Transforming Lives, Building Futures

2024-2025 Annual Report



(*) Knowles Centre



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's Message

It is my honour to share this message on behalf of the Board of Directors as we reflect on a year of growth, renewal, and transformation at Knowles Centre.

Over the past year, our Board has focused on strengthening its capacity to govern with clarity, accountability, and vision. We expanded our membership, bringing together diverse perspectives and skills to guide the organization. Through the adoption of a policy governance model and the implementation of a two-year strategic plan, we have created a foundation that supports both immediate stabilization and long-term sustainability.

We are proud of the progress made in areas such as financial restructuring and operational efficiency. These changes have not only supported the vital work of our staff today but have also positioned the organization for future success. Importantly, our Board remains deeply committed to advancing reconciliation, building community partnerships, and ensuring that the youth and families we serve experience compassion, dignity, and hope.



This work would not be possible without the dedication of our staff, leadership team, and community of supporters who continue to stand with us. On behalf of the Board, I extend my gratitude to each of you for your contributions to this journey.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we are excited to continue building on this momentum. Together, we will remain focused on our shared vision: transforming lives and building futures.

Laura Kusko Chair, Board of Directors

CEO'S Message

This past year has been one of meaningful progress and important change for Knowles Centre. Since last year's Annual General Meeting, where our Board shared its two-year strategic plan, we have made significant strides in positioning the organization for both stability and future success.

Much of our focus has been on strengthening our financial foundation. This work has required us to make some difficult but necessary changes—closing four Healing Homes, transitioning to new financial and administrative systems, and switching lending institutions. We also implemented QuickBooks and Payworks, bringing modern accounting and payroll platforms into our daily operations. These shifts, while sometimes challenging to adapt to, are helping us build a stronger, more resilient organization.

I am deeply grateful for the patience, dedication, and resilience of our staff throughout these transitions. Change is never easy, but your commitment to the young people and families we serve has remained steadfast. Together, we have navigated these adjustments while continuing to provide high-quality care and support.

As we look ahead, our priority will be to build on this foundation of stability by improving operational efficiency across the organization and its programs. We have come a long way in a year, and I am confident that the year ahead will bring just as much progress. With the continued dedication of our staff, board, and partners, Knowles Centre is well-positioned to grow stronger and to continue making a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.



Ryan Anderson, Ph.D. Chief Executive Officer

Our Identity

At the 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 <u>adverse childhood experiences (ACES).</u>

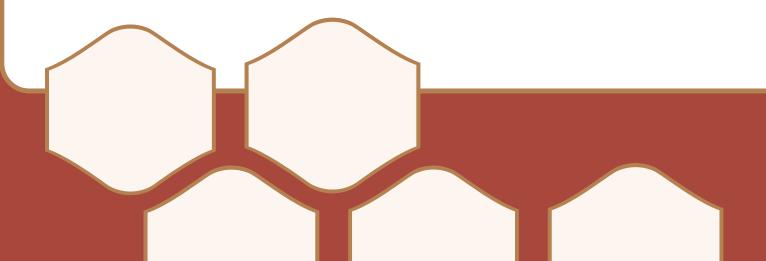
We help young people address past struggles, develop healthier relationships and ways of life, and reach their full potential for a brighter future. Depending on individual needs, clients are referred to one of the six Knowles Centre's programs.

Mission

Knowles Centre is a community-based organization providing safe, caring services for children, youth, and young adults that help them overcome barriers, heal, and succeed.

Vision

Guided by Truth to Reconciliation, Knowles Centre provides a holistic, non-judgmental, land-based, and spiritual experience for all children, youth, and young adults we serve.



Values

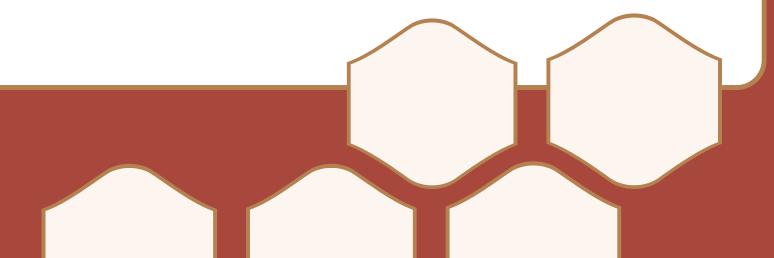
Our values are rooted in the Seven Teachings and through a Two-Eyes Seeing approach incorporate trauma-responsive and culturally sensitive care, guided by:

- Fiscal responsibility
- Building community
- Fostering innovation

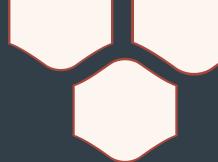
Strategic Focus for 2024-2026

To improve business functions to provide optimal service to children, youth and young adults. We will do this by:

- 1. Reimagining our financial framework to diversify and grow revenue
- 2. Enhancing human resources to recruit, retain and engage top talent
- Revising structures and systems to strengthen operational efficiency
- 4. Building our Board capacity to support Knowles Centre in realizing its vision and mission and achieving its strategic goals.







Board Capacity Building

This past year has been one of growth and renewal for the Board of Directors. With the organization moving toward stability, the Board has taken significant steps to strengthen its capacity and focus its efforts on leading effectively. At the beginning of the year, the Board consisted of only three members. By the time of the Annual General Meeting in September, that number will have grown to seven. This expansion resulted from a deliberate and strategic recruitment process. Using a skills matrix, the Board identified the experience and perspectives most needed to help guide the organization and then recruited individuals who could bring those skills to the table.

The Board also worked to establish a clear path forward through the creation of a two-year strategic plan. This plan has provided both guidance and accountability as the organization carried out important stabilization work. It has been instrumental in driving progress in the areas of financial restructuring, human resources, and operational efficiency.

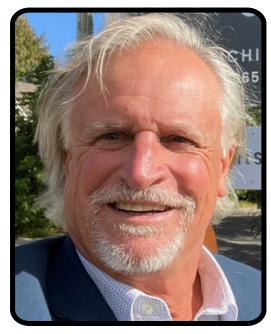
Additionally, the Board made key decisions regarding its own governance practices. By adopting a policy governance model, the Board has laid the groundwork for essential changes in the year ahead, including an updated set of bylaws, a refreshed policy framework, and enhancements to the Board's operational processes.

Overall, it has been a very positive year for the Board of Directors. Through thoughtful rebuilding and a clear focus on governance and strategy, the Board is well-positioned to continue leading the organization into the second and final year of its strategic plan.

Ihor Wenger



Having retired after 35 years with Child and Family Services, Ihor sought to continue contributing to the well-being of children and families. This commitment brought him to the Knowles Centre, where he has served for seven years and currently sits on the nominating committee for new board members. Ihor takes pride in the extensive



knowledge he has gained about the evolution of child protection both within and beyond our province.

He remains eager to contribute his energy and support innovative ideas that enhance the lives of the children and families served by Knowles. Ihor is also excited about the fresh perspectives brought by new board members and their ability to think creatively beyond traditional approaches.

Outside of his board work, Ihor is an avid mountain and road cyclist and enjoys spending summers at Victoria Beach.

Laura Kusko



Laura Kusko has been a dedicated member of the Knowles Centre Board of Directors for three years, guiding us through what has arguably been one of the most dynamic periods of change in our organization's history.

She joined as a general board member and was appointed Chair in February of this year—an advancement that reflects her commitment to growth and community service. With over 20 years of

experience in human resources, Laura pivoted during the COVID-19 pandemic to launch her own HR leadership and consulting firm, #balance. This entrepreneurial move not only reflected her adaptability but also offered her greater flexibility to deepen her community engagement.

Laura was drawn to Knowles Centre through its connection to the Transcona School Division and the Treatment Foster Care Program, aligning with her personal ties to Transcona and past considerations of becoming a foster parent herself. She brings with her a fresh perspective and is energized by the opportunity to help reimagine the traditional nonprofit model.

Outside of her professional and board commitments, Laura enjoys spending summer days outdoors with her twin boys, friends, and extended family. She is also a lifelong learner who continues to pursue personal and professional development through ongoing education.

Amanda Senkowski CPA, CA, CPHR Candidate



Amanda Senkowski is currently the Principal of the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) and operates as a Financial Services Consultant, bringing strategic financial leadership to both public and private sector initiatives.

She has served in Chief Financial Officer and Secretary-Treasurer roles with school divisions around Winnipeg, where



she oversaw finance, governance, and operational stewardship.

Earlier in her career, Amanda also contributed to the professional growth of future accountants as a Facilitator with the CPA Western School of Business, guiding articling students through case-based learning and mentorship.

Amanda earned a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and Human Resources from the University of Manitoba and completed advanced training through the CA School of Business. Dedicated to service, she has volunteered as a Pension Plan Trustee with the Manitoba School Boards Association for three years and has served on the Knowles Centre Board of Directors since October 2024. Fluent in French, she brings governance expertise, financial acumen, and a strong commitment to community impact.



Shantelle Robilliard



Shantelle is a proud First Nations woman from Fisher River Cree Nation (Treaty 5) and CEO of Walks Far Consulting, with nearly 20 years of experience across corporate, non-profit, and Indigenous spaces. She is recognized for building bridges between Indigenous communities and organizations through relationship-based engagement, cultural

facilitation, and recruitment strategies. Her work focuses on creating inclusive, culturally safe environments by blending Indigenous knowledge, trauma-informed practices, and capacity building. She has developed initiatives in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, including an Indigenous Recruitment Program that integrated culture into corporate policy and workplace practices.

Since joining the Knowles Centre Board in November 2024, Shantelle has shared her passion, leadership, and lived experience to support youth and families. She is deeply committed to ensuring young people feel seen, heard, and valued while helping create pathways that honour their identities and empower their futures.

Ela Partyka MSW, MBA, RSW, LSSBB



Ela joined the Knowles Centre Board of Directors in March 2025, bringing over two decades of leadership experience across healthcare, nonprofit, and government sectors. A registered social worker with an MSW and an MBA, she specializes in mental health, addiction, systems transformation, and organizational development. As a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, Ela



champions continuous quality improvement and evidence-informed practice.

Drawn to Knowles' mission to support young people with compassion and dignity, Ela brings a collaborative, values-based approach to governance, combining clinical insight, strategic thinking, and commitment to sustainable growth. Outside of work, she enjoys nature, travel, learning, and time with her daughter and friends, grounded by her lived experiences that inspire her work and dedication to youth mental health.







Michael joined the Knowles Centre
Board of Directors in April 2025. He is the
founder and CEO of 365 Technologies,
an IT services provider based in
Winnipeg, where he provides leadership
and strategic direction, specializing in
secure and innovative technology
solutions for businesses across Western
Canada. A Certified Information Systems
Security Professional (CISSP), Michael is
a recognized expert in cybersecurity

and a frequent speaker on emerging threats and risk management. Passionate about helping organizations—particularly nonprofits—navigate the challenges of a changing technology and cybersecurity landscape, Michael was drawn to Knowles Centre as a way to give back to a community he grew up alongside in North Kildonan. Over the past 15 years, he has supported several nonprofits by helping them leverage technology, strengthen security, and drive value from their systems.

Michael holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) and an MBA from the Asper School of Business, along with executive education from Harvard Business School and York University. Outside of work, the former ultra-marathon runner enjoys golf and snowboarding, and lives in Winnipeg with his wife, Bronwyn, and their five children.

Organizational Transformation

Over the past year, the Knowles Centre has made significant progress in advancing the transformational goals outlined in the Board's two-year strategic plan. These efforts have focused on strengthening our financial foundation, improving human resources, and enhancing operational efficiency—work that is helping to stabilize the organization today while building a strong base for the future.

Financial Framework

From a financial standpoint, the organization has made a series of prudent and forward-looking decisions to stabilize operations and position itself for long-term health. Changes have included restructuring financial frameworks, moving to a new lending institution, and modernizing internal processes. A key milestone has been the preparation for implementing Quickbooks and Payworks, which will transition the organization from a paper-based system to an automated payroll and financial management platform. Together, these efforts are creating more reliable workflows, stronger internal controls, and reduced risk of error moving forward.



Human Resources and Operations

In human resources and operations, the focus has been on reorganizing and centralizing the administration team to ensure that the right people are in the appropriate positions and that all essential tasks are properly managed. This process involved not only adjusting staffing levels but also aligning skills and responsibilities to better meet the organization's day-to-day business needs. Leadership has invested in professional development, including training in Lean Six Sigma and Lean Management, and continues to work closely with the Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union (MGEU) to support front-line staff. These changes, along with ongoing upgrades to IT systems, long-term asset planning, and reviews of program workflows, are part of a comprehensive strategy that started in the past year and is extending into the second year of the strategic plan.



Other Projects

Vehicles

Through funding granted to us by the Winnipeg Foundation and Selkirk Chrysler's assistance, the Knowles Centre was able to attain two mini-vans for our Healing Homes program. These vehicles have been instrumental in ensuring youth have access to recreation and cultural activities, medical appointment and more.

Office Moves and Painting

With changes in staff in administration, we have realigned offices and taken the opportunity to add fresh paint and window coverings in most of the offices. We also had in-kind support from Scotiabank Dakota branch with their donation of desks and filing cabinets that helped us brighten up the offices.

Home Depot Gardens

This year we had the privilege of hosting a huge crew of volunteers from the Winnipeg Home Depot locations. Not only did they donate their time and talent, they also donated all the perennials and annuals, fresh soil and mulch for the gardens around the administration building and Meadowside cottage.

Our staff and clients are so grateful for these beautiful upgrades to our properties.

Programs & Stories of Transformation

Treatment Foster Care (TFC)

About

The Treatment Foster Care program employs an effective model of care that brings together professional treatment services with the strength of caring families from the community. Clients of all ages who are referred to the program have specialized behavioral or emotional needs and may be experiencing a family crisis. They may have trouble forming relationships or may be struggling to work out past relationships. Where possible, siblings are placed together.

Changes

The Treatment Foster Care Program has been focusing this year on diversifying their services beyond its history of providing long term foster care placements for children in CFS care, including building an adult stream (CLdS), and developing emergency CFS placements to serve a significant need in the sector.

Plans

As youth who are living with a family approach the age of 18, the plans for transition to living independently begin. For youth living with disabilities, independent living isn't always a viable option, Knowles Centre is working to increase options for youth to stay with their family of choice through Community disABILITY Services (CLdS). This means there is no need to move out a home where a youth is thriving.

TFC

Dylan's Story

Family, Growth, & Lasting Impact

Dylan joined Melissa and Ryan's family through Knowles Centre's Treatment Foster Care Program in 2010 at the age of four. He found a nurturing home where he could thrive.

Melissa and Ryan, supported by their three children, have provided Dylan with unconditional care, drawing from Melissa's professional experience supporting adults with disabilities. Though contact with his biological family ended nine years ago, Melissa has continued to reach out, hopeful for future reconnection. Despite this loss, Dylan has grown in a stable environment defined by love and commitment.

Recently, Dylan transitioned from Child and Family Services (CFS) to Community Living disABILITY Services (CLdS), with Knowles Centre ensuring he could remain in his familiar, loving home. The guidance and responsiveness from Knowles Centre have helped the family adjust smoothly, maintaining routines and consistency for Dylan.

Melissa and Ryan are committed to helping Dylan achieve meaningful milestones—such as dressing himself and managing personal hygiene—major steps toward independence. Dylan is known for his sweet and gentle nature, communicating through touch and sound and expressing joy with laughter. He enjoys routines and family activities, from bus rides to hockey games.

Dylan's story is a testament to the power of love, stability, and dedicated support. In partnership with Knowles Centre, the family remains grateful for the opportunity to foster Dylan's growth and celebrate the unique joy he brings to their lives.



Healing Homes (HH)

About

The Healing Homes Program services youth aged 12 to 17 who are in the care of Child and Family services. Youth are referred to these shared homes through the Provincial Resources Desk.

Each youth works closely with a Knowles Centre therapist who provides individual counselling along with family or group sessions when beneficial. The programs specialized for youths who have been affected by neglect, emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse, the impacts of intergenerational trauma and racism, and feelings of hopelessness, which often contribute to behavioural and emotional difficulties.

Changes

In response to the changing needs of the community, this program has been downsized to bring all services back to an 'on campus' model. The campus model has home, school and therapeutic resources all together to facilitate and strengthen the supportive caring model.

Plans

As the program continues to adapt to the community's needs, the program will be enhanced in the offerings for the youth in the space of recreation and cultural programming.

HH

Building Resilience, Creating Community

This past year brought growth, change, and inspiration to our program. While we navigated transitions, including the closure of four Healing Homes and the departure of valued staff, our team showed incredible resilience and compassion. Through it all, our focus remained on supporting youth with care and creativity.

We are grateful for the grants that made it possible to offer enriching recreation activities, engaging cooking programs, and to welcome a dedicated recreational staff member. Staff development also remained a priority, with team members enhancing their skills through ASIST, Provincial Licensing, Naloxone, First Aid/CPR, and preparing for upcoming NVCI training. Most importantly, we are inspired every day by the strength and spirit of the youth we have the honour to work with.

Here are a few of their reflections:

"Knowles is a nice place. You can get involved in programs, and the staff are nice. I've enjoyed Indigenous programs like drumming, and the school also offers cultural stuff."

"Some staff genuinely care and make you feel appreciated. The programs are fun, and the environment is usually positive. It feels like a place where you belong. At John G., the school gives you opportunities you may not have had before."

"Why I like Knowles: There's staff ready to help you every moment of the day! They focus on goals and independence. Knowles is great because it supports self-control, mental health, and social skills. I love activities like horseback riding, beach trips, pool in the rec room, Folklarama, cooking, and watching 'Bluey,' my favourite bird."



Supported Advancement to Independent Living (SAIL)

About

SAIL offers more than safe housing. It provides each youth aged 16 – 21 years old with their own one-bedroom apartment in program dedicated buildings. This allows us to create a structured, supportive wrap around environment to help them build independence. With staff onsite to offer guidance, the youth work towards taking charge of their daily routines, responsibilities, and goals.

Changes

The addition of an intake specialist to the program has streamlined the intake process to reduce vacancies in the program. The Laundry room appliances in the SAIL apartment buildings were updated this year thanks to funding from Essential Needs Fund: A Richardson Foundation and United Way Partnership.

Plans

As the community looks for better ways to support youth as they age out of care, the demand for the SAIL program is growing. To meet the need for this type of programming we are looking at ways to make this program more accessible for more youth while maintaining the caring support and guidance our staff provide.

SAIL

10 Young Lives, 10 Big Wins

Graduating High School & Growing Into Independence

In the four apartment blocks designed and dedicated to support young people in care, something extraordinary has happened. This summer, ten youth from the SAIL program graduated from high school—an impressive achievement made even more meaningful by the fact that they did so while living on their own.

Guided by the steady presence of caring staff, each graduate has not only earned a diploma but also developed invaluable life skills along the way — managing a household, budgeting, cooking, balancing daily responsibilities, while navigating adulthood with increasing confidence. The result is a group of young people who are not simply adapting to adulthood, but embracing it with enthusiasm and resilience.

Now, with high school behind them, these ten graduates are stepping into the next exciting chapter of their lives. Some are preparing to start post-secondary or trade programs. Others are entering the workforce or an employment training program, pursuing passions, or exploring paths that once seemed out of reach. Their success in school and in daily living has opened doors that lead far beyond the walls of their apartments.

SAIL's goal has always been to empower youth in care to transition confidently into the world, and this graduating class is a powerful example of that vision in action. Their journey is just beginning, and the future is bright, filled with potential, purpose, and possibility. To the ten graduates, and all SAIL participants, the future is wide open, and it's yours for the taking.



John and Melissa's Journey

Over the years, SAIL has welcomed many siblings into its semi-independent living program, where young people in care prepare for adulthood with support, stability, and a place of their own. For John* and Melissa*, having their siblings in the program alongside them has made all the difference.

"Even when friends aren't around, I know I always have him." - John

John remembers feeling left behind when his older

brother first moved into the program. "I wasn't ready to be away from him" he shares. "It felt like a part of me was missing when he left." John would visit often, learning what the program was like. "I saw how it was helping him, and eventually I joined too. That's when we really reconnected."

Since joining, John says their bond has grown even stronger. "This past winter was a really tough time for me," he recalls. "But I'd call my brother and my day would start to feel a little lighter. Even when friends aren't around, I know I always have him". John credits their closeness and the

support of the program for giving him the strength to grow and plan for his future.

"One day, I want to live

"One day, I want to live near the ocean after going to post-secondary school."

- John

near the ocean after going to post-secondary school. And even if we're not in the same place, I know we'll always be there for each other."

SAIL

Melissa shares a similar story of deep connection. Her younger brother joined the program more recently, after

"We've always only had each other." -Melissa

watching Melissa thrive. "We've always only had each other," she says. "Even when

we weren't living together, we stayed close. I kept asking when he would be joining the program because I knew it could help him too."

Before her brother moved in, they only saw each other about once a month. "Now, we hang out often. We help each other, talk more, and our relationship has grown so much," she says. As Melissa gets ready to move out of the apartments and on to post-secondary education, she's filled with confidence. "We've always looked out for each other," she says. "And now more than ever, I know we always will."

But no matter where life takes them, one thing is clear: the foundation built in these quiet apartments, with the support of a caring program

and the unbreakable bond of family, will carry them far. As John put it,

"We're stronger now,

because we have each other."

"We're stronger now, because we have each other." -John



Moving Forward (MF)

About

Moving Forward is a community-based therapeutic counseling program that provides children and families with supports that are otherwise difficult to access. Offered on a fee-for-service basis, it accepts referrals from families, CFS agencies, victim services, and other organizations. Therapists work with young people facing mental health, emotional, or behavioral challenges, as well as their families and caregivers, to build resilience, coping skills, and stronger community connections.

Plans

We are working to diversify funding for the program so we can introduce a sliding fee scale, making services more accessible for families who cannot afford them or whose benefits do not cover this type of support. Plans also include expanding the program to offer mentorship opportunities, where youth can engage with community activities, volunteering, and culturally appropriate

activities, volunteering, and culturally appropriate experiences as a bridge to therapy. In addition, we aim to add a cultural services component, giving participants opportunities to access Indigenous cultural programming—something that could also extend to young people in our Healing Homes and other programs.

MF

A Journey of Tranformation

In the Moving Forward program, we believe that true success in therapy is all about transformation. Instead of following the rigid paradigms and the "same old" rules, we see each young person for who they are. We meet them where they are to give them the unique support they need to change their lives for the better.

Our counsellors are given the freedom to think differently, allowing them to combine various approaches to helping. This isn't about fitting a young person into a set mould; it's about treating them as a whole person. This approach allows them to build a strong, healthy foundation, enabling them not only to take care of themselves but also to create healthy and meaningful relationships with others. It's this profound, personal change that truly defines our program.

You can see this transformation in the story of one young man. He found out, as in his teens, that his dad had not just died when he was very young, but his dad had actually committed suicide. This devastating discovery compounded other challenges the boy was living with, including a complicated relationship with his stepfather. By working with a counsellor in the Moving Forward program, he found a place of stability and wellness. A year and a half after he left the program, he reconnected with his former counsellor to invite him to his high school graduation. He shared a powerful message: "If it wasn't for the work of Moving Forward, he wouldn't be here and wouldn't have graduated." His journey shows how a personalized, caring approach can turn a life around.

Ultimately, the success of our program is a result of our talented and dedicated counsellors. They have the freedom to listen, the freedom to decide, and the freedom to succeed, which allows them to help young people transform their lives in the way they need most.

Day Treatment (dTx)

About

The Day Treatment Program, offered in partnership with the River East Transcona School Division, provides intensive education and treatment services for adolescents 12 to 17 with emotional and behavioral challenges. Students attend John G. Stewart School at Knowles Centre, where they receive individualized education, therapy, and recreation. The program supports youth living at home, in foster care, or in group homes, and includes access to a support worker, psychiatrist, cultural programming, and camp experiences.

Growing Through Culture & Community

This year, the Day Treatment Program offered students new ways to connect with their culture and community. Weekly visits from the Marymound Cultural Program immersed youth in Indigenous teachings, ceremonies, and traditions. Students embraced these experiences by creating smudge bowls, ribbon skirts, and medicine bags, and many received spirit names to help guide them.

Students also explored the wider world of culture by attending Winnipeg's Folklorama festival. For many, it was their first time experiencing the event, where they stepped outside their comfort zones to celebrate the city's diversity.

The program also nurtured a sense of community pride through shared outings to Winnipeg Sea Bears basketball games and the Pride Parade. These events encouraged students to embrace joy, belonging, and acceptance.

Through it all, Day Treatment students discovered they are more than just learners; they are valued community members and friends.

Sexual Abuse Treatment Program (SATP)

About

The Sexual Abuse Treatment Program offers free treatment services for clients aged 4 to 21 years, who have disclosed sexual abuse by a family member or third party or have a sibling who has made such a disclosure. Non-offending parents or caregivers of these children may also be referred to the program

Dakota's Journey: Finding Support & Strength

Dakota*, a 17-year-old from a small Manitoba community, began SATP facing more challenges than most teens should ever know.

After experiencing sexual assault at age 16, Dakota struggled with anxiety, sleep issues, and unhealthy relationships. Like many survivors, she hesitated to share her story, uncertain if people would believe her, especially since the offender was known in her community.

Support arrived when Dakota confided in a friend, who in turn reached out to a caring school staff member who helped her connect with Knowles Centre's SATP. The program offered e-therapy meant Dakota could access help quickly and without the burden of travel.

Guided by SATP Coordinator/Therapist Kristi Venton, Dakota learned vital skills: understanding consent, body safety, boundaries, and the foundations of healthy relationships. Therapy empowered Dakota to manage PTSD symptoms, including nightmares and anxiety, and gave her practical strategies for relaxation and sleep. As Dakota rebuilt her sense of self-worth and nurtured positive relationships, she found new hope for the future.

Reflecting on her journey, Dakota shared, "I am appreciative and grateful for the support I received. I do not know what my life would have looked like without it." Her story highlights the power of compassionate, accessible care in helping youth move toward brighter, safer tomorrows.

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 recognize 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 2024-2025 Education Awards

Amiyra (SAIL)
Aspin (HH)
Charlie (SAIL)
Christina (SAIL)
Jayce (SAIL)
Jeneane (SAIL)

Justin (SAIL)
Kiara (SAIL)
Liam (SAIL)
Royal (DTx)
VI (HH)
Anonymous (SAIL)



Partners in Transformation



Individual Donors

Alan Ahow Scotty and Elaine McLaren

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Douglas Baylock Melaine Phillips

Laurie Bouchard Norm Promislow

The Brownlee Family Alfred Pruden

Robert Coghlan Ray Racette

Brian Coughlin Harald Schulz

Bob Cunningham Sheri Shouldice

Paul Dalkie Jason Silk

James Falk Carl and Amanda Sveinson
Deb Fedorchuk Kinsey and Amanda Toews

Jane Gasmen Brouillette Marcel Vermette

Andy Gauvin Ihor Wenger

Lesley Gosselin Michelle Wilson

Mia Guenther And those who give anonymously.

Corporate and Foundation Gifts

Access Credit Union Interational Coach Federation -

Canadian Tire Jumpstart Prairie Chapter

Charities Mills Insurance Agency ltd.

Canada Sumemer Jobs Grant RBC Foundation

Clear Concepts Rotary Club of Fort Garry

Essential Needs Fund: A Settlers Foundation

Richardson Foundation and The Home Depot

United Way Winnipeg The Winnipeg Foundation

Partnership Triple V Building Maintenance

Hillberg & Berk Accessories United Way Winnipeg

Lount Foundation Urban and Rural Green Team



Charity Croquet Classic



Our annual fundraiser was a terrific success. Not only did we "hoop and holler" our way through three round robin matches and a championship match, we also raised over \$32,000 to ensure we can continue to provide our programs and services to the youth that need us most. This annual event is held on the second Tuesday in September and we welcome new partners and players.

THANK YOU SPONSORS!











Greg Thompson, CIM
Thompson Wealth Management Solutions































Third Party Fundraisers

Thank you to the Fort Gary Rotary Club for choosing us as a beneficiary of the the Half-marathon. Thank you to the students and staff of MITT, and the staff of Clear Concepts who organized a fundraisers in support of our work.

Volunteers

We want to thank the volunteers who made a difference this year!

Healing Home Painting Project







Landscape Renovation







Executive Team

Dr. Ryan Anderson

Chief Executive Officer

Julie Anderson

Director of Human Resources

Shalene Rochon

Director of Finance and Administration

Senior Leadership

Dawn Vandal

Director of Supported Advancement to Independent Living

Lauren Hershfield

Director of Healing Homes & Clinical Services

Tiffany Krueger

Director of Treatment Foster Care

Administration

Janet Hamel

Manager of Development & Communications

Jaqueline Starodub

Payroll/Benefits Administrator

Kim Perry

Accounting Assistant

Tiffany Waite

Intake Specialist

Amelia Wendler

Receptionist/Admin Assistant

Elfren (Ding) Raquin

Maintenance Coordinator

Oliver Miaral

Maintenance Worker

Jo Punongbayan

Maintenance Worker

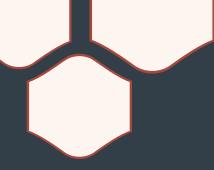
Lee Thomas

Maintenance Worker

Consulting Professionals

Dr. H. Casiano

Psychiatric Consultant





Treatment Foster Care

Cheryl Janz

CLdS CCM/Respite Manager

Clinical Case Managers

Colleen Keating
Darlene Morgadinho
James Bell
Marjiana Dumbovic
Tammy Delarosa

Clinical Services

Kristi Venton

Coordinator/Therapist (SATP & RETSD)

Therapists

Andrea Moore-Melville (HH/DTX)
Guido Faralli (MF & RETSD)
Karen Schiltroth (MF)
Raul Dimaculangan (HH & DTX & MF)
Sheila Jensen (HH & DTX & MF)
Ester Jamir
David Sanwo

Healing Homes

Meadowside Cottage Darrel Fedoruk

House Supervisor

Youth Care Workers

Lynne Brownlee
Brad Esslinger (LOA)
Celena Roberts
Andrea Sobral
Tanya Szwed
Shelley Thomas

Creekside Cottage Ashley Parker

House Supervisor

Youth Care Workers

Douglas Adano Kirby Bater Lindsay Esslinger Taura Gentle Chika Okolie Vanessa Perez Rachel Shupena Chelsea Welch Ecko Zimmer

Night Staff

Roger Endaya Abraham Thon Duot

Part Time

Kyla Doll Kerry-Ann Newman Gloria Okugbere

Nathaniel Dangkwat

Rover

Paula DaCosta

Training Specialist





Supported Advancement to Independent Living

Case Managers

Paul Clarke
Kim Sawchuk
Cecelia Lopez
Sheryl Munn
Heather Poll
Krista Sain

Kendall Shewchuk

Overnight

Samuel Adedoyin James Attah Johnson Nkansah Jennie Sarifa

Support Workers

Obiajulum Chukwuma Anthony Akinewande Tammi Dupras Cianna Ferguson Karina Gregory Tori Hardock Andrea Laskovic Cecilia Lopez Sanjay Sewpaul

Facility Worker

Allan Bright

On-Site Supervisor

Cyril Gbeve

On-Site Staff

Martha Afari
Ayodele Akingbade
Anwill Enjema
Desmond Essien
Sejiro Giwa
Remilekun Kayode
Joseph Le
Barbara Nkansah
Shantika Parke
Adedoyin Samual

Long Service Awards

We are honoured to celebrate these dedicated staff who have committed their lives to supporting children, youth and young adults who need us most.

Thirty Years

Kirby Bater Paul Clarke

Twenty-Five Years

Kristi Venton

Twenty Years

Lauren Hershfield

Fifteen Years

Tammy Delarosa Heather Poll Tanya Szwed Ecko Zimmer

Ten Years

Tetteh Teye

Kennedy Ugwu

Douglas Adano Roger Endaya Andrea Moore-Melville Johnson Nkansah Kendall Shewchuk

KNOWLES CENTRE INC.

SUMMARY STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AND REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION MARCH 31		SUMMARY STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES YEAR ENDED MARCH 31				
	2025	2024		2025	2024	
ASSETS Current Assets: Cash and investments Accounts receivable Prepaid expenses Investment Capital assets	\$ 824,127 987,447 11,010 1,822,584 113,728 6,068,231	\$ 44,206 1,068,421 28,306 1,140,933 113,728 6,745,630	REVENUE Foster care Group care treatment Other income Capital revenue	\$ 3,152,512 2,533,281 4,933,477 333,137 10,952,407	\$ 3,113,818 2,950,001 4,144,740 45,808 10,254,367	
Capital assets	6,181,959	6,859,358				
\$ 8,004,543 \$ 8,000,291 LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS Current Liabilities:			Maintenance and repairs 469,020 4	8,794,894 465,001 476,275		
Bank indebtedness Accounts payable Deferred revenue Demand loan payable	\$ 1,052,162 781,795 <u>5,258,406</u> 7,092,363	\$ 772,681 1,255,280 553,613 4,722,975 7,304,549	Food, clothing, activities Capital expenditures Interest on long term debt	566,972 206,349 270,236 10,724,883	639,126 218,544 241,561 10,835,401	
Long-term debt	64,745 7,157,108	76,097 7,380,646	Surplus (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures Change in fair value of investments and gains realized during the year	227,524	(581,034)	
				200	(10)	
Total Net Assets	847,435	619,645	Net Assets, beginning of year	619,645	1,200,689	
	\$ <u>8,004,543</u>	\$ <u>8,000,291</u>	Net Assets, end of year	\$ <u>847,435</u>	\$ <u>619,645</u>	
Approved on behalf of the Board						
Director			Director			