



Horacio, EHM Tenant (left) and Nigel, Tenant Support Worker (right)

ISOLATION SURPASSING SOLITUDE AT EHM

This season, as the sun shines more and more brightly, we are happy to open our doors widely at EHM, welcoming anyone who comes to visit and partake in our support programs. This summer, we have set our minds to actively rebuilding our community—which is especially important after the long, lonely pandemic that has separated people like never before.

This is why our theme for the summer newsletter is “Surpassing Solitude.” It’s time to overcome the isolation that so many members have felt due to stringent social-distancing measures. To rekindle the close connections that people have been unable to keep up during this global crisis. And to build new friendships that can make such a positive difference, lifting up our collective energy at group events and public gatherings.

The best achievements in life are co-created, coming together to accomplish more as a community than as individual silos. Our programs and services are always aimed at the collective good—of our tenants, staff members, volunteers, and donors. In this newsletter, you’ll learn more about how remarkable people at EHM are surpassing solitude, socializing in a way that cultivates a vibrant, inclusive space for anyone who needs it.

“It’s incredible to see how we’ve rallied together to re-build community and connections at EHM. We’re so thankful for our committed supporters, volunteers, and clients who continue to inspire us and give us hope.”

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



INSIDE

Last summer, you’ll remember we introduced you to EHM tenant, Horacio. A year later, he has some exciting updates to share! Read the latest about Horacio and his family on page 2





Horacio and his family pose outside EHM

FROM TOUGH ISOLATION TO WONDERFUL FAMILY REUNION

In honour of Father's Day, we are featuring the inspiring story of an incredibly resilient tenant: Horacio. Originally from Nicaragua, he arrived alone in Canada with the dream of creating a better life for his family. After initially struggling to integrate, he found a stable home at EHM and—with ongoing assistance from our Tenant Support Worker, Nigel—has finally been reunited with his family in Toronto after three years apart.

“Having EHM and my family in my corner, I know that I have the support needed to work through anything and reach my goals.”

After getting laid off at the beginning of the pandemic, the bills began piling up for Horacio. So Nigel stepped up in a big way, helping him to apply for financial assistance and updating his resume for several new opportunities. And the job hunt is going well! After expanding his skills through a certificate program in Data Science, Horacio has had several promising interviews for positions related to his research in Artificial Intelligence.

Coming to Toronto with no contacts whatsoever, Horacio is deeply thankful for EHM's programs and services. Nigel is still an active member of Horacio's network, helping his family to enroll in schools, find daycare options, and complete paperwork for Canadian immigration. If any new complications arise, Horacio knows that he can always contact Nigel, who refers him to relevant resources all over the city.

The adjustment process for Horacio's family has been gradual, as there are many unfamiliar aspects of Canada for newcomers. But his wife, Amanda, has risen to the challenge, getting to know the neighbourhood while gaining English skills alongside her beautiful four-year-old boy and newborn. The location of EHM has been amazing for their family—within walking distance of everything they need to successfully adapt to their new life in Toronto.

“I love the job EHM is doing as an organization. When you get together with the community, you know that you're not alone.”

This story demonstrates the importance of the close relationships between Support Workers and tenants at EHM, which are essential for ensuring stability at particularly vulnerable moments. Horacio has also shown that the perseverance of a father—full of love for his wife and children—can make incredible things happen, overcoming steep barriers to establish a brighter future for his family.

Remember: you can always find good company at EHM. To continue breaking through isolation, EHM has recently launched several new programs: coffee hour, arts group, and one-off events playing board games. These services are more than just social gatherings—they're great opportunities to begin connecting with our community in a way that leads to support, mentorship, and guidance for anyone in need!

SUPPORT HIGHLIGHT: TENANT PROGRAMMING

At our two residential buildings, EHM and Portland Place, did you know that the community has grown to over 150 tenants? To better serve all tenants, we've built ongoing programs that provide them with a safe social haven, featuring uplifting group events where everyone is welcome.

The core programs are Coffee Hour and Art Hour, offering collective social time and new crafts to explore every week. We also regularly host a wide range of one-off events, such as community meals, beginner meditation, and board game nights—which are incredibly popular!

"I feel that tenant programs are an important community-building tool, giving people space to interact with staff and other tenants in a relaxed, inclusive environment."

Nigel, Tenant Support Worker



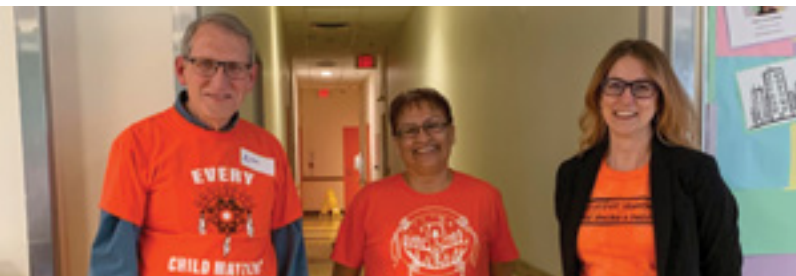
EHM Tenant Support Workers, Nigel (left) and Carman (right)

These initiatives are led by our Tenant Support Workers—the creative geniuses behind all new programming at EHM and Portland Place. Importantly, our staff always listen to feedback from tenants, seeking out input to help shape the programs that they're creating.

Through our programs, we are actively fostering a sense of belonging for our members, strengthening our community by making meaningful connections between neighbours. These programs also enable our staff to form deeper bonds with tenants and conduct regular wellness checks, which maximize everyone's long-term wellbeing at EHM.

"We want to create opportunities for tenants to participate in new activities and do something different. There are great people here, and I think getting to interact with them every week is a privilege."

Carman,
Tenant Support Worker



OUR CHANGEMAKING JOURNEY

When visiting EHM, you'll notice a bright new addition to the front of the building. Our Board of Directors and Spiritual Care Committee, gathered to raise an Every Child Matters flag, reaffirming our pledge to work alongside local Indigenous communities as changemakers.

At EHM, we see the harmful impact of Residential Schools every day. We are actively connected to the lives of Indigenous people—wonderful EHM community members and tenants who experience racism and abuse every day, living with the harmful legacy of colonialism. In recognition of these ongoing societal issues, EHM has renewed its efforts to participate in Indigenous community building through a journey of listening, learning, and action.

"Moments like these are so powerful. They give us an opportunity to reconcile relationships, continue healing, honour differences, share stories, and generate mutual respect amongst all of us; children of one Creator."

Rev. Bob Smith
EHM Board Member

We invited Elder, Loretta Watetch to join us for the flag raising, and speak to us about the impact Residential Schools had on her and her family. Her words were reminders of why we need to do this work, and how powerful the simple act of listening can be.

Every child matters. That's at the heart of the Truth and Reconciliation process, which asks us to remember the past as we move forward—into a co-created future that acknowledges and overcomes past inequities. The flags that we've raised at our Adelaide St. Residence and Portland Place will remind us of that credo, as visible emblems of our long-term reconciliation journey at EHM.

Please join us at EHM as local changemakers, in solidarity with our First Nations, Métis, and Inuit friends across Turtle Island. To read more about EHM's commitments and actions, visit www.evangelhall.ca/who-we-are/truthandreconciliation/



“We enjoy giving back to our community! EHM has provided a much-needed community service for many years and we are so proud to be a part of this mission.”

**–EHM Volunteers,
“The Boutique Team”
Brenda, Carmen, and
Heather from
St. Andrew’s Church
on Simcoe St.**

GIVE BACK IN A BIG WAY!

Volunteers are integral to the work we do at EHM and we couldn’t do it without you! We’re excited to announce that after a brief pause due to the pandemic, our regular volunteer programming is starting up again. We’re looking to our incredible supporters to donate their time to enhance client care at EHM and Portland Place.

Current Volunteer Opportunities:

- Clothing Sorting at EHM
- Kitchen Prep at EHM
- Sunday Dinners at Portland Place

We have volunteer roles for both individuals and groups, including opportunities for students looking to complete their volunteer hours. If you’re looking to make a meaningful difference within your community, EHM is the perfect place to start. To learn more, call **416.504.3563** or email **information@evangelhall.ca**.

PRIORITY ITEMS NEEDED

As we head into summer, we’ve got a new list of priority items needed to help clients get properly clothed for the Toronto heat. EHM has resumed all in kind donations, including clothing, and personal care items.

CLOTHING

- New underwear
- Shorts, sweat pants, pants and jeans
- Hoodies, warm sweaters, spring coats, shirts and blouses
- Running or sturdy shoes
- Belts for jeans and pants

PERSONAL NECESSITIES

- Travel-sized shaving cream and shampoo
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Sleeping bags and blankets
- Adult backpacks
- Rub A535
- Incontinence products

FOOD & KITCHEN

- Tea bags
- Bottled water
- Frozen vegetables
- Takeaway/individual packets of creamers/milk for coffee and tea
- White rice
- Juice boxes
- Take-away snack items
- Prepared takeaway meals and sandwiches

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 a tremendous impact on the future of the EHM community. Here are three steps to speaking with your financial advisor about your wishes:

- Open the conversation by sharing your intentions. Talk about why you would like to leave a gift in your Will to EHM and what kind of impact you want to have.
- Speak to your advisor about the best ways to make your gift. Some options, like a gift of securities or life insurance, might come with big tax savings.
- Discuss how you want your future gift to live on. Would you like to get your family involved?

Your decision to include EHM in your Will today will make such a difference for many years to come, thank you.

Please call Caitlin at 416.504.3563 x246 for more information.

STAY CONNECTED. WE’D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

EVANGEL HALL MISSION

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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.

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