In the darkest times, Hope is something you give yourself. That is the meaning of Inner Strength" -Uncle Iroh

I'm not impressed with looks, money, job title. I'm impressed with the way you treat



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