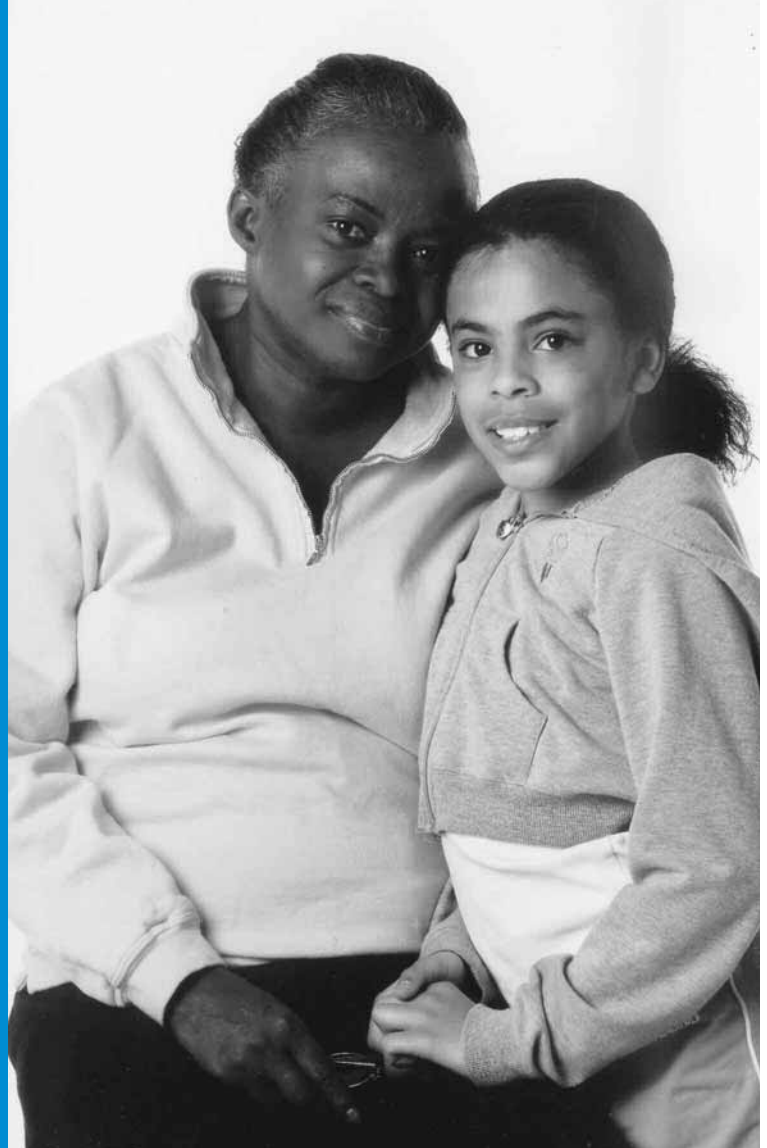


CONNECTIONS

LOFT Community Services Newsletter | Volume 20 | June 2006 | www.loftcs.org

Safe
Housing,
Hope
&
Recovery



LOFT

(Leap of Faith - Together)

offers supportive housing, outreach and community support services to homeless people with mental health, addiction and physical health challenges at 56 sites in the Greater Toronto Area and York Region.

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A Message from our CEO

In this issue of the newsletter, we are featuring the programs and people of McEwan Housing and Support Services. We recently celebrated the 15th Anniversary of the McEwan program, and it gave us all an opportunity to reflect on the program, its history, our service users and how it typifies the things that are best about LOFT.

In 1987, Billy McEwan became a client of LOFT's Street Outreach Services (SOS). He was 21 years old, homeless, and had HIV disease. His plight inspired the Board to take a "leap of faith" to establish a program for those in a similar situation. Although Billy McEwan did not live long enough to participate in the program, it was named in his memory and to this day honours his hopeful and generous nature, his Aboriginal roots and his great spirit.

This program is a good example of LOFT's willingness to respond to unmet community needs, to go where there is a lack of services, and sometimes where others fear to tread, as was certainly the case with HIV/AIDS fifteen years ago. The result is dignity, hope and the rebuilding of lives for clients of McEwan House, and all LOFT programs.

Two award winning Toronto-based film-makers, director Andrea Cohen and producer Leslie Thomas have joined forces to tell the story of McEwan in a 22 minute film called "Hope". The film tells the life and experiences of Paula Holmes, a member of the McEwan program since 1993. Paula and her beautiful daughter Crystal are featured on the front cover of this newsletter, and the group photo (top photo at right) is from the film.

Through the story of Paula, "Hope" honours all the members of McEwan House, and those living with HIV/AIDS today. I hope that in a future issue of Connections we will be able to let you know when and how you can see the film for yourself.



McEwan Celebrates 15 Years

On May 18th, McEwan members and staff were joined by family and friends to celebrate the programs 15th anniversary. Special guests included The Hon. George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care for Ontario (photo #1, at left), Colleen Zakoar, former Director of McEwan House (photo #2) and Toronto City Councillor, Kyle Rae.

McEwan House Director Kay Roesslein welcomed guests and acted as MC. Here are some excerpts from her remarks...

.... McEwan functions from a psychosocial rehabilitation model, which honors and embraces the challenges and changes as well as the choices and goals of those with HIV, mental health and addiction issues.... I do not refer to our folks as "clients" or "consumers", but rather as "members", because it is their choices and goals we must acknowledge, and it is their participation and hard work that achieve these.

Support varies from 24-hour on-site staff as provided at [McEwan House], respite stays for Community Members, a cooperative house in Riverdale, six supported independent apartment units and case management for McEwan Members living independently in the community. This truly allows

us to provide a fluid and flexible program..

I invite you to imagine having not only mental health and/or addiction issues, but also being HIV+, being symptomatic, having varied and endless medication regimes, not to mention the corresponding side effects. Where do you go? How are you supported? Are you respected and embraced by your community? Would you see and plan for a future?

Here, the members and staff have created a community. There are plans, there are futures, and there is a social network.... we have been privileged to witness members becoming increasingly stable and healthy, and to watch many as they find ways to participate and contribute back to the community. Equally, and sadly, there are many who have passed away, but they too remained actively involved, which includes making end of life decisions.

I have always been, and continue to be, impressed by the determination and hope of all of our members. I truly have the greatest respect for their strength and courage.

Happy Anniversary!

A Basket of Hope



From one country to another: the concept of hope

In May LOFT was host to mental health workers from Rawanda.

They had come to Toronto to learn about our service systems.

In speaking with them it was clear how few resources they have to work with and how different their challenges are from those in Canada. As an example, they must offer programs to help people cope with their memories of the genocide which went on in their country.

As they also have an extremely high number of people with HIV disease we took them to visit our

McEwan program which deals with both mental health and HIV. They were very interested in our holistic approach to service which includes an acknowledgement of people's spirituality and building communities of support. They believed both of these practices fit their situation.

At the conclusion of their visit they presented us with a hand woven "basket of hope". It was a very touching moment-from one country to another we shared our belief in the healing power of hope.



Miss Edwards Emporium



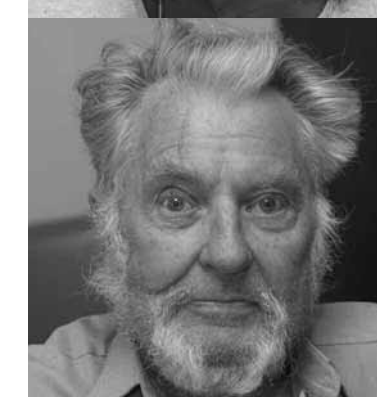
On Monday May 1, 2006 St. Anne's Place was delighted to have Michael and Janet Scott, Barbara Marshall-Houlding and Josephete Belcourt from the Scott Foundation present for lunch and the grand re-opening of Miss Edwards Emporium.

Thanks to the generous support of the Scott Foundation, St. Anne's was able to transform our gently used clothing store into a beautiful "boutique" complete with a glass display case and revolving garment racks. Miss Edwards Emporium accepts gently used clothing and other small household items.

The Emporium is named for Ms Maureen Edwards, a former tenant of St. Anne's who ran a "shop" in her apartment, keeping the proceeds in trust for the benefit of all the tenants. When she passed away the trust, which then contained \$25,000, was used to renovate the basement including building the first Emporium. The tradition continues with proceeds helping to support social and recreational activities at St. Anne's.

Above, St. Anne's Program Director Suzanne Crawford, LOFT Director of Seniors' Services Jim McMinn, on the left, and residents of St. Anne's Place, join Barbara Marshall-Houlding for the ribbon cutting.

If you have gently used women's clothing or small household items that you wish to donate please call Suzanne at 416-536-2761 ext 224.



A Letter for Lene

To the staff of Wilkinson Housing and Support Services,

I feel grief to learn the news that Lene Christensen has passed away. I feel grateful to have had Lene be my Case Manager. Then to watch her transform this small program into a full-fledged program that reflects the various needs of client services of all ages & stages.

Lene & I had a walk one time when she was my Case Manager. She definitely opened my eyes to the spiritual component in us all (in addition to my religion). This was at a time in my life when I needed to begin an awareness of this light in myself & us all. What a fabulous gift for Lene to give to me!

I went for a walk after your news & couldn't help but notice all the new spring growth. I pray that Lene was able to see a bit of spring before she passed on.

My prayers are to you all at Wilkinson, LOFT, Lene's loved ones & the lovely handprint Lene left for us at LOFT.

Bless you,
Barb



Lene's Legacy

In honour of her dedication and passion for her work, and in memory of a cherished colleague, LOFT Community Services has named the Sherbourne St. location of our Wilkinson Housing and Support Services program after Lene Christensen, who passed away earlier this year.

The new name will be "Lena's Place." (The spelling was suggested by Lene herself to make it easier for people to pronounce her name properly).

100th Birthday at Collegeview

In March, the staff and residents of Collegeview Supportive Housing Services had the honour of celebrating a resident's 100th birthday.

Mr. Kam Chau Ng, who has been one of our supportive housing residents for six years, turned one hundred on March 14, 2006. Four generations of the Ng family were in attendance and remarked that they were so pleased to see such a large, supportive community from Collegeview surrounding Mr. Ng on his special day. It was truly a multicultural affair as Mr. Ng's family handed out traditional Chinese birthday buns and Mr. Ng thoroughly enjoyed our singing of "Happy Birthday" and blowing out his candles.

Residents prepared many special gifts for him including a beautiful Chinese painting and a collage prepared in our craft group. Mr. Ng was also delighted to receive formal greetings from the Ontario Premier and Lieutenant Governor, the Toronto Community Housing Corporation and of course LOFT Community Services.

It was a wonderful milestone to celebrate with Mr. Ng and it gives us great pleasure to enjoy the celebration at his home which has been his wish since we met him six years ago.



Tax Advantages for Donors

In the 2006 Federal Budget it was announced that donations of publicly listed securities made after May 1, 2006 to a registered charity (other than a private foundation) will be exempt from capital gains tax.

Prior to May 2, 2006, when you donated a security that had appreciated in value since you purchased it, income tax was payable on one-quarter of the taxable capital gain. However, from May 2, 2006 on, the taxable capital gain is deemed to be nil.

In other words, there will be no income tax payable.

It is important to note that the donation of securities must be made directly to the charity. If the securities are first sold and the cash is subsequently donated, then the preferential treatment is not available.

The table below shows the savings that can be realized when an individual donates shares to a charity directly versus selling the shares first, and then donating the proceeds.

	Sell Shares - Donate Gross Proceeds	Donation of Shares
Value of shares	\$150,000	\$150,000
Cost basis of shares	\$50,000	\$50,000
Realized gain on disposition of shares	\$100,000	\$100,000
Value of donation to the charity	\$150,000	\$150,000
Taxes payable on the realized capital gain (1)	\$23,000	Nil
Tax credit for the donation (1),(2)	(69,000)	(69,000)
Net after-tax cost of making the donation	\$104,000	\$81,000

(1) Based on the top marginal tax rate of 46%.

(2) Assumes the individual donor is able to benefit from the full tax credit available on the donated shares.

Example provided courtesy of Grant Thornton LLP.

Grant Thornton 

Please note that tax planning around charitable gifting can be complex. You should always obtain professional advice through consultation with your tax advisor.

For more information on making donations of publicly listed securities to LOFT, please call:

Jane Corbett at 416-979-1994 ext. 227 or email jcorbett@loftcs.org

A Gift From Redken

At the end of 2005, LOFT Community Services received a generous gift in kind from Redken 5th Avenue.

Redken Canada, a leading manufacturer of professional haircare, styling and haircolor products, donated over 11,000 litres of professional shampoo and conditioner for men and women. The donation was distributed to the various LOFT homes and community services programs, so that all could enjoy. Redken is available and guaranteed only at fine salons in Canada.

Redken Canada made similar donations to deserving community based organizations across the country, in keeping with their commitment to helping those in need. For information about Redken visit www.redken.ca

REDKEN
5TH AVENUE NYC

In Memory Of...



William Robert Wilson
1916-2006

Bill died peacefully surrounded by his family on March 30, 2006. Always an energetic and generous contributor to many community activities, he was particularly involved over many years as a director of LOFT Community Services (formerly Anglican Houses).

His most passionate pursuit was his family and his many close friends, a number of whom felt that the affectionate nickname "Saint Bill" suited him remarkably well.

We would like to thank all those people who made donations to LOFT in memory of Bill.

LOFT Needs Your Help

LOFT depends on your support; without you our work would not be possible. Please consider making a donation in order to help those in need.

All gifts are given a receipt for income tax purposes. Donations can be made online at www.loftcs.org or mailed to:

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205 Richmond Street West,
Suite 301
Toronto, Ontario
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Phone: 416-979-1994
Fax: 416-979-3028

Charitable Registration
Number:
13058 6605 RR 0001