

# HOUSING SERVICES

## Housing Advocacy and Assistance Program

This program is designed for individuals and families who are seeking affordable housing options in the Toronto and GTA private rental market. Housing Workers will also work with individuals who are seeking to apply for subsidized housing, and housing that suits individual needs (i.e., supportive housing, seniors' housing, accessible housing, etc.). The Housing Advocacy and Assistance Program also engage in housing stabilization; i.e., supporting those individuals and families who are currently housed but are facing tenant-related issues such as eviction.

The Housing Advocacy and Assistance Program maintains a working compendium of market-rent vacancy listings for permanent rental units; including rooms, bachelor apartments, one, two, and three-bedroom apartments, townhouses, and detached homes. The Housing Workers also focus on developing strong working relationships with landlords who are socially conscious and supportive of the need for safe and affordable housing in Toronto and the GTA.

The Housing Advocacy and Assistance Program provides a supportive working space for individuals and families who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness to sort through housing issues with which they are facing. Some of the advocacy casework services that the Housing Advocacy Program offers to the community include:

- Ensuring access to emergency shelters in crisis situations
- Assisting individuals in completing housing applications
- Assisting individuals in searching for private rental market units
- Facilitating appointments with landlords for unit viewings
- Providing TTC transportation for unit viewings
- Connecting individuals with community resources including the Furniture Bank
- Advising on income support programs including Rent Bank loans and other government benefits
- Providing post-occupancy follow-up services to ensure stable housing conditions
- Educating and providing resources concerning tenants' rights and responsibilities in Ontario
- Assisting with eviction prevention and landlord/tenant mediation.

## Genesis Place\* Homes Alternative Housing

Genesis Place offers alternative, affordable, supportive housing for people who are hard to place and have experienced homelessness, abuse, poverty and/or trauma. Rent is geared to income.

Unfortunately, there is currently a waiting list for applicants to Genesis Place.

Genesis Place provides:

- 26 private units, including bachelor, one-bedroom and two-bedroom suites
- Encouragement to pursue an independent lifestyle, with staff assisting tenants in development of life skills, such as problem-solving, conflict resolution, budgeting, parenting and job searches

- Encouragement to participate in the community life of Genesis Place through shared social events and round-table discussions
- Support services, such as conflict mediations, community development, crisis intervention, and referrals for income support, employment and health care.

*\*YSM Genesis Pace has an internal waitlist in accordance with the City Guidelines. Applicants will need to contact the housing worker for the application process*

## **Other housing options available**

### **Housing referral partnership: 40 Oak Street**

YSM has developed a referral partnership agreement for 5 bachelor units that will be allocated to Yonge Street Mission (YSM), with this agreement YSM will provide support services include conflict mediation, community development, crisis intervention, referrals regarding income supports, employment and health care assistance, assistance with budgeting, homemaking, community living and personal care to individuals who are either homeless or inadequately housed including those of low and moderate income.

Applicants will be placed on YSM's internal referral housing waitlist

### **Evergreen Housing**

Evergreen's housing assistance exists to provide Evergreen youth with basic assistance in finding shelter either short or long term. The housing worker will see between 10 and 20 youth in a day and provide: tokens, referrals, information, apartment lists, advice and individual support to the youth.