



# Safe, Affordable, Hopeful Housing ... in Supportive COMMUNITY



As I think about this past year, there are plenty of numbers that come to mind. We added 7 new units of safe, affordable, hopeful, supported housing, and we have two more opening this month. At United House we met and had the amazing opportunity to share life with 11 women and their 17 children, bringing our total number to 30 women and 42 children since we opened in May of 2013.

But the number I would be most interested to know is how many cups of coffee were consumed this year. You see, at Redwood we are about housing, but we offer much more.

Although we start with housing first, we believe that helping to develop supportive community creates hope. And that takes work! In fact, here's another number for you: 5. We have expanded our Family Support Team again this year and we now have 5



Rhonda & Tim Kent

family support workers providing day to day support to our families. We have also had two students from the Social Service Worker program at Georgian College do their placements with us, and one of them has joined our family support team on a permanent basis.

And with all that community-building, we realized this past spring that we had outgrown our little living room in the office. Some days we had 15 women and their kids coming to connect over a cup of coffee! So, we repurposed our space to eliminate an office and expand our community room. United House and Second Suites ladies, past and present, along with the family support team, joined me for the demolition, and our Second Suites crew handled the construction. And the results are beautiful. We have a big, open space to get together, including a spot just for the kids! And you know what we do there? We drink coffee!

Maybe this year I'll keep track of just how many cups are consumed while we get to know each other, connect people with services and opportunities, talk though the tough stuff, laugh about the little things, and celebrate the beautiful. How many cups will we drink while women rediscover who they are, decide to go back to school or start a business, while we hold babies, enjoy today, and dream about tomorrow.

#### Rhonda Kent

Cofounder and Family Support Team Lead

Hope Through Housing.

## Second Suites

Redwood Second Suites ™ was launched quietly in November 2015, and is in line with the 10-Year Affordable Housing Strategies of both the City of Barrie and the County of Simcoe, encouraging home owners to turn unused space in their property into a low-cost suite.

Having a Redwood Second Suite in your home not only offers a unique opportunity for you to invest back into your community, it also supplies you with added monthly income and income tax deductions, and raises your property and resale value. *Learn more at www.redwoodparkcommunities.com*.



Second Suites operating currently.



Families provided affordable housing so far.



Additional Second Suites on their way this year.



We feel so **blessed** to be a part of their journey through a safe, affordable and hopeful place to live. **Our lives are enriched** as we partner with this wonderful local charity.

Emily D. Second Suites Partne



## United House

Giving Her Hope.



United House provides transitional housing to women leaving the Barrie Women and Children's Shelter in our 5 newly-renovated, fully furnished apartments. Usually women who have used up all their allotted time at the women's shelter are still on the wait list for Rent Geared to Income housing placements. This puts them in the position of choosing between housing they cannot afford, homelessness, or returning to abusive partners.

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. At United House women (and their children, if applicable) can stay for up to one year while they wait for RGI housing to become available.



"I'm just so thankful
because before,
I didn't think anyone would
notice if I disappeared."

In 2015-2016

11 & their 17 women children

Since opening in 2013

30 & their 42 women children

Have found a soft place to land at United House,
while they rebuild their lives
after fleeing domestic violence and abuse.











# Lillian Crescent Emergency & Transitional FAMILY HOUSING

Redwood Park Communities has developed a partnership with The Salvation Army Barrie Bayside Mission and The Salvation Army Citadel to house families in crisis.

This project is in the development stage with construction anticipated for Spring 2017. Once completed, it will provide 12 two bedroom apartments with a large shared living room/rec room space for building community.

The space will assist as many as 24 families each year to regain long-term housing.





About 1/2 of our expenses are covered by the rent that our clients pay. The rest is made up through our monthly patron program, 3rd party fundraisers, and one-time gifts and grants.

We are thankful for those who organized or participated in the Charity Volleyball Tournament., the Mudders for Mothers Tough Mudder Team, The Faris Team Royal Dragons and Redwood Paddlers Dragon Boat Teams, the Dani Strong Concert, the Hockey Helps the Homeless Barrie Tournament, and of course our Giving Tuesday "Hope through Housing" Campaign.

**THANK YOU** for partnering with us as together we help people in our city who need safe, affordable, hopeful housing and a supportive community.



in Concert

with special guest Gina Horswood

11.27.2015 | 8PM The Loft Art Space

### **FINANCES**

\$107,360 Received in donations, fundraising, and grants

(an increase of 7% over last year)



How we spent it:

82%

**Housing and Supports** 

18%

Administration,
Development, and
Professional Fees



#### Thank you...

In addition to our many individual donors, this year we were grateful recipients of grants and gifts from the County of Simcoe, the May Court Club of Barrie, the Canadian Women's Foundation, the Faris Team Royal LePage, Willow Creek Baptist Church, Hope City Church, and Emmanuel Baptist Church. Thank you!



Our Rent Supplement Program for United House benefits from the generosity of several monthly patrons:

#### Patrons of Hope:

Anonymous Anonymous Heather and Trevor Morgan Hope City Church Morven Barnes Tim and Rhonda Kent Willow Creek Baptist Church

#### Patrons of Healing:

Amanda and Ryan Smith
Carrie Barnes
Catherine Lamoureaux
Kerrie Wilson
Jane Morrison
Jennifer van Gennip
Grace Cameron
Michelle Greig
Patricia Cleary Clark
Susan Campbell

#### Patrons of Hospitality:

Angela Lucas
Carolann and Janel Perron
E. Wilson
Erin and Kevin Hatton
Kathy Cooper
Jenny Campbell
Simone Latham



#### **Board and Staff**

#### Nathan Barnes

Chair

#### **Timothy Kent**

Executive Director

#### Amanda Smith

Director

#### **Brandon Day**

Second Suites Coordinator

#### Jennifer van Gennip

Community Development

Coordinator

#### Shawn Ward

Branding/Marketing Coordinator

#### **Family Support Team**

Rhonda Kent

Erin Hatton

Geri Moore

Lindsay Stevenato

Noelle Kirk

#### Partnerships and Alliances





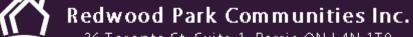












36 Toronto St. Suite 1, Barrie ON L4N 1T9 info@redwoodparkcommunities.com | 705.881.1890

www.redwoodparkcommunities.com

2015-2016 Annual Report © 2016 Redwood Park Communities Inc.