

RYANDALE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING - SEPTEMBER 2022



Big Things are Cooking at Ryandale!

On Sept. 16, 2022, Ryandale hosted community partners and Kingston's elected representatives at a barbecue to celebrate both the receipt of a \$95,500 Ontario Trillium Foundation operational grant, which will support expanded staffing capacity at the two transition houses, and the efforts of workers in the community service sector.

About 40 people representing AMHS, Home Base Housing, St. Lawrence College, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, the United Way, Kingston Area Real Estate Association and Khalsa Aid Kingston were on hand for a lunch of sausages donated by Pig & Olive and Sysco, buns from Bread & Butter Bakery and produce from Deodato and Sons. The meal, prepared by Clergy St.'s resident Red Seal chef, Robert, received rave reviews. Mike, another Clergy St. resident with significant kitchen experience, was on hand to help with all the finishing touches.



Before lunch, the crowd heard from MPP Ted Hsu, Mayor Bryan Paterson, a representative from MP Mark Gerretsen's office, and Ryandale chair Bob Crawford. "The concern of any board in the [social services sector] is always 'Where do we get our funding?'" Crawford said. "This grant for two years really takes the pressure off the board and lets us focus on what we need to do for our clients."

MPP Ted Hsu highlighted the importance of organizations like Ryandale amid the current housing crisis, which was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, saying, "Ryandale is a place for somebody to have a safe [space], a quiet place to call home, so that they can find their path in life. And it's really important to have that support, especially when it gets cut off by something like the pandemic."

Reflecting on the relationship between Ryandale and St. Andrew's Church, Hsu urged other community organizations to find similar ways to work together. "There are other churches that could perhaps follow this model, so I would challenge the community: Let's [take] good ideas and goodwill and the resources that have been donated, and turn that into something with [an] even bigger social impact."

-With files from Kingstonist.com

Clergy St.

Although our resident gardener found housing in another province in late June, the Clergy St. kitchen garden yielded a lovely little harvest. The residents enjoyed homegrown potatoes, cherry tomatoes, chard and romaine, although the kale wasn't much of a hit. In September, we were fortunate to partner with Lionhearts to receive weekly food deliveries that will provide some communal groceries for both Clergy St. and Victoria St. There's been no kale yet. We'll cross that bridge when we come to it.



Meet Joseph, the Clergy St. ambassador! He accompanies his owner Dawn Clarke to the house twice a week and visits anyone available for ear scratches or belly rubs. Those who have had dogs before – and even those who haven't – are happy to give Joseph a liver treat or three. He may be small of stature, but he's great of spirit. Thanks Joseph – and Dawn! – for all you do for the residents, and for Ryandale.

Clergy St. was originally conceived as a “graduate” residence for people coming from Victoria St.; however, there have been three direct-entry residents to the house since April, 2022, who have experienced varying levels of success. One has become a valued addition to the house community, one was housed within a month of arrival, and another elected not to remain in transitional housing after spending one week here. Nevertheless, those who remain sometimes participate in shared meals and do a great deal of checking in with each other, which keeps Clergy St. a lovely place to be.

Ryandale is happy to work with its community partners to provide better services to our residents. With the support of Addictions & Mental Health, Kingston Community Health Centre and the housing liaisons from various agencies, we are working to ensure continuity of care as our residents prepare for independent living.

NEW RESIDENTS: 2 HOUSED RESIDENTS: 2 REFERRALS: 3

Victoria St.

In August, it was announced that Victoria St. was the recipient of a Community Investment Fund grant from the United Way. The funds (\$10,000) will be used to repair the floors and ceilings in two rooms. The rooms' occupants will have to be moved into other spaces while work is completed, which will require some manoeuvring to accommodate the accessibility needs of the residents.

Victoria St. will also benefit from a grant from the Kingston and Area Real Estate Association (KAREA) that will provide new beds for the house.

Our residents are now experiencing undeniably higher acuity levels than they have in the past, and some needs become more acute for individuals after they move in. One Victoria St. resident had undisclosed mental health issues upon arrival and has since experienced worsening physical health and cognitive difficulties, while another long-term resident was recently diagnosed with late-stage cancer. These men cannot move into independent living, so their transition will be from Ryandale into assisted living or palliative care. This makes the transition more challenging than simply finding an available apartment to move into.

Other residents continue to experience occasional relapses of substance use and lapses of judgment that affect the social dynamic of the house. These combined factors have made it necessary to add more staffing at Victoria St., and the interview process will begin in October.

NEW RESIDENTS: 1 HOUSED RESIDENTS: 0 REFERRALS: 6



On Friday, July 22, Members of Khalsa Aid Kingston dropped off a fantastic donation of food and toiletries for the residents at Clergy and Victoria St. Ryandale is very grateful for the support!



Ryandale is a place of new beginnings and fresh starts, but we couldn't offer the services we do if not for the efforts of our many community partners. At this time of year, and always, we are grateful for the support of the following:

- United Way
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Community Spirit Gaming
- City of Kingston
- Lionhearts
- Loving Spoonful
- KAREA
- Khalsa Aid
- Bread & Butter Bakery
- Tony Deodato & Sons
- Pig & Olive
- Sysco

One former Ryandale resident had this to say: "I never really gave myself a chance. Here, it's given me the opportunity to express myself, and realize that there is more life has to offer for me.... Before, I blamed everyone else for my problems, now (after being at Ryandale for 1 year), I see where that led me.... I've gotten my family back in my life now, and this place has given me the chance to realize that."

Before arriving at Ryandale, this individual had spent 40 years going in and out of prison. After his time at Ryandale, he was able to reframe the way he thinks about his life and reconnect with family members. He has since found permanent housing.



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