



OTTAWA

Circles of Support & Accountability

**Circles of Support and Accountability
Ottawa**

Annual Report 2014 – 2015

*No More Victims
No One is Disposable*

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About CoSA-Ottawa

CoSA-Ottawa began around 1998 as a ministry of The Church of St John the Evangelist to respond to the needs of several men who had served time for committing sexual offences and sought help, voluntarily, in their effort to turn their life around. Rev Garth Bulmer, the priest at the time, and a parishioner by the name of Pat Love, believed there was a need for a more formal program so they applied for, and received, funding from the Correctional Service of Canada. In 2002 Susan Love was hired as program coordinator and has since, with the help of a dedicated steering committee and subsequent board of directors, expanded the program immensely, becoming a registered charity in May 2013. Since its inception, CoSA-Ottawa has received overwhelming support from the community, individuals, & organizations contributing both financially and with in-kind services and meeting space. CoSA-Ottawa was awarded *Volunteer Program of the Year* at Crime Prevention Ottawa’s 2013 Community Safety Awards!



Pat Love and Susan Love

Together, we can all be part of the solution!

President's Message

This was a year of transitions, challenges and accomplishments. The transition was the completion of CoSA-Ottawa's participation in the five-year project funded by the National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC). From October 2009 to September 2014, CoSA-Ottawa, along with the other CoSA sites across Canada, received major funding from NCPC that funded our program coordinator on a full-time basis as well as a part-time assistant. With the end of the NCPC funding, we had to say good-bye to Adina Ilea our assistant and face the reality of the loss of our main source of funding. The final report on the NCPC project, released in January 2015, and available on our website, provided valuable information on the inner workings of circles and also supported earlier research that demonstrates CoSA's effectiveness.

The challenge was to continue operating our program while also developing a plan to raise funds from new sources and maintaining our enthusiasm in the face of uncertainty. Raising awareness about CoSA-Ottawa's program and its financial crisis was one part of our strategy. Susan Love, Bob Cormier and Emmy Verdun took media training through Waterworks Communications (funded by the Community Foundation of Ottawa) to be better prepared to deal with media and potential funders. As CoSA-Ottawa's financial plight became known, media attention resulted in several excellent articles that explained how CoSA works, its track record in reducing recidivism and called for continued funding.

Our fund-raising plan also included identifying potential funders among private foundations, fund-raising events and the Board's decision to proceed with our first annual Gala (although the Gala took place in April 2015, the planning process began much earlier).

We submitted an initial application for funding to the United Way in December 2014 under the heading "Turning Lives Around". We were successful in this first phase of the process and sent in our completed application in March 2015. Subsequently we learned that we were successful in obtaining \$50,000 per year for three years, beginning in July 2015. Our financial situation is no longer precarious, but we have much less money than we did before.

Despite the very real possibility of closing CoSA-Ottawa if new funds were not found, we continued to operate our program in a professional manner -- the details are found in the Coordinator's Report. For me, this is a major accomplishment that merits as much attention, as all the work focused on finding new funding. During the months when it was not clear that we could continue, the Board and especially Susan, our volunteers and core members continued to do their best to deliver our program. Bravo!

The coming year will be equally challenging, but together we can continue to work to "turn lives around" and make our community safer.

By Emmy Verdun

Coordinator's Report

It was a busy year maintaining and even enhancing our number of circles, training new volunteers in the spring of both 2014 and 2015, networking with community partners, holding our Discussion Series, in addition to vigorous fund development in preparation for the conclusion of federal funding.

Despite uncertain financial times and the necessary attention to sustainability, it is essential for management to remain focussed on Circle oversight as our volunteers and core members rely on support and guidance from staff to help address and problem solve challenges; provide advice, motivation and encouragement; and liaise with professionals. I would like to commend our volunteers and core members for working together and communicating effectively with each other and me during this time – they are all remarkable people!

We are so fortunate also to have such a tremendous, hard-working Board of Directors, who worked tirelessly all year, including throughout the summer (of 2014), in order to ensure we were able to maintain operations. My hope for 2015-16 is for sustainability, growth, and safety for all.

The Year in Numbers

(April 2014 and March 2015, respectively)

Core Members

- 10 and 10 (with 3 approved; begin in spring 2015)

Volunteers (active, in circles)

- 31 and 33 (10 awaiting assignment)

New volunteers trained & approved

- 8 and 13

Core Member breaches (returned to custody)

- 2 (last year)

Circles closed

- 2 (last year)

Core Members Graduating from CoSA

- 1 (last year)

Core Members Graduating from School

- 1 (last year)

Circles meetings attended by Program Coordinator

- Circle meetings, including individual Core Member support: 77
- Circles meetings also attended by professionals: 6
- Housekeeping meetings (without the Core Member): 20
- Emergency Meetings: 1
- Farewell/Celebration Dinners: 6

Discussion Series

- Balcony Gardening workshop
- Meditation sessions (4 sessions)
- Knitting Workshop
- Movie “Happy” and Discussion, with Geris Serran

By Susan Love

Official Supporters

Distinguished individuals in the community who lend their name in support of CoSA-Ottawa

Sheila Arthurs: Retired, Federal Department of Justice

Andrejs Berzins: Former Chief Crown Attorney of Ottawa

Lorraine Berzins: Former Community Chair of Justice, Church
Council on Justice & Corrections

Charles Bordeleau: Chief of Police, Ottawa Police Services

Christopher Carr: Former Director General, Correctional Service of
Canada (CSC), Chaplaincy

John Braitwaite: Former Board Mbr Can. Criminal Justice Assoc.

Jo Cassie: Former Chair, Citizens Advisory Committee to the Ottawa
Parole Office

Nils Christie: Former Professor of Criminology, University of Oslo,
Norway

Pat Connolly: Former Director, The Well/La Source for Women

David Daubney: Chair, Penal Reform International

Aaron Doyle: Professor Criminology, Carleton University

John Edwards: Former Commissioner, CSC, and Past President,
John Howard Society of Ottawa

Paul Fedoroff: Director Sexual Behaviours Clinic, Royal Ottawa
Mental Health Centre

Phil Firestone: Psychologist

Rick Goodwin: Executive Director, The Men's Project

Susan Haines: Executive Director, National Associations Active in
Criminal Justice

Diane Holmes: Former City of Ottawa Councillor

Ed Keeley: Deputy Chief, Ottawa Police Service

Jan Looman: Psychologist, Correctional Service of Canada

Patricia Love: Former Probation/Parole Officer; Co-Founder of
CoSA-Ottawa

Kimberly Mann: Executive Director, Collaborative Justice Program;
Co-Chair, Ottawa Restorative Justice Network

Liam Marshall: Psychologist, Penetanguishene

Janet McInnes: Director, The Well/La Source for Women
Fraser McVie: Former Director General, Security, CSC
Ronald Melchers: Professor Criminology, University of Ottawa
James Murphy: Former Manager Community Relations, CSC
Lisa Murphy: Forensic Psychometrist, Royal Ottawa
Ana Paquete: Former Director, NE Ontario/Nunavut Parole, CSC
Monica Patten: Interim Director Resources Anglican Church of Canada; Former CEO, Community Foundation of Canada
David Pepper: Former Director of Community Development and Corporate Communications, Ottawa Police Service
Michael Petrunik: Former Criminology Prof, University Ottawa
Justin Piché: Professor of Criminology, University of Ottawa
Sharon Rosenfeldt: Founder and President, Victims of Violence
James Scott: United Church Minister; Community Mediator
Geris Serran: Psychologist, Frontenac Institution, CSC
David Snoddy: Director Community Development, OPS
Jill Skinner: Deputy Chief, Ottawa Police Services
Don Wadel: Executive Director, John Howard Society of Ottawa
Irvin Waller: Professor of Criminology, University of Ottawa
Donna Watson-Elliott: Manager, Victim Services, Ottawa Police
Pamela M. Yates: CEO, Cabot Consulting and Research Services



It is with great sadness that we recognize the passing of Nils Christie on May 27, 2015 - a friend and Supporter of CoSA Ottawa. Viewed as an icon of the Restorative Justice movement, Nils' epoch-making works, such as "Conflicts as Property" (1977) and "Limits to Pain" (1981) have become influential texts of RJ. A few of us were blessed to dine with him after he spoke at a Restorative Justice event in Ottawa in 2011. He was a delightful and inspiring man and will be truly missed.

Thank you so much to all our Supporters – your endorsement carries much weight in establishing credibility and understanding of our work and in leveraging potential funding. We look forward to expanding this ever-budding list of distinguished individuals!

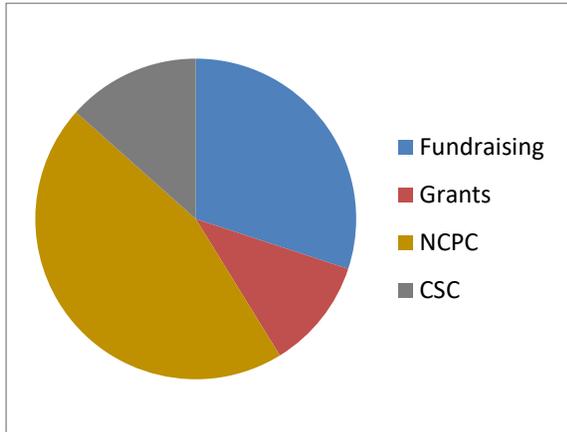
Financial Reports

2014-2015					
	NPCC	CFO	CSC	Other	Total
Fundraising				26,884	26,884
Grants (Other: GIFT)		5,000		5,000	10,000
NPCC	40,610				40,610
CSC			12,000		12,000
<i>Totals</i>	<i>40,610</i>	<i>5,000</i>	<i>12,000</i>	<i>31,884</i>	
Total Revenue					89,494
Personnel	34,804		12,000	25,878	72,682
Rent/utilities	2,936			1,323	4,259
Program Expense	405	4,450		732	5,587
Admin	810			8,351	9,161
Insurance	1,728				1,728
<i>Totals</i>	<i>40,683</i>	<i>4,450</i>	<i>12,000</i>	<i>36,284</i>	
Total Expenses					93,417
Net loss					\$ -3923

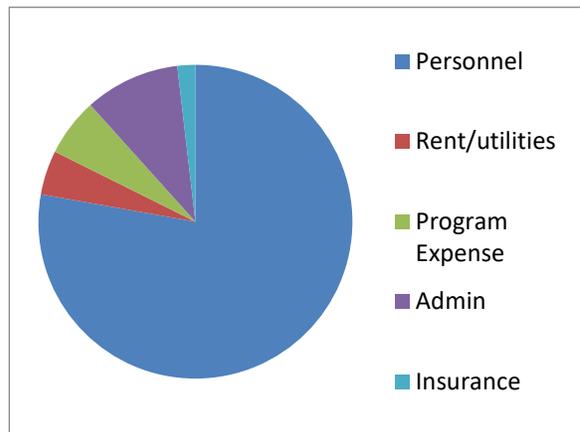
2013-2014					
	NPCC	CFO	CSC	Other	Total
Fundraising & Other				14,414	14,414
NPCC	83,727				83,727
CSC			12,000		12,000
<i>Totals</i>	<i>83,727</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>12,000</i>	<i>14,414</i>	
Total Revenue					110,141
Personnel	69,582		12,000		81,582
Rent/utilities	5,917				5,917
Program Expense	5,113		372		5,485
Admin	3,417			5,627	9,044
Insurance	1,888				1,888
<i>Totals</i>	<i>85,917</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>12,372</i>	<i>5,627</i>	
Total Expenses					103,916
Net income					\$ 6,225

A Visual Comparison

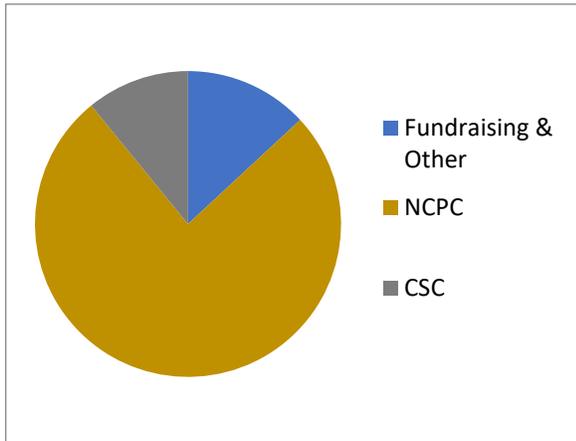
2014 – 2015 Revenue



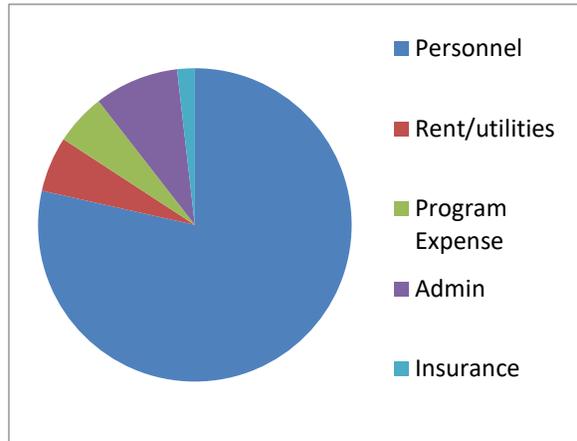
2014 – 2015 Expenses



2013 – 2014 Revenue



2013 – 2014 Expenses



Funders (2014-2015)

National Crime Prevention Centre
 Correctional Services Canada
 Anglican Diocese of Ottawa (GIFT)
 Community Foundation of Ottawa
 Individual Donors

Highlights of the Year

- Volunteer Appreciation Dinner @ Algonquin College (April 8)



- Garage Sale Fundraising event (June 7)
- Annual BBQ (Aug 21) (our volunteers featured below)



- Christmas Bazaar (Nov 7)
- Annual Holiday/Christmas Dinner (Nov 29)
- Susan and James appeared before House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice re Bill C-26 (Tougher Penalties for Child Predators Act) (Feb 4)
- Public Forum on CoSA (collaboration with CPEP [Criminalization and Punishment Education Project]) at the Ottawa Public Library (Feb 10)
- Discussion Series – this one on ‘Knitting’ with Ann Morneau



Testimonial of a CoSA Core Member

Before I was in CoSA, it was kind of stressful. Last time I got out of prison, I had no support. I didn't know who to go talk to. Now, I have my volunteers. I know for a period of time I wasn't doing the greatest but then I was able to talk with my volunteers and turn everything around. If I have a problem, they're willing to listen and come up with solutions.

If I didn't have CoSA, I'd be back in jail because I don't have that many people to talk to. I have the halfway house staff, my psychologist and my parole officer, but I find that I don't have the same relationship with them that I have with my CoSA volunteers. To me, I see the staff, the psychologist and the parole officer, as professionals and I don't yet feel comfortable talking with them. I see the volunteers as pretty much my close friends and I can talk to them about anything and they won't judge me. I'm sure the staff at the (halfway) house would help me if I was able to talk with them, but I haven't been able to build a solid bond yet. The volunteers have been able to build trust with me by showing interest in helping me and sharing stories about their own lives with me.

But they also challenge me. Almost every circle meeting, we discuss what I should do, my budget, being healthier. Even when we meet individually, they ask what's going on; they push me to do things in a positive way, where I see the importance of doing the things they suggest. But they don't do it in an authoritative way, they do it as a friend that's concerned about me. They follow up each week with what's been going on, like how my goals are going. We go for walks, celebrate birthdays and anniversaries, they help me budget my money. They're also helping me with quitting smoking by suggesting other ways to preoccupy myself.

The CoSA Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners are pretty much almost like a family event, where we get together, socialize, have a meal; even joke with each other. Even when we meet for the monthly discussion evenings, we get together and learn new skills. It's pretty much a gathering where you can feel comfortable, no one is there to judge you for what you've done, they don't look at you weird and not want to associate with you because of what you've done in the past. They are accepting and open-minded.

I like that I can pass by the CoSA office. It brings a sense of comfort knowing that if I'm having a problem, I can go to the office and talk with Susan and she can help me solve the problem or deal with what's going on before it gets too far.

I would like to add that it would be a good idea to fund CoSA because I've been out for two years with CoSA's support and it's helped me be crime free.

by "Frank"

Contact Information

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Board of Directors

President: **Emmy Verdun**, Treasurer, St John's Church

Vice President: **Richard Keindel**, Staff Sergeant, Ottawa Police Service

Treasurer: **Sharon Rouleau**, Finance Assistant, Shepherds of Good Hope; Former Circle Volunteer

Secretary: **Nicole Bedard**, Development Coordinator, Beechwood Cemetery Foundation

Robert Cormier: Former Executive Director, National Crime Prevention Centre

Alice Doell: Retired Pharmacist; Current Circle Volunteer

James Foord: Lawyer, Foord Davies LLP

Kerry Lamming: Former High School Principal; Current Circle Volunteer

Wendy Stewart: Directors of Operations, Elizabeth Fry Society of Ottawa

CoSA Canada

CoSA Canada began in 2011 as an informal group of CoSA providers in Canada concerned about the future of CoSA and became an incorporated non-profit in April 2015.

Purpose of CoSA Canada is to:

1. *Provide an association of CoSA sites in Canada;*
2. *Support CoSA sites in Canada and foster mutual accountability;*
3. *Develop and promote public education initiatives;*
4. *Create a national voice for CoSA;*
5. *Advocate for legislative reform;*
6. *Collaborate with like-minded agencies, services and governing bodies, and seek leading edge practices in the furtherance of these objects.*

David Byrne

CoSA Canada Chair

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