



CONNECTIONS

YOUR SUMMER 2022 COMMUNITY UPDATE



PERMANENT HOUSING HELPS OPEN THE DOOR TO RECOVERY

Roe builds success through connection

For Community Support Worker Roe (pronouns they/them), no two days at Spencer House are alike. That’s a sign this unique program is working to plan. “It’s extremely varied because we respond to our clients’ needs,” they explain.

Those needs can be complex. The program works with adults living with mental illness, addiction and/or poverty who identify as transgender, non-binary or gender-expansive. Spencer House clients are offered a permanent place to live, no matter where they are in their journey.

This “housing-first” approach was a big draw for Roe when they joined the staff in early 2021. “Homelessness is a traumatizing experience, and it can compound other challenges,” they say. “Being able to layer supports for our clients plays a big role in creating sustainable, long-term solutions.”

This important work helps clients feel empowered to continue their recovery journey, regardless of the challenges they face. “Clients can work towards their self-determined goals while having a welcoming and safe place to live.” Staff also receive comprehensive training. “Having knowledge about harm reduction is an important part of demonstrating to clients that



Roe and Noroo enjoying the outdoors

someone truly cares about making their experience safe and dignified.”

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Roe’s efforts to provide our vulnerable Spencer House clients with compassion and connection really brings LOFT’s mission to life.



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As a transgender person with their own challenges with mental health and substance use, Roe brings an important perspective to their work – one that allows them to create deep connections with their diverse clients. “Most residents live with us for upwards of 1-2 years, so there’s an opportunity to build relationships,” they say. “People assume my work is heavy, but it’s actually warm and friendly. It’s rewarding, and sometimes very delightful work.”

In their spare time, Roe enjoys spending time with their scrappy rescue Chihuahua, named Noroo. Staff at Spencer often bond over sharing pictures of their pets and connecting on hobbies. For Roe, that includes discovering a passion for power tools throughout the pandemic and recently building their own coffee table. 



It's official! LOFT has earned another three-year accreditation from

the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

CARF's surveyors made special note of our exceptional staff members – it's their hard work and dedication that makes every LOFT success possible. The report also highlighted some important LOFT strengths, including our innovative approaches and willingness to take risks, and our diverse programming that focuses on unmet needs.

Our staff's hard work and commitment made this possible!

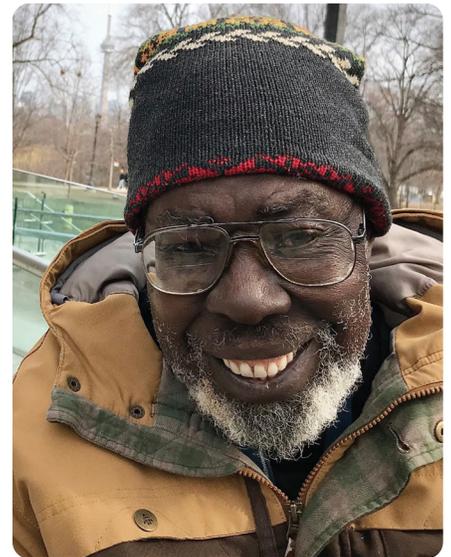
OFFERING UNWAVERING SUPPORT

Artnell's Story

Artnell was referred to LOFT by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). Diagnosed with schizophrenia and precariously housed, a safe place to call home and ongoing support with medication are crucial to his well-being.

The team at LOFT's John Gibson House ensures that Artnell receives proper personal assistance and health care. He is also able to participate in life enrichment activities.

Read more of Artnell's story at loftcs.org/blog.



LOFT receives Canadian Nonprofit Employer of Choice (NEOC) Award

vision, and allows us to focus our attention to issues that matter to our staff.

We're excited to share that, once again, LOFT has received the Canadian Nonprofit Employer of Choice (NEOC) Award. The award is based on survey results that come directly from employee feedback and has been instrumental in shaping LOFT's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion work. This affirms our mission and



Wilkinson staff enjoying the spring weather



An Update from Heather McDonald, CEO

As the need for our services grows across our communities, LOFT continues to create innovative ways to tackle the deepening inequities experienced by our clients.



Heather and Susan Meikle, Executive Director of TNSS, welcoming staff to the LOFT family

Our recent amalgamation with Toronto North Support Services (TNSS) is just one example. LOFT and TNSS are long-standing partners in providing flexible, community-based support to individuals experiencing homelessness and mental health and addiction challenges. Consolidating our resources means a seamless transition for clients across services and creates operational efficiencies so more of our funds go directly to client care. LOFT clients will continue to benefit from TNSS initiatives such as The Access Point, which uses a common application form to refer clients to more than 50 different community-based providers.



Our growth continues in Toronto's east end as well. We are excited about an expanded partnership with Michael Garron Hospital. This opportunity will offer new supportive housing spaces for vulnerable individuals to transition out of the hospital, helping to free up much-needed beds. We look forward to keeping you updated on this exciting new program! 📍

With TNSS now part of the LOFT family, we are integrating services and creating operational efficiencies in the sector.



Mental Health and Justice Initiative (MHJI) staff



Vaccination clinic at JW Green apartments

Even through the pandemic, our staff are proud and passionate about the work they do.

We couldn't do it without them!



Canadian Nonprofit Employer of Choice™ Award
A Hilborn:ECS service

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR AGM

We would like to officially, and warmly, invite you to this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM). It will be held online through Zoom

at 1 pm. At this fun-filled event you will learn about our impact last year and enjoy some special entertainment and highlights. We can't wait to see you there!



JUNE
29

REGISTER TODAY AT:

www.loftcs.org/AGM2022 or
call 416-979-1994 #2033

BUILD A BETTER FUTURE WHILE BUILDING YOUR LEGACY

Leaving a gift in your will

One of LOFT's core commitments is to walk alongside our clients for as long as they need us. To make that possible, we must strike a careful balance between funding for immediate needs and planning for the future.

Many of our generous donors recognize that challenge, and have pledged to help us meet it by remembering LOFT with a gift in their will. These donations are a uniquely powerful way to make an enduring impact in our community. That need has never been greater.

Since 2016, the number of clients LOFT serves has skyrocketed 163% and demand will only continue to

grow in the years to come. A gift left in your will can help to guarantee that complex challenges such as homelessness, addiction, poverty and mental illness aren't barriers to a better life.

Leaving a bequest doesn't have to be complicated. If you wish to donate to LOFT in your will, you can find specific language at www.loftcs.org/legacy, or please reach out to Mona Lee-Tam, Senior Director of Development and Communications at 416-979-1994 ext. #2027 or mlee-tam@loftcs.org to learn more about this powerful way of creating a lasting legacy. 

Please note that LOFT Community Services cannot provide legal or financial advice. We strongly encourage you to seek professional advice when executing an estate gift to ensure it is correctly tailored to your financial and personal circumstances.

In loving memory

Marion and Hugh Chambers were active members of the Anglican Church their whole lives. They met at the Anglican Young People's Association in Toronto in the 1950s, going on to take various roles including Sunday school teacher and superintendent, churchwarden and President of the Anglican Church Women, where Marion became involved with LOFT. Their daughters fondly remember a trip to Moosonee, Ontario to help support the building of a new church, as well as a weekend at Moorelands Camp helping to get it ready for the summer. It is completely in character that they both felt strongly about donating to Anglican charities, knowing that the money would be put to the best possible use, helping others and in keeping with their faith. The Chambers' commitment to leaving a legacy to LOFT required no "leap of faith". 



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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