



restorations **ANNUAL REPORT 2017**

A letter from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The first weekend of January 2017, the board of Restorations sat in a church in Hamilton, Ontario with myself, a representative from the Reformed Church in America's (RCA) Global Missions department, and the Executive Secretary of the RCA Regional Synod of Canada (who was, at the time, my supervisor of my role as Coordinator of Human Trafficking Outreach). We launched 2017 with the discussion of hiring me as the inaugural Executive Director of Restorations. It was exciting and daunting all at once: Restorations' first staff hiring and a big transition for my family and my vocation.

Around that same time, I picked 3 words to focus on for the duration of 2017. I picked these words with much prayer and intention, and I felt they spoke in very direct ways to various aspects of my life – spiritual, personal, professional. They have certainly influenced the way I have worked to serve Restorations.

Time

"I'm so busy..." "I don't have enough time!" "Wow, this year just flew by!"

I'm sure these statements are familiar to all of us – whether we've spoken them ourselves or hear our family, friends and colleagues utter them time and time again. This year, I committed to spending my time more wisely. This has been especially crucial as I've been transitioning roles from the Regional Synod of Canada to Restorations, and even as I've transitioned from being a board member to an executive director.

Because Restorations will be serving women and girls across southern Ontario, we sit on various regional collaboratives and coalitions working together to address trafficking and sexual exploitation. We

attend meetings with potential donors. We speak at awareness events. We speak at training events. We preach, and we teach.

We also take time to seek God's will for our lives and for Restorations. This summer, we set apart time to have fun together, going for a hike at a local conservation area and then praying together at a prayer labyrinth. Later in the year, we spent time together laughing and struggling over clay at a pottery studio.

James 4:14 (CEV) says *"What do you know about tomorrow? How can you be so sure about your life? It is nothing more than mist that appears for only a little while before it disappears."*

At Restorations, we have dedicated our time, working diligently to fulfill our mission, vision and purpose. In this, lyrics from Mumford & Sons' *Awake My Soul*, comes to mind: *"where you invest your love, you invest your life."* We love this work, so we invest our time wisely.

Bold

During board meetings, at speaking events, and to donors, we often mention that we are straddling the tension between being wise and being bold. We strive to be wisely bold and to be boldly wise. We want to be wise in how we set a strong foundation for our organization, in developing policies, in raising enough support that we can sustain the tremendous need we are sure to face when we open our home's doors. But we also want to be bold, we want to push ahead with courage, knowing that God has called us to this work and will provide a pathway forward.

2 Corinthians 3:12 says *"Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold."*

Which leads wonderfully into my third word for the year...

Hope

Gary Haugen, founder of International Justice Mission, says this in his book *Just Courage*:

"If people of goodwill lose all hope and simply give up in the struggle against evil, then indeed, evil will triumph. On the other hand, if people of goodwill persevere in hope, evil must eventually give way. That is why the struggle for justice always stands or falls on the battlefield of hope."

Hope and courage go hand in hand. Because we have hope in Christ, we can move into our callings boldly.

The work we are doing at Restorations is difficult. We are facing the dark realities of sexual exploitation and saying that women and girls – God's children – deserve a life free from exploitation and abuse. This work cannot be done without the hope and light of Christ.

I haven't picked my word(s) for 2018 yet. (Perhaps I'll share those with you in our 2018 Annual Report?) But as we reflect on 2017 and look ahead to 2018, I thank you – our supporters – for spending your time investing in us, boldly working with us to achieve our mission, and being hopeful with us as we work diligently to be a hope for others.

Jennifer Lucking



A Year IN REVIEW

This year has been a transitional and intentional year, full of changes and growth.

WHO is on The Team?

We welcomed Christina Bender, Katee Duarte, and Jennifer Potter to the board in 2017. Each woman has brought a new level of expertise and experience to Restorations that has propelled us forward in the mission to open a home for victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

It was with a joyous heart that we fired Jennifer Lucking, one of Restorations' founding members, from the board in order to hire her as the inaugural Executive Director. This hire was made possible through a partnership with the Reformed Church in America for which we are so incredibly grateful.

Jennifer started with Restorations part-time in October and will transition to full-time (pending funding) in January 2018. Her key measurables for 2017-18 are:

- Develop resident policies, procedures and protocols
 - screening
 - intake
 - discharge
 - safety
 - assessment tools
 - etc.
- Form essential program partnerships to provide holistic services for clients
- Develop policy and training manuals for staff and volunteers

Jennifer has hit the ground running, committing herself to making new contacts, educating the public, arming herself with more trauma training, touring

other long term residences, and much much more.

One of the highlights for the team this year was our intentional decision to engage in a one day, summer retreat, where we honoured and sought God through a prayer labyrinth exercise and built trust with one another. It was a breakthrough experience for many of us as we shared our struggles and surrendered them to God.



WHAT did you do towards your purposes this year?

At Restorations our charitable purposes are to address specific problems faced by victims of sexual exploitation and/or human trafficking and to contribute to their rehabilitation and reintegration in society by offering a long-term residential care program including counselling and other health and support services.

In 2017, we continued seeking partnerships and opportunities in order to attain sustainable funding to safely open a home without risking a shut down and retraumatization of our residents. Through one-on-one conversations, speaking engagements, participation on various coalitions, and attending awareness events, we met many wonderful people and organizations. Unfortunately, despite many wonderful connections, we have not been able to attain our goal to have the commitment of 3 years operational

funds in order to open a home.

We were blessed to be offered a starter home that would have allowed us to care for three residents. The home requires at least \$150,000 of renovations and unfortunately, without the committed funds for 3 years operations, we aren't able to move forward at this time.

At Restorations, we continue to receive calls for help through our various networks. This year, we have worked to outsource care and support for numerous victims as well as family members of victims. The resources are few but the need is great.

This year, we had the privilege of working with Defend Dignity to create a resource directed to youth called *Exposing Exploitation*. This curriculum features strong Canadian role models and presents the issue from a distinctly Canadian perspective. It was a very positive experience to be able to co-develop *Exposing Exploitation* as it allowed us to utilize the strengths of both of our organizations, coming together with a mutual need for a comprehensive resource and a common desire to see an end to the exploitation of youth. This curriculum is available to download for free. Visit RestorationsCanada.org for details.

Ride for Refuge is becoming a tradition that we look forward to each year. It's a wonderful way to raise funds but more than that, to come together with our community. This year we want to give a HUGE thank you to Sarah Witmer! This woman is so extremely passionate about helping victims of commercial sexual exploitation and she alone raised almost \$8500! Not to mention, she rode 50kms! OUCH! Way to go Sarah! We love you and appreciate your support of Restorations.



In November, we held a screening of *Priceless* in Hamilton. We have received a license to show this film over the next year in order to raise awareness and open the door for conversations about partnerships and what people, churches and organizations can do to help victims of commercial sexual exploitation in Canada.

WHERE are you in your goals and WHEN will you open?

We are thrilled to have Jennifer Lucking on board as our Executive Director and the opportunity to consider a starter home. Currently, we have \$44,000, but we still require commitments of \$2,000,000 over 3 years to OPEN!

It sounds impossible but the math speaks for itself:

$$1000 \times \$55/\text{month} \times 3 \text{ years} = \$1,980,000$$

Only 1000 commitments and we can open a house!

HOW do you plan to tackle this in 2018?

COLLABORATIVELY!
BOLDLY!
FAITHFULLY!

Taking a cue from our incredible Executive Director, these words will guide us in the upcoming year with the goal to open doors Christmas 2018!

Providing long-term care to victims of commercial sexual exploitation is not a task done in isolation. We will continue to collaborate with local coalitions, healthcare professionals, governing officials, emergency response personnel, churches, organizations and individuals, to give what we have and learn what we need in order to gain funding, establish partnerships, and open safely.

In 2018 we will be bold in asking for funding com-

mitments and following up with partnerships. Asking for money is not easy for anyone but we aren't asking for ourselves. These traumatized women need us to be bold for them now so that in years to come they can boldly step into restored lives.

Our team commits to continued faithfulness to God's direction, strength and timing. Over and over He has proven that His ways are better than ours, His strength endures longer than ours, and His timing is more strategic and more perfect than ours. When our human desires tempt us to force a solution, we will lean on Isaiah 55:8-9:

*My plans aren't your plans,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
Just as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my plans than your plans.*

We will resist weariness and burnout by submitting our efforts to the Lord. We will do our part and trust in Him to do His.

*but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength;
they will fly up on wings like eagles;
they will run and not be tired;
they will walk and not be weary.
~ Isaiah 40:31*

We will move strategically and boldly towards Christmas 2018, but hold our personal expectations loosely knowing that God holds all things in His hands.

*Jesus replied, "It isn't for you to know
the times or seasons that the Father
has set by his own authority."
~ Acts 1:7*

HOW can I help?

1. COMMIT - Become a Care Partner by committing to \$55/month for 3 years! Don't have \$55

per month? NO PROBLEM! Do you have \$5 and 10 other friends who have \$5? Go to:
www.restorationscanada.org
to set-up monthly commitments.

2. SHARE - Tell your friends, coworkers, pastors, teachers, pets and community members about the need for long-term care for victims of commercial sexual exploitation in Canada. Contact us to arrange a **Priceless screening** and panel discussion at your church, school, work or in your home. Email:

info@restorationscanada.org

3. PARTICIPATE

- Follow us on **Facebook** for the most up to date opportunities.
- Do you have governance experience? Business skills? Fundraising expertise? Healthcare or Social Work education? If so, you may be a good candidate for our board of directors. Send your resume and coverletter to **info@restorationscanada.org**.
- Join the Ride for Refuge in Fall 2018! Each year we enjoy this awesome event through Bluesea Philanthropy. This year, plan to participate with your friends, church group, coworkers and family. Registration usually opens around June so start gathering your team and pumping them up for a great time. Ride for Refuge is held all over Canada. There will be a location near you! Check out **www.rideforrefuge.org** for more info.

THANK YOU!

As we've said, this journey is not done in isolation. We know we wouldn't be where we are without your support, prayers and encouragement. Thank you so much for your love. We look forward to continuing this journey with you in 2018!

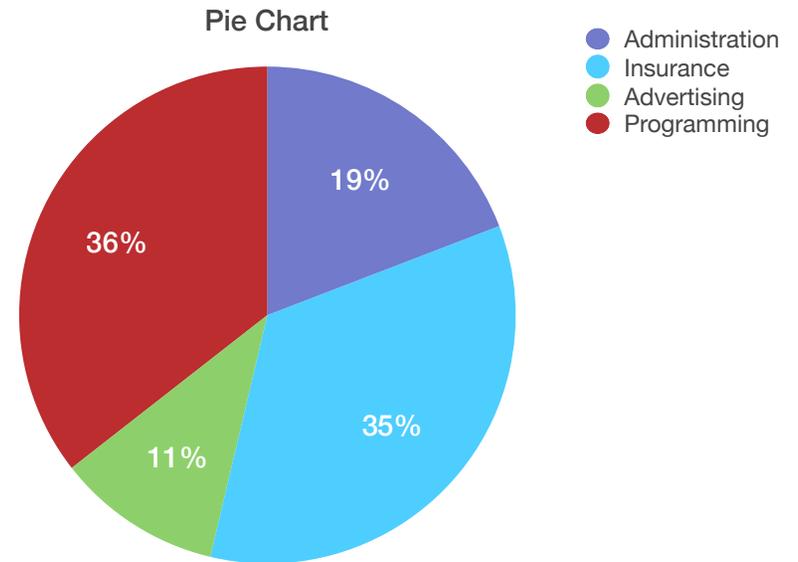
2017
FINANCES

Income 2017: \$23,703.65
Expenses 2017: \$2,361.90
Carry forward 2016: \$22,998.36

BALANCE: \$44,340.11

Expenses by Category

EXPENSE	TOTAL
Administration	\$452.67
Insurance	\$815.40
Advertising	\$254.25
Programming	\$839.58



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