



THE GARDEN

What's Up AT THE HAVEN

Welcome to the Fall newsletter. Over the summer the women had many opportunities to enjoy the out-of-doors thanks to our dedicated staff, volunteers and our generous supporters. The Garden this year is full of vegetables, so we are looking forward to a bountiful harvest.

Despite a lot of rain and cool weather, we all managed to have an enjoyable spring and summer. We worked hard with funders meeting their requirements, writing reports and planning. We did manage to have some fun at High Park. Fortunately, the weather was beautiful for our Volunteer Appreciation BBQ and the Drop-In Closing Ceremony.

Our Mother's Day Card campaign was a great success! With the help of many of our fabulous volunteers, we raised \$650.

The fall is looking busy. Our Annual General Meeting is on September 29th. We are excited to be distributing our second annual report at this event. The Peggy Ann Walpole Scholarship winner will be awarded at the AGM this year. In addition, Street Haven has a team in the 5 km Scotiabank Waterfront Marathon. We are also looking forward to an October fundraiser that will be a party to attract younger donors and new supporters.

Stuart McLean is back and he is hosting an evening in early February 2010. There will be lots of fun and a chance to meet Stuart.

Next year is our 45th Anniversary, so keep up to date with all of our events and feature attractions through our website, Facebook, Twitter and coming soon, our blog. You can also call the Fundraising Department or email lventurino@streethaven for more information. We are thrilled to be hosting a theatre event in May, a fashion show in June, an archival dedication in September and an autumn anniversary celebration!

After much soul searching and analysis the board and management decided to close the Drop-In. This was a very difficult choice for everyone involved but it was made to ensure the long term strength of Street Haven and its programs. As you know, The Drop-In was the first program at Street Haven and its flagship program. Today, the situation is very different as there are 57 Drop-In Centres around Toronto. Fatima, our long-term Drop-In Counsellor, remains in her position until the end of the year working with the women to redirect them to other locations. Linda is a Case Manager [MXL XLI, SWXIP 8LMW [MPP FIE XMQI SJ]. The Drop-In program had a Closing Ceremony on Friday, August 14th, 2009. Greater details can be provided if you are interested. Please contact development@streethaven.com, or leave a message at 416-967-6060 x 225.

It has been a really good spring and summer at the Haven! But of this would have happened without the outstanding contributions of our supporters, our volunteers and the dedication of our staff.

A big thank you to all of you as we look forward to an even busier fall and winter!

SOROPTIMIST FALL FAIR

Saturday, October 24th, 2009 from 10:00 pm to 4:00 pm.
Location: Trinity St. Paul's Church
Contact: Leslie at 416-967-6060 x 225 or by email at lventurino@streethaven.com

STREET HAVEN'S HALLOWE'EN PARTY

Friday, October 30th. Call for details

WOMEN'S CHOIR

The Street Haven's Women's Choir will be performing for the Holidays— at St. Paul's Basilica on Sunday, December 13th, 2009 at 2:00 pm.

The Third Annual Peggy Ann Walpole Scholarship will be announced at this event.

Mark your calendars

Stuart McLean is back

Early February, 2010

We are very pleased to announce another spectacular Stuart McLean event.

Tickets are \$75 with a charitable tax receipt. Other fun-raising opportunities and a cash bar.

Contact Leslie at 416-967-6060 x 225 for more details, or email lventurino@streethaven.com

Successes at Street Haven

Successes vary from woman to woman. Susan agreed to come off the streets and stay for a night. Jean found an apartment and now lives independently. For Pamela, it meant finally having the means to return to school.

LET'S CELEBRATE SOME OF OUR SUCCESSES!



Saw all the available 15 spaces in the Hostel to Homes program full.

Two women completed the program, four maintained their housing and two moved on to continue their education.

The Housing Worker in the Housing Help within Shelters Program supported 154 women in finding and maintaining housing and preventing evictions.

At Grant House, 10 women graduated! Of these, 7 are involved in the aftercare program. One woman, who has been in Grant House twice before, is now celebrating her first year of living independently with continued support from her case managers.

Grant House has undergone a metamorphosis this past year. What has emerged is a solid time-honoured style, enhanced by new skills and ideas to offer a new and improved program to women.

We proudly awarded two graduates from Grant House the 2009 Peggy Ann Walpole Memorial Scholarship. Tracey is currently a student at George Brown College in the Social Service Worker Program and Lorie is continuing her studies in Social Work at George Brown College.

The Addiction Case Management Program supported 110 women working towards a harm-reduction lifestyle.

Street Haven's volunteers continue to help in such varying activities as preparing and serving food, with providing IT Support, sorting clothes and helping with events. Eighty-seven per cent of our volunteers have been at Street Haven for over a year! This past year, our more than 100 volunteers have contributed close to 5,000 hours of time!

We have new volunteers in the Drop-In and Hostel Program who provide Yoga classes, Arts and Crafts instruction and lead Movie Nights. Friendly Visitors also spend time with the women in Supportive Housing.

Two women in the Supportive Housing Program now live

independently and are working full-time. They are also enjoying vacations and time with family. Two more women in this program have enrolled in college.

We have two incredible volunteers in Supportive Housing – one who provides invaluable language support to a resident and the other who has provided hope to a woman in our housing with friendly visits.

The Learning Centre had 7,505 visits this past year.

LITERACY AND BASIC SKILLS PROGRAM

57 learners enrolled in this program. 14 learners moved on from the program.

12 students achieved their learning goal. 6 of these gained employment and another 5 went on to further education and training.

COMPUTER TRAINING, ACCESS AND JOB READINESS PROGRAM

251 women accessed computers for various purposes.

121 new clients enrolled in the program, 116 participated in active job searches.

38 completed computer training, 37 received career coaching and resume support from an employment counsellor.

16 women went on to further education or training.

30 women found either contract, part-time or full-time employment, 28 women interviewed for a job. 16 women found housing.

22 women began volunteer positions – two of them now work on computer maintenance with the Learning Centre.

News & Views

FROM
"THE HAVEN"

We arrived in Toronto from Mexico in April, 2009 to escape family violence. The government in Mexico won't recognize that there is a problem, so they can't do anything about it. We believe this is why most women flee Mexico. We endured death threats and physical and psychological violence.

The Red Cross referred us to Street Haven. Initially we were scared, but eventually we met some really nice people and really valuable people. We are grateful for the friendship and support of the staff, especially Fatima, Bianca, Bobbie, Francesca, Cristal, Linda, Katie and Vanessa. They all treated us so very well. They have become our friends.

Thank you so much for helping us and making us feel part of the community. We will never forget any of you. We also feel indebted to Canada for taking us in.

- BY ROSARIO AND MARIA

Current Volunteers

AYDA: "I came from Colombia to Canada to improve my English and now I also volunteer. Since last November, I have gotten to know many of the women who come to the Drop-In, the residents and the staff. I can see that places don't matter, but people do! At Street Haven, I feel comfortable and safe; here people are interested and speak some words in Spanish. I feel great when they try to do that. In addition, although I am an Electrical Engineer, I now help with meal service... You know the food is really amazing!!! I always have worked and focused on customer service and this no change, in a company, a bank, a theatre, in the foundation you work with internal and external customers and the people make the difference. I am so excited to meet people that give time to teach or just to help others and this is my point, it is great when you see people enjoying every day just helping. Thanks for this positive experience. This is an opportunity to confirm that women are strong, sweet and special in the whole world."

HEATHER L (volunteer cook) "Volunteering at the Street Haven has given me many things to be happy about. I used to feel sad and powerless when I saw people suffering around me in the libraries, on public transit, and on the streets of Toronto. I wanted to help the people that I saw, but I knew that giving them the change in my pockets was not really going to make a positive impact on them or on their situations. After volunteering for a while I now feel better because I have a bit more of an understanding of at least one system that is in place to help the people who are in need in my community, and I get to make someone's day a bit better with some healthy and tasty food. And on top of all that, I have found some beautiful friends in the staff and clients at the Street Haven, and I'm lucky that I came across the volunteer position when I did, otherwise I would have never met the kind people who make the place such an important stepping stone in so many people's lives."

Drop-In Ceremony

Volunteer

APPRECIATION

Thank you, volunteers, for all that you do at Street Haven. It is truly appreciated.

DROP-IN

In The Spotlight

SILVIA THONY FAREWELL

CREATIVE FUNDRAISING BENEFITS STREET HAVEN!

Street Haven is a grateful recipient of the proceeds from an eclectic mix of third party events.

Leslie Venturino will be at Jack Astor's in mid-October to receive a cheque. Through their restaurant initiative they raised \$1,000 for Street Haven.

The students of St. Francis Xavier Catholic High School helped us with many activities around Street Haven. They in turn donated \$100 to help the women in the garden.

HONORARY PATRON

The Honourable David C. Onley,
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

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The Late Peggy Ann Walpole, C.M.

WISH LIST

Shoes/boots and exercise clothes
Seasonal, good condition, clean
women's clothing – new or used
Socks, sleepwear & underwear – new
Personal hygiene items
Towels, blankets, sheets (twin size),
pillows and pillow cases
Small household items
Do you have items to donate but are
not sure if we need them? Give us a call
to find out.

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#12953-5175-RR0001

Thank you!

A big thanks to all our donors and supporters for your generosity. Street Haven can continue to give Toronto women in need a safe place to heal - especially in these difficult economic times. And if you've given to The Haven, perhaps you'd think about doing so again or through another method.

I would like to thank all of you for your commitment and dedication to Street Haven, especially in these difficult economic times. You help women every day in small ways by being interested in them to assisting us in funding all of our programs.

I would personally like to acknowledge everyone's contributions here at Street Haven including our students and volunteers. All of you make my work interesting and I look forward to seeing you every day.

As the season of Thanksgiving and Christmas approaches, please keep the women at Street Haven in your thoughts. We look forward to keeping in touch with you. If you have any comments or suggestions, please call Leslie at 416-967-6060 x 225. or contact at lventurino@streethaven.com.their work.