

annual report

2020-2021



introduction

the year in review

Well, 2020–2021 has been quite the year for all of us thanks to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Like many organizations, we pivoted. We socially distanced. We sanitized. We masked. And we Zoomed (so much Zooming).

As always, finances continue to be a challenge. There is oodles we'd like to do, but we have operational funding of just \$35,000---from which we pay rent, staff, and safer sex supplies. Thankfully, we are lucky to get numerous project-based grants that help us bring new programs to the South Shore.

Despite challenges, we continue to have successes, including our wildly popular TransFORMATION Closet which provides gender-affirming gear to folx who cannot otherwise access items like binders and gaffs. We have developed creative ways to offer services remotely. And we have a growing and committed Board full of volunteers with so much to offer our community.

Bring on 2021–2022 because we are ready for you!

all about the
people

Staff

Julie Veinot
Elayna Foran

Chair Board of Directors

Kendra Ritcey

Financial Officer

Kaitlin Richard

Secretary

Madison Cole

Directors

Rebecca Zolkower
Nicole Byers
Susan Berry
Lauren Guest
Kate Wright
Erin Carr

what are the
collabs

- Community Hub (Bridgewater)
- SchoolsPlus Queens Interagency
- SchoolsPlus Chester Interagency
- Trafficking and Exploitation Service System (TESS) Partnership
- Sex Educators' Network
- Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights
- Sexual Health Nova Scotia
- Reach Nexus I'm Ready
- Community Based Research Centre

what do we do
services

- education and workshops
- safer sex supplies and pregnancy tests
- compassionate contraception and emergency contraception
- health promotion on social media and web
- gender-affirming items and support
- low cost access to therapeutic toys
- resources and information
- health care navigation

one more move

a place to call home

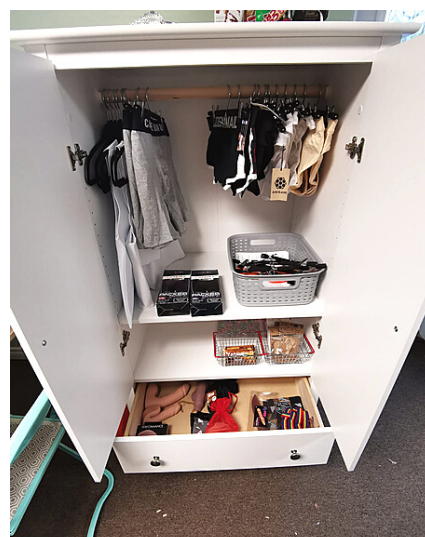
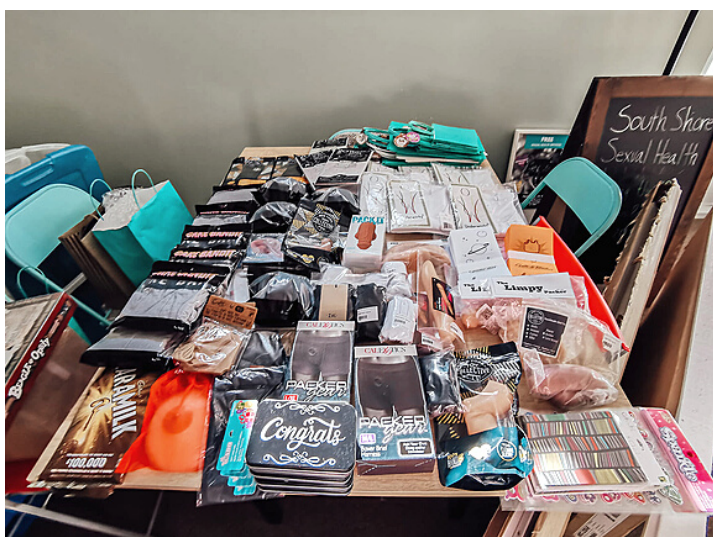
After teaming up with our new roomie Sexual Health Nova Scotia, we moved into the back of 109 Logan Road. It gives us affordable rent, privacy, and lots of rooms to rattle around in. We love the layout. Stop by and see it if you haven't already!



the

transformation closet

The TransFORMATION Closet is a pay-as-you-can wardrobe full of gender-affirming items including packers, gaffs, binders, breasts, stand-to-pees, and more. People are free to drop in to "shop" or to make a request for our next order. We helped 32 folks in the first year of the program!



funded by

Year 1

Mental & Health
Foundation
of Nova Scotia

Year 2

CUA
The better way to bank

making change

compassionate programs

We believe in making health & well-being accessible to everyone who needs it, especially those who are already marginalized by society. If we can't provide something, we'll help find someone who can!

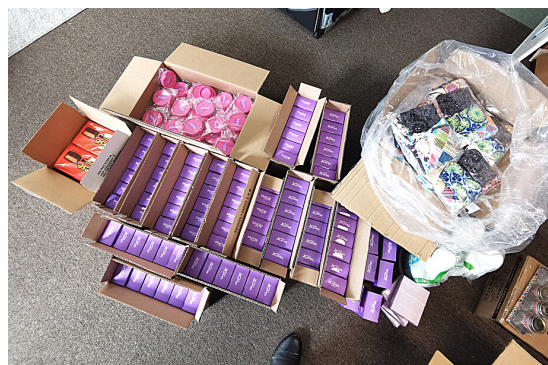
We received a request to help a youth with transitioning because their parents, though supportive, were unable to pay for a new hair style and wardrobe. After posting our request on social media, we were able to offer the youth a bag of gently loved clothes, a free haircut and style, new underwear, and \$150 of gift certificates to Winners. All this happened in hours, thanks to our awesome supporters.



pandemic relief

relieving period poverty

Period Poverty (or the inability to afford menstrual products) is a reality for many folks who menstruate, so we teamed up with the United Way to create kits of menstrual cups and reusable pads. We gave out over 100 sets, each packaged with some info. There are still a few bags in the office.



funded by



United Way
Lunenburg County

staying safe

community of condoms

Prior to the pandemic, we applied for poverty reduction funding from the Building Vibrant Communities Grant, issued by Communities, Culture and Heritage (Government of Nova Scotia). They gave us \$5,000 to buy compassionate contraception, from condoms to diaphragms.

Thanks to this funding, we were able to hand out an extra 18,000 condoms as well as compassionate emergency contraception through partnerships with our local pharmacies. We also have 5,000 condoms remaining as well as 10 Caya diaphragm kits for anyone in need.

We ensured all local food banks had condoms for their patrons. We also supplied condoms to SchoolPlus and Community Services, along with many partnering organizations from Chester to Liverpool. Our wholesaler even profiled us in their e-news (below).



health promotion

spreading sex positivity

We love to get out there with positive messages about sexuality, whether we're offering Sex Ed for Adults at our local libraries, or toting around wooden penises for condom demonstrations at our local schools. We also had our first Safer Spaces, Safer Bodies walk **DESPITE** the pandemic. Woot, woot!

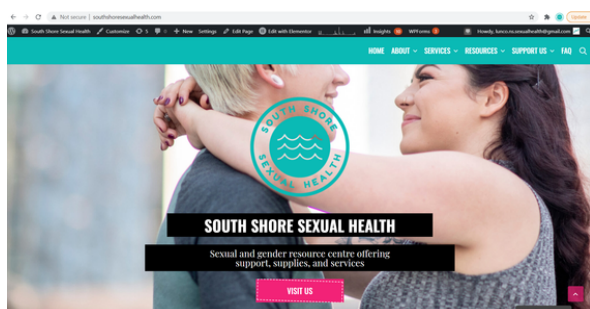




all about the

challenges

- Covid-19 reducing access to essential services like STI and STBBI testing
- finding operational funding
- learning to Zoom
- supporting people virtually instead of in person



Our fresh new website at southshoresexualhealth.com features our new logo.

what are the

successes

- lots of people and youth accessing the TransFORMATION Closet
- partnering to deliver HIV self-testing studies
- learning to Zoom
- handing out over 100 reusable pad and menstrual cups to folks in need
- coordinating donations for people needing gender-affirming services and items
- bringing in a sex toy shop for all bodies
- accessing lots of great training opportunities virtually
- partnering with food banks to distribute safer sex supplies in all local regions, upping our numbers to 18,000 supplies given out
- our first safer bodies walk at the Desbrisay Museum

how we help

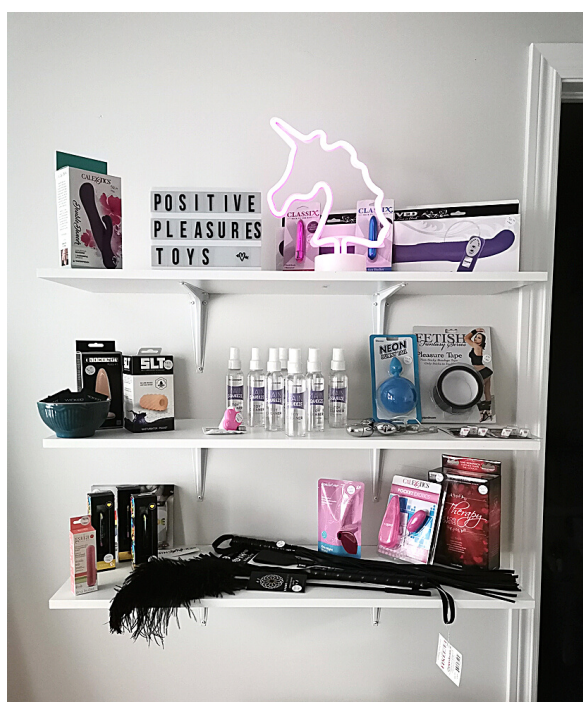
feedback

"Thank you again for all your help by the way, the quarantine stuff has been hard for my dysphoria and me and this binder will certainly help plenty."

" This may not seem like a big thing but being able to meet individual transgender needs, like getting a haircut without questions or judgments... goes a long way to normalizing these kiddo's lives and affirming their identity and their voice... this is a win win all round."

beyond the bake sale

positive pleasures



We now sell low cost therapeutic toys for all bodies and genders! It brings sex positive tools to everyone while helping us to raise much needed funds. Stop by to check out our selection, or order something special from our catalogue! We can do credit or debit.



how they help

funders

- United Way of Lunenburg County
- Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia
- CUA Bank
- Sexual Health Nova Scotia
- Canada Summer Jobs
- Lunenburg County and Queens Community Health Boards
- Building Vibrant Communities Grant
- Private supporters and donors



conclusion

ways you can support us today

- visit our website and donating directly
- drop off gender-affirming gear or menstrual supplies for clients
- fly a Pride flag or its many friends like the Asexual flag (or try the new Pride flag!)
- buy a sex toy from our mini shop Positive Pleasures
- pass on our name to someone who needs it
- join our Board
- share our social media posts
- donate services for fundraising efforts
- use peoples' pronouns properly
- buy something from our Amazon wish list and donating
- drop by the Centre to see what we're all about
- let us know about grant opportunities you come across
- be an askable adult when youth have sexual health questions
- share our website at southshoresexualhealth.com
- use consent in your every day life, especially with kids and youth
- speak up when faced with misogyny, racism, ableism, and more
- continue being awesome!

\$2

**Buys one
pregnancy test**



\$5

**Buys 25
external condoms**



\$20

**Buys one
menstrual cup**



\$50

**Buys two
binders**



\$100

**Pays for a one
hour presentation
+ mileage**



South Shore Sexual Health

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