



# Carty House Chronicle

May 2017

## Kent Street Dental Centre gives the gift of oral hygiene

By Tabitha Mukamusoni,

Special to the Carty House Chronicle

At least nine Carty House women received free dental care this spring, thanks to a generous donation the residents described as being unlike any service they've received before.

Dentistry in Canada is one of the most expensive medical services you can get, but on April 21st, a team from the Kent Street Dental Centre sacrificed their morning to provide the women of Carty House with an array of pro bono services, including dental hygiene and extractions.

An extraction and cleaning in your average clinic can cost between \$800 and \$1,000, said Roz Godin, one of the Kent Street dental hygienists.

That being said, some of the women were lucky enough to have two or three teeth extracted, not to mention the pre-surgical examinations.

One resident said she cannot recall receiving such a wonderful gift of service before.

"It's like a miracle. When I arrived in Canada eight months ago, I wanted to seek treatment. But one day I went to ask for a dental service at a dental clinic in Ottawa and it was more costly than I could have imagined," she said.

"A simple consultation was more than \$50 dollars. I wondered if I would ever be able to afford to get treatment."

She was thrilled when Refugee Services Coordinator Louise Ebeltoft sent out an email asking if anybody needed a dentist.

"All of a sudden, I'd been added to the list," she said.

It all started while Louise was pondering how she might go about helping the women outside her day to day job. The idea of den-



Dr. Rami Yassine of the Kent Street Dental Centre donates a morning free dentistry to Carty House residents. (Photo courtesy of Melanie Shields Photography)

tal care popped to mind and one of the hygienists at Kent Street Dental helped make it happen.

"I wasn't sure we could make it happen but I am so thankful to have been part of such a wonderful opportunity to help" Louise said.

Asked what prompted her to think of the idea, which was outside her regular tasks, Louise said she just wanted to help.

"For me, having a job where I am able to help others in need is such a blessing" Louise said.

For Dr. Rami Yassine, a Kent Street dentist who participated in the event, helping patients who can't afford dental care is his pleasure.

"I devoted all this morning to caring for refugee women and I'm beaming with pride. It is enough for me that they will go home

happy," Dr. Yassine said. "It was a team effort."

For Roz, a hygienist with 20 years experience in the field, volunteering her services is very rewarding.

"We are humans, we must serve others," she said. "It's not always about making money. Our team offered to provide this morning gift to the refugee women and we were committed to doing it. It was a pleasure for us."

Roz reminds everyone to think of their dental hygiene, not just the residents of Carty House. Adults, she said, must brush their teeth at least twice a day to avoid cavities!

On behalf of Carty House, we are so grateful to the Kent Street Dental Centre for their amazingly generous gift. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

# Congrats to our ED on arrival of Baby Adam

By *Tobi Cohen*, Communications Committee Chair and Chronicle Editor

Carty House wishes to extend a huge congratulations to our Executive Director and her husband who welcomed a new addition to the family in March.

Juliet Schimpf and her husband Michael signed the adoption papers for baby Adam on March 27th. The healthy and happy baby was born on November 1st.

Juliet and Michael had been trying to adopt a child for the last six years and were elated when the call finally came from the Children's Aid Society.

"I remember CAS calling our home the first week of March and asking if we'd like to adopt baby Adam," Juliet told the Carty House Chronicle. "We had 48 hours to make a decision, but I made the decision in one second. Yes!"

Juliet and Michael have been busy transitioning baby Adam from the foster home to their home and getting used to being parents.

So far, Juliet said Adam really enjoys the library, the local pool and the church nursery.

Juliet began her parental leave on May 8th and will be away from Carty House for 30 weeks.

She said she misses the residents, volunteers



and staff at Carty House very much and that she looks forward to visiting soon and introducing baby Adam to everybody.

"I'm very grateful for the support of Carty House, especially the Board and Chair, Lorna

Book, during this time," she said.

Juliet, you will be missed at Carty House but we wish you all the best as you bond with your new baby boy. We can't wait to meet him!

## The rewarding experience you've been looking for?

By *Tobi Cohen*, Communications Committee Chair and Chronicle Editor

After more than a decade working as a journalist, oftentimes covering immigration and refugee issues, I found myself with some time on my hands.

I'd been laid off and was transitioning into a career in government communications when I spotted an ad for Carty House. The charity was seeking new board members.

For years I had wanted to give back to my community. I was especially interested in working with refugees like the ones I'd met in camps in Afghanistan while covering the war. But being at the beck and call of breaking news made for an erratic schedule and it was difficult to commit.

Alas, circumstances had changed and I applied for the position. That was two years ago. Since then, I've met some incredible women who have let me share their stories, accomplishments and dreams in our newsletters and annual appeals.

I've helped organize fundraisers to ensure we can

keep providing the services we offer and I've had the pleasure of working with a diverse team of staff and fellow board members of all ages and backgrounds as we negotiated the ups and downs of running a charity.

It's not always an easy job and it demands a 12-plus-hour-a-month, three year commitment. But if you have the time, a strong desire to make a difference in the lives of refugee women in Ottawa and you're interested in a hands-on experience working with a small charity, we want to hear from you!

Carty House needs a few good board members with experience in communications, fundraising, finance and human resources, among other skills.

If this sounds like you or somebody you know, get in touch and arrange to attend a future board meeting.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Carty House team!

(For more information, contact [office@cartyhouse.org](mailto:office@cartyhouse.org).)

## The Raffle Returns!

Participate by:

- ◆ Purchasing a ticket (\$20 each)
- ◆ Donating a prize (contact us at [office@cartyhouse.org](mailto:office@cartyhouse.org))

**Draw date:** Late June  
Details coming soon!

### Carty House

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