



United Church Halfway Homes Inc. Annual Report

October 10, 2024

Submit to: Harrow United Church

United Church Halfway Homes (UCHH) discontinued occupying the office space on the main floor of Harrow United Church. This was designated as an office for the Executive Director, unfortunately it was underutilized. Over the past 2 years it was proven to be more effective for the Executive Director to work from home or utilize office space and visits to UCHH 3 homes individually.

UCHH continues to rent space at Harrow for Meetings, Training and Events.

Meetings- Over the past years United Church Halfway Homes have been afforded the convenience of attending meetings in the lower hall. UCHH has increased its in person meetings, slowly decreasing virtual utilization. This year we will be continuing with a combination of In Person and Virtual Meetings. We utilize two main spaces in Harrow's facilities, both on the lower level. The Parlour room is generally used for staff meetings. The Main Hall is used for larger meetings that require the use of the big screen TV provided in the space. This has been convenient for displaying power point presentations or Virtual Meetings.

Training: In the past years the main lower hall has been used for training. This past year we utilized the room on two occasions for mass training of our staff. This coming year we intend on increasing the utilization of this space for large group training. All other training for staff has been held virtually or in person off site.

Accommodations: Harrow United Church continues to accommodate UCHH whenever possible. We are pleased to be fortunate to rent space from Harrow United Church as it is not only convenient but reasonably priced. There have been several impromptu meetings taken place and accommodations have always been made by Harrow Secretary Karen to accommodate UCHH.

McMillan Gift Baskets: Every year during Christmas our ladies at McMillan are gifted Christmas presents from Harrow United Church. Hand made knitted items such as blankets, scarfs and

other assortment of gifts are provided, children of our residents are also included. Christmas time can be stressful and trigger unpleasant memories for our residents. This good will Christmas gesture, assist to shine a bright light during the holiday season. This year the house was provided with homemade knitted items and an assortment of gifts in the same fashion as the previous years. Our residents were happy to receive these thoughtful gifts. The addition of pillow cases to house the gifts in are an added special touch.

UCHH would like to thank the ladies of Harrow for their kind act of sharing and giving, sending a positive message to our residents.

In addition to the handcrafted gifts McMillan is fortunate to receive an assortment of gifts from the "Shoe Box".

Salvation Army also provides small token gifts to all 3 homes at Christmas time.

Events- This past summer UCHH was able to Host our third Organizational BBQ for our staff, this was good for bonding and breaking bread with each other. Staff seemed to enjoy it a great deal.

UCHH also hosted our Annual General Meeting virtually utilizing the Big Screen TV in the lower hall.

Christmas Parties were hosted for staff and residents in individual homes.

Events have been planned for residents such a game nights, beach and picnic days, attending movies, or grabbing a bit to eat. This is important to provide some normalcies throughout the community reintegration process.

Employment

UCHH has hired a new Board Secretary Marcia. A new Board Secretary will assist us in keeping things organized as we move into the next phases of our organizational growth.

UCHH is fortunate to experience community partnership with Harrow United Church!

Written by: Audrey Dennis, Executive Director