

What United House Offers

United House provides transitional housing to women leaving the Barrie Women and Children's Shelter. Women need to leave the shelter after 6-8 weeks but the waitlist for Rent Geared to Income housing is 3-8 months. Working exclusively with the transitional support workers at the shelter, we fill this gap in affordable housing, dramatically increasing the likelihood of our clients transitioning successfully out of abuse.

United House has 5 separate apartments which are newly renovated and beautifully furnished. Our clients pay only the shelter portion of their Ontario Works benefits as rent, a fraction of their apartments' market value. Our Rent Supplement Program covers the rest of the costs and our volunteer Community Support Worker supports our clients and fosters community as they rebuild their lives and prepare for independent living.

Women who leave a partner to raise children on their own are five times more likely to live in poverty than if they stay with their partner.

("Facts About Women and Poverty," canadianwomensfoundation.org)

What's Next...

RPC is very excited about our next project, as we move forward with plans to partner with the Salvation Army to tackle the lack of emergency and transitional housing for families in Barrie. Stay tuned for more updates on this project, and two new fundraising events in 2014!



Many volunteers and donors joined us for our Open House in April, before families moved in.

An Exciting Year

On April 26th, 2013 our first families moved in to United House, the culmination of 18 months of work! What began with an idea and a small group of individuals has grown into a movement that encompasses a wide and diverse community of people from all over our city. Almost a year later, we have now housed 14 families and supported several more. We have also formed important partnerships that will allow us to have a broader impact on the state of affordable housing in Simcoe County.

A huge thank you to all of you who have been involved to date. We look forward to working with you in 2014!

Tim and Rhonda Kent

Who We Serve



United House was initially built to fill the gap in affordable housing that exists between the length of time a woman can stay at the shelter vs. the wait time for affordable (Rent Geared to Income) housing.

Our doors opened in April of 2013, and early evidence suggests that we are actually doing much more than that. Nationally, the rate of return to abusive partner is much lower when a woman goes through supported second stage housing such as ours than if she were to leave an emergency shelter directly, and we are seeing that play out at United House as well. With their basic needs met and a supportive network in place, our clients are not just housed, they are finding jobs, returning to post-secondary education, starting businesses, and regaining their voice.

26 women and children lived at United House in 2013, which just opened in late April.

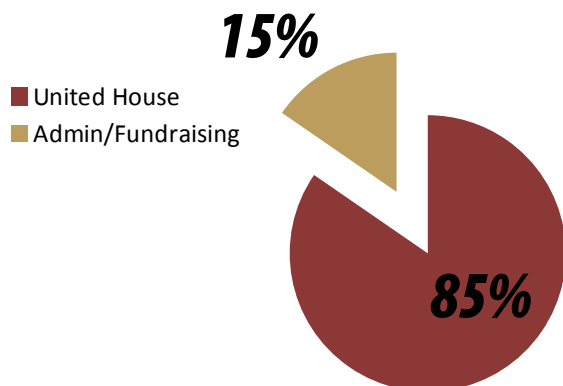
"I'm amazed at how we are able to **impact** more lives than just the 5 families in our apartments at any given time. The community feel around the house means that women from the shelter who don't live here are often around to visit their friends or just join us for coffee and we develop **ongoing, supportive friendships**. Because our ladies' basic needs are met and because they are growing stronger, they are able to offer support to their friends in tough situations. Also, our volunteers, our neighbours, our children...**we are all different for being part of this community.**"

- Rhonda, United House Support Worker

"With the opportunity to live at United House, **immediate stability** allowed for the further progression of my academic and career goals. The ease of transition provided **comfort and security** for my son. The ability to **regain my independence** and obtain employment while pursuing the final courses needed to complete my business degree, is all thanks to Redwood Park Communities."

"I'm just so thankful because before, **I figured no one would even notice if I disappeared.**"

How RPC Revenue is Spent



Volunteer Matthew van Gennip presents Executive Director Tim Kent with a cheque for \$1500 from the BMO Employee Volunteer Grant Program.

GIVINGTUESDAY™

Redwood Park Communities participated in the first Canadian Giving Tuesday on December 3, 2013. This was a social media campaign to offset the excess of Black Friday and Cyber Monday with a day of giving. Our donors gave \$1575! Thank you!



The **Mudders for Mothers** team participated in the 2013 Tough Mudder Event and raised almost \$13 000 for the United House Rent Supplement Program. They are already training for 2014!

Giving to RPC
increased 30% in
2013, from \$32 615
to \$42 361.

Annual Cost of Operating United House: \$90400

Where the money comes from:

Rent Payments:	\$54120
In Kind Donations:	\$2400
Rent Supplement Program:	\$34000
(Patrons, Gifts, Grants, Fundraisers)	
	\$90520



2013 MONTHLY PATRONS

Carrie Barnes
Morven Barnes
Michelle Greig
Heather & Trevor Morgan
Jennifer van Gennip

THANK YOU.
The opening of
United House
was made
possible with
support from:

To become a Monthly Patron visit www.redwoodparkcommunities.com/donate

Partnerships and Alliances



The Women & Children's Shelter is our key partner for United House. The Transitional Support Team takes care of our entire intake process and provides support to our clients and volunteers alike.



Shortly after United House opened we partnered with the Barrie Food Bank, which now restocks each apartment when new clients move in.



This year RPC joined the Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness, part of the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness, which advocates for increased affordable housing policies and the rights of Canada's homeless.

United Lumber
Sleep Country Canada
Kempenfelt Builders
Armstrong Meakings
Barrie Free Methodist Church
Barrie Trim and Moldings
Base Borden
BFI Canada
Budget Blinds
Climate Air
Earth Electric
Eisses Brothers Excavating
Emmanuel Baptist Church
Hartmann Controls Corp
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James Hardie
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Northern Lakes Audio Video
Northern Plumbing Systems
Signature Homes by Mike Wall
Stephen R. Taylor Architect
The Mortgage Centre
Thermal Hydronic Supply
Vicourt Roofing
Vox Alliance Church
Walkerworks Decorating
Yanch Energy Solutions

Board of Directors & Volunteer Staff

Nathan Barnes (Chair) | Vox Alliance Church

Timothy Kent (Executive Director) | Artisan Fine Homes

Shaun Brear | Kempenfelt Builders

Rhonda Kent | Community Support Worker

Jennifer van Gennip | Communications and Development Coordinator

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