



DAYBREAKING NEWS

Volume XVIII Issue 1

Winter/Spring 2018

THANKS

A big shout out to all our supporters for your generous donations over December and January. Together, we raised close to \$12 000 for programming in 2018.

to **The Bytown Rotary Club** whose ongoing generosity is so appreciated.

to the **Kenneth Hunter family** for the new bequest.

To **Dominion Chalmers United Church** for ongoing monthly support.

Residents now all have new beds and beddings, tables, chairs, sofas and love seats as well as pillows. Thank you **Sprott Foundation** and **St Paul's Lutheran Church** for your generous donation towards the cause.

Daybreaks helps residents rebuild their lives in supportive communities. We are committed to inspire single adults in need to rebuild their lives with quality programming in transitional community-based homes

My Story **By Darla, Daybreak Resident**

In 2008, I was a successful commercial graphic artist in Ottawa, in tune with the current state of technology in the industry and with the business community in general. Word-of-mouth drove work my work on such projects as preparing output files for brochures and fundraising posters, theme displays, and boards. My network was solid and for 30 years I enjoyed a successful career. Then came the economic downturn. As marketing budgets shrank, so did clients' requests for my work. The phone stopped ringing and all the prospects I was familiar with disappeared. I had no idea what to do or where to go. I was unable to make new contacts, and soon, I could no longer pay the rent. I moved in temporarily with family. By late 2009, I found a new family at Daybreak.

This is not the life I had envisioned for myself. I could not have imagined during my early career that some day I would be homeless and without a job. Thank you, Daybreak, for providing me with a safe space to experience a new life with new friends, and with the ongoing support when I need it.

Donor's Corner

Merle Jones, together with her husband Harold, now deceased, were amongst the founding supporters of Daybreak in 1982. Merle grew up in London Ontario where she attended University of Western Ontario, later receiving her Masters degree in Chemistry in the USA. This at a time when women in university were rare. She enjoyed a successful career as a Chemist and travelled in her job as a single professional female. She met her future husband one cold night in winter after an Art show when he offered her a lift home, and the rest is history as they say. Harold and Merle married and settled in Ottawa near the Department of Energy Mines and Resources where they raised a family and Merle still makes her home. Having already demonstrated the determination when single to pursue her ambitions, Merle joined the International Council of Women founded in the late 19th century by Lady Aberdeen, an early feminist. Merle also supported ambitious causes such as eliminating homelessness of adult men and women in Ottawa. "It was a fun time" as both she and Harold volunteered tirelessly at local churches such as St Andrew's Presbyterian and Centretown United, (previously Steward-Macleod and Bell Street United). Merle still believes that "little ideas get to big ones" and thankfully for us, it does not seem she is slowing down!

We thank you Merle Jones for your ongoing generous support of Daybreak's mission to help our residents rebuild their lives. God bless!



Rebuilding Lives, Inspiring Hope

Executive Director's Update:

Chris Hatfield has a theory about our weather: we have 3 winters. I hope this is our last! Poor robins: one day they were pecking the grass looking for worms, and the next trying to keep warm. Thankfully not the case for our residents. Funding through the Social Housing Infrastructure Program, the Homelessness Support Program and the Housing and Homelessness Investment Plan covered both internal and external capital costs, from foundations, brickwork and decks, to staircases, mold and bathroom renovations respectively. Maintaining century-old homes is an ongoing concern for us as we reach the end of our mortgages and assume the cost of repairs. In the meantime, we are speaking with developers, Ottawa Community Housing, private investors and others about future opportunities for real estate purchases, new build or renovations. We would like to share our findings if you have an interest!



Residents had another amazing Christmas party thanks to *Knox Presbyterian Church* for the space and the hard work of Santa and his elves: *Pudding Jungle Bells, Tiny Chubby Cheeks and Happy Rosey Cheeks!*

In early April, Board Directors prepared and served residents at their houses as part of an Easter week celebration. Hams, cakes and even tacos made their way to the dinner table !

At left:

The Piccadilly House Easter feast!

AGM SAVE THE DATE!
MAY 29, 2018 6:00 — 8:30 PM
Councillor's Lounge, City Hall

In 2017, we struggled to stay at full occupancy: bed bug infestations and infrastructure problems were ongoing.

However, by this June we anticipate being 90% full. Shared accommodation means we select residents who are able to live in harmony and who commit to try rebuilding their lives. We continue to receive such referrals from the John Howard Society, Serenity House, and Canadian Mental Health Association amongst others. And, we encourage our residents to move to independent living when they are ready. Hence the need for quality programming.

The *Men and Healing* program we piloted in 2017 graduated a resident as a Peer Support worker (see Fall newsletter) and another who is considering a family reconciliation. Congratulations! New residents are eager to start the next cycle and men from *Salus* are keen to continue. But funding is a challenge. We hope to receive a grant from *Bell Let's Talk* that will provide enough support to run 4 cycles of 10 weeks in 2018. Other agencies have been invited to participate. We are anxiously awaiting approval. We know this program works!

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