UNDERSTANDING AND MEASURING HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AT FRED VICTOR

Data That Makes A Difference Conference

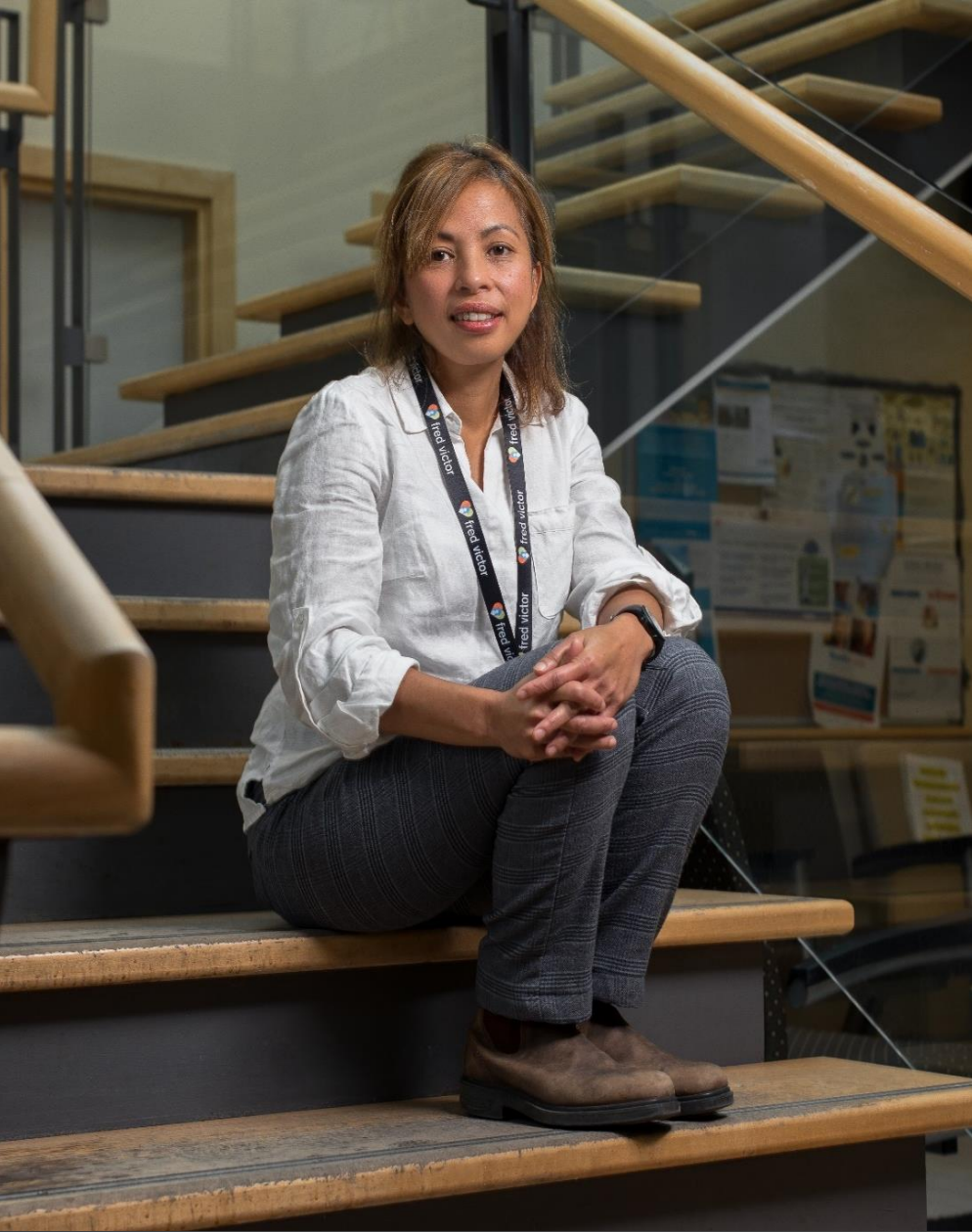By Mandy Ashton and Nick Falvo

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Who We Are

- Fred Victor is committed to ending homelessness in Toronto

- A leading charity in Toronto addressing poverty and homelessness.

- Supporting 3,000 people every day.

- 130 years of experience.

- Innovative supports to secure and maintain a home.

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What We Do

We offer programs and services across 25+ locations in Toronto:

- Housing First services
- Shelter & Respite
- Permanent & Transitional Housing
- Food Programming
- Job Training and Counselling
- Mental Health Support
- Drop-ins
- Harm Reduction Support

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Prevention

- Eviction prevention
- Support families to end the cycle of poverty
- Improve financial security
- Support people to age in place
- Connect with people as they depart institutions (hospitals/corrections)

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Rationale for Research

- Many funders and funder targets

- Multiple funder-mandated databases

- Most funders do not have targets around homelessness prevention

- Developing an easy-to-use tool to quantify homelessness prevention efforts

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Origin of project

- Growing emphasis on prevention

- FV sought

    1. Working definition of prevention

    2. Categorization of its programs

    3. Some initial impact measurement

Challenges

- Approx. 60 programs at FV

- Very little measurement currently happening

- Current definitions vary across programs

- Multiple databases

- Clients currently accessing multiple FV programs

Method

- Lit review

- One-on-one interviews

- Online surveys

- Focus groups

- Guidance from advisory committee

Mapping of FV programs

- List created

- Three categories

- Five programs 'short listed' for piloting

- Two pilot programs identified (based largely on having good client-level data)

Piloting to begin

- We've identified each program's desired outcomes

- We're now putting draft output measures in front of each of the two programs.

- We'll make some calculations, which we'll put in front of each program.

Final report

- Going forward, what's needed to allow more (maybe all) FV programs to undertake impact measurement through a prevention lens?

- For example, what are the database requirements?

- How will the calculations get made, by whom and with what frequency?

Questions?