

# RACS 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



**re·sil·ience**  
**/rə'zilyəns/**

the capacity to recover quickly  
from difficulties; toughness.



# Executive Director Report

What a year it's been.

At the onset of 2020, there were initially no indications that we would very soon be facing significant challenges in the delivery of our programs. At the beginning of the year we were seeing strong government support for abstinence based treatment centres and new funding was being announced that would improve the ease of access to all Albertans. The last thing on our minds at that time was a global pandemic and all of the challenges that come with it.

With adversity however, comes opportunity.

- Staff and clients - At the beginning of the pandemic, we saw incredible resilience come to the surface with our staff and clients alike. Even before we received specific direction from Alberta Health, we activated our Pandemic Response Plan. Staff that could work remotely were given the tools to enable them to do so. Additional counselling staff were brought on to help with the extra work load of COVID-19 symptoms screening and disinfection requirements. Clients and staff who showed possible symptoms were isolated and tested. Through the diligence of our staff and policies, we are happy to report that we have not had a single case of COVID-19 at any of our facilities to date. Though the number of clients we can accommodate has been reduced, we have still been able to maintain a waitlist of less than 2 weeks throughout the majority of the pandemic, with some clients even able to start with no wait period at all. Indeed many businesses and services were forced to close during the more tense parts of this pandemic, but Recovery Acres has remained open at all times.

- Collaboration between agencies - The pandemic has brought all of the treatment agencies closer than they have ever been before. The AASP (Alberta Addiction Service Providers), of which RACS has been a member, became a registered Society. Through the AASP, we have been able to very closely work and collaborate with dozens of other similar agencies around Alberta. One such agency is Oxford House. For the past decade, RACS has been collaborating with Oxford House. Through their pre-treatment housing model, we have been able to ensure that anyone waiting for access to treatment has a safe and stable living environment. At RACS we do not view ourselves as being in competition with other similar agencies, rather that we are partners in the effort to help those who live with substance use disorders achieve long term recovery and restore individual, family and communities to wellness.
- Government support - This past year has also seen the Government of Alberta making major changes to access of residential treatment services for all Albertans. Funding barriers have been greatly reduced, and as of October 1, 2020, any resident of Alberta has not needed to pay for residential treatment services at any funded and licensed agency. New funding pathways for agencies were announced, and we were invited to respond to an RFEIOQ (Request For Expression Of Interest Qualification) that will see funding for both residential treatment as well as residential recovery beds. We are expecting the results of our application in the coming weeks, and will continue to work with all levels of government to reach our vision that long-term recovery is available for all who live with substance use disorders and co-occurring mental health concerns.

- Forging ahead – One thing the past year has shown us is the strength of the team we have in place at RACS. With the combined enthusiasm and talent of our current staff, we are excited about our prospects in the future. We have enlisted the folks at Impact8 to help facilitate strategic planning sessions that will guide our journey in the coming months and years. RACS has been providing services for nearly 50 years, and we are keen to adapt and improve in order to remain the place of choice for many years to come. Pandemic restrictions are in the process of loosening for the general public here in Alberta. Vaccinations are being made available much sooner than first anticipated, and through the cooperation of the public we are at last nearing the light at the end of the tunnel we've been in. At RACS we are required to adhere to a special health order for addiction treatment centres issued by the Chief Medical Officer of Health in Alberta, Dr. Deena Hinshaw. When a revised Health Order is issued, we will likely see the return of activities and gatherings here at our main facility. We're eager to see this happen, and we're already well under way in the planning of our next golf tournament, with many other activities also being discussed.

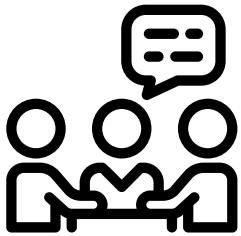
Thank you for your continued support,  
Stian Rorstad  
Executive Director

**di•rec•tor**  
**/di'rektər,dī'rektər/**

a person who is in charge of an  
activity, department, or  
organization.



# This Year We Have



Had 10,385 participants  
in group counselling  
meetings

Received 5,287 inquiry calls

Done 1,483 telephone  
assessments

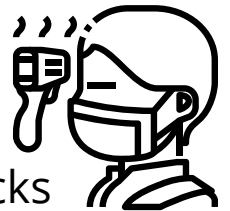


654 Client interviews



4255 Loads Of Laundry

Done 18,458  
Temperature Checks



## Served 35,550 Cups of Coffee

## Served 21,900 Meals



Baked 12,775

# Board of Directors Report

## 2020/2021 RACS Board of Directors Report

The Covid19 circumstances of 2020/2021 continued to challenge the resilience and perseverance of the entire organization to deal with events beyond our control. Operations continued successfully under strict AHS guidelines for clients and staff alike. The reduced client intake for our men's and women's programs plus the cancellation of our 2020 Golf Tournament certainly strained the financial situation.

The board is pleased to welcome Stian Rorstad as our Executive Director in February 2020. Stian joined Recovery Acres in 2013 in a counseling role. His vision and passion for the future of the organization, his rapport with AHS and cooperative approach to outside organizations will serve RACS well for years to come. The Executive Search committee did a remarkable job of assessing over 70 applications and sorting it all down to three strong finalists for the ED position.

The board activities were focused on the financial priorities and an executive director search for the better part of last year. This meant pausing our strategic planning sessions, governance reviews, and alumni engagement for several months. Strategic planning sessions have begun in June 2021 and our board is looking forward to building momentum quickly around this process. This will lead to development of policy, guidance, and recommendations for the Executive Director. This will also support our preparations for the Accreditation Canada survey scheduled for late 2022. The objective is to increase our exposure, community development, the staff, and financial resources to deliver excellent treatment programming for men and women alike.

We have been most fortunate to have the dedicated support of board members James Catherwood, Peter Conroy, Kirk Weich, Brad Wlasichuk, Tony Bell and Rich Willis. We certainly appreciate the past dedication and perspective of Angela Johnson. It has been a pleasure and an honour to work together with such a talented and experienced group.

As the Covid19 restrictions begin to ease we look forward to the return of sobriety birthday celebrations, alumni activities and the 2021 Recovery Acres golf tournament to name a few.

Sincerely,  
Rick Baker  
Chair



# or·gan·i·za·tion /ˌôrgənə'zāSH(ə)n/ an organized body of people with a particular purpose, especially a business, society, association, etc.

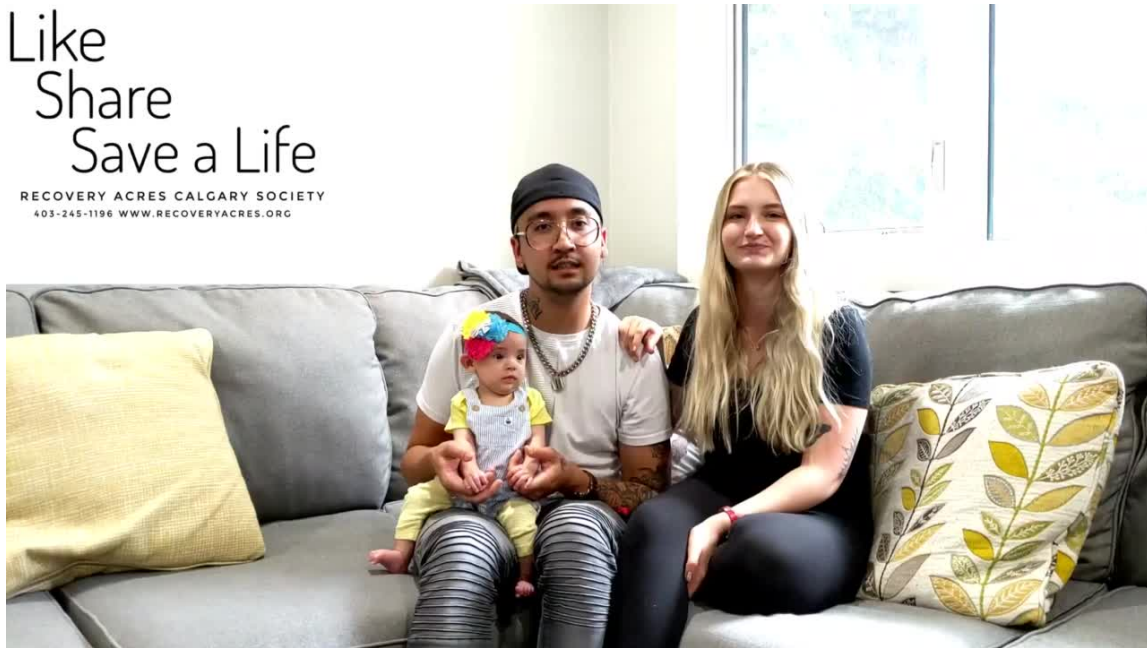
Recovery Acres (Calgary) Society has a long standing presence in the Alberta Recovery Community and has evolved since our inception. With the assistance of stakeholders RACS added extended sober living in 2001 & CARE for Women in 2016. As an experienced addiction treatment provider we have honed our skills over the years. "The 1835 Recovery Model" was written and published in 2008, sharing our knowledge of residential treatment, residential recovery, mission, vision, philosophy, culture, model and purpose.

To suit the ever changing landscape of the addictions field our team uses up to date best practices ever evolving a client centric treatment model. RACS has formulated client transition pathways, involving family, holistic care with an increasing focus on concurrent capabilities with proven success.

RACS Alumni cultivate a culture of resilience within and outside of the recovery community becoming pillars of society. An ever growing population of alumni represents our organization, the tentacles of recovery exponentially reaching more people each year, reducing the stigma of addiction. With over 1700 alumni returning to our facility to accept a plaque for achieving one year of sobriety and over a 100 alumni returning to accept a 25 year plaque of continuous sobriety. Countless more may not have returned to accept these accolades but remain in their respective communities building recovery for themselves and others.

Like  
Share  
Save a Life

RECOVERY ACRES CALGARY SOCIETY  
403-245-1196 WWW.RECOVERYACRES.ORG



**a·lum·nus**  
**/ə'ləmnəs/**

a person or organization you are  
closely involved with in some way



# fun·der /'fəndər/

a person or organization that provides money for a particular purpose.



Canada

Alberta  
Government

**CALGARY  
FOOD BANK**



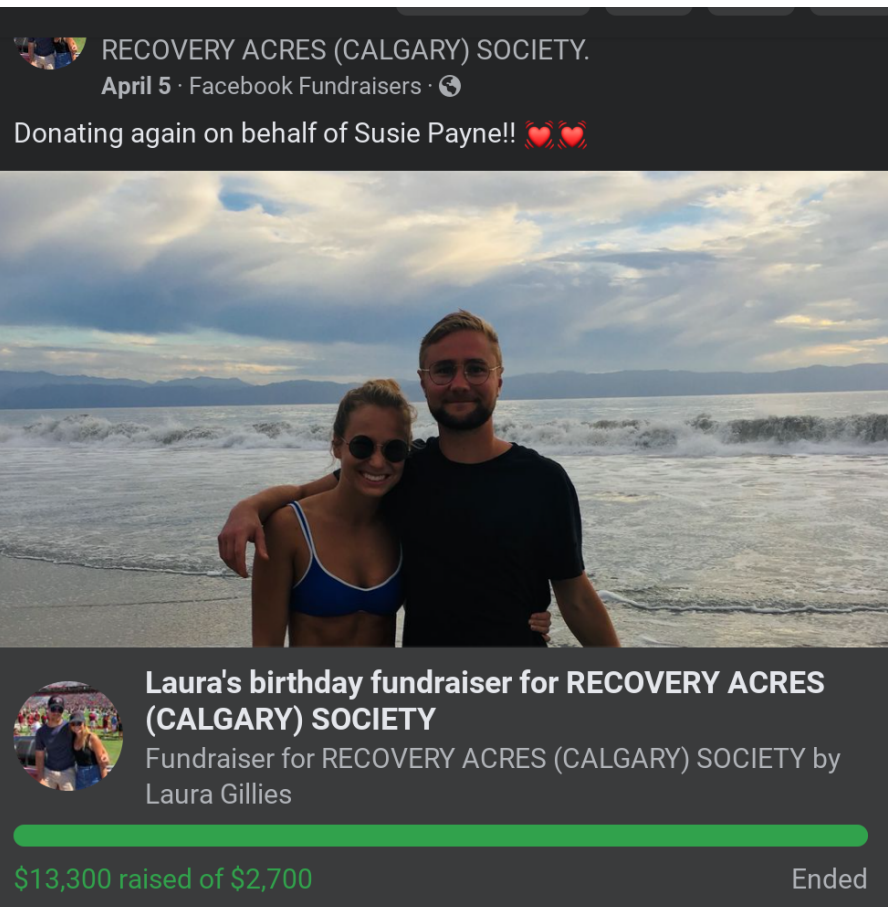
Club of Calgary  
Downtown



# grat·i·tude /'gradə.t(y)ōd/

the quality of being thankful;  
readiness to show appreciation for  
and to return kindness

## THE GILLIES FAMILY



RECOVERY ACRES (CALGARY) SOCIETY.  
April 5 · Facebook Fundraisers · 🌐

Donating again on behalf of Susie Payne!! ❤️❤️

**Laura's birthday fundraiser for RECOVERY ACRES (CALGARY) SOCIETY**  
Fundraiser for RECOVERY ACRES (CALGARY) SOCIETY by Laura Gillies

\$13,300 raised of \$2,700

Ended

GO Landscaping  
Tamaratt Endowment Fund  
Atco – Epic  
AltaLink

Easy Auto Glass Inc.

Riverstar Fire Protection  
Gordon Food Services  
Jack Rairdan  
Horst Wessley  
Margareth Marks  
J.D. McCleary





# part·ner /'pärtnər/

either of a pair of people engaged together in the same activity.

"arrange the children in pairs so that each person has a partner"

# part·ner /'pärtnər/



Oxford House has been working side by side for decades with Recovery Acres (Calgary) Society and their team. We consider Recovery Acres (Calgary) Society to be a close partner in our mission to help those in recovery. Throughout the year's Oxford House has been highly impressed by the level of commitment the clients from Recovery Acres (Calgary) Society have to recovery when being housed.

We have developed a professional relationship with many team members to the point that we work in unison when transitioning clients. Recovery Acres (Calgary) Society understands the importance of working with the vulnerable population as we do and the timely need for on-point communication to make this happen. Many alumni of Recovery Acres still speak about the level of care they received from their organization. Utilizing pre-treatment homes while their clients wait for entry is a fantastic collaboration.

Their team is always quick to answer any questions we have regarding transition and are very polite and courteous.

We are looking forward to continued success in our collaborative's and appreciate all Recovery Acres (Calgary) Staff and leadership.

Forever Grateful,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Earl Thiessen', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Earl Thiessen  
Executive Director  
Oxford House Foundation of Canada  
[thiessen@oxfordhouse.ca](mailto:thiessen@oxfordhouse.ca)  
Office 403-214-2046  
Fax 403-214-2047  
Cell 403-369-4993  
[www.oxfordhouse.ca](http://www.oxfordhouse.ca)

***Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.***





**1835**   
H O U S E

**Recovery**  
**Acres**  
**Calgary**  
**Society**  
— EST. 1973 —

**CARE**   
*for Women*

**(403) 245-1196**

**1835 27 Ave SW,  
Calgary, AB  
T2T 1H2**