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**REPORT TO
COMMUNITY**



PORTRAIT OF A MUSTARD SEED GUEST

by Samantha Lowe, staff member

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TheSeed.ca



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

My first year as CEO of The Mustard Seed has now passed, and what a year it has been.

To our many supporters: The Mustard Seed is blessed with a remarkable team whose mission is to serve our city’s most vulnerable. Every day, I am inspired by their dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to this work.

The Seed has always been ambitious in its mission to help as many people as possible. In the following pages, you will read about initiatives – some years in the making – that came to fruition last year. One major shift in our shelters was adopting a Housing-Focused Shelter Worker model. This approach assigns staff caseloads to assist guests in securing permanent housing. The result? 1,269 guests found permanent homes last year – almost double the previous year’s total. This is the impact we strive for.

As you read further, I hope you take pride in what we have accomplished together. We remain steadfast in our mission to serve, whether by helping someone find housing, employment, or the support they need. Every day, we witness lives transformed at The Mustard Seed.

I want to extend my gratitude to my predecessor and mentor, Steve Wile, for passing on a strong and vibrant organization. The mission of building hope and well-being in our most vulnerable citizens through Jesus’ love continues.

To our donors, volunteers, funders, and supporters – thank you. Your generosity and dedication make this work possible. Together, we are changing lives.

Thank you for continuing to stand with us in this crucial work.

James Gardiner | Chief Executive Officer



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

At The Mustard Seed, our mission is to build hope and well-being in our most vulnerable citizens through Jesus’ love. On behalf of The Mustard Seed Society Board of Directors, I am pleased to share in the pages that follow the significant impact our teams have had on the lives of so many. In 2024, we have been expanding our services. We were delighted to expand into Saskatoon, our third province and seventh city, where we now operate a supportive housing building.

We enjoyed a seamless transition of CEOs. James Gardiner, a former Board member and more recently a member of our executive staff, became the fifth CEO in our 40-year history following the retirement of Dr. Steve Wile. We are thankful for Steve’s nine years of capable leadership and look forward to the future under James’ leadership.

We are deeply honoured and grateful for the trust that our donors place in us as they join our mission with their time and donations. I also want to thank our dedicated staff and volunteers for their tireless work each day. Your motivation to serve and care for our guests is truly inspiring.

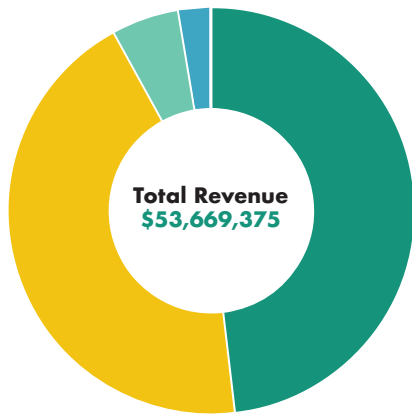
Our mission is not yet complete. There remain fellow neighbours who are unhoused and in poverty. At The Mustard Seed, we are focused each and every day to be the agent of change in the lives of those we serve. Your support is vital to maintaining the scope of influence for positive change that we have.

Thank you

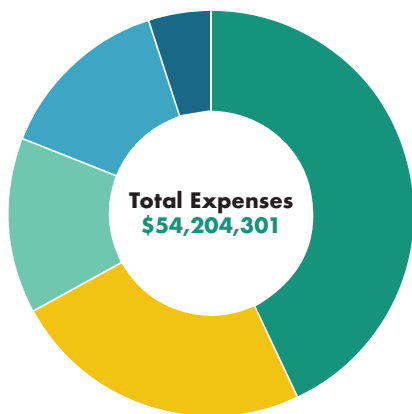
Kevin Schular | Society Board Chair

FINANCIALS

For the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024



- GRANTS & GOV. FUNDING **48%**
- DONATIONS **44%**
- RENTAL PROPERTIES & SERVICES **5%**
- OTHER INCOME **3%**



- BASIC SERVICES **43%**
- SUPPORT SERVICES **24%**
- RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING & PUBLIC EDUCATION **14%**
- HOUSING **14%**
- ADMINISTRATION **5%**

OUR VALUES



CHRIST-CENTEREDNESS



TRANSPARENT ACCOUNTABILITY



TREATING ALL WITH RESPECT



OPEN COMMUNICATION



HOLISTIC INNOVATION

Visit TheSeed.ca/accountability to read our complete financial statements

OUR MISSION

To build hope and well-being for our most vulnerable citizens through Jesus' love.

OUR VISION

To eliminate homelessness and reduce poverty where we serve.

HERE'S WHAT **YOUR SUPPORT** DID ACROSS ALL MUSTARD SEED LOCATIONS IN 2024

You Gave Hope...



890,000+
meals served



53,000+
clothing and living
essentials provided



727
shelter spaces
available each month

And Well-Being...



74,219
Health & Wellness
services provided



604
guests
employed



1,269
guests moved
into housing



94,301
school lunches
provided in Red Deer

To our most vulnerable neighbours through Jesus's love.

You're Opening Doors

The Mustard Seed expanded to Saskatoon in 2024, opening supportive housing units in downtown Saskatoon. These permanent supportive housing units offer residents stable, safe, affordable housing with wrap-around supports.

Alongside supportive housing, The Mustard Seed opened up an overnight shelter in early spring of 2025. The 40-bed shelter opened at a temporary location (210 Pacific Ave, Saskatoon) and takes a housing-focused approach, working to transition guests into sustainable housing while providing essential services.



For more information head to TheSeed.ca/Saskatoon.



From Hardship to Healing: The Ripple Effects of Recovery

It was when Shirley found herself at her lowest point, in and out of shelters and dealing with addiction, that she was reminded of a man who had shown her kindness while staying at a shelter. He would clean up after the guests, treating each person with respect, even when they had nothing to offer in return. This act of service stuck with her, and she made a promise to herself, that if she ever got out of there, she wanted to be like him. Helping others just as he helped her.

Years passed, and Shirley worked hard to turn her life around. She found stability and began searching for work. But despite her efforts to find a job in her field, something kept pulling her back to the world she once knew – the homeless community that had been her family. It was then that a job posting for The Mustard Seed in Saskatoon appeared, and Shirley knew she had to apply. It was a reminder of where she had come from and the promise she had made years ago. Shirley’s faith and determination led her to start working at The Mustard Seed, where she continues to work today.

Today, Shirley supports individuals who are struggling, just as she once did, and offers a helping hand to those in need.

“God did hear my plea back then,” Shirley reflects. “I know now that I had to go through a lot to get the experience, so I could work at The Mustard Seed here in Saskatoon.”



Brian’s Café

At **Brian’s Café** a cup of coffee is more than just a drink, it’s a symbol of community. Officially opening its doors on **January 23, 2025**, this social enterprise café is nestled inside **The Mustard Seed Calgary’s family housing building, Ogden Hub:29 (2381 74 Ave SE, Calgary)**. But Brian’s Café is more than just a coffee shop – it’s a cornerstone of the community.

Named in honour of **Brian Evasiuk**, a community member who once relied on The Mustard Seed’s services before his passing in 2020, the café carries his legacy forward by offering a **safe, welcoming place for all**. Whether stopping by for a **warm cup of coffee, sharing a conversation with a friend, adding to our Giving Wall**, or exploring our **employment program, there’s always a seat for you** at Brian’s Café.

The Giving Wall, a simple yet powerful act of kindness, allows customers to pre-purchase drinks or snacks for those in need. Since opening, over \$2,300 has been donated, providing \$1,700 worth of food and drinks to residents and other community members in need. More than nourishment, these acts of kindness are a reminder that no one is alone.

At Brian’s Café, generosity is something we live – one cup at a time.

Scan the QR code for 25% off your next coffee.

We can’t wait to see you!



YOUR IMPACT: WITH YOUR SUPPORT, GOD IS RESTORING FAMILIES, AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES.

Harbour House: Kamloops Women's Shelter

"The Women's Shelter has helped me so much, I've found stability, peace, and a supportive community. The staff have empowered me to move forward and live a healthier, happier life."

- Margaret, women's shelter guest



Ogden Hub:29

"I feel connected here. And my kids are ready to come back and be with me full time. That says something about this place and the environment here, that my family can see that growth in me too."

- Alexis, Hub:29 resident



Red Deer School Lunch Program

"It's very heartwarming to know as a mother that my child is cared for. I can provide for my child's other needs because The Mustard Seed is supporting our need for nutritious meals."

-Susan, school lunch program parent

Grande Prairie

For years, Major's Family Restaurant has been more than just a place to eat – it has been a place for community. Every Christmas, the family-owned restaurant opens its doors to anyone in need of a warm meal. At the heart of this tradition is Todd, the owner, who, alongside his family, spends Christmas Day in the kitchen, preparing a home-cooked turkey dinner with all the fixings.

When The Mustard Seed opened a supportive housing building in Grande Prairie in early 2024, they saw what Major's Family Restaurant was doing and reached out with a question: Would he be willing to extend his Christmas dinner to the 50 residents of The Mustard Seed?

Todd didn't hesitate. His response was immediate and unwavering – "Of course."

And so, that Christmas, Major's Family Restaurant was filled with even more laughter, gratitude, and full hearts. Residents of The Mustard Seed's supportive housing joined the community at Major's, sharing not just a meal, but a sense of connection that so many had longed for.

"It's just the right thing to do," Todd says simply. But to those who walked through the doors that day – it meant everything.



Finding Purpose in the Unexpected: Medicine Hat Shelter

Payton never saw himself working at a shelter. But when opportunities were scarce, he took a chance on a job opening with The Mustard Seed in Medicine Hat. What started as just a job quickly became something much more – a passion.

Day after day, Payton finds himself drawn to the small but powerful moments with The Mustard Seed's guests. The relief when someone receives a new jacket or a warm meal for the first time in a while. But the moments he holds closest are the ones where he sees someone take a step toward overcoming addiction. Payton knows this battle intimately, almost losing himself to his addiction before achieving nearly two years of sobriety. Payton openly shares his journey with guests at The Mustard Seed, offering hope and guidance to those struggling just as he had. The work isn't easy, and some days are heavy, but Payton believes he is exactly where he is meant to be.

"Being able to help people at The Mustard Seed in this way makes me feel as though my struggles were not in vain,"

says Payton.



Edmonton HELP Team

The Human-Centered Engagement and Liaison Partnership – better known as HELP – was launched in January 2021 as a proactive response to the growing need for support for at-risk, vulnerable, and marginalized individuals in Edmonton. This innovative partnership was designed to collaborate directly with the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) to reduce social disorder and to divert individuals away from crisis situations and the criminal justice system and towards the appropriate support systems. By working alongside EPS, HELP ensures that the right resources are deployed at the right time, directing people in need to services that can provide real solutions.

"HELP focuses on the city's vulnerable and at-risk individuals, identifying their needs and navigating them towards the appropriate services in the community," explains Daniela, HELP Program Manager.

HELP navigators focus on connecting people with social supports and building real relationships with those they work with. They don't provide services themselves, but rather act as a bridge, helping individuals access the support systems that can turn their lives around.

"The Mustard Seed is one of six partner agencies represented in the program; our Navigators work collaboratively with colleagues from Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society, Hope Mission, George Spady Society, Enoch Cree Nation, and Radius Community Health & Healing," shares Daniela.

The impact of HELP ripples through both the individuals it serves and the broader community.

"For clients, this intervention often means the removal of barriers to service," explains Daniela. Through this collaboration, HELP is transforming the way the community supports its most vulnerable members – providing them with hope, dignity, and a path toward a brighter future.

To learn more about HELP and read impactful client stories, visit:

partnerswithpurposeyeg.ca





What's Next?

The Mustard Seed continues to explore opportunities across Canada that will allow us to have the greatest impact on our vision to eliminate poverty and homelessness.



Engage Your Team or Family in Making a Difference!

Looking for a way to give back? Join us in supporting those in need through The Mustard Seed's Care Kit Program. This is a fantastic opportunity for your workplace or family to get involved by packing kits filled with essential items for those experiencing homelessness.

Through our Kits for a Cause partnership, your group can directly impact lives while creating lasting memories of giving. It's a meaningful way to connect with your community and make a tangible difference.

Together, we can share kindness and hope with those who need it most.

Learn more and get involved at TheSeed.ca/kfac

It Takes All of Us!

Donors, volunteers, staff, all levels of government, and community partners – lasting change happens through strong relationships and long-term collaboration.

Thank you for sharing in our mission to serve vulnerable neighbours. Your support helps us work toward eliminating poverty and homelessness.

Together, we are impacting lives.



The Story We Leave Behind: Creating a Meaningful Legacy

We have partnered with Advisors With Purpose, a charitable organization that offers financial discipleship, helping individuals and families with decisions regarding their estate. Advisors with Purpose is about more than just wealth or inheritance; it's about crafting a lasting legacy. What will your legacy say?

Contact Advisors with Purpose at:

plan@advisorswithpurpose.ca or 1.866.336.3315 to start your journey.

TheSeed.ca/legacy



Free – Confidential – No Obligation

TheSeed.ca

CALL TOLL-FREE:

1.833.GIV.HOPE (448.4673)

The Mustard Seed serves Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Kamloops, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, and Saskatoon. Visit TheSeed.ca to learn more – select your city from the 'View Location' dropdown (desktop/tablet) or scroll to the bottom (mobile).

