ST. FELIX CENTRE
Care. Compassion. Community.

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

THE JOURNEY HOME



St. Felix Centre is a
Felician-Sponsored Ministry

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

> "This past year has been one of powerful progress for St. Felix Centre."

Hope House opened its doors in Toronto, offering safe, affordable, and supportive housing for women and children rebuilding their lives. We welcomed new residents to 629 Adelaide, rejuvenating a vital program. Our 24-hour respite centre continues to support our guests, and the St. Felix team continues to strengthen our shared commitment to those experiencing homelessness.

I am grateful for our deeply committed Board of Directors. As St. Felix has grown and taken on new challenges, they have responded. **What drives us to serve here in this way?**

Of course, we hope that our diverse skills and lived experience will be useful. We believe in the mission and shared values. The long history and generosity of the Felician Sisters and their ministry serve as our foundation. But it is the combination of compassion and action that inspires this Board. This is a place where guests are greeted by name, where dignity is not an aspiration but a daily practice.

Our role as a Board is to provide thoughtful governance and stewardship so this work can continue to grow responsibly and sustainably. But we are always ready both to dream and support. Sometimes we take big leaps of faith and "walk on air," as I wrote last year.

Everyone involved in St. Felix is part of the longer journey home – home as safety, belonging, and connection. Yes, the challenges are complex and will not be solved quickly. We are committed to steady progress, practical action, and walking alongside our guests every step of the way.

Thank you for your support. There is a lot more to come!

BERNADETTE LONERGAN
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS





A Message *from the* Senior Leadership

BRIAN HARRIS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year's theme invites us to reflect on what the idea of a **"journey"** can mean. The reality is that it looks different for every person we support across our programs. The only thing these journeys have in common is that each one is deeply personal.

At the end of our last fiscal year, we opened two new programs: **a 50-bed, pet-friendly shelter for adults, and a 31-unit permanent, supportive, deeply affordable housing program** for women and women with children. We embarked on these projects because we believe strongly in meeting people where they are. By continuing to diversify our services, we aim to ensure that **no matter where someone is on their journey, we can offer the kind of support that best meets their needs.** Today, that includes 24-hour emergency respite, 24-hour shelter, transitional housing, permanent housing with supports, and more independent permanent affordable housing.



Throughout the year, we've also been intentional about strengthening our connections with the wider community. **None of this work happens in isolation.** The progress we've made is only possible because of the support of the Felician Sisters, our funders, donors, supporters, and community partners, each of whom is on their own journey alongside St. Felix Centre. Contributions come in many forms, but they are united by a shared commitment to helping us deliver the best possible care to as many people as possible.



At the same time, the need in our communities continues to grow and evolve. To respond meaningfully, we must continue to explore opportunities to expand, adapt, and strengthen our programs. Doing so requires us to widen our circle and build new relationships, grounded in collaboration and shared purpose.

We hope you will continue to walk alongside us as we move forward, showing solidarity with the people we support, and with one another.



This is the journey to end homelessness. The journey to build connection and community. The journey to create inclusive and welcoming spaces.

The journey home.



Carrying the Legacy Forward

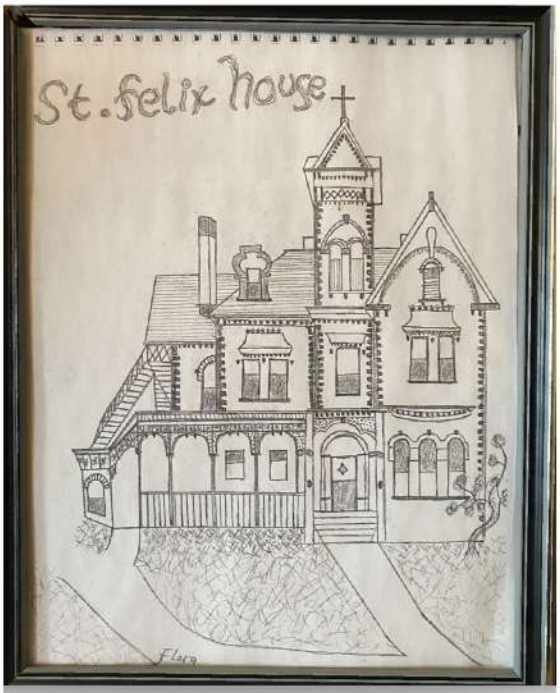
The idea of a **"journey home"** can be understood in many ways. For some, it means moving forward toward something long imagined—different from where they began or where they are now. For others, it is a return: finding their way back to a place rich with memory and meaning, completing a circle begun long ago.

In 2025, St. Felix Centre experienced both kinds of journeys, reflecting the legacy of the Felician Sisters, whose vision and courage gave birth to our community.

In 2025, we commemorated the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Felician Sisters in North America. Their journey began in Poland and carried them across an ocean to an unfamiliar land—marked by hope and faith, but also hardship and sacrifice. Guided by a deep commitment to service and compassion, the Sisters eventually made their way to Toronto, settling at 25 Augusta Avenue in 1938, which became their home in Canada.

From that address, the Sisters responded to the needs around them. They offered food, shelter, and care to those experiencing hardship, with particular tenderness toward women, children, and families.

Over time, their mission called them to other parts of the Greater Toronto Area. Yet even as they moved on, they left behind something vital at 25 Augusta—a living foundation that would carry their work forward. **They named it St. Felix Centre, in honour of the patron saint of their Order.**



Since then, St. Felix Centre has been on its own journey, growing beyond that original location and expanding programs to respond to the evolving needs of our city. Along the way, and amid an escalating homelessness crisis, we were called to make difficult decisions. Some early programs, including the afterschool program, were closed so we could focus our resources where the need was most urgent.

And yet, even when moving forward, we recognized an opportunity to return. **With the construction of Hope House, we began a renewed journey home**. At a revitalized 25 Augusta Avenue, women and women with children will once again find safety, dignity, and the opportunity to rebuild their lives. In many ways, this moment represents a return to one of the original goals entrusted to us by the Sisters: ***serving women and children from the very place where it all began.***

Like the Sisters before us, we continue to move forward, responding to new calls and new needs, finding our way to new "homes" still ahead. Anchored by their example and strengthened by their enduring support, **we step into what comes next with confidence, trusting that, in time, it too will lead us home.**

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

Housing

By the end of the fiscal year, **32 guests secured permanent housing,** marking a significant milestone in their journey toward stability.

Community Meals

We served on avg. **8,333 meals/month.** The program provided support to all community members who came to SFC asking for a warm meal.

St. Felix House

19 women resided in our transitional home for women this fiscal year. The house provides a One Stop program, offering life skills workshops and individualized casework to help residents prepare for independent living.

Volunteers

SFC welcomed the support of **57 corporate volunteers,** who brought care and connection to our community.

Casework & Housing

Every day **86 people received casework support** to help them on their way. Our team provides access to crisis & mental health supports, housing casework, addiction & detox support, funding support, and more.

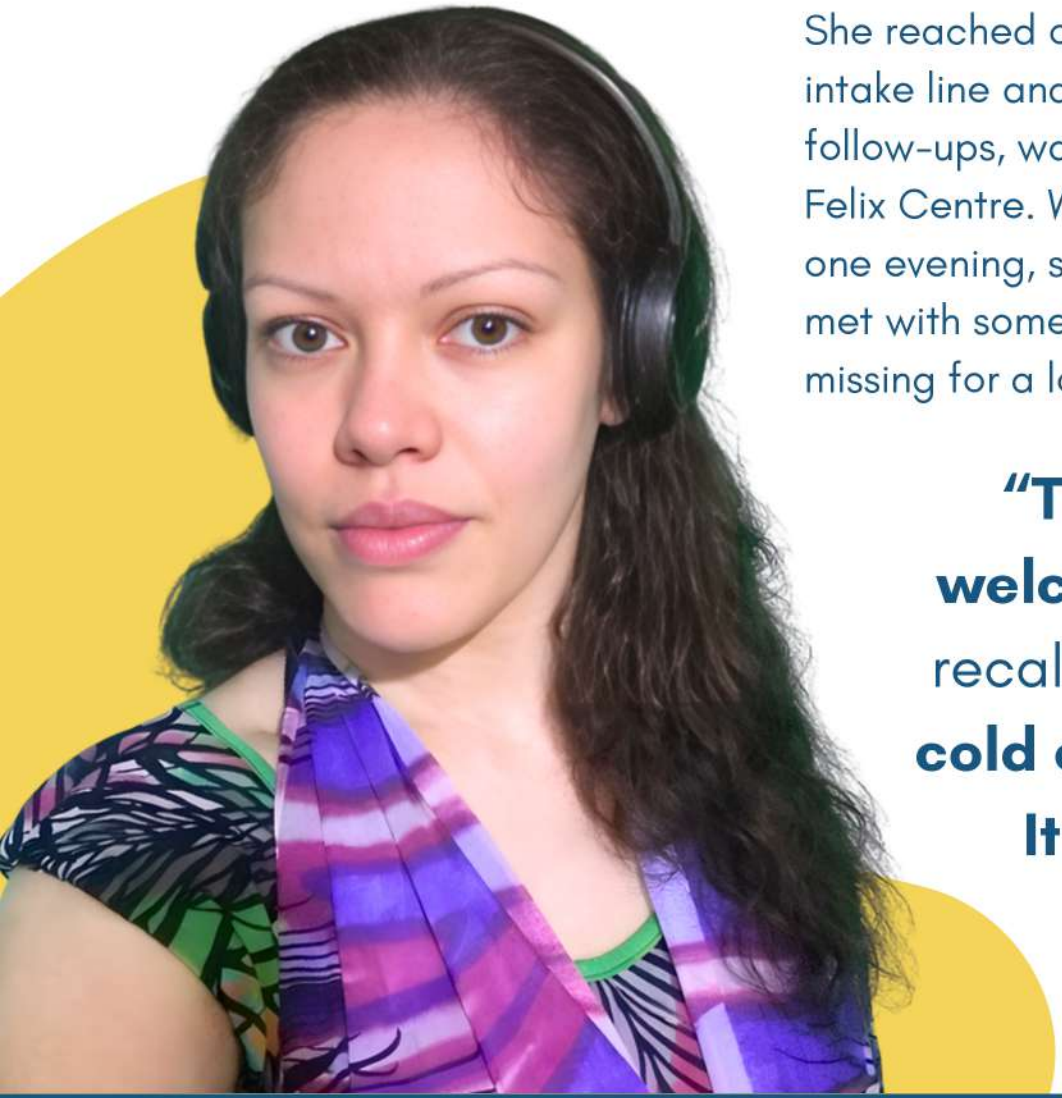
P.A.W.S.

P.A.W.S. provided **9** guests with access to financial assistance of up to **$500 toward emergency veterinary care** for their pets.

Guest Story: Isabella's journey of Resilience

When Isabella first arrived at 69 Fraser, she was carrying the weight of immense uncertainty. She had recently returned to Ontario after moving between provinces, navigating instability, loss, and circumstances beyond her control.

At the time, Isabella did not have secure housing and was facing multiple personal challenges all at once.



She reached out through the central intake line and, after persistent follow-ups, was connected to St. Felix Centre. When she arrived late one evening, she remembers being met with something that had been missing for a long time - kindness.

"The staff were welcoming," Isabella recalls. **"It didn't feel cold or transactional. It felt human."**



That first sense of safety mattered. For individuals experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, arrival can be the most vulnerable moment, often shaped by fear, exhaustion, and mistrust built over time. At 69 Fraser, Isabella encountered a team that understood this. Staff worked with her needs, respected her schedule, and met her where she was. **Flexibility around curfews and daily routines allowed her to continue navigating responsibilities outside the shelter.**

Like many guests at St. Felix Centre, Isabella's challenges extended far beyond housing. She had experienced profound personal loss, family separation, and systemic barriers that disproportionately affect marginalized communities, including racial discrimination. These experiences compounded over time, leaving her to manage grief, trauma, and uncertainty–all while trying to stay afloat.

During her stay at 69 Fraser, Isabella learned she was pregnant. It was unexpected, and it marked a turning point. Pregnancy brought both new hope and new urgency. **Recognizing Isabella's changing needs, her caseworker worked closely with her to explore next steps, advocate on her behalf, and coordinate a move to a space better suited to support her health, safety, and long-term stability.**

"My caseworker stayed connected, answered my questions, and made sure **I didn't feel like I was doing it alone**"

That continuity of care is central to St. Felix Centre's approach. Casework is not just about finding a bed for the night, it is about building relationships, planning, and addressing the complex realities that guests face. For Isabella, this meant ongoing communication, and support that extended beyond one location or program.

Eventually, Isabella successfully transitioned into her own house. Today, she lives in North York with her family and describes her life as stable, something that once felt out of reach. When asked what she is most proud of, Isabella does not point to a single milestone. Instead, she speaks about endurance.

"I'm grateful I made it through," she says. "There were moments when everything felt overwhelming, but I'm still here. **I still have hope."**

Isabella's journey reflects the reality that **homelessness is rarely caused by one event.** It is often the result of layered systems failing someone over time: discrimination, loss of housing, family breakdown, financial instability, and lack of access to consistent support.

At St. Felix Centre, these understanding shapes everything we do. Every day, our staff meet individuals who are navigating more than what is visible on the surface. Through emergency shelter, transitional housing, casework, and long-term support, St. Felix works to restore stability, and hope.

Today, Isabella is focused on the future. While challenges remain, as they do for many, the foundation she has built allows her to **move forward with strength and confidence, grounded in the stability of home.**

Care Without Pause: A Year in 24-Hour Services

St. Felix Centre's 24-Hour Services Department continued to walk alongside our guests through moments of instability, uncertainty, and transition. In a year that carried forward many of the same systemic pressures experienced previously, our focus remained grounded in equity, and the belief that every person deserves safety, rest, and belonging.



A central area of growth this year was our work under the City of Toronto's **Confronting Anti-Black Racism** (CABR) initiative. Through intentional programming, culturally responsive engagement, and strengthened internal practices, we worked to better meet the needs of our Black guests. This work deepened our commitment to equity and to dismantling systemic barriers within our services.

Guided by this year's theme, The Journey Home, our 24-Hour Services reflect a commitment to meaningful support. We remain dedicated to walking alongside our guests as they move toward safer, more stable, and permanent housing—***together.***



Housing-focused care continued to be a cornerstone of our approach. Throughout the year, guests transitioned from respite into permanent housing, each move representing a critical step forward in stability and independence. These outcomes reflect both the strength of our model and the dedication of our frontline staff, who support guests through complex and deeply personal journeys.

Within this year, we also marked important milestones with the opening of new spaces designed to better meet community needs, including the launch of our Adelaide site. This has expanded our capacity to provide safer, more dignified environments rooted in privacy, comfort, and care.

Recognizing that healing and stability are fostered through connection, we expanded social and community-building opportunities across our sites. Movie nights, karaoke evenings, and social activities created moments of joy and belonging, reinforcing that **home is not only a physical space, but a feeling built through relationships and shared experiences.**

Along the journey towards permanent housing, these shared moments offered our guests a sense of belonging- **so they feel at home long before they arrive.**



Building Pathways Forward through *Casework*

Before there are keys or addresses, there is casework: steady support, trust built over time, and hope rooted in action. At St. Felix Centre, our Casework team supported guests at every stage of their journey, helping them navigate complex systems, address urgent needs, and take meaningful steps toward long-term stability. As community needs continued to grow in both complexity and urgency, our approach evolved to meet them with care, coordination, and compassion.

This compassion was demonstrated through the ICHA Clinic at 69 Fraser where **204 individuals accessed essential medical services**, many facing significant barriers to traditional healthcare systems. To support continuity of care beyond direct services, **caseworkers also facilitated 874 successful referrals**, connecting guests to medical, social, and community-based supports that help sustain progress over time.

Recognizing that lasting impact requires strong partnerships, we deepened collaboration across sectors. **A new partnership with the Toronto Metropolitan University Nursing Program** expanded our health services portfolio, creating opportunities for health education while fostering mutual learning between students and our community.

As our footprint grew, so did our reach: the opening of the Adelaide site in June 2025 included the launch of a second ICHA Clinic, increasing access to integrated healthcare for underserved populations and strengthening long-term sustainability.

Alongside systems navigation and healthcare access, casework remained grounded in dignity. Ahead of winter, the team ensured every guest at Fraser received winter boots and coats, removing barriers to safety during the coldest months.

They also supported nine P.A.W.S. applications, helping guests access critical veterinary care for their furry companions — because stability often means keeping families together in all their forms.



All of this work builds toward the same goal: ***home.***

By the end of the fiscal year, **32 guests transitioned into permanent housing.** Each referral made, appointment attended, and document completed represents a step forward on someone's journey home.

Housing in 2025:
Creating Space to Rebuild

Housing is where the journey home takes shape, where safety becomes routine, independence feels attainable, and possibility has room to grow.

At St. Felix House, our transitional home for women, **19 women resided in the program during the past fiscal year.** More than a place to stay, St. Felix House provided stability, structure, and individualized support during a critical period of transition. Through coordinated housing and casework efforts, **14 women moved into permanent housing** — a significant step forward in their journeys toward long-term stability.





Moving from transitional housing into permanent homes reflects resilience, perseverance, and the strength of supportive pathways built with care. **That pathway continues at 22 Maynard,** St. Felix Centre's independent housing program which offers residents the dignity of privacy and the freedom to build their lives on their own terms.

In April 2025, we proudly housed a former resident of St. Felix House at 22 Maynard. This moment of receiving the keys to an independent apartment symbolizes both an ending and a beginning: the conclusion of a transitional chapter and the start of long-term stability. It also reflects the strength of collaboration between St. Felix House and 22 Maynard, demonstrating how **clear, compassionate housing pathways can support people along the full housing continuum.**

As 22 Maynard continues toward full tenancy, each new resident reinforces why deeply affordable housing matters. Every door opened represents safety secured, dignity restored, and a future reclaimed. ***Step by step, story by story, these spaces become home.***



Our Presence in Our Communities

Community continued to be a powerful force at St. Felix Centre throughout 2025. Across our sites, we worked to maintain open and respectful relationships with neighbours, local businesses, and community members, with the goal of being a responsible and supportive presence in the neighbourhoods we serve.

We created welcoming opportunities to connect throughout the year. At our Fraser site, guests and staff shared **rainbow cookies with neighbours during Pride Month** as a simple gesture of inclusion and celebration. In Liberty Village, we hosted a **free ice cream giveaway** with an ice cream truck, bringing neighbours together through sweet, summer joy.



Volunteers continued to support our work throughout the year. Prior to the opening of the Adelaide site, volunteer groups assisted at Fraser by serving meals, and we had one volunteer tutoring a resident at St. Felix House. We were also grateful for continued donations from community members and corporate groups, including food, clothing, and personal care items that directly supported our guests.





In August, we held our annual **No Cost Pet Clinic**, open not only to guests but to anyone in the community who may be struggling to access veterinary care. Thanks to our partners at VCA Canada, community members were able to access free rabies vaccinations, flea treatments, nail trimmings, and on-site veterinary support. The VCA team also generously provided donations of pet food and treats.

Our Community Liaison Committees (CLCs) continued to play an important role in neighbourhood engagement, operating at both Fraser and Adelaide to support ongoing communication and relationship-building. Held monthly in a virtual format, **CLCs allow us to share updates, respond to feedback, and remain transparent and responsive to community concerns.**

As we expanded our presence to 629 Adelaide, we prioritized **early and intentional relationship-building** within the surrounding neighbourhood. Our teams met with local schools, nearby churches, and members of the BIA to introduce our work, listen to community feedback, and establish open lines of communication.

We continued to implement the Good Neighbour Policy through which St. Felix Centre actively contributes to community wellbeing with regular site cleanups, consistent communication, and staff training in non-violent crisis intervention. This initiative reflects our belief that **shelter services and healthy communities can, *and should,* coexist.**



2024-2025 Finances

ST. FELIX SOCIAL MINISTRIES OUTREACH

Statement of Operations
For the Year Ended
June 30, 2024

	2025	2024
Revenue		
Grants & services contracts		
City of Toronto	$6,932,121	$5,717,349
Province of Ontario	112,439	45,007
Felician Services Inc.	115,733	117,602
Foundations	82,050	95,443
Donations & Fundraising		
Felician Sisters	240,000	251,418
Individuals	83,221	100,101
Corporate	9.983	39,935
Foundations & other registered charities	20,605	36,554
Fundraising event	64,653	57,518
Rental Income	286,821	306,480
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	65,871	65,664
Interest income	222,743	385,610
	8,236,240	7,218,681
Expenditures		
Salaries & related benefits	4,146,324	3,527,030
Program	2,268,068	1,983,207
Occupancy	1,218,331	1,048,190
Professional & consulting fees	419,080	362,898
Amortization	98,796	97,904
General & office	102,161	97,479
Insurance	48,071	44,820
Fundraising	114,375	20,418
Loss on disposal of capital assets	-	10,648
	8,415,206	7,192,594
Excess of revenue over expenditures	**$(178,966)**	**$26,087**



OUR COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR 2025

Our annual Coldest Night of the Year 5 km fundraiser walk took place in February 2025 and was a powerful demonstration of community support for St. Felix Centre. **This year, 321 walkers, 33 teams, and 60 volunteers came together in solidarity to raise awareness and funds in support of people experiencing homelessness.**

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our participants and supporters, we surpassed our fundraising goal of **$90,000, raising a total of $104,265.** This success would not have been possible without the commitment of our sponsors, including **Meridian Credit Union, Felician Services Inc., Laneige, Kind Laundry, Smart Sweets, Starbucks, and SKCOOKKS,** whose support helped make the event possible.

Coldest Night of the Year continues to be a meaningful opportunity for our community to come together, walk alongside those we serve, and support the work of St. Felix Centre during the coldest months of the year. You can support our mission by donating at **cnoy.org/stfelixcentre** and walking alongside us for our neighbours, winter and beyond.

ST. FELIX CENTRE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2024-2025

Bernadette Lonergan, Chair

Elizabeth Schreurs, Vice Chair

Paul Hyung, Treasurer

Michelle Marsellus, Secretary

Todd Beadle, Senior Ministry Advisor, Board Member

Sister Francesca Buczkowski, Board Member

Evan Prendergast, Board Member

Sister MaryAnne Olekszyk, Board Member

Sister Renee Kurczaba, Board Member

Jennifer Potts, Board Member

STAY IN TOUCH

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