



Volunteer Profile



Lorraine Hopkins has been involved with Carty House since the house moved to its current location in 2005. She met Carty House founder Sr. Maureen Killoran through their mutual involvement with the OK Clean Water Project, another Congregation of Notre Dame project in Ottawa. As many people have said over the years, "Once asked, it's very difficult to say no to Maureen".

Lorraine's past contributions to Carty House centre mainly on its computer systems. She had been seen helping troubleshoot Internet connection issues, assisting with some training and setting up a new computer. Lorraine created the first Carty House brochure that featured all the good work being done at Carty House, including pictures and quotes from the women living there at that time. Over the years she has created Christmas cards, Thank you cards, Carty House letterhead, fundraising letters, flyers and tickets for various events being held on behalf of Carty House. She is the creator of the Carty House logo.

Lorraine is still involved and committed to helping out at Carty House. She has just produced the tickets for the upcoming raffle.

We sincerely thank Lorraine for her contributions.

NEWS FROM THE CARTY HOUSE COORDINATORS

This past winter has been full at Carty House – in many ways. We have had five new residents move into Carty House, two from Burundi, two from Rwanda and one from Mali. So the house now has ten women living together and sharing in community. Each woman brings a new energy to the House, and there is a warmth and vibrancy that has carried us through the winter months. We see special bonds form between the women, across cultures and languages, sharing food, laughter, learning, and support.

Over the winter, three residents graduated from Carty House, moving into their own places. They have become more independent, working full time and are on the path to Permanent Residence and ultimately, to bringing their families here as well.

We have celebrated holidays and birthdays together at the house, sharing in meals and celebration with one another. This can be a difficult time, as for many this is their first time on their own, away from families and separated from their children.

We have connected women with counselling, health care, legal aid, volunteering, community and cultural events. We have helped the women with resumes and job search, connected them to ESL classes and educational programs. Some residents have found jobs, in telemarketing and at call-centres, others in volunteer engagements in the community. Many have become involved in faith-based and cultural groups.

Much of the last month has been dedicated to working on goals with the women, and applying for the educational bursary from the Congregation of Notre Dame. Both current and past residents hope to pursue education in Advertising and Marketing, Nursing, and Office Assistant. During these sessions we have gained insight into their stories and journeys as refugees.

We participated in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, with the UNHCR and co-hosted and organized a Human Book event, to bring to light the stories and struggles of refugee women and survivors, in collaboration with Matthew House Ottawa.

In-house workshops included presentations by the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre on 'Women's Health and Sexuality' and by the Sexual Assault Support Centre on the services available from the 'Women and War Program'. A knitting group was started, and we have seen the women gain skills and confidence in these techniques.

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Home

*Coming from different corners
Differ from cultural manners
Experienced and had different lives
Now equal no difference between girls and wives*

*Left all we had and treasured
Looking for a place to be assured
Where we could find a smile
A home or its facsimile*

*Not only our parent's place is our home
Where we enter and feel so warm
Where we feel in our place
Where we don't have to change our face*

*A home is comfortable inside
Where our unique soul reside
Remark its beauty from outside
Also called a lovely fireside*

*Now my HOME is Carty House
Where I'm safe and no more chouse*
Where that smile becomes a laugh
What I find here is simply enough*

~ Peace

* Old English meaning to swindle or cheat

For the coming month, workshops are planned on budgeting & financial literacy, personal safety, and yoga classes. We also have new ESL tutors and have seen newcomers improve their English proficiency and find mentorship. Volunteers have also contributed their time to work on fundraising and grant research, as we plan for outreach and funding in the year ahead.

A Program Evaluation is being conducted of Carty House, to help us evaluate our services and best serve refugee women in our community. To follow up, we have planned a Visioning Retreat this Spring. We look forward to coming together to reflect on our work, create common goals and envision a future for Carty House.

One of our newest residents, Peace, 20 years old and from Rwanda writes as a way to bring healing, creativity, and find peace. Featured on this page is a poem she wrote about Carty House, that she would like to share with you.

Glennie-Ruth and Lena

'Munch and Mingle'

Susan Wyatt is known for her exuberant personality and her exuberant parties! For many years Sue has hosted a "Munch and Mingle" gathering at her home at the beginning of the Christmas Season. Thirty-five guests come together to enjoy a sumptuous buffet, high-energy conversation and sometimes a high-energy game or song! In the past, Sue's guests contributed canned goods to the Ottawa Food Bank.

In 2010 Sue won the Carty House 'Dinner For Six' raffle. She and her five guests enjoyed an ethnic meal prepared by the Carty House residents. Sue and her guests had lots of fun and interesting after-dinner conversations with the residents and Coordinators. This was her introduction to Carty House and the work we do. Every year since then, Sue's 'Munch and Mingle' guests have been making monetary contributions to Carty House. This past year, their generosity resulted in an outstanding \$2,375.00 in contributions. Sue's initiative and the generosity of her guests helps Carty House continue to provide much needed services for refugee women. A big 'Thank you' to Sue and her guests!

Perhaps others will follow this model as a way of supporting Carty House, and having fun at the same time.

2014 Raffle: Bigger Than Ever!

1st prize: One round-trip voucher for four passengers, between any two points served by VIA Rail Canada Inc. between Ottawa, Ontario and Quebec City, Quebec (Full retail value of up to \$1,193.28)

2nd prize: An international dinner for six guests prepared by residents of Carty House (Estimated value \$200.00)

3rd prize: Two tickets to the Great Canadian Theatre Company plus a \$25.00 gift certificate to the Flying Banzini Restaurant (Total value \$95.00)

4th prize: Six gift certificates valued at \$5.00 each, for The Table Vegetarian Restaurant

5th prize: Four gift certificates valued at \$5.00 each, for The Table Vegetarian Restaurant

Raffle tickets are **\$20** each and only 300 tickets are being sold. To order please contact Carty House at **613-236-8855** or by email cartyhouse@rogers.com indicating the number of tickets you would like to order.

Draw will take place on May 31, 2014 at Carty House

Carty House

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You can donate to Carty House directly by mail or through

www.CanadaHelps.org

Registered Charity Number: 833 764 293RR0001



Thank you to all of our donors. Your support is critical in these tough times.