

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).

YSM's 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. Our 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 support 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 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, medium level supportive housing for people who are homeless, at risk of being homeless or inadequately housed, or are fleeing abuse. Units within Genesis Place are subsidized; rent is geared to income. Genesis Place provides:

- 26 private units, including bachelor, one-bedroom and two-bedroom suites
- Encouragement to pursue an independent lifestyle, with staff providing a medium level of support to tenants. Support services include conflict mediation, crisis intervention, and assistance with budgeting referrals regarding income supports, employment and health care assistance, community living and personal care assistance.

- Encouragement to participate in the community life of Genesis Place through shared social events and round-table discussions

**At this time, all units within Genesis Place Homes Inc. are occupied and there is a waiting list in accordance with the City of Toronto 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 with Houselink for 5 bachelor units at 40 Oak Street. All 5 bachelor units are subsidized units (rent geared to income) and are eligible for those who are homeless, at risk of being homeless or inadequately housed. With this agreement YSM will provide support services including conflict mediation, crisis intervention, and assistance with budgeting referrals regarding income supports, employment and health care assistance, community living and personal care assistance.

Applicants for a unit at 40 Oak Street will be placed on YSM's internal referral housing waitlist.

Evergreen Housing Services

Evergreen Housing Services exists to help end chronic poverty in the GTA. We do this by advocating for our Community Members finding Shelters, Rooms, Bachelors, One, Two, and three bedroom apartments and more. Either of these can be short/long term goals a work in progress. The Housing Worker will see between 10 and 20 youth in a day advocating on their behalf by assisting with the following:

- Referrals
- Applications
- Meeting with OW, ODSP workers
- Housing Allowance/TTHAP
- TCHC Intake & Updates