

# Working where you live

## How tenant employees help Indwell communities thrive

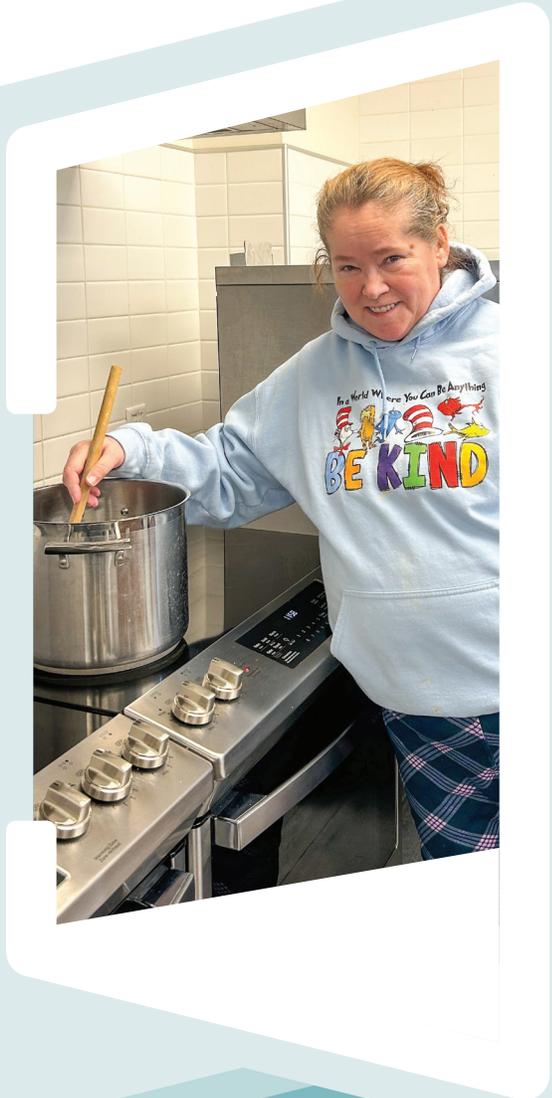
Did you know that 46 Indwell tenants are also Indwell employees? Their work helps keep our buildings running smoothly across all sites, and we're grateful for the care each one brings to their roles. Tenant employment offers meaningful opportunities to contribute, supporting both individual well-being and strong, connected communities.

### Lisa

#### Blossom Park – Cook

Lisa (pictured right) has lived at Blossom Park in Woodstock for 18 years and began working in the kitchen last August. What was meant to be a three-month role went so well that both Lisa and staff wanted her to stay on.

Lisa cooks weekend dinners for up to 30+ tenants and chooses the menu herself, something she really enjoys. Her favourite dishes to make are Chicken Diablo (see recipe below) and homemade mac and cheese, both popular with tenants.



### Chicken Diablo – Lisa's recipe

#### INGREDIENTS:

- chicken pieces (apprx. 30)
- 4 cups honey
- 3 cups mustard
- curry powder - 2 tbsp
- paprika to taste (optional)
- apprx. 8 cups white rice

#### DIRECTIONS:

- Preheat oven to 350° F.
- Mix together honey, mustard, and seasonings.
- Dip chicken pieces in mixture.
- Bake chicken for 45 minutes.
- Cook rice according to pkg.
- Pour cooked sauce over white rice and serve with chicken.

Lisa's favourite memory is the first meal she cooked, Chicken Diablo, which the tenants gave rave reviews!

*Lisa cooks weekend dinners for up to 30+ tenants and chooses the menu herself, something she really enjoys.*

Lisa likes working where she lives, in a familiar space. She notes, "You get to know people and people get to know you — and you have a voice."

For the future, Lisa hopes to keep working. "I love working," she says. "I believe we were created to work... I just want to keep my health on track so I can be a better employee."



Looking ahead, Michael hopes for continued stability and the ability to live without worrying about housing insecurity.

## Michael Lakeshore Lofts – Facilities

Michael has lived at Lakeshore Lofts in Mississauga with his wife for about a year. He describes his home as “safe and cozy,” and says it feels empowering to pay for and live in his own place without constantly worrying about what comes next.

Another tenant encouraged Michael to apply for a Facilities position and even advocated for him with staff. Today, Michael (pictured above at Lakeshore Lofts) cleans hallways, elevators, and common areas, and says he is very thankful to have a job.

Working where he lives feels less stressful than working elsewhere, especially as an introvert. Michael appreciates the positive feedback he receives from staff and the kindness of his supervisor. He knows he can ask questions and won’t “get yelled at,” even when he needs a little extra explanation. According to Michael, the community at Lakeshore Lofts is like a family.

## Greg Strathearne Suites – Facilities

Greg has lived at Strathearne Suites in Hamilton for about a year. Before that, he experienced homelessness on and off for nearly a decade and spent ten years on a housing waitlist. With support from a YMCA intake worker, Greg was able to secure a studio apartment at Strathearne Suites, a new start that began around New Year’s Day of 2025.

Today, Greg says his life is much better. He appreciated the neighbour who helped him feel welcome and get settled when he first moved in. Starting work in Facilities has given Greg a sense of purpose and a reason to get up and leave his apartment each day. His tasks include sweeping, mopping, taking out recycling, and helping with general clean-up throughout the building.

“If I didn’t work, I wouldn’t be happy,” Greg says.

Greg takes pride in doing a good job and appreciates the positive feedback he receives from staff. He feels supported and knows his needs are looked after, including having sick days when needed. For Greg, the opportunity to give back to the community where he lives means a great deal.

Looking ahead, Greg hopes to keep working, possibly move into a full-time role, and one day live in a one-bedroom apartment. Above all, he wants to live without ever worrying again about where he’ll call home. 🏠



Greg sitting in the staff office at Strathearne Suites. Outside of work, Greg enjoys reading, visiting his uncle, and watching TV – but he especially likes staying busy. He enjoys the barbecues and games at Indwell and values the sense of normalcy he’s found at Strathearne Suites.

# Introducing Natasha Thuemler

## Leadership for a hope-filled future



We are pleased to announce Natasha Thuemler as Indwell's new Executive Director, leading Indwell into a new chapter within the Indwell Family of Companies: Indwell, Flourish, and Gather. All three organizations are led by CEO Jeff Neven and COO Chris Finkbiner and work collaboratively to advance housing, health, and community wellbeing.

Natasha brings over a decade of leadership at Indwell, most recently as Regional Director for the southwest region. With a master's degree in health administration, she has strengthened key health partnerships and brings the skills and experience needed as Indwell grows to serve more than 2,000 people by 2027. 📌

## A legacy of kindness

### Neighbours helping neighbours at Indwell

The Good Neighbour Series began in Simcoe after a moment of quiet generosity from a tenant named Rose, who lived at Hambleton Hall. One day Rose noticed her neighbour struggling to unlock her apartment door because the key was too small to grip easily.

After seeing an advertisement for a more accessible key option, Rose worked with staff to explore solutions. They connected with another tenant who owned a 3D printer, and together they created a larger custom key for Rose's neighbour that made her daily routine significantly easier.

Rose was adamant that she did not want to receive recognition, with her neighbour never knowing it was her that initiated this thoughtful idea. **That spirit of humility and care inspired the Hambleton Hall staff to create the "Good Neighbour Series," which recognized tenants who support one another and strengthen community life.** Rose was the first tenant featured.

Following Rose's passing last summer, tenants, family, and staff came together for her celebration of life. During that time, they voted to rename the series in her honour. The program is now called "Where Kindness Grows."

At the end of each month, a poster highlights several tenants and their acts of kindness toward neighbours and the wider community. (See September's poster to the right.) While staff observe many of these moments, tenants are also encouraged to share stories that might otherwise go unnoticed.



Where Kindness Grows reflects Rose's legacy and the belief that small, thoughtful actions can shape strong, caring communities. 📌

# 2026 events

## Hope & Homes Celebrations:



St. Thomas | April 30

Waterloo | May, TBA  
Magnolia Apartments

Hamilton | June 2  
Hamilton Convention Centre

Simcoe | July, TBA  
Hambleton Hall

Mississauga | September 24

London | October 15

Woodstock | November 12

Visit [indwell.ca/events](https://indwell.ca/events) for registration details and updates about future Indwell events.



## Expanding the Indwell family

Gather is the newest addition to the Indwell Family of Companies. This new initiative will create and operate quality, affordable homes in welcoming communities for people who are increasingly being priced out of today's rental market. Indwell will continue its focus on supportive housing, while Gather will focus on affordable housing.



Building on Indwell and Flourish's experience, Gather focuses on households earning below Ontario's median income (about \$90,000). That includes single-income households, families, newcomers to Canada, and seniors living on fixed incomes.

By 2030, Gather aims to create 500 new affordable homes across Southern Ontario. These will be safe, light-filled, thoughtfully designed one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments, with shared spaces that help neighbours connect and build community.

Reaching this goal will take strong partnerships with governments, lenders, and community supporters. Access to early capital is especially important, as traditional financing often only becomes available once projects are shovel-ready. 🏗️



You can be part of the solution by investing locally and earning a financial return through Gather Community Bonds. Learn more about this investment opportunity, as well as Gather, at [gatherhousing.ca](https://gatherhousing.ca), and follow Gather on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.



Indwell is a Christian charity that creates deeply affordable housing communities that support people seeking health, wellness, and belonging.

Indwell's communities support over 1,300 tenants in regions across Southern Ontario — with several projects currently in development. Indwell empowers tenants through a variety of supports to achieve health and wellness goals, to positively engage with their communities, and to maintain permanent, safe housing. Indwell's programming has proven effective, with nine out of 10 tenants remaining with Indwell after their first year.



Canadian Centre for  
Christian Charities

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How to give: [indwell.ca/donate](https://indwell.ca/donate)



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Corporate name: Indwell Community Homes  
Charitable registration no. 131295198RR0001