

Transitional Housing group finds home for two families

Two struggling families will have a little more stability thanks to Milton Transitional Housing (MTH).

The not-for-profit group, which provides accommodations, support and counseling for people who are in a housing crisis until they

can secure long-term affordable housing, recently secured two townhouses.

"With the need in Milton so great, our volunteer team has worked very hard to increase MTH's ability to help," said Ruth Parkinson, MTH's board chair. "We believe that people

struggling with housing security is not good for our town and addressing this issue contributes to the health of Milton."

Wendy Schau, MTH's communications chair, told the *Champion* MTH is thrilled it was able to find two places early in the year for two families.

She said the MTH team is on schedule with meeting the goals it set out for itself of providing transitional affordable housing for seven individuals or families by 2016-17.

Transitional housing has been identified by Halton Region's Comprehensive Housing Strategy as an essential part of the solution to the problem of homelessness or the risk of homelessness. It's designed to be the bridge from a short-term emergency shelter to a long-term affordable home. With MTH the transitional period can extend from four to 24 months, depending on an individual or family's circumstances. It offers housing at a subsidized rental rate, along with counseling to help the individual or family meet short and long-term goals, leading them to gradually build independence and return to a stable home situation.

Schau said individuals and families are typically referred to MTH through supporting agencies that include Summit Housing, Halton Public Health, Halton Women's Place, Milton District Hospital, the Reach Out Centre for Kids (ROCK), the Multicultural Association and the Salvation Army. However it doesn't ex-

clude residents who want to refer themselves or their relatives.

She added until last year, Milton's homeless and at risk of being homeless population didn't have access to transitional housing. That kind of support was only found in Oakville, Burlington and Halton Hills before MTH offered a home to an individual last February.

Schau said thanks to a two-year \$143,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the organization has been able to get a leg up on its goal of helping people have a stable living situation so they can concentrate on developing their skills to be able to afford to live independently afterward.

Community events and sponsors have also played a big part in helping the organization continue to find transitional housing for those who are in need.

Casa Americo on Main Street will host a wine-tasting benefit for MTH on Wednesday, Feb. 20 at 7:30 p.m. A \$5 cover charge includes wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres.

MTH will hold its annual Empty Bowls Soup Lunch on Sunday, Mar. 17 from 11:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the MinMaxx Hall at the Milton Centre for the Arts. Tickets cost \$50 and include a taste-as-many-as-you-like gourmet soup lunch prepared by Milton restaurants and caterers.

For more information visit www.miltontransitionalhousing.ca.

Supportive housing program to expand to Milton

Supportive housing and assisted living services in Milton are expanding.

Halton Region's health and social services committee learned at a recent meeting the Region has received the green light — and funding — from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care through the Mississauga Halton Local Health Integration Network for its Support for Daily Living Program.

The program, which previously provided sup-

portive housing and assisting living services to people living at the Bruce Apartments, 40 Ontario St. since November 1995, will now receive \$312,795 to expand the services to the neighbourhoods surrounding the building.

It's receiving \$312,795 to increase personal support services for 15 more senior clients, provide access to services on a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week basis and provide up to 1.5 hours a day in services required daily.

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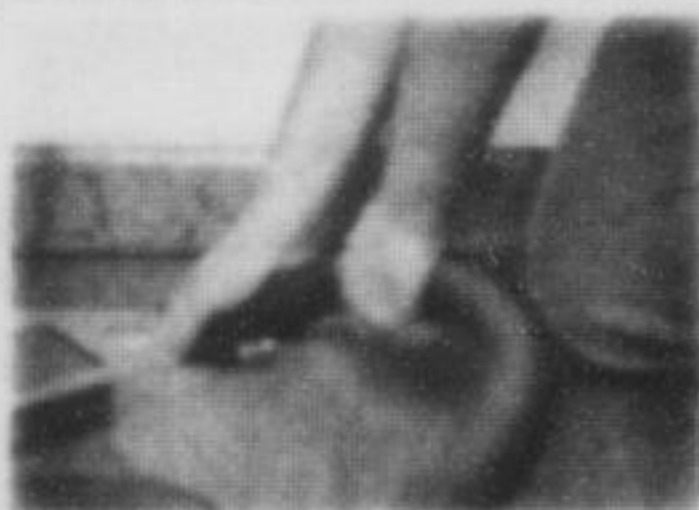
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