THE THORPE BUZZ

THORPERECOVERYCENTRE.ORG

2026 Newsletter
Fall/Winter Edition

Values:

- Integrity
- Accountability
- Innovation
- Passion
- Diversity

Mission Statement:
A leading organization that provides strength, hope, and healing to those affected by addictions and related mental health challenges

Vision Statement:
Within a recovery community, we help build a pathway where individuals and families can achieve well-being and happiness



The Hive's Next Chapter

We are pleased to welcome Kagan Kneen as the new Chief Executive Officer of Thorpe Recovery Centre!

Kagan is from the Lloydminster area and brings a genuine passion for helping people and strengthening our community. Through his leadership roles with the Lloydminster Men's Shelter and the Lloydminster Region Health Foundation, he has built strong relationships and seen what can happen when people work together to support a cause.

Kagan joins the Thorpe Recovery Centre with a commitment to supporting individuals and families impacted by addiction. He values listening to and supporting the people doing the work, and looks forward to working closely with our team and Board of Directors. He is also eager to strengthen relationships with other organizations, municipal and provincial partners, funders, and community supporters, while exploring new ways to raise awareness and encourage conversations about addiction and recovery.

Kagan is already familiar with the Thorpe Recovery Centre through his time volunteering with our Run Club. That connection makes this new role especially meaningful to him:

"I'm honoured to officially step into my new leadership role at the Thorpe Recovery Centre. Having volunteered with their run club for the past couple of years and worked directly with the organization in different capacities, I've seen firsthand the life-changing impact this team has on our community. I look forward to leading our next phase of growth, with a focus on sustainability, hope and healing."

We're excited for the leadership and fresh perspective Kagan will bring as we build on the important work already happening at TRC. Please join us in giving him a warm welcome!

A Message from our CEO



As a leader committed to building strong teams and fostering a culture of growth, accountability, and service excellence, I am honoured to address you from within the Hive here at Thorpe Recovery Centre.

My passion has always been rooted in serving people, whether that is our community, our team, our Board, or the clients we have the privilege of supporting every day. I firmly believe that when we lead with a people-first mindset and remain focused on the well-being of those around us, we can accomplish extraordinary things together.

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to lead an organization that truly changes lives. One of the most rewarding experiences of my time at Thorpe has been volunteering with our Run Club over the past two years. Through this experience, I have had the privilege of getting to know our clients, hearing their stories, celebrating their successes, and witnessing firsthand the resilience and determination that inspire our work each day. I am pleased to continue this involvement while serving in my role as CEO.

To our staff, volunteers, donors, community partners, and supporters, thank you. Whether you contribute your time, expertise, resources, or encouragement, your support makes a meaningful difference in the lives of the clients we serve and the dedicated team members who support them.

Together, we are creating hope, transforming lives, and building stronger communities. Thank you for being part of this important work.

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference

Board of Directors



Sharon Williams
Board Chair



Mindy Hawthorne
Vice Chair



Bev Spencer
Director



Tami Molle
Director

Devish Kumar
Director



Shauna Wobeser
Director



Roxanne Smith
Director



Josh Rae
Director

Lawrence Atkins
Director

As Autumn gives way to winter, the warmth of our community carries on.

The days may grow shorter, but hope continues to grow.

As the leaves fall and the snow begins, our hive stays warm through connection.

National Truth & Reconciliation Day





On the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we were grateful to our Cultural Coordinator, Ellery for arranging Elder Donny Littlewolf from Onion Lake Cree Nation to visit Thorpe Recovery Centre.
Donny spent time with our community sharing his knowledge and traditional teachings, creating space for us to listen, learn and reflect together.

We're grateful for the time, wisdom and generosity Donny continues to share with the people at Thorpe. Opportunities to learn from Elders and connect with traditional teachings are an important part of creating space for culture, connection and healing in recovery.
Thank you, Donny, for sharing your teachings and for helping us create space to learn and heal together.

Society Continues to Grow

Since 1975, Thorpe Recovery Centre has provided quality programming to individuals and families affected by addiction and mental health challenges.

As a member of the society, you'll be engaged through newsletters, events and volunteering at the Thorpe Recovery Centre, including the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors. The Society uses it's strong, collective voice to shape how the organization opperates and to advocate within the community for the betterment of the lives of those it serves.

JOIN TODAY!!

Annual General Meeting 2026



TRC's Annual General Meeting was held on August 20th and included a delicious supper prepared by our kitchen staff. The evening provided an opportunity to reflect on our work, celebrate achievements, and recognize the people who make a difference in our organization.

The meeting featured a presentation on the role of a Recovery Coach, who supports clients by sharing lived experience, helping set recovery goals, building healthy coping skills, and connecting individuals with community resources.





Thank You to Our Departing Board Members
We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the board members who have stepped down after years of dedicated service and countless volunteer hours supporting TRC's mission.

- Marie – Board Chair, 18 years
- Randy – Board Member, 10 years
- Gary – Board Member, 10 years
- Marty – Board Member, 6 years

Thank you for your leadership, guidance, and lasting contributions to TRC. Your dedication has made a meaningful difference, and we wish you all the best.

We are grateful to our staff, board members, volunteers, and supporters for helping TRC continue to provide hope, healing, and support for lasting recovery.

Staff Service Milestones

We proudly recognized the following staff members for their dedicated service to TRC:

- Mona – Kitchen, 15 years
- Vera – Clinical Director, 10 years
- Eva – Custodial, 5 years
- Cece – Community Support Worker, 5 years
- Carmen – Community Support Worker, 5 years
- Kady – Community Support Worker/Counsellor, 5 years
- Denice – Nurse, 5 years
- Kaitlyn – Counsellor, 5 years

Congratulations and thank you for your commitment, compassion, and contributions to our clients and organization!



Community Partnership

The Hive in Action

Recovery Capital Conference - Calgary, AB



Thorpe staff and a few board members had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Recovery Capital Conference in Calgary from September 22–24. This conference provided a valuable opportunity for staff and board members to participate in educational sessions, learn about new approaches to recovery, and gain knowledge and insights to support Thorpe's ongoing work and mission.

Thorpe also hosted an information booth at the conference, which proved to be very beneficial. Staff had the opportunity to connect with other agencies, service providers, and second-stage housing programs. These connections help strengthen community partnerships, expand our network of supports, and create opportunities for future collaboration to better serve our clients as they continue their recovery journeys.

We are grateful that our staff and a few board members were able to take part in this experience, strengthening their knowledge and understanding while sharing the important work being done at Thorpe. Opportunities like this allow us to build meaningful relationships, exchange ideas, and explore new ways to support individuals as they work toward healthy, stable, and fulfilling lives in recovery.

Recovery Days - Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer



On September 19th, 20th, and 26th, Thorpe staff had the opportunity to host information booths at Recovery Days in Edmonton, Calgary, and Red Deer. These events were an amazing experience, providing opportunities to connect with the community, share information about Thorpe's treatment program, and raise awareness about the importance of recovery and the supports available to individuals seeking help.

One of the most rewarding parts of these events was being visited by our very own Thorpe alumni, who stopped by the booths to say hello, catch up, and share in their recovery journeys. It was wonderful to see former clients doing well, living healthy lives in recovery, and putting the tools they learned at Thorpe into practice. Seeing their progress was a powerful reminder of why we do what we do and the lasting impact that treatment can have.

Our booths also provided an opportunity to speak directly with individuals seeking information about treatment and exploring options for getting help. These conversations allowed us to share resources, answer questions, and encourage people to take the next step toward recovery.

In addition, staff made valuable connections with sober living facilities, helping strengthen the network of support available to our clients. These partnerships are important in bridging the gap between completing treatment and transitioning back into everyday life, ensuring clients have access to continued support, stable housing options, and resources as they work toward long-term recovery.

Recovery Days was a meaningful reminder that recovery is possible, connections matter, and the journey does not end when treatment is complete. We are proud of our alumni and grateful for every opportunity to help individuals and families find hope, support, and a path forward.

Detox Centre at TRC

Where Courage meets Hope



Every recovery journey starts the same way, with one decision.

No one walks into detox because it's easy. They walk through the doors because, despite the fear, they've found the courage to believe life can be different.

That first step is often the hardest, but it's also the most powerful. It's the moment someone chooses hope over fear and asks for the support they deserve.

At Thorpe, we have the privilege of witnessing that courage every day. Recovery doesn't happen all at once, but every journey has a beginning, and for many people, detox is where that beginning takes place.

Asking for help isn't giving up. It's choosing yourself, and that's one of the strongest decisions a person can make.



Every recovery journey begins with one courageous step. If you're ready to take yours, our admissions team is here to support you every step of the way.

Thorpe Recovery Centre
780-875-8890 | 1-877-875-8890
thorperecoverycentre.org

Hive Highlights

5th Annual Alumni Event



Our Alumni Event was held on August 8, 2026, and this year was especially meaningful as we celebrated our 5th anniversary! The day was filled with connection, celebration, and reminders that recovery is possible.

The celebration kicked off with our Sprint for Sobriety 5 km Walk/Run, bringing everyone together to support recovery and celebrate healthy living. We were entertained by our very own alumni, Aaron from Maz Entertainment, who provided amazing DJ services and helped create a fun and memorable atmosphere.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious BBQ lunch, followed by in-house, open AA and Al-Anon meetings. These meetings provided opportunities for clients to connect with alumni, build healthy relationships, and learn from those who continue to live a life of recovery.

The event also featured a silent auction. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the individuals and businesses who generously donated items and supported this special event. Their contributions help ensure that this meaningful celebration remains free for everyone to attend.

In the evening, we gathered for a delicious beef-on-a-bun supper and listened to heartfelt stories from clients as they shared their personal journeys of recovery. Clients were also recognized with certificates celebrating their milestones and the number of days they had been sober.

Our 5th Annual Alumni Event was a wonderful example of the power of connection, community, and hope. Seeing current clients connect with alumni offered a powerful reminder of what is possible through recovery. The weekend demonstrated that living clean and sober can open the door to a healthier, more fulfilling life.

Thank you to our alumni, clients, staff, volunteers, donors, and community supporters for making our 5th anniversary celebration such a success! Together, we continue to show that recovery is possible.



The Power of Connection

Seeing someone who once stood where you are now can make hope feel real. Our Alumni Event is a chance to reconnect, celebrate progress, and see the possibilities that life in recovery can hold.





Step Up for Mental Health

On September 29th, Thorpe hosted the Step Up for Mental Health Run on the Thorpe grounds. Our clients and staff came together to participate in a 5 km walk/run, promoting the importance of mental health, physical wellness, and recovery.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Johnathon from 321 Go Running for being an important part of this event and helping make it a success. We are also incredibly grateful to our dedicated Run Club volunteers, whose time, energy, and support helped bring this event to life. Events like these would not be possible without the generosity and commitment of our community.

The evening wrapped up with a BBQ for all staff, clients, and volunteers, providing a wonderful opportunity to connect, share a meal, and celebrate the day together.

Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, and supported this meaningful event. Together, we continue to promote mental wellness, build healthy connections, and remind one another that recovery and wellness are strengthened through community and connection.





On October 1st, Thorpe hosted Her Strength, Her Story in Lloydminster, a special evening dedicated to celebrating women's voices, resilience, and the power of sharing our stories. We are grateful to the Gold Horse Casino for generously donating their event centre and helping make this event possible.

The evening featured keynote mental health speaker Jess Tetu and our very own Thorpe alumna Mindy Hawthorne, who shared their inspiring experiences and stories of resilience. Guests also enjoyed live music by the talented Jordyn Pollard, along with charcuterie and snacks.





HER STRENGTH
Her Story

The event provided an opportunity to raise awareness about Thorpe's programs and resources while creating meaningful connections within our community. It was a powerful reminder of the importance of being heard, supporting one another, and creating spaces where women feel empowered to share their stories.

A special thank you to our title sponsor, Red Bicycle Communications, as well as the Gold Horse Casino, all our sponsors, and our dedicated volunteers. Your generosity and support helped make this meaningful evening a success!

SECOND CHANCE CLOSET

DONATIONS NEEDED

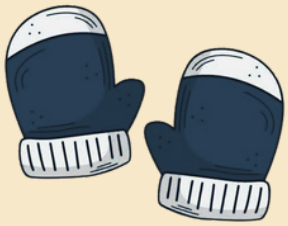
Winter Warmth – From Your Closet to Their Fresh Start

As the seasons change, it's time to refresh more than just our wardrobes —
it's time to refresh our hearts.
This winter, we invite our community to "Clean Your Closet for the Hive"
Just like bees work together to strengthen the hive, each small act of kindness helps support someone rebuilding their life in recovery.

How You Can Help
We need both men's and women's:

- Warm clothing
- Toques, Mitts & Scarves
- Scarves
- Jeans
- Running shoes
- Warm Jackets
- Toiletries





For donation inquiries please contact us at 780-875-8890