

The Gatehouse

2025 Annual Report



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**The Gatehouse Opened June 20, 1998,
Celebrating 27 years in 2025**
Check out 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
CRA#: 869730648 RR 0001

***Ministry of the Attorney General Victim Services Awards of Distinction
was awarded to Maria Barcelos, MP, RP, Executive Director 2025***

MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR LISA CROOKER

As Chair of the Board of Directors, it is my privilege to reflect on another year of growth, resilience, and impact at The Gatehouse. In 2025, The Gatehouse continued to provide essential support, healing opportunities, and hope to survivors of childhood sexual abuse and their families. Through the dedication of our staff, volunteers, students, donors, community partners, and fellow board members, we remained steadfast in our commitment to creating safe spaces where survivors can heal, connect, and thrive.

This year, The Gatehouse completed 187 client intakes and supported survivors through a wide range of trauma-informed programs and services. We celebrated the successful completion of our Phase 1 and Phase 2 peer support programs, with 101 participants completing Phase 1 and 56 participants completing Phase 2.

A significant milestone in 2025 was the establishment of a new partnership with Family Services of Peel to provide specialized support services for male-identifying survivors of childhood sexual abuse. This collaboration reflects our commitment to increasing access to healing resources and ensuring that survivors of all genders can find meaningful pathways to support and recovery.

We were also grateful for the financial support provided by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) in 2025. This investment helped strengthen The Gatehouse's organizational capacity, allowing us to enhance our infrastructure, improve operational effectiveness, and build a stronger foundation for sustainable growth. Investments in organizational capacity are critical to ensuring that we can continue to meet the evolving needs of survivors while maintaining the quality and accessibility of our programs and services.

The Board of Directors remains deeply grateful to our Executive Director, Maria Barcelos, whose leadership, vision, and dedication continue to guide the organization forward, and to the exceptional staff team including Karen MacKeigan, Jasmine Lem, Stewart Thompson, Paula Cordeiro, and Erin Alexandra. We also extend our sincere appreciation to our volunteers, placement students, facilitators, donors, sponsors, funders, and community partners. Their compassion, expertise, and commitment make our work possible every day.



MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR LISA CROOKER

As we look ahead, we recognize that the need for survivor-centered services remains significant. The Board is committed to supporting the organization's strategic priorities of strengthening programs, expanding community partnerships, increasing sustainability, and ensuring that every survivor who reaches out to The Gatehouse is met with dignity, understanding, and hope.

As I conclude my third and final term on the Board of Directors, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve this remarkable organization. I also want to acknowledge my colleague Carol Smith's contributions to the Board as the Chair of the Global Poetry Committee. Carol first joined the Board in 2020 and has dedicated over six years of her financial expertise to help develop policies for financial oversight and sustainability. We are truly grateful for your support and are very much looking forward to seeing her continue her dedication in other ways to The Gatehouse community.

It has been an honour to work alongside dedicated board members, staff, volunteers, and supporters who share a deep commitment to healing and hope for survivors. I leave with great confidence in the future of The Gatehouse and the meaningful impact it will continue to have in the lives of those it serves. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for believing in our mission and standing with survivors. Together, we continue to transform trauma into healing, connection, and possibility.

With gratitude,

Lisa Crooker
Chair, Board of Directors
The Gatehouse Child Abuse Investigation & Support Site



MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARIA BARCELOS, MA, RP

As I reflect on 2025, I am filled with gratitude, pride, and hope. Each year, I am reminded that healing is possible when survivors are met with compassion, understanding, and community. At The Gatehouse, we have the privilege of witnessing that healing journey every day. We see individuals move from isolation to connection, from surviving to thriving, and from silence to finding their voice.

In 2025, The Gatehouse continued to provide essential, trauma-informed support to survivors of childhood sexual abuse while expanding opportunities for education, connection, advocacy, and community engagement. Despite ongoing financial challenges facing the non-profit sector, our dedicated staff, volunteers, placement students, donors, and community partners worked tirelessly to ensure that survivors had access to the programs and services they needed.

This year, we completed 187 intakes, helping individuals take the courageous first step toward healing. Under the dedicated coordination of Karen MacKeigan, Program Coordinator, The Gatehouse continued to provide a compassionate, trauma-informed intake process that ensured survivors were welcomed, supported, and connected to the programs and services best suited to their needs.

Our core peer support programming continued to be the foundation of our services. Under the leadership of Jasmine Lem and Stewart Thompson, who coordinate our Phase 1 programs, 101 participants successfully completed Phase 1 peer support groups in 2025. Through women's, men's, all-gender, and gender-diverse programming, survivors were provided with safe spaces to explore the impact of childhood sexual abuse, build meaningful connections with others who share similar experiences, and develop tools to support their healing journey.

We were particularly excited to develop a partnership with Family Services of Peel to increase awareness and support for male-identifying survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Together, we are working to reduce barriers to accessing services and ensure that more men know they are not alone and that healing is possible.

An additional 56 participants completed our Phase 2 program, continuing their healing journey through deeper reflection, personal growth, and community connection.



Ministry of the Attorney General Victim Services Awards of Distinction was awarded to Maria Barcelos, MP, RP, Executive Director 2025. Maria was also inducted into the Portuguese Canadian Walk of Fame in Toronto in May 2025



MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARIA BARCELOS, MA, RP

We also continued to expand specialized programming. Our 2SLGBTQIA+ program, launched under the leadership of Erin Alexandra and supported through our ongoing partnership with students in the Humber Community Development degree program, completed two cycles and supported 10 participants in 2025. This innovative program was developed in response to an identified need for dedicated, affirming support for 2SLGBTQIA+ survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

Under the coordination of Zada Jaffe, Expressive Arts Peer Support Facilitator, our Expressive Arts Therapy programming continued to provide creative and alternative pathways to healing. In 2025, 11 participants accessed individual expressive arts therapy services, receiving a total of 88 sessions, while 18 participants completed our Somatic Tapping workshops. Through art, creativity, movement, and self-expression, participants were offered opportunities to explore their healing journey in ways that extend beyond traditional talk-based approaches.

Mental health support remained a critical component of our work. Under the leadership of Paula Cordeiro, RP, Counselling Coordinator, The Gatehouse continued to provide accessible, trauma-informed counselling services for survivors seeking individualized therapeutic support. In 2025, our counselling team delivered 172 counselling sessions to 33 individuals, offering a safe and supportive environment for participants to process trauma, develop coping strategies, and continue their healing journey.

Education and capacity building continued to be central to our mission. This year, 63 individuals completed Peer Support Facilitator Training through four workshops, helping to strengthen survivor-led support networks across our communities.

We also delivered three ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) workshops, training 43 participants in suicide intervention and prevention skills. These workshops were coordinated by Paula Cordeiro, RP, and facilitated by Brad Hutchinson, whose expertise and commitment helped increase community capacity to recognize, respond to, and support individuals experiencing thoughts of suicide or emotional crisis.



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MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARIA BARCELOS, MA, RP

Our impact would not be possible without the extraordinary dedication of our volunteers and students. In 2025, 71 volunteer facilitators, 24 Healing Garden volunteers, and 25 placement students contributed their time, skills, compassion, and lived experience to our mission. Together, staff and volunteers participated in 388 debrief meetings, contributing 194 hours of reflective practice and support, ensuring that those who support others are themselves supported.

Building on the success of our annual conference, in 2026 The Gatehouse transformed the event into the three-day Transforming Trauma Together Festival, held May 11–13, 2026. The festival represented an exciting evolution of our approach to education, awareness, healing, and community engagement. Over the course of three days, the festival welcomed 175 attendees, featured 41 guest speakers, delivered 17 workshops and presentations, and screened four documentary films exploring themes related to trauma, healing, resilience, and social change. The festival created a unique space where survivors, service providers, researchers, artists, students, and community members could learn from one another, share experiences, and build connections.

This innovative event was made possible through the generous support of Humber Polytechnic, Humber Research, and the Department of Justice Canada. Their partnership helped us create an accessible, trauma-informed event that amplified survivor voices, fostered community dialogue, and advanced public awareness about the lasting impacts of childhood sexual abuse.

2025 was also a year of meaningful recognition and growth. I was deeply honoured to receive the Portuguese Canadian Walk of Fame Award, an acknowledgement that reflects not only my own journey but the collective efforts of countless survivors, volunteers, staff, and advocates who work every day to create safer and more supportive communities.



Ministry of the Attorney General Victim Services Awards of Distinction was awarded to Maria Barcelos, MP, RP, Executive Director 2025. Maria was also inducted into the Portuguese Canadian Walk of Fame in Toronto in May 2025



The Gatehouse was awarded a City of Toronto Community Champion Award in May 2026



MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARIA BARCELOS, MA, RP

I was also honoured to receive a Ministry of the Attorney General's Victim Services Awards of Distinction, recognizing my commitment to supporting survivors of childhood sexual abuse through the work of The Gatehouse. This recognition belongs to every staff member, volunteer, survivor, donor, and community partner who has contributed to our mission over the years.

None of this work would be possible without the extraordinary people who make The Gatehouse what it is. I am grateful to our staff team, volunteers, placement students, Board of Directors, donors, funders, and community partners for their dedication. Together, they have created a community where survivors are met with empathy, dignity, and hope.

Behind every statistic in this report is a person. A survivor who found the courage to reach out. A volunteer who shared their lived experience to support another. A donor who believed in our mission. A student who contributed their passion and energy. A staff member who went above and beyond to ensure that no one felt alone.

The work of healing trauma is not easy, but it is transformative. Every intake, every group session, every counselling appointment, every training workshop, every expressive arts session, and every act of kindness helps create a world where survivors are believed, supported, and empowered.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to expanding access to services, strengthening partnerships, advocating for survivors, and ensuring that everyone impacted by childhood sexual abuse has the opportunity to heal in a safe and supportive environment.

Thank you Sue for your incredible leadership and generosity in organizing Bloom It Forward annual plant swap event ❤️.

We are especially grateful for your thoughtful donation of the remaining perennial plants to the Gatehouse Healing Garden.



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THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



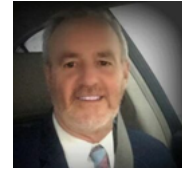
Lisa Crooker
Chair



Linda O'Brien
Co-Chair



Svetlana Sorokina
Treasurer



Mike Allan
Secretary



Carol Smith
Director



Guillermo Martinez
Director



Hilary Mancia
Director



Patricia Buffone
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*



Arthur Lockhart
Founder,
The Gatehouse



Carol Smith
Board of Directors

Abused ; Aftermath

In the darkness of the night
Eyes moistened by the insight
Of a life of failed resolutions
And social aberrations
Which I continue to gaslight
I find so deep a sorrow
In knowing that tomorrow
In my weakness of determination
In my perpetual stagnation
I may again burrow
Into a hole of avoidance
A cavern of acceptance
Only to feel an utter emptiness
And sense of absurdness
That seems my life's dance
And I ask ... why?
Dana

Brave Space

I'm standing in Brave Space—no
longer searching for Safe Space.
I can breathe when I'm standing
in Brave Space;
my throat constricts when I look
for safety.
Safety needs you to say yes.
Bravery needs only me to
breathe.
Waiting for love needs you to
say yes.
In Brave Space,
love is all around me.
I am love.
I am brave.
Ghrian Shine in The Voice for
Others



Join us at the Blue Tie Ride

Submit your poem today at
globalpoetrymovement.com

2025 PROGRAM STATISTICS

Category	2025	2024	2023
Intake Assessments Completed	187	257	228
Phase 1 Peer Support Groups	27	32	32
Phase 2 Peer Support Groups	10	9	9
Phase 1 Participants	101	139	133
Phase 2 Participants	56	40	46
One-on-One Support Accessed	20	24	9
Counselling Participants	33	37	55
Counselling Sessions Delivered	172	294	365
Placement Students	25	24	33
Peer Facilitator Training Participants	63	57	44
Art Therapy Groups Delivered	4	3	3
Art Therapy Participants	11	16	16
# children supported	2	4	8



- 187 Intake Assessments conducted

- 27- 15 Week Phase 1 Groups delivered
- 10 - 16 Week Phase 2 Groups delivered

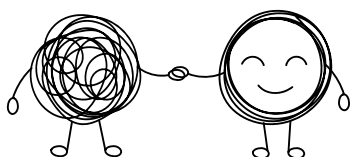
- 172 Counselling Sessions delivered
- 33 Survivors received individual Counselling

#Art Therapy Groups: 4
#Art Therapy Participants: 11
#Art Therapy Students: 8

Volunteer Stats

Volunteer Facilitators: 71
Debrief Meetings Hosted: 388
Staff and Volunteer Hours in Debrief: 194 hours

"Nothing helped me more than the Peer Support program. Finally being heard means everything to me. Finally understanding that I am not broken and not the only one that feels this way is life changing."



Fundraising



BLUE TIE RIDE

The 13th Annual Blue Tie Ride took place on August 16, 2025, 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 \$1,500 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

The Gatehouse's annual Healing the Voice Within Gala is a signature fundraising event that supports trauma-informed programs for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Held on October 2, 2025, at Liberty Grand, the evening featured keynote speaker Andrea Robin Skinner, host Michelle Dube, live entertainment, art, auctions, and an 80s-themed celebration. Funds raised directly support peer support groups, expressive arts therapy, counselling, and survivor-focused programs.

The Healing the Voice Within Fundraiser remained a significant source of support for The Gatehouse in 2025, generating \$86,259.79 in revenue and \$31,982.81 in net proceeds after all expenses paid. While revenue was slightly lower than the previous year, expenses were also reduced, helping to maintain strong fundraising results. The event continues to play a vital role in funding programs and services for survivors of childhood sexual abuse, while bringing together donors, community members, sponsors, and advocates in support of healing, hope, and recovery. The ongoing success of this event reflects the dedication of our volunteers, sponsors, attendees, and supporters whose generosity makes our work possible.

Events



INNAGURAL TRANSFORMING TRAUMA TOGETHER FESTIVAL MAY 11-13, 2026

The Transforming Trauma Together Festival marked an exciting evolution of The Gatehouse's annual conference, expanding into a three-day event held May 11-13, 2026. Bringing together survivors, professionals, researchers, artists, students, and community advocates, the festival welcomed 175 attendees, featured 41 guest speakers, delivered 17 workshops and presentations, and screened four powerful documentary films. Through education, storytelling, art, and dialogue, the festival created a trauma-informed space for learning, healing, and connection. The event was made possible through the generous support of Humber Polytechnic, Humber Research, and the Department of Justice Canada's National Survivors of Crime Week Fund.

Truth and Reconciliation

ANNUAL TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION EVENT

On September 17, 2025, The Gatehouse hosted its annual Truth and Reconciliation gathering in the Healing Garden. Led by Indigenous Elder Kristi White, the event brought community members together for an afternoon of storytelling, cultural teachings, reflection, and learning. The gathering provided an opportunity to honour Indigenous voices, acknowledge the truths of Canada's history, and reaffirm our collective commitment to reconciliation and healing. In 2026, we will be hosting an Indigenous Town Hall on September 16,. More details to follow at thegatehouse.org

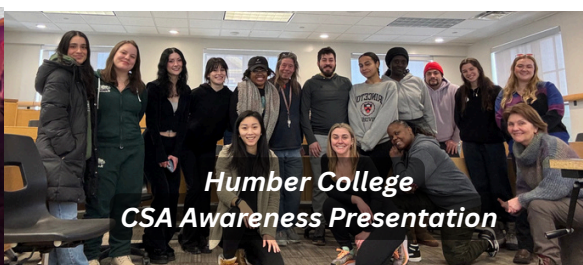


GLOBALPOETRYMOVEMENT.COM/

Have you submitted your poem?



Healing the Voice Within 2025



Humber College
CSA Awareness Presentation



Thank you Megan Allan,
Social Media Volunteer

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
2SLGTBQIA+
Program Coordinator

ASIST Trainers



Brad Hutchinson,
ASIST T4T



Paula Cordeiro, MA,
RP, ASIST T4T

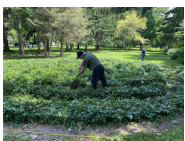


Zada Jaffe
Peer Support Facilitator
& Secretary SCC

Gardening Volunteers



Lloyd Devoe and Diane Devoe have been with The Gatehouse for more than 20 years!



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

Skills and knowledge learned at The Gatehouse

Congrats!



School	Number of Students
Humber College	17
York University	3
Athabasca University	1
Toronto Metropolitan University	1
Yorkville University	1
George Brown College	1
CDI College	1
Total	25

25 Students completed their post-secondary practicum at The Gatehouse in 2025

Thank you



2025 Financials

THE GATEHOUSE CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATION AND SUPPORT SITE
(Operating as The Gatehouse)
Statement of Operations
Year Ended December 31, 2025

	2025	2024
REVENUES		
Donations and fundraising	\$ 381,087	\$ 413,321
Government and related agency grants <i>(Note 8)</i>	123,383	48,103
Programs and other	59,034	23,538
Training and workshop fees	24,485	22,611
Amortization of property and equipment grants <i>(Note 6)</i>	6,140	6,140
	594,129	513,713
EXPENSES		
Support services <i>(Note 9)</i>	416,226	350,120
Office and general	93,589	80,781
Special events	59,650	67,676
Conference	8,410	6,826
Amortization of property and equipment	6,140	6,140
	584,015	511,543
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$ 10,114	\$ 2,170

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

Thank you to our donors

