

Fife House to receive Inspire Award

- recognizes 20 years of supporting those living with HIV/AIDS –

TORONTO, JUNE 1, 2011: Fife House, Canada's largest provider of housing for men, women and families living with HIV/AIDS, will add another award to its mantel next month when it receives the Inspire Award. This is the inaugural year of the Inspire Awards which are being presented by the LGBTQ (Lesbian Gay Transgender Queer) community. The awards will be presented on June 16th at a gala at the Casa Loma in Toronto.

The awards will be presented to the LGBTQ Person of the Year, Youth of the Year, Positive Business of the Year, and Inspiring Community Organization of the Year. Fife House is the initial recipient in the latter category, and this will be the second major award the organization has received in 2011. In February, Fife House received from Casey House the Casey Award, which celebrates individuals and organizations across Canada that demonstrate leadership in the fields of HIV/AIDS and/or social justice. The Casey Award was created in tribute to June Callwood and named after her youngest son.

“The Inspire Award is broad recognition for us,” says Keith Hambly, Executive Director of Fife House. “It recognizes what we do, how far we’ve come, and how we continue to adapt and continue to be flexible in meeting the needs of the community. We are very honoured to receive this award.”

The Inspire Awards are committed to honouring those people and organizations who work to change perceptions and prejudices. Businesses, as well as not-for-profit and charity organizations, are eligible.

“We selected Fife House as our Inspiring Community Organization of the year 2011 to honour their work, core values, dedication and community impact,” said Antoine Elhashim, who is head of the Inspire Awards award committee.

“Twenty years ago, Fife House had an uphill battle to climb. A small group of dedicated members of the community recognized an urgent need in Toronto for supportive housing for people living with HIV/AIDS. But they had little funding beyond their own financial support. The hard work and dedication of this small group has flourished into the largest provider of supportive housing for those living with HIV/AIDS in Canada.”

In 2010, Fife House supported more than 350 clients, including 65 families.

About Fife House

Fife House is Canada’s largest provider of supportive residential programming and housing services for people and families living with HIV/AIDS. It has 158 units serving 170 residents, and another 400 clients are supported each year in a homeless outreach program. 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 per cent of all the cases in Canada. Today Fife House provides 80 per cent of the supportive housing available to people living with HIV/AIDS in Toronto. Fife House operates four residences/programs that offer 24-hour support services through a network of qualified staff and volunteers. At any given time, residents/clients can call on these support services. For more information, go to:

www.fifehouse.org.

– 30 –

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