



London Regional AIDS Hospice o/a  
The John Gordon Home

2010/2011 Annual General Report





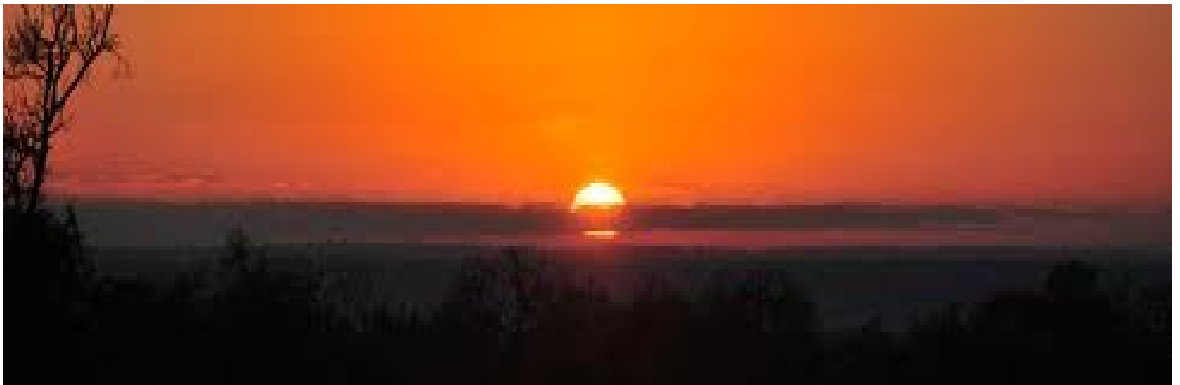
---

## JOHN GORDON 1963~1992

---

The London Regional AIDS Hospice, John Gordon Home was named for John Gordon, the King's College student and activist who became the first HIV positive person in Southwestern Ontario to go public with his condition. Despite knowing what his disclosure might cost him, he decided to share his story in hopes of making it easier for those who followed.

The London Regional AIDS Hospice ~ John Gordon Home has the distinction of being Canada's first hospice built exclusively to meet the needs of those living with HIV or AIDS. But the John Gordon home has become much more than that. LRAH sprang from the vision of Betty Anne Thomas and Dr. Iain Mackie in the late 1980's. Their desire to provide a safe, home-like environment for those in the end stages of AIDS and HIV infection has grown into the John Gordon Home of today; A place where people living with AIDS and HIV and Hepatitis-C receive compassionate care and supportive housing that builds on individual strengths to promote wellness and independence.



## Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	Page 3
Message from the President.....	Page 4
Message from the Executive Director.....	Page 5
Mission, Vision, and Values.....	Page 6
Resident Life.....	Page 7
Snowmageddon.....	Page 8
Volunteer Appreciation.....	Page 10
Financials.....	Page 12
Service Stats.....	Page 13
AIDS Walk for Life.....	Page 14
Board of Directors.....	Page 15



## Message from the President

The JGH Board of Directors has had a busy year with many accomplishments to report. With the 2010-2013 Strategic Plan as our guide, we have continued in our efforts to improve, strengthen, modify and adapt the organization in an ever-changing environment.

Of all our accomplishments, I am most proud to report on the development of strong linkages with Regional HIV/AIDS Connection (RHAC, formerly The AIDS Committee of London). In September 2010, JGH and RHAC signed a formal partnership agreement which has resulted in more efficient service delivery for our shared clientele. Our organizations continue to collaborate on a several community, advocacy and fund raising activities as we move forward into a new era of cooperation. On behalf of JGH, I also extend our sincerest congratulations to RHAC, who celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> year of operations in 2010. With our organizational histories inextricably linked, it was a time to reflect on the history of HIV/AIDS in south western Ontario, and our shared commitment to everyone who has been impacted by this disease over the past 25 years.

The Board completed a governance review process with the assistance of facilitator John Millar of the Ontario Organizational Development Program. This included a review/update of our Board Position Descriptions and Board Policies. In 2009, the Board became more involved in the day-to-day operations of the organization during a period of leadership recruitment. While we must remain flexible and responsive to changing circumstances, I am pleased to report that the Board has returned to a governance role.

JGH supported the Ontario AIDS Network (OAN) and our provincial partners in advancing a dialogue with members of parliament concerning the federal government's commitment to funding HIV/AIDS programs. While all parties agreed to funding commitments under the 'Federal Initiative' of 2004, these commitments have not been adhered to. We delivered a strong message that HIV has not been beaten and we need to see strong leadership from the federal government in the fight against HIV.

This year the Board approved a harm reduction policy to provide our staff with clear direction in working with people who are struggling with addiction. As *The Home with a Heart*, we felt strongly about ensuring a compassionate approach is taken in working with this population. Our policy was informed by other AIDS service organizations who generously shared their resources and experiences. We vetted this policy with community partners and will continue to re-visit this issue as it impacts our service delivery model.

I wish to thank my fellow board members, the staff, volunteers of JGH and all of our community partners who join us in our efforts to ensure the *Home with a Heart* continues to deliver much needed, unique and highly valued health care to people with HIV/AIDS and HCV in our region.



Cheryl Massa

## Message from the Executive Director

We have worked hard to strengthen and improve JGH's services and our community profile over the past year. The key ingredients in building a stronger organization have been:

- Board leadership with a strategic plan as its guide
- A dedicated team of committed staff and volunteers
- Supportive, resourceful community partners
- Solid funding commitments from the SWLHIN, MOHLTC, AIDS Bureau and the City of London
- Generous members of the community

Our collective efforts contribute to ensuring that JGH remains a *'Home with a Heart'*. Whether a resident's stay is brief and stabilizing or for end of life care, we do our utmost to ensure the experience is safe, nourishing, and peaceful. We have received consistently positive feedback from residents about how their stay at JGH has impacted their lives. This year's Annual General Report contains two submissions from residents.

We continue to draw new volunteers who have contributed more than 900 hours of support over the past year. Our Board members, the JGH Healing Garden Committee, 'lunchtime visitors' volunteers who drop in on a weekly basis to help out with household tasks, all contribute to the unique, welcoming and home-like environment. It is impossible to envision JGH without the contributions of volunteers.

2010/2011 was a milestone year in that we did not experience a death at JGH. This is reflective of our focus on providing transitional care for people whose primary goal is to stabilize their health and move on to establish a home in the community. We also provided short-term respite supports for some people. We remain committed and prepared to provide end of life care when the need arises.

As *the 'Home with a Heart'*, we are guided by the value of compassion. We strive to provide unconditional support to residents, whatever the circumstances. We have undertaken staff training initiatives to develop our skills in working with people who have addictions and mental health issues. We continue to educate ourselves on harm reduction services. While we now have a harm reduction policy in place, this is a service delivery issue that requires our constant attention and ability to remain flexible in delivering individualized care plans.

Our partnership with Regional HIV/AIDS Connection has positioned JGH to assist residents address some of their housing issues. However, more work needs to be done in this area. The waiting lists for supportive and/or assisted living in the London area can take several years. We know that safe, affordable housing is a key ingredient in ensuring that a person with HIV/AIDS and/or HCV remains healthy, but there are few options.

JGH will be celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year of service delivery in 2012. While our service delivery model has evolved in response to the changing needs of people with HIV/AIDS, our vision of being *'A Home with a Heart'* remains the same.



Bruce Rankin

## Mission Statement

Providing support to people with HIV / AIDS and HCV (Hep C) who have immediate health care needs to realize positive health and wellness outcomes through the provision of:

Transitional Care

Respite Care

End of Life Care

Vision: *a home with a heart*

## Principles and Values

We believe.....

Respect and Dignity

*That each person is an individual to be treated with the dignity, respect and compassion essential in establishing trust-based and effective resident relationships.*

Non-Judgemental

*In being non-judgemental in all our resident relationships as a basis to support the achievement of their positive outcomes.*

Advocacy

*In actively advocating to both assist residents to access the services they need, and in generating the needed resources and respect for our service sector.*

Partnerships & Collaboration

*In the fundamental importance of continuing to develop a range of effective and innovative partnerships and working collaborating with all service providers in the community to maximize service opportunities and outcomes for our residents.*

Innovation and Learning

*In developing an inspired organizational culture that supports innovation, flexibility and staff development through meaningfully investing in the creation of a dynamic learning organization.*

Valuing Staff and Volunteers

*In valuing our staff and volunteers, who are instrumental in both the successes of our residents and the organization.*

Accountability

*In being accountable to our stakeholders for the resources provided, the services delivered and the decisions made, through effective ongoing evaluation, being transparent, and acting with integrity in all that we do.*

## Resident Thoughts...

Moving back to London, things spun quickly out of control. I arrived at the incredible units of JGH in Indian summer warmth from South Street Psychiatric Unit. I was wide eyed at the exceptional grace and architecture that flowed throughout. But after 20 years of HIV, I was seriously over medicated. Prescriptions were cutback or eradicated. JGH allowed me to cope with the fluctuations as I came back closer to myself.

After two decades working with AIDS organizations from Vancouver to Montreal, the work was most certainly not over. Out of habit, it felt wrong to not do anything productive. There seemed to be no easy answer. So I just stopped and despite myself, I gradually opened to allow the exceptional JGH fulltime and part time staff helps me to realize personal aspects of myself forgotten behind the "cause". The staff proved to be human charm bracelets - amazing, always available, resourceful leaders who were always on top of things. John Gordon Home even has its own enchanted garden, best reflected in its wondrous feeling of being awake and alive, a place where you could see the whole world in the palm of your hand.

My father then died on Christmas Day. I was desolate and guilt ridden. We were extremely close, but I had spent so much time as an AIDS foot soldier. He never failed to tell me how proud he was, whether I was charging my black stallion, building the world's first AIDS Memorial or coming to JGH. He always wanted to lend a hand even when I didn't think I needed it. He knew I had his sense of pride and independence. If not for JGH, I know I would have spiralled into self-destructive behaviour to cope, as I was in the most vulnerable state of my entire life. More than ever, JGH became such a gift of overwhelming solace, a daily opportunity for equilibrium to rebuild my solitary voice yet again. Only the Lord knows what a wreck I might've yet become had I continued without JGH's life intervention. I was spinning like a top with a multitude of health problems – what might have been downhill from there I will thankfully never have to know.

John Gordon Home is one in a million. There is nothing like it in all of Canada – trust me, I know. From my perspective it is an incomparable slice of hallelujah heaven. My saviour of a home here in John Gordon Home is something I will always cherish till the end of my days. Primarily it will be a reflective, calorific memory of insight, growth and healing.

Colin, Resident

At first I was very intimidated by the high end look of JGH (Man, the place is beautiful!). My fears were short-lived as I was soon made to feel right at home and it is now my home. My home, my extended family, proper structure, and normalcy are all so important for clarity of thought. As well as being able to envision a life (my life) in a normal sphere of existence. JGH must never be compared to any type of hostel dwelling. This abode is not a warehouse, no way. In fact in my instance it is a launch pad. My options for housing before being welcomed here were Salvation Army, Men's Mission or Unity Project. Also abandoned warehouses too numerous to mention.

JGH could be improved only if it was able to house more people.

Alan, Resident



# SNOWMAGEDDON!!

## SNOWMAGEDDON FAST FACTS

- ❖ Area schools closed for 3 or more days
- ❖ UWO, Fanshawe College, and all City of London Facilities closed for several days
- ❖ 177 cm of snow fell in 5 days
- ❖ Clean-up costs were over \$1 million
- ❖ All non-essential surgeries and outpatient clinics at LHSC and SJHC were cancelled
- ❖ Highway 402 closed due to drifting snow; stranded motorists were featured on CNN

A big thank you to all the staff and volunteers of JGH who helped to keep operations going during this time.



• SPRING 2011 •

## JOHN GORDON HOME

# We can't wait for Spring!

**T**he John Gordon Home (JGH) Healing Garden has been revitalized by a team of dedicated volunteers with big hearts and green thumbs.

JGH is a small, not-for-profit organization providing support to people with HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C (HCV), who have immediate health care needs. JGH strives to assist residents to achieve positive health and wellness outcomes. We provide short term transitional housing support, respite care and end-of-life care.

Our beautiful Healing Garden has been planted and maintained by a core group of four dedicated volunteers: Lynn Baker, Valarie Chapman, Jan Shepherd-McKee and David Wighton.

Some heavy lifting was also provided by a team of 15 Western students last fall through the 'Western Serves' day of volunteering. The students moved three



John Gordon Home volunteer tends the Healing Garden.

yards of mulch from our parking lot and spread it out over the garden.

The residents of JGH have enjoyed the benefits of having meals prepared with fresh vegetables and herbs right out of the garden. Last summer we savoured a bumper crop of Saskatoon berries that went into fresh-baked muffins and pies.

The residents' quality of life is also enhanced by having a tranquil outdoor setting to relax in. "I feel the spirit of goodwill when I sit in the garden" says Davy, a John Gordon Home resident.

Lying under three feet of snow are hundreds of bulbs just waiting to burst out this spring. We can't wait to see the garden in bloom again!

**Bruce Rankin**

*Executive Director John Gordon Home*

Article from the London and Area Association for Volunteer Administration (LAVA) Supplement, Feature in the London Free Press, Spring 2011

# APPRECIATION



## A home to which I have given my heart

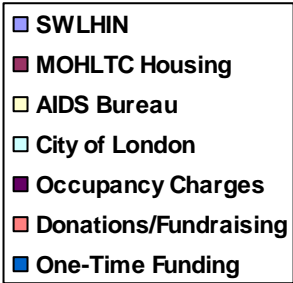
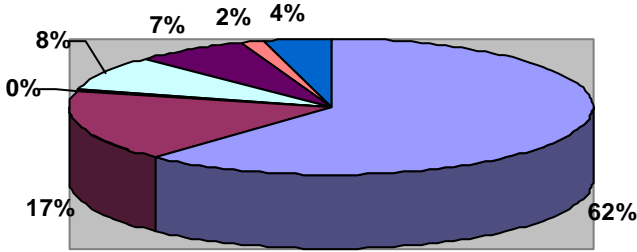
With the start of university came a brand new city, teachers, courses, friends and a lot of confusion and disorientation about my identity. Throughout high school, I spent my time in traditional health care settings and found my passion in caring for others less fortunate than myself. It was this love for community service that drew me to the John Gordon Home. Today, I am happy to say that my time at the JGH remains a very important aspect of my life in London because it helped me find a sense of belonging at a time when I was really lost.

It is amazing that the residents come to the JGH when they are lost and need to find their way, but at the same time, they have helped me do the same. The residents at the JGH are inspirational individuals who demonstrate tremendous resilience, courage and strength every single day. As they work hard to build a better life for themselves, they challenge me to be the best of myself in all that I do. It is quite remarkable how much fuller your life gets when you stop being judgemental about people. Opening my mind and heart up to the residents at the JGH has added so many dimensions to my outlook on life and made me a better human being. For that, I am grateful to everyone who invests in the John Gordon Home. Thank you for giving me this meaningful opportunity.

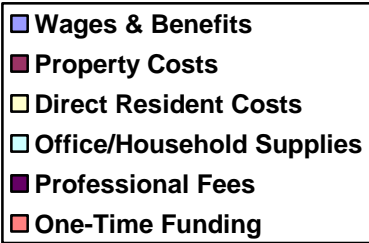
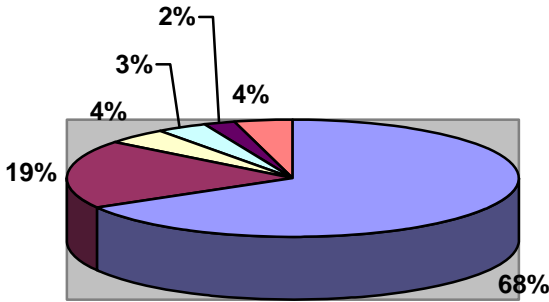
Submission by: Millani Sivapragasam, Volunteer, 10 months

# Financials

REVENUE TOTAL \$660,558



EXPENSE TOTAL \$660,446

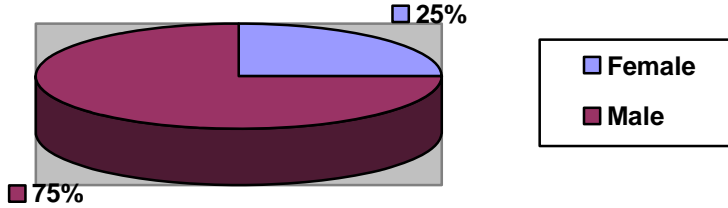


# Funders



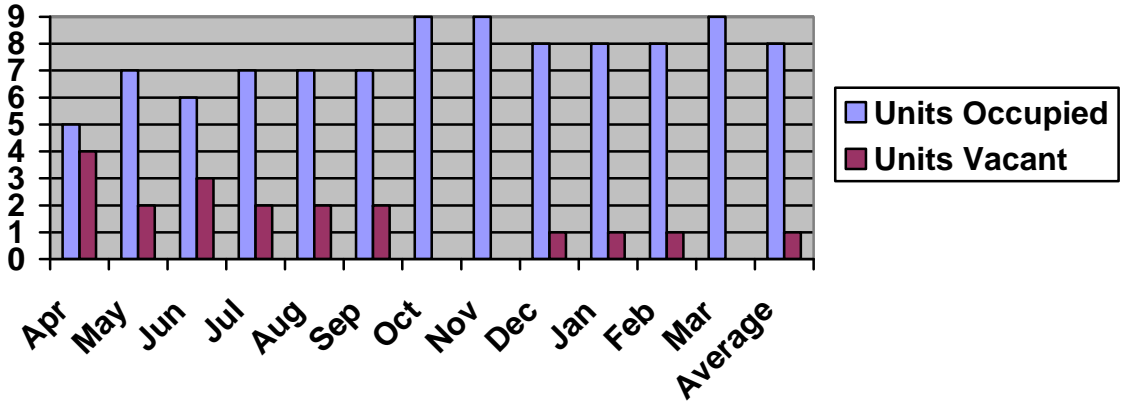
Service Stats

# OF FEMALE VS MALE RESIDENTS



TOTAL: 4 Female 12 Male

# OF UNITS OCCUPIED



TOTAL: 8 One Bedroom 1 Respite

\*Occupancy lower than usual during the first half of the year due to renovations

# AIDS Walk for Life



JGH received \$9,530.88 in support from the community. Many thanks to all those who participated, volunteered, and donated to the AIDS Walk for Life 2010. Hope to see you all for the AIDS Walk for Life 2011.



## Board of Directors 2010/2011

Cheryl Massa	President
Shailla Beaudry	Vice President
Ken Runge	Treasurer
Jane Marinelli-Simm	Director
Lindsay Lake	Director
Carolyn Beukeboom (incoming)	Director
Lianne Armstrong (incoming)	Director
Sheila Aston (outgoing)	Director
Terri Matte (outgoing)	Director



If you would like to make a financial donation/contribution to JGH, please visit the home page of our website at:

[www.johngordonhome.ca](http://www.johngordonhome.ca)

Financial and non-financial donations are also accepted by the John Gordon Home at 596 Pall Mall Street.



---

JOHN GORDON HOME

---

596 Pall Mall Street  
London, Ontario, N5Y 2Z9  
Phone 519.433.3951  
Fax 519.433.1314  
[www.johngordonhome.ca](http://www.johngordonhome.ca)