

**Report:** Accountability Report  
**From:** Stella's Circle  
**Date:** April 2024  
**Submitted by:** Laura Winters, CEO, Stella's Circle

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### **Caribou Legion Manor**

In June 2023, Stella's Circle took possession of Caribou Legion Manor through a generous gift agreement from the Caribou Legion Manor Association. This 48-unit apartment building located at 570 Roosevelt Avenue in Pleasantville St. John's is an affordable senior complex with ties to Canadian Veterans. As part of its 2020-2025 strategic plan, Stella's Circle has been working to expand its portfolio of affordable housing. The generous transfer of ownership of the Caribou Legion Manor, has ensured the organization surpass its goal of 100 housing units by 2025. The opportunity to operate Caribou Legion Manor fits well within the mandate and strategic goals of Stella's Circle.



*"We are grateful to the Caribou Legion Manor Association Board for recognizing the positive impact this transition of services will have on the community as a whole. The housing shortage crisis has impacted vulnerable populations most of all; this property is a wonderful benefit for our community."* Stella's Circle CEO Laura Winters.

### **Real Homes:**

- Naomi Centre is a Stella's Circle owned and operated eight unit emergency shelter for women aged 16-29. **84** unique individuals accessed the Naomi Centre shelter in 2023. **32.4** days was the average length of stay in 2023 up from 18.6 days the previous year. There were **2,644** contacts with former residents. **Marissa** with 11 separate admissions to Naomi Centre, who is now living in transitional housing and no longer in the shelter system said "*Thanks for never giving up on me no matter how difficult it got.*"
- The Brian Martin Resource Centre (BMHRC) team provide client advocacy, referrals, search assistance and technological access to aid in obtaining housing. **134** people were housed by the BMHRC, including through Stella's Circle-owned housing and in the community. **Derek** who had been homeless for several months and living in a shelter, moved into one of Stella's Circle units and immediately got to work on a plan to have his two daughters visit his new home. "*Thank you to everyone at Stella's Circle for the unconditional help and kindness, not only towards me but to many throughout the city.*"

#### **Real Help:**

- Emmanuel House, a supportive live-in residential program, launched a new day treatment program in 2023. They made almost **400** support calls to non-residents and former residents. The average length of stay was **72** days, with **89%** of residents arriving having experienced addictions, and **92%** with history of trauma. **Tristan** first came to Emmanuel Houe two years ago. He'd been in and out of hospital for mental health challenges and was struggling with living on his own. Tristan accomplished his goals of returning to school and finding part time work. "*Emmanuel House showed me life is worth living sober. I've learned how to keep myself safe, work through or sit with my emotions, and create safe boundaries.*"
- Just Us Women's Centre provides counselling and support to women and gender diverse individuals over the age of 18 who have been in conflict with the law. **95%** of incarcerated women at the Newfoundland & Labrador Correctional Centre for Women (NLCCW) participated in Just Us counselling programs. **31** women were supported to either find or maintain housing. **50%** of women who are released from NLCCW reconnect with Just Us. **Rosalie's** life has come full circle, as she continues to trust in Real Homes, Real Help, and Real Work services and is achieving her own home, job and community. "*I appreciate all your work. You guys all feel like the reason getting back on my feet is possible again. Still ways to go, but I'm miles from where I was just last year.*"
- Our Community Support Program (CSP), which helps adults who have experienced complex mental health challenges, serves **50** regular participants at a time. **58%** of participants have **3 or more** mental health diagnosis. **91%** of participants remained stably housed in their same housing unit. **19%** of participants experienced an

incarceration. There are **48 people on the waitlist**. One of the current participants relayed, **“CSP has helped me in so many ways, I don’t know what to say. They taught me to live independently without having to be in the hospital. I love my home. I love having shifts with staff, they are funny, and we have fun together.”**.

### **Real Work:**

- The Employment Services team help participants access services within the organization and community that help lead to sustainable employment. This could include income support, obtaining identification, job searching, certifications, transportation, training and so much more. In 2023, **seven (7)** participants successfully completed the Adult Basic Education Level 1 training at Stella’s Circle, the largest ever cohort of graduates. A new Employment Support Stability Pilot project by the provincial government was launched in 2023, co-developed with Stella’s Circle and Choices For Youth. **50** Stella’s Circle participants registered in this pilot project. **485** participants accessed Employment Services, **93** participants secured jobs or went back to school and **140** participants now in the workforce received employment maintenance support.
- Our Social Enterprises - Hungry Heart Café, Clean Start and Home to Stay - employed **73** people in 2023 (a **33%** increase over last year), many of whom were participants of our Employment Services Program. **20** of these people transitioned to the competitive job market. In addition, **10,000** meals were provided by Meals Squared (our food security initiative through the Hungry Heart Café), and **5,000 hours** in supported employment at the Hungry Heart Café. **Erin** an Employment Systems Navigator at Stella’s Circle wrote, **“The best part for me is knowing that clients are feeling less stress as they start new jobs and enjoying some financial benefits for maintaining their employment.”**

### **Connectedness with The United Church of Canada**

The United Church of Canada’s relationship with Stella’s Circle highlighted at the Board level with the Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, as member ex-officio. In addition, Rev. Mariam Bowlby sits on the Governance Committee of the board providing guidance around United Church policies.

**The ongoing support and generosity of The United Church of Canada is invaluable and vital to the organization.** Several of the downtown churches provide space for our programs and events. Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald conducted our “alternative service”, a non-denominational celebration of our participants and operating year. During the Christmas season, numerous United Church Men’s and Women’s groups, Sunday Schools and others provided gifts, financial donations and supplies. Each year, the Mission and Service Fund provides funding to Emmanuel House and Naomi Centre. Thank you for all your support of Stella’s Circle. Please visit our web site at [www.stellascircle.ca](http://www.stellascircle.ca) and on social media channels.