

THE  
**BOUNDLESS**  
SCHOOL

# Shelter

FROM THE STORM





The Boundless School  
7513 River Road, RR#1  
Palmer Rapids, ON  
K0J 2E0



Phone: 613-758-2702

97 Kendal Avenue  
Toronto, ON  
M5R 1L8

Phone: 416-951-7059

Email: [office@theboundlessschool.com](mailto:office@theboundlessschool.com)

Charity Registration: 124225855RR0001

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Robson, Chair  
Dr. Erin Brennan, Secretary  
Ben Gardent, Treasurer  
James Nunes, Director  
Sarah Frasca, Director  
Bri Trypuc, Director  
Jill Bennett, Director



**“Oh man,  
where do I even begin  
talking about  
the Boundless School?”**

***This institution...no, this HOME,  
completely changed my life  
and I'm forever grateful  
for the experience.”***

## CONTENTS

**5**

**DEAR FRIENDS OF BOUNDLESS**

**6**

**REMARKABLE YOUNG PEOPLE**

**10**

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**12**

**COOL STUFF AHEAD**

**14**

**HOW TO GROW IN AN HR CRISIS**

**16**

**FRIENDS & CONTRIBUTORS**

**20**

**AUDITED FINANCIALS**







# Dear Friends of Boundless

— A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR —

**B**lame the mental health epidemic on Covid. Or perhaps screen addictions, polarizing culture, climate change, social media, gender confusion, extreme isolation. The impact is an echo chamber of angst and anxiety that many teenage brains can't quite cope with.

The few that arrive at Boundless step off the bus liked slouching primates emerging from a zoo cage, bereft of any clue on how to be in a group, and often lacking the will to get out of bed. Apathy reigns.

We comprehend, more than ever before, that Boundless is an oasis. A 600-acre shelter from the madness.

What the kids achieved this past year, in spite of this toxic brew, simply astounds.

No longer planning to make a living on YouTube, our students' plans for the future are rooted in realism. Careers like nursing, policing, various mechanical, education, hairstyling; and scores more, shall soon adorn the resumes of these aspirants that have climbed out of their caves.

Their improvement in mental health, described in glowing detail by their caregivers and especially by the kids themselves, that has been transformational. We have launched a research project to prove it.

Regarding the outcomes that defined this past year—safety record, numbers of clients served and completed, academic achievements, financial health—it was another excellent tour of duty in 2022/2023. The details are described herein.

The biggest challenge facing Boundless these days is the human resource crisis. Recently, an applicant claimed she couldn't work because, "I have a co-dependent relationship with my cat."

But the gems that are our teachers are still here. I am in awe of these people for making our shelter from the storm so irresistible to kids, and for facilitating their success with such forbearance and alacrity.

And to you readers of this annual report, you lovely friends of Boundless kids, thanks for standing with them. ●

Sincerely,



Steven Gottlieb

# Remarkable

— SOME NAMES, FACTS & CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE BEEN ALTERED TO PROTECT PRIVACY —

## SEBBY—AN ELDER IN WAITING

**P**ummeled by the aftermath of multiple suicides in her family, Sebby moved south from Iqaluit with her mom, now single, trying to cobble together a new life.

Sebby wouldn't get out of bed. "The noise was so loud. It wasn't that way up north." High school was out of the question. "Just going on the bus took courage. People taunted me and hated the sight of me."

In the past few decades, Sebby and her mom have followed the well-trodden path of many Northern "refugees" looking for a new life.

Sebby fashions herself to be an Elder in training, and speaks like one at the ripe age of 18.

"There isn't one family in the north who hasn't been affected by suicide."

Making matters even more nuanced, Sebby identifies as a woman and was born male. "I am not what my body was when I was born." Her psycho-educational assessment was a 15-page rap sheet of academic challenges.

Two years ago, she arrived at Boundless unwilling to speak, and flat out refusing to be touched, even by a simple handshake. "Watching everyone else (at Boundless) always hugging each other just made me feel like shit."

Around day 20, she expressed a need to run healing circles. While she is Inuk, she asked for materials to smudge—a sacred ritual conducted by Indigenous people of the "south". She arranged for seal meat to be sent to Boundless. Some of her peers dry heaved, while others were more eager, showing Sebby a gesture of respect that elevated her status in the community.

In class, she needed one-to-one almost all the time. She would check out otherwise. She would often take refuge in our kitchen, and served meals to her fellow students like a doting grandmother.

Sebby endured, revealing an inner strength she never knew she had.

Completing 345 days at Boundless, and after being lavishly feted at her graduation ceremony, Sebby doled out hugs that like a drunken polar bear. With her endearing eyes squinting, both from pain and from gratitude, she stepped onto the Boundless bus with a bright future ahead, barely able to get out her parting words.

"I am going to be a chef," she declared. And off she went, back to the real world. ●



# Young People

## QUICHE—THAT SCOUNDREL

**W**e have profiled him from time to time that past 18 months. He's still here. In spite of being such a pain in the ass. I guess we just love him too much. He's got under our skin.

With the best of the Caribbean and Cree in his genes, he confided one night about not fitting in to either community. "Neither group would let me in."

A few years back, he was diagnosed with severe social anxiety and he flipped the bird at his Scarborough high school. And then he pretty much wouldn't leave his house.

His tenure at Boundless smacks of a soap opera. He's been sent home from Boundless twice, suffering two lengthy stays in a figurative penalty box. Why? Because this Scarborough boy can be a real dick sometimes.

But he's not really a dick at all. He's just scared. Really scared inside. He is six-foot-two-inches of ambivalence and contradiction. He has managed to find his way back to us. He makes promises. So many promises.

Academically, he's sharp. He learns quickly, probably too much so for his own good. He is often sprawled across a makeshift couch in class, eyes half rolling, and participating only when he feels like it.

He has been born with the double-edged sword of possessing leadership skills, but

with a dread of public speaking. It turns him into a pretzel. Sometimes the very best leaders don't need to speak much at all. They inspire through modelling. By showing the way. By giving a nod to the recalcitrant ones. Other students gravitate to Quiche, but he often runs away from the burden.

Given his fervent desire to become a teacher and an outdoor educator, he's got to overcome this reticence.

He was originally referred to us by the Native Family and Child Centre of Toronto, with the hope that we train him to be a leader, so he can support other youth in NFCS recreation programs.

So, what does Quiche do? He fashions together a resume, sends it out to a half dozen canoe-tripping companies, and lands a gig just 5 kms from Boundless during the summer break. All on his own. Greg, who runs the NFCS summer camp and has gone to the ends of the earth for that lad, is frustrated, "That scoundrel should be working at our camp this summer."

Scoundrel indeed. Yet we think his initiative is the most important thing in his life right now. He has come a long way from his couch.

He returns to us this September, and should, in theory, graduate with a full diploma by Christmas. He has already been accepted into Algonquin College's Outdoor Education Program, pending six more credits he need to earn at Boundless. ●









***“I learned a lot  
about students from  
different walks of life and backgrounds.***

***Being exposed to such diversity  
helped me to become more empathetic and  
understanding towards others.***

***Not to mention having role models  
who exemplified what it meant  
to be a good and decent person.”***

# By The Numbers

## TOTAL STUDENT DAYS DELIVERED

2,145      6,415      7,728

## BEHAVIOURAL INCIDENTS

116      218      243

## STUDENT COMPLETION RATE (ALL PROGRAMS)

98%      95%      96%

## SERIOUS HEALTH & SAFETY INCIDENTS

0      0      2

2020-  
2021

2021-  
2022

2022-  
2023

## STUDENTS COMPLETING FULL DIPLOMA AT BOUNDLESS

26      54      63

2020-  
2021

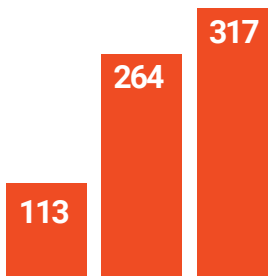
2021-  
2022

2022-  
2023

## TOTAL STUDENTS SERVED & NUMBER OF INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

### TOTAL STUDENTS

### INDIGENOUS



2020-  
2021

2021-  
2022

2022-  
2023

2020-  
2021

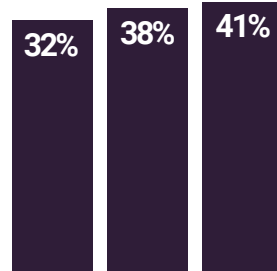
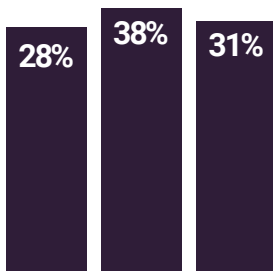
2021-  
2022

2022-  
2023

## INCREASE IN GRADES COMPARED TO PUBLIC SCHOOL SCORES

### ENGLISH

### MATH & SCIENCE



2020-  
2021

2021-  
2022

2022-  
2023

2020-  
2021

2021-  
2022

2022-  
2023



# Student Profiles

**“Youth cynicism is sad to observe, because it indicates not so much knowledge learned from better experiences as insufficient trust even to attempt the future.”**

**—Maya Angelou, 1981**

**Fast forward four decades, and this is what Boundless kids faced prior to coming to Boundless:**

**100%** Achieved credits below their grade level & experienced long-term school interruptions

**100%** Presented diagnosed mental health and learning challenges

**100%** Reported as low-income

**86%** Reported significant familial dysfunction

**38%** Had been hospitalized for mental health issues

**18%** Had been suspended or expelled

**11%** Had criminal histories

# Cool Stuff Ahead

— COMING IN 2023/2024 —





Indigenous partners are clamouring to refer 40 people at a time (versus the current 10-20 youth). We are going to make this happen.



More work with Michael Garron Hospital's Anxiety Clinic. The initiative we dub "*Rising from the Couch*" is having a deep impact on Toronto and Ottawa youth. Many more are coming in the year ahead.



We are creating a program to work with Indigenous family members. Our partners shall send Elders to lead this promising program that aims to foster healing in families overwrought with suicide and problematic substance abuse.

Youth are stuffing their faces with the organic food we grow at Boundless. Students earn science credits for this. We still pinch ourselves.



Our focus on Conservation and land restoration continues at a steady clip. But still no rush.



We are doing qualitative research on the efficacy of our impact on adolescent anxiety, depression and other mood disorders, starting September.



**“I struggled a lot**  
*with social anxiety,*  
*but everyone here*  
*is really supportive.*

*At Boundless*  
*I feel like my weirdness*  
*is appreciated.”*



# How to GROW in an HR Crisis?

— SHOCKINGLY, WE THINK WE'VE FIGURED IT OUT —

**W**hat to do when demand for our programs has doubled, while we barely have enough staffing wunderkinds to carry the current load?

There is a seismic shift in the working attitudes of Gen Z. One well experienced applicant asked recently, "Do I have to work mornings?"

We could hire more of those who don't have that certain spark. But that won't cut it. The youth we serve require brilliance.

The HR crisis has taken its toll on Boundless. We are good for now. But how to grow?

And grow we must. Pilot projects the past three years have an unstoppable momentum.

## THE PLAN

Our social enterprise—where we work with affluent youth for six weeks a year to raise charitable dollars, shall be cancelled in the summer of 2024, freeing up oodles of staff time.

These human resources shall be re-directed to serving kids who need us most. 30% more marginalized kids are coming in the next year alone.

Nevertheless, this decision stings. For twenty years, social enterprise revenue fed our coffers handsomely.

We aim to replace this revenue with donations. This shall take time—we are not the slickest of fundraisers.

But the dividends of this tough decision are thrilling to contemplate.

Expansion of Indigenous programs, more emphasis on the anxiety epidemic and a far greater focus on community programming; they all get our juices flowing. ●

# FRIENDS & Contributors

## ORGANIZATIONS

Anonymous x5  
Airlee Foundation  
Ardea Foundation  
AWAY Travel  
Barrick Gold Corporation  
Bealight Foundation  
Bell Canada  
Bernard and Norton Wolf Family Foundation  
Bickle-Wilder Foundation  
Blistex  
BMO  
C.B. Powell Foundation  
Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation  
Christelle Holdings  
Dr. Lou and Mae Lukenda Charitable Foundation  
Definity Insurance Foundation  
Durish Pohlman Family Foundation  
Five2Nine Inc.

Gestion Maurice et Donna Assh Inc.  
GNM Enterprises  
Hamilton Community Foundation  
Harry E. Foster Foundation  
Henry & Berenice Kaufmann Foundation  
Hobgoblin Foundation  
Iambic Communications  
Jackman Foundation  
Jacma Foundation  
MacKenzie Financial  
Marcha  
MCAP  
MFS Investment  
Michael Haines Push Corp  
MTE Consultants Inc.  
Netflix  
Ottawa Community Foundation  
Peter Cundill Foundation  
Providius Corp  
R. Dowling Fund  
Robert and Pauline Waller Foundation  
Robert Bell Family Foundation  
Robertson Family Charitable Fund  
S.M. Blair Family Foundation  
Silverorange Inc.  
Stacey Family Aurora Fund  
Stead Family Fund  
Tahira and Litihab Hassan Charitable Trust  
Tam Family Fund  
TD Bank  
Telus  
Temerty Foundation  
The Bedolfe Foundation  
The D.H. Gordon Foundation  
The Walker Lynch Foundation  
The Young Fund  
Throop Family Foundation  
Toronto Community Foundation  
Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund  
Unilock LTD  
Viggo Lewis Foundation  
W.C. Kitchen Foundation  
Wagga Euchre Tournament  
Wagner Green Family Trust  
Walker Wood Foundation







# FRIENDS & Contributors

— INDIVIDUALS —

Mary Abramson  
*In Honour of Stephen Morris*  
Sheir Ali  
Drew Allin  
Kofi Amankwah  
Justin Anis  
Arlene Anisman  
Victoria Anisman  
Victoria Anisman-Reiner  
Anonymous Donor  
*In Memory of Eion Glyn-Williams*  
Anonymous Donors x132  
Francine Armel  
Thomas Arsenault  
Ratheeka Balarajah  
*Dedication to "My Mom"*  
Holly Barrila  
Philip Bazinet  
Dina Bernardo  
Dave Pidduck and Bonnie Best

Susan Bookbinder  
Kiva Bottero  
Doug Bradley  
Jovanni Sy and Leanne Brodie  
*In Honour of Regan*  
Kasey Brown  
Neli Brum  
Phillip Bruno  
Jennifer Bulmer  
Deborah Burgess  
Michael Busheikin  
Joe Canavan  
*In Honour of Janyce Lastman*  
Cavelti Family Foundation  
Mark Cestnik  
Darren Chadwick  
Linus Chan  
Vincenta Cheng  
Nancy Chernin  
John Chia

Henry Chrysanthus  
Elyse Clement  
Oliver Conrad  
Ian Corbett  
Tom and Kathy Cronin  
Robert Csiki  
Karla Curry  
Nick D'Souza  
William Daeuber  
Pradyumn Damani  
Linda Dancredi  
*In Honour of Dee Purbhoo*  
Lauren D'Angelo  
Norma Davis  
Joanne de Boehmler  
Joseph De Fazio  
Ron De Vries  
Johanna Delroy  
Lily Desta  
*In Honour of Nitin D'Souza*



Kimberly Dobo  
 Dillion Douglas  
 Patricia Duncan  
 Nina Durzo  
 Joanna Ebbutt  
 Delia Elkin  
 Tasneem Essaji  
 Brent Fallis  
 John Faris  
 Donald Fasken Clark  
 Daniel Feuer  
 Carol French  
 Ian Frensch  
 Josee Gauthier  
 Tina Gim  
 Richard Groen  
*In Honour of Dee Purbhoo*  
 Lois Groombridge  
*In Honour of Nitin D'Souza*  
 Alena Grunwald  
 Jack Gustafson  
 Mary and Graham Hallward  
 Michael Hamata  
 Cheryl Hechter  
 Maria-Lucia Hergovich  
 Susan Hillery  
 Ashok Hingorani  
 Hodgson Family Foundation  
 Wendy Houlberg  
 David and Heidi Howell  
 Julie Howes  
 Kimberly Hullah  
 Teresa Iacobelli  
 Ujjwal Jain  
 Sharon Kelly  
 Jeff Kimel  
 Steven King  
 Karina Kleppa  
 Thea Kuijper  
 Mary Kuracina  
 Rejean Lapensee  
 Paul Lapointe  
*In Honour of Nitin D'Souza*  
 Kristin Latonas  
 Derik Lawlis  
 Carrie LeBaron  
 Stephanie LeBaron  
 Jenny Lee  
 Jonathan Lee  
 Kate Lee  
 Maureen Lennox

Florian Letourneux  
 Naomi Levine  
 Trevor Lewis  
 Susan Lieberman  
 Susan Lipchak  
 Paul Lowndes  
 David and Susan Lucas  
 Amy Luk  
 Judi MacLeod  
 Frank Margani  
 Andrea Martin  
*In Honour of Dee Purbhoo*  
 Anthony Martin  
*In Honour of Dee Purbhoo*  
 Jillian Massad  
 Rianna McBride  
 Ian Mcdonald  
 Susan McLeod  
 Allison Miller  
 Matt Moody  
 Marc Morissette  
 Forest Nelson  
 Trinh Nguyen  
 Jamie Nokes  
 Carly Nurmsoo  
 Cathy Page  
 Cory Pelletier  
 Christine Petch  
 Scott Peterson  
 Steven Poole  
 Linda Prussick  
 Ibad Raees  
 Samantha Read  
 John Reid  
 Kasra Rezaee  
 Ian Richardson  
 Laura Riley  
 Heinz Rimmele  
 Stephen Risk  
 Shirley Roberts  
 Tammy Robertson  
 Bob and Joan Robson  
 Charlotte Rose  
 Nora Sanders  
 Rachel Schaefer  
 Melissa Schuurman  
*In Honour of Brandon Hayes*  
 Matt and Leanne Scinocca  
*In Honour of Nitin D'Souza*  
 Matthew Secaur  
 Rajeswari Selvaraj

Sara Smibert  
*In Memory of Neil Stewart Smibert*  
 Karen Snider  
 Kuljiit Soos  
 Peter South  
 Kevin Southgate  
 Anne Stanley  
*In Honour of Dee Purbhoo*  
 Dr. Catherine Steele  
 Thomas Steffler  
*In Honour of Naomi Hunter*  
 Mark Stevenson  
 Daniel Stiplosek  
 Myles Swartz  
 Chloe Tashlin Fleugel  
 Michelle Tatham  
 John and Sylvia Tavares  
 Anna Thomas  
 Loren Thorburn  
 Tim Tisdall  
 Tim Topper  
 Michael Tseng  
*In Honour of Nitin D'Souza*  
 Stephen Urback  
*In Honour of Anita Lau*  
 Dr. Angela Varrin  
 Talin Vartanian  
*In Honour of Ron Mintz*  
 Jim Vice  
 Alexandre Vicente  
 Shannon Voorberg  
 Martina Vuksinic  
 Bryn Ward  
 Christian Wen  
 Charlene White  
 Anton Wierenga  
 Matthew Williams  
 Amy Wilson  
 Norman Wing Shum  
 Heather Wong  
 Sukyong Yang  
 Catherine Yolles  
 Norman and Janey Young  
 Rena Young  
 Vivienne Young  
 Wenny Z.  
 Soroush Zolfkhani

Excerpts From

# Audited Financial Statements



To view our full audited financial statements,  
please visit our website:

**[theboundlesschool.com](https://theboundlesschool.com)**



# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT MARCH 31, 2023

	2023	2022
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 939,526	\$ 817,690
Accounts receivable	16,235	22,615
Portfolio investments	503,599	584,475
Prepaid expenses and deposits	<u>10,110</u>	<u>8,313</u>
	1,469,470	1,433,093
Portfolio investments	316,241	-
Internally restricted assets	1,591,615	1,518,302
Facilities and equipment	<u>2,998,533</u>	<u>3,118,968</u>
	<b><u>\$ 6,375,859</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 6,070,363</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 64,241	\$ 59,195
Government remittances payable	21,362	17,144
Deferred revenue	<u>355,120</u>	<u>509,771</u>
	440,723	586,110
Deferred contributions related to facilities and equipment	<u>445,517</u>	<u>470,055</u>
	<u>886,240</u>	<u>1,056,165</u>
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>		
General fund	3,898,004	3,495,896
Contingency fund	1,327,755	1,252,814
B.E.C.A. Environmental fund	213,860	215,488
Innovation fund	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>
	5,489,619	5,014,198
	<b><u>\$ 6,375,859</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 6,070,363</u></b>

Approved on behalf of the board



Steven Gottlieb  
Executive Director



Tom Robson  
President of the Board

# STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

	<i>Innovation Fund</i>	<i>B.E.C.A Environmental Fund</i>	<i>Contingency Fund</i>	<i>General Fund</i>	<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>Total 2022</i>
<b>Revenue</b>						
Ontario MCCSS Program						
Youth Justice	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 84,000	\$ 84,000	\$ 84,000
C.R.R.F	-	-	-	18,223	18,223	26,003
Recognition of deferred MCCSS capital funding	-	-	-	2,699	2,699	3,308
CTYS Program*						
Intensive Treatment Services	-	-	-	200,224	200,224	200,224
Coordinated Access and Intake	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Service Coordination	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Waterworks	-	-	-	20,900	20,900	20,900
CTYS Program*	-	-	-	291,923	291,923	291,923
Government assistance	-	-	-	-	-	164,473
User fees	-	-	-	127,919	127,919	104,256
Payroll subsidy	-	-	-	23,372	23,372	29,163
Donations	-	-	-	998,349	998,349	991,946
High school fees	-	-	-	542,672	542,672	500,354
Recognition of other deferred capital funding	-	-	-	21,839	21,839	22,988
Investment income	-	4,337	74,941	-	79,278	13,087
Other income	-	-	-	460	460	233
	<u>-</u>	<u>4,337</u>	<u>74,941</u>	<u>2,334,580</u>	<u>2,413,858</u>	<u>2,454,858</u>

\*Refer to Notes 11 and 12 in the full audited Financial Statements available online

# STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

	<i>Innovation Fund</i>	<i>B.E.C.A Environmental Fund</i>	<i>Contingency Fund</i>	<i>General Fund</i>	<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>Total 2022</i>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Salaries	-	-	-	1,114,090	1,114,090	1,069,142
Program expense and supplies	-	-	-	150,784	150,784	200,951
Amortization	-	-	-	125,262	125,262	138,637
Food	-	-	-	118,916	118,916	106,833
Employer costs and benefits	-	-	-	112,763	112,763	98,777
Insurance	-	-	-	70,776	70,776	62,318
Automotive and travel	-	-	-	33,619	33,619	37,553
Utilities	-	-	-	33,232	33,232	35,548
Repairs and maintenance	-	-	-	29,100	29,100	16,616
Accounting and audit	-	-	-	29,092	29,092	26,791
Rent - office	-	-	-	23,624	23,624	23,162
Waterworks	-	-	-	21,140	21,140	22,472
Program development	-	-	-	20,760	20,760	17,296
Property taxes	-	-	-	17,467	17,467	19,609
Rent - staff accommodations	-	-	-	9,355	9,355	9,355
Telephone	-	-	-	9,319	9,319	8,279
Staff education	-	-	-	8,835	8,835	14,273
Office and general	-	-	-	4,183	4,183	11,667
Bank charges	-	-	-	155	155	104
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,932,472</u>	<u>1,932,472</u>	<u>1,919,383</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>4,337</u>	<u>74,941</u>	<u>402,108</u>	<u>481,386</u>	<u>535,475</u>
<b>Other (income) expenses</b>						
Gain on sale of equipment	-	-	-	-	-	(5,782)
Unrealized loss (gain) on short-term investments	-	5,965	-	-	5,965	(9,049)
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,965</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,965</u>	<u>(14,831)</u>
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ <u>-</u>	\$ <u>(1,628)</u>	\$ <u>74,941</u>	\$ <u>401,108</u>	\$ <u>475,421</u>	\$ <u>550,306</u>



