

# CONNECTIONS

YOUR WINTER 2022 COMMUNITY UPDATE



## Holiday Update from Heather McDonald, CEO

The impact of COVID-19 has put immense pressure on our healthcare system. Hospitals are dealing with overcrowding, and we are seeing surges in mental health needs.

In the midst of these challenging times, LOFT has been working with hospitals and partners across the province to respond to unmet needs. We are a trusted provider in offering solutions.

This year, we are proud to be recognized for our work supporting older adults transition from hospitals back into the community. Our work has helped free up much-needed acute care beds.



Our seniors supportive housing team in Orillia

- **Ontario's Council of the Federation (COF) Award for Innovation in Mental Health and Addictions Care** from Canada's Premiers
- **Seniors Mental Health Outstanding Care & Integrative Practice Award** from Canadian Academy of Geriatric Psychiatry and Canadian Coalition for our outreach program
- **2022 Innovation Award** from Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association
- **Excellence Supporting Seniors Award** from AdvantAge Senior Care



Celebrating 10 years of support for seniors with behavioural issues

It's an incredible honour to be recognized for our work. We are creative and collaborative because our clients need us to be. Together with hospitals, partners, volunteers and donors, countless lives have been transformed.

I am grateful for the work we've done together, and am encouraged by what's to come. LOFT continues to meet needs while offering hope to those who require it most. ©

*"Together with hospitals, partners, volunteers and donors, countless lives have been transformed."*



# Building a Brighter Future for Youth

Mental health concerns and addiction are some of the most complex challenges facing youth in Canada today, but only 1 in 5 who need help actually receive it. Without adequate and timely support, youth are vulnerable to increased mental health challenges, difficulties in school, and homelessness.

Alex\*, a youth client, explains. "The anxiety around entering both the mental health system and the world as a young adult was daunting. My mental illness often seems like a full-time job, so much so that finishing high school and going into my dream college program felt unachievable."

LOFT's Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Program, which supports 16-26 year olds, provides housing and holistic support for youth with complex mental health and addiction challenges. Our aim is to provide a place where clients like Alex can feel at home as they navigate their recovery journey.

Once our youth are safely housed, we work with them to stabilize their health and help them on their path to education and employment.

"After being connected with LOFT, I had the privilege of having LOFT staff walk alongside both my treatment journey and my school success. My life became less



of a fear, and I was able to work towards living the life I actually wanted."

We were able to strengthen TAY's education services through the support of the Aubrey and Marla Dan Foundation. Their generous \$50,000 donation enabled us to provide continued education for at-risk youth experiencing mental health and addiction challenges.

Alyse Bernbaum, Executive Director of the Aubrey & Marla Dan Foundation, welcomes their partnership with LOFT. "We see education as a right. As such, we're proud to support the TAY Program. Through this program, youth complete their high school diploma in a stable and secure environment that enables them to pursue employment opportunities or higher education that will set them up for success in their futures."

Thank you to the Aubrey and Marla Dan Foundation for their support. 🧡

\*Name changed to respect client's privacy

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— Alyse Bernbaum, Executive Director, Aubrey & Marla Dan Foundation

## Make a Year-End Gift

We need your support to meet increased demand for mental health and housing support. Make a donation by December 31 to receive a charitable tax receipt for 2022.

📞 Call: 416-979-1994 ext. # 2033 or  
🌐 Visit: [loftcs.org/donate](https://loftcs.org/donate)

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