

CELEBRATING MILESTONES TOGETHER

FALL 2021

Ariana, ehm Residence Coordinator (left),
Kim, ehm resident (middle), Rev. Dale (right)

STORIES OF RESILIENCE

This summer marks a special milestone for ehm. This year we celebrate the 15th anniversary of our Adelaide Residence.

Since 1913, ehm has provided critical supports to those in need, and 15 years ago in 2006 we expanded our services to offer a solution to homelessness. Our new building not only allowed us to expand our Drop-In services to meet the needs of more people, it also created 84 new apartments, which allowed us to offer long-term, safe, and affordable housing to 110 individuals and families today.

The past 15 years has brought us many special moments. We've seen tenants go to school, upgrade their skills, find jobs, and move in to bigger apartments they were

now able to afford. For other tenants, ehm provides the support they need to stabilize their health and allows them to stay close to their health care team, case workers, friends, family, and other community supports.

These tenants know that the Adelaide Residence will be their home for many more years to come. In this newsletter you'll meet some of ehm's original tenants, read more about their stories, and see how your support continues to make a world of a difference in their lives.

"It's incredible to see how ehm's Adelaide Residence has grown over the past 15 years. With you by our side, we're building a legacy of supports that is better equipped to serve our community. Thank you."

*– Jennifer Sully-Ferraro,
Sr. Director of Programs and Client Care*



Evangelical Hall Mission

INSIDE

Kim has called ehm's Adelaide Residence home for the past 15 years. She's always appreciated the extra supports that come with living at ehm. Learn more about how ehm has kept tenants healthy and safe during the pandemic on page 2.

"Throughout the hard times I've experienced this past year, I've had to pick up the phone more often to chat with someone. When I need someone to talk to, I know ehm is there for me."

– Kim, ehm resident

15 YEARS LATER: WHAT LIVING AT EHM MEANS TO ME

We asked some of the original Adelaide residents to share what living at ehm means to them. This is what they had to say:

“Since moving in to ehm years ago, I learned what a caring community truly is. ehm welcomed me with love, care, and compassion and it changed my life for the better. Thank you.”

- Badiane,
ehm tenant since 2006

“When I was first asked to leave my Mom’s home at age 16, I stayed at shelters for several weeks that weren’t safe. ehm is the most affordable and stable place I’ve lived at. The staff are always friendly and they try to help me as much as they can. What’s most important to me is safety and stability, ehm gives me that.”

- John,
ehm tenant since 2006

“This building feels like home. I love that ehm is a multicultural, diverse place. Here, I’ve built lasting friendships with my neighbours. I enjoy speaking with them about their lives, families, and the places they’ve travelled to.”

- *ehm tenant since 2006*



Kim, ehm resident (left), Rev. Dale (right)

TENANT SPOTLIGHT: MEET KIM

As one of ehm’s original tenants, Kim has called our Adelaide Residence home for the past 15 years. For a long time, Kim was living in hostels and temporary, unstable housing. When she heard on the news about a new apartment building that was being opened by an agency called Evangel Hall Mission, she thought that this might be the chance for her to get her own safe, and affordable home

in the city. She applied and was thrilled to hear that an apartment in this brand-new building, was going to become her own. And for the last 15 years, ehm has been her home. Her neighbours became her friends. Staff became part of her support system. Kim became part of the community.

The pandemic has been especially difficult for her. Kim’s health issues make her vulnerable to COVID-19, making the last year extremely stressful. On top of everything, she lost her mom and cat. What helped her get through these challenges were the extra supports and services ehm gave to her.

Because of the risks due to COVID-19, it was difficult for Kim to get groceries. She wasn’t alone – during the first few months of the pandemic, many tenants found it difficult to get food. Grocery stores were stressful. Food banks and community meals were closed. Staff recognized that there was a growing food crisis, and created a delivery program. Meals were brought to tenants’ apartments daily, allowing Kim and other tenants, to shelter in place – with at least one hot, nutritious meal. As the seasons changed, Kim didn’t always have clothes to match the weather. Staff got her shoes that fit and the clothing she needed from donations to ehm’s Clothing Bank. One thing Kim really values is the work ehm did to make sure personal support workers and nurses could continue their visits at ehm, something that helped her neighbours stay healthy and keep up with their care.

For Kim, having people like Rev. Dale part of her support system has really helped her breakthrough the loneliness. Their relationship means a lot to her because she can more easily connect with him than with some of the younger staff at ehm. They’re often seen laughing.

Looking ahead, Kim’s main focus is her health. Living at ehm is critical for her because she can stay close to her specialists and health care team, and her friends are just a few doors away.

Moving in to ehm 15 years ago marked the start of living somewhere Kim truly felt safe and secure, which she says she has yet to experience anywhere else. No matter how big or small the obstacles she faces, she knows that ehm will be there for her as long as she needs.

“ehm is my secure spot. There’s a lot of benefits to living at ehm, like the staff and programs. I feel safe and supported here.”

Kim, ehm resident

MARKING CANADA'S NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

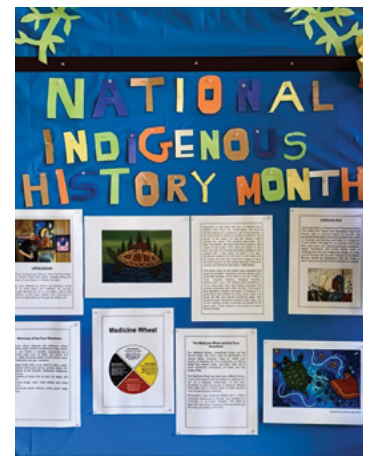
September 30th is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada – a day to honour First Nations, Inuit and Métis survivors and their families and communities, and to acknowledge the history and the legacy of residential schools.

At ehm, we see the impact of the harm that the residential school system caused every single day. Many of the clients that use our services are survivors, and share stories of what life was like for them as children, having been taken from their families. We learn about how growing up and leaving the school didn't end their

pain, as their stories describe how hard it was for them to parent their own children, having not had the loving care and role modelling of their own parents, grandparents, and community.

At ehm, we sit and listen to these stories, and hold space for the pain of the storyteller. We create an environment where

everyone can be proud of who they are. We support and partner with local Indigenous-led programs where survivors, their children, and everyone impacted by these schools can reclaim what they have lost through celebrations and services that reconnect them with their culture, their art, their history, and their language.



EHM GETS JABS IN ARMS TO SAVE LIVES

For months, staff acted as ehm clients' vaccine hunters – making countless calls to local pharmacies and doing research online to track down available vaccines. It's through this work that we built a relationship with Toronto Fire Services, Toronto Paramedic Services, and Toronto Public Health to offer our own weekly on-site vaccination clinics at ehm.

ehm is home to a large number of seniors, tenants with physical disabilities, and issues related to their mental health, which made getting their COVID-19 vaccine difficult. When vaccinations began, many clients couldn't physically get to a vaccination clinic because it was too far to walk, too confusing to schedule, or they had difficulty arriving to appointments. For some, having an ehm employee by their side helped them feel less fearful, and more trusting of the vaccine. For others, it meant they wouldn't face the anxiety of being in a large, unfamiliar crowd. Having an on-site vaccination clinic is critical to ehm clients because it removes the barriers that keep the people who need it most, from getting vaccinated.

Because of targeted outreach and small clinics in the spaces where those in need spend time, the rates of vaccination within ehm's postal code is now among the city's highest!

GET INVOLVED AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE! SCOTIABANK TORONTO WATERFRONT MARATHON

Put your steps to good use! Bring together your friends and family, church group, or book club and sign up today. You can join ehm's team, start your own team, or make a donation to help us reach our fundraising goal of \$15,000!

You can do the run virtually, alone, or with a small group in your community throughout the month of October. Or you can join us in-person on October 17th for the 10KM run downtown Toronto.



For more information on how to sign up for this year's run, or for fundraising ideas, contact Caitlin Silveira at 416.504.3563 ext. 246 or caitlin.silveira@evangelhall.ca.

To sign up for the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon, visit: www.evangelhall.ca/getinvolved/events

Help commemorate the 15th anniversary of ehm's Adelaide Residence while making a meaningful difference by giving back in ways of 15!

GIFTS OF 15

Your generosity helps ehm continue to adapt and provide essential community services to those in need. Consider becoming a monthly donor, or giving a special one-time gift.

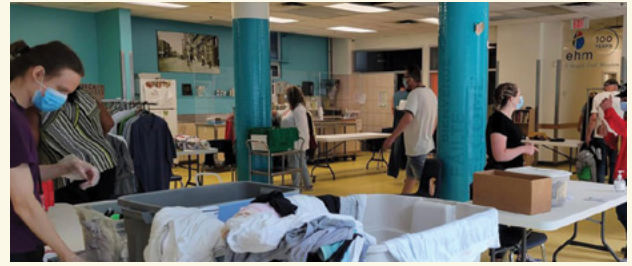
- Donate \$15 monthly
- Give a special one-time gift of \$150

Rally your family, friends, and neighbours in support of ehm. When groups come together and take the time to cook or bake, collect essential items, or learn more about ehm, you make a bigger impact than you could alone.

- Cook 15 casseroles or bake 15 dozen cupcakes
- Bundle 15 care packages
- Donate 15 cases of bottled water
- Host a clothing or food drive for 15 days
- Ask 15 of your closest family and friends to follow us on social media!

 @evangelhallmission  @ehm1913

YOU CAN HELP TURN SOMEONE'S DAY AROUND!



ehm clients don't have access to a closet or multiple outfits to choose from. A lot of the time they only have the clothes on their backs. When we see changes in temperatures, we see a spike in clothing, food, and personal care items.

See the latest list of our fall priority needs here: www.evangelhall.ca/getinvolved/in-kind-donations

To drop off your donation, please contact us at 416.504.3563 or email information@evangelhall.ca.



YOUR LEGACY OF CARE

Through a gift in your Will, you can make an extraordinary difference for the ehm community you care about so deeply. You can provide the basic necessities to help members of the ehm family survive and help them thrive – by allowing us to plan new support programs, create new opportunities for affordable housing, and truly help transform the lives of those who rely on ehm each and every day.

If remembering ehm in your Will feels right for you, we invite you to visit us at www.evangelhall.ca/getinvolved/planned-giving

You'll find simple tools to help you explore how charitable giving through your Will fits with your circumstance.

**STAY CONNECTED.
WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

EVANGEL HALL MISSION

552 Adelaide St. W.
Toronto, ON M5V 3W8

416.504.3563
information@evangelhall.ca

 @evangelhallmission
 @ehm1913

ehm is proud to be a mission of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, under the care of the Presbytery of East Toronto. We have been providing services to those in need since 1913.

Charitable Registration #11890 3129 RR0001

