



Carty House Chronicle

February 2017

New coordinator, board members and residents welcomed



Newly minted Refugee Services Coordinator Louise Ebeltoft helps residents pick out a Christmas tree at Ian's Tree Farm.

By Tabitha Mukamusoni

Special to the Carty House Chronicle

New Refugee Services Coordinator Louise Ebeltoft is enjoying her new career. It's an opportunity for her to fulfill her dream of serving people in difficulty—in the case of women refugees—people who are doubly vulnerable.

Louise has 22 years experience in marketing, dental services and management and has held many positions of responsibility. But she's always been interested in humanitarian work. At Carty House, she enjoys helping

residents with their problems but said the job can be quite demanding.

"When I get home I'm excited to tell my family about my day," Louise said. "The family I've built here has become part of my family at home."

Recognizing that many of the residents are separated from their families, Louise said her goal is to help them feel less miserable because for a mother, living without your children and husband can be a nightmare.

Carty House has also welcomed several new board members. Zeenat Christi is a professional accountant who has stepped into the role of Carty House board treasurer. Hannah McGeachie is a social worker and executive director of a non-profit, Michelle Maloney is a marketing consultant and Natalie Scott is a lawyer.

Natalie told the Chronicle she wanted to join the Carty House board because she has always wanted to learn about, get to know and help people in her community.

"I hope I can help the board answer legal questions that may arise," she said.

Carty House has also welcomed new residents. One recalled how Executive Director Juliet Schimpf welcomed her with an open heart.

"After spending a night in a bus terminal, I arrived at Carty House with much relief," she said. "Not only did they cover my basic needs, but they also supported me in other ways until I received social assistance."

Another, who enjoys organizing English debates, movie nights and games, said Carty House has become "like a real family."

Much holiday cheer at Carty House this year!

By Stacie Travers

Carty House Vice Chair

The women of Carty House enjoyed an unforgettable holiday season this year.

The activities began with a true Canadian tradition—cutting down their own Christmas tree at Ian's Tree Farm.

"I used to decorate a tree each Christmas in my home country in South America. This is the best gift I could receive this year," one resident said.

It was not the only gift, however. Two churches, the Ottawa Civic Hospital and two government departments donated a number of gifts, including Canada hats and mitts, picture frames, warm socks, bath products and school supplies. In return, the women gifted the community with a choir performance at Centretown United Church in January.

On New Year's Eve, the women enjoyed an afternoon of games, carols, baking and gifts.

While cooking and sharing meals is standard practice for residents, the holiday season saw some true feasts. One resident prepared a turkey dinner, trimmings and all for fellow residents. On another occasion, volunteers John and Monique stopped by to prepare and share a meal of Beef Wellington, an instant hit with the ladies.

The biggest feast, however, came in early January when Carty House staff and board members were invited to dinner. Staff helped plan the evening in which each resident prepared a dish from their native country. The food was delicious and the company even better. The evening ended with games, a gift exchange and singing.

"It was not until the holiday season that I saw the residents bond strongly together," Executive Director Juliet Schimpf said. "Over the holidays, Carty House became 'Carty Home' as the women ate together, sang carols together and celebrated the arrival of a new year—a year ripe with hope and fresh opportunity."

Carty House bids farewell to beloved Glennie-Ruth

By Tobin Cohen

Carty House Communications Chair & Chronicle Editor

Carty House staff and board members gathered in January to mark the end of an era as they bid a fond farewell to Glennie-Ruth Al-lum-Graves, a long-time volunteer and staff member who retired in 2016.

Over cake and coffee, Glennie-Ruth shared stories of good times, fearful moments and funny events that transpired over her years at Carty House, while staff and board members thanked her for her service.

"Her most rewarding (stories) were (about) the reunification of families," said Bernadette O'Neill, a long-time board member and former Board Chair who has known Glennie-Ruth for a number of years.

"I immediately recognized an amazing gift that enabled her to recognize the unspoken concerns of the residents and offer, often simple, resolutions. She was indeed the heart of Carty House."

Caroline Pestieau, a former board member who served for a record nine years, said Glennie-Ruth was originally brought on board for her experience as a dietician.

"We thought she would help residents with their shopping and food planning," she said. "Quickly she became indispensable, dealing with everything concerning the house. The residents respected her as an elder and she had enormous empathy for the residents."

As an example, she recalls a "very eloquent" letter Glennie-Ruth penned to a Member of Parliament on behalf of a resident who was awaiting her child's arrival in Canada.

According to Caroline, Glennie-Ruth provided continuity through difficult times as Carty House grew from a grassroots community initiative into a bona fide charity.

"I believe that without Glennie-Ruth, Carty House would not have survived all the changes," she said.

From all of us at Carty House, we are deeply grateful for all the work Glennie-Ruth has



done and we wish her a wonderful retirement.



Carty Cares Annual Appeal

ACHIEVEMENTS



86

Volunteer
Hours utilized



1023

New Homes
Contacted



129

Individual
Donors



37

First Time
Donors



152%

Congratulations! Thanks to the tremendous generosity and dedication of Carty House Volunteers, Staff and especially our Donors, the 2016 Carty Cares Annual Appeal raised more than \$15,000 in support of refugee women in Ottawa. Thank you so much for helping us surpass an ambitious goal of \$10K. We are so excited for the year ahead!!!!

Donor Profile

Huge thank you to F.E.E.L. Flooring for the generous donation of made-to-measure indoor mats for the entrances of Carty House!

Thankfully our new floors are now protected from the wet, salty mess that is winter in Ottawa!

Save the date!

2017 Annual General Meeting

Thursday, May 25, 7:30 p.m.

Business Centre: 140 O'Connor, Main Fl

All are welcome!

Refreshments will be served.

RSVP: office@cartyhouse.org

Carty House

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