



Background

Among our clients are those with special needs. These are people whose health condition manifests itself through maladaptive behaviour and impaired functioning caused by genetic, physical, chemical, biologic, psychological or social and cultural factors. As an Aboriginal agency Na-Me-Res is particularly cognizant of the impact of contributing social and cultural factors i.e. the inter-generational effects of colonization including residential school syndrom.

A disproportionate number of Aboriginal people live in a state of abject homelessness. Too often they are victims of other-inflicted and self-inflicted violence, in a state of poor physical health and in conflict with the law. Many self-medicate and are addicted to alcohol, unprescribed and street drugs. Some live this way because they have special needs.

Service

Since 1986, Na-Me-Res has been providing shelter to clients with special needs. Recognizing and embracing its responsibility to go beyond providing them with shelter only it developed a specialized response designed to meet their special needs. The primary goal of this service is to assist them to achieve an enduring and long-term state of well-being. Based on a holistic approach to client care, services are designed to address their spiritual, mental, physical and emotional needs and include:

- shelter responsive to their *accommodation* requirements
- case management
- primary health care
- stabilization
- assessment and diagnosis
- assistance with medication
- connection/reconnection with culture
- support and assistance to secure training and employment opportunities
- support and assistance to secure appropriate long term housing
- support and assistance to establish community supports including long term medical care and
- follow-up care and support to ensure successful integration/re-integration into the broader community.

Care Team Members

Client care provided through the Special Needs service is led by the Coordinator Special Needs and the Nurse. As an Aboriginal organization Na-Me-Res strives to meet the physical, mental, spiritual and emotional needs of all clients by providing them access to its multi-disciplinary care team which includes:

- traditional elders and teachers
- psychiatrist
- case manager
- client care and client support workers
- oshkabaywis
- coordinator client training, and
- other community services providers as identified.

More Information

This service is available to all agency clients with special needs. However, referrals may be accepted. For more information please call the Coordinator Special Needs at 416 652-0334 Ext 2235.