

2013 Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon

We are back again in this year's Charity Challenge as part of the 2013 Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon, Half Marathon, and 5K! LOFT participates every year and uses this event as an opportunity to raise funds for our programs – this money is used to cover what our regular funding doesn't.

Along with raising funds, it's also a fun day for everyone involved and fosters some great team spirit and competition. Last year, Team LOFT managed to raise close to \$56,000 with 115 participants! This year, race day is set for October 20 and our goal is to raise \$65,000 and register 200 participants for the race. We already have people



signed up and fundraising has officially kicked off!

Want to join us? There is a distance for everyone. Join Team LOFT and thousands of others on the 5K course in October. Visit our

website www.loftcs.org for details on how to register and donate. 100% of donations go directly to help the homeless, the abused, and the abandoned.



Jim and Annette having a fun time racing in the 2012 Marathon.

Josh with his medal after the Sporting Life 10K.



Go Josh Go!

We always encourage everybody who supports LOFT to participate in the race in some way – whether it is walking, running, cheering, or volunteering. It is a collaborative effort that sees around 150 people involved on race day.

In last year's STWM, we were 115 walkers/runners strong and included in that 115 was Josh. Josh, a client from our Transitional Age Youth Program, decided just days before Race Day to run with LOFT in the 5K and managed to complete it in less than half an hour without any training!

The 2012 STWM proved to be a starting point in a budding running career. Josh has since gone on to run in the Sporting Life 10K this past May and completed that in under an hour. There are sure to be more training runs in his future as Josh continues to add running medals to his collection. Next up is the Toronto 10 Miler in August and then the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Half-Marathon this October where he will be running on behalf of LOFT's Wilkinson Housing and Support Services. Awesome job, Josh!

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Our new home in Bradford

One of the most exciting initiatives at LOFT these days is Bradford House, our new seniors program located in Bradford, Ontario. It is housed in a building that started life in the early 20th century as the family home of Dr. F. C. Stevenson, a revered area physician. Since then, it has been a veterans' hospital, a nursing home and a boarding house.

Dr. Stevenson's house has now entered yet another phase of its life as LOFT housing for seniors living with mental health issues. We were already serving more than 600 vulnerable seniors in six different program locations in Toronto. LOFT programs have been active in York Region for more than twenty-five years, so we know the area well, and we knew there was no such seniors housing program available there. Consequently, we had been looking for some time for a suitable York Region location.

This former nursing home was not exactly what we were looking for. The building is old and in need of repair, but the need was great and the building was available, so on April 2, 2013, LOFT became its new owner. We took a "leaf of faith" to undertake this deperately needed work. It is already over half full and looking forward to many years of service to seniors in both York Region and South Simcoe. Our donors made it possible.

Charitable dollars covered part of the purchase price, and a long-time supporter became our "Angel Investor," taking a mortgage on the

remainder. A significant gift from another long-time donor came at the perfect time so we could start renovations to make resident rooms and common spaces ready for the first clients.

We have our work cut out for us. Bradford House today is a slightly sprawling, three-story structure large enough to accommodate 55 residents, and it is definitely in need of some TLC to bring it up to suitable standards. For LOFT, it will be a labour of love, with the goal of allowing vulnerable seniors to recover their dignity and independence and become part of the Bradford community.

We are so grateful to our wonderful donors who are always so willing to stick with us and take a "leap of faith together" when the need is there. Bradford House is going to change lives of vulnerable seniors.



Call to Action

Want to support Team LOFT? You can in more ways than one! Run, donate or cheer with us in the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon, Half Marathon, and 5K on October 20, 2013.

- 1) Walk or run with us! It's easy to sign up and LOFT gets you a discounted registration fee. Fundraise over \$250 (\$350 for the half or full marathon) and get your registration fee refunded to you. If you donate your refunded registration fee, you get a tax receipt in return and you can count the amount toward your fundraising total. It's a win-win situation for everyone involved!
- 2) Help us reach our goal - Donate to a team or a runner:
 - a. Head over to www.loftcs.org
 - b. Click on Support LOFT > Events > Scotiabank Marathon link
- 3) Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "Instructions on how to sponsor a team or a runner".
- 4) You can also cheer with us on the day of the race! Don an orange LOFT t-shirt and bring your spirit to the finish line along with other LOFT cheerers. Check our website for more information as we draw closer to race day.

For more details on how to register for the race or how to donate, contact Amy at 416-979-1994 ext. 233, atran@loftcs.org.

Your Bequest will ensure HOPE stays alive.



For more information, or to receive a free estate planning brochure, call 416-979-1994 ext. 227, or email jcorbett@loftcs.org.



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