



SSCOPE Fact Sheet 2010 - March 10/10

Self Starting Creative Opportunities for People in Employment (SSCOPE)

Incorporated in 1991, with core funding by the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WHRA), SSCOPE functions as a charitable non-profit organization whose mission is to empower clients of mental health services by providing gainful employment. "Real Work...Real Income...Supporting Mental Health" is our simple message and slogan about our purpose.

SSCOPE intends to be a leader in the community and will achieve its mission through social enterprises and partnerships.

Our employee members are both men and women who are consumers of any mental health services who use and develop their working skills within the community. In doing so, our members provide service to home and business owners, non-profit agencies, community groups, and associations. Our members are provided with opportunities to:

- Empower themselves with individual and group projects
- Increase their self-confidence
- Renew their social skills and encourage the development of a social network
- Improve their economic status
- Contribute to the community in a positive way

In return, the community receives beneficial and quality service at a reasonable cost. By working together we not only encourage a productive work force, but we also work together to widen our horizons for a more integrated community.

Testimonial:

"I found my way to SSCOPE three years ago...Things were not going very well at all...Working for SSCOPE really improved the quality of my life greatly...it has given me a sense of community...its demands work wise are reasonable, given my condition. It also supplements my income. I rarely deal with people outside the home...this give me a chance to keep and use my social and communication skills. SSCOPE has given me the opportunity to find meaningful and gainful employment that suites my life very well. The interaction with the Food Bank

within our organization is also very satisfying and fruitful as an additional benefit to us.” (25/05/08)

What do you like best about SSCOPE: (Worker-member questionnaire)

“flexible hours”, “the work, the time, the pay, the supervision, the co-workers”, “a very positive environment”, “interpersonal co-worker relationship”, flexible booking of hours, “working outside”, “a place to work and show responsibility”, “physical work helpful for me”

Employee-members have been asking us to develop more job producing activities and more consistent work (income) for them for some time, within our supportive environment and structure. We heard this at our 2008 AGM and in employee surveys done since. We have set a course to grow and achieve this.

Our Community Partners: In our enterprises we work with such groups and organizations as the City of Winnipeg Waste and Water Division, West End Biz, Coca Cola, Assiniboine Credit Union, Winnipeg Foundation, Thomas Sill Foundation, Manitoba Community Services Council. (more...)

Comments From The Community: Great job...Wish I had known about your great service before. No taxes...makes you even more affordable. Like the fact I am helping our a very worthwhile cause....there was mental illness in my family before...wish there had been work for my family member then such as you are providing. (more...)

Benefits To The Community

This program may reduce the overall cost of health care by providing non-medical rehabilitation while at the same time increasing the productive work force. The community as a whole has an opportunity to widen their horizons about the alternative services which are available through **SSCOPE**.

Benefits To Members

In a spirit of self-help and mutual support, **SSCOPE** assists our members in securing and maintaining paid casual employment in our community.

Gainful casual employment contributes significantly to our members mental health, sense of dignity and self-worth, as well as their social and economical needs.

From Articles of Incorporation

“SSCOPE Incorporated shall function as a charitable organization in the relief of material poverty, social isolation and mental and emotional distress experienced by consumers of mental health services who are unemployed or underemployed.”

Four principles behind the formation of SSCOPE, which are written into its bylaws. They include:

- gainful employment contributes significantly to our mental health, our sense of dignity and self-worth, and our physical and material needs
- work allows us to use our talents and gifts in serving others, and so experience ourselves as whole and contributing members of our community
- those of us who are consumers of mental health services face significant barriers in securing and maintaining paid employment in our community
- as a consequence consumers of mental health services frequently live in social isolation and material poverty

Organizational Facts

- Annual grant from WRHA \$105,000. Annual revenue from our business enterprises: \$95,000
- Approximately \$85,000 capital assets
- Staff Team consisting of an Executive Director/Development Manager, Operations Manager/Team Leader, Team Leader, and Office Administrator (presently vacant).
- In 2009 70 employee-members worked at SSCOPE, earning a total of \$33,000. This was an increase from 2008 when 40 employee-members worked at SSCOPE earning \$19,000
- 19 male employees and 7 female (26) on average work during any one pay period, with some periods up to 35 employed. SSCOPE has morning and afternoon shifts which can be scheduled separately.
- 90 registered employee-members with privileges to work at SSCOPE. Growing by an average of 4 member-employees per month.
- Referrals from other agencies such as EIA, PACT, Sara Riel, Lifeworks, Link Up, Tesky & Associates, Dorchester House and Doray. No referral necessary.
- Employees are currently paid \$9.00 per hour and are classified as part-time employees with all appropriate EI and CPP deductions.
- Employees are covered by Workman's Compensation.

The Future

- The organization is presently undertaking a strategic planning process to ensure it is most relevant and strategically placed for the years ahead. This will lead to **SSCOPE Directions, 2010** available after April, 2010
- This document will show plans to expand and add new programs appeal to different age groups and both genders, how it will expand it's employee and volunteer base to support organizational development, how it will expand its assets and social enterprises it operations and how it will develop rehabilitation programs and enhance the professional skills of its staff to assist workers.