



# DAYBREAK **ING NEWS**

Daybreak Non-Profit Shelter (Ecumenical) Corporation since 1982

The mission of Daybreak is to provide minimum support homes emphasizing community living for single people with limited income. Daybreak affirms that a resident can better achieve his/her goals and potential by supporting their well being in a safe, caring environment, so as to foster personal growth.

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### **Daybreak Web Site:**

[www.daybreakhousing.com](http://www.daybreakhousing.com)

## **Daybreak Celebrates 25 Years of New Beginnings**

An uplifting celebratory dinner of some 100 "friends of Daybreak" marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the non-profit housing group that provides safe, affordable homes in central Ottawa for limited-income single adults in need. Held at Algonquin College in September, it featured moving personal stories on how the small volunteer-driven organization has helped so many residents turn around their lives for the better.



Garth Hampson, entertains guests

Daybreak's residents are "at risk" individuals typically recovering from mental illness, substance abuse, physical abuse or similar problems. The group's goal is to provide secure, drug-free communal housing, inspire hope and give its tenants a sense of belonging in their communities again.

"Daybreak is about self-help," says its president Greg Fyffe, who has been actively involved in the group for many years. "We offer shelter and a protected environment. Over the years we have helped hundreds of people seize the chance to re-enter the community as active citizens."

Daybreak was launched in the early 1980s under the sponsorship of seven inter-denominational Centretown churches that included Knox Presbyterian. Its first home opened in 1983 with eight rooms for women. It now operates two houses for women and three for men, with a total of 46 comfortable rooms and kitchen, dining and sitting areas. Accommodation is offered to applicants on a rent-g geared-to-income basis. There is no on-site supervision, but Daybreak staff provides around-the-clock crisis intervention support.

"Our tenants can work out their problems without direct supervision," says Mr. Fyffe. "But they need time and they need a supportive home environment, something they may be experiencing for the first time."

Daybreak works in partnership with other non-profit groups to provide the best possible support services. All its houses provide an alcohol and drug-free environment and an opportunity for personal growth and individual responsibility. Tenants contribute to food budgets, cook for themselves and learn other practical life skills.

At the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner, Jeanette, a former resident who now lives in her own apartment, recalled how some years ago she had been very depressed but had recovered quickly after she came to Daybreak. "There was always someone to talk with and to listen to you," she said. "I started to love myself again." She singled out Daybreak's housing co-ordinators for being especially helpful in giving lots of support. "I hope Daybreak will be there for people like me for a long time to come," she concluded. A video shown at the dinner also told the story of Richard, a present Daybreak resident who stressed that Daybreak is much more than just a housing landlord. "The staff helps with problems and you feel safe and happy in an environment of semi-independent living," he said. Being under the Daybreak umbrella had been a life changing experience for the former actor. Developing schizophrenia had made things very difficult for him and he had stopped acting, but now he was enjoying life and being productive again, he said. There have been similar stories from the more than 600 individuals who have lived in Daybreak homes since 1983. The average stay is one year for women and 1 1/2 years for men. Most have gone on to permanent housing and a "new beginning" in their lives — as the Daybreak name symbolizes. *Continued*



Guest speakers: John Freke, parent of a Daybreak resident and former resident, Jeanette

### 25th Anniversary continued from page 1

Apart from rents, revenues for Daybreak's operating costs and funding for capital expenditures come mostly from grants and donations from government programs, churches, service clubs, community foundations and some businesses. Major donors in



(l-r) Past Daybreak President, John Rowan-Legg; Daybreak President, Greg Fyffe, Past Presidents, Betty Neelin & Father Jacques Faucher

2008 have included the Community Foundation, Kiwanis Club of Bytown, Harold Crabtree Foundation, Alterna Savings, Barry Hobin (Barry J. Hobin Architects) and the Ottawa Horticultural Society (for landscaping). In 2006, The May Court Club of Ottawa generously donated \$50,000 for renovating kitchens. Additionally, the City of Ottawa recently announced a grant of \$155,000 in provincial funding for repairs and renovations.

However, the big issue for charitable groups such as Daybreak is getting financial support for operating costs, particularly for the salaries of social workers who provide needed

support for those with life-skill problems. The recent worldwide financial turmoil and stock market slide is another major concern because it could put future revenue sources in jeopardy. For example, one Ottawa-based foundation that has been a regular Daybreak supporter recently announced that because of the drop in value of its stock portfolio it would suspend its community grant making for 2009.

Daybreak could survive on government grants and rents from residents if it just provided housing, Mr. Fyffe told the anniversary dinner. But he pointed out that Daybreak's social support programs are essential to getting residents back on their feet and paying for these relies heavily on donations. Daybreak has an annual budget of around \$550,000 and needs at least \$80,000 a year from non-rent and non-government sources to break even.

"We must be steadily involved in fund raising," Mr. Fyffe said. Daybreak's highly cost-effective low-cost social housing model has been successful, but makes only a small dent in the overall Canadian crisis in affordable housing. In recent years, for example, there has been little growth in affordable housing units in Ottawa. At last count, 9,400 households were still on the social-housing waiting list. A record number of families and children went into emergency shelters last year in the Ottawa area. And the average stay was the highest in four years.

As Michael Shapcott, Senior Fellow at The Wellesley Institute in Toronto, has noted, housing insecurity takes a heavy toll in terms of poor physical and mental health and premature death. Too many Canadians are being left behind on this front, he says. Individuals can support Daybreak, which is a registered Canadian charity, through various categories of memberships (starting at \$25 a year) or through other forms of donations and volunteer activities. Donations can be made directly to Daybreak Non-Profit Shelter at 393 Piccadilly Ave., Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 0H3 or online by clicking the CanadaHelps.org link on the main page of Daybreak's website ([www.daybreakhousing.com](http://www.daybreakhousing.com)). For more information, call Daybreak at 613-236-8070.

Neville Nankivell

### Richard's Story

Richard is a longtime Daybreak resident. Please visit the Housing Plus Web site to view Richard's video. (<http://www.housingplus.ca/Ourstories.html>).



A Message from Daybreak's Very First President, Reverend Bob Percival

### A LOOK AT DAYBREAK'S START



After serving Kingston Road United Church in Toronto for 10 years and I decided it was time to move and the urge to come back to my home city of Ottawa was very strong. In my search for openings I discovered there was one at Bell Street United Church and I applied. After going through the routine of interviews I was told to come.

After some months of service I became deeply concerned about the number of people who were coming to me looking for financial assistance. I became deeply troubled about their quality of life, how desperate they felt and I didn't always have the cash to help them. I thought I would consult with some of the other downtown churches for their opinion. I successfully heard from a number of them and arranged for us to meet and discuss the Church's role in meeting some of the human needs that existed. We were fortunate in having a City of Ottawa social works person meet with us and we learned of a report they had been able to put together regarding housing and the number of street people. We were able to find a couple of properties that would meet tenants needs. Much to our dismay the neighborhood objected and appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board and we were confronted with a hearing. The City of Ottawa came to our defense and we were successful.

We were also fortunate to have very capable lay volunteers who had lots of experience in renovating and were soon able to begin helping people.

I have the warmest feeling of joy as I have thought back over those years. I am sure there are others here who share that same feeling about celebrating Daybreak's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It does bother me that I am able to remember only some of the people but not their names and the events of those times of our early beginning. I would like to close with this little story. A young boy went to church one Sunday and after the service as they were on the way home the boy turned to his Mum "I think when I get older I'm going to be a Minister." The mother replied "What made you decide that?" "Well I would rather be up front yelling and shouting than having to sit in the pew and be quiet."

"Never doubt the power of a small group of dedicated individuals to change the world, indeed it is the only thing that ever has."  
author unknown



The **Community Foundation of Ottawa** has once again made a generous grant of \$10,000 to Daybreak. This grant is essential to



For good...forever Le bien...toujours

the coordination of tenant support. Many of Daybreak's residents face daily challenges and require assistance. Organizations such as the Community Foundation of Ottawa ([www.cfo-fco.ca](http://www.cfo-fco.ca)) enable Daybreak to help those at risk of homelessness. We really appreciate your help.



**Architect Barry Hobin addresses 25<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

On April 28, 2008 St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church hosted the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Daybreak. Outgoing President John Banigan chaired the meeting and expressed his satisfaction that the organization is strong and is poised for further growth. The 2008 Board of Directors was elected and Greg Fyffe was elected as President.

The guest speaker for the meeting was renowned local architect, Barry Hobin whose distinctive residential and commercial buildings have become a hall mark in the local community. Barry spoke with enthusiasm about the need for social cohesion and inclusion and the role which public buildings play in developing strong communities. Barry was highly supportive of Daybreak's work. Mr. Hobin was made an Honourary Member of Daybreak and also made a very generous donation. Thank you, Barry.  
*John Banigan, Past President*

**St. Andrew' Presbyterian Church Renews its Support for Daybreak**

St. Andrew's Church has been a loyal supporter of Daybreak since its inception, providing financial support, volunteers and board members. The Women's Guild of the church has been particularly active, most recently donating \$6,500 for new furniture for our houses.

As part of its 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, the congregation of St. Andrew's has embarked upon a vision for growth to enhance its Christian witness in the center of our capital city. The vision process entails focusing on three outreach projects for enhanced and sustained support and involvement - a local project, a regional project, and an international project.

Daybreak is honored to have been selected as the local priority project and looks forward to an enriched relationship with St. Andrew's. The Daybreak Board of Directors hopes to learn how this new relationship could lead to renewal with other supporting churches.

**Planting Hope**

The Ottawa Horticultural Society (OHS) chose Daybreak for the Community Planting Committee's 2008 summer project.

Flora Before



126 Flora Street  
Site of the 2008 OHS Community Planting Project

Flora House benefited from the hard work of the OHS's volunteers, who designed and planted the new gardens.

On behalf of the residents of Flora House, we would like to thank all those who contributed their sweat equity to this project: Jeff Blackadar; Sheila Burvill; Laurie Graham; Kendra Hunter; Eric Jones; Line

Lessard-Lynch and friend Roger; Deborah McPhedran; Jan Pollard; Margaret Scratch; Jean Stalker; Sylvia and Bob Spasoff; Penny Thompson; and Robert and Jim, house residents.

<http://www.ottawahort.org/2008floraproject.htm>

Flora After



**Give the Gift of Christmas**

For many Daybreak tenants, Christmas brings trepidation instead of joy. Quite a few of our tenants don't have family who live close by with whom they can celebrate Christmas. As part of the Daybreak family, however, our tenants are not forgotten at this special time of year.

You can be a part of Daybreak's family and help brighten the life of one our tenants by donating a Christmas gift. This year, our tenants are in need of: towel sets (including bath, hand and a face cloth); winter outerwear such as mitts, toques and scarves; slippers (non-black soles that won't scuff the floors) and socks; wall calendars; pens and notepads

These gifts are the only ones some Daybreak tenants will receive. Your donation will make them feel special. Remember the true meaning of Christmas and experience the joy of giving.



Daybreak would like to extend a special 'thank you' to Vaughn McKinney from Parliament Cleaning. Vaughn has provided free carpet cleaning to ALL of Daybreak's five homes. Thanks, Vaughn!

**Annual Barbeque**

This year, Daybreak's annual barbeque was held at the home of Bonnie & Tony Szanto. Bonnie has been a member of the Daybreak board for a number of years as well as its Treasurer. Tony's company, Luxcom, is also a longtime, generous supporter of Daybreak. Scheduled for July 17, but with the weatherman predicting rain, the barbeque was postponed until the following week, July 24. Murphy's Law was in full force this year! July 17<sup>th</sup> turned out to be one of the nicest days of the summer and it rained cats and dogs on the rescheduled day of our BBQ! Despite Mother Nature's unco-operativeness, the folks who came said they had a great time visiting, swimming and eating! A cake celebrating Daybreak's 25th birthday was also shared and enjoyed.

**A Special Message from Father Daybreak**

What began as a simple struggle to have something originate has become a project of which I am very proud. I would like a personal word passed to all those working within Daybreak that I am so grateful for their time, interest and dedication to addressing a need we discovered that existed in Ottawa. Words cannot do justice in explaining what we feel in our hearts and how the intrinsic rewards experienced in helping others makes each of us more compassionate, understanding, and grateful for the blessings in our lives. God bless you all!  
*Reverend Robert Percival*

**Deep appreciation is extended to the following churches for their ongoing and generous support**

- Dominion-Chalmers United Church
- Women's Bequest of Dominion-Chalmers
- Church of St. John the Evangelist
- McLeod Stewarton United Church
- St. George's Anglican Church
- St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
- Women's Guild of St. Andrew's Presbyterian
- Bell Street United Church
- Church of St. Thomas the Apostle
- Knox Presbyterian Church
- Knox Presbyterian Church Guild
- St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
- St. Matthew's Anglican Church in the Glebe
- Southminster United Church
- Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
- St. Basil's Church
- Merivale/Fallowfield Pastoral Charge



Daybreak's supportive housing services were initially made possible through Federal (CMHC-Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation) and Provincial (MCSS-Ministry of Community & Social Services and MMAH-Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing)



funding. Our fifth home was developed with new funding from the Federal (SCPI-Supporting Communities Partnership Initiatives) and the Provincial (PHIF-Provincial Homelessness Initiatives Fund) programs. The City of Ottawa now administers all of Daybreak's government funding.

**A Message from Daybreak's President**



The Fall period has been important for Daybreak. On September 27 we celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a dinner at Algonquin College. Sitting together were those who founded Daybreak, those who have carried it forward, and representatives of the residents who have, through Daybreak, moved forward in their lives.

On the following Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, the Board held a retreat to map our way into the future. We decided that our new branding, which would guide our approach to communicating, fundraising and planning, would be, "**Daybreak—rebuilding lives, inspiring hope.** We create a safe home environment that fosters mutual support, self-reliance and self-respect." Board members discussed strategies for communicating effectively, developing a more complete fundraising strategy, recruiting Board members from the private sector,

staffing and budgeting. The retreat gave us an ambitious but focused agenda for the rest of this year.

A major challenge for Daybreak will be, as noted, fundraising. We provide tenants with support services as well as housing, and our rent-geared-to-income and government funding resources do not meet our full budget. Fundraising is necessary to cover the gap. We have had great success over the past three years in accessing foundations as well as individual donations, and we believe that we can convince others that Daybreak is an effective means of helping people through supportive housing.

I would like to thank John Banigan for the great job he has done over the past three years as President, and for his continued work for Daybreak, particularly in building our donations funding base.

I am grateful too, on behalf of Daybreak, for all those who volunteer their time and effort to make us an effective organization that "rebuilds lives and inspires hope."

*Greg Fyffe, Daybreak President*

**Special Appeal**

Dear Friends of Daybreak,

As you can see from the article and photos of the Daybreak dinner, everyone had a great time celebrating 25 years of helping our residents live in a safe, affordable environment with support from our wonderful staff. Over those 25 years, more than 600 of our tenants have gone on to live independently in the community.

However, as our President Greg Fyffe mentioned that night, there is a great need for this type of social housing but one of our greatest difficulties is finding support for operating costs such as salaries for the housing coordinators who help our residents move on to independent living. It is easier to get funding from foundations and governments for capital expenditures such as a new roof or new furniture than it is for operating expenses such as salaries for much needed support staff.

For 25 years you, our members, have been partnering with us to provide Daybreak's kind of cost-effective supportive housing. The Communications Committee is writing to ask you to continue to support our mission. It does make a difference. Please use the form below to make your contribution. With thanks for your generosity,

*Betty Neelin, President, Communications Committee*



**Daybreak Non-Profit Shelter**  
393 Piccadilly Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 0H3 (613) 236-8070

I wish to support Daybreak through:

- Supporting membership \$25.00—\$99.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Sustaining membership \$100.00—\$249.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Benefactor membership \$250.00—\$999.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Patron membership \$1,000.00 + \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Donation only (cash/cheque/shares\*) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Monthly donation (post-dated cheques) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to become a Daybreak volunteer and/or I would like to receive more information about Daybreak.

I would like more information about planned giving

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

My phone number is : \_\_\_\_\_

My e-mail is: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Recent changes to the *Income Tax Act* permit tax benefits for donations of shares of publicly-traded companies