



June 2020

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Daybreak latest...from Richard

Well it is a very strange and uncertain time we find ourselves in. I would say though, that there have been some good things that have come out of COVID-19 and they would all be concerned with human generosity and kindness. I have been fortunate to get to know Reverend Jim, from Knox Church who at the time of this newsletter has donated over 300 meals to Daybreak residents. We had an appeal in late March and the response from our supporters was tremendous. Food, monetary, clothing, cleaning product donations meant that we were able to generously provide for our residents, ensuring that they have adequate cleaning supplies as well as access to food. There's too many people to thank in this newsletter and I don't want to be selective in whom I name so please know that we are extremely grateful for your support and if I have somehow not responded to your donation via email or phone, please reach out to me again. Our houses remain full, with a waitlist of approximately 25. To date we have had no confirmed cases of COVID-19 with our residents or staff. If you would like to learn more about Daybreak, do not hesitate to contact me or Daybreak staff.

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Meet our residents: Then & Now

By Michelle

In July 2019, after being clean off drugs for almost 4 years, I found myself involved in an abusive relationship. I was living in Brockville, ON at the time, and realized that I would need to leave town to end it. I came to Ottawa with only the clothes on my back and the only shelter available to me was Shepherds of Good Hope. It did not take



long for me to fall back into active addiction, but after a few months I realized that my life would not last much longer if I continued. I went to detox, and shortly after was offered a spot at Maison Gilles Chagnon, a house for women who were waiting to go to treatment. I secured a treatment bed at Womankind in Hamilton. While waiting for my treatment date, I started to look at what I would do for housing after. I came across Daybreak Housing and registered. After treatment I came back to Ottawa and

found I had moved up the list for a spot at Piccadilly Ave. My official move in was in

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Special thanks to:

Knox Presbyterian Church

Centretown United Church

St Peter's Lutheran Church

The Matt Foundation

United Way

SunLife Financial

The Benevity Foundation

Please donate

early January, but MGC supported me until February. Since moving here I have flourished. You see, I am not just a recovery drug addict, I am a published author of poetry and just finishing my first novel. The women made me feel welcome right from the start and now I belong to a community. In these uncertain times of social distancing and self-isolation, I am grateful that I have a place to call home. Previously I was living a nightmare and now, at Daybreak, I am living out my once forgotten dreams.

From Our Staff: Office Manager

I have worked for Daybreak for 4 years in the areas of finance, administration, and resident support. We are a small team that typically works in a small space attached to one of our homes, where we see residents every day. Now, our staff keeps distance from each other so we can safely maintain contact with residents should one of us become sick.

Our Property Manager, Brodie, continues to work hard to keep our houses safe and clean. With 5 old homes to care for that require seemingly endless maintenance, not having access to hardware stores in the past weeks has been a challenge, but he remains dedicated to completing each project to the highest standard.

Our Operations Manager, Richard, is working hard to ensure residents are always informed which has helped calm anxieties, and that each vacant room is immediately filled to give another person an opportunity for a safe home in these difficult times. While our current situation has created unique challenges, Daybreak has always been a resilient organization, from our residents through to our staff and board.



A Percival House resident, who has experience in landscaping, offered to tidy the rear garden. Daybreak supplied approximately \$300 of mulch, seed, soil, and plants, and he did a great job. Well done!

Donations

If you would like to donate please contact us at Daybreak or online through CanadaHelps.org/en/charities/DaybreakHousing/

If you prefer to purchase items directly, please see our Amazon Wish List: [tinyurl.com/y92jpswd](https://www.amazon.ca/?ref=registry_page®istryId=y92jpswd)

Upcoming Events

As soon as we are able – Daybreak Fundraiser Trivia Night Hilton Garden Inn, Queen and Bay. Prizes, raffle, 50/50



AGM – To be rescheduled due to COVID-19