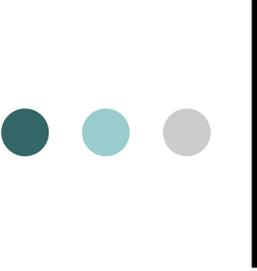


BRINGING ADVOCACY INTO NURSING PRACTICE

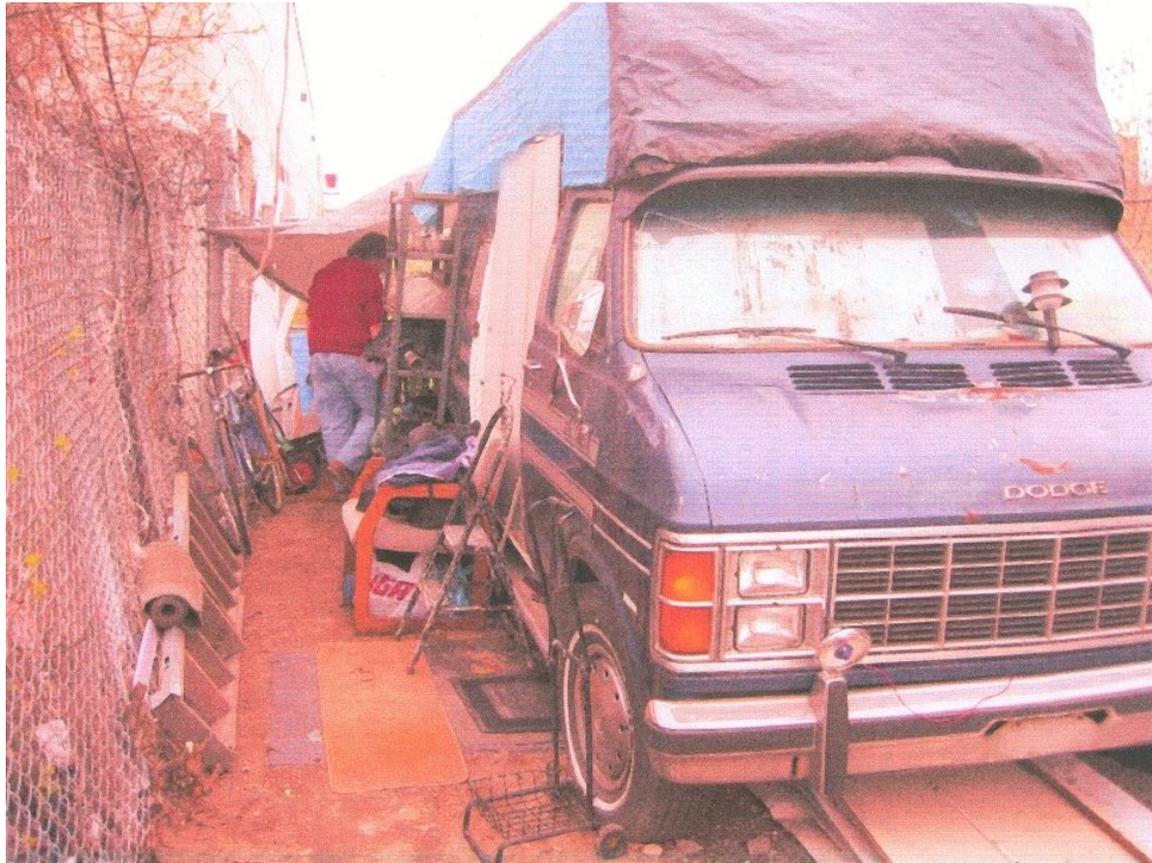
How a network of street nurses has responded to homelessness and health issues?



Outline

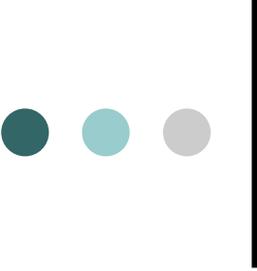
- SNN – Street Nurses Network
 - Present role
- History
 - Initial formation and original members
 - Advocacy initiatives
- Emerging Trends
- Future Directions

Our Clients



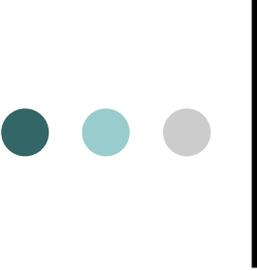






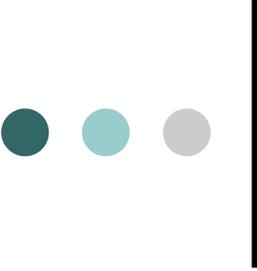
SNN – Present Role

- Who are we?
 - A group of nurses who work with homeless, marginally housed and/or people living in poverty.



SNN – Present Role (cont)

- What we do?
 - We once a month in Toronto to tell stories, share information, network, discuss emerging trends and plan.
 - We use the meeting time to support and validate each other in our practice.
 - We discuss, plan and develop a collective for advocacy initiatives like press conferences.

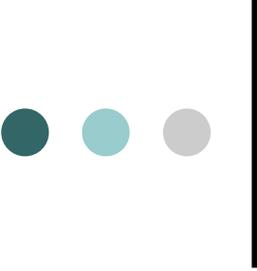


SNN - Membership

- Any nurse can join.
 - Where do other HCPs fit in?
- Canada wide email list.
- We support and encourage membership growth.
- Student nurses.

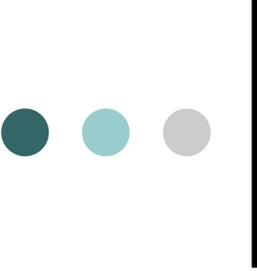


Photo from Cathy Crowe



SNN - Agencies

- Members from SNN work at a variety of agencies.
 - Shelters, Community Health Centres, Toronto Public Health, Drop-ins, Street Health, Hospitals, Palliative care, and many more.
 - Often work in isolation



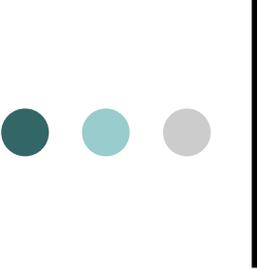
SNN - Meetings

- Our meeting locations rotate.
- Usually 2 hours, Wednesday mornings.
- Retreats

Typical Agenda

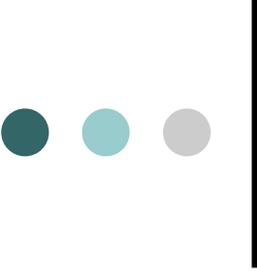
- Check-In
- “Hot Spots”
- Updates from Toronto Public Health
- Events





History - Origins

- Street Health, an autonomous nursing organization, opened in 1989 (Hardill, 2006)
- In 1990, Street Health worked to connect other street nurses working across Toronto (Hardill, personal communication, 2008)
- “for the first few years or so SNN was highly politicized and accomplished some good things” (Hardill, personal communication, 2008)

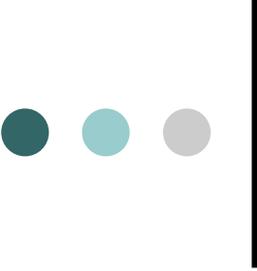


Original Members

- Nurses from:
 - Street Health
 - Corner Drop-in
 - Anishnawbe CHC
 - Covenant House
 - Seaton House
 - Women's Res (Hardill, personal communication, 2008)

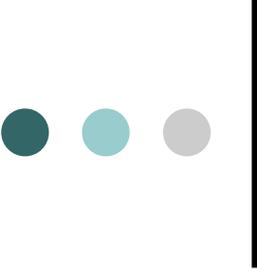


Photo from Cathy Crowe



Advocacy Initiatives

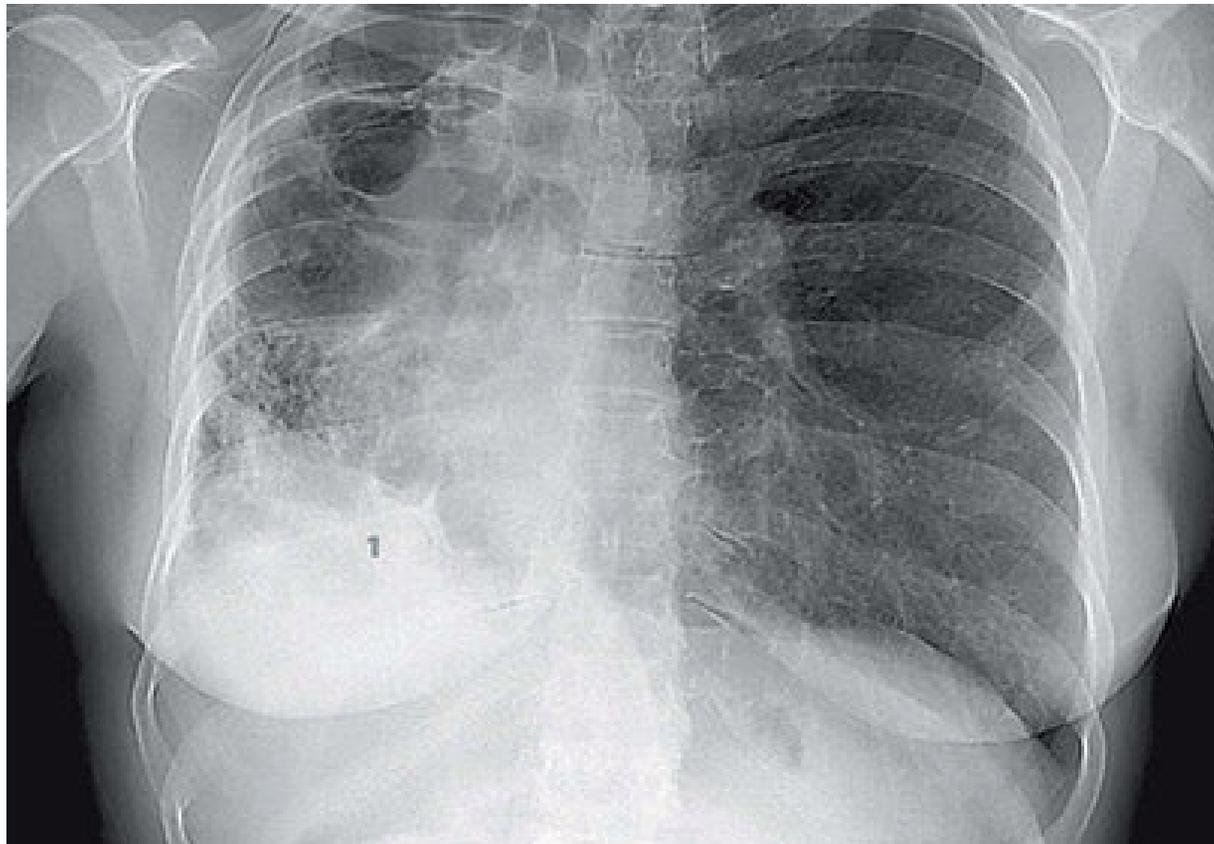
- Inquests
- New service delivery
- Political activism
- Partnership with Toronto Public Health



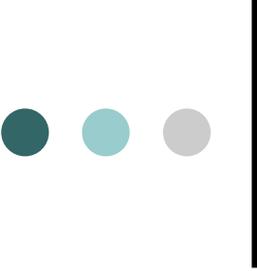
Inquests

- TB Inquest

- There was an inquest into 3 men contracting Tuberculosis at a Toronto shelter (Hardill, 2006)
- The inquest brought attention to poor shelter conditions (Hardill, 2006)
- TBAG

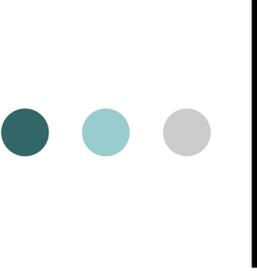


<http://www.thestar.com/living/Health/article/306357>



TB Recommendations

- Thirteen recommendations addressing:
 - Shelter conditions
 - Ventilation
 - Screening practices
 - Integration of care between shelter and hospital
- http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/french/pub_safety/office_coroner/verdicts_and_recs/2004%20Inquests/TEIGESSER%20recommendations.pdf



Inquests (cont)

○ Freezing Inquest

- In 1996, three Toronto homeless men froze to death. The SNN helped lobby the provincial coroner for an inquest (Sibbald, 1996)
- The inquest resulted in the creation of a “wet shelter” at Seaton House (Sibbald, 1996)

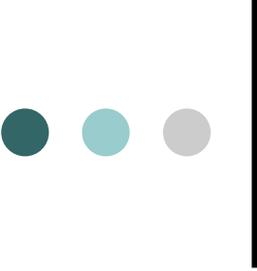
Recommendations

- **“Shelter ‘goes wet,’ opens infirmary to cater to Toronto's homeless”**

- Peter Wilton <http://www.cmai.ca/cqi/content/full/168/7/888-a>



- <http://www.toronto.ca/housing/sock/see.htm>



New Service Delivery Initiatives

- Perram House
 - Homeless palliative care
- Infirmaries
 - Seaton House and Sherbourne Health Centre
 - Homecare for the homeless

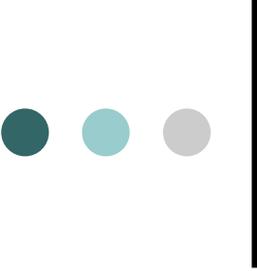
New Service Delivery Initiatives (2)

- OHIP
 - ID clinics – PAID project (partners for access and identification)
 - Kiosks

You may have either a red and white or photo health card



Either card is acceptable for insured health services if it is valid and belongs to you

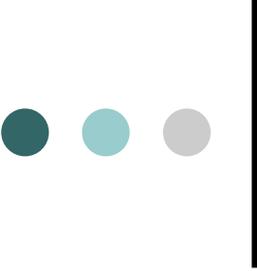


Political Activism

- Toronto Disaster Relief
 - Homelessness is a National Disaster
- Police violence reporting
 - Coalition against violence (SNN retreat, 2007)



Photo from Cathy Crowe



Political Activism (2)

- Protests and demonstrations
 - Against closures
 - Special diet
- Petitions
- Endorsements
 - SNN representative versus agency representative

Political Activism (3)

- Press conferences
 - Hepatitis C funding
- Letter writing campaigns
 - Writing a letter to the McGuinty government during nursing week to highlight the issues of poverty and health
- Meet with politicians
 - George Smitherman

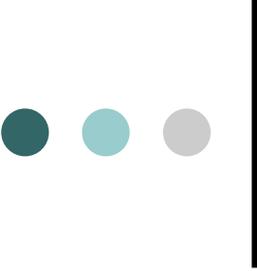
<http://www.fims.uwo.ca/olr/Mar0905/smitherman.jpg>



Press Conference

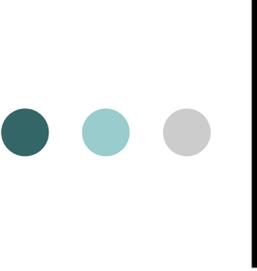


Photo from Cathy Crowe



Partnership - TPH

- Tuberculosis
 - Notification of active cases
- Outbreaks
 - Norwalk
- Bed Bugs
- Infection Control
- HARP- Homeless At Risk Prenatal
- The Works

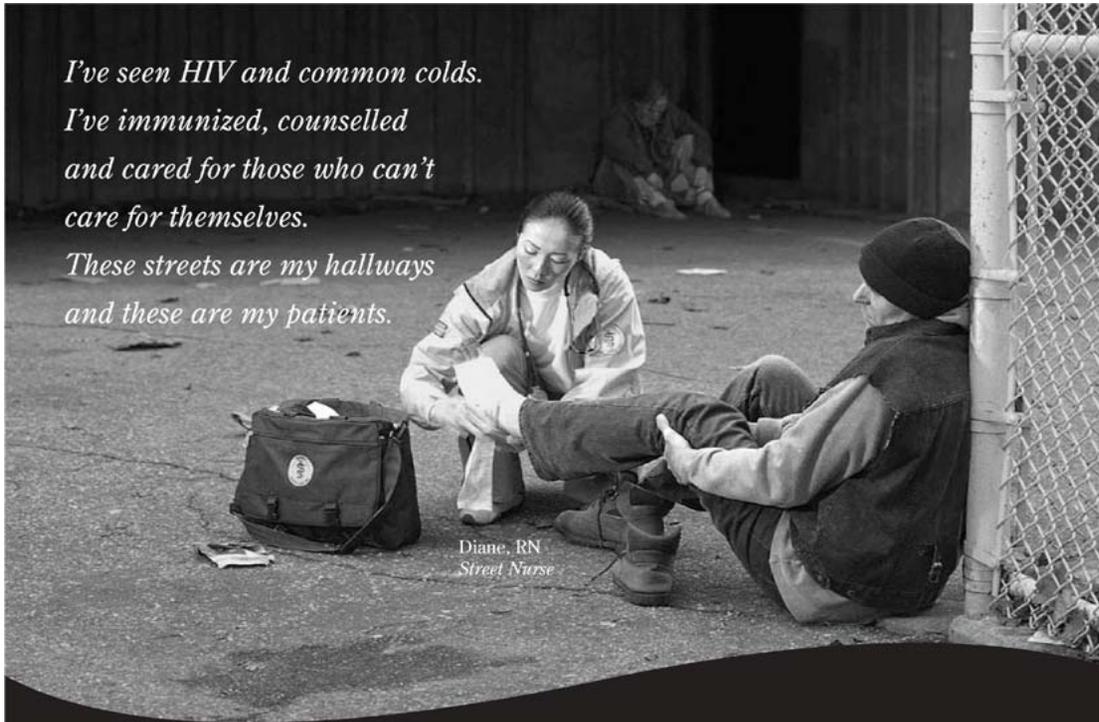


Media

- “Nurses for social responsibility”
- Capacity building
- Capitalizing on “hot topics”
- Metro Morning



*I've seen HIV and common colds.
I've immunized, counselled
and cared for those who can't
care for themselves.
These streets are my hallways
and these are my patients.*



*Diane, RN
Street Nurse*

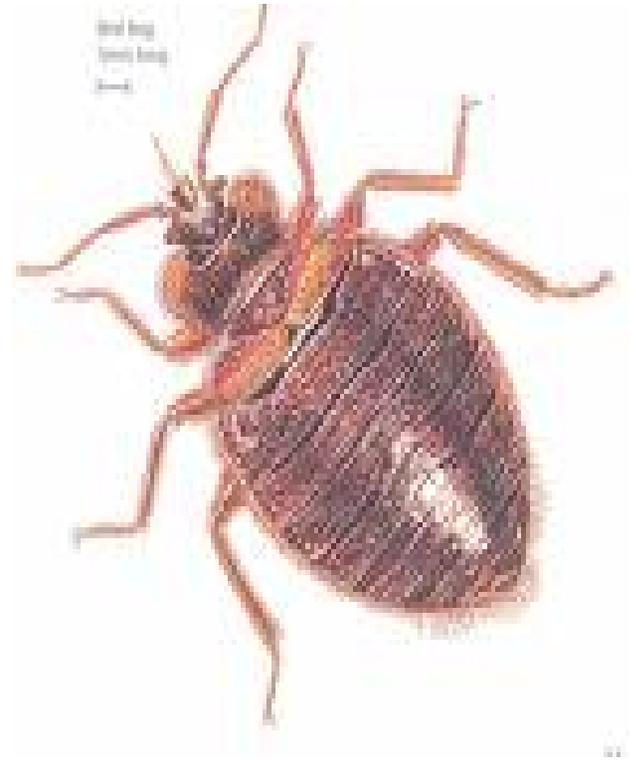
New housing dollars in the
latest Ontario budget: **Zero**



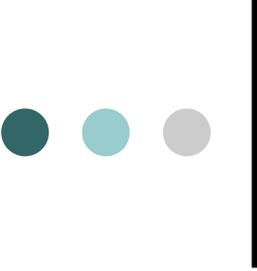
Photo from Cathy Crowe

Emerging Trends

- Bed Bugs
- Hepatitis C
- Housing

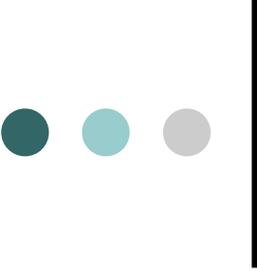


<http://www.preston.gov.uk/Images/General/Environmental%20Health/bed%20bug%20pic.jpg>



Emerging Trends (2)

- Youth
- Aging population
 - Transition between shelter and LTC
 - Psycho geriatric
- Women
 - Detox
 - High risk pregnancy



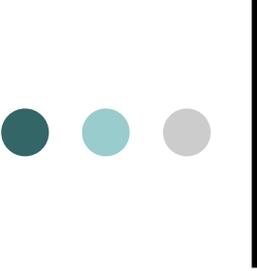
Future of SNN

- Education
 - EMS
 - Nursing classes
 - ER: Stigma / discrimination
- Expanded membership
- Nation wide connections
- Virtual community of practice



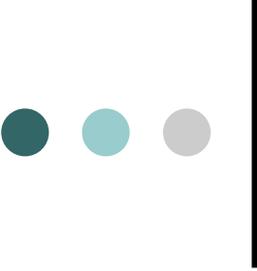
www.sno.mcmaster.ca

To learn about the project go to:
<http://streetnursing.mcmaster.ca>



Special Thanks To:

- Cathy Crowe
- Kathy Hardill
- Laura Hanson
- Lynda Meneely
- Dyanne Semogas
- SNN



Reference

- Hardill, K. (2006). From the Grey Nuns to the Streets: A Critical History of Outreach Nursing in Canada. *Public Health Nursing* 24(1), 91-97.