



## HARVEY WOODS LOFTS GRAND OPENING OF PHASE II

*by Natasha Thuemler, Program Manager, Harvey Woods Lofts*

People came from across Oxford County and beyond to see the 26 new apartments we opened at Harvey Woods Lofts on April 5, 2018. In addition to the beautiful homes that some tenants graciously opened for tours, guests visited the transformed basement of the original building, an area now known as “The Commons.” The Commons is a beautiful light-filled office and commercial space. (Contact us if you’re interested in renting an office or even just a desk!)

I am continually awe-struck by the community support that surrounds Indwell. I keep hearing staff saying, “We aren’t able to do what we do without the commitment of the greater community.” We see this

across all areas of what we do: from direct support of tenants to thoughtful donations, from partnerships with community agencies to committed volunteers, from gifts of time to prayers of support; the list is truly endless. And this is what we saw in early April – an outpouring of support and encouragement during our Harvey Woods Lofts Grand Opening of Phase II. Many thanks and continued appreciation!

*Above Left: Guests celebrating grand opening of Harvey Woods Lofts, Phase II*

*Above Right: Elisabeth Bos and Natasha Thuemler look on as Debbie shares her story of living with Indwell*

# SUCCESS STORIES: FROM GROUP HOME TO INDEPENDENT APARTMENT

by Elisabeth Bos, Apartment Support Worker, Harvey Woods Lofts

Few of us meet a drastic change head-on with a complete absence of nerves or fear. Combine the dread of change with existing challenges, such as anxiety or schizophrenia, and change looms even larger and darker in the mind. Complicate this further with no option to back out, and you have a snapshot of the situation some of our tenants faced late last year. In November 2017, thirteen residents moved from our Blossom Park group home in Woodstock to our new supportive apartments in Phase II of Harvey Woods Lofts. Some people were excited by the prospect of greater independence, a larger living space, privacy, and particularly, their own bathrooms. But a good number were anxious:

- Martin threatened, in a half-joking manner, to remain in his own room even when the group home building was being demolished. Fast forward three months and he invites staff into his apartment each morning to assist with his medication. He points out his spotless floors, clean laundry, and the dishes he just washed. And then he prays with and for all the staff and tenants, asking that each would be blessed.
- Debbie invites staff, as well as old and new friends in the building, to share tea in her apartment several evenings each week. She delights in offering a selection of teas and extending hospitality in her cozy, personalized apartment.
- Matt is making great strides in his independence from what used to be a felt need for frequent assurances from staff that he would be safe.

In the end, our group home residents surprised themselves, their families, and even Indwell staff. The sum of this is a heartening, if sometimes messy, progress in flourishing for thirteen people, now settling into increased independence.

Growth for these thirteen tenants is still in progress, and it does not come without challenges. Hydro bills must be paid on time and groceries need to be budgeted for, purchased and cooked. Yet tenants are doing much more than surviving. They are making both small steps and massive strides towards thriving. One of the clearest indicators of this? A tangible sense of ownership over their growing capabilities and connection to the community, and a fierce pride over their very own living space.

## “SCENTS” OF HOME

from an interview with Bill D.

When showing his new home at Harvey Woods Lofts, it's not just about how it looks but also about how it smells. Bill's scented wax melter is safer than a candle and, as he says, "just makes it smell very nice."

But there's more than the aroma of essential oils that Bill feels when he's home. There's a sense of safety when "I can lock my door without having somebody just hop in." There's a sense of belonging when he brings his art supplies to the atrium community space or joins in karaoke. "I think this is a nice place. People just come down to sit together. I like having people to talk to and my new friends. It makes me happy," he explains.

However, transitioning to a new home in a new city was not easy. Prior to moving to Woodstock, Bill sustained a brain injury requiring surgery. He lived in a boarding home where anyone could come into his room and where he worried about the spread of bed bugs. A new home in Woodstock meant learning new bus routes, coordinating doctor appointments, cooking his own meals, and keeping his apartment clean. After first moving to the Blossom Park group home, Bill made another step towards more independent living when he moved to Harvey Woods Lofts. With support from Brain Injury Services for both transitions he learned the bus routes and developed the skills to be independent in his own home.

In the end, it's the sense of community that makes Bill smile. "It's great to open up to people, to let them know that I'm a friend. I look at everybody in my world now like they're a relative. I look at people like they're special. I never had that feeling before."

*Left: Martin is a tenant at Harvey Woods Lofts as well as an employee of the Indwell facilities team assisting with snow removal, salting sidewalks, and yard clean-up.*

*Right: Bill in his own kitchen*





# BLOSSOM PARK RECENTLY

Demolition of the former Blossom Park group home in Woodstock started on April 18, 2018! Sad to see it go down, but happy for what will replace it!



## BLOSSOM PARK VISION

The new Blossom Park apartments will be redeveloped to Passive House\* standards and contain 34 one-bedroom units. Construction started in April 2018, and we expect the new homes to open in early 2019.

\*Passive House is a rigorous, voluntary standard for energy efficiency in a building resulting in a reduced ecological footprint and ultra-low energy use and utility expenses.



# FURNISH AN APARTMENT CAMPAIGN

As our new projects get underway, it quickly becomes time to think about their interiors! For just \$2,000, you can furnish an apartment, including equipment for the kitchen, at our Blossom Park redevelopment in Woodstock or at Hamilton's Parkdale Landing. Contact us to learn more!



## SAVE THE DATE

Celebration Dinner  
Woodstock  
November 2, 2018

Grand Opening  
Parkdale Landing, Hamilton  
Fall 2018

## Please support our ministry!

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We rely on the generosity of  
many donors each month to  
sustain and grow our ministry.

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SPRING 2018

