

North House Newsletter



September, 2006 3rd quarter - 16th Newsletter

From the North House Board

From the Chair:

North House has been able in this past year to celebrate some success while finishing our National Homeless Initiative. Our first client graduated from North House into subsidized housing. The WrapAround approach was very helpful to this client as friends, agencies and family were chosen to support the client's plan. The key to the WrapAround success is that the client must buy into the program and into the approach. Although the client may have left North House, the WrapAround will continue with some of the members of the WrapAround team.

All of us, have dreams and aspirations, but so often when we have undergone treatments that lower our self-esteem whether it be from a bill collector, or an abusive family member then those dreams become further and further from reality.

WrapAround is allowing the clients of North House to grasp hold of those dreams, make them into goals and turn them into realities.

If a client is referred to North House, then they definitely need to be willing to take part in the WrapAround process so that their goals can be accomplished and their self-esteem can grow with that accomplishment.

The agencies that have been willing to take part in the WrapAround process and the volunteers are to be commended for their continued support. As they see it working, I'm sure they realize that WrapAround actually makes their job easier because there is a whole community of people working with the client to support them and assist them in reaching their goals.

So many of the Supportive Housing groups across Canada are now buying into an approach similar to WrapAround, even if it is named differently. The LOFT community services offer supportive housing to over 4,000 people in greater Toronto. Their name is most appropriate to the WrapAround process (Leap Of Faith, Together). They reach out to help the most vulnerable in society, handicapped, seniors, drug addicts, and have done so with success through the use of volunteers.

As the success stories emerge, North House thanks our staff and the volunteers who have made the goals of our clients reachable.

"The unreachable star" comes closer at North House.

Heather Beveridge **Chair of North House Board of Directors**





You are invited to

 North House Shelter's



Annual General Meeting

WHEN:

Wednesday, October 25, 2006
4:00 PM

WHERE:

At the Durham Regional Police Station
15765 Hwy 12, (south of Reach Road)
Port Perry, ON

Just call or email to let us know you will attend.

705-426-1150

EMAIL: northhouseshelter@bellnet.ca

or

northhouseoffice@bellnet.ca

For further information or to check to the agenda, please visit our website:

<http://northhouse.ca>



WrapAround Durham Region



Submitted by: Patti Lyn Cheesman

The Literacy Network of Durham Region (LiNDR), in partnership with Durham College has carried out a detailed study regarding the WrapAround process of support and the feasibility of implementing WrapAround in the Durham Region. The primary goal of the project was to bring the community together to provide information on the process, engage interested groups in the development of a plan for Durham and subsequently implement that plan.

This nine-month project was made possible by an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant. The Ontario Trillium Foundation's expected outcomes for this particular project included the following:

- An annotated bibliography of literature on the WrapAround model will be compiled and posted on the network's website;
- A briefing document will be prepared for stakeholders/workshop participants;
- 3 one-day WrapAround orientation workshops will be attended by a minimum of 45 participants;
- *A cost-benefit analysis will be prepared based on the literature search and draft model;*
- A half-day community meeting will be held to determine whether the model will be implemented;
- An implementation plan will be developed, pending support for the model, or a best practices guide will be produced for agencies serving clients with high needs.

A more comprehensive review of the WrapAround model, and its potential application specifically to individuals with complex needs was conducted. This review included contact with organizations currently utilizing WrapAround, an introduction of the concept to service providers in Durham Region, and a brief cost benefit analysis.

Community information sessions were held to introduce local service providers, special interest groups, the faith based community and interested volunteers, to the model and its benefits and challenges. Participants in these sessions were followed up with to gauge their interest in participating in the development of a model for Durham. A decision-making strategy session was facilitated with community agencies to determine if there was sufficient interest to implement the model.

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For a number of years, the WrapAround planning process has been successfully utilized in over 20 Ontario communities and in 2005 the North House Shelter in Beaverton, Ontario adopted WrapAround planning as the support process they would adopt and subsequently put it in their business plan. Markham/Durham WrapAround has been involved in supporting 3 families during the history of their group. Their catchment area includes Pickering as far east as Highway #23, south to Lake Ontario and north to Stouffville.

WrapAround represents a process that is extremely efficient and useful in improving the lives of individuals with complex needs. To positively implement WrapAround in Durham Region, it will be essential that best practices and standards are developed and followed and that the community commits to working together to keep the needs of the individual and/or family at the forefront.

In order to move the plan forward in Durham Region, the Regional Coordination Committee has been established. The newly formed Regional Coordination Committee is comprised of agency representatives, business people, concerned individuals, clergy, and representatives from the faith based community and anyone else that might want to help out.

Although the concept of WrapAround is similar in every community, the funding models are as unique as the communities themselves. The primary concern for funding is that all members who agree to partner as a community team, will, in some way, contribute to the sustainability of the WrapAround process. How this occurs continues to be part of the discussion in order to move forward with an implementation plan in Durham Region.

Many communities have utilized funds from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Ministry of Children and Youth Services, local service providers contributing either funds and/or in kind staff time, fundraising with local service groups/ clubs and/or, faith-based funding. An important element to understanding the WrapAround process has to do with the importance and application of pooled and flexible funds.

The momentum from the community was greater than initially perceived and thus a second submission to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for long term funding was submitted by the Literacy Network of Durham Region, in collaboration with several community groups and agencies, in July 2006 to continue to move the initiative forward in Durham.

For further information on the establishment of Wrap Around in Durham Region contact:

Jennine Agnew-Kata
Executive Director
Literacy Network of Durham Region (LiNDR)
905-725-4786
lindr@bellnet.ca
<http://www.lindr.on.ca/wrap.htm>



Raising the Roof Campaign 2006-2007

Once again North House will be participating in the Raising the Roof Campaign to raise funds to support programs in North Durham that combat homelessness. You will see staff and volunteers selling very fashionable toques at a number of different venues. We would welcome the opportunity to come to your organization and discuss the work that North House does, the current statistics on homelessness in North Durham and how your organization can become involved.

Please call Ann Watson at 705-426-1150 if this is something you would like to arrange



Program Manager's Report

Summer 2006 was a very busy one. Three new families joined North House programs and one participant has moved into permanent affordable housing. The WrapAround Process and this participant's desire to bring about change in her life resulted in many positive accomplishments.

North House's goal is to support families in all three townships in North Durham. While we are serving Brock Township to our fullest capacity we are interested in doing more work in Uxbridge and Scugog townships. If you know of any families who are having difficulty maintaining stable housing who would be interested in becoming involved with North House and the wraparound process then contact us at 705-426-1150. On the page below is a brief description of our program and criteria for becoming involved.

What is North House?

North House offers a safe and affordable place to live in North Durham for a period of up to one year. During that time you and your family will work closely with North House staff, volunteers and community organizations to create positive change in your life. After one year, North House will help you find affordable housing.

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Can North House Help You?

Are you or your family:

- Having trouble paying the rent every month on time
- Worried about stretching your income to pay for food and other things that your family needs
- Tired of feeling like things are never going to change
- Worried that financial troubles are making it hard for your children to do well in school
- Worried about your family's health and dental care but don't know where to go for help?

Sound familiar? If it does, then North House may be a chance for your family to take some steps towards a more stable and healthy life. A life that will continue to improve once you have moved on from North House. North House will continue to offer you support as you move towards independence.

Who is eligible for North House Programs?

Individuals or families in North Durham (Uxbridge, Brock, Scugog) who are:

- Having difficulty with finances and making ends meet
- In need of affordable housing and support to get their lives back on track
- Willing to work closely with staff and volunteers of North House and other community organizations.
- Not a high security risk

If this sounds like you, then please give us a call at 705-426-1150 and we can discuss your needs and whether North House is a good fit for your family.

NORTH HOUSE VISION & VALUES

Vision:

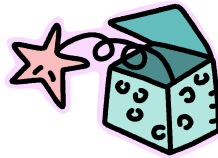
North House will facilitate responsive approaches and supports to housing that are safe and affordable, meeting the changing needs of the people in the Townships of Brock, Scugog and Uxbridge.

Core Values

We believe in:

1. The rights of our participants to confidentiality and privacy;
2. Safe, supportive, non-judgmental and healthy environments;
3. Breaking the cycle of homelessness by providing a supportive, integrated continuum of housing services and supports;
4. An innovative approach that uses a circle of supportive services and a focus on the strengths of the participants which enables them to find and enact their own solutions to positive change.

Suggestions and Comments Always Welcome



North House is looking for a sponsor for our quarterly newsletter. If you can help, please call the office at 705-426-1150 or email us at northhouseoffice@bellnet.ca

North House greatly acknowledges the contribution of Patti Lyn Cheesman for her informative article on "wraparound IN Durham Region". This newsletter was compiled by Claudette Taylor, Administrative Assistant, Ann Watson, Program Manager, and Heather Beveridge, Chair of the Board of Directors. If you have information you would like included in the next edition or have questions or comments in regards to this newsletter, please send them to northhouseoffice@ bellnet.ca.

North House acknowledges the support provided by St.Paul's Anglican Church in Beaverton, Ontario

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