

**20
23** | **A Year in
Review**

THE MUSTARD SEED

REPORT TO COMMUNITY

Our Mission

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

What's Inside?

Financials | **Page 3**

Your Impact | **Page 4**

Stories of Hope | **Page 6**

What's Next? | **Page 8**





A Message from the CEO

I'm delighted to share another significant year at The Mustard Seed, made possible by your generous support. We've expanded resources and programming, including a new family apartment building in Ogden with 24 homes for families and additional shelters in Calgary and Edmonton, providing 164 more safe spaces. As of February, we will extend our support to Grande Prairie and Saskatoon, marking our presence in seven cities and three provinces. This past year, we developed new programs emphasizing moving people from poverty and homelessness to health.

I'm often asked what our social action philosophy is. We have been clear that The Mustard Seed is not involved in social activism; we prioritize the individual. Our social action philosophy focuses on the one. We serve every person who finds themselves at our doorstep. We believe God has called us to serve everyone without discrimination, regardless of their religion, sexual orientation, race, or past. The call is to the one: the individual who is a residential school survivor, the trans individual, the individual previously incarcerated, the person who is a visible minority, or the individual going through a rough patch and needs support. Our mission is to be the hands and feet of Jesus, reaching out to each person in need and emphasizing help rather than championing specific issues.

As I retire in February, I reflect on the joy of working with you, our staff, and our clients. Witnessing The Mustard Seed's growth from a localized ministry in two cities to six has been rewarding. Our unique and holistic approach to caring for an individual's physical, mental, and spiritual needs remains steadfast. I'm grateful for the support over the last nine years and confident that The Mustard Seed will continue providing help and support to more people in the future.

Thank you for being part of this mission!

Steve Wile | Chief Executive Officer



show respect for what everyone else believes is good. If possible, to the best of your ability, live at peace with all people.

Romans 12:17-18 (Common English Bible)

A Message from the Board of Directors

I am privileged to write this message of thanks on behalf of The Mustard Seed Society Board. As I reflect on my 10th year in this role, I'm inspired by the unwavering dedication of our staff and volunteers in Alberta and BC.

At The Mustard Seed, we remain true to our 1984 vision, guided by the Lord Jesus Christ, who brings hope and life to all people – especially those who are hurting and vulnerable. The Mustard Seed has confident hope that Jesus can guide each of our guests to wholeness and life.

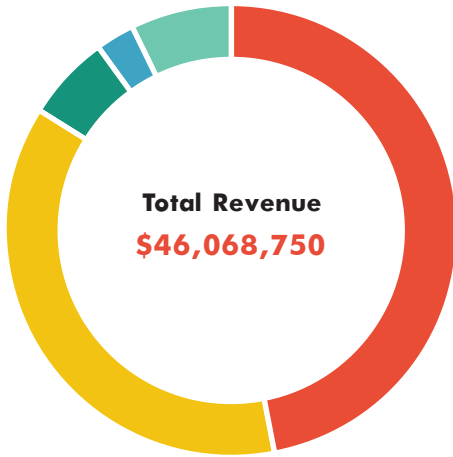
Our board would like to express deep appreciation for the leadership of our CEO Dr. Stephen Wile, who has led The Mustard Seed with faith, vision, and a commitment to excellence. Steve retires in February 2024; we extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes.

We are also grateful to our staff, volunteers, donors, businesses, and government partners; because of you, we provide food, shelter, counselling, and care, impacting tens of thousands of lives every year. Your support is critical to our mission of growing hope and changing lives.

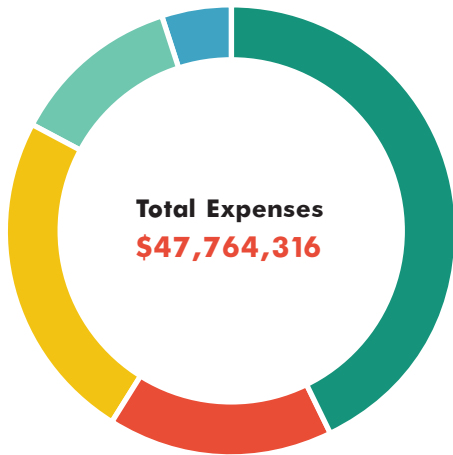
Thank you for being an integral part of our journey.

Kevin Schular | Board Chair

Financials



- Donations **47%**
- Grants & Government Funding **37%**
- Rentals & Services **6%**
- Other Income **3%**
- Gain on Sale of Assets **7%**



- Basic Services **43%**
- Housing **16%**
- Support Services **24%**
- Resource Development, Marketing, & Public Education **12%**
- Administration **5%**

Our Values



Christ-Centredness



Transparent Accountability



Treating all with Respect



Open Communication



Holistic Innovation



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.

40 Years of Growing Hope



YOUR IMPACT

Here's what **your support did** across all Mustard Seed locations in 2023:

You Gave HOPE



650,000+
meals served



55,000+
clothing and living essentials provided



670+
shelter spaces provided on the coldest nights of the year

You Gave WELL-BEING

525+
guests employed

53,000+
health and wellness services provided

22,000+
spiritual conversations

600+
guests moved into housing

110,000+
volunteer hours

*Disclaimer: Some of The Mustard Seed statistics shown are a consolidation of data from all locations Jan-Oct 2023



You're OPENING DOORS

- **24 affordable supportive housing** units for families in Calgary (Opens 2024)
- **124 additional shelter spaces** in Edmonton (December 2023)
- **40-bed women's shelter** in Calgary (October 2023)
- **63 supportive housing units and 43 affordable housing units** in Grande Prairie (February 2024)
- **New shelters** in Saskatoon (2024)

TMS Edmonton begins reintegration program for men.
TMS Calgary Downtown Support Centre is fully occupied with transitional housing.

1994

Housing program begins in Downtown Support Centre (102 Building, donated anonymously).

TMS Calgary and Edmonton merge with central operations in Calgary.

1996

TMS Calgary acquires the Creative Centre (106 Building, which opens two years later).

1999

2007

“

“The program has contributed to changing the perception of the vulnerable community of Stony Plain Road to a more positive light. We wanted to empower these members of the community by giving them the opportunity to feel some dignity and pride by letting them feel that they are part of a bigger community. They are contributing in a positive way, and the community is grateful for them. People want to help, even those that need the help. Through the SPR Litter Crew program, we are building a community.”

- Todd Janes, SPRBA Executive Director

”

You're **STRENGTHENING** COMMUNITY

The Mustard Seed **“SPR LITTER CREW”**

For the past three years, the Stony Plain Road Business Association has partnered with The Mustard Seed and the City of Edmonton to produce a cleaner, safer, and better-maintained main street. The Litter Clean-Up program offers 11 shifts from May to October each year, empowering the vulnerable community by **providing over 50 people with employment and purpose.**



2011 TMS Calgary opens the 1010 Centre providing 224 affordable housing units.

2016 October TMS Calgary opens the Wellness Centre.

2011

TMS Calgary Resource Sorting Centre opens.

2014

July TMS opens its third location in Red Deer.

2016

STORIES OF HOPE

IN 2023

600+ individuals moved into housing, or on average 50+ individuals moved out of homelessness every month.

Rediscovering Hope

For Raymond, life started with unimaginable challenges. As a French Canadian raised in Montreal, he navigated a tumultuous childhood. His early years were marred by instability and violence. "My father was very violent, and my mother suffered from severe depression," he shared. His voice tinged with the weight of past traumas, "I found her when I was six years old – she tried to kill herself." That picture was etched deep into Raymond's soul, creating scars that would cast a long shadow over his future.

"I am an addict, but not in the way you think," Raymond confesses, revealing a different struggle he wrestled with – gambling. "I have lost my life many times," he laments. While his struggles with addiction may differ from others, the essence is the same – a relentless cycle of self-destruction, a battle against the odds.

I know I still have much to overcome in my heart, Raymond acknowledges, but his eyes show a glimmer of hope. This place has helped me, and I have hope for days to come.

Amidst his struggles, Raymond's journey is marked by a profound shift in perspective. "I have pardoned everybody who has hurt me, but it is myself that is the hardest to pardon," he admits. His journey toward self-forgiveness mirrors the broader transformation he's undergone.

At The Mustard Seed, Raymond has found a refuge, a place where he can heal and rebuild. It's a place where he's found

more than just food and shelter; he's discovered kindness, support, and the strength to face his own demons. "I am in a good way now," he affirms, a testament to the change that can happen when individuals, organizations, and communities unite to uplift those in need.

Raymond's story is a reminder that beneath the surface of every person experiencing homelessness, addiction, or despair, there's a human being with dreams, scars, and the capacity to heal. And even in the face of adversity, there is always the possibility of renewal and hope for a brighter tomorrow.

Every night, at least
35,000
Canadians are either
sleeping on the street or in shelters.*



*Source: State of Homelessness Report 2016

2017

TMS Calgary starts the Seed School program.

January

TMS Calgary opens first community hub: The Neighbour Centre Marlborough Park.

2018

August

TMS opens fourth and first-ever BC location in Kamloops.

September

TMS opens fifth location in Medicine Hat.

2019

The Power of Second Chances

Born out of unforeseen circumstances, facing multiple charges and a history he'd rather forget, Tyler returned to Kamloops with the weight of uncertainty upon him. With legal troubles, isolation, and nowhere to turn, Tyler lived in a tent. Homelessness, a newfound reality, cast him into an unfamiliar world. He was alone, planning to surrender to the inevitable incarceration he believed awaited him.

But life has a way of surprising us. The judge's decision to dismiss all charges left Tyler bewildered and surprisingly free – granting him a second chance at life. Yet, as he ventured into the cold, harsh reality of his newfound freedom, he realized the stark truth – he had no plan, no warmth, and no one to lean on.

A compassionate security guard directed him to The Mustard Seed, where he discovered more than food and shelter. He found hope, belonging, and connection within our caring community. Our dedicated Chaplain was the first to greet him, providing a listening ear and a reassuring presence. At that moment, Tyler realized the profound depths of his isolation and the overwhelming need for human connection.

Like many of our guests, Tyler desperately needed shelter, food, and clothing. His story underscores a common struggle among people facing homelessness – crippling isolation.

I didn't realize how alone I was until I came to The Mustard Seed. I needed people, a sense of belonging, someone to talk to, Tyler confessed.

Though he still faces challenges ahead as he reintegrates into society, Tyler looks to the future with renewed hope. With the assistance of our advocates, he aims to secure his identification, reconnect with a former employer, and eventually find employment when the time is right.

Tyler's journey serves as a poignant reminder that many in our marginalized community long for a helping hand and a compassionate heart – a chance to rebuild and rediscover their sense of purpose.



235,000 +
Canadians experience
homelessness
in any given year.*

*Source: State of Homelessness Report 2016



Burnout to Recovery

Anne spent much of her life caring for others, helping those experiencing poverty and mental health issues. But like so many of our community's caregivers, the pandemic took a terrible toll on her.

Anne underwent severe burnout, subsequently causing her mental health and financial situation to deteriorate quickly. She now found herself at the doors of The Mustard Seed Shelter with the exact individuals she had devoted herself to serving. With access to the following services, Anne started to get her life back on track.

- Advocacy
- Employment Coaching
- Counselling
- Housing

"I'm truly grateful this place is here."



"I've never been homeless before," she shared. "It's been an experience."

2022

October
TMS opens first women-only shelter in Kamloops.

October
TMS Calgary opens second women-only shelter.

2023

December
TMS opens first supportive housing unit for families.

40

Years of Building Community, Growing Hope, and Supporting Change. Thank You!

Whats 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.

It Takes All of Us!

Donors, volunteers, staff, all levels of government, and key stakeholders building relationships with long-term interaction are needed. Thank you for sharing our mission and commitment to serving our vulnerable neighbours. We are grateful for your contributions and support to help eliminate poverty and homelessness.

Together, we are impacting lives.



Life Changes ...

Maybe your Will should too

Marriages, children, new investments, grandchildren, a newly empty nest, moving, retirement and other life changes can affect your Will. Advisors with Purpose can help you consider and plan for those changes to make sure your Will reflects your life, faith and dreams. *Free. Confidential. No obligation.*

The Mustard Seed Legacy Giving in partnership with Advisors with Purpose

To learn more, visit TheSeed.ca/Legacy or contact Advisors with Purpose: Plan@AdvisorsWithPurpose.ca

CALL TOLL-FREE: 1.833.GIV.HOPE (448.4673)



TheSeed.ca

CALGARY

Info@theseed.ca

EDMONTON

InfoEdmonton@theseed.ca

RED DEER

InfoRedDeer@theseed.ca

KAMLOOPS

InfoKamloops@theseed.ca

MEDICINE HAT

InfoMedicineHat@theseed.ca

The Mustard Seed is a Christian non-profit organization that has been caring for individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty since 1984. Operating in five cities across Alberta and British Columbia, The Mustard Seed is a supportive haven where people can have their physical, mental, and spiritual needs met and grow toward greater health and independence. We have been an agent of change for four decades, thanks to our donors, volunteers, and support from the community.

Today, The Mustard Seed operates in Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer, Medicine Hat, and Kamloops. To learn more about how we serve the most vulnerable in each city, please visit TheSeed.ca and choose your city from the 'View Location' dropdown menu at the top right (on a desktop/tablet) or scroll to the bottom of the page (on a mobile).