Summer 2023

# Carty House Chronicle

A First Home & Helping Hand for Female Refugees in Ottawa

## Carty House Happenings

- We are continuing to build a new relationship with the City of Ottawa and its homelessness prevention programs.
- We have helped with move-outs and setting up new permeant housing for residents. Always exciting.
- We have helped residents set up banking and offered financial literacy as well as tax service guidance.
- We have been helping with job searches, educational registrations and securing volunteer opportunities for residents.
- We have been assisting with applications for permanent residency, as well as Canadian citizenship applications for past residents.
- We have been busy scheduling medical, dental, and eye appointments.
- We have upgraded our own internet capacity due to more residents attending classes and working online.
- Resident lockers have been completed in the basement to allow residents to acquire household items for when they move out into more permanent housing (see page 2).
- We sponsored a fun Gal-entines event as well as a landscape painting workshop.
- The residents celebrated a lovely Easter dinner together.
- We had an outing with residents to an African food store.
- We have re-established our partnership with the YMCA for our residents.
- We have secured a new back-up volunteer grocery shopper. Go Team Carty House!

**All this happens because of your generosity.**

THANK YOU!

**The 2022 Carty House Annual Report and 2022 Financial Statements will be available on our website closer to the meeting.*

## Women's Day Panel

The Refugee Support Association (RSA), a student club at UOttawa, has been a support to Carty House from their inception. We are so grateful for their support! Each year they host a panel discussion in honour of International Women's Day on Contemporary Refugee Issues and the Refugee Experience. Ticket proceeds went to Carty House. Thank you to the RSA and all the student leaders!

(L to R) Panelist Pamela Walker, Carleton U, Prof of History, student organizer Ilira Mucaj, panelist Louise Ebeltoft, Carty House Manager of Operations and Refugee Services, and panelist Justine Nkurunziza, past resident of Carty House.

# Meet our new Volunteer Coordinator SUE-ANNE HESS!

As mentioned later in this edition, a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation is allowing us to rebuild our volunteer program that was decimated during the pandemic. Volunteers are the bedrock of Carty House and we are so excited to welcome returning faces as well as new ones!
Go Team Carty House!

**Tell us a bit about yourself**
I was born in Australia, and first came to Canada in 2003. I have travelled back and forth since then, always with the goal of making Canada my permanent home (soon, I hope!). I've been active in the church since I was a teenager and have participated in lots of projects both here, and and overseas. I have recently completed a masters' degree at St Paul University in Transformative Leadership and Spirituality, and one of the topics I explored was women's leadership.

**What inspires you about coordinating volunteers?**
Volunteers have such a wonderful energy and generosity. It's a joy to be able to bring people into a community space where they can be welcomed and appreciated while serving others. It's such rewarding work!

**What inspires you about the mission of Carty House?**
As a fellow immigrant, I have some understanding of how difficult it is to move to a new place where there is so much unknown and unfamiliar. I think it's so important to support women during times of transition, both emotionally and practically. For myself, I am so grateful to have the opportunity to be here in Canada, and I want to be able to extend that welcome to others.

**Anything else you want to share?**
Well, my two favourite things (after dancing and cycling) are coffee and conversation. Carty House has really impressed me so far, and I'm excited about getting to know the community better.

## Carty House Volunteer Highlight

### Sam-The-Man

My daughter lives in the neighbourhood and had heard about Carty House. I had just been telling her how fortunate I had been to have the life I had, and wanted to give back. She let me know about Carty House.

I have done a variety of jobs around the House, but one of my favourites, even though very challenging, was redoing the front walkways with new pavers. I also enjoy carpentry so the basement storage closets were good to do. I also enjoy plumbing, so hopefully bathroom renos are in my future!

I have come to know and appreciate the residents. They are all always very pleasant to be with and to work with when an extra pair of hands is needed. But I am especially impressed with Louise, the Manager of Carty House who works closely and diligently guiding these women into a new life, a Canadian life.

**Sam built us storage lockers for the residents!**

**Now they can more easily begin to gather what they'll need when they secure permanent housing!**

**Thanks Sam!**

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## BIG NEWS!

Over the winter, we shared that Carty House received a Capital Grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to upgrade our amazing home with new painting, carpet, windows, and desks for the residents. Check out the work so far! Looking good!

## MORE BIG NEWS!

We have also received an OTF Resilient Communities Grant that enabled us to hire a Volunteer Coordinator (see page 2!), provide multi-year financial and fundraising planning, as well as some needed Board and Staff professional development. COVID-19 taught us a lot and we are so appreciative for these supports to enable us to build resilience and to move forward with a firm post-pandemic foundation.

Since 1982, OTF has invested in people, communities, and equitable opportunities for all – supporting local organizations as they deliver essential programs and services to Ontarians.

### Capital Rainbow Refuge

Last month we received a request from Capital Rainbow Refuge for personal items for a last-minute refugee arrival. We were delighted to help by providing a welcome bag from Carty House! Building bridges and partnerships throughout the city is what we are about! Welcome newcomer!

## Carty House Board Highlight

### JULIANNA CODERRE

When a board member told me about Carty House, I was keen to learn more. I was looking to serve on a board dealing with affordable housing and women's issues. Safe, affordable housing is so critical to the well-being of women in our community, especially our most vulnerable.

I'm also passionate about supporting newcomers to establish their new life here and to experience the safety and freedom I've enjoyed growing up in Canada. Carty House was a perfect fit, offering a much needed refuge for women who have fled to Canada.

I'm just finishing up my first year on the board here and am always humbled and inspired by the residents' stories, and by the staff and volunteers who care deeply for the women they serve. It's been a privilege to be a part of this amazing charity and I look forward to seeing Carty House continue to grow and blossom in the next several years.

**So many of us are itching to get out and about, get active, get engaged again. You choose the event and invite others to participate! Take a step to invite others to show they care. Contact Michelle at Carty House to chat more about your peer-to-peer idea!**

make it monthly

We are up to 34 generous monthly donors
who form the **Circle of Hope.**
They contributed over $14K in 2022!
It makes SUCH a difference to be able to budget and count on your monthly support to serve our vulnerable residents!

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## A First Home & Helping Hand for Female Refugees in Ottawa

OUR VISION
A welcoming community where all refugee women have access to a safe and stable home.

OUR MISSION
Carty House provides a first home and a helping hand to refugee women in need in the Ottawa area. We assist them in pursuing their claims and adjusting to their new life on arrival to Canada through the provision of accommodation, as well as through material, financial and psychological support.

## Thank you for your support!

## WAYS TO DONATE

Website at
CartyHouse.org/donate
(credit card/PayPal/GooglePay/Apple Pay/

E-Transfer to
Office@CartyHouse.org

Mail to
PO Box 4758 Stn.E.,
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Scan w/ phone camera!

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