



**Redwood Park
Communities**

Hope Through Housing.



IMPACT REPORT
2009-2019

HOPE THROUGH HOUSING



FROM OUR CEO & BOARD CHAIR

As we look back on the past 10 years here at Redwood we can only say WOW!

What a journey! When we first started thinking and talking about the idea of Redwood, we really had no clue what it would look like, what it would turn into and what the true impact would be.

We have been blessed beyond measure to have had the opportunity to be a part of something that has so dramatically strengthened, encouraged and shifted

the lives of thousands of people in our community.

Families and children we have stood side-by-side with as we lived out life each day; volunteers who have come alongside to help; donors who have generously provided funds and encouragement; politicians who have been vocal advocates and cheerleaders; local and regional government staff who have seen the vision and have worked tirelessly to find ways to support our work; local media members who have worked to get stories out to the community; business owners, suppliers, trades, service clubs and local churches and all their staff and members who have stood with us both when things were going well and when things got tough; our local agency partners throughout the county that have worked alongside us each and everyday to bring lasting change, strength and resiliency to our community.

We look forward to the next 10 years and what the future holds, and we can still say that we really don't know what it will look like, what it will turn into and what the true impact will be, but what we do know is that our community has been forever changed for the better and that the next 10 years will be no different.

Again, all we can truly say is WOW! We are grateful and humbled and we are thrilled to continue this journey alongside each one of you. Thank you.

NATHAN BARNES
CHAIR OF THE BOARD

TIMOTHY KENT
CO-FOUNDER & CEO



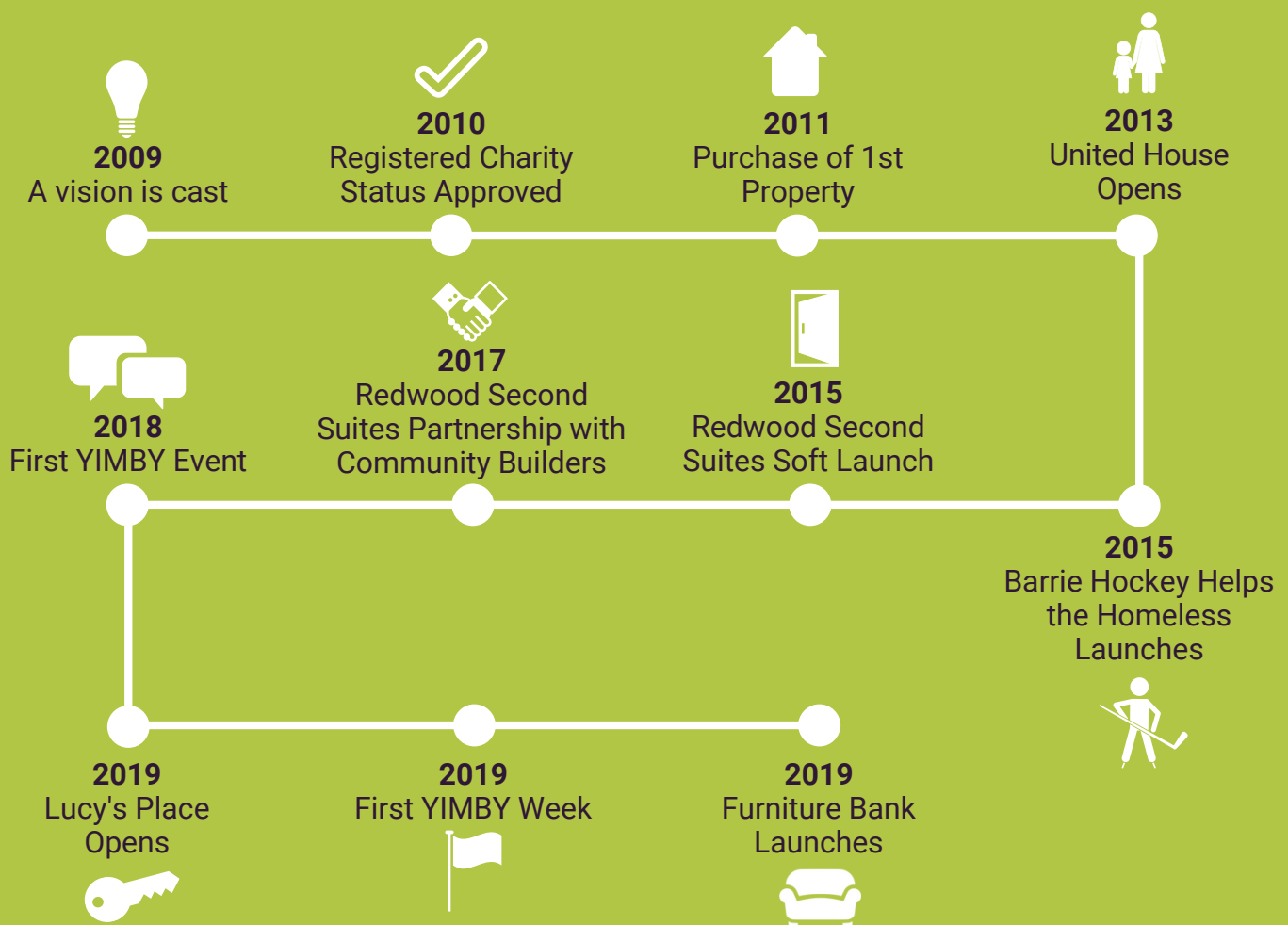
REDWOOD PARK COMMUNITIES
helps build safe, affordable,
hopeful communities that support
individuals and families.

494

**people housed
so far**

49

**housing units
created so far**





**I've only been here an hour, and it
already feels like home.**

LUCY'S PLACE RESIDENT

LUCY'S PLACE

Lucy's Place is an innovative motel conversion, creating a Housing First community out of an old motel for those experiencing chronic (long-term) homelessness. A partnership with the David Busby Street Centre, this project was made possible with Home For Good Funding from the Province of Ontario, along with funding and support from the County of Simcoe, the City of Barrie, and a multitude of tradespeople, donors, and volunteers from throughout the community.

Our **first 14 residents** moved into their furnished studio apartments in **May of 2019**. The second phase of the project, the little house beside the main building, **welcomed 6 more new residents in December**.

There have been so many positive outcomes to report, from a significant reduction in interaction with law enforcement and emergency services, to improved access to health care and community supports.

But one of the most exciting things we have had the honour of being part of is watching a true community of support grow and develop. Families have been reunited, with parents, siblings, nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles coming to visit. We mourned together at the loss of two friends, one expected as he came to us palliative, and one unexpected and sudden. We celebrated together with a wedding on the Labour Day weekend! When the leaves fell, the Lucy's Place family worked together to rake them up, finishing up with a pizza party. At Christmas, two of our residents cooked the dinner for our United House and Second Suites Family Christmas Dinner, and another prepared the Christmas dinner for the Lucy's Place family, right down to a passed-down Christmas punch recipe.

But perhaps most important is the fact that 22 people who spent last winter staying in shelters or outside now have a safe, affordable, hopeful place to call home, and have built a strong and vibrant community of support.





UNITED HOUSE & SECOND SUITES

Since 2013, United House and our Second Suites program have provided supported transitional housing to women leaving the Barrie Women and Children's Shelter.

Combined, we have 14 lovely, fully furnished apartments and our friends living there are supported by two members of Redwood's Family Support Team.

Usually women who have reached the end of 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 with the transitional support workers at the shelter, we fill this gap in affordable housing, usually for up to one year.

This gives our friends a chance to rebuild their social network, make some plans, secure long-term housing, and dramatically increasing the likelihood of transitioning successfully out of abuse.

In 2019,
21 & their **32**
women **children**

Found a soft place to land in
United House and our Second
Suites as they rebuilt their lives.

United House opened in 2013, and our Second Suites program was launched in 2014.

Through our **Second Suites program**, we partner with home owners to create legal apartments that provide safe, affordable, hopeful housing to low-income individuals and families while also generating income for the homeowner, making housing more affordable for all involved.

You can explore if Second Suites is right for you on our website.

2019 highlights included welcoming a former Second Suites resident back as a Georgian College student to complete her field placement with our Family Support Team!



Our weekly art classes at The Spare Room (formerly Art in House) are followed by soup generously donated from the annual WE Unite Soup Off and bread from Homestead Bakery. This allows time for women to recharge in a supportive environment while creating beautiful pieces of art.



**Redwood transcends the concept of safe and supportive transitional housing into an entire experience of growth and healing.
Before coming here, I never even understood the basic concept of kindness and giving without any negative attachments.**

UNITED HOUSE RESIDENT



FURNITURE BANK

Lots of people have usable furniture they don't want anymore.

Lots of other people need furniture but can't afford it.

Furniture Banks help both!

So we started one.

In our first 5 months:

23 households served

- average of **16** items/household
- average value of **\$1,328.26**
- total value of **\$30,550** of furniture
- total volume of **6,411.00 cubic feet** (181.54 cubic metres), saving \$28,683.21 of valuable space in our landfill (landfill space valued at \$158/cubic metre by City of Barrie Waste Management)

75 donations

- average **8** items/donation
- average value of tax receipt **\$725.67**
- total **599** items, total value of **\$54,425**
- total volume of **11,565.5 cubic feet** (327.5 cubic metres)



Furniture Bank powered by Redwood Park Communities is a true community collaboration to address furniture poverty, an under-met need in our region:

- **Furniture Bank Toronto** is bringing their expertise after 22 years of operation in Toronto. They shared their vision, and trained our Redwood Team, they answer the phone when a donor calls, and all of our donors and clients are tracked through their software system.
- **Jeff's Junk** picks up all donations and drops them off at our warehouse, and delivers all our orders, always with a smile! Their new truck is a beautiful moving billboard and a clean, dry way to deliver Hope!
- Anna Sedore had been operating **After the Curb**, a local not-for-profit that collects used furniture and home furnishings and provides them to those transitioning out of homelessness as well as others in need. Anna has become a referring partner for the furniture bank, so we can help connect her clients with the furniture they need, allowing Anna to put her volunteer time towards the business development of the furniture bank.
- **Community Builders** rents warehouse space to us at their shop and we are working with them to develop a training program for furniture repair and repurposing.
- We are very excited about our ongoing partnership with **Georgian College**. This semester we have Business students and Interior Design students working on projects to help us improve and grow.
- We are also so lucky to have Thandi, a former resident of United House on board as our incredibly kind and capable Referring Partner and Client Service Coordinator.

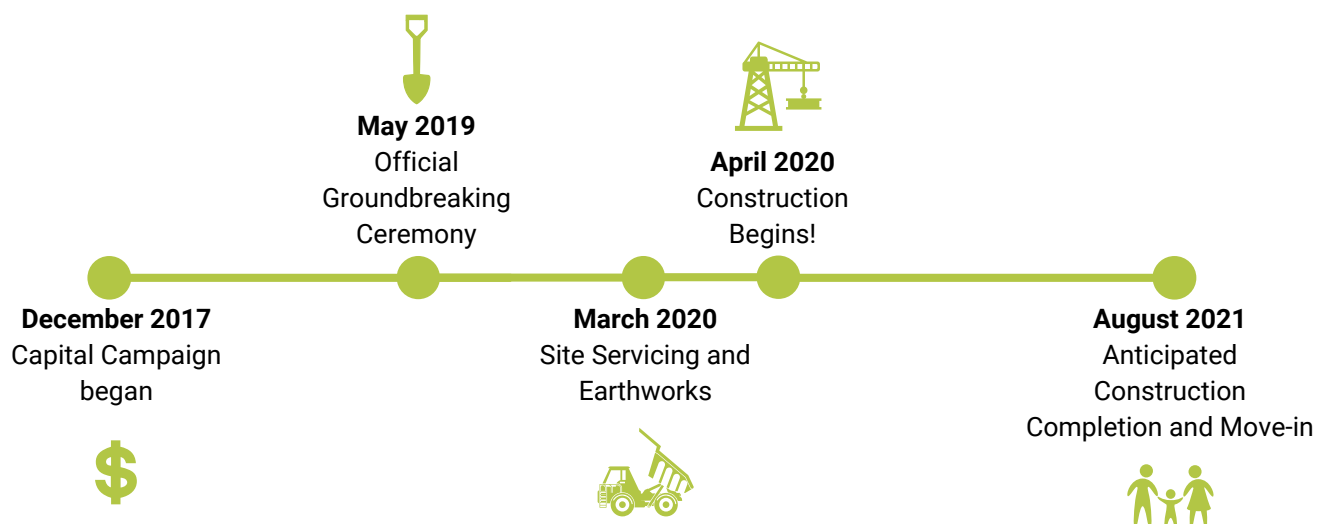




FAMILY SHORT- TERM SUPPORTED HOUSING

We are partnering with **The Salvation Army** to build a **Family Short-Term Supportive Housing Centre**: a two-storey building with 12 fully furnished, two bedroom apartments for families in crisis.

We expect that these hopeful housing units and the supportive community that will come with them will be a foundation for positive change for 780 of our community's most vulnerable families over the next 20 years.





THE YIMBY PROJECT

YIMBY stands for "Yes In My Back Yard" and it is a social movement that has risen up in cities all over North America to combat NIMBYism, or "Not In My Back Yard."

Most people agree that homelessness is a shame, but that affordable housing developments do not belong in THEIR neighbourhood.

Sometimes this is because people are afraid of what they don't know. We want to share the stories of those experiencing homelessness and help our community see that we are all **more alike than different**.

So in October 2018 we hosted Barrie's first YIMBY gathering to talk about our collective response to homelessness.

Then in May 2019 we launched **YIMBY Week**, with a flag raising, lawn signs, and several celebrations and announcements, to start a rumour that **Barrie is a city of people who take care of one another**.

In November 2019 we held a second meeting, this time county-wide, and we are looking forward to YIMBY Week 2020!

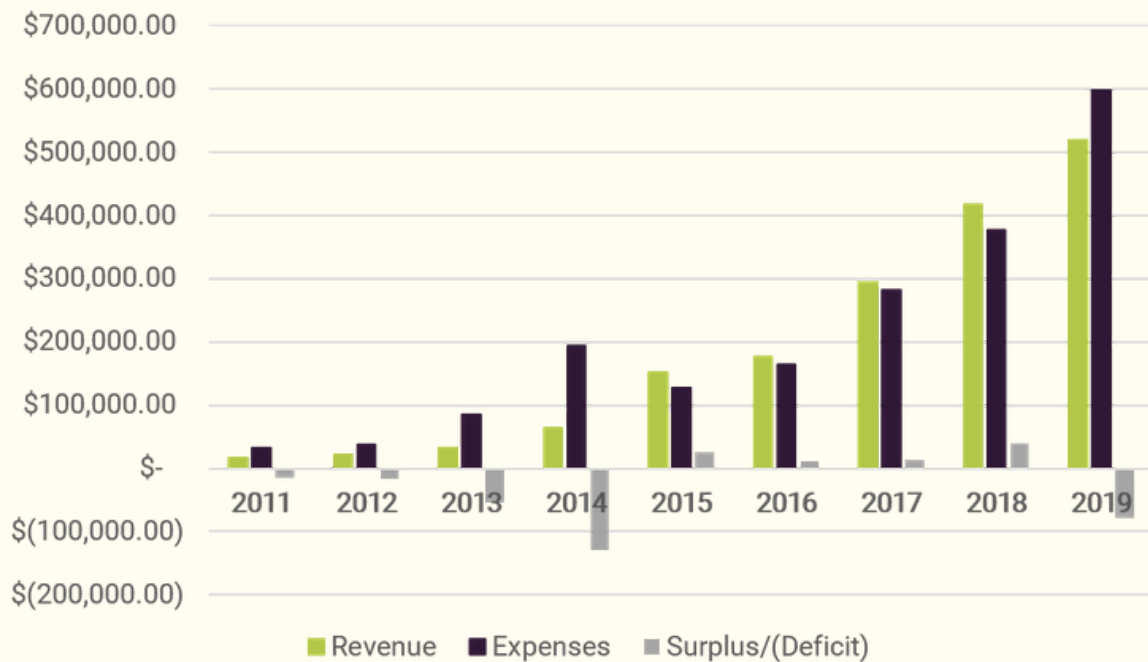


YIMBY Week Flag Raising Ceremony at Barrie City Hall, May 2019.

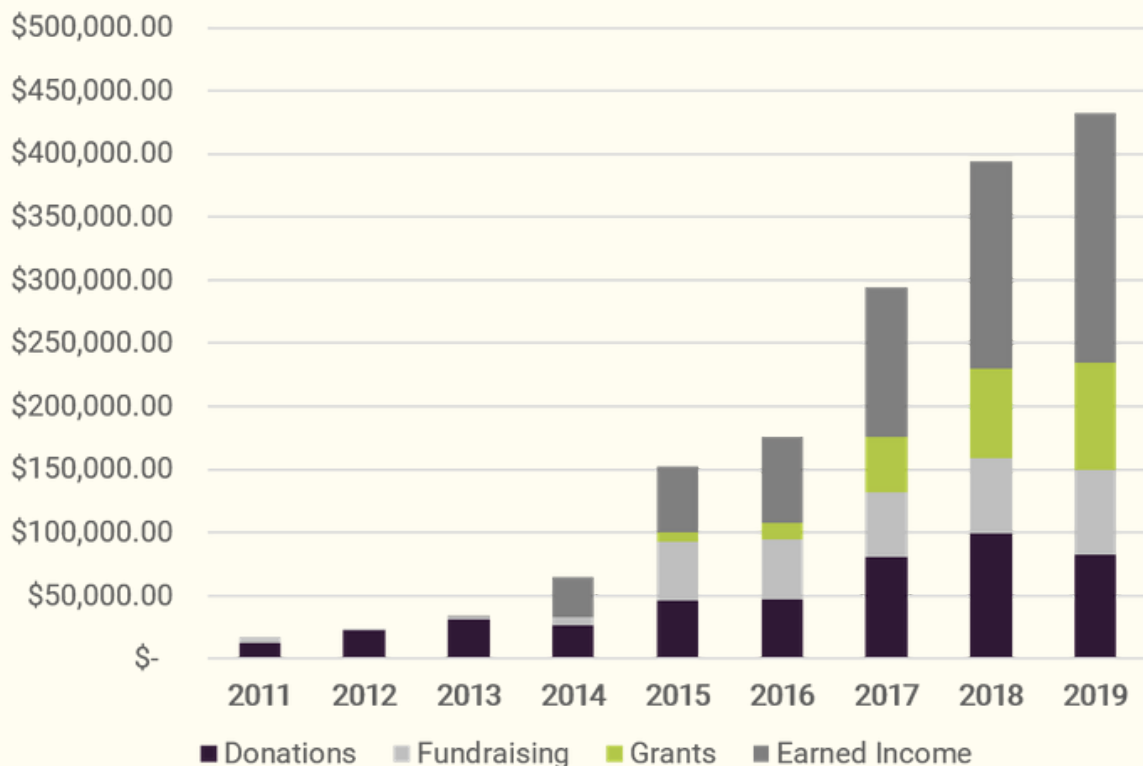


In October 2018, a group of close to 60 residents of Barrie gathered at the Southshore Community Centre to discuss how we could better respond to homelessness in our city, together.

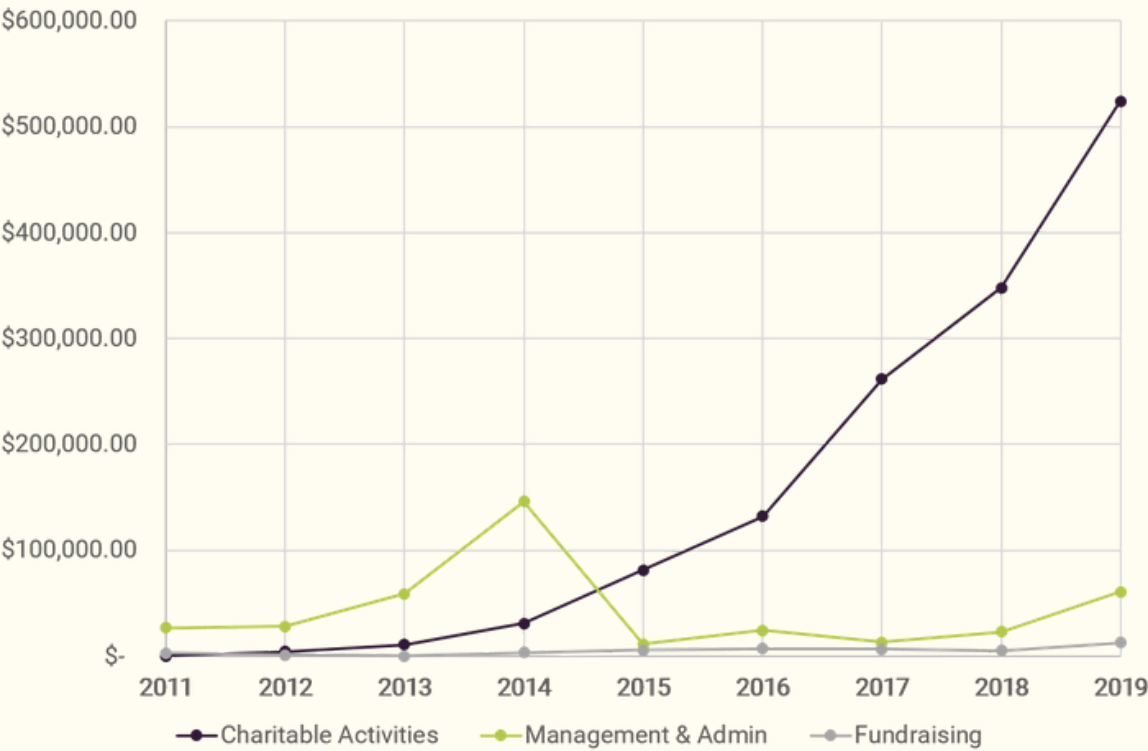
INCOME/EXPENSES



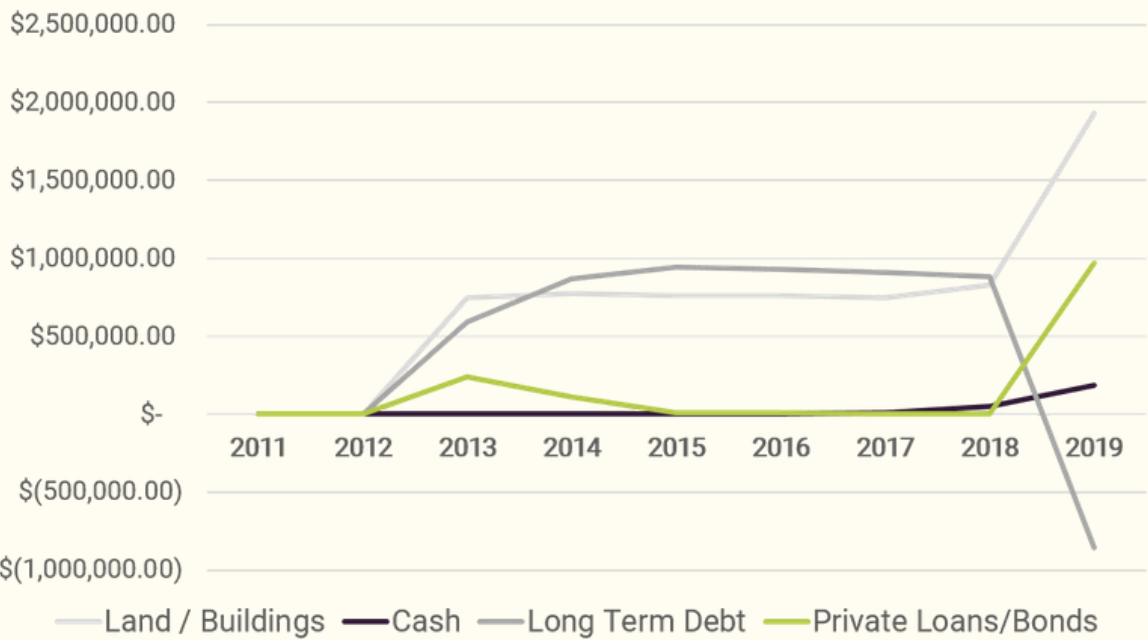
REVENUE SOURCES



EXPENSE CATEGORIES



ASSETS/DEBT



WHAT'S NEXT?

Construction in 2020:



Purchase of the property next to United House closing in February, renovation of two units and the construction of a brand new unit start in March, in partnership with Community Builders, increasing the number of women and children we can support through United House.



Construction set to begin at 151 Lillian Crescent for our 12 new units in partnership with The Salvation Army for families in crisis.



In partnership with Community Builders we have 2 new Second Suites scheduled to begin this spring.



5 new units are slated for construction later in 2020 to duplicate what we are doing at United House with Fight 4 Freedom, creating more space for survivors of abuse in partnership with a local developer/builder.



Furniture Bank powered by Redwood Park Communities is expecting to hire a full-time Director and full-time Coordinator in April, and expand into a large warehousing space, retail store and upcycling shop in downtown Barrie as part of a larger social enterprise makers space. We will convert our existing warehouse space into a furniture repair shop in partnership with Community Builders Employment Training Program for youth with barriers to employment.

Planning in 2020 and beyond:

- New Social Enterprise Community Investment Bank Pilot.
- 144 units over 5 years through a partnership with Raising the Roof & Community Builders as part of a unique and innovative national pilot project.
- 85 units of supported seniors housing with a large community space in partnership with a local faith group in the City of Barrie.
- Creation of a new Youth Hub in partnership with a local agency in the City of Barrie.
- Two new motel conversion projects for those experiencing chronic homelessness in South Simcoe in partnership with a local agency.
- Partnership with a local town and service club in North Simcoe for 40 units of affordable supported housing with a community hub.

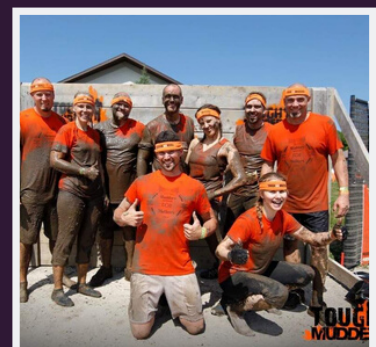
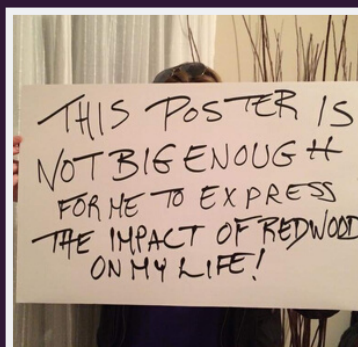
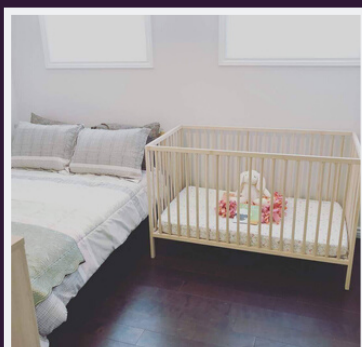
We have a lot on the go and are thrilled with the ongoing support of our dedicated donors, volunteers and investors who are making a lasting positive difference in their community.

If you are interested in giving to our projects or making a legacy gift, we would be thrilled to hear from you, please connect with us at philanthropy@redwoodparkcommunities.com. If you are socially minded and want to make a lasting difference in your community through a social investment that has both financial returns and social impact please connect with us at investments@redwoodparkcommunities.com.

THANK YOU

Redwood runs on the support of our community - it is your donations, volunteering, and encouragement that makes all of this possible.

Thank you for recognizing that everyone deserves a safe, affordable, hopeful place to call home, and for trusting us to help you achieve this goal.



Board of Directors

Nathan Barnes - President & Board Chair

Amanda Smith - Secretary & Treasurer

Mark Mulder - Board Member

Danielle Gaucher - Incoming Board Member

Jeff Long - Incoming Board Member

Leadership Team

Tim Kent - Co-Founder & CEO

Rhonda Kent - Director, Housing & Community

Jennifer van Gennip - Director, Communications

Jeanette Heywood - Director, Philanthropy & Donor Relations

Tom Coon - Business Development Advisor

Jenna Stevenato - Social Enterprise & Project Advisor

Anna Sedore - General Manager, Furniture Bank

Brandon Day - President, Community Builders



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