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Charitable Organization
#13040 1573 RR0001

Fife House Media Kit

- Corporate Profile -

Fife House is Canada's largest provider of supportive residential programming and housing services for men, women and families living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA). Fife House has 190 units serving more than 200 residents, and another 400 clients are supported each year in our Homeless Outreach Program. While this is significant, it is estimated that the Greater Toronto Area has 18,000 people living with HIV/AIDS, and these are only those individuals who are aware of their status. This represents about 25% of all the cases in Canada. Today Fife House provides 80% of the supportive housing available to people living with HIV/AIDS in Toronto. Fife House recently received The Casey Award, which celebrates individuals and organizations across Canada that demonstrate leadership in the fields of HIV/AIDS and/or social justice. The award was created in tribute to June Callwood and named after her youngest son.

Says David Currah, Director of Development and Communications, at Fife House: "We have residents who have lived with the disease for 20 years or more and never expected to be alive today. Many of them are living on minimal funds. We have people who need a permanent place to live and others who require housing for a period of time. The need out there is great."

With a mandate to provide supportive housing, programming, and support services to hundreds of residents and clients, Fife House operates five residences/programs that offer services through a network of qualified staff and volunteers. At any given time, residents/clients can call on these support services. The residences/programs are:

- Sherbourne (112 apartment units, 45 for PLWHAs operated by Fife House with 24-hour support services, and 56 for seniors operated by WoodGreen Supportive Housing).
- Jarvis (82 units for PLWHAs with support services provided by Fife House).

- Denison (24-hour support services and housing to five individuals with support for an additional 15 PLWHA's at two satellite locations)
- Transitional Housing Program (11 units with communal living space with 24-hour support staff).
- Addictions Supportive Housing (part of a larger provincial program which will provide 32 units of rent-subsidized apartments for PLWHA's with substance use issues, operated in partnership with Loft Community Services).

The Homeless Outreach Program works with homeless, those at risk of becoming homeless, and those who are under-housed. Last year this program served more than 350 persons and families. Our Transitional Housing Program is a communal living space housing up to 11 people, staffed 24/7, which helps residents develop the skills to find and maintain suitable permanent housing. Our Community Programs are designed to address isolation and marginalization in order to foster a sense of social integration, health, and well being.

History of Fife House

Fife House was started by a group of concerned citizens who were inspired by the story of George Fife, a local lawyer who lost his struggle with AIDS. The group recognized the urgent need in Toronto for supportive housing for people living with HIV/AIDS. On February 10, 1988, they established Fife House as a charitable organization to begin filling the need.

Denison, the first residence, opened on July 1, 1990 with a capacity for five people living with HIV/AIDS. With many people trapped on the waiting list, the second residence, Hastings, opened on June 1, 1991, doubling the number of spaces available. Fife House initiated 24-hour attendant care at these two residences in December, 1994.

At the request of the municipal government, Fife House began providing supportive services to residents living with HIV/AIDS in an 82-unit apartment building, [Jarvis](#), on July 2, 1996. Fife House's mission was then expanded to provide supportive housing and support services for people living with HIV/AIDS. A fourth residence, Gladstone, was opened on November 1, 1996 as the first supportive housing program in North America serving the needs of women living with HIV/AIDS.

A growing awareness of the acute housing/homelessness crisis in Toronto led Fife House to take action on three fronts:

- One residence, Hastings, was converted into a [Transitional Housing Program](#) on April 1, 2000. This program allows us to solve people's immediate housing needs while working to find longer-term solutions.
- The [Homeless Outreach Program](#) began on April 1, 2000. This program helps homeless people access housing and shelter options, and helps link them with medical, health and financial supports.
- We secured a grant to develop a feasibility assessment for a transitional supportive housing program for people living with HIV/AIDS.

In conjunction with Wellesley Central Residences and funders from all levels of government, the Sherbourne Apartments were opened in 2009, providing 45 units for PLWHA's, including the first

units in Canada designated for families. The building also houses an expanded Transitional Housing Program with 11 units, allowing the closure of the Hastings and Gladstone residences.

Today almost 300 volunteers play an active and crucial role, donating 15,000 hours of their time to provide support services, assist with special events, and participate in governing Fife House. To provide high-quality support services in our growing roster of programs, we have steadily hired more staff, and today we employ about 60 staff, many of whom provide front-line support services and have training in social work or related areas.

Fife House uses three annual Signature Events to raise awareness and provide additional resources. Each spring [A Taste For Life](#), held on the last Wednesday in April, provides the opportunity to dine out at selected restaurants which donate funds to Fife House. [Performer's For Life](#) is a fundraising campaign involving theatres across Toronto. And in the fall the annual [SPOTLIGHT!](#) benefit combines live performances with a cocktail reception and silent auction.

Fife House is the host agency for two provincial programs providing financial and administrative oversight. The AIDS Bereavement and Resiliency Project of Ontario (ABRPO) provides practical models for working with all kinds of transitions – everything from grief associated with death and multiple loss to AIDS service organizations across Canada. The Executive Director of Fife House is a member of the ABRPO Advisory Council. The Ontario HIV & Substance Use Training Program (OHSUTP) provides training to substance use, mental health, and allied service providers in order to increase knowledge of HIV/AIDS and promote skills development.



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Fife House Fact Sheet

- Canada's biggest provider of supportive residential programs for people and families living with HIV/AIDS.
- Provides housing, programs and support services to hundreds of residents and clients.
- Operates five residences/programs that offer support services through a network of qualified staff and volunteers. At any given time, residents/clients can call on these support services in the residences:
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 - Homeless Outreach Program works with homeless, those at risk of becoming homeless, and those who are under-housed, and last year serviced more than 350 persons and families.
 - Community Programs designed to address isolation and marginalization to foster a sense of social integration, health and well being.
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