

iHuman Youth Society

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iHuman Youth Society 2016-17 AGM Report



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www.ihuman.org



2016-2017 Community Report

The July 2016-June 2017 operating year represents the 2nd year iHuman has been in its permanent facility at 9635-102A Ave. In October 2016 we held our official open house celebrations. From a youth presenting at the Assembly of First Nations in Ottawa/Gatineau; to a delegation of seven youth and two staff attending the national Canada Roots Exchange in Winnipeg and two others on an exchange; to two youth and a staff joining the Peace Caravan; piloting Legal Information Clinics with local lawyers; being designated as the downtown youth “HUB”; delivering our 2nd Graffiti is Dialogue at The Works Festival and so many other incredible accomplishments, the year was punctuated with learnings as we continue to settle into the building. Managing the change was predictable, however, no less easy to go through.

A trend over the last few years of increased distress and violence by the youth expressed at or towards iHuman has raised awareness of possible changes to policies and procedures that are needed. 2016-17 several strategies were tried including the initiation of the “Family Meeting” as a way for youth, staff and others to share in a safe, circle format any concerns, beefs or challenges that collectively all could contribute to resolving. Family Meetings have generally been held once a month throughout the year. Another strategy has been to improve the training of staff in crisis response. Over the course of the year, more than eight different training opportunities were delivered to staff including 2-day suicide ASIST training, naloxone, cultural safety, staff wellbeing and privilege awareness. Moving forward, a human centred design review of the workings of the front welcome area and other possible contributing factors is hoped to improve flare ups seen in 2016-17.

We continue to evolve our Indigenous Policy Framework document, which has grounded our activities in the context of being a non-Indigenous agency serving predominately Indigenous youth. We are reminded that the concept of ‘reconciliation’ is not simply the delivery of Indigenous cultural events and a need to ‘do something now’, rather to remember that relationship building is at the core of any reconciliatory action. Therefore, iHuman has been collecting perspectives and reflecting on this information to ensure we proceed in an honourable way toward addressing the youths’ wishes and our actions are conceived and delivered in a good way. An example of this type of learning can be drawn from the two public mural activities that happened on our East parking lot wall. The first exposed some of the challenges that can result when communication is weak and iHuman is not diligent in its involvement in a project. While well-intentioned, the mural was ultimately removed. The second mural, now proudly, and colourfully, displayed was a collaborative, community initiated mural wherein the process, partnerships and visible statement of the result are congruent with iHuman values.

This year was also the concluding year of the former five year business plan, so development of the 2017-2022 strategic plan was drafted and is in the final stages of approval by the Board of Directors.



Various dialogues between senior management and again between the Executive Director and the Board with support from community facilitators flushed out the plan. The new plan aims to formalize iHuman operations in the new space with the development of processes and actions that support each of the pillar areas. Sustaining existing scope of service is proposed.

During 2016-17, four Director positions were created to support the Executive Director in the day-to-day operation of programs and services. These Directors now oversee areas that coincide with our key mission pillars: **Caring Services** including our outreach and addictions services staff, LiNKS Mental Health Clinic, and partnerships with external agencies such as Boyle McCauley Heath Centre's operation of our medical room; **Authenticity Programs** including iSucceed, Knowledge is Pow Wow, Woven Journey, Friday Night Challenge and iHuman's engagement with the Indigenous community and Treaty 6, 7 and 8; **Creativity Programs** encompassing art, music, theatre and fashion and textile programming, as well as our many artistic endeavors inside and outside the building; and **Operations** which supports the facility management, safety and general youth studio needs such as our bus pass/ticket inventory.

The ebb and flow of iHuman's daily engagements with traumatized young people mirror the challenges, barriers and successes the youth themselves face. We continue to observe a steady number of youth registering with iHuman – an average 40-50 a month throughout the year. The traumas and needs are sometimes beyond iHuman's capacities however we seek to connect youth with the appropriate resources where possible and alternatively, the advocacy skills to champion their needs. For example, a spike in much younger, less risk involved youth coming to iHuman was addressed by renewing a call the Big Brothers Big Sisters Boys and Girls Clubs. Youth experiencing barriers with emergency response have been helped tremendously with the engagement and relationship development that iHuman has made with the AHS, EMS Community Care team and our local EPS officers. The impact of LiNKS on the de-escalation of suicide attempts and behaviours has been noticeably evident. Whereas previously we might have had a staff at the ER weekly with a youth, now we can count on one hand for the whole year, the need for this level of absorbed attention.

iHuman's growth as an agency has been solidified with the new building. Our reputation in the community to advocate for vulnerable youth has attained a new level of credibility. All in all, 2016-17 was an incredible year as we realized goals and achieved milestones. We know our position of stability as a result of the new building positions us for a very strong future – one where youth who need support feel welcome, unjudged and safe to fulfill their potential. We thank all of the many, many volunteers, supporters, donors, funders and champions of iHuman's mandate for being with us on this journey. We look forward to the future with hope and light.



Funders, Grants & Foundations

Note: not an exhaustive list

GOVERNMENT

City of Edmonton

- Community Initiatives Operating Grant (CIOG)
- Edmonton Arts Council
- Family Community Support Services (FCSS)
- Providing Accessible Transit Home (PATH)

Province of Alberta

- Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA)
- Alberta Future Leaders (AFL)
- Alberta Gaming and Liquor Control (AGLC)
- Child & Family Services, Region 6 (CFS)
- Community Initiatives Program (CIP)
- Community Initiatives Program, Canada 150
- Homeward Trust Edmonton

Government of Canada

- Indigenous and Northern Affairs, Urban Partnerships

FOUNDATIONS

Butler Family Foundation

CIBC Children's Foundation

CIBC Foundation

Donate-A-Ride

Edmonton Community Foundation

- Cable Family Community Endowment Fund

- Cinders Fund

- Eldon & Anne Foote Fund

- Gouin Family Fund

- Van Woudenberg Family Fund

Inspirit Foundation

Law Foundation of Ontario

RBC Foundation

Stollery Charitable Foundation

SERVICE CLUBS

Edmonton Kin Club

Kiwanis Club of South Edmonton

Local No. 742

Rotary Club of Edmonton

iHuman
Be a hero to your creativity



CORPORATE

West Edmonton Mall
Westin Hotel
Weir Bowen LLP

3rd PARTY FUNDRAISERS

Breathe in Poetry Collective
Edmonton Potterwatch
ETSY Made in Canada Show
Freemasons
Homeward Trust Edmonton Walk/Run
INAC Pancake Breakfast
McEwan University, Business Students
Guerilla Radio Benefit Concert
Push For Change
Rock 'n Robes Gala
University of Alberta, Medical Students



Partnerships

Note: not an exhaustive list

Action Alliance for Youth Inclusion (formerly OSCMAP)
Alberta Health Services, EMS Community Care team
Art Gallery of Alberta
Apathy is Boring
Boyle Street Community Services
Boyle McCauley Health Centre
Boyle Street Education Centre
Canada Roots Exchange
Child and Family Services, Region 6
City University Seattle
CypherWild
E4C
Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations
Edmonton Food Bank
Edmonton John Howard Society
Edmonton Police Service, Downtown Division
Health for Two
Hip Hop in the Park
Homeward Trust Edmonton
HIV Edmonton
Indigenous Doula Network
John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights
McEwan University
Rapid Fire Theatre
University of Alberta
Youth Criminal Defense Office
Youth Empowerment Support Services (YESS)