

# The Gatehouse

## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



**Follow us on social media:**

**Twitter:** @Gatehouse\_The

**Facebook:** @TheGatehouseChildAbuseInvestigationSupportSite

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/user/GatehouseThe?feature=>

**Instagram:** @thegatehousetoronto

**The Gatehouse Opened June 20, 1998,  
Celebrating 26 years in 2024!**

**Check out [www.thegatehouse.org](http://www.thegatehouse.org) for  
the most up to date information about  
our programs and services.**

**The Gatehouse  
3101 Lakeshore Blvd W  
Toronto, ON, M8V3W8  
[www.thegatehouse.org](http://www.thegatehouse.org)  
CRA#: 869730648 RR 0001**

***The Gatehouse is a 2023-24 Ministry of the Attorney General Victim Services Awards of Distinction Recipient. Our Board Chair 2023-24 and Executive Director 2024-25 are also recipients of this honour.***

## MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

### SABRA DESAI, MSW, RSW

It is with both great pride and a touch of bittersweet emotion that I welcome you to The Gatehouse's 2025 Annual General Meeting—my final AGM as Chair of the Board. Serving in this role has been one of the greatest honours of my life. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to walk alongside courageous survivors, passionate allies, and the deeply committed staff and volunteers who make this work possible.

Thank you for trusting me to help steward this vital mission. This evening, we reflect on the accomplishments of 2024—a year defined by growth, renewed visibility, and a commitment to healing, education, and prevention. In 2024, The Gatehouse was instrumental in advocating for the passing of Erin's Law in Ontario. The Gatehouse continues to offer hybrid programming, providing both in-person and virtual support to meet the diverse and evolving needs of survivors. This flexible, trauma-informed model allows us to remain accessible, responsive, and grounded in our core values of safety, dignity, and empowerment.

This work would not be possible without the exceptional leadership of Maria Barcelos, our Executive Director, and the dedication of our outstanding staff team: Paula Cordeiro, Jasmine Lem, Karen MacKeigan, Stewart Thompson, and Erin Alexandra. Together with our students and volunteers, they continue to foster a space where survivors are heard, supported, and empowered.

One of the most impactful moments of the year was the public sharing of Andrea Robin Skinner's story in the Toronto Star in July. Andrea's courageous disclosure drew national media attention to both The Gatehouse and the issue of childhood sexual abuse. Her bravery inspired many others to come forward—some for the first time—helping to break long-held silences and shift the public narrative.

This growing awareness was further supported by The 5 Steps Documentary, which continues to resonate deeply with audiences across Canada. The film gives voice to survivors who share their journeys with honesty and hope. If you haven't yet seen it, I encourage you to view it at [www.thegatehouse.org](http://www.thegatehouse.org). At The Gatehouse, healing is about more than recovering from trauma—it's about reclaiming identity, connection, and belonging. It is also about prevention.





## MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR SABRA DESAI, MSW, RSW

Through education, advocacy, and national partnerships, we are helping build a future where children are safe and survivors are supported without shame or silence.

This work is as urgent as ever. Consider these realities:

- Nearly 1 in 10 children (7.8%) in Canada experience sexual abuse before the age of 15.
- Between 2014 and 2020, 75% of victims were girls aged 12 to 17, and 1 in 5 were boys.
- In 2019, one-third of youth victims were abused by a family member.
- Between 2017 and 2022, 252 Canadian school staff—250 of them teachers—were accused or convicted of sexual offences.

These are not just statistics. They represent lives interrupted, innocence lost, and communities in need of healing and accountability. That's why The Gatehouse remains committed to action. Over the past two years, we've proudly supported the launch of the Survivors Council of Canada (SCC)—a national, survivor-led initiative advancing awareness, education, and prevention strategies coast to coast. If you haven't already, I encourage you to become a member of The Gatehouse and/or the SCC. You do not need to be a survivor to be part of this work. We need allies, advocates, and supporters. Together, we can prevent childhood sexual abuse and support those on their journey of healing.

As I prepare to step down from my role as Chair, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to each of you—those present tonight and all who form part of The Gatehouse community. Thank you for your support, your courage, and your unwavering belief in this mission. I leave with deep hope, knowing the work will continue with strength, compassion, and vision.

I warmly invite you to join us for our upcoming fundraiser, Healing the Voice Within, taking place on Thursday, October 2, 2025, at the Liberty Grand in Toronto. This inspiring evening will support the continued growth of The Gatehouse's vital programs and services. Tickets are now on sale at [www.thegatehouse.org](http://www.thegatehouse.org), with special rates available for participants, volunteers, and students. We hope to see you there.

With gratitude,

Sabra Desai, MSW, RSW  
Chair Board of Directors



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Services Awards of Distinction Recipient***

## MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARIA BARCELOS, MA, RP

In 2024, Andrea Robin Skinner courageously shared her story in the Toronto Star, drawing national and international attention to The Gatehouse and the importance of our work. Her powerful voice has encouraged more survivors to come forward and helped break the silence surrounding childhood sexual abuse. 2024 also marked a pivotal year in policy change, as The Gatehouse was instrumental in advocating for the passing of Erin's Law in Ontario—a significant step toward mandatory CSA prevention education in schools.

2024 saw a year of continued growth, community and awareness. A total of 257 intake assessments were completed—an increase from 228 in 2023—connecting individuals to the programs and services that best suited their needs. We delivered 32 Phase 1 “Out of the Darkness: Into the Light” peer support groups, consistent with the previous year, with 139 participants completing the program, up from 133 in 2023.

In addition to group-based healing, 24 individuals accessed one-on-one support, a significant rise from just 9 in 2023. Counselling services were accessed by 37 people, with our graduate students and staff delivering a total of 294 counselling sessions. In 2024, we hosted 22 placement students (down from 33 in 2023) and trained 57 individuals through our peer facilitator program, a notable increase from 44 trained the year before.

These numbers reflect not only our ongoing commitment to survivor-centred support but also our ability to adapt and grow in response to community needs. We developed and implemented an eight-week Expressive Arts Therapy program tailored to the unique experiences of CSA survivors, with 3 groups offered and 16 participants completing this program. Thank you to Zada Jaffe and the CREATE Institute student team, Antonietta, Pramilda, Rieko, Caitlin, Tatiana and Shawna.

We hosted our 6th Annual Fundraiser, Healing the Voice Within, with over 300 guests, generating \$31,982.81 net proceeds to support our programs and services. We are truly grateful for the tremendous support of our individual donors and corporate donors including LiUNA! Local 183, and LiUNA! Ontario Provincial District Council, Harry James Group, Gluckstein Lawyers, Diamond and Diamond Lawyers, Humber College, A Celebrity Limo, MDC Media Group, Camoes Radio, and CHIN Radio/TV International.





## MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARIA BARCELOS, MA, RP

Thank you to major donors, individual and corporate, including the Munro Family donating \$20,000; Mackenzie Investments, for your generous donation of \$35,000 in 2024; and OWEMANCO for their generous donation of \$100,000 in 2024. Thank you to the team at The Blue Tie Ride for your generosity and support in raising \$4,000 for The Gatehouse.

The Healing Garden and Labyrinth continue to provide spaces of healing, peace and hope to the community. We are happy to share that we won 3rd place in the Toronto Garden Competition and will be entering again next year! Thank you to Lloyd, Diane, John, Barb, Jose, and Stewart for your continued support in keeping these spaces beautiful for everyone to enjoy. If you would like to join our Garden Club, please email [stewart@thegatehouse.org](mailto:stewart@thegatehouse.org)

With the dedication of our student team, The Gatehouse persists in its efforts to engage with local, national, and international organizations, sharing information about our programs, sharing insights, and emphasizing the significance of self-care, reaching out and community support for CSA survivors and their families. The ongoing enhancement of our adult programs, peer facilitator training, and transformative learning methods remains fundamental to The Gatehouse's mission.

We were proud to collaborate with the Humber College Community Development student team studying the impact of our programs and services on the 2SLGBTQ+ community, leading to the creation of another program that will be launching in 2025–2026 for 2SLGBTQ+ CSA survivors. Read more about this initiative at [thegatehouse.org](http://thegatehouse.org).

Our Global Poetry Movement continues to inspire survivors, advocates, and their support. Consider submitting a poem today at [globalpoetrymovement.com](http://globalpoetrymovement.com). The Global Poetry Movement Committee is currently working on a poetry book featuring submissions shared through The Gatehouse website. This collection, honouring the voices and experiences of survivors and their allies, is scheduled for publication in 2026.

Thank you to our long-time volunteers John, Ian, Andrew, Leah, Tony, Zada, Rick, Lisa, Leonard, Carol, Denise, Michael, Paul, and Ranjini.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our outgoing Board Members for their years of dedicated service to The Gatehouse. A special thank you to Sabra Desai, our Board Chair, for over 10 years of steadfast leadership and advocacy. We also thank Nilmini Perera for over 7 years of impactful contribution, and Gigi Cantalupo for more than 10 years of committed support. Your wisdom, compassion, and guidance have left a legacy to our organization and the communities we serve.

The collective efforts of The Gatehouse's Board Members, donors, volunteers, and staff undeniably contribute to saving and transforming lives, reflecting a commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of CSA survivors.

With gratitude,

Maria Barcelos, MA, RP, Executive Director



# THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Sabra Desai,  
MSW, RSW, Chair



Lisa Crooker, Supt.  
Toronto Police  
Service, Co-Chair



Gigi Cantalupo,  
Treasurer



Svetlana Sorokina, Mike Allan,  
Treasurer Secretary



Nilmini Perera,  
Director



Carol Smith,  
Director



Guillermo Martinez  
Director



Linda O'Brien,  
Director

## GLOBAL POETRY MOVEMENT

CO-CHAIRS, ARTHUR LOCKHART, FOUNDER OF THE GATEHOUSE  
& CAROL SMITH, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Empowering survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse from around the globe,  
connecting and healing collectively through poetry. #globalpoetrymovement

### Becoming Whole

You waited so patiently for me to come and find you.  
Truthfully, I ignored you because it hurt too much to feel the pain.  
The weight of everything was so heavy.  
I didn't want to go back. I wanted to keep moving forward.  
Years later, I found you. Exactly where I left you.  
You hid in plain sight, but no one noticed you.  
When I saw you from shore, I knew it was you. You recognized me too.  
All those years of lifeguard training paid off.  
You were always trying to survive.  
You knew I'd eventually come back so you just kept treading water.  
You are a smart, wise, strong girl. You figured out how to save yourself.  
When our eyes connected you stopped treading.  
Then - you stood up and walked towards me. Towards the shore.  
The whole time, while you were waiting, you knew you could stand, but  
you continued to tread water.  
You wanted to wait. You waited for me to find you. Right where I left you.  
She said, "What took you so long?"  
She came and wrapped her arms around me and gave me a big, long hug.  
She pulled me close and whispered slowly,  
"It has taken us a very long time to get this right so listen closely.  
I'm ok now. You did the work you needed to do. You are very brave.  
I celebrate you every day because you came back. You found me.  
I'm standing because of you.  
You rewrote our story.  
It is time now. Go and live".  
And with that she was gone. Leaving behind only her true self.

Ruth-Ann Shantz - November 2024



Arthur Lockhart  
Founder, The  
Gatehouse



Carol Smith  
Board of Directors



[Submit your poem today at  
globalpoetrymovement.com](https://globalpoetrymovement.com)

Join us at the Blue Tie Ride





# 2024 PROGRAM STATISTICS

Category	2024	2023
Intake Assessments Completed	257	228
Phase 1 Peer Support Groups	32	32
Phase 1 Participants	139	133
One-on-One Support Accessed	24	9
Counselling Participants	37	55
Counselling Sessions Delivered	294	365
Placement Students	24	33
Peer Facilitator Training Participants	57	44
Art Therapy Groups Delivered	3	3
Art Therapy Participants	16	16
# children supported	4	8



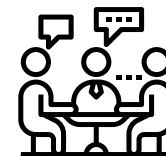
- 22 Placement Students mentored



- 257 Intake Assessments conducted



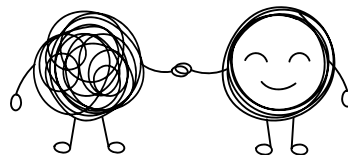
- 32 - 15 Week Phase 1 Groups delivered
- 9 - 16 Week Phase 2 Groups delivered



- 294 Counselling Sessions delivered
- 37 Survivors received individual Counselling

## Art Therapy Stats

**#Art Therapy Groups: 5**  
**#Art Therapy Participants: 22**  
**#Art Therapy Students: 6**



*I learned empathy, accountability, teamwork, active listening, an anti-oppressive approach to the work, and others, among many other skills. - Placement student*

## Volunteer Stats

**#volunteer debrief meeting hours: 398**  
**#staff hours in debrief: 199**  
**# Volunteer Facilitators: 61 (22 men, 38 women, and 1 trans)**

*My placement experience exceeded my expectations. I anticipated gaining practical experience, but I also experienced significant personal growth in empathy, resilience, and adaptability. Working with a compassionate team strengthened my communication and collaborative skills, while exposure to real-world scenarios reinforced my theoretical understanding of trauma care. This experience also helped clarify my professional aspirations and commitment to advocacy for vulnerable populations. - Placement student*



## Fundraising

### BLUE TIE RIDE



The 13th Annual Blue Tie Ride took place on August 17, 2024, starting at Barrie Harley-Davidson. This scenic motorcycle poker run brought together riders in support of Wellspring Chinguacousy and The Gatehouse. Participants collected playing cards at checkpoints, competed for prizes, and donated non-perishable goods to the Barrie Food Bank. The event fostered community spirit while raising critical funds for two life-changing causes. A total of \$4,000 was raised for The Gatehouse, supporting programs for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse. The ride continues to grow as a meaningful tradition blending purpose, connection, and compassion on the open road. **Visit the Blue Tie Ride website to sign up today! <https://www.bluetieride.ca/> JOIN us on August 16, 2025!**

## Fundraising

### HEALING THE VOICE WITHIN -LIBERTY GRAND

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who joined us at our 6th Annual Healing the Voice Within event to raise awareness of the profound impact of childhood sexual abuse and much-needed funds to support The Gatehouse. Your presence, support, and contributions made this gathering an incredible success.

Over 300 people came together to learn, connect, and stand in solidarity with survivors, raising \$31,982.81 in net funds. Your collective commitment to this critical cause is truly awe-inspiring. By being a part of this event, you have actively contributed to raising awareness, breaking the silence, and supporting survivors on their healing journey and continue the meaningful work of The Gatehouse.

It is your support that enables us to continue our mission of providing a safe haven for survivors and fostering a community that cares. The positive impact of your presence and contributions will resonate far beyond the event itself.

**GET TICKETS TO THE 2025 OCTOBER 2, HEALING THE VOICE WITHIN [HERE](#)**

## Events

### 15TH ANNUAL TRANSFORMING TRAUMA CONFERENCE - MAY 15, 2025



12 featured sessional speakers. This event gathered social agencies, first responders, and survivors of trauma to exchange ideas and evidence-based approaches to prevent and treat the symptoms and impact of childhood sexual abuse.

This event gathered 71 attendees, including representatives from social agencies, first responders, and survivors of trauma to exchange ideas and evidence-based approaches to prevent and treat the symptoms and impact of childhood sexual abuse.

### Truth and Reconciliation ANNUAL TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION EVENT

Held on Friday, September 27, 2024, at The Gatehouse in Etobicoke's Healing Garden. This event is built around the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the gathering centered on reflection, education, and Indigenous cultural practices.

Thank you to [Kristi White](#), Indigenous Author, activist and co-founding member of the Survivor Council of Canada for speaking and sharing your tremendous courage and compassion with our community.

**[GLOBALPOETRYMOVEMENT.COM/](https://GLOBALPOETRYMOVEMENT.COM/)**



Have you submitted your poem?



Thank you to the **Amazon** Team for your generous donations of diapers, household items. The Gatehouse distributed these items to families accessing services via Catholic Children's Aid Society, Lamp Community Health Centre and the Women's Habitat Shelter.



## Thank you to our Amazing Staff & Students



**Maria Barcelos, MA, RP**  
Executive Director



**Paula Cordeiro, MA,**  
Registered Psychotherapist  
& ASIST Trainer



**Karen MacKeigan,**  
RSSW, MA BA,  
DAMHW, DECE,  
RP (Q) Program  
Coordinator,  
Intakes & Phase 2



**Jasmine Lem,**  
BSc., BSc.FCSS,  
Diploma in Social  
Work, Program  
Coordinator,  
Phase 1 Women,  
All Genders, YAP  
& Partners



**Stewart Thompson,**  
BSc, Program Coordinator,  
Men's Phase 1 Groups



**Erin Alexandra,**  
SSW Diploma  
Communications  
Assistant

## ASIST Trainers



**Brad Hutchinson,**  
ASIST T4T



**Paula Cordeiro, MA,**  
RP, ASIST T4T

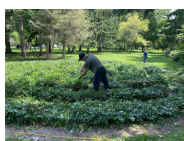


**Zada Jaffe**  
Peer Support Facilitator  
& Secretary SCC

## Gardening Volunteers



Lloyd Devoe and Diane Devoe have been with The Gatehouse for more than 18 years!



Thank you Stewart, Jose, Joe, Johnny for your help with Labyrinth and Garden spaces!

## Skills and knowledge learned at The Gatehouse

During my placement at The Gatehouse, I developed essential soft skills such as validation and empathy, learning how to actively listen, show understanding in sensitive situations, and recognize the impact of silence. I honed my ability to respond thoughtfully and professionally, ensuring clear and respectful communication, even in challenging circumstances. I also gained valuable experience in managing difficult participants by staying calm and patient while effectively setting expectations. Most importantly, I learned how to navigate difficult situations while maintaining professional boundaries, ensuring roles and responsibilities were respected while providing appropriate support. These experiences have contributed immensely to my personal and professional growth, and I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity.

School	Program(s)	# of Students
Yorkville University	Masters of Arts Counselling Psychology	1
Antioch University	Masters of Arts Clinical	1
University of Guelph Humber	Community Social Services	2
Toronto Metropolitan University	Bachelors of Social Work	2
George Brown College	Social Service Worker	3
Humber College	Child and Youth Care, Community	13
	<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>



## Graduate Counselling Psychology Practicum Students



**Kira Gracev**  
Registered  
Psychotherapist  
(Qualifying), MA



**Anasha Sornakanthan**  
Registered  
Psychotherapist  
(Qualifying)

# Congrats!

**Would you recommend The Gatehouse as a placement opportunity to your peers?**

**Yes. It was a very inclusive, eye opening and rewarding experience. The kind of experience students, especially in the Social Service field, needs.**

# 2024 Financials

**THE GATEHOUSE CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATION AND SUPPORT SITE**  
*(Operating as The Gatehouse)*  
**Statement of Operations**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

	2024	2023
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Donations and fundraising	\$ 413,321	\$ 330,458
Government and related agency grants <i>(Note 9)</i>	48,103	82,974
Programs and other	23,538	22,708
Training and workshop fees	22,611	15,136
Amortization of property and equipment grants <i>(Note 7)</i>	6,140	6,140
	<b>513,713</b>	<b>457,416</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Support services <i>(Note 10)</i>	350,120	320,711
Office and general	80,781	88,006
Special events	67,676	53,641
Conference	6,826	5,701
Amortization of property and equipment	6,140	7,763
	<b>511,543</b>	<b>475,822</b>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 2,170</b>	<b>\$ (18,406)</b>

Full Financial statements available at  
<https://thegatehouse.org/about-us/annual-reports-and-financial-statements/>

*Thank you to our donors*

