



A NEW HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Our health care system faces many challenges: Rising costs, an ageing population who are living longer and experiencing increasingly complex health care needs. One of the issues receiving a lot of coverage in the media lately, is the number of people who are in the hospital not because they need hospital care, but simply because they have nowhere else to go.

This is a place where LOFT has been having a significant impact, both on the health care system overall, and on the quality of life of the people who get "stuck" in hospital – people like Dimas who shares his story here.

Over the past year, LOFT has assisted 381 people like Dimas, to successfully leave hospital, and re-enter a life of hope and dignity.

"Family life growing up was very difficult. We were poor. At 19, I came to Canada to escape the poverty and oppression of my country. I met a girl and fell in love.

She introduced me to many good things and some bad things too, including drugs. I became hooked very quickly and began doing things that were not in my character to support my addiction and ended up in prison. I was able to kick the habit while in jail.

My girlfriend no longer wanted anything to do with me unless I was willing to help her get more drugs which I was unwilling to do."

With no family or friends to turn to, Dimas became severely depressed, eventually ending up on the street and in homeless shelters. An attempt on his own life left him quadriplegic.

After that, **Dimas lived in a hospital for 13 difficult years.** Due to the complex nature of his physical and mental health challenges, combined with the fact that he had no family support nearby, he had **no place to go.**



Dimas with staff in his new room at LOFT's St. Anne's Place.

"I thought I would die in the hospital without ever experiencing the outside world again. Christmas had just become another day with no family and friends to share it with. That's when LOFT found me and offered me an opportunity to return to the community. I felt like God had sent a once in a lifetime opportunity to restart my life."

LOFT's Behavioural Support Transition Resource team (BSTR) heard about Dimas's difficult situation through a hospital referral and set to work right away to come up with a solution

to find Dimas a new place to live that would meet his needs. A care plan was put together with Dimas's input to make sure that he would be well supported throughout his transition.

A room at our St. Anne's Place was renovated and outfitted with the necessary medical equipment to care for Dimas and as soon as it was ready, our staff helped move him to his new home.

"My life has already changed a lot and I can see how LOFT is able to use funds to make the lives of everyone around me better. I am

looking forward to spending time with new friends at the holiday celebrations that LOFT puts on."

"We appreciate all the funds that people donate. Anything you can spare. It really makes a difference in people's lives and gives us a chance to live in a way we wouldn't be able to otherwise."

Dimas has HOPE and a NEW LIFE thanks to friends like you. Had it not been for your caring support, Dimas may have spent many more holidays alone in the hospital. Thank you.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

27th Annual Christmas Concert

Monday, December 4, 2017

7:30pm, St. James Cathedral

(corner of King and Church St., downtown Toronto)

Order tickets online and choose your seats: www.loftcs.org

MICAH BARNES



JEANNIE WYSE



BILLY NEWTON-DAVIS



Ticket Prices:

BENEFACTOR - \$250

1 ticket, \$210 tax receipt and invitation to the post-concert reception

PATRON - \$100

1 ticket, \$60 tax receipt

GENERAL - \$40

1 ticket

YES, I want to support the work of LOFT by purchasing concert tickets:

Benefactor # _____ tickets at \$250 = \$ _____

Patron # _____ tickets at \$100 = \$ _____

General # _____ tickets at \$40 = \$ _____

I cannot attend, please accept my donation of \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please Email me my tickets

**If ordering Patron or Benefactor tickets, please print name as you would like it to be listed in our program:* _____

PAYMENT METHOD: CHEQUE ENCLOSED

MASTERCARD VISA AMERICAN EXPRESS

Card Number: _____

Card Holder signature: _____ Exp: _____

Seating is reserved by ticket level and number; doors will open at 7:00pm.
We apologize that some seats have obstructed sight lines so order early for the best seats.

Charitable registration #: 13058 6605 RR001

ORDER TICKETS ONLINE or via MAIL, FAX, PHONE, OR EMAIL:

LOFT Community Services

15 Toronto Street, 9th Floor • Toronto, ON • M5C 2E3

Order tickets online and choose your seats: www.loftcs.org

T: 416-979-1994 ext. 233 or 222 F: 416-979-3028 E: atran@loftcs.org

Sponsors:



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Poem by Bexx

The following poem was shared by a client from LOFT's Transitional Age Youth program.

You won't know the secrets
The ones I keep hidden under my sleeve
From all the scars that faded
From all the times I wanted to leave

But there is an angel
She has fallen from the clouds
She told me to look up
Because I'm not falling down

She held my hand
Walked with me
Told me there is no reason to leave

Then, for the first time,
My wounds could breathe

Mailing Volunteers Wanted

The newsletter you are currently reading was brought to you in part by a volunteer! We rely on our team of volunteers to assemble every mailing we send out. Our volunteers save us from paying thousands of dollars a year for mail house services.

LOFT has 8-10 mailings a year. Each mailing takes place on a weekday morning at our administrative office in downtown Toronto. You can volunteer for as many, or as few, as you like.

If you would like to help, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Ted Krawchuk at tkrawchuk@loftcs.org, 416-979-1994 ext. 244 or Amy Tran at atran@loftcs.org, 416-979-1994 ext. 233.

Last chance to make your 2017 charitable donation!

December 31st is your last chance to donate in the 2017 year! Go to www.loftcs.org to make your donation online or call 416-979-1994 ext. 233, 222 or 227 to make your donation over the phone.