

Pine Villa is a transitional supportive housing hub where Sunnybrook Hospital, SPRINT Seniors Care and LOFT work in partnership to support seniors transitioning back to the community from Sunnybrook and other Toronto hospitals. Specifically, Pine Villa assists seniors who have complex challenges related to physical health, addiction, mental health, behaviours and/or dementia. Some of these seniors were homeless before they entered hospital and like Mike, welcome the opportunity to change their lives.

Mike – A Homeless Veteran Turns His Life Around

For more than seven years I was living on the streets looking at other people who got to go home. I couldn't do that.

I'll start my story at 17 when I joined the armed forces. I can say I was there - in Iran, Iraq - but I can't talk about what I did. It was basically Black Ops. I was decorated; I progressed to the rank of Sergeant Major.

Thirteen years later I was back in the public. I tried my hand at everything; went from job to job to job. I never did like any of them, but I stayed more than a year at each.

My last position, I was 20 years superintendent of a building. When the owner sold, the new people gave me 24-hours eviction notice because I was living rent-free.

Then, like I say, I was homeless. I just drifted from place to place.

I had an interesting childhood. But happy? No! My father took off when I was five. Nobody ever bothered telling me the story. My mother was the backbone of the family. That's wheremost of the feeling of love towards a home comes from.

I was never that interested in school. It was just something



What is a Home by Mike

*A home is a roof to keep out the rain
Four walls to keep out the wind,
Floors to keep out the cold
Yes, but it is more than that.*

*A home is the laugh of a little baby
The song of a Mother, the strength of a Father*

*And the warmth of a Living heart
Light from happy eyes, kindness, loyalty,
companionship.*

*A home is the first school for young ones
Where they learn what is right, and what is
wrong,*

*What is good, and what is kind
Where they go for comfort when hurt or sick.*

*Its where joy is shared and sorrows are eased,
Where Fathers and Mothers are respected
Where the simplest food is good enough for
Kings*

*Because it is earned
Where money is not as important as loving
kindness.*

"That is what a Home is."

that was required to be done. You do it to the best of your ability and then move on. I did well; I was bounced up two grades.

For me it was never drugs. I still like my alcohol, but three years ago I gave up hard liquor. I realized when I was drinking hard liquor I hurt people. The last time was when I hurt a lady friend. So I poured out my bottles. Said that's the end of that. Cold turkey. I've never gone back.

I still like my beer. But I am also able understand when I've had enough and stop.

I came here [to Pine Villa] straight from Sunnybrook, where they took out a good portion of my leg. I had "flesh eating disease". I said okay they're giving me another chance and I'm gonna do it.

One thing about LOFT. They've got a beautiful heart. LOFT is the greatest thing since sliced bread and I am sure they are going to have nothing but success in the years to come.

The 6 months I've been here has given me a whole new insight. I can tell you, if I was on the street nothing would have changed. Here I am actually changing the direction of my life.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

28th Annual Christmas Concert

Monday, December 10, 2018

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



*2018

JEANNIE WYSE



*2018

BILLY NEWTON-DAVIS



*2017

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 RR0001

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. #2033 or #2022 F: 416-979-3028 E: sxara@loftcs.org

Sponsor:



Print Sponsor:



LOFT CEO Heather McDonald congratulates Debra Walko, our Senior Director for Complex Care and Seniors Services.

Debra is one of six recipients from across Ontario named to the honour roll for the 2018 Minister's Medal Awards Honouring Excellence in Health Quality and Safety.

Debra was nominated for her 30 years of effort in transforming the health care system, championing the right for seniors who deal with mental health, addiction and responsive behaviours, to live with dignity and independence.

"Toronto Central LHIN and the people we serve are fortunate to have a champion like Debra Walko as partner, advocate and leader for community support services." - Susan Fitzpatrick, CEO, Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network.

Food Bank Program Volunteers Wanted

LOFT's 416 Community Support for Women is looking for compassionate and empathetic volunteers to help with our Food Bank Program.

Shifts are available:

Tuesdays 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Thursdays 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Thursdays 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Volunteers help unload and sort food donations, clean and stock shelves and hand out food hampers. You must be able to commit to 1 shift a week for 6 months and lift a maximum of 25 lbs.

Please contact Alex Branson: abranson@loftcs.org, or call 416-928-3334 ext. 224

Last chance to make your 2018 charitable donation!

December 31st is your last chance to donate in the 2018 year! Go to www.loftcs.org to make your donation online or call 416-979-1994 ext. #2033, #2022 or #2032 to make your donation over the phone.