



Report to the Community

2024 - 2025





Together, we are here.

Since 1987, Phoenix has been dedicated to supporting youth and contributing to a vibrant community. Our 16 locations (and counting!) across Kjiptuk / Halifax provide a continuum of care for youth ages 11-24 and their families. We offer important services and programs including shelter, food, housing support, health care, parenting support, recreation, education, and employment services, and clinical therapy.

Our team of caring professionals recognizes that each person who comes to us has individual strengths and needs. People are leaders in their own lives; Phoenix is a leader in supporting them.

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Acknowledgement

At Phoenix, we acknowledge that it is a privilege to live and work in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. We confirm our commitment to respectfully walk in friendship. We are all treaty people, and we must act today to advance the progress of truth and reconciliation.

Nova Scotia has over 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep, and complex history dating back over 400 years. We recognize and celebrate the culture, legacy, achievements, and contributions of people of African descent - past and present.



Thanks to Our Staff

2024 Milestones Years of Service

Celebrating our staff for their hard work and dedication. Congratulations!

1 Year
(Live-in Support)
Venu Srinivasan

3 Years
Emily Goodwin
Madoka Imamura
Jeremy Laffin
Raylea MacLeod
Layne MacPhee
Carolyn Phillips
Gracyn Roach
Steph Young

5 Years
Laura Hastings
Deidre King
Alexa Morash
Meaghan Whitehouse

10 Years
Patricia Mercer

20 Years
Greg Rozon

30 Years
Michael Butler

To the extraordinary staff of Phoenix,

Each day, you bring stability, care, and opportunity to the youth, families, and communities we serve. Through your tireless dedication, you provide more than just housing—you create a foundation for brighter futures.

Your compassion, resilience, and unwavering commitment do not go unnoticed. The work we do is diverse and demanding, but at its core, it is about making real, lasting change. You offer direct support, helping individuals navigate housing challenges and build essential life skills. You facilitate programs that empower youth and families through education, employment readiness, and mental health support. You maintain brave, welcoming spaces, ensuring all of our programs are places of healing, growth, and joy.

Beyond the day-to-day, you serve as advocates, mentors, and champions of hope. You connect youth to essential wraparound services, respond to crises with care, and work tirelessly to amplify and uplift voices that need to be heard.

To those who have been part of our mission and have moved on to new opportunities—your impact continues to be felt. Your dedication, compassion, and hard work have helped shape us into the organization we are today, and your contributions remain a vital part of the foundation we stand on.

To all of our staff, past and present, we thank you!



Year in Numbers

This year, we've experienced remarkable growth in order to meet the rising demand for services amidst an ongoing housing and affordability crisis.

Through the unwavering commitment of our staff, volunteers, and caring community members, we've scaled up our programs, strengthened partnerships, and enhanced outreach efforts to ensure vital resources continue to reach the youth, families, and communities we serve.

16

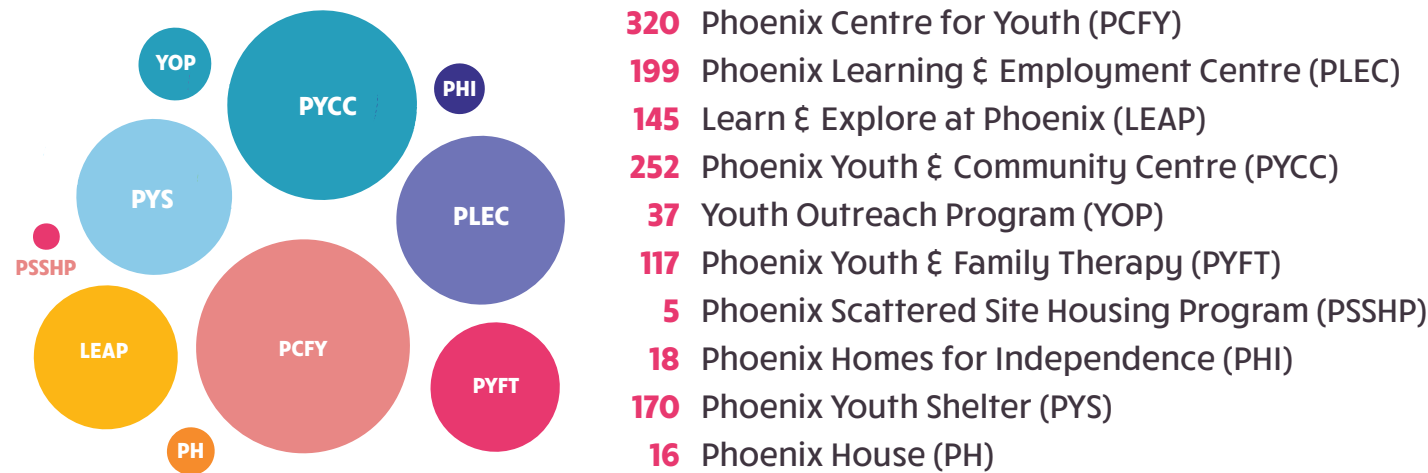
Locations

(and counting!)



Read about the newest addition to our Scattered Site Housing Program on page 24

Youth, Families, and Community Members Served by Program



7,097

safe stays provided at Phoenix Youth Shelter this year.
That's an occupancy rate of **97.2%**

2,319

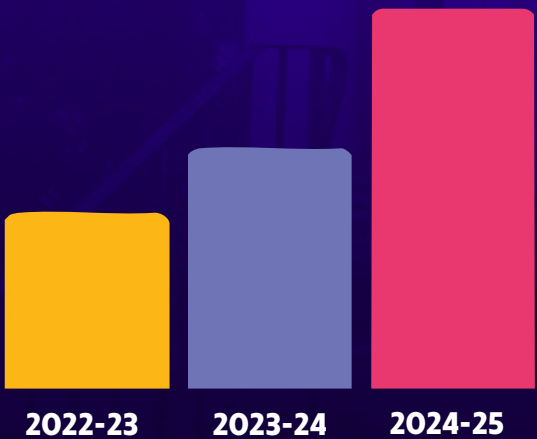
appointments and drop-in visits were made at Phoenix Centre for Youth, up **25.6%** from the previous year.



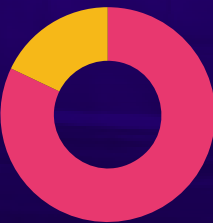
1 in 2 youth accessed Phoenix Centre for Youth for services related to food insecurity.



2 in 3 youth who stayed at Phoenix Youth Shelter arrived from areas outside of HRM.



The number of individuals accessing our community programs increased by **116%** over two years.



83% of youth living at Phoenix Homes for Independence were employed and / or pursuing education.



43% of youth served across all programs accessed our services for the first time this year.



On His Path Forward

A Conversation with Hunter

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I'm Hunter, I'm 22, and I'm getting ready to do tourism and hospitality at MSVU in September, so I'm looking forward to that. I really like education, learning, math, and problem solving. I'm also a major nerd. I make costumes and wear them to events like Halcon, Geequinox, and other events around the Atlantic provinces. Also, I'm on the autism spectrum.

Can you talk about your journey with Phoenix?

The first time I heard of Phoenix would have been mid-high school when I unfortunately had a bit of a falling out with family. There weren't any beds at the time and I ended up staying somewhere in Yarmouth. A few years later, I was having a lot of health problems. That coupled with losing my job and fluctuating emotions and being in and out of hospital meant that unfortunately I lost the room where I was staying. There was a bed available at Phoenix Shelter, so I managed to pack up some of what I owned and got a taxi to Halifax. The intake process was surprisingly smooth, and I did really well at the shelter. I applied to the adult learning program and academic upgrading at NSCC, did some job searching, and that Winter I got a room at Phoenix House.

While I was at Phoenix House there were a couple challenges when I would get agitated or irritated with some of the things my roommates were doing, but in 2023 I managed to get surgery. Not having to worry so much about the physical health side of things meant I could focus on my mental and emotional health. I learned from a lot of those challenges and grew emotionally, physically, and just overall became a better person in the process.

In 2024 I managed to secure a room at Phoenix Homes for Independence. There I could focus on life skills and being independent, and that transitional process from group living to more of an apartment. I learned to clean and keep my living space tidy, and now living at Kencrest, I can maintain a living environment suited for me and for roommates.

I've also connected with other programs like [Phoenix Centre for Youth] and attended events like the Pride event which was one of my favourites. I also accessed the food truck service which has been very, very useful.

At [Phoenix Learning and Employment Centre], Charlie helped a lot with the application for MSVU, and I did the Employment Connections Program and got a placement at the Discovery Center, which was a really, really fun job.

What is an accomplishment you are proud of?

Living independently [at PHI] while also working with roommates and the staff to being able to transition into a genuine apartment is definitely one of my biggest accomplishments. Also getting accepted to university, as well as getting a job and maintaining that job for such a long period of time. Those are some of my biggest accomplishments.

What are you looking forward to now?

I definitely hope to do something with tourism and hospitality—the stuff that I'm going to learn at university. I want to learn about the industry and Nova Scotia and just the world as a whole. I also hope to travel in the future... maybe visit somewhere else in Canada, but one place I really want to visit before I'm 30 and am saving up to visit is Japan.

What advice would you share with other youth?

Focus on improving the good parts of yourself. Focus on overcoming challenges and using them as a positive or something you can use in the future. Also don't be afraid to speak up and ask for help. The staff here are here for you. No matter what walk of life you've come from, no matter what challenges you might be facing, the people who work at Phoenix are there for you and are there to help you overcome those challenges. Being able to talk to the staff here in particular has set me on a better path forward, when prior I wouldn't have known what to do or where to go. Their support has made such a powerful and positive improvement to my life.

Program Highlights

Phoenix Pride Party

Every year during Halifax pride week, **Learn & Explore at Phoenix** and the Phoenix Pride Committee team up to host our highly anticipated Pride Party! This year, over 60 youth, staff, and community partners came together at **Phoenix Centre for Youth** to celebrate with colourful crafts, barbecued eats and frozen treats, drag performances by talented artists, and prize giveaways from queer-owned businesses. For many youth, the event is a fun and accessible way to connect with their community while feeling accepted and celebrated for who they are.

Community Soccer Game

Last October, Mulgrave Park community members, volunteers, and the staff at **Phoenix Youth & Community Centre** came together to co-facilitate the first Community Soccer Game! Open to community members of all ages, participants enjoyed healthy snacks and refreshments while they played match after match, enjoying the company of friends—new and old. From thrilling goals to shared laughter and teamwork, the day was a reminder that the power of sport brings people together.

Holiday Fun at Phoenix Youth Shelter

There's no shortage of festive spirit at **Phoenix Youth Shelter** during the holiday season! With the 20-bed program at full capacity on Christmas Eve, staff found many ways to create moments of joy for the youth. Highlights included a holiday party with games and treats, individual stockings and gift bags for each youth, youth-led Hanukkah baking lessons, and an impressive Christmas dinner with roasted veggies, two turkeys, and stuffing—made from scratch, of course!

Animal Therapy at Ataraxy Farm

Tucked away on the shores of Lawrencetown, Ataraxy Farm invites visitors to experience the benefits of animal therapy with their dogs, cats, chickens, horses, donkeys, and goats. When we heard that they were expecting baby goats last May, staff and youth from **Phoenix Homes for Independence** took a day trip to enjoy some quality time—and share a few cuddles—with the newest additions! Youth described the experience as calming and positive for their mental health, and can't wait to go back.





Share Your Roots

A Celebration of African Heritage and Black Excellence

Every February, the program calendar at **Phoenix Youth & Community Centre (PYCC)** is jam-packed with workshops, outings, and community gatherings that honor African heritage and celebrate Black excellence. This year, staff and youth came together to host the **Share Your Roots** event, which offered a dynamic lineup of performances and experiences that energized and inspired attendees of all ages.

The powerful beat of Drum Against Malaria kicked off the celebration, drawing the crowd into a rhythmic journey that united hearts through sound. This was followed by the high-energy, interactive performance of Wontanara Drum and Dance, whose dancers lit up the floor with traditional West African rhythms and movement, reminding everyone of the power of cultural expression.

A highlight of the day was the stunning fashion showcase by DB Pearlz Designs. The runway came alive with bold, colorful designs that fused contemporary fashion with African tradition.

Then, young voices from Mulgrave Park took the spotlight with powerful spoken word performances. Their moving words touched on themes of identity, resilience, growing up in community, and the beauty of Black culture—leaving the audience inspired and uplifted.

Of course, no community celebration is complete without great food, and Mary African Cuisine delivered just that! Guests enjoyed delicious snacks that offered an authentic taste of African culinary traditions.

Share Your Roots was more than an event—it was a celebration of identity, heritage, and unity. With over 40 attendees, it brought together diverse voices, honored deep traditions, and created space for joy, reflection, and community connection. As the rhythms faded and the final applause echoed, one thing was clear: the spirit of African pride and Black excellence is alive and thriving.



**“No more games,
no more cheers.**

**The days are now
quiet — who knows
about the upcoming
years.”**

Excerpt from *“This is Home: A Mulgrave Story”*
by Chrisann, Youth Poet



**“Share Your Roots was
a beautiful reminder of
the strength and pride
within the community
of Mulgrave Park.**

**It’s events like this that
bring us together and
keep our culture alive.”**

– **Shaylene Morris,**
Program Manager, PYCC





Finding Her Place

A Conversation with Shae

Tell us a bit about yourself.

My name is Shae, I'm 18 and I find it hard to talk about myself. I am interested in learning more about myself by going on experiences that connect me more with nature and let me try out my relationship skills to see how I can make a difference. I also want to mention basketball has been a huge part of my life. I've played for years, and I've spent a lot of time refereeing and have done some coaching to see the game from different angles.

Can you tell us about your journey with Phoenix?

I was in Grade 9 when I first came to Phoenix, and I didn't believe in therapy. My father signed me up because he thought that I should go, but I was very against it at first. However, after doing my intake with Becka, I realized it wasn't at all what I thought therapy would feel like - I felt really comfortable talking to her.



Then I started working with [Clinical Therapist] Alison but there were still some COVID lockdowns happening. I remember getting to do more in-person sessions in Grade 10, and it was really nice having a routine, a place to go and talk to someone. I was failing math at the start of Grade 10, and when I made the basketball team, [the school] wasn't going to let me play. Alison helped me go to them to advocate, and we ended up agreeing that if I did extra math for the whole year, I would get to play on the team, so that's what I did.

For the last couple of years I've been working with Becka. After I graduated, she told me about the [Skills Training, and Employment at Phoenix] program at [Phoenix Learning & Employment Centre]. I thought I wanted to become an electrician right out of high school, but decided to take the time to explore what other opportunities might capture my interest, so I signed up for STEP and I'm glad I did! There were four of us in the program, and I already knew somebody there, so by the end of the program we were all talking to each other. I really loved the work we were doing, there was a lot of self-reflection which helped me realize that the trades do not align with anything I want to do. I don't know what I want to do, but Becka helped me apply for some really cool programs where I'll get to travel and do more environmental learning so I'm excited to continue exploring that.

What is a challenge you've overcome?

I used to criticize myself a lot, and it was really difficult. So one of the things that Becka and I would work on in our therapy sessions was journaling and affirmations. At first, I wasn't sure what I wanted that to look like, but I decided that I would start saying every day, "I choose not to criticize myself". That's what I've been writing in my journal for the past year and a half and if there is a moment where I want to criticize myself, I just say it out loud. There are moments where I'm still a little hard on myself, but compared to what it was, it's a miracle change.

What is an accomplishment you are proud of?

I'm really proud of advocating for myself and putting myself out there. I just went to a program called HIP - Honoring Indigenous People - where I spent a week at Acadia University with 50 youth from all over Canada and we learned with each other and from the elders who joined. The elders showed us how to make drums from deer hide. [The drums] took a day or two to dry and then we didn't get to play them until the last day of the sacred fire, when we smudged them.

I also went to my first protest recently; it was about gender-based violence with a recognition for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. I have this red dress pin now, and I wear it proudly because whenever someone is curious or asks me about it, I'm always ready to talk about it.

Also, like I said earlier, Becka helped me apply for some really cool programs, like HOWL where I'll get to do some land-based learning in Yukon, and then Girls on Ice where we get to go on an expedition through the mountains in BC. My mom is Indigenous, and even though I feel like I'm not connected to my culture, I feel like it impacts me in how I want to belong in the world. It just feels like this blood memory of wanting to always be outside and connected to nature. A big thing that I'm going to try to do in the next few years is go out there and try to figure out more about my roots... and I'm proud because if I didn't put myself out there, I wouldn't have been able to go on these journeys.

What advice would you share with other youth?

If someone was going through similar challenges, I would say seek out support and don't think that you have to do it all on your own. There are people out there who will help you. Growing up, I just never felt heard or valued. So coming to this next part of my life and meeting new people through Phoenix who actually want to hear what I have to say... it's really nice to know that I'm valued somewhere. It's just another reflection that not everywhere is going to be your place, but there's always going to be a place for you.



Celebrating Together at the

Phoenix Holiday Luncheon



We'd like to thank everyone for their support at the 2024 Phoenix Holiday Luncheon. Together, we raised \$125,000 to help youth and families in our community!

Presented by Stewart McKelvey, this year's celebration was filled with love, laughter, and special memories made with friends – both new and old. Thanks to the non-stop humour and enthusiasm of MCs, Paul Brothers and Armon Jefferies, impactful performances from Mo Kenny and Asiah Sparks, and inspiring words shared by youth speakers, Tata and Fana, the event left a lasting impression on us all.

We'd also like to extend our gratitude to Elder Deb and the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre for opening the event in a good way, Enterprise Mobility™ for their generous #GivingTuesday match offer, and Hallgner Hattery, whose beautiful handmade hats sold out before the day was through!

Lastly, to all our amazing attendees, speakers, sponsors, volunteers, and event planner Loop In Events—thank you for being a part of this journey with us. Your participation, dedication, and engagement have made this year's event a truly unforgettable experience.

We hope you'll join us on December 2, 2025 for the 35th annual Phoenix Holiday Luncheon!

Inspired to Give Back

Excerpts from Tata & Fana's Speech

"The staff at Phoenix were incredibly supportive of our dreams, goals, and ambitions. They consistently stood by us, providing a safe and welcoming space where we could share our thoughts and challenges openly."

One significant difficulty we faced during junior high was with mathematics. The staff went above and beyond by arranging a tutor for us—an engineer named Ashley, who was highly skilled in math and science. His support was invaluable and played a significant role in our academic success."

Furthermore, Phoenix provided invaluable assistance with scholarship applications and opportunities, which played a pivotal role in enabling us to pursue higher education. Their unwavering kindness and dedication have left a lasting impact on our lives, for which we are forever grateful."

Phoenix has truly opened countless doors for us, inspiring us to give back to PYCC and the community of Mulgrave Park."



"Phoenix has truly opened countless doors for us."



PRESENTED BY **STEWART MCKELVEY**

Watch the full speech here!



You can watch a recording of Tata and Fana's speech by scanning this QR code or heading to our YouTube Channel at youtube.com/phoenixyouthprograms



Creating Moments of Joy

A Conversation with Emily,
LEAP Coordinator

Tell us a bit about yourself.

My name is Emily, my pronouns are she / her, and I'm a huge advocate for celebrating and finding moments of joy. Also, I collect rubber ducks. I currently have 56 in my office.

Tell us about the journey that led you to working with Phoenix.

I grew up in rural Nova Scotia just outside of Yarmouth and started working at my first summer camp when I was 15. I worked at camps pretty much every summer afterwards, all the way through high school and even through post-secondary.

When I graduated from my social work program, I was looking for work where I could use my degree, and I knew I wanted to work with youth, so I applied to work at [Phoenix Youth Shelter]. I didn't necessarily set out to be a shelter worker when I graduated, but from the very first day it was clear to me that it was a really good fit. I've worked in a variety of positions and programs at Phoenix over the last three and a half years, and now I'm the Coordinator of the Learn and Explore at Phoenix (LEAP) Program.

What do you enjoy about working in this field?

It's hard to narrow down because it continues to be rewarding in ways I wouldn't have expected, since every relationship is rewarding in its own way and every youth and how they experience the world is unique. But as the LEAP Coordinator, something I really love is facilitating programming. A core part of LEAP is supporting youth with exploring their interests, passions, and talents, and getting to center youth voice plays a huge role in how we facilitate that. So if a youth suggests a programming idea, I try my best to put it in the calendar as soon as possible.

Something else that's really cool about my position is that I get to work with all of the programs at Phoenix. For example, I run programming out of the shelter, PHI, PCFY... and those teams are really integrated into the work and we get to be really creative and intentional about programming. For example, one year LEAP teamed up with the shelter to put on an outdoor movie night, and we set up a popcorn bar and hung a sheet in the backyard with a projector so the youth could watch movies. It's really rewarding to work for an agency where everyone is prioritizing youth joy and we get to do that collaboratively.

Can you speak more about the importance of joy?

The heart of LEAP is trying to find ways to build community, to tell stories and to experience joy. There's no way to fail at LEAP, it's like, 'hey, we're here and we can be together and this can be fun.' I think that's important in so many ways, and I think the world sometimes forgets that everyone is a holistic human being and deserves to be supported in holistic ways. Just because someone is unhoused or underemployed doesn't mean they aren't deserving of joy and so a huge part of this work is infusing joy into everyday moments and programming.

Our work is joy-filled, it's fun, and even though it can be challenging, the youth are here and they are making a difference and they are leaving the world a better place than they found it.

What do you hope the next chapter of your journey holds?

I'm just about to start the last semester of my Master of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership, and the skills and knowledge that I am gaining in that program and applying in real time will help to shape the next steps of my journey. I just hope that I don't lose sight or forget all of the things that I've learned from the youth. I just keep striving to continue to grow, build stronger relationships, and do everything I can to be the person that youth deserve to have in their corner. Whenever youth say things like "Emily helped me do _____", I always remind them that I didn't do much, they did it themselves and I just got to be lucky enough to exist in the same space as them while it happened. Seeing the breakthrough or the victory in those moments is something that I feel incredibly honoured to get to share.

An Evening to Remember

Phoenix Youth Prom

Prom is a cherished milestone for many young people—a night of celebration, friendship, and joyful memories. But for others, a variety of circumstances can make attending prom seem like an unattainable dream.

"There are folks who don't get to go to prom for a number of reasons," explains Learn & Explore at Phoenix (LEAP) Coordinator, Emily. "Maybe it's because of COVID, or they didn't finish school or finished in a nontraditional way. Maybe they were living in a shelter, are a refugee, or didn't get to go because it wasn't safe for them to attend in a way that felt authentic due to transphobia or homophobia... there are so many reasons."

Recognizing how meaningful prom can be, Emily and a team of dedicated Phoenix staff decided to create a solution: the Phoenix Youth Prom.

What began as a simple idea quickly became a reality through months of planning and community collaboration. Local organizations and generous community members stepped in to provide formal attire, ensuring that youth could experience the excitement of trying on gowns, suits, and accessories. "It's not always the case that formal wear fits perfectly," Emily shares. "But seeing the joy on the faces of youth who found an outfit that fit them like a glove, or was exactly the color and style they wanted... it was incredible to witness."

A special shoutout goes to Toby from Define Barber Shop and Jada and the team at the Hair Design Center, who provided haircuts, hairstyling, and makeup services, helping youth express themselves with confidence.



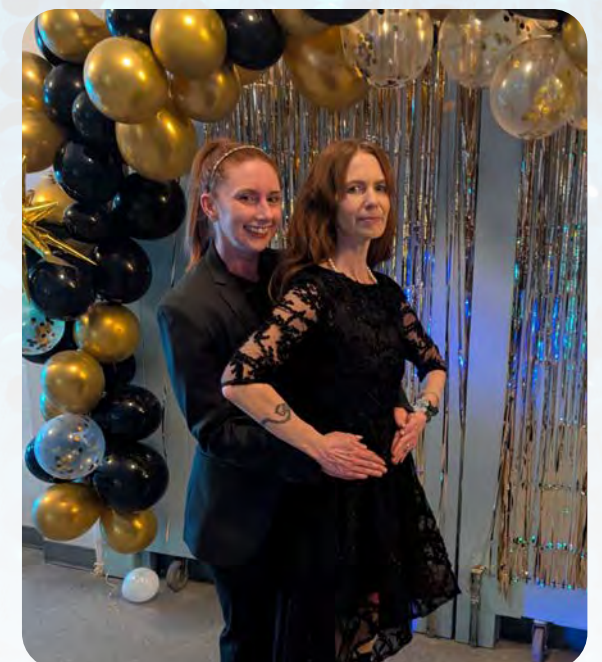
For many, the magic wasn't just in the event itself but in the process of getting ready. "Youth were helping each other get ready at the Shelter, doing fashion shows in their outfits," Emily describes. "We made corsages and boutonnieres with slap bracelets and hot glue. Some even staged prom proposals, fully embracing the experience. Seeing all of that joy... it was really special to witness."

Held at St. Andrew's United Church, the evening was a vibrant mix of fun and heartfelt moments. Guests were welcomed by an elegant balloon arch and shimmering confetti curtain, setting the tone for a magical night. A delicious assortment of refreshments kept spirits high, while Phoenix's own DJ Nay kept the energy going with nonstop dance floor hits.



Yet, beyond the disco lights and photo booths, this prom was about more than just a good time—it was about creating a moment of inclusion, celebration, and belonging. "There were times when I thought, there's no way we can pull this off," Emily admits, "but the support from staff and the community was incredible. The work I get to do with others in LEAP—it's some of the best work I've ever been a part of."

By the end of the night, the venue was packed, the laughter was infectious, and the smiles were abundant. With over 50 staff and youth in attendance, the Phoenix Youth Prom became a beautiful reminder that everyone, regardless of their circumstances, deserves to experience moments of joy.





Youth Supporting Youth

Mascot Showdown

Fourteen high schools came together in support of Phoenix last June to compete in the 15th annual Mascot Showdown! With bragging rights and a free upgrade to the school's mascot on the line, the venue was abuzz with energy, talent, laughs, and friendly competition. Big congrats to Auburn High who came out on top, followed closely behind by Charles P. Allen High, and École Secondaire Mosaïque. Thank you to Dartmouth High for hosting, and to all the organizers, participants, judges, and cheering squads for an incredible evening of youth supporting youth!

5 Days

Since 2014, Dalhousie's Commerce Society has been supporting Phoenix's work in the community by participating in the National 5 Days for Homelessness campaign. This year, they not only raised awareness, vital funds, and generous gifts-in-kind but also encouraged support from 17 other Dalhousie Societies by way of volunteerism. Every Wednesday from October to April, members from various student societies volunteered at Phoenix Youth Shelter prepping supper for shelter guests. Thank you, DCS, for standing with youth in your community and being part of the solution to youth homelessness.

HPJH Bake Sale

Check out this awesome youth-led project! A group of grade 9 students from Highland Park Junior High School took to the kitchen last Spring to bake dozens of delicious treats as part of their Citizenship Class year-end project. Using the funds raised at a bake sale, they purchased products and made hygiene kits for youth and families in our community. Thank you Maggie, Reet, Lina, Lily, and Miss Bray for your support! We vote that they get an A+!



A Year of Growth

Accessibility Upgrades

With generous support from the Home Depot Canada Foundation, Phoenix Youth Shelter and Phoenix House underwent some incredible transformations this year! These renovations introduced newly built ramps, along with a wheelchair-accessible bedroom and washroom in each building, ensuring increased accessibility for all residents.

Website Refresh

Last fall, we unveiled our brand-new website, designed with a fresh look, streamlined navigation, and enhanced accessibility features. In the months leading up to the launch, we consulted with frontline staff to incorporate their feedback into the design, ensuring a user-friendly experience that meets the needs of both youth and community members. Whether you're donating, volunteering, or seeking supports, our new website makes engaging with Phoenix easier than ever. Check us out at www.phoenixyouth.ca!

Hair Care Closet

When Housing Support Coordinator Candice Brigley started working at Phoenix Youth Shelter, she noticed that most donated hair care products didn't meet the needs of many youth accessing our services. This year, she started to build an inventory of ethnic-friendly hair products and launched a Hair Care Closet, ensuring youth across all our programs have access to dignified and appropriate personal care items.

Strategic Compass Renewal

In 2020, we released our Strategic Compass—a five-year commitment to continuously deliver on our promise and achieve meaningful impact in the lives of the youth, families, and communities we serve. After insightful consultations with staff and community partners, we began the renewal process for the compass in 2024, which included the development of our new Inclusion, Diversity, Decolonization, Equity and Access (IDDEA) Path. Stay tuned for the release of our 2025 – 2027 Strategic Compass later this year!



Dignified Housing for Youth & Families

Phoenix Scattered Site Housing Program

The Phoenix Scattered Site Housing Program consists of five properties ranging from single family, shared housing and multi-unit buildings. The program can support up to 27 youth aged 16-24 with a focus on independent long-term transitional support. Youth in the program are supported by Phoenix's wraparound services through multiple programs based on their unique needs.



The Pavillion

Dorothy and John are committed to the healing arts and health equity. In 2022, they purchased a one-bedroom condo unit in downtown Halifax, on the site of the old CBC Radio building. They set about to design and decorate the Patrick Napier Healing Arts Studio, in memory of Dorothy's partner Patrick, who died in 2004, and had been a long time broadcaster and radio host with CBC radio.

In alignment with their mission of connecting communities, Dorothy and John approached Phoenix Youth Programs to offer the use of the condo rent-free. Thanks to their generosity, **The Pavillion** provides a home for a young person as they build capacity for independence.



Creighton

A home for a young family to build their capacity, while being connected to Phoenix's supports and services. The first family moved in September 2021.

Student Housing on West (SHOW)

A three-bedroom home where Phoenix youth enrolled in post-secondary education can focus on their goals without worrying about housing. The first youth moved in August 2022.

The Power of Partnership

Kencrest Opens its Doors



“

“Kencrest is a prime example of how owners, governments, and non-profit agencies can creatively team up to increase community housing stock for real and lasting change that is beyond measure.”

**- Timothy Crooks,
Executive Director, Phoenix Youth Programs**

In partnership with the Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia (AHANS), we are excited to share that we've increased the capacity of the **Phoenix Scattered Site Housing Program (PSSHP)** through the addition of our newest housing initiative.

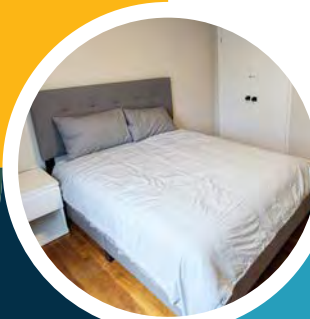
Kencrest is a transformative, collaborative program which will provide transitional housing and support for youth aged 16 to 24, and young families who are experiencing significant housing insecurity. Located in North End Halifax, the initiative has secured two residential buildings with six fully furnished, 2-bedroom units in each, conveniently situated along a bus route. The program is guided by a dedicated team, including a Program Manager, a Housing Support Coordinator, and an on-site Tenant Support Worker, all working together to provide residents with ongoing guidance and support. AHANS and Phoenix wish to thank Headway Construction, The Brick, and IKEA for their contributions to making Kencrest into dignified homes for youth and young families.

Kencrest was set to welcome its first youth residents in Spring 2025, marking the beginning of their journey toward a stable, independent future. The residents will have the support they need to succeed academically, professionally, and personally, thanks to the wraparound services and resources offered.

The Kencrest Housing Initiative is a transformative, collaborative program of Phoenix Youth Programs and Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia (AHANS) made possible through support from Reaching Home - Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada and the Government of Nova Scotia through the Department of Growth and Development and the Department of Opportunities and Social Development, with assistance from the Community Housing Growth Fund - Community Housing Transformation Centre.



Above: Phoenix staff check out the renovations.
Below: Before and after photos show the incredible transformation.



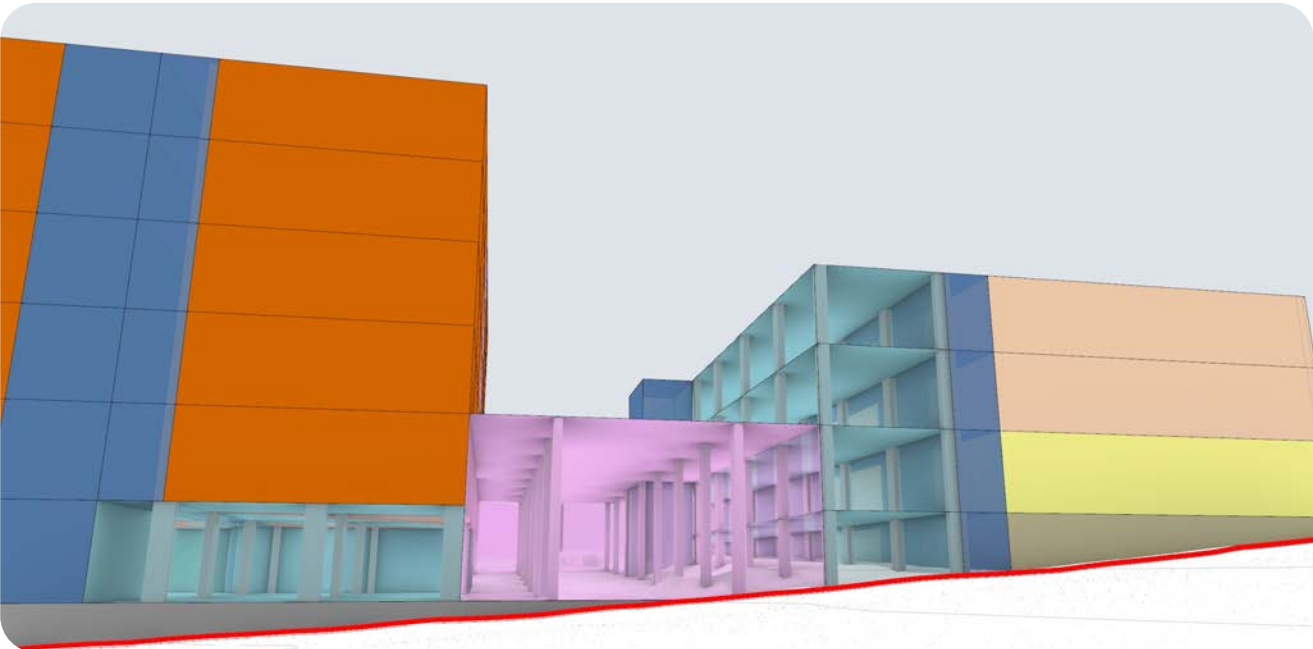


Together We Will

Phoenix Multi-Service Housing Centre

Momentum continues to build around the development of the Multi-Service Housing Centre (MSHC)—a transformative initiative designed to provide wraparound supports for young people in our community. Once complete, the MSHC is anticipated to support an additional 1,000 youth annually, with a focus on early intervention, prevention and stabilization, ensuring young people have access to the resources they need to thrive.

Nycum + Associates continues to provide services to Phoenix with design and pre-development work through both in-kind contributions and funding from the Community Housing Growth Fund – Community Housing Transformation Centre.



Credit: Nycum + Associates

Envision a Day in the Life at the Multi-Service Housing Centre

58 youth woke up in their own apartments	26 youth were seen by a health and wellness professional	5 youth helped weed and water the community garden	4 youth new to Canada attended a settlement workshop
36 youth met with a friend or staff member in the café	12 youth spent time working on their resumes and applying for jobs	10 youth dropped their little ones off at childcare	12 youth hung their Pride art exhibition in the art gallery
15 youth smudged and then sat in circle with an Elder	8 youth played soccer in the multi-purpose room	3 meetings were held between government and not-for-profit partners	437 people opened the door & felt more supported than when they arrived



Be a Part of Something **BIG**



Join the Together We Will story and help us turn this vision into reality! Scan the QR code or contact us for more information.



Driven to Make a Difference

Enterprise Mobility™ is committed to giving back to the communities where team members live and work through volunteer efforts and grants to local nonprofit organizations. For more than a decade, they've worked alongside Phoenix, showing us firsthand that there's a caring community out there invested in the well-being and success of the youth and families we serve.

Over the past year, Enterprise Mobility™ has stepped up in big ways, demonstrating generosity and dedication to our mission. Their contributions have sparked greater financial support from the community, and they have volunteered countless hours through planning, organizing, and attending our annual signature event. Beyond that, they've provided transportation services, contributed \$30,000 in grant funding, and even made sure youth in our programs stayed warm with blankets during the winter.

At Phoenix, we are committed to offering a wide range of wraparound support for youth and families, and Enterprise Mobility™ has been an incredible partner—matching our dedication with meaningful and far-reaching support. A special shoutout to Pete Halliday and team, whose personal commitment to our Holiday Luncheon Planning Committee has made a real impact.

Celebrating Our Volunteers

The dedication and hard work of our volunteers are the driving force behind positive change in our communities. Through their commitment, communities grow stronger, and vital resources reach those who need them most. Every act of kindness—whether big or small—creates ripples of hope and progress that inspire others to get involved.

Volunteers don't just make a difference today; they shape a better future for generations to come.



4,921

hours were donated by over 270 volunteers last year.



Thanks to Our Donors

We gratefully acknowledge that every gift is meaningful and has transformative impact. By removing giving tiers, we endeavor to highlight the importance of all contributions through equitable and inclusive recognition.

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This list acknowledges gifts received from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.
Your support is extremely important to us, and we make every attempt to ensure the accuracy of information.
Please contact us to let us know of any errors or omissions.*

Message from Leadership

Dear friends,

For over 38 years, Phoenix has adapted to meet the growing needs of youth and families, but the challenges before us today are unprecedented. Every week, families lose access to safe, affordable housing. Every day, young people struggle to find stability. And every moment counts.

With the rising cost of living and the growing crisis of food insecurity, more youth and young families are calling out for help. This year, we saw a 37.5% increase in program access, with 224 new individuals seeking our support for the first time. Our shelter team provided 7,097 safe stays, with an occupancy rate exceeding 97% - setting new highs every year.

As we navigate the most severe housing crisis in our province's history, Phoenix continues to lead through meaningful action. In partnership with the Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia (AHANS), we have expanded our scattered site housing program with the Kencrest Housing Initiative, offering safe, dignified homes for up to 22 youth and families. This program is just one of the many ways Phoenix is responding to the urgent need for deeply affordable housing, ensuring young people have a foundation to start building a brighter future.

**And as we move forward, we promise this:
Phoenix will be here.**

Our frontline teams will continue to show up, day after day, ensuring every young person that walks through our doors has access to the resources, safety, and compassion they deserve. In lockstep with local and national partners, we remain committed to championing social justice, fighting for dignified and affordable housing, and creating moments of joy—because joy, in its simplest form, has the power to foster resilience and transform lives.

To our supporters, partners, and the community at large, we extend our deepest gratitude. The impact of collective action is undeniable, and your unwavering commitment fuels our ability to create lasting change. We hope this year's report reflects the vital work we accomplish together, and serves as a reminder that none of this would be possible without you.

With heartfelt appreciation,

The Honourable J. Michael MacDonald, ONS (he/him)
Former Chief Justice of Nova Scotia
Chair, Board of Directors,
Phoenix Youth Programs

Timothy Crooks (he/him)
Executive Director,
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Thank you!

This year's Report to the Community has been made possible with the support of our creative partners.

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Let's Connect!



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