StreetHealth

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SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER

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Meet Our Staff: Introducing Beau, Jesse, and Shahab

In this edition of our newsletter, we are excited to introduce a few of our staff members here at Street Health, as we get a chance to learn more about their work at the different services offered by our organization.

Through their unique perspectives and dedicated efforts, they embody the mission and values of our organization. Join us as we take a closer look at their stories and learn about their roles at Street Health.

1. What do you do at Street Health?

Jesse: *Currently I am a Housing Case Manager as part of the St Clare's Housing partnership. I work at 877 Yonge Street, where Street Health clients are housed in subsidized St Clare's units. Previously, I worked in the Overdose Prevention Site.*

Beau: *For almost six years I've been Street Health's Maintenance/Environmental Worker. Just recently I've split my job to also include Harm Reduction Outreach Worker with our Community Care Project. Through this partnership project, we collect discarded harm reduction items and conduct outreach to share information about the services available in our downtown east community.*

Shahab: *I am an Identification (ID) Access Assistant, helping clients obtain the Ontario Photo Card and Health Card. I ensure that they meet the eligibility requirements, schedule them for an appointment and, when needed, accompany them to Service ON. Part of my role is to maintain rapport with both the client and service agencies so that our clients are treated with respect and dignity. I advocate on their behalf if any individual does not have all the necessary documentation due to it being lost or stolen. I also maintain relationships with our networking partners to receive referrals and refer clients to other services as needed, be it within the agency or externally.*

2. What inspired you to join Street Health, and what motivates you to do this work?

Jesse: *I have worked in harm reduction roles including workshop creation and facilitation, outreach services, and overdose prevention for several years. I was considering moving more into research and policy, but I was attracted to Street Health's values and the real impact on clients accessing the services at the organization. It feels good to work for an organization that aligns with my values, including supporting people and providing low-barrier care without stigma or discrimination.*

Beau: *I started working at Street Health to find more meaning in my work. I enjoy supporting staff who are taking care of others. Now, my employment decision has led me to also doing client-facing work. I'm excited to expand my work and have my experience and perspective recognized. It means a lot to be able to work with people who care. Personally, I have always been politically active, now I'm focusing on supporting networks and developing tools for people who experience discrimination and stigma. I want my efforts to help empower other people.*

Shahab: *I am inspired by the mission and values of Street Health. It is fulfilling to be able to serve individuals who are marginalized and either homeless or on the verge of being homeless. Most people take Government issued ID's for granted but without it people are unable to obtain essential supports including: opening a bank account, applying for government benefits, making application for housing, etc. It motivates me to know that I'm assisting individuals to gain the supports they need.*

3. What do you want Street Health supporters to remember about your work?

Jesse: *As the housing crisis continues to make headlines, supporting vulnerable our community members most impacted by housing insecurity is vital. People accessing housing after chronic homelessness often have complex needs in stabilizing in their homes. Having an advocate to support them is vital for their long-term success.*

Beau: I want others to know that everyone can make a difference. Kindness and love can be powerful tools in our lives, we should use them more.

Shahab: I would like to be remembered for my kindness and dedication. I treat every individual with the same level of dignity and respect. I empathize with their situation and understand the difficulties they face. My role and advocacy make a difference for our clients.

From our beginnings in 1986, Street Health has grown to over 60 staff members across various services and locations. We are proud of our staff and their ability to respond to clients' needs. We hope to share more conversations with our staff in future newsletters. We invite readers to share their thoughts and feedback. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Another year, another successful CNOY!

We want to express our gratitude to all supporters of our 5th Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) event. Thanks to everyone who led a team, fundraised, donated and came out to walk and learn more about Street Health and local services. On behalf of Street Health, thank you!

A special thank you to our generous sponsors:

Lead sponsor	Route sponsors	Event Day sponsors
motion motion motion	International Financial Data Services JOHN SUTTON COMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH CAPITAL CORPORATION	DMC david mintz catering SPACES.

A big thank you to all our teams and walkers who came out to the event. We hope you got a chance to learn something new from our staff and found the community to be informative.

We would also like to give a shout out to Melville Presbyterian Church and their "Melville G Force" team who have been CNOY supporters since Street Health began this annual event in 2019. They had a team of 21 walkers and raised over $10,000!

Finally, we would also like to recognize our amazing fundraisers in our $1K club. These individuals went above and beyond in their fundraising efforts to raise more than $1,000 each!

In total, we raised almost $40,000!

Thank you for the fantastic CNOY 2024, and we hope to see you for the next CNOY on **February 22, 2025**.