**Ryandale**

**Annual Report of the Board of Directors**

**November, 2017**

(for the period April 2017-March 2018)

The period April 2017 through March 2018 represented a time of considerable change in the history of Ryandale. What began some twenty-five years earlier as a shelter for the homeless has been transformed. Ryandale Shelter for the Homeless has closed. Ryandale Transition House continues to operate effectively.

**Closure of Ryandale Shelter for the Homeless**

Change began in 2013 with the implementation of the City of Kingston’s 10-Year Housing & Homelessness Plan. Changes in the operation of the shelter, the City of Kingston’s funding of the shelter, issues the Board faced in reaching the decision to close, and then implementing the closure, were detailed in the 2017 Annual Report. Operation of the homeless shelter ceased in May 2017, early in this fiscal year.

**Financial Matters**

Sale of the Elm St property that housed the shelter enabled the Board to pay off the mortgage that had been taken out jointly on the Elm St and Victoria St properties.

This provided additional funds that have been dealt with by establishing an Internally Restricted Capital Fund of $224,968 and an Internally Restricted Operating Fund of $18,000.

Due to the uncertainty at the time, the request for United Way funding for the 2017-18 fiscal year was withdrawn. However, in recognition of the closing costs that Ryandale faced, the City of Kingston continued the funding it had committed to the shelter through June 2017. The six weeks of funding following closure left Ryandale in a good financial position at the end of the fiscal year. Therefore, with funds on hand, for the 2018-2019 fiscal year a deficit budget was approved. However, this is not sustainable, and in the future additional funding will be required.

**Ryandale Transition House**

Throughout the year, Ryandale Transition House continued to operate on Victoria Street, with accommodation for seven clients. One part-time staff member oversaw the operation of this facility, with particular attention to the “transition” aspects. It is the express purpose of the Board that we operate much more than a rooming house. The intention continues to be that clients will receive life skills to enable them to move on to more permanent housing and employment, with stability in their lives.

The Transition House maintained positive occupancy rates throughout the year. In the past, shelter clients would typically fill vacancies. Without this same connection for prospective T-House clients, we successfully reached out to other agencies such as Harbour Light, National Parole Services, AMHS, and In From the Cold for referrals.

In the course of this year, Ryandale served 19 clients. We would deem that some 65% of these successfully made a positive transition.

**Continued Visioning**

The desire of the Board is to pursue a plan that is in harmony with the direction of the 10-year Housing & Homelessness Plan, while at the same time remaining true to the founding principles of Ryandale.

There was a great deal of work required by the Board in closing the Shelter. The decision was made to take some time before considering any further changes. As we move into another fiscal year, the future of Ryandale still remains our primary focus. To that end, the Visioning Committee focused on the possibility of expanding operations within a transitional housing paradigm. Conversations with other agencies in Kingston indicate that, while Housing First may be meeting some needs, there is still a need for transitional housing.

**Board Composition**

Over the year, two members resigned from the Board, and two long-time advisors were added to the Board. They brought to the Board a keen sense of history and considerable knowledge of housing and homelessness in Kingston.

**Closing Comments**

We acknowledge the support of the City of Kingston, our generous donors and our faithful volunteers. We also express appreciation for our partners in Housing Assistance / Emergency Shelter programs. And we express heartfelt gratitude to our staff who maintained an operation that we could be proud of and that maintained an excellent reputation in the Kingston community.

Bob Crawford

Chair of the Board of Directors