



Update from our Operations Manager

Dear Daybreak Supporters,
Thanks for your interest in Daybreak, here is a little update for you.

Our virtual Trivia Night in early December was a success. 59 teams registered and we raised over \$2000!

Personally, I would have liked to have had slightly easier questions to answer but there will be a next time when life returns to 'normal', I will look to organize a live Trivia Night at a downtown hotel. Let us aim for the fall!

Thanks to funding from the City we have been able to continue to supply adequate hand sanitizers, cleaning products, masks, and other PPE to our residents. At the time of writing this newsletter we have not had a confirmed case of COVID-19 at any of our 5 properties.

We catered dinners at all our houses in lieu of a Daybreak Christmas party. We also provided gift cards to the houses to enable them to purchase turkeys and vegetables for their Christmas/Boxing Day dinner. See below images from Somerset House Christmas dinner and Vice President of the Board of Directors, Jillian Normand, playing Santa. She collected 47 'hampers' from a very generous organization called Kanata stockings.



It has been a very busy January and February. Several residents have 'graduated' and moved onto independent living, which is our goal for everyone. Mental Health issues and concerns have increased as our residents also feel the impact of lockdowns, which has greatly hindered services and support available to them. Overall, our residents have impressed us with their continued resilience throughout a challenging time for us all.



In Memoriam

Some very sad news in January. Jason, a resident of one of our men's houses died of natural causes. Jason's mother and family have kindly donated funds in order to turn a room at the house into an office, equipped with a desk, chairs computer, bookcase, TV and more. The room will be dedicated in memoriam of Jason.

Daybreak received city funding to install HRV units into our houses. Simply put and about as technical as I can get, these units will kill germs, to include COVID, and circulate clean air. We received a significant donation from an Ottawa resident who wishes to remain anonymous. We are extremely grateful.



Daybreak's Board of Directors held a meeting with City staff and CMHC in February to explore the options of expanding our operations. The staff and Board of Directors see the need. We interview potential residents every week and presently have a wait list of approximately 25. We may see 1-2 room turnover each month, not enough to keep up with the demand.

Thankfully, Brodie knows how to assemble furniture from a certain well known company. Here is one of our newly renovated rooms which is now occupied.

Congrats to Michael who commenced employment last week. If you happen to see a smiling greeter at one of the Farm Boys in the City, it may well be him. He shared this with us:

Don't think of the things you can't do; think of the think you can do. I work at Farm boy as a greeter, It's hard work. I take pride in my work. I feel like I am part of a different family and I have a sense of pride. It is nice to feel like a part of something.

We could not agree more Michael! Thank you for being a part of the Daybreak community.

Thank you again to our birthday cake bakers, Laurie, Kyle and Estela. If anyone would like to volunteer to bake a cake on average about once a month, please let Brodie, Amanda, or I know.

Richard
richard@daybreakhousing.org

Meet our Residents.

Chadley recently moved into one of our homes and shared this with us:

I would like to say thank you to for this opportunity to stay here while I get my life on track. I feel Daybreak has changed my luck for the better. The residents that live here feel the same way.

The thought of having others asking, 'What can I do to help?' is an amazing feeling to have and knowing there are kind people out in this world. The dedicated time to create this program out of kindness should be acknowledged and celebrated, to remind us that were not alone in this city.

I only feel positive vibes from everyone who lives at Daybreak and works for the organization. The outcome of this only brings positivity, not to only one person, but the people who founded it. I believe just knowing people having roofs over their heads brings the Daybreak Staff members and founders comfort knowing their hard work did not go to waste.

I will not waste the opportunity that I have. I have the responsibility to better myself, not only for myself but on behalf of the members of Daybreak. The next couple of months I should be able to achieve Goals and set new ones. I know if I need help with my goals, Daybreak will always be there to help.



DaybreakHousing.org
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