

## Thank you...

In addition to our many individual donors, this year we were grateful recipients of grants and gifts from the May Court Club of Barrie, the Canadian Women's Foundation, Kwik Kopy, the Faris Team, Ketchum Canada, Willow Creek Baptist Church, Barrie Free Methodist Church, Midland Alliance 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:*

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Morven Barnes  
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Susan Campbell

**Patrons of Hospitality:**

Carolann and Janel Perron  
Edna Wilson  
Kathy Cooper  
Jenny Campbell  
Simone Latham

## Partnerships and Alliances



The Transitional Support Team from the Women & Children's Shelter takes care of our 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.



RPC is a proud member of the Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness, which works to reduce poverty and increase affordable housing options in the county.

**Redwood Park Communities Inc.**  
36 Toronto St. Suite 1, Barrie ON L4N 1T9  
info@redwoodparkcommunities.com | 705.309.1229  
www.redwoodparkcommunities.com

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## Volunteer Board and Staff

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Redwood Park Communities *Hope Through Housing*

2014-2015 Annual Report



## Building a Community

### Hope through Housing

**At Redwood Park Communities we believe that building community is as important as building houses.**

Dear Redwood Community,

Our 2014-2015 year was an amazing one! May marked the one year anniversary of the opening of United House, where we see women rebuilding their lives and finding their voices in new ways every day.

Many of you supported our Mudders for Mothers Tough Mudder Team in September in support of the United House Rent Supplement

Fund. In November we were approached by Salvation Army Bayside Mission to help find a solution to the lack of family emergency and transitional housing in Barrie, which has launched us on an amazing journey.

In December our friends at United House received much love from many of you in as many different ways, and were

supported in showing love to others in need during the Christmas season. And in March we took part in, and were the beneficiaries of, the Hockey Helps the Homeless Barrie fundraiser.



Over and over this year I have been reminded of the power of community. What started as a dream shared by a few families with no funding has become a reality, made possible by this

amazing supporting community that just keeps growing. I look forward to seeing what we accomplish together in 2015-2016!

Tim Kent,  
Executive Director

**safe  
affordable  
hopeful  
housing**

Redwood Park Communities provides safe, affordable, hopeful housing to those who need it in Simcoe County, ON.

Our first project, United House, has seen 25 families through a period of transition as they leave the Barrie Women and Children's Shelter since opening in the spring of 2013. The supportive community and housing they find at United House drastically improves their odds of transitioning successfully out of abuse and/or poverty.

Redwood Park Communities is continuing to tackle the lack of affordable housing in Barrie, as we look to launch two new community-focused developments in 2015 and 2016.



United House:  
giving her hope.



It has been another amazing year at United House! From clothing swaps to coffee and conversations in the office living room, picnics, parties, and cooking turkeys together, this year has been all about building community. Deep friendships have formed, along with broadened support networks. I found great comfort in these friendships this year as I faced a medical challenge in my family which took both my time and my attention. Clients and volunteers alike stepped up to keep things running smoothly at the house and for our family. The challenge created an amazing opportunity for individuals to become invested in what happens at United House. New partnerships were formed and a fabulous, caring, and dedicated volunteer team was born!

One of my greatest joys this year was working alongside women as they dreamed about where they wanted to go and seized new opportunities, particularly in education. At one point 3 of the 5 women at the house had returned to school! Simply watching babies, bathing toddlers, connecting mentors, giving pep talks, bringing coffee by on a late night study, and then watching a woman graduate and begin her career is priceless. But even more priceless is watching as cycles of poverty and violence are broken. I am inspired by the strength and courage and tenacity of the women I am privileged to work with daily.

Rhonda Kent

What's next? >>>



Redwood Second Suites™ is a housing initiative we are launching in the fall of 2015 with the goal of creating new affordable housing spaces for individuals and families in need of lower cost homes.

By collaborating with property owners, Redwood Second Suites could provide safe, secure, supportive transitional housing to as many as 60 new families each year and as many as 20 families in mid- to long-term housing. Watch for more information about this program coming soon.

### Partnering with the Salvation Army to create housing

The Salvation Army Bayside Mission currently administers the County's "hotel voucher program," which provides a hotel room for up to 90 days for families who are experiencing homelessness. This service was developed to fill a gap in family shelter services in Barrie and currently serves 8-10 families at any given time. However, sharing one hotel room with no kitchen, no privacy, and often outside of the kids' school zone is less than ideal, and not very hopeful.

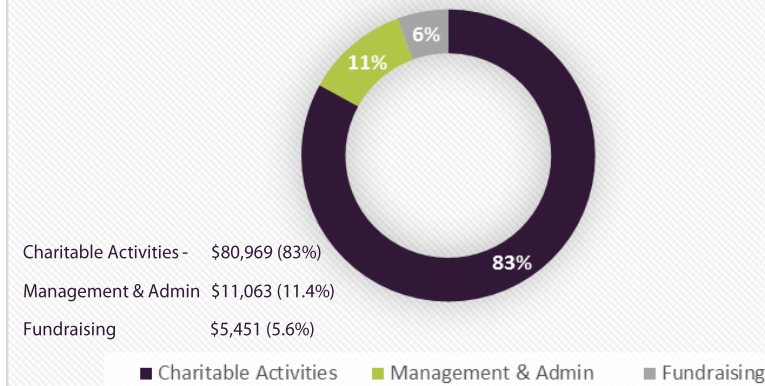
We were approached by the Salvation Army in the fall of 2014 with the hopes of forming a partnership where they provide the case management services, and we provide the safe, affordable, hopeful housing and supportive community. The concept of the project has been approved by the Salvation Army, and the next steps are to find a location and begin a capital campaign, so watch for more about this in 2016!

## Funding

About 1/2 of what is needed to keep United House open comes through rent payments. The rest is made up through our patron program, 3rd party fundraisers, and 1-time gifts and grants. We also receive some small gifts and grants to cover operational costs.

The first Hockey Helps the Homeless Barrie fundraiser took place this year, but the funds did not come through until after the end of this fiscal year and are not reflected in these figures.

### How Funds Were Spent in 2014-2015



### Mudders for Mothers

The 2014 Mudders for Mothers Team completed the Tough Mudder challenge on August 17 and raised over \$11,000 for the Rent Supplement Fund! We truly appreciate the efforts of this fantastic group on our behalf!

### Giving Campaign

In 2014 we used Giving Tuesday to kick off a 10 Day Hope through Housing Social Media campaign. The response was amazing and we reached our goal of \$3000, which was matched by an anonymous donor for a total of \$6000 raised!



To mark the International Day for the End of Violence Against Women on November 25, we hosted a great evening with local singer/songwriter Dani Strong, raising funds specifically for United House.

**Giving increased 38% this year, from \$42,361 to \$58,560.**

"I want to say thank you for helping me. If it was not for you and everyone you work with, I would not be doing what I do today. I am a full time student at Georgian in Orillia taking the social service worker program; I plan on getting my MSW over time. Working with mothers who are dealing with transition is very important and I am excited to one day make a change in someone's life as you did for me."