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Celebrating the Past and Looking to the Future

by Chelsea Clogg, Board Member

Around the world, people are recognizing the crisis of affordable housing and rising to the challenge with innovative solutions. Yet, at the core of this innovation, one thing remains constant – people coming together and deciding to make a difference. This is the foundation of Daybreak and of Paul Dewar's message when he spoke at the Annual General Meeting on May 27, 2013.

Paul, who is the Member of Parliament for Ottawa Centre, joined residents, volunteers,

staff and members of Daybreak to celebrate 30 years of supportive housing in Ottawa. It was Paul's mother, Marion, who cut the ribbon at the first Daybreak home in 1983.

Paul looked back on the successes of Daybreak but also urged governments at all levels to prioritize supportive housing. Programs like Daybreak are evidence that investments in community-based housing make a difference. Those who have been involved with Daybreak know that this is true as they have seen the difference that stable housing can make for those seeking to rebuild their lives. A video prepared by Tony Tapp and Christie Halpenny and viewed at the AGM reinforced this message. In the video, residents and volunteers spoke passionately about their connection to Daybreak and the positive impact Daybreak has had on their lives.

In addition to Paul's remarks, the AGM included the announcement of several changes, which were approved by the Daybreak membership. Several board members will not be returning for another term, and a big thank you was therefore extended to Diana Bond, Claudette Chabot, David Scheffer, Rocco Disipio, Debbie Davis and Michelle Stevenson for their commitment and hard work. The Board also welcomed three new members: André Rancourt, Nancy Quattrocchi and Susan Lewis. The membership also approved the appointment of new auditors for the fiscal year 2013.

The questions and lively discussion around several procedural matters showed the Daybreak membership to be dedicated to Daybreak's continued success and engaged in the issue of homelessness in Ottawa. Denise Heringer, a Program Coordinator with the City of Ottawa's Housing Services Branch, remarked: "I love it when members show their passion and involvement by paying close attention to process as well as topics and don't hesitate to give their feedback. I see it as a healthy sign. Sometimes, a member can draw attention to a minor oversight that if not dealt with can turn into a big problem later on."

With 30 years of history to draw on, Daybreak looks to the future with hope and with the continuing goal of ending homelessness in Ottawa. 



Paul Dewar speaks at Daybreak's Annual General Meeting.

Annual Homelessness Luncheon Helps Daybreak Residents

by Diana Bond, former Board Member

This past April, Daybreak was one of the fortunate recipients of funds raised at the Annual Homelessness Luncheon, which was held at the Yangtze Restaurant in Ottawa. This event, now in its second year, first started as a tongue-in-cheek neighbourhood “one-night men-only bookclub,” (read pub night). When the conversation turned to homebuilding, a unanimous decision was made to do something positive in the community. The idea was to raise awareness and financial support to help end homelessness in Ottawa.

That decision has turned into a successful fundraising event organized by Chris Henderson and his band of merry men. Approximately \$20,000 was raised and will be shared by three local organizations: the Alliance to End Homelessness, the YMCA-YWCA and our own Daybreak Housing. This money will assist Daybreak in offering our clients individual support and group programs, such as the Skills of Success program, which ran for the first time last year and is aimed at providing participants with the building blocks to set personal goals that lead to self-sufficiency.

Participants in the Luncheon also had the opportunity to find out more about homelessness in our city. In two short hours, friends, neighbours, business colleagues and concerned community members gathered, dined on Chinese food and learned about affordable housing from representatives of the many supportive housing organizations operating in Ottawa. Everyone came away knowing more about the issues and what these agencies have to offer.

The Luncheon was a huge success. It was a brilliant combination of networking, social responsibility and fundraising, all integrated into a few enjoyable hours amongst friends learning more about viable solutions to homelessness in Ottawa. It is a model of fundraising that will hopefully transfer to other communities and continue to work towards ending homelessness here in Ottawa. 

Jillian's Story

by Jillian Pell, former Daybreak resident

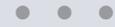
I first heard about Daybreak while I was in the rehabilitation facility at the Royal Ottawa Hospital. I was faced with having nowhere to live after I completed my program, and I was put in contact with Daybreak and started my application process. Having been sober for three months, after completing rehabilitation I moved into Nagel House.

I lived at Daybreak for a year and five months, and in that time, I experienced many ups and downs within the house as well as in my personal life. During that year, though, I continued to strive and made great gains at rejoining the community and workforce.

In October of 2012, I was offered a position with a cosmetics company, and I continue to work with this great company. I now hold a full-time, salaried position with this company, and I love every minute of it. I have opportunities to travel and learn new things daily.

Daybreak allowed me the time and space to regain my life at a pace that was comfortable without worrying about the financial strain. I met some great people, and I have maintained a few great friendships.

I have nothing but gratitude and thanks in my heart when I think of Daybreak. The volunteers and staff were nothing less than kind and gracious. I applaud you all in the hard work you do. Thank you. 



Show your support for affordable housing by ringing the doorbell. Housing Opens Doors is a multi-year campaign to make affordable housing a priority for Ontario. The goal is 156,358 rings of support, one for every Ontario household still waiting for an affordable home.

Ring the bell at:
www.housingopensdoors.ca



Our mission is to provide minimum-support homes emphasizing community living for single people with limited income. Daybreak Housing believes that residents can better achieve their goals and potential when provided with support for their well-being in a safe, caring environment, designed to foster personal growth.



Donate through Canada Helps by following the link on our web site
www.daybreakhousing.com