

# **SHINING MOUNTAINS LIVING COMMUNITY SERVICES**

## **2008/2009 Annual Report**

### **Main Activities**

Shining Mountains Living Community Services currently operates exclusively with National and Municipal project funding, donations, and on rent revenue from the Tawow and Second Steps housing initiatives.

SMCLCS has been approved by the Alberta Community HIV/AIDS Fund (ACHF) to apply for provincial operational funding for 2010 – 2013. The draft application has been submitted with the final application to be submitted by December 4/09. If successful, SMCLCS would move from an HIV/AIDS direct service organization to a provincial capacity building organization, working with organizations throughout Alberta to increase their capacity to deliver Culturally appropriate and relevant services to Aboriginal people in this province.

**Tawow** – (Homelessness Initiative) The residential 8-bedroom house is located in Red Deer and continues service provision under minimal staffing. Currently the house has and receives daytime/evening support funded through an initiative provided by the Status of Women and a second one (until March/10) funded by the City of Red Deer through the homelessness prevention funds. The house provides safety, shelter and support to women at risk of homelessness and in recovery or dealing with addictions and family violence. The house is owned by SMCLCS and has a clear title. It is beginning to need some maintenance, so SMCLCS will be looking for grants to accomplish this task.

**Second Steps** – Another homelessness initiative, this project received a grant towards the purchase of a 12 unit apartment block, primarily for Aboriginal women with or without children, who are in the process of stabilizing their lives, returning to educational facilities or programs and/or beginning work related activities. The apartment block is affordable housing and is full with a waiting list of 5.

**Helping Hands** –Helping Hands outreach project for individuals who are living with or at risk for HIV infection, is currently unfunded. It continues to be very busy, even though stationary and offered out of the downtown office as an after hours outreach program. We have lately been able to introduce diabetes testing through the provision of equipment from the Canadian Diabetes Association and training from our volunteer nurse. Clients are able to access increased social support and referrals. The number of contacts average 23 per night, with three nights operating for meals when there is no other lunch/supper available to clients. Over 10,000 contacts were made to the program during 2008 – 2009. The main needs continue to be social support, food, blankets and hygiene supplies. The HIV/AIDS project of Reducing Barriers has continued to be a vital part of Helping Hands, with clients accessing basic needs, HIV prevention materials and education, referrals, and peer support groups.

**Connecting Culture** –Staff continue to offer cultural support/overview to the Red Deer College primarily to nursing students, Rural Research Department, and social work students. SMCLCS Staff continue to search for future funding for this project.

## **Governance** – Raye St. Denys, E. D.

A volunteer Board of Directors governs Shining Mountains Living Community Services. This Board has expanded as of the October 23, AGM, from a 5 member Board, to an 8 member Board, (in addition to the ED who is from Central Alberta) to meet requests for, and expand off-reserve capacity building initiatives throughout Alberta, with equal representation in the North, Central, and Southern regions of the Province. The gender demographics of the SMCLS Board are as follows: 6 women (including the Executive Director) and 3 men. The Board meets physically, a minimum of 4 times per year, in addition to monthly telephone contact. Physical meetings consist of: reviews of major funding applications, future opportunities discussions, guidance and decision making with the Executive Director.

## **Projects:**

Reducing Barriers (Métis & Off Reserve, MAC AIDS) MAC AIDS funds will be completed shortly, however we were successful in obtaining an extension of funding through Métis and Off Reserve HIV/AIDS funding. This project continues with this aforementioned funding. Under this project, and with the assistance and collaboration of the Red Deer College, the second Aboriginal HIV/AIDS conference will take place on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

## **NEW ENDEAVOURS**

Multi- Sites – as part of the housing initiatives being undertaken by SMLCS, a provincial government application has been submitted for funding for two 4 plexes which, if funding is successful, will become affordable housing units. SMCLS is expecting notification of the decision regarding this funding by the province by the end of 2009.

Stimulus (Federal Human Resources Funding) – A proposal was submitted to the Human Resources, Federal Government in March for consideration. The proposed project will consist of conducting a review of resources available in the region for Caregivers of and family members living with Seniors in their home.

A second proposal for Sustainable Development that would have assisted the agency in providing Board Development not only to SMLCS but also to other small community agencies was submitted in March to the Human Resources Department. This proposal was unsuccessful, however the Caregivers proposal is still under consideration. Although these funds were to have been determined by early fall, we have not yet been notified of a decision on this funding.

Public Health, Specific Populations HIV/AIDS funds also provided a call for proposals, which we responded to with two proposals regarding Métis specific issues. The proposals were submitted in March and to the best of our knowledge are still under consideration and we expect to be notified by later Oct. or early Nov. 2009.