

FALL NEWSLETTER 2022



Cornerstone
Housing for Women



A Message from Sarah Davis, Executive Director

As the leaves change colours, Cornerstone continues to move past our collective distress to recovery. At the end of June, there was a small fire in one of the rooms at our Booth Residence, thankfully no one was harmed due to the amazing staff team at Cornerstone. Unfortunately, this resulted in extensive water and mold damage. With the support of the community and the City of Ottawa, the residents were safely rehoused for two and a half months and are relieved to have returned home this month. We could not have moved the women back and created a real comfortable place to go home to again without our community's kindness and generosity.

Over the summer months, while managing the remediation, repair, and support to Booth and its residents; we continued to open up our doors to our volunteers and community. It has been such a gift to return to in-person events, From our Meet & Greet, Mega Charity Event, community markets, and of course our Purple Tie Gala. We greatly appreciated everyone who attended our annual Purple Tie Gala at the Ottawa Art Gallery.

As we move into the Fall we are excited to move ahead with our Strategic Framework and roll out our goals and commitments over the coming years. Our Strategic Framework was developed by the community, organizational partners, residents and service users of Cornerstone, the staff and volunteers, and the Board of Directors.

As we continue recovering from the Pandemic and Occupation, we continue to work towards providing more housing for women and gender-diverse individuals. We are thrilled to let you know that demolition has started at our soon-to-be fifth supportive housing residence, 44 Eccles. We are hopeful that this time next year, we will be preparing to welcome 46 women and gender-diverse people to a home of their very own.

We look forward to developing more connections through celebrations of Thanksgiving and Diwali. We are truly thankful for you, our supporters, our neighbours, donors, our staff, residents, and the Ottawa community! We are grateful for your continued generosity.



Board of Directors



Cornerstone is excited to welcome two new members to our Board of Directors for 2022! Meet Yasmin and Arushana:

Yasmin Khaliq spent over 25 years working as a clinical pharmacist, primarily in the hospital setting. Her work included patient care, teaching and research. Yasmin also sat as a public member of the Consent and Capacity Board as well as the Ontario Review Board. More recently, Yasmin returned to university to complete a degree in law. She graduated in June 2022 from the French Common Law Program at the University of Ottawa with a concentration in Health Law. Yasmin has a strong interest in mental health, homelessness, and disadvantaged populations, recently publishing articles on mental health and the law.



Arushana Sunderaeson comes from years of experience working in the not-for-profit sectors and political offices. She works at Oxfam Canada as their Donor Stewardship and Retention officer. She has a BA in Political Science with a minor in Media Studies from Brock University, a graduate certificate in Not for Profit Management from Western University and MPA with Emphasis in Nonprofit Management from Grand Canyon University. She was previously the co-chair of the Young Professional Advisory Board for Cornerstone Housing for women. She is proud to call herself a feminist and is passionate about helping others. In her free time, she hangs out with her puppy named Bernie, hanging out with family and friends, trying out new vegan recipes and attending community events in the Ottawa area.

Happy Thanksgiving

From the team at Cornerstone, we hope you and your loved ones had a wonderful and memorable Thanksgiving. There are so many things to be thankful for this year, including our community – thank you for your continued support and we hope your this season fills you with warmth and happiness.

Happy Diwali

“Praying the Diwali lights to burn out your troubles.” May this auspicious occasion light up your life with happiness, joy, and peace this Diwali. Candles to enjoy life; Decorations to light life; Presents to share success; Firecrackers to burn evils, and sweets to sweeten success. Wish you a joyous and prosperous Diwali!

Every region in India has distinctive traditions for commemorating this festival, but whatever the customs, there is agreement that Diwali represents the triumph of good over evil, light over darkness and wisdom over ignorance. As the religious ceremony ends, sweetmeat offerings are placed in front of the deities, and small clay lamps known as “Diyas” are arranged inside homes and outdoors, too. The aim is to attract Goddess Lakshmi’s attention and guide her towards these twinkling lamps to bestow blessings and prosperity for the year ahead.





A Message from the Westboro Village BIA

Having just attended the Purple Tie Gala, I can say without a doubt, it is easy to see why sponsoring this event is a perfect fit. Dressed in purple, my husband and I arrived to chat and mingle with other gala goers and I ran into many customers and clients of Westboro Village's retail, restaurant and service industries. Clearly, our community is also there to support your wonderful organization.

Sponsoring the Purple Tie Gala is just the beginning - we are there during the Coldest Night of The Year, too. We put a team in, don our toques and out we go. I love that the walk is right here in our neighbourhood!

Supporting one another through collaborations with Westboro businesses & partners such as the community associations in our neighbourhood is the very heart of Westboro Village. Fostering strong relationships will only strengthen the shops and services of Westboro Village. And by reaching out and sponsoring Cornerstone Housing for Women, helping to act as a connector, continuing to build and strengthen those ties will also help to create lasting change. We want to spread the word that Cornerstone is a safe, warm landing place for women in need.

Sponsorship is an easy way for our businesses to take part in building a safe, inclusive and respectful community - so thank you for asking us!

*Molly van der Schee,
Chair Westboro Village BIA*



Purple Tie Gala 2022: Back in Person



You did it once again Ottawa! Cornerstone would like to thank our incredible city for their generosity in supporting our fourth annual Purple Tie Gala!

Together, we have raised more than \$143,000 to help support women and gender-diverse individuals for hope, healing, and housing. Every year 1,000 women become homeless in Ottawa. With your support, Cornerstone fills this gap by providing emergency shelter and supportive housing to more than 600 women each year.

Thank you to every guest, volunteer, speaker, sponsor, partner, supplier, musician, supporter, donor, and friend who made our return to an in-person event a great success!

We are grateful for our Presenting Sponsors who made this incredible night happen! **RBC Livingston and MacDonald Wealth Management and generously supported by Flora Hall Brewing.**

Special thanks to the following sponsors: Westboro Village BIA, McDonald Brothers Construction, Debbie Chang Realty, Fratelli Westboro, Meridian, David Burns and Associates, Christine Crossman Consulting, CrossPoint Financial, CSV Architects, Lupiano Executive Search, Friend of Cornerstone, Sun Life – Duffey Financial Solutions, Raymond James Ltd., Optimal Show Experience, Groovy Linen, and the Ottawa Business Journal.

Of course, this night could not have happened without our volunteer Gala committee, Joseph Cull, Delan De Silva, Heidi Rodgers, and our hosts, Joseph Cull and Sam Laprade.

Thank you all for choosing hope at this year's #PurpleTieOttawa!



Purple Tie Gala 2022: Back in Person





In the Community: Recent Events

Alta Vista Farmers Market

Thank you to the Alta Vista Farmer's Market for hosting us at one of their Sunday markets. We truly enjoyed this opportunity to meet so many fantastic local vendors and members of our community. Make sure to visit this market next year!



Elgin Street Farmers Market

We attended a second amazing market in September, the Elgin Street Farmers Market was another fantastic opportunity to connect with our businesses and individuals in our community. We were grateful for this opportunity and we encourage you to check out this market when it resumes in the Spring!

Take Back the Night

Take Back the Night is an annual event during the University of Ottawa's 101 Week for students to discuss consent, rape culture, support survivors, and call for better sexual violence prevention on campus. Thank you to UOttawa and Women's Resource Center for inviting us this year!



In the Community: Recent Events



Mega Charity Fundraiser

We had such a fantastic time at the Mega Charity Fundraiser in August! This event combined stage shows, dancing, food stalls, face painting, and more, all with 100% of the proceeds being donated to Cornerstone. A big thank you to Poonam, Nawal, and Helping Hands: Driven by Youth for their hard work in organizing this successful event.

Pints Across Ottawa 2022

The Merry Dairy's Pint Across Ottawa 2022 Tour in August stopped at Thyme and Again's Wellington West location to sell pints in support of Cornerstone! \$2 from every pint sold at this stop was donated to Cornerstone! Thank you to these two amazing businesses and all the customers who stopped by.



Cranksgiving Ottawa

An amazing community supporter, Sorya, organized Cranksgiving Ottawa in support of Cornerstone! This food drive was part bike ride, part scavenger hunt and had participants pedal the streets and trails of Ottawa searching for specific ingredients that make up a Thanksgiving dinner! At the end of the event items were collected and donated to Cornerstone for Thanksgiving!



In the Community: Upcoming Events



The Basics to Leaving a Gift in Your Will

MONDAY, OCT 31
9:00 AM TO 10:00 AM
ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH 934 HAMLET RD,
OTTAWA, ON K1G 1R5

[Please click here to learn more and register.](#)



The Welcome Back Project

We are so excited to be part of the Welcome Back Project, a Community Art Crawl & Pop-up Exhibition happening throughout Central Ottawa, including one at our 314 Booth St. residence, from October 15th to 30th!

[Please click here to view all the locations.](#)

The ARIDO-EOC

FIRE @ ICE

Holiday Party Extravaganza

The Association of Registered Interior Designers – Eastern Ontario Chapter (ARIDO-EOC) is hosting its Holiday Party Extravaganza on Thursday, November 24th at Lansdowne. Silent Auction proceeds will be donated to Cornerstone.

[Please click here to learn more.](#)



In the Community

Encore Fashions

[Encore Fashions](#) is a quality second-hand clothing and accessory boutique and a proud supporter of Cornerstone. Proceeds from purchases made at Encore Fashion are donated to several incredible local charities including Cornerstone!

They are located at 109A Fourth Ave. and open Wednesdays and Saturdays 10am to 1pm.

Please note that we do not accept donations at the door, If you are interested in making a donation please email Merri at encorefashionson4th@gmail.com.



SAVE THE DATE: Coldest Night of the Year 2022

It's cold out there Ottawa! The Coldest Night of the Year charity walk returns to Ottawa's Westboro Village! We are so excited to be returning to a fully in-person event for 2023!

Feel the bite of the night on February 25th as a reminder of the hardships people endure when they don't yet have a home.

[Walk with us on February 25th, 2023](#)





Booth St. Residence Update

Cornerstone Housing for Women is relieved to announce that residents from its Booth Housing Residence will be able to return home by the end of October. For the last two and a half months, the residents were living temporarily in a city-owned facility and partner agency buildings.

This summer residents were unexpectedly uprooted due to a fire in one of the rooms that led to extensive water and mold damage throughout the building.

For some residents, this was their first home ever and for others, this is their new home, a place to heal and recover from homelessness. All 42 unfortunately were uprooted and placed into a shared living environment. The facility did not have cooking or laundry facilities onsite, everything had to be done by a third party. This resulted in an increase in unexpected expenses. Cornerstone needs to raise \$50,000 to cover the unexpected costs including: new mattresses, cleaning, laundry, and food services. **Thank you to Ottawa's Piano man, Dave Kalil** for helping us raise funds on October 22nd through his virtual concert. We were able to raise more than \$17,000 from his event alone to support our residents at Booth street. [To donate, please click here.](#)

Cornerstone recently received confirmation it is safe for residents to return home, but remediation still continues in a few of the rooms that were badly damaged. Ashley Jordan, Senior Program Manager of the Booth Residence explains, "They're all relieved now that we've gotten closer to going home. Residents are excited to just watch a movie in their room again. To sleep in their bed. To go back to the neighbourhood that is their community," says Jordan.

Cornerstone is working hard to ensure resident's return home to a space that is comfortable and warm.

A BIG thank you to our incredible community for all of the donated items you gave to help make the resident's rooms feel like home again and to all of you for donating to help us cover the unexpected costs. We are so grateful!





A Message from our Volunteer Coordinator

Well as we say goodbye to the warmer weather and the beauty of Mother Nature leaves us in awe, the Volunteer program at Cornerstone is slowly beginning to rebuild after almost three years of ups and downs! I would like to recognize all the amazing folks who have continued to give their time to Cornerstone including our committed Board of Directors, amazing Young Professional Advisory Board members, fundraising committee and so many others who have never slowed down and moved to virtual platforms throughout the pandemic.

We are slowly welcoming back some of our regular volunteers and student placements to in-person opportunities once again. Hopefully, as 2023 approaches, we will be back to our vibrant and busy volunteer lead activities throughout all our locations.

A special mention to our friends at Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI) for assisting our staff in moving all our Booth Street resident's belongings to a secure location following the aftereffects of a July fire and to our friends at Turner & Townsend for their support on September 21st for helping us move resident belonging back to our Booth Street location. We also had so many of our incredible regular volunteers who worked tirelessly to get rooms ready in the lead up to the Booth move back, thank you all!

Rosemary Jones,
Volunteer Coordinator



Looking Forward: Strategic Framework 2022 - 2025

Vision

Everyone has a home in a community that supports them to live with dignity and hope.

Mission

We provide a continuum of housing and support for women and gender-diverse people that is inclusive and reduces barriers.

Commitments



Social Justice
a leader in ending homelessness.



Collaboration
strong partnerships to meet diverse needs.



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
a culturally competent and inclusive organization.



Respect
sharing, caring communities that support physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.



Organizational Excellence
a strong foundation for our work.

Strategic Priorities

1

Evolve our housing and support options to match unique needs.

2

Enhance connections and support for our current and former Cornerstone residents within the broader community.

3

Embed a trauma - informed approach across our organization.

4

Strengthen our capacity to deliver our mission.



Resident Spotlight: Meet Natalie

I was born and raised in Ottawa. I have three brothers, I lived a pretty normal life growing up. I came from a good family.

I got married when I was pretty young and was with him for nearly two decades. However, it did not end well. He kicked me out of our place and that's how I ended up living at a couple of women's shelters downtown Ottawa for nearly a year – and ended up at Cornerstone's emergency shelter.

That first night at the shelter was terrifying. I didn't know what my day would be like from one day to the next. It definitely made me realize that all of those material things I used to have didn't matter, it's the people and communities that matter most. Cornerstone has been a part of my community for nearly four years now. When I first heard that I could move into one of Cornerstone's residences, I was excited about the thought of having my own place to call home. I had never lived alone before. I was excited about not having to be on the streets anymore.

I have lived here for nearly 4 years. I love it here. I have a community. I'm never alone. I like being with the other women who live here, I've made some good friends. I like the staff as well. They've been a great support for me when I'm struggling with my mental health, I know I can always ask for help.

One of my favourite activities is to help out with dinner, especially for the holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas. I love to cook! My parents were both great cooks too.

Now that I have a home of my own, and a great community of supports I have decided to go back to school to work as a PSW. I'm looking forward to this next chapter in my journey.

Natalie,
Supportive Housing Resident





Advocacy

Working on Wellness Festival

In September we attended the WOW Festival put on by the Community Addictions Peer Support Association for the second year in a row! This is an amazing event about ending Stigma, raising awareness, and sharing information about substance use, mental health, and physical health. We are grateful for the opportunity to connect with our community partners doing amazing work in our community!



#WorldHomelessDay



World Homeless Day

October 10th World Homeless Day, a day dedicated to drawing attention to people experiencing homelessness and shedding light on factors that contribute to homelessness in our societies, including systemic inequities and the lack of access to affordable housing.

In honour of this Alison Telford, a frontline worker at Cornerstone, wrote an Op-Ed about the housing and homelessness emergency in our city. [Read the full Op-Ed here.](#)

World Mental Health Day

October 10th was World Mental Health Day, a day focused on raising awareness about mental health around the world and mobilizing efforts to support those experiencing mental health issues.

This years theme was 'Making Mental Health & Well-Being for All a Global Priority.'



WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY



Advocacy



National Day of Truth and Reconciliation & Orange Shirt Day

September 30 marks the second National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. A day that honours the lost children and Survivors of residential schools, their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process. It is also Orange Shirt Day, an Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day that honours the children who survived residential schools and remembers those who did not.

At our houses and emergency shelter, staff and residents created and wore orange shirts, and engaged in various healing and traditional Indigenous activities.

Starts With Home Campaign

Starts With Home is a non-partisan campaign to mobilize public and political support for affordable housing and ending homelessness in Ottawa in advance of October's city election on October 24th. Remember to vote for housing this election day.

Cornerstone is proud to endorse this campaign.

[Please click here to learn more.](#)

Ottawa's Housing Crisis



EVERYONE NEEDS A HOME.
Learn more at StartsWithHome.ca

STARTS WITH
HOME

Ways you can support Cornerstone

Interested in hosting your own fundraiser this holiday season?

Hosting your own fundraiser is a great way for you to involve your friends, family, neighbours and community in making a difference in the lives of vulnerable women in Ottawa.

[Please click here for more information.](#)

For questions please contact us at donate@cornerstonewomen.ca or call 613-254-6584 ext. 521.

Interested in learning more about leaving a gift in your will?

Join us on October 31st, 9 am-10 am at St Aidan's Church, and learn more about the basics of leaving a gift in your will, powers of attorney, leaving stock donations, and hearing beneficiary information from leading experts. [Please click here to register here.](#)

For questions please contact Director of Development and Communications, Amber Bramer, at amber.bramer@cornerstonewomen.ca or call 613-254-6584 ext. 503

YES! I would like to support a women move from isolation to hope this Fall!

Yes, I would like to make a one time donation

I am enclosing (please circle one) \$5 \$20 \$45 Other:___

Yes, I would like to make a monthly donation

I am enclosing (please circle one) \$5 \$20 \$45 Other:___

Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____ Province:_____ Postal Code:_____

Credit Card Number:_____

Exp. _____ Cardholder Name:_____

In Person or by Mail:

Cornertstone Housing for Women
Attn: Amber Bramer
314 Booth St., Ottawa, ON K1R7K2

Donate Online or by Phone:

Make a secure online or telephone donation by visiting www.cornerstonewomen.ca or calling Michael at 613-254-6584, Ext. 514



Our Charitable Registration Number
83725-8854-RR001

Do you have social media? Make sure you stay connected with us and follow us:



@cornerstonehousing



@hopecornerstone

Ways you can support Cornerstone

Current Program Needs

Your generosity makes women's lives better! After being closed due to the Booth St. remediation, we will be opening our in-kind donation program in early November, keep an eye on our website for updates. When this happens we will have an urgent need for the following items:

New Toaster

Fleece Blankets

Toothpaste

New Kettles

Towels

Tooth Brush

New Coffee Machines

Hairbrushes

Deodorant

Craft Supplies

Hand Soap

Moisturizer

Please call us at 613-254-5484 Ext. 521 or email us at donate@cornerstonewomen.ca to book your donation drop off.



Holiday Gift Program



With the holidays fast approaching, you can help us put together a holiday gift for one of our residents at our supportive housing or emergency shelter!

This Holiday Season we are looking for gifts which include:



Chocolate or Candy
A Holiday Card
\$10 Gift Card
PJs size S - 4XL



Are you a large group or business interested in making an in-kind donation this holiday season? We have some specific and unique options! Please contact donate@cornerstonewomen.ca or call 613-254-6584 ext. 521 for more information