



COVENANT HOUSE TORONTO

strategic plan

2018-2022

our mission

...is to serve the suffering children and youth on the street and to protect and safeguard all children and youth...with absolute respect and unconditional love.

our vision

To lead change that challenges at-risk, homeless and trafficked youth to pursue a life of opportunity.

our principles

IMMEDIACY

Youth come to us in crisis and we provide for their basic human needs – food, clothing, a shower and medical attention – immediately.

SANCTUARY

We provide safety to protect our youth from violence and degradation.

COMMUNICATING VALUES

We show our youth that caring relationships are based on trust, respect and honesty.

STRUCTURE

We provide structure and reasonable expectations so our youth can focus on their futures.

CHOICE

We help our youth make positive choices and encourage them to believe in themselves.

ABOUT COVENANT HOUSE TORONTO

As Canada's largest agency serving at-risk, homeless and trafficked youth, Covenant House Toronto changes lives by providing the widest range of services and support to as many as 250 youth a day. A national leader, we educate and advocate for change by influencing public policy and delivering prevention and awareness programs.

More than a place to stay, we provide 24/7 crisis shelter and transitional housing on-site and in the community, along with comprehensive services including education, counselling, health care, employment assistance, job training and aftercare.

To do all this, we rely on donors for more than 80 percent of our \$27-million annual operating budget.

Since opening our doors in 1982, Covenant House has served almost 95,000 young people.

CONNECT WITH US

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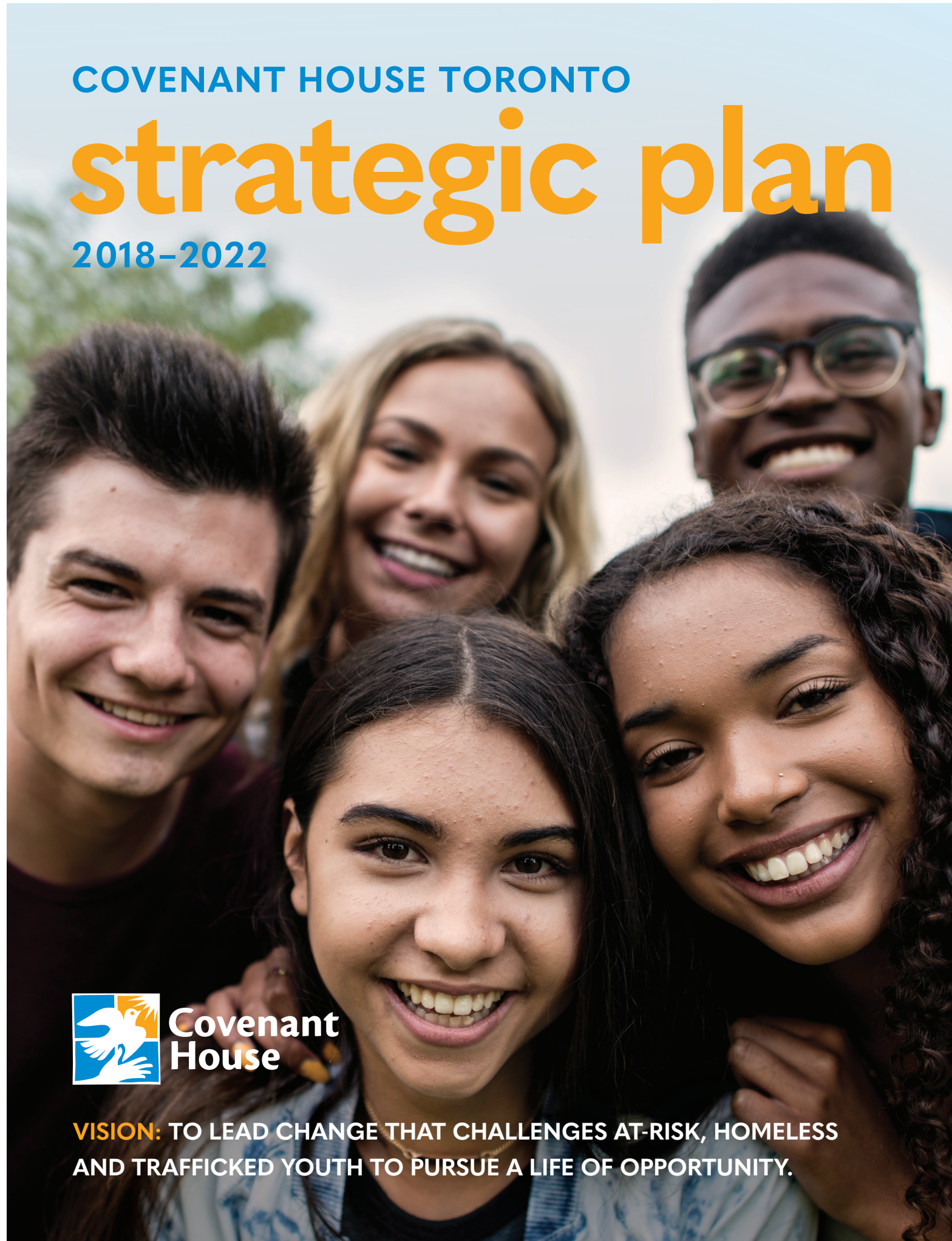
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VISION: TO LEAD CHANGE THAT CHALLENGES AT-RISK, HOMELESS AND TRAFFICKED YOUTH TO PURSUE A LIFE OF OPPORTUNITY.



strategic priorities

1. HOUSING AND AFTER-CARE

We currently offer a diverse range of housing options for homeless and trafficked youth. They include crisis shelter, on-site transitional housing, rent-reduced apartments in the community and a specialized housing program for sexually exploited and trafficked young women.

We have identified the need for additional housing options for youth who may not be ready to live in the community independently.

As well, additional community services are needed to better position youth for long-term, sustainable independent living.

2. HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Supporting the health and well-being of our youth is critical in setting them on a positive path toward stability and independence. We need to enhance and improve access to services for our young people struggling with mental health and substance use, allowing them to get the help they need in a timely manner.

We also need to deliver our life skills workshops and arts and recreational programming in a way that is responsive to the individual needs of our youth.

3. EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Supporting youth in achieving educational success and providing job training opportunities that could lead to employment are high priorities. We will be looking to provide high-quality, responsive programs both internally and/or through community partnerships to ensure our youth can sustain independence over the long-term.

4. PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

Preventing young people from experiencing homelessness or from being trafficked and reducing their risk of re-entry will be high priorities for our agency.

Healthy relationships between youth and family members or a trusted adult is key to prevention and reintegration into the community. Raising awareness of issues and causes that may lead a young person to become homeless or trafficked and working with communities who support young people in creating appropriate interventions are necessary.

5. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Ensuring that we maintain a strong foundation from which to deliver our strategic plan is essential. This requires an organizational infrastructure that aligns with our priorities, well trained and motivated staff and the tools they need to deliver the plan. It also requires us to continue to measure our impact by evaluating our programs to ensure we are meeting the needs of our youth.

GOAL:

TO EXPAND HOUSING AND AFTER-CARE SERVICES TO MEET THE COMPLEX AND DIVERSE NEEDS OF OUR YOUTH.

- Expand housing inventory and housing options in the community
- Customize the services delivered through our crisis shelter
- Extend services to non-residential youth
- Maximize the use of existing shelter and transitional beds

GOAL:

TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF OUR YOUTH.

- Increase mental health and addiction supports through community partnerships and enhance the model of care for internal program delivery
- Strengthen and deliver more structured, customized and integrated life skills workshops and arts and recreational programs

GOAL:

TO EXPAND EDUCATIONAL AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR YOUTH.

- Expand employment and job training services through community partnerships and possibly pilot a new in-house job training program
- Obtain longer-term government support for our on-site culinary arts training program
- Develop more educational opportunities and increase the number of youth engaged in these programs

GOAL:

TO EXPAND OUR INITIATIVES IN HOMELESSNESS AND SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION TO BETTER PROTECT OUR YOUTH.

- Engage and strengthen family relationships to prevent and to help end the cycle of homelessness
- Expand homelessness prevention and anti-trafficking programs to schools outside the GTA
- Expand and deliver anti-trafficking prevention and intervention training to sectors and industries that are in contact with at-risk girls or victims
- Create sex trafficking prevention messaging and deliver it through mass media and programs to girls between ages 12-16

GOAL:

TO INCREASE OUR ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY TO ENSURE WE CAN GROW AND DELIVER OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO OUR YOUTH.

- Align and invest in human resources development
- Invest and strengthen our administrative, fundraising and technological infrastructure
- Increase public awareness of homelessness and sex trafficking
- Strengthen our advocacy work and leadership role related to at-risk, homeless and trafficked youth
- Enhance our ability to provide quality programs through evidence-based research and evaluation
- Invest in the expansion and development of new funding sources/programs
- Ensure our monetary and real estate assets will meet the long-term needs of our youth