

# 2023-24

## Annual Report

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**Knowles**  
CENTRE



2065 Henderson Hwy  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2T 1P7  
204-339-1952  
[info@knowlescentre.org](mailto:info@knowlescentre.org)  
[www.knowlescentre.org](http://www.knowlescentre.org)

Knowles Centre acknowledges with respect and gratitude that we work on Treaty 1 Territory, the original and traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Ininiwak, Anishininewuk, Dakota and Dene people, and the homeland of the Red River Metis. We recognize that our water is sourced from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation.

We acknowledge the Indigenous peoples who were forced from their lands to make way for the new settlers and that our ability to live, work and enjoy this area is connected to their profound loss.

Knowles Centre recognizes that the injustices of the past have created enduring systems and structures that continue to impact Indigenous communities today. As an organization founded by settlers, Knowles Centre commits to listening to the truths of these experiences and working in meaningful collaboration with Indigenous communities toward justice and reconciliation.



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# Board Chair Message

As Chair of the Board of Directors at Knowles Centre Inc., it is my privilege to extend my deepest appreciation for your ongoing support of our organization. Your commitment and partnership are integral to the continued success of the vital services we provide to children, adolescents, and families in need.

At Knowles Centre, we remain steadfast in our mission to foster resilience, empowerment, and healing for those we serve. Over the past year, we have faced unprecedented challenges, but thanks to the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and supporters like you, we have continued to evolve. Together, we have touched countless lives, ensuring brighter futures for those who rely on us.

I am also thrilled to share that we are in a great position under the dynamic leadership of our new CEO, Dr. Ryan Anderson, and our Director of Finance & Administration, Steven Lanktree. Ryan brings a wealth of experience and a fresh perspective to our mission, guiding us with a clear vision for the future of Knowles Centre. Steven Lanktree continues to ensure our financial stewardship and administrative operations are strong and sustainable, laying the groundwork for our future success.

We are currently looking for passionate individuals who are interested in joining our Board of Directors. If you are committed to making a difference in the lives of the youth and families we serve, we encourage you to consider this meaningful opportunity. By joining the Board, you will help shape the strategic direction of Knowles Centre and play a pivotal role in driving our mission forward.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to both our current Board members and those who have recently joined. Your leadership, insights, and dedication are invaluable, and it is because of your collective efforts that we continue to make a lasting impact.

Looking ahead, the Board is focused on strategic initiatives that will further enhance the quality of care and programs offered. Our aim is to strengthen our community presence and expand our reach to meet the growing and changing needs of our clients. I am confident that with your continued support, we will achieve even greater success in fulfilling our mission.



I invite you to continue this journey with us as we work to build a more hopeful and resilient future for the youth and families we serve.

Should you have any questions or wish to learn more about our current initiatives, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you once again for your trust and dedication.

Laura Kusko  
Board Chair



# CEO's Message

Dear Stakeholders, Partners, and Colleagues,

It is with great excitement that I write to you today as the new CEO of Knowles Centre. I extend my gratitude to the Board of Directors for placing their trust in me to lead such a long-standing and storied organization. I officially commenced my duties on August 1, 2024, and I have already witnessed the dedication and passion that define Knowles. I am especially impressed with the quality of leadership across our programs. Our program directors are talented and experienced, and they have repeatedly demonstrated care and commitment for the people they serve. I look forward to working with them in supporting you and the programs we offer.

This year's annual report will look a little different than in previous years. Earlier editions provided statistics and reporting on the success of our programs. This year's edition, however, will focus on the successes of our programs as evidenced by personal stories. I hope you enjoy them as they reflect our ongoing commitment to the children and youth we support, as well as the successes they experience as a result of the work we do.

While this past year has brought significant change, especially with material changes to the Board of Directors and the senior leadership of the organization, it has also created new opportunities. I am confident that by working collaboratively, we will continue to build on the strong foundation already in place here at Knowles. As we move forward, we will establish a clear vision and strategic direction for the coming years, ensuring that the Knowles Centre remains a leader in providing critical services and support to those in need.

Our path forward will be shared in greater detail at the upcoming Annual General Meeting on September 25, 2024. At that time, we will share our vision for the future, outline our priorities, and set the course for continued success and growth.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been part of this journey so far. I am inspired by the work being done, and I am energized by the potential that lies ahead. Together, we will continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the children, youth, and young adults we serve.

I look forward to meeting and working with all of you as we embark on this new chapter together.

Sincerely,

Ryan Anderson, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer





# About Us

At Knowles Centre, we believe every child deserves a future filled with hope. Since 1907, we've been transforming lives by providing a nurturing environment that fosters well-being and belonging. Our dedicated staff offers tailored therapeutic support, addressing mental, physical, and behavioural needs through a holistic approach. We specialize in helping those who have faced repeated trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACES).

Our team helps young people and their families address past struggles, develop healthier relationships and ways of life, and reach their full potential in the future.

Knowles Centre is governed by an elected Board of Directors made up of dedicated members of the community who contribute their knowledge and insight to making Knowles Centre a welcoming and respected place of healing.

## Vision

Enriching Lives by enhancing family, community and cultural identity to develop a promising future

## Mission

Empowering healthy communities where families have a sense of well-being and belonging



# Meet our board



**LAURA KUSKO**

BOARD CHAIR  
February 2024 -  
Current  
VICE CHAIR  
September 2024 -  
February 2023



**MARK LUBOSCH\***

BOARD CHAIR  
September 2024 -  
February 2024



**KIM KOVACS**

VICE - PRESIDENT  
AND SECRETARY



**ANTHONY  
ORTEGA\***  
TREASURER



**ANDREA SHERRY\***

PAST PRESIDENT



**CHARLENE  
FIGUEIREDO\***



**JIM HODDINOTT\***



**IHOR WENGER**

\*resigned during the 2023-2024 year



# Year in Review

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## Healing Homes

Knowles Centre is proud to highlight the journey of Holly\*, a shining example of resilience and determination among our Healing Homes program alumni. Holly's journey is a testament to her strength and ability to transform challenges and set backs into opportunities for growth and success. Her empathetic nature and steadfast dedication have not only been a source of inspiration to her peers but have also established her as a role model within our Healing Homes community.

Holly's unwavering commitment and forward thinking resulted in her graduating from River East Collegiate with a commendable accumulation of credits. Her aspirations for a career in the military or possibly as a youth care worker. Both are driven by a profound desire to contribute, serve and lead with purpose, intention and integrity.

Holly's accomplishments are a clear indication of her hard work and the respect she has earned from both peers and mentors. Her ongoing engagement with the Knowles Centre team, including sharing her evolving goals and expressing gratitude for the unwavering support received, is greatly valued. Knowles Centre will continue to follow Holly in her future endeavors and celebrating her milestones along her life's path.

\*Names have been changed.



The Healing Homes provide care for 22 youth, ages 12 to 17, who are wards of Child and Family Services. The program includes four 4-bed homes and two 3-bed homes, both on-campus and in the community. It supports youth impacted by neglect, abuse (emotional, physical, or sexual), intergenerational trauma, racism, and feelings of hopelessness, which often lead to emotional and behavioral challenges.



# Biimautaziiwin Cultural Program

The Biimautaziiwin Cultural Program at Knowles Centre has maintained and organized the Cultural Room and Ceremonial Areas, providing a dedicated space for cultural practices. Seasonal pipe ceremonies and feasts, held with John G. Stewart School, express gratitude and seek holistic health for youth, families, and staff.

Regular smudging, pipe ceremonies, sweat lodges, and full moon ceremonies are offered, with additional supports available upon request. The Indigenous Drumming and Singing Group, led by Lynn Brownlee and Paula DaCosta, helps youth develop drumming and singing skills while teaching Indigenous languages through songs.

Traditional Teachings and ceremony symbolism are shared as resources with Knowles Centre staff and stakeholders. Plans are in place to extend this training to Youth Care Workers, highlighting the healing power of these ceremonies.

Connections with Indigenous communities and networking with Elders and artists ensure ongoing engagement in ceremonies and support the cultural learning and healing journey of both youth and staff.

*We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Graham C. Lount Family Foundation for their generous support, which has been instrumental in enabling the Cultural Indigenous programming and providing the necessary resources for the Biimautaziiwin Cultural supports. The opportunities made possible through this funding play a vital role in the delivery of Indigenous teachings, values, and ceremonial practices, offering healing to all those who choose to learn and participate. The Foundation's contributions stand as a powerful example of our shared commitment to honoring Truth and Reconciliation, fostering understanding and healing between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, and supporting the well-being of future generations.*

~ Cara Widrick,  
Knowledge Keeper, Indigenous Initiatives Director

The Biimautaziiwin Cultural Program at Knowles Centre supports Indigenous youth in exploring their culture and traditional healing practices for holistic well-being. Open to all children and youth receiving services from the Centre, and also supports staff as needed.



# Therapeutic Milieu Project

The Therapeutic Milieu Project (TMP) ensures optimal care and behavioral improvements for our youth and staff by focusing on five wellness domains: ideological, cultural, physical, social, and emotional.

**IDEOLOGICAL:** This year, TMP continued to integrate Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) into Healing Homes. Paula DaCosta joined in November as an interim TCI specialist. She became a certified trainer and trained 16 staff through the 35-hour in-person TCI program. Paula's ongoing front-line support has enhanced staff confidence and capabilities, prioritizing the emotional and physical safety of both youth and staff while fostering a culture of care.

**PHYSICAL:** Healing Homes received new furniture and fresh paint, thanks to financial support from our community and staff and volunteer efforts, creating a nurturing, home-like environment for the youth.

**CULTURAL:** With the hiring of a Director of Indigenous Initiatives, our young people are offered supports in ensuring they can create or maintain their connections to their Indigenous culture..

**SOCIAL:** Youth have participated in numerous community events, including sports games, pow wows, and volunteer opportunities. Healing Homes also offer in-house activities like arts and crafts, beach days, and BBQs.

TMP remains dedicated to staff development and training, promoting a consistent, unified model of care to ensure the highest level of therapeutic support.

The Therapeutic Milieu Project is a three year project primarily funded by an anonymous grantor with the goal of ensuring every Healing Home has a healing environment through the integration of Therapeutic Crisis Intervention and Self-Reg.

# Treatment Foster Care

In 2016, Anna and Eric\* opened their home to foster siblings Isabella and Dylan\*, keeping them together while embracing their family and Indigenous culture.

In 2023, they started the summer by camping with Isabella and Dylan's birth mother, "Mama Sharon," and extended family the children had not met before. They celebrated the kids' birthdays, went to the beach, enjoyed bonfires, and took walks together. The children bonded with their cousins and built new relationships.

Later that summer, the family attended an Indigenous cultural camp with Isabella and Dylan's siblings and Mama Sharon. The camp offered daily smudging, drumming, singing, nature hikes, deer hide scraping, skirt sewing, wild rice harvesting, meat preservation, and participation in a sweat lodge. Anna described it as a week of spiritual growth and transformation for everyone.

Although the summer had its challenges, Anna said it was meaningful to share the time with the children's birth family. The children experienced emotional ups and downs but had many opportunities for learning and healing.

One evening, during a storm, Anna, Isabella, and Mama Sharon shared a deeply emotional conversation about their past. Mama Sharon felt the camp provided the perfect setting for healing, surrounded by daily smudging and sweat lodge ceremonies. By the camp's end, the children shared their love and apologized for any tensions, which strengthened their bond. Anna was proud of the growth and connection between everyone.

Their Clinical Case Manager, Marijana Dumbovic, commended Anna and Eric for their efforts in bringing the children, their siblings, caregivers, and birth mother to the camp. When funding fell short, Anna and Eric covered the remaining costs to ensure everyone could attend.

Anna and Eric are just two of the many dedicated caregivers in Knowles Centre's Treatment Foster Care program, all working to include birth families and support children in maintaining cultural connections.

\*Names have been changed.



Treatment Foster Care combines professional services with the support of caring community families. Clients of all ages are referred with specialized behavioral or emotional needs and may be facing family crises or relationship challenges. Whenever possible, siblings are placed together.

## Supported Advancement to Independent Living

Before Sierra joined the Supported Advancement to Independent Living (SAIL) program, she struggled with severe anxiety and depression, which affected her academic performance and overall health. Relocating to her grandmother's home provided a supportive space that initiated her path to recovery. The SAIL program, suggested by her social worker, played a pivotal role in her healing and growth.

Sierra's transition to self-sufficiency was gradual and challenging. Initially, solitude was her refuge, but the SAIL program encouraged her to engage more with the world. Despite her fear of making mistakes, stemming from previous negative experiences where mistakes were punished, the program's tailored support empowered her to embrace education, secure a job, and rebuild her confidence.

Sierra's journey saw her evolve from surviving to thriving, as she honed the skills necessary for independence. With her therapist and the SAIL team's support, she "rebuilt trust and feel safe in the world around me". Reflecting on her past, Sierra appreciates her profound transformation from "surviving to living fully", all fueled by the unwavering support of her therapist, family, and the SAIL staff.

By the end of the SAIL program, she had graduated high school, completed first aid/CPR training, secured a job, finished a forklift training program, volunteered, participated in a work program, engaged socially, and became self-sufficient. Most importantly, Sierra learned to manage her mental health, gained self-confidence, and had the opportunity to develop as a person.

Sierra's story is one of resilience and empowerment. Her newfound self-reliance and inner peace are testaments to her perseverance and the robust network of support that bolstered her. She credits her past challenges as stepping stones to her current fulfillment and autonomy, made possible by the dedicated guidance of her therapist, family, and the SAIL program.

She now lives with her partner outside Winnipeg and plans to obtain her driver's license and pursue post-secondary education in the near future.

The SAIL program helps youth in the child welfare system transition to independent living, offering skill development and ongoing support. It serves individuals 16 and older who do not plan to return to their family after reaching adulthood.



# Day Treatment

This past year, Bailey Pavcek joined our Day Treatment team as the Knowles Centre's Day Treatment Student, Family, and Community Liaison. His goal for the summer programming was "to prioritize strengthening the relationship clients' have with Knowles Centre and John G Stewart School.

*"During my limited time as the Day Treatment Student, Family, and Community Liaison I have seen the high investment from families and the community to see our youth succeed in all facets of their lives. A systems approach is crucial for the development of our students. The day treatment program is an example of how successful cohesiveness can be. This role has helped me improve professionally, as my listening and communication capacities have grown exponentially" - Bailey Pavcek*

This was accomplished through inclusive, easy-to-access, engaging activities which created space for youth to be their authentic selves. These activities included geocaching, recreational sports, role-play games such as Dungeons and Dragons, and raspberry jam making - all of which allowed youth to show up as their 'authentic selves'.

When reflecting on the summer portion of the Day Treatment program, one youth reported: *"I really enjoyed how every day was something new, and fun. I also had a good time hanging out with other people, and having fun together. It was really cool 10/10 would do again".*

This past school year, the Day Treatment program saw many notable successes. One student developed the skills to advocate for themselves, allowing them to return to the care of their family and rejoin their community school. This was a remarkable change from the previous year, when they were reluctant to communicate with staff and peers. Another student showed significant improvement in anger management and self-regulation, and is preparing for a gradual transition to community school in September 2024. Additionally, a third student experienced growth in self-confidence, setting boundaries, and social skills, and expressed feeling supported and understood by the program. One student proudly graduated from high school in June, while another gained so much confidence that they led a school celebration.

The Day Treatment is offered in partnership through Knowles Centre and the River East Transcona School Division. Students attend John G Stewart School located on the main campus of Knowles Centre. In addition, the meet on regular basis with a Knowles Centre therapist. The program is directed toward youth aged 12 to 17 experiencing emotional and behavioural difficulties in the school and community. Students may be living with their family, in foster care, or a group home.

# Sexual Abuse Treatment Program

Ingrid\* was 14 years old when she and her mother began therapy with her Mother Sally\*. Ingrid's stepfather had been sexually abusing her since she was 11 years old. Even though the abuser was removed from the home after Sally reported him, she was uncertain of how to help Ingrid.

Initially, Ingrid did not want to talk about the abuse. Ingrid was struggling with her emotions, her mental health, and various relationships, particularly with her mother. Sally shared that Ingrid felt angry, shameful, and depressed. She felt like she was going crazy and wanted to know what was wrong with her and when she would get over things.

One of the first things their therapist said to Ingrid and her mother, was how they process Ingrid's trauma, could be helped by learning coping skills and understanding Ingrid's story. I also shared that sexual abuse victims can live very successful lives and can heal from sexual trauma.

This therapist helped Ingrid understand that her emotions were trauma reactions. This therapist spent a lot of time helping Ingrid and her mother understand how trauma works and how it can affect people. As Ingrid became more comfortable in therapy she began talking more. She later told this therapist that it was very powerful knowing that what she was experiencing was a trauma reaction and that she was not going crazy.

Through therapy at Knowles Centre's Sexual Abuse Treatment Program, Ingrid and her mother talked about how the abuse affected each of their lives. Ingrid learned that the abuse was not her fault, she learned that all her emotions were normal and that they were trauma reactions. She learned coping techniques to deal with her feelings, and she ultimately found the courage to testify against her abuser.

Sally also learned through the therapy process. This learning and growth process included accepting that her feelings around learning her daughter was sexually abused were normal and that they were trauma reactions. Sally learned coping strategies to manage her feelings, what grooming strategies are and the purpose of grooming. She also learned why children keep the abuse a secret and how she could support Ingrid. The other focus was on sexual abuse prevention tips and the importance of teaching youth how to set boundaries.

The Sexual Abuse Treatment Program offers free treatment services for clients aged 4 to 21 who have disclosed sexual abuse or have a sibling who has. Non-offending parents or caregivers of these children may also be referred to the program.



# Moving Forward

The Moving Forward Therapy program provided therapeutic services to 38 youth this year. Our therapists worked diligently to identify and build upon the strengths of each youth, foster self-esteem, develop coping skills, and offer support in a wide range of areas. Throughout the year, we witnessed remarkable resilience, growth, and strength in the youth we served. This progress was also evident to their parents and caregivers.

One caregiver shared, "I couldn't imagine our lives without the Knowles Centre. The therapists are highly trained in trauma and have provided essential resources, education, and treatment over the past two and a half years. We're also grateful for the parent therapy sessions, which helped us learn how to better support our child. The staff have been accommodating and flexible, even with my challenging work schedule."

Another parent expressed their gratitude, stating their child "was really looking forward to coming back after being away all summer and said he wouldn't have wanted to see anyone else but his Knowles therapist."

Our therapists feel privileged to support these youth and their families. Knowles Centre is committed to expanding the Moving Forward Therapy program so more youth and families can access the support they need to thrive.

Moving Forward is a community-based therapeutic counseling program for young people facing mental health, emotional, or behavioral challenges. Offered on a fee-for-service basis, it accepts referrals from families, CFS agencies, victim service agencies, and other organizations. Therapists can also work with the families or caregivers of enrolled young people.



## River East Transcona School Division Therapy Program

The 2023-2024 school year was a productive period for Knowles Centre's collaboration with the River East Transcona School Division (RETSD). From September 2023 to June 2024, Knowles Centre therapists were integrated into five RETSD schools, providing critical mental health services to students.

During this time, a total of 99 students received support from Knowles Centre therapists, with 69 students participating in individual therapy and 30 engaging in group therapy sessions. In individual therapy, 851 sessions were held, and notable improvements were observed in areas such as anxiety and self-esteem, based on assessments conducted at the start and conclusion of services.

Group therapy included six sessions focused on different needs: three groups addressed anxiety, two focused on healthy relationships, and one provided support for grief and loss. Feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive, with 93.65% of survey respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statements provided.

Student feedback included the following comments:

- "Please still work with me when I'm out of school...lol"
- "This program has helped me improve myself greatly and I feel very safe and supported"
- "It's very neat"
- "This has been a good few months. I felt safe talking to my therapist"
- "It was great. I only wish I started earlier"
- "I love how I'm able to receive therapy at school instead of going to a new and unfamiliar setting"
- "One of the best therapists I ever had was ...."

During the 2023-2024 school year, the support from Knowles Centre therapists has proven to be a valuable resource for students facing various challenges. Survey results indicate that students found the program both meaningful and helpful. Additionally, a significant number of students showed improvements in their well-being, including reductions in anxiety and enhancements in self-esteem. This demonstrates that the therapeutic support provided by Knowles Centre therapists continues to positively impact students by offering emotional safety, stability, and unconditional regard throughout their healing journey.

The In-School Counselling Partnership, a collaboration between Knowles Centre and five high schools in the River East Transcona School Division, provides confidential, on-site counselling to students dealing with significant challenges impacting their home and school lives. Through a range of therapeutic approaches, students are able to confront their difficulties and begin the process of healing.

# Eagle Feather Education Awards

High school can be a difficult time for many young people. It can be even more challenging for youth in care who have faced multiple placements resulting in interruptions and changes to schools along with current and past challenges home life situations.

For a youth in our Day Treatment or Healing Homes program who works hard to transition back to a community school from the specialized environment of John G Steward School, this may be equally or more challenging.

Some youth in our Supported Advancement to Independent Living program may also face education challenges as they learn how to live independently while attending high school or specialized post-secondary education.

The Knowles Centre Eagle Feather Education Awards recognizes those students who take on this challenge and responsibility and succeed. In many Indigenous cultures, being gifted a feather is one of the highest honours one can receive. This gift represents the respect one has for that individual. It may be given to honour accomplishments and new endeavours.

We are pleased to recognize the following recipients of the 2023/2024 Education Awards

**Alena, SAIL**  
**Anyieth, SAIL**  
**Christina, SAIL**  
**Jeneane, SAIL**  
**Nina, SAIL**  
**Tyler, Day Treatment**  
**Quintin, SAIL**  
**Zach, SAIL**  
**Anonymous, SAIL**





# Knowles Centre Supporters

The Knowles Centre team is grateful to our community for supporting our work helping youth in Manitoba. It is the generosity of caring individuals and organizations that help us do more for our clients.

## Individual Donors

Benjamin Adjei  
Teresa Banman  
Melissa Beaudry  
Lisa Boland  
Dean Britton  
Maureen Britton  
The Brownlee Family  
Irene Burdz  
Imelda and Rodel Casimiro  
Anna Chubenko  
Julie Dalkie  
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Deb Fedorchuk  
Lesley Gosselin  
Annette Greene  
Mia Guenther  
Tiffany Krueger Giles  
Janet e Hamel  
Michelle Jean-Paul  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred and Marie Louise Kork  
Kim and Richard Kovacs  
Peter and Florence Kuegle  
Reynaldo and Teresita Lozano  
Doug and Sandy Meacham  
Odette Melvin  
Sheryl Muzyk  
Grant Obirek  
Jeff Palamar  
Michelle Paulsen  
Emily and Allen Polecina

Harald Schulz  
Aileen Sebunchak  
Suzanne Therrin-Richards  
David Varga  
Carl Von Baeyer  
Tiffany Waite  
Ihor Wenger  
Rachelle Yendrowich

## Community Partners

Anonymous  
Cardinal Foundation  
Clear Concepts  
End Homelessness  
Graham C. Lount Family Foundation  
Home Depot - Team Depot  
John N & D. Patricia Knowles Charitable  
Fund  
Manitoba Government - Green Team  
Manitoba Real Estate Shelter Foundation  
Rotary Club Of Fort Garry  
SBS Support Inc  
Starbucks Foundation  
Thomas and Beatrice Gilroy Trust  
United Way Winnipeg  
United Way Essential Needs Grant -  
Richardson Foundation  
Winnipeg Foundation

# 2023 Charity Croquet Classic



2023 marked a change in location for our signature fundraiser. The Centro Caboto Centre hosted us for a fantastic day of croquet, fellowship and fundraising. Our attendees thrilled us with their "Back to the 80's Vibes" themed team names and costumes and over \$24,000 was raised to benefit our programs. We thank everyone who supported and participated in the event, but especially our lead sponsors:



PRESENTED BY



**SPEAKER  
PRESENTER**

**TAYLOR  
McCAFFREY**  
LAWYERS

**AFTERNOON  
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**WINE**



**EVENING  
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## Third Party Events

We are sincerely grateful for the ongoing support of the Rotary Club of Fort Garry for choosing us as a beneficiary of the annual Half Marathon. This support is instrumental to our work.





# Knowles Centre Staff

As of June 30, 2024

## Senior Management

Mia Guenther  
Chief Executive Officer

Vacant  
Director of Finance & Administration

Colleen Keating - Acting  
Lesley Gosselin - LOA  
Healing Homes Director

Tiffany Krueger  
Treatment Foster Care Director

Dawn Vandal  
Supported Advancement to Independent  
Living Director

Cara Widrick  
Indigenous Initiatives Director

## Administration

Alexandra Altman  
Accountant

Janet e Hamel  
Manager of Development &  
Communications

Kim Perry  
Payroll/Benefits Administrator

Sandie Wagner  
Senior Human Resources Coordinator

Jason Silk  
Kitchen Coordinator and Chef

Elfren (Ding) Raquin  
Maintenance Coordinator

Oliver Miaral  
Maintenance Worker

Jo Punongbayan  
Maintenance Worker

Lee Thomas  
Maintenance Worker

## External Professionals

Dr. H. Casiano, F.R.C.P.C.  
Psychiatric Consultant

Renee Rocan  
F.H. Black & Company





## Healing Homes

Douglas Adano  
Grounds Person

Kerri-Ann Newman  
Grounds Person

Tiffany Waite  
Intake and Admissions Coordinator

## Meadowside Home

Ashely Parker  
House Supervisor

## Youth Care Workers

Kenndy Baseraba  
Sullivan Beamish  
Alex Pott  
Chris Barlow  
Taura Gentle  
Dale Barnych  
Trudon Bofoya  
Noru Uhuangho - LOA  
Shanda Stulzer - LOA

## Night Staff

Kyla Doll

## Creekside Home

Ashely Parker  
House Supervisor

## Youth Care Workers

David Borges  
Matraysa Thompson  
Darin Bicknell  
Chelsea Welch  
Ecko Zimmer  
Zainab Kagbanda

## Night Staff

Kingsley Oshionebo  
Dinah Gabrah  
Ben Briggs

## Courage House

Darrel Fedoruk  
House Supervisor

## Youth Care Workers

Kirby Bater  
Amber Wilson  
Chika Okolie  
Sanjay Sewpaul  
Sean Shimaro  
Julie Jones  
Jenelle Buchhiet  
Denzel Simons

## Night Staff

Anthony Targbe  
Yemi Alo

## Respect House

Darrel Fedoruk  
House Supervisor

## Youth Care Workers

Shelly Thomas  
Kristen Campbell  
Rachel Shupena  
Amanda Marynowski  
Tristan Vilorio  
Genevieve Amanipong  
Remi Kayode  
Venessa Perez  
Paul Akinobe

## Night Staff

Abraham Duot





## **Marshall's Place**

Celena Roberts - Acting  
House Supervisor

### **Youth Care Workers**

Celena Roberts  
Lynne Brownlee  
Brad Esslinger  
Jessica Ehret  
Tammy Yashuk  
Sheri Marks  
Brook Allen  
Shantika Parke

### **Night Staff**

Roger Endaya  
Gloria Mbuyamba

## **Nakwayup Wakiyagan**

Shae-Lynn Taylor - Acting  
House Supervisor

### **Youth Care Workers**

Tanya Szwed  
Andrea Sobral  
Amber Johnson  
Lindsay Esslinger  
Nathaniel Dangkwat  
Danielle Keeper-McKay  
Kenneth Ibeme

### **Night Staff**

Evans Teigaga  
Gloria Okugbere

## **Biimautaziwin Cultural Program**

Cara Widrick  
Director of Indigenous Initiatives

## **Supported Advancement to Independent Living (SAIL)**

### **Case Managers**

Paul Clarke  
Kim Sawchuk  
Deanna Loewen  
Kendall Shewchuk - LOA  
Sean Turnbull - LOA

### **SAIL Support Workers**

Anthony Akinwande  
Meghan Schwarz  
Jaida Clancy  
Cecelia Lopez  
Heather Poll  
Tammi Dupras  
Krista Sain  
Justin Bonneville

### **On-Site Supervisor**

Cyril Gbeve

### **On-Site Staff**

James Attah  
Desmond Essien  
Sejiro Giwa  
Johnson Nkansah  
Adedoyin Samuel  
Jennie Sarifa  
Kennedy Ugwu  
Daniel Chukwuma

### **Facility Worker**

Allan Bright

## Clinical Services

### Therapists

Veronica Dunn  
Raul Dimaculangan  
Guido Faralli  
Kersti Kona  
Andrea Moore-Melville  
Karen Shciltroth  
Kristi Venton  
Inga Wulff - LOA

Paula Dacosta  
Melissa Beaudry - LOA  
Clinical Education & Development  
Consultant

Bailey Pavcek  
Day Treatment Student School Family  
Community Liaison Worker

## Treatment Foster Care

Cheryl Janz  
Clinical Case Manager/ Respite Manager

Jackie Starodub  
Program Assistant/Receptionist

### Clinical Case Managers

Tammy Delarosa  
Darlene Morgadinho  
Marjiana Dumbovic

This list includes some employees on leave, but  
who are still considered part of the Knowles  
Centre team.





# Staff Recognition

## Long Service Awards

Knowles Centre is pleased to recognize staff who reached a milestone year of service. Thank you for your dedication and exceptional service through the years.

### 25 years

Shelly Thomas

### 20 years

Brad Esslinger

### 10 years

Lindsay Esslinger

Celena Roberts

Ashley Parker

Taura Gentle

Chelsea Welch

## Farewell and Good Luck

**We offer our best wishes to employees who left us over the past year.**

Olusegun Ajayi

Grace Bashir

Chris Bawden

Christopher Bone

Maureen Britton

Michael Buccini

Stacey Butler

Vanessa Candelaria

Yarianny Castillo-Arana

Cynthia Courchaine

Jasmine Deato

Christine Delveaux

Roni Dhaliwal

Alfredo Esona

Pam Freeth

Kimberly Gallevo

Samuel Irabor

Pamela Jansen

Cletus Joseph

Amrit Kaur

Kari Keam

Keith Lessard

Shelly Loustel

Scott MacDonald

Joshua Makanjuola

Sierra Muswagon

Grant Obirek

David Okolie

Rita Osei-Kuffour

Mariam Osiki

Nola Pryor

Shirin Riahi

Kiara Robinson

Tetiana Samonina

William Shearer

Anna Zyla

We sincerely apologize for any inadvertent omission that may have occurred in our list of donors, or other acknowledgments. We intend to celebrate and honour each individual, entity who has supported us through the reporting time frame. If you or someone you know has been inadvertently omitted from this report kindly contact us at [info@knowlescentre.org](mailto:info@knowlescentre.org) so we may correct our records



204-339-1951



[info@knowlescentre.org](mailto:info@knowlescentre.org)



[www.knowlescentre.org](http://www.knowlescentre.org)