



**Redwood Park
Communities**

Hope Through Housing.

IMPACT REPORT



2015-2016

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 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 through 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



Rhonda & Tim Kent

Hope Through Housing.

Redwood 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.*

5

**Second Suites
operating currently.**

9

**Families provided
affordable housing so far.**

5

**Additional Second Suites
on their way this year.**

“

Over the past year we have had the opportunity to rent some of our apartments out to families through Redwood. We have **become friends** and **shared our lives** with them. 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 Partner

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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 & their **children**

Since opening in 2013

30 & their **42**
women & their **children**

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



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Redwood Park Communities and the David Busby Centre are working together with community partners to re-purpose a motel into as many as 28 new bachelor apartments, with community space, case management facilities and a community garden, for individuals experiencing homelessness in Barrie. The first units are expected to open at the end of 2016.



DAVID BUSBY
**STREET
CENTRE**

helping others help themselves

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.



Giving
Hope
Today

Hope Through 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.

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



DANI STRONG

in Concert

with special guest
Gina Horswood

11.27.2015 | 8PM
The Loft Art Space



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 Lamoureux
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

Partnerships and Alliances



Redwood Park Communities Inc.

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

www.redwoodparkcommunities.com

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