



DAYBREAK
Rebuilding lives. Inspiring hope.

You're invited to our Virtual AGM

Monday September 14, 2020, 6:30pm

To register or for more information please visit www.DaybreakHousing.org

Daybreak News - From Richard

COVID-19 continues but Daybreak operations have not been impacted. If anything, due to the nature of the work and issues, staff have been present at our houses more than normal. The City of Ottawa continues to be extremely supportive and with extra funding from all layers of government we were able to ensure that our houses have all the cleaning supplies they require, that they have masks, disposable gloves, food, transport assistance to and from COVID testing centres and security upgrades. These security upgrades are in the form of Google Nest doorbell, indoor and outdoor cameras.

To date none of our residents have tested positive for COVID-19. Daybreak measures and Ottawa Public Health information was introduced into the houses very early on. We would like to think this proactive approach has helped to keep the residents and staff safe.

We have had a major capital repair at our Somerset house but fortunately we were able to cover the costs by means of City provided funding.

Unfortunately, I don't see our Trivia Night happening any time soon. We are considering doing a Halloween/Christmas trivia night virtual quiz on Zoom. Despite the worrying times we are living in, fund raising must still go on. Amanda will push something out on Mailchimp with lots of advance notice if we pursue this idea. We hope you will get involved and are not already burned out by too many Zoom meetings and family quizzes!

The AGM is scheduled for Monday 14th September on Zoom. Everyone on our Mailchimp list will receive further details shortly.

For your interest, over the last year we have maintained 100% occupancy at our 5 houses with almost zero bad debt. This time last year we just started a waiting list for the first time. Presently we have 40 people waiting for a room at Daybreak. We have not had any turnover at the women's house for 6 months. I see this as positive that the ladies are settling and enjoying the house; it just means we cannot offer anything to the people who are in limbo at various shelters/temporary measures across the City. Personally, we feel we could easily fill another female house and probably two men's houses. It is my hope that we can expand in the future. We have been involved in two necessary evictions, with residents lately. Staff have been abused and threatened but in order to keep the houses livable for everyone Daybreak had to do what was appropriate in the circumstances.

Special Thanks

A big thank you and merci to **Helen and Jacqueline** who volunteered and completed the translation of our English website into French.



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To **Alison Dingle and Ronny at Wholefoods**. Alison for introducing me to Ronny and Ronny for so kindly distributing a huge amount of produce to our Daybreak properties twice weekly.

To **Knox Church and St. Lukes Church** for providing hundreds of meals.

To Everyone who has donated bedding and clothing.

To our regular donors, we appreciate your support and commitment.

To our **City of Ottawa support staff** who are both very helpful and extremely supportive.

Emmanuelle, who has been a great asset in the short time with us. We wish her the very best in her degree course and the future.

From Jeff, a Daybreak resident who will soon be moving into his own apartment

The Daybreak experience.

Living at Daybreak for roughly two and half years having gone to a few BBQ and two Christmas parties, you can tell the staff do care.

They take care of your housing needs, bring food during a pandemic, fix problems, to name a few. Living at Nagle house was a good experience for me.

I was able to get my life back on track because of having a stable, safe environment to live and good roommates.

Thanks Daybreak.



Brodie, Property Manager

Hello all, I have been working as Daybreak's Property Manager for the last four years. I manage our five properties, taking care of all property related issues big and small. From battling bed bugs, to replacing toilets, screens and repairing drywall. My job is to ensure that Daybreak properties pass annual Fire, Public Health & Property Standards inspections.

My goal is to ensure our residents are supported with a clean safe stable home environment. This includes both their safety from anything in the home that could be a health and safety issue, as well as managing the personal safety of residents in the house.

During my time at Daybreak I have taken great pride in what I do, and what Daybreak has accomplished. I have enjoyed working as part of a small staff team who are passionate and work closely to support our residents to help them reach their goals. Some of the things that I have really enjoyed include playing Santa at our annual Christmas party, cooking and hanging out with residents during our summer BBQ and most importantly getting vulnerable people off, of the



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streets and out of bad situations. At times, my job can be extremely challenging keeping up with the demand for repair and maintenance, dealing with resident issues all the while keeping safety as my top priority.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, I have watched how the social distancing and isolation has affected our residents. Many of whom beforehand were struggling with their mental health and addictions, suddenly found themselves further isolated by not having access their community supports. During this hard time Daybreak staff have been trying to our best to keep spirits up by continuing our service and providing them with food & clothing donations. These efforts help make these times more bearable, but more is needed. One program that I would like to re implement, will be organizing four volunteers to bake birthday cakes for residents. A volunteer would be assigned a house and given the first names of residents along with the day and month of birth. The volunteer would then be responsible for baking and delivering the cake. In the past this program was very successful and would always put a smile on their face, knowing that someone cares! If you are interested in this program you can contact me at brodie@daybreakhousing.org or reach me at 613-236-8070 at extension 722. I would also be interested in working with a volunteer who has the time and capability to assist Daybreak with some maintenance work. If you or someone you know would be interested, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Emmanuelle, Summer Hire Program



Hi! My name is Emmanuelle Bien-Aimé and I am the Canada Summer Jobs Office Assistant for Daybreak Housing. Because of my background in psychology and my marked interest in mental health, I was interested in working with Daybreak. I had never worked in social housing and I was therefore eager to learn more about it. In addition to learning more about mental health and social housing, I also wanted to strengthen my organizational and analytical skills. As an office assistant, I had to do lots of administrative work, which helped me strengthen many practical skills and immerse myself in the field of social housing. I also had the opportunity to take part in the intake process of many residents, which gave me an insight into what I will be doing as a future psychotherapist. In fact, I start my master's in counselling psychology in a few days, and my time at Daybreak has truly given me some real-life practice that I will be able to match to theoretical concepts I'll learn about in class. That way, I hope that when I finish my master's, I will be better equipped to cater to a vulnerable clientele, such as one that has dealt with homelessness or addiction struggles. A special thanks to the staff for making me feel welcomed and for trusting my diligence and creativity.

This was a humbling experience, to say the least. I learned many things, and my time here was quite productive and enjoyable. Daybreak Housing is doing a fantastic job of providing affordable and transitional housing to many individuals dealing with all sorts of struggles. Since the start of my employment, this organization has never missed an opportunity for improvement, and I am proud to have been part of a small part of that process.

