

About brain injury

Did You Know?



- Every year 50,000 Canadians sustain brain injuries. Of those, 16,000 reside in Ontario which means that 44 individuals in Ontario sustain a traumatic brain injury EVERY DAY.
- There are close to half a million Ontarians currently living with ABI.
- The majority of young Canadians who suffer an ABI are males between the ages of 15 and 30.
- Many ABI survivors experience changes to their behaviour and personality, physical and sensory abilities, thinking and learning.
- Up to 70% of all brain injuries result in consequences requiring support services.

However a brain injury is acquired (common causes include traumatic events such as motor vehicle accidents or strokes), surviving the injury is only part of the battle. The effects of the brain injury are often life-long and support is needed on an ongoing basis.

Long-term effects may include physical and cognitive impairments, behavioural disorders, and speech and communication problems.

Community-based programs, such as CHIRS offers, have proven essential in facilitating the continued support, teaching and training necessary for an improved quality of life.

Costs

Services are offered on a subsidized and fee-for-service basis. All applicants requesting subsidy will be required to complete an income disclosure form.

Community

CHIRS is actively involved in the larger community. We are founding members of:

- The Director's Network
- The Ontario Association of Community-Based Boards for Acquired Brain Injury Services (OACBIBS)
- Toronto ABI Network
- Central LHIN ABI Collaborative

Your donations help

To donate to CHIRS and receive a tax-deductible receipt, please call us at 416-240-8000.

For more information

or to make a referral, please contact Intake at 416-240-8000 or email intake@chirs.com.



CHIRS

Community Head Injury Resource Services

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des services de santé



CHIRS

Community Head Injury Resource Services



An Overview



CHIRS, formerly known as Ashby House, opened in 1978 as the first community-based head injury residential program in North America. From the beginning, our mission has been to improve

the quality of life for people living with the effects of acquired brain injury (ABI). We accomplish this by providing a variety of client-centered programs and services which evolve to meet the changing needs of our clients, stakeholders and the ABI community.

The original program housed up to eight men living with acquired brain injury with the goal of transition to community integration and independent living. Since then, we have expanded to include long-term residential options, community outreach, leisure and community integration programming, group psycho-social interventions and limited individualized clinical services supervised by our Neuropsychologists, Social Worker and Occupational Therapist.

MISSION

To improve the quality of life for persons living with the effects of acquired brain injury

VISION

To be leading-edge in the provision of evidence-based community and client-centred services in the field of acquired brain injury



VALUES

People first—dignity and respect

Excellence and quality

Integrity, accountability, ethical conduct

Collaboration

Flexibility, innovativeness and entrepreneurialism

Accessibility and inclusiveness

Services

CHIRS offers services that overcome traditional barriers.

- We provide programs across the Greater Toronto Area.
- We offer services at a frequency and intensity that are comfortable and appropriate for each individual.
- We problem-solve by accessing consultants in a wide range of disciplines, and our programs change to meet changing needs.

Staff (CHIRS team)

Our Direct Support Staff receive highly specialized training in methodologies and intervention strategies designed to allow them to work successfully with individuals with acquired brain injuries.

Our Clinical Director, a Neuropsychologist certified in clinical neuropsychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology, works directly with clients, staff and families. Her professional activities have included province-wide capacity building to increase availability of mental health and addictions services for people living with acquired brain injury.

Our Social Worker facilitates family support groups and psycho-educational workshops and trains the direct support staff in issues relating to clients' needs.

Our Behaviour Therapists have completed formal education in behaviour management, and received specialized training in brain and behaviour relationships. They provide support to clinical teams, group programs and individual clients.

Our Occupational Therapist is licensed and registered in the province of Ontario and certified in Canada and the U.S. Our OT works directly with clients and their families and provides training to support staff in the areas of function, safety, accessibility, and prevention—all from a holistic perspective.

Programs

Individual

We offer a wide range of individualized services at a location, time and level of intensity that meets the unique needs of the individual.

Family

We provide opportunities for support, information and education for each member of the family.

Community

We provide ongoing education and support in relation to brain injury and its subsequent effect on individuals and those around them.

Partnerships

CHIRS has developed special relationships in the community to access neuropsychiatric consultation, as well as other specialized services. We continue to work closely with our community partners and are always eager to develop new partnerships in the following services:

- Assessment
- Supported housing
- Community outreach
- Neuropsychology; Neuropsychiatry
- Substance abuse and ABI counselling
- Recreation and leisure
- Education and counselling
- Adult education
- Specialist/therapist services
- Supported employment
- Peer support groups
- Adult day program
- Cognitive therapy
- Family support groups
- Individual counselling
- Family counselling
- Behaviour therapy
- Psychotherapy
- Workshops
- Training

