


PANDEMIC READINESS, RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE TWO YEARS LATER

Rising to the challenge with courage and conviction

The pandemic has dramatically changed the way LOFT serves our community. Constantly shifting restrictions and protocols have meant our staff has had to adapt to find new and creative ways to support our clients.

As the pandemic drags on, our staff members are feeling weary. Everything we have learned in the last two years, however, has helped keep the "tsunami" of COVID at bay. Our staff continues to go above and beyond to support our clients and keep them safe — from setting up virtual support groups to organizing vaccine clinics. They do it because they know they are critical in our clients' lives. The appreciation of the

people they serve and the compassion of supporters like you help keep our frontline heroes going. Thank you for standing with us. 

To keep our staff and clients safe, regardless of what the pandemic brings, LOFT invested in a good supply of:

- ✓ N95 masks for our frontline staff, as well as medical masks
- ✓ PPE supplies such as gloves and eye protection
- ✓ Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes
- ✓ Rapid tests for staff testing and for client testing at high support sites



A warm meal on a cold day

When a snowstorm hit Toronto in January, it caused disruptions in meal delivery service for some of our senior clients. LOFT staff pitched in to personally deliver the meals to make sure no one went without. 

Keep reading to see how your gifts helped us provide this type of support!

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LOFT GIFT MATCH RESULTS

Thank you for helping us meet our goal

Throughout the pandemic, LOFT's Board of Directors has provided invaluable guidance and support. They even stepped up their financial support to help raise urgently needed funds for those struggling with poverty, mental illness and addiction — pledging to match all donations received by the end of 2021 up to \$120,000.

Thanks to caring supporters like you, we exceeded that target. Your generosity, and that of our board members, enabled LOFT to provide essential wraparound services to people in need. Most of the government funding we receive goes directly toward mental health/addiction supports and housing supplements, which means we rely on your kind gifts to support our client's food and personal care needs.

IT'S HARD TO HAVE HOPE WHEN YOU'RE HUNGRY

When someone is in crisis, responding to their immediate needs — such as a fortifying meal — can help them focus on their recovery and often rekindle the desire to start a new chapter in life. Funds raised through the gift match helped LOFT meet those needs in 2021. With the cost of food continuing to rise, we anticipate requiring more than \$1 million to provide food to our clients in 2022, making your continued support more important than ever.

1 in 7 people in Canada are now food insecure — a 14% increase since the pandemic began.

At the heart of it, our work is about changing lives. Your support makes that possible.

SHOWING STAFF APPRECIATION

Going above and beyond

The third week of February marked the first ever Nonprofit Week of Appreciation. We are proud to extend our appreciation to our staff and community partners whose work is indispensable and transforms the lives of individuals and communities.



LOFT staff at McEwan enjoying their cookies, a thank you gift from a LOFT board member for their tireless efforts



A LOFT team member shows her gratitude for her fellow frontline colleagues



LOFT's board and leadership team visited our programs to show their appreciation to our hardworking staff



Making sure our clients have a warm meal, no matter the weather!

“To our staff, thanks for being so unbelievably committed day in and day out. It's been a long haul and we all appreciate what you do!”

— Paula Schipper, LOFT board member

Spring update from Heather McDonald, CEO



Wave after wave of the COVID-19 pandemic have taken their toll on us all. According to a survey conducted by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), feelings of anxiety, depression and loneliness are at the highest levels since the pandemic began. Nearly 1 in 4 survey respondents said they needed, but weren't able to access, mental health support last year.

To help address the escalating demand for mental health and addiction support in our communities, LOFT recently announced amalgamation with Toronto North Support Services (TNSS). We're pleased to be welcoming almost 100 new team members to our LOFT family. This coming together of people and resources will result in a stronger and more effective organization capable of meeting the needs of a changing healthcare landscape.



Our team got together virtually to learn about the Lunar New Year

CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSITY

One of the things we hold dear at LOFT is creating moments of joy and celebrating as a LOFT family. February provided us with some great opportunities to do just that, even though we couldn't gather in-person. Together with our large community of staff and clients who identify as Asian and Black, we celebrated the Lunar New Year and commemorated Black History Month with virtual events and the delivery of cultural foods. 🍵

As the needs of our community continue to change and grow, so will we. Watch for more exciting things to come in 2022.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Special thanks to everyone who helped our 31st annual concert meet the year's most urgent needs for food, housing and mental health supports. It was a terrific showcase of talent and community impact.



Louise Pitre and
Ross MacIntyre



Broadway




Denzal Sinclair

Unafraid to take a leap of faith

When rumblings of a pandemic first began, some organizations took a “wait and see” approach. Not LOFT. By the time March 2020 hit and the world reeled, we had a plan in place to serve and protect our clients and staff. And we didn't stop there. As the pandemic continues to present challenges, we continue to embrace change.

GROWING TO FILL THE GAPS

Since 2018, LOFT has grown 163%. By 2023, we will have doubled in size. This growth trajectory is necessary in order to meet the rapidly increasing needs of our community. In 2021, LOFT served 9,500 clients. To serve even more people in 2022 and beyond, plans are underway to add more housing units and expand support services.

For example, LOFT is partnering with Humber River Hospital to create transitional housing for people with complex mental health and addiction needs. The community reintegration program provides safe housing for people who no longer need to be in hospital, but have nowhere else to go. Clients who have recently moved in will receive 24/7 on-site support that is tailored to their unique needs. The program will free up much-needed hospital beds and reduce individual healthcare costs by more than 80% per person. 



Members of LOFT's senior team, Karen O'Connor and Heather McDonald visit one of the Humber River Houses that will provide much needed transitional housing



Our very own changemaker

LOFT is proud to share some exciting news. In recognition of her business acumen, innovative ideas for growth, and her compassionate and responsive leadership during the pandemic, our very own Heather McDonald has been named a 2022 Changemaker. The national editorial award program, produced by Report on Business magazine at The Globe and Mail, showcases 50 emerging leaders who are finding inspirational ways to transform business today. You can read the full article online by visiting www.loftcs.org



2022
REPORT ON BUSINESS
CHANGEMAKERS

A gift to LOFT is a gift to empower your community.

 Call: 416-979-1994 ext. # 2033 or  visit: loftcs.org

LOFT

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