*Carty House is a transitional home and a community for refugee women in Ottawa*

# CARTY HOUSE

SUMMER 2015

## *Summer News from the Coordinators*

On Sunday July 26th, thanks to Jackie Romero, our Program Coordinator, and Katie Rieder, our summer intern, we had a wonderful BBQ that strengthened our bonds with our extended community. We saw many familiar faces, and enjoyed visiting with Lena McFarlane, our past Coordinator, members of our board, volunteers, current and past residents as well as their families. There were many dazzling smiles as we introduced new members of our community to each other and shared in the joy of summer.

Changes are constant at Carty House and these past few months have been busy! In our last newsletter you may remember that we mentioned the unexpected arrival of the daughter of a former resident. We were thrilled to witness the happiness of this beautiful, little girl as she welcomed her Dad to Canada. We have celebrated seven birthdays, welcomed two new residents and bid farewell to four others. We also celebrated a former resident's marriage and look forward to another wedding in August. In more good news, Refugee Determination Hearings have resulted in positive decisions for one of our newer residents and one of our past residents. Three upcoming hearings are scheduled this fall.

In May and June, two Carty House women received certificates (Personal Support Worker and Early Childhood Worker). Four others are in the middle of their studies and many are studying English or French as a Second Language. In an effort to support our residents' health and well being, we now have a yoga class every Saturday morning, and we are busy planning for a trip to Bancroft in August to give them a Canadian outdoor experience.

LASSI World Skills, an organization that assists newcomers to Ottawa, gave a presentation on their programs and services. Attendees learned of the availability of one-on-one counselling on how to enter the job market using skills and experiences acquired in their countries of origin. In order to help our residents with their communication skills, we organized two workshops on storytelling and expression and are planning to restart these in the fall.

We will continue to connect and work with local partners to better serve our residents as they begin a new phase of their lives in Canada.

***Jackie Romero and Glennie-Ruth Allum-Graves***

## *MARK YOUR CALENDARS: September & October Fundraisers!*

### Carty House Fundraising Buffet Dinner

at

The Green Door Restaurant, 198 Main Street

**Monday, September 21, 2015**

5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Tickets: $40.00 per person

($25.00 tax receipt per ticket)

Tickets available at Carty House, Café Qui Pense, the Green Door Restaurant, the Green Door Grocer, and Singing Pebble Books

**Meal** - vegetarian buffet, dessert, tea and coffee, and cash bar offering wine, beer, juice

**Silent Auction** - African art, Ottawa Symphony Orchestra tickets, locally crafted jewelry, handmade quilt, Reiki distance healing sessions and so much more!

### 2015 Ride for Refuge

Carty House will be participating again this year in the Ride for Refuge. This is a family-friendly cycling and walking fundraiser that helps charities and their supporters to raise money for their work with the displaced, vulnerable and exploited.

We encourage you to join or captain a team to raise funds for Carty House by walking 5km or cycling 10km, 25km or 50km on **Saturday October 3rd.**

For more information, please contact Jackie Romero at **613-236-8855** or **office@cartyhouse.org** and visit the website **www.rideforrefuge.org/charity/cartyhouse**

***Thank you for supporting all who are riding or walking to raise funds for Carty House.***

## 2015 Raffle Results

Many thanks to all donors, ticket buyers and sellers who assisted us in raising $3,700 from this year's raffle! These funds will be used for paying Carty House grocery bills.

Don McMaster was the lucky winner of the first prize in this year's raffle - four round-trip Via Rail tickets for the Ottawa to Windsor corridor. Mr. McMaster was delighted with the news of his prize, as he and his wife love travelling and will take this opportunity to explore southern Ontario.

Congratulations to all other winners**:** Sheila Foy Connolly, Herman De Souza, David Pollock, Laine Nesbitt Brown, Carmel Horan, Karen Fee and Rachel Plouffe.

We look forward to seeing you all at our next fundraiser on September 21, 2015 (please see page 1 for more details).

## *Meet Katie Rieder, Our Summer Intern*

We are pleased to have with us an enthusiastic and dedicated intern from Wisconsin, USA who is completing an undergrad degree in Global Studies and Political Science. She will graduate at the end of her internship here at Carty House. In Wisconsin, Katie worked for a refugee resettlement organization that assists primarily Burmese newcomers. She finds her time at Carty House incredibly informative as she learns about the Canadian Immigration system and the residential approach to integration.

Katie enjoys being at the house, both as an intern and as a resident, and is looking forward to exploring Ottawa and the rest of Ontario while she is in Canada.

We thank Katie for choosing to do her compulsory international placement at Carty House.

## *'Volunteering at Carty House was Truly a Great Experience'*

Last summer, I started volunteering by working one-on-one with a resident of the house who was seeking employment. To assist in her efforts, I helped her edit her resume and prepare for interview questions. After she gained employment, we continued to meet on a regular basis to help improve her English speaking ability. At this time, I was also a member of Carty House's fundraising committee where I got the chance to work on a team with amazing individuals. At the start of the New Year, I was also given the opportunity to take over as Chair of the fundraising committee.

Although I am excited to be starting law school in the fall, I am also sad that I will be moving so far away from Carty House and all the great people that come with it. It was a privilege to work with such an exceptional group of individuals - the courageous residents, dedicated volunteers, and caring staff. As Walt Disney once said, "You can design and create, and build the most wonderful place in the world. But it takes people to make the dream a reality".

***Priya Chopra***

**Carty House**
**PO Box 4758 Station E, Ottawa, ONTARIO**
**613-236-8855**
**office@cartyhouse.org**
**Please donate to Carty House by mail or online at**
***www.CanadaHelps.org***

***Visit us at: www.cartyhouse.org***

@CartyHouse

Find us on Facebook

MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN BE UNITED

CanadaHelps.org Giving made simple.