

2017-18
ANNUAL
REPORT



epic
opportunities

empowering
people in
community



VISION

Our vision is for all people to be valued members of the community, have significant personal networks, equal access to opportunities and to contribute to a better society.

MISSION

Epic Opportunities exists to provide holistic, person centred supports to people with intellectual disabilities and to promote inclusive communities.

VALUES

Being rooted in Christian tradition, Epic Opportunities believes that everyone has inherent value and a purpose to fulfill. Everyone is deserving of unconditional acceptance.

RESPECT

All people have a voice, deserve to be heard and treated with dignity.

PERSONAL GROWTH

Every person has the potential to live a rich and full life. We grow and achieve our highest potential when supports are available.

ADVOCACY

We are equally valuable in society and deserving of basic human rights and freedoms.

RELATIONSHIPS

Quality of life is improved when people have genuine connections with others.

INTEGRITY

We are honest, accountable and follow through on our commitments.

INCLUSION

Diversity, opportunity and value for all people contribute to stronger communities, enrich people's lives and are the foundation for a better world.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 -

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 4 -

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

- 6 -

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- 8 -

QUITE THE COLLECTION

- 10 -

INITIATIVES HELP BUILD LEADERSHIP CAPACITY

- 12 -

A PASSION FOR HELPING OTHERS

- 14 -

A NEW HOME, A NEW LIFE

- 16 -

TRANSITIONS SERVICE CONNECTS
FAMILIES WITH RESOURCES

- 18 -

EPIC OPPORTUNITIES FOUNDATION

- 20 -

CORPORATE DONORS

- 22 -

FINANCIALS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors oversees the operations and management of Epic Opportunities, which exists to provide holistic, person-centred supports to people with intellectual disabilities and to promote inclusive communities.

The eight-member board is comprised of people who represent the community we serve as well as the community at large. For more information on the Epic Opportunities Board of Directors or on how to become involved contact Epic Opportunities at info@epicmb.ca or call **(204) 982-4673**.

2017-18 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Shawn Mahoney

President

Tanya Brothers

Director

Ramona Scott

Director

Ruth-Ann Soodeen

Vice-President

Corin Frost

Director

Ivan Wiebe

Director

Nellie Redekopp

Treasurer

Jacco Kooij

Director

Brenda Belton

Director

Christina Reinke

Director

“THE COMMITMENT TO OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT GUIDING STAR THAT BRINGS STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE NO MATTER WHAT CHALLENGES ARE FACED.”



SHAWN MAHONEY
President



RUTH-ANN SOODEEN
Vice-President



NELLIE REDEKOPP
Treasurer



BRENDA BELTON
Director



TANYA BROTHERS
Director



CORIN FROST
Director



JACCO KOOIJ
Director



CHRISTINA REINKE
Director



RAMONA SCOTT
Director



IVAN WIEBE
Director

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Epic Opportunities has experienced a year of blessings amidst times when uncertainty often surrounds us. Looking back to 2017-18 we see that the commitment to our vision, mission and values is the single most important guiding star that brings strength and resilience no matter what challenges are faced. This focus keeps our priorities clear. Everything must align with this each and every day that we exist. I am so proud of the team of employees who consistently work to accomplish this together as they support the amazing men and women throughout all of our service areas. We are also grateful for the incredible support from the community, our funders, business partners and the families and friends of people we serve.

In the Epic at Home service area we supported several critically needed internal transitions. Some of these changes were necessary due to changes in health, or changes in desired home locations or the make-up of individuals who were sharing a particular home. Throughout some of these transitions we began to see increasing pressure on the need to manage these circumstances within tighter and tighter funding parameters. As an organization this has required us to examine and adjust to our capacity while striving to ensure that service is not compromised. Another significant accomplishment is the development of two fully accessible homes this past year. One is located in the St. Vital neighbourhood and the other in the Amber Trails neighbourhood. Both are nearing full completion with moves anticipated in early summer 2018.

Our Epic Everyday service area also fulfilled a major accomplishment this past year. Most noteworthy is a move from four service locations to two. Although at first glance this would appear to relate to a reduction in the services we provide, the opposite is true. We are proud to say that our staffing teams have been so successful in supporting people to connect to meaningful community resources and opportunities we no longer need four

buildings. After extensive renovations to the upper floor of our Goulet Street location and the lower floor at our Portage Avenue site we are very pleased to report that the people we serve are now enjoying and using these spaces to full potential. The staffing teams did an amazing job of supporting people through this sometimes stressful endeavour. These renovations allowed us to discontinue two commercial leases and use our own space to serve the men and women accessing these areas of service. People using these services can now choose between connecting with their staff at the Goulet location, the Portage location or simply accessing this staffing support directly in the community without requiring the regular use of a building. We celebrated this remarkable accomplishment, and the generous donor support from BrettYoung, with an open house event in March.

We also continue to build on our support to people who are seeking competitive employment through our Epic at Work services. Many successes have been realized. These are highlighted throughout the year in our regular newsletter Epic Achievements. Likewise, the team of employees working in our Epic Transitions area of work have much to celebrate. Their work is highlighted specifically in the Transitions story within this report.

We also know the future holds challenges. One of those challenges is likely to be the transformational plans within the Community Living disABILITY Services (CLDS) program. Change requires flexibility, creativity and also faith that all will work out in the end. An initiative referred to as Building on Abilities has been unfolding since January 2016. Ultimately, this initiative is meant to ensure that the service system is fair for everyone. CLDS is making some changes to the way that services to people with disabilities are provided; the Building on Abilities initiative aims to make sure that people with intellectual disabilities:

- Get the right amount of services based on their needs (as identified through an assessment using the Supports Intensity Scale)
- Are aware of their own personal “supports budget” that they have available to access services
- Have flexibility to choose which services they want
- Plan for the range of supports that they may receive, and then receive these supports

Looking forward to 2018-19, we recommit to the reason we exist and promise to find our way through any challenges. We will rise to these occasions because we believe in people and more importantly we believe in *ALL* people. With this at the forefront of our minds we are excited to move into year four of our strategic plan. After a rich and rewarding experience in year three where employee engagement initiatives were a theme, we are inspired to continue building on the momentum of a stronger team at Epic.

We see this as a wonderful spring-boarding opportunity to begin our year four emphasis on family. As parents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, relatives and friends you walk alongside the men and women we serve. You hold the story and the deeper sense of being for the people we serve. We know we will be humbled by our effort to do better and connect to this deeper perspective more meaningfully, but we know we will learn a lot.

Ruby Reimer

Executive Director, Epic Opportunities



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Once again, this has been a great year for Epic Opportunities.

Homes have been built to provide ideal surroundings to live, offices have been renovated to provide better surroundings to gather, new vehicles have been purchased to provide safer transportation and our database development continues to provide a better understanding of how to both effectively serve those in our care and to manage the organization we lead.

In addition, our five-year plan is on target and this coming year will be an exciting one as we plan to move our head office to a location that will better serve those in our care, provide better working surroundings for our staff and elevate the visibility of the Epic Opportunities name in our community.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, congratulations to the staff for another successful year. You have much to be proud of. Thank you to those who allow us the privilege of caring for your loved ones, we do our best with the means provided. Thank you to our funders, the Provincial Government of Manitoba, which provides the means to do such valued work. Thank you to the Epic Foundations Board, which has done so well this last year raising funds so that we can make down payments on homes to be built.

We have much to be proud of, much to be happy with and much to be grateful for.

Thank you for your support.

Shawn Mahoney

President, Epic Opportunities Board of Directors



QUITE THE COLLECTION

You never know who you might meet at Allan's place. You could run into Freddy Krueger, when he's not busy haunting folks on Elm Street. You may even catch a glimpse of Frankenstein's monster or, if you're really lucky, get a yabba dabba doo out of Fred Flintstone.

So, how does one guy manage to attract such a star-studded list of luminaries to his home? You might say it was something of a collective effort. Allan has spent the past several decades gathering a collection of movie memorabilia, action figures, plush animals and porcelain figurines that now numbers in the thousands.

"All my life I've collected things. Eventually, I got my own place and I kind of went nuts with it," he says, laughing. "I saw different things I liked and I just went from there."

Allan began building his collection many years ago with two men's cologne containers shaped like pearl handled revolvers that were a gift from his mother. From there he began scouring various stores for items that struck his fancy.

The collection has grown to the point now that Allan admits it's difficult to provide a precise count of the many items he has accumulated. Remarkably, he has a near photographic memory of most items in his collection and can readily recall when and where each was purchased, how much they cost and why they caught his eye.

"If I like someone or something I want to know everything I can about them," he says.

While each piece is important in its own way, Allan admits his collection of Flintstones figures is particularly close to his heart. *The Flintstones* premiered in 1960 and was the first primetime animated TV series. Alan was hooked on the show from the get-go and it remains one of his personal favourites.

"I grew up with them," says Allan, whose collection includes an autograph from actor Alan Reed, who was best known as the voice of Fred Flintstone.

Allan is also a huge movie buff. His movie collection once numbered several thousand, although he's whittled that total down over the years by donating many of them to various charities. He loves horror movies and in particular the *Nightmare on Elm* series, which he says is the only horror film "that got to me."

"I guess it was just because of the psychological aspect of the movie and how (character Freddy Krueger) attacked people in their dreams and then in the real world."

Another movie legend Allan is partial to is John Wayne. He's seen nearly every one of The Duke's films and has several posters of him adorning the walls of his home.

"I always liked him, ever since I was little," Allan recalls. "He was a good guy in all of his movies and he was such a classy guy in real life."

Life for Allan began in rural France, where he was born to mom Betty and dad Hilliard, who was stationed overseas with the Canadian military. He moved to Winnipeg with his family as an infant and has called the city home for most of his life. He has one brother, Colin, and two sisters, Brenda and Carolyn. His constant companion is Sweetie, a cat he adopted from a local pet rescue five years ago.

Allan has been supported by Epic Opportunities for the past six years, first through the organization's Connections service and for the past five years through its Support Independent Living (SIL) program. He learned about Epic Opportunities through his sister Carolyn and her family, who were looking for an agency that could help him to live more independently.



“ I SAW DIFFERENT THINGS I LIKED AND I JUST WENT FROM THERE. ”

“I just felt like Epic was the best fit for me. You just have a feel for certain things and they felt right for me. I’ve always had good people I’ve dealt with at Epic and I’ve always been treated good,” he says, adding he’s particularly grateful for the help the organization provided him with in finding his current home and building new relationships.

INITIATIVES HELP BUILD LEADERSHIP CAPACITY

At Epic Opportunities we believe that leadership comes down to caring about the performance and well-being of employees and helping them unlock their potential to achieve the extraordinary.

This belief was the primary focus of the leadership development initiatives undertaken by Epic Opportunities this past year. As part of our current five-year strategic plan, a major emphasis of the organization for the year was employee engagement. As we began to plan for this we quickly saw how important it would be to focus on building leadership capacity. Knowing our goal is to help the people we serve achieve improved holistic well-being we saw how important this would be in achieving overall excellence in this area of our performance.

To build this strength, a series of leadership training sessions were provided to employees in leadership roles. While the ultimate aim of the training was to deliver better services to the people Epic Opportunities serves, it was also meant to engage employees and enhance their level of job satisfaction, says Human Resources Coordinator Kristin Knockaert.

“Employees who are engaged, and trust each other in the workplace, are going to accomplish great things and the opportunities for people to live their best lives possible are thereby increased,” she says.

“It’s important to us to have employees engaged, who want to come to work and believe in the work and believe in each other. It’s not that one is more important than another. It’s a circular goal in that employees all have to work together.”

While the organization has provided ongoing training to staff since its inception, this was the first time leadership was the primary focus of its training efforts in several years. The training was designed to build leadership capacity and challenge leaders to invest in themselves in order to lead their respective teams.

As part of the training initiative, all managers and senior managers took part in The Leadership Challenge, which included seven sessions based on the leadership teachings of authors James Kouzes and Barry Posner in their book of the same name. Participants were walked through the five practices of effective leadership and how to incorporate them into their everyday routines.

“It’s really about what you say and do as a leader that directly impacts how others see you,” Knockaert says. “It’s about how you inspire people to engage and challenge themselves.”

In addition, directors and coordinators took part in a series of leadership development sessions conducted by Linton Sellen, an award-winning leadership training consultant. The focus of those sessions was on how to be a working leader and participants had an opportunity between each session to practice what they learned in the classroom.

The third key part of the leadership initiative was a three-part session on leaders and how they can help to build resilient teams. It was led by David Falk, a partner in Facilitated Solutions who specializes in building personal and team resilience. It focused on identifying the strengths and tendencies of a team and how that knowledge can help make a team productive.



The leadership training was designed based on employee feedback that was gathered during a series of town hall meetings. Follow-up meetings were then held with leaders to determine what kinds of tools and resources they required to be effective leaders.

Knockaert says the response from employees has been positive.

“There’s been a lot of positive energy, a lot of ‘wow, this applies and I can use this here,’” she says. “We’re seeing and hearing all these little glimpses of how it’s impacted our leaders and how they’ve taken pieces back and use it in their everyday circumstances.”

Coordinator Kristen Woloszyn-Chin agrees.

“I absolutely loved the training. I felt it was great that the training focused on how to have conversations with others, focusing on solutions, working with teams and mediation techniques,” she says.

“One of the biggest things I took away from the training was how to help talk through a problem or solution using the coaching process technique. Not only did this serve as a good reminder on how to listen and be empathic, but it also offered a very clear approach on how to work through a problem or conflict.”

Although the leadership training has concluded, Knockaert says the organization is already looking at ways of continuing the momentum the sessions helped build.

“We are looking to the future. What is the next vision? There are lots of possibilities.”

A PASSION FOR HELPING OTHERS

Ruth learned many valuable lessons from her mother over the years. No single lesson likely resonated more with her than the one her mom taught her about the importance of helping others.

“She really influenced me to be a good person. She always wanted me to be good to other people,” Ruth says of her late mom Irene, who passed away in 2002. “My mom helped a lot of people.”

Helping others continues to be a huge part of Ruth’s life. She has worked on behalf of a number of community organizations that promote self-advocacy and inclusion for women and people with intellectual disabilities.

She was a long-time member and former secretary for the DisAbled Women’s Network (DAWN), a group that met to discuss women’s issues within the disability community and helped educate members about their rights. She was also part of the Rainbow Walk, a Christian group made up of people with disabilities who shared their faith and support.

In addition, she was part of a group of women who co-wrote *Walking a Woman’s Path*, a book that was published through the Independent Living Resource Centre (ILRC). It examined the issue of physical abuse and what can be done to prevent it from happening.

Ruth also continues to be involved with People First of Manitoba, an advocacy group whose members work together to educate and influence communities and governments to ensure that all persons with intellectual disabilities are fully included and supported as equal citizens. In 2007, she took part in People First’s Freedom Tour to protest the conditions people with intellectual

disabilities living in institutions had to deal with. The tour was documented in the powerful documentary film *Freedom Tour*. It’s a cause that remains near and dear to Ruth’s heart.

“I want to see our people come out of the institutions and close those centres down and not let any more people in there. Those places need to be shut down,” she says.

“We don’t need our people to be living there. They should be in their own house or apartment. They’ve got to have their freedom. Right now they can’t even go out on a date or go out for supper. We shouldn’t be keeping them in institutions.”

The Freedom Tour wasn’t the only time Ruth has fought for the rights of people with intellectual disabilities. In 2014 she was involved with a Manitoba Human Rights Commission complaint against Handi-Transit after the service changed how it prioritizes customers, leaving her without a guaranteed ride to her job at a St. James workshop. Although Handi-Transit didn’t make any subsequent changes to its policies, it did issue an apology to Ruth.

Ruth has been served by Epic Opportunities since 1999, when it was still known as Hope Centre. She first learned about the organization thanks to her mom, who was part of a support group for parents of children with intellectual disabilities at the time.

Ruth says what she enjoys most about being involved with Epic Opportunities is the opportunity it has provided her with to live independently.

“I enjoy having my own place. I have my own key. I can come and go whenever I want,” she says. “It’s great. I get to spend time with friends. I can go to a movie or camping or swimming or horseback riding.”

“HELPING OTHERS IS A HUGE PART OF RUTH’S LIFE, WORKING ON BEHALF OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROMOTE SELF-ADVOCACY AND INCLUSION FOR WOMEN AND PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES.”

Ruth is also an avid bowler and competes in a weekly league. Her real passion, though, is The King. A lifelong Elvis Presley fan, she is a regular visitor to the Collingwood Elvis Festival, which celebrates the rock ‘n roll legend’s life and music and attracts more than 25,000 visitors to the Ontario town that hosts it each year.

One of The King’s biggest hits was *Always On My Mind*. That tune sums up Ruth’s relationship with her mom. Even though Irene has been gone for nearly 20 years, she continues to be a huge influence on her daughter’s life. Before she died, Irene sponsored several children through the charity World Vision. Ruth took up that mantle following her mom’s passing and sponsored four children in Bangladesh for several years.

“I looked at those kids and I said to myself those kids need someone to take care of them. My mom did it for so many years and I wanted to do the same,” she says. “It feels good to be able to help them.”



A NEW HOME, A NEW LIFE

When Edwin and Raymond move into their new home later this summer it will be a life-altering moment for both men.

Both have lived in institutional settings for their entire adult lives. Edwin has called St. Amant home since he was just a year old while Raymond spent his early years at the Manitoba Developmental Centre in Portage la Prairie before moving to St. Amant in 2005.

Their upcoming move will be the first time either man has had a home they can truly call their own. The 1,468 square foot bungalow they will be moving into, located in the Amber Trails area, was purchased by Epic Opportunities and was built from scratch to meet Edwin and Raymond's specific needs.

Carleigh McKay, manager of Epic Opportunities' Connections program, says the move will have a positive and profound effect on the lives of both men, in part because of the organization's commitment to a person-centred approach to serving people.

"With institutions and the amount of people they serve it can sometimes be more of a one-size-fits-all situation, whereas we are so committed to everything being based on a person-centred approach," she says. "We have the staffing team and the time and energy to really assess things both big and small in their lives.

"I think that's going to be exciting for these guys. Just the ease and accessibility that hasn't existed for them is now going to exist and in the most profound, meaningful and lasting way."

The new home also represents something to celebrate for the Epic Opportunities Foundation, the primary fundraising body for Epic Opportunities. It represents the first time the Foundation has provided the full down payment for the purchase of a new

home since it was established in 2011. The Foundation has been building towards this moment ever since then.

"From the Foundation's point of view, it's really a milestone because we're at a point where we have the money now and can step up and commit a significant amount of money to a project like this," says Mark Mercier, President of the Epic Opportunities Foundation.

"Our corporate sponsors have really come through. Plus, our Evening with Epic fundraiser has done really great and the people who have attended have been really supportive. It's really the culmination of a lot of different things that have brought us to this point and we're really hoping it's something that we can go forward with on a yearly basis."

Mercier says the hope is the Foundation will be able to provide down payments for one or two houses each year going forward. To help achieve that goal, the Foundation launched a corporate fundraising campaign, called "Making a House a Home" last year that has set a goal of raising \$800,000 over the next two to three years.

"It will really change things in the sense that Epic Opportunities won't need to worry about where the down payment is coming from because we as the fundraising arm will be in a position to help them out with that," he says.

"Staff and management will simply be able to focus on who is going to be moving into these houses and designing the houses so they fulfill the needs of the people we serve."

Edwin and Raymond's new home has three main floor bedrooms as well as one downstairs bedroom. Several accessible features were included in the design to meet their specific needs

Epic Opportunities Foundation board members (back row, left to right) Mark Mercier, Ron Wasylcia-Leis, Raymond Currie, Shawn Mahoney and (front row) Ralph Guy, Ruth-Ann Soodeen and Nellie Redekopp.

including a wheelchair-accessible bathroom, wider doorways and halls, an accessible backyard deck and lowered kitchen counters to make it easier for them to eat and prepare food. There's also a ceiling-based tracking system that will allow for full access to the bathroom and bedroom.

The floor plan is nearly identical to the one used for another new house Epic Opportunities recently built in the Sage Creek neighbourhood, which McKay says has helped in the planning process.

"It's been an advantage for us in the sense that we trialed (Sage Creek) and we saw what worked and how it worked in that home," she adds.

McKay says Edwin and Raymond were chosen to live in the new home based on their individual support needs and the fact both demonstrated the potential to thrive in a community-based home. Epic Opportunities has been working closely with staff at St. Amant to ensure their transition goes as smoothly as possible.

"I really appreciate working with them. Their multi-disciplinary team is very accessible and there's a lot of involvement and communication on their part. Between our expertise and their expertise, it's been a really smooth process," McKay says.

Raymond's mom, Tina, says she expects her son moving into his own home will allow him to become more independent and help in his overall development. The location will also make it easier for them to visit each other, she adds.

"We timed it to go to where Raymond will be it's eight minutes from my place. That will make a big difference. I think he'll enjoy seeing us more often," she says.





TRANSITIONS SERVICE CONNECTS FAMILIES WITH RESOURCES

Four years ago, Debbie and Murray decided it was time to start planning for their son Adam's long-term future.

One of the priorities they identified fairly early in the process was for Adam to one day move out of their family home and into a place of his own. Both parents felt such a move would encourage Adam to become more independent and help him forge stronger ties with friends and some of the other people in his life.

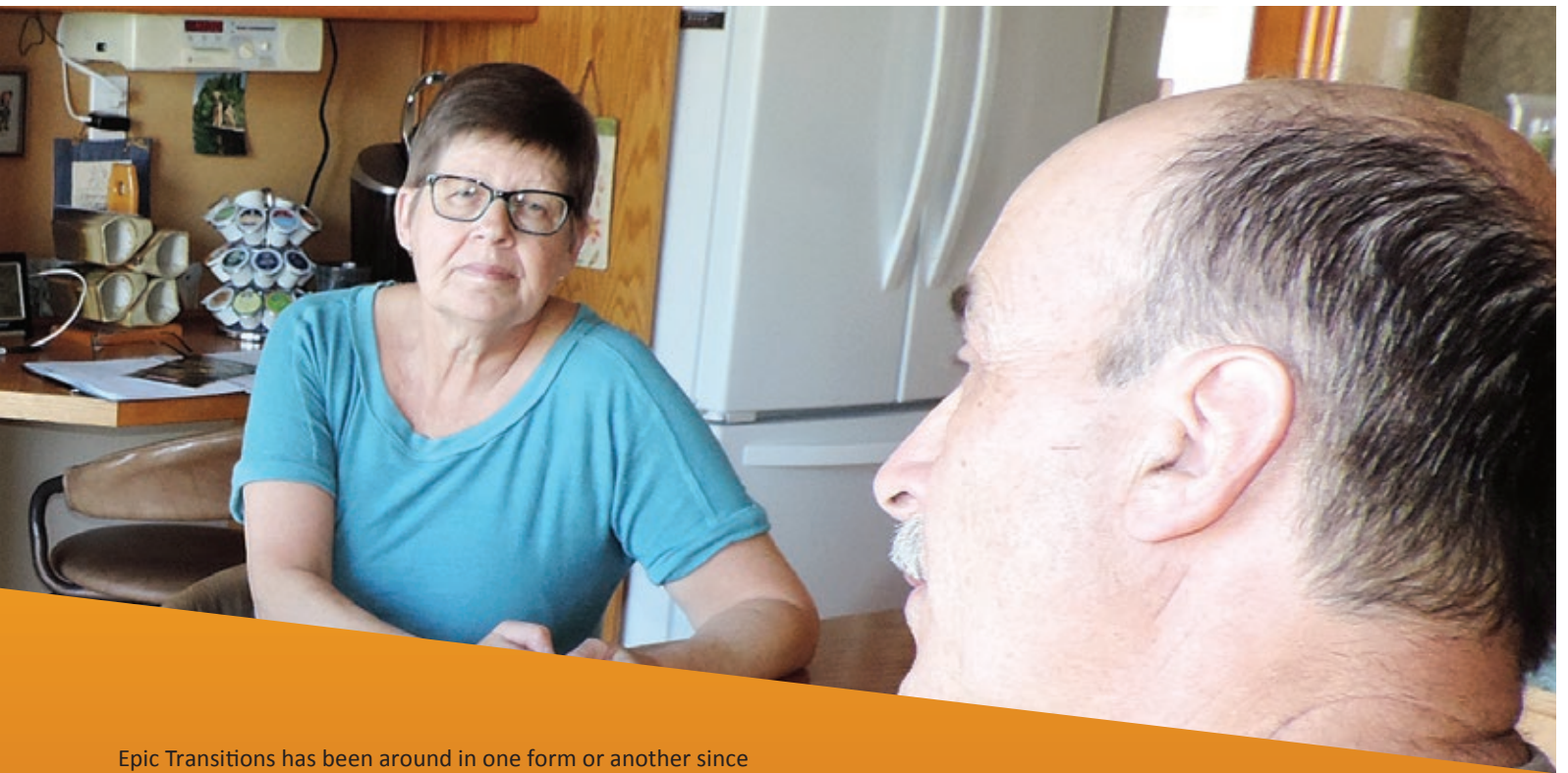
It soon became apparent, though, that Debbie and Murray could use some help with making that transition as smooth as possible for Adam.

They checked out a half dozen agencies that offer support to families with a family member living with an intellectual disability, including Epic Opportunities. A short time later they joined Connections, part of the Epic Transitions service offered through Epic Opportunities that helps families connect with the resources they need to help transition a loved one. Often this means that a son, daughter or sibling is moving out of a family home for the first time. The goal is to find a suitable home where someone can live the fullest life possible with needed supports.

"We felt confident about our decision right from the start," Debbie says of the family's decision to join Epic Opportunities. "It seemed like a very person-centred approach and we really liked how the inclusion of family was part of the process."

"Working with Epic made us realize our dream for Adam is a real possibility and not just a dream for us, but for Epic as well. They haven't tried to deter us from our dream. In fact, they made us feel it's important and a reality for us."

While the dream of Adam living in his own home hasn't become a reality quite yet, his family says it is better prepared for that possibility thanks in part to the help they've received through Epic Transitions. The service has assisted Adam and two prospective roommates with everything from learning how to shop for their own groceries to being able to cook some of their favourite foods including steak and tacos. It's also helped Adam learn more about blood testing for his recently diagnosed diabetes and engage in recreational activities such as bowling and workouts at Cindy Klassen Recreation Complex.



Epic Transitions has been around in one form or another since 1995. Carleigh McKay, Manager of the Connections program, says the primary function of the service is to be the primary go-to for families on how to navigate through the process of transitioning a loved one into a home of their own and accessing the supports they require to do so. Currently, the service provides support to nine individuals and their families.

Epic Transitions is currently undergoing something of a transition of its own.

While transition support remains at the root of what it's all about, it's also begun to shift towards becoming an outreach service for families. This has been due largely to a shift in funding models and the need to offer services in line with the direction provided by Epic Opportunities' funders. As a result, it's taking longer to complete the transition process with people in the Connections program which in turn means families require interim support longer.

Epic Opportunities has also begun looking at how it can better deliver those supports through the Epic Transitions service.

"We're having to put more emphasis on the journey and the

services we provide, refocusing when needed and looking at the short-term goals," McKay says. "Obviously, we know what the long-term goal for people is, but the short-term goals are important too because we now have more time to work on them to ensure even more independence when that individual moves into their own home."

One of the ideas the organization has already begun exploring is a home share model of service. The home sharing model is one in which an adult with an intellectual disability shares a home with a non-family member who provides ongoing support such as assistance with self-care, meal preparation and accessing community resources. Home sharing is already being considered by one individual and her family who have been supported through Epic Transitions for the past couple of years.

"We're having to adapt," says McKay. "This is where we're at right now. In order to be effective and continue to deliver services that our population asks of us we have to be creative and flexible."



EPIC OPPORTUNITIES FOUNDATION

The Epic Opportunities Foundation was officially established in 2011 as the primary fundraising body for Epic Opportunities. It is governed by a volunteer board of directors who represent the community we serve as well as the community at large.

In addition to developing and implementing fundraising initiatives, the foundation manages all funds raised on behalf of Epic Opportunities and promotes community awareness of the organization and its activities. The foundation's primary fundraiser is the annual An Evening with Epic held each fall in Winnipeg. The foundation hopes to expand on this work to increase its visibility in the community and promote a stronger emphasis on planned giving.

The three main objectives of the Epic Opportunities Foundation are:

- To provide funding to Epic Opportunities for capital expenditures such as long-term, community-based housing for individuals with intellectual disabilities
- To provide funding to Epic Opportunities for special projects or initiatives that might not otherwise be available for persons with intellectual disabilities
- Raise the profile of Epic Opportunities and its work in the community

The Epic Opportunities Foundation began disbursing funds for various one-time projects in 2014. Its ultimate goal is to establish an endowment fund to purchase additional homes and provide long-term, stable housing tailored to the needs of individuals the organization supports.

For more information on the Epic Opportunities Foundation's activities or on how to become involved in the foundation contact Epic Opportunities at info@epicmb.ca or call (204) 982-4673.



CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

- **Mark Mercier**
President
- **Raymond Currie**
Vice-President
- **Nellie Redekopp**
Treasurer
- **Ralph Guy**
Director
- **Shawn Mahoney**
Director
- **Ruth-Ann Soodeen**
Director
- **Ron Wasylycia-Leis**
Director

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

We would like to acknowledge and thank all of our corporate donors for their ongoing support of our work. This assistance has been critical to our efforts to support individuals with intellectual disabilities to live independently in the community.

These corporate donors include:

PLATINUM SPONSOR

- High Road Property Services Inc.

GOLD SPONSORS

- ChangeMakers Marketing Communications
- Mercier & Associates
- Tache Pharmacy
- Taylor McCaffrey LLP
- Viscount Gort Hotel

SILVER SPONSORS

- Assiniboine Credit Union
- Broadview Homes
- Derksen Plumbing & Heating
- Inclusion
- Jim Gauthier's Waverley Chrysler Dodge Ram Jeep
- MacDon Industries Ltd.
- Sun Life Financial

BRONZE SPONSORS

- BDO
- Maximum Realty
- Capital Ford Lincoln

OTHER SPONSORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

- Carlyle Printers
- Costco Wholesale Canada Ltd.
- Impress Printers

We would also like to offer our sincere thanks to all of the groups, families and community partners who contributed to our various fundraising initiatives throughout the year. We are also grateful to all the individuals, companies and organizations who donated prizes for our annual An Evening With Epic fundraiser.



HARVEST
PURITY

TRANSCONA
BIZ



Tel: 204-956-7200
Fax: 204-926-7201
Toll-Free: 866-863-6601
www.bdo.ca

BDO Canada LLP
700 - 200 Graham Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3C 4L5 Canada

Report of the Independent Auditor on the Summary Financial Statements

To the Members of EPIC OPPORTUNITIES INC.

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at March 31, 2018, and the summary statement of operations for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial statements of EPIC OPPORTUNITIES INC. for the year ended March 31, 2018. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated May 22, 2018.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the statements and disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of EPIC OPPORTUNITIES INC.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statements on the basis described in Note to Summary Financial Statements.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Audit Standard (CAS) 810, 'Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements'.

Opinion

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of EPIC OPPORTUNITIES INC. for the year ended March 31, 2018 are a fair summary of those financial statements, on the basis described in Note to Summary Financial Statements.

BDO Canada LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

Winnipeg, Manitoba
May 22, 2018

EPIC OPPORTUNITIES INC.
**SUMMARY STATEMENT
 OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

March 31	2018	2017
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 953,377	\$ 934,049
Accounts receivable	174,703	157,667
Prepaid expenses and supplies	34,711	45,168
	1,162,791	1,136,884
Capital assets	5,665,942	4,599,563
	\$ 6,828,733	\$ 5,736,447
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 561,071	\$ 517,590
Advance - Province of Manitoba	556,346	556,346
Required cash payments for callable debt	166,792	121,769
Current portion of long-term debt	14,332	14,013
	1,298,541	1,209,718
Callable debt	3,186,407	2,214,490
	4,484,948	3,424,208
Deferred contributions	626,677	503,227
Long-term debt	48,398	62,890
	5,160,023	3,990,325
Commitments		
Net Assets (Deficit)		
Internally restricted reserve funds	60,000	60,000
Unrestricted	(14,626)	2,948
Investment in capital assets	1,623,336	1,683,174
	1,668,710	1,746,122
	\$ 6,828,733	\$ 5,736,447

The accompanying note is an integral part of these summary financial statements.

EPIC OPPORTUNITIES INC.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended March 31	2018	2017
Revenue		
Province of Manitoba	\$ 11,854,662	\$ 11,287,532
Winnipeg Regional Health Authority	98,986	118,042
Program revenue	116,629	171,833
Amortization of deferred contributions	35,796	44,517
Rental revenue	45,172	44,710
Donations and fundraising	29,595	42,353
Interest	3,143	3,037
Gain on sale of capital assets	6,984	5,684
	12,190,967	11,717,708
Expenditures		
Advertising and promotion	16,791	12,889
Amortization	359,001	309,314
Bank charges	6,356	4,660
Information technology	26,119	24,243
Insurance	46,864	45,154
Interest on callable debt	88,007	57,980
Licenses, membership, dues	3,542	3,498
Office supplies, postage, copies	31,611	36,482
Professional fees	118,626	110,016
Program cost	474,714	473,505
Rent	660,578	750,097
Repairs and maintenance	170,145	146,274
Salaries and benefits	9,725,687	9,199,635
Start-up costs	15,284	21,019
Taxes	61,130	61,116
Training	30,025	35,044
Transportation	223,844	223,590
Utilities	193,667	184,744
	12,251,991	11,699,260
(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenditures before other item	(61,024)	18,448
Other Item		
Transfer to Epic Opportunities Foundation Inc.	16,388	14,593
(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenditures for the year	\$ (77,412)	\$ 3,855

EPIC OPPORTUNITIES INC.
**NOTE TO SUMMARY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the year ended March 31, 2018

Management is responsible for the preparation of summary financial statements. The summary presented includes only the summary statement of financial position and the summary statement of operations. It does not include any other schedules, the significant accounting policies and notes to the financial statements. The summary statements of financial position and operations are presented in the same detail as the audited financial statements, except the note referencing has been removed.

Copies of the audited March 31, 2018 financial statements are available at the organization's office at 1644 Dublin Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba.



epic | empowering
opportunities | people in
community

1644 Dublin Ave.

Winnipeg, MB R3H 0X5

Phone: 204-982-4673 | **Fax:** 204-953-3510

INFO@EPICMB.CA

WWW.EPICMB.CA