

# Inside BRUCE HOUSE

More Than a House

[www.brucehouse.org](http://www.brucehouse.org)



# BRUCE HOUSE

25 years



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## A Message from our Executive Director

Five years ago in this column I noted that in November of 1988 the AIDS Housing Group of Ottawa first opened the doors to the 'house' on Arlington with the purpose to help people living with HIV/AIDS live, and die, with dignity. Today, on the eve of our 25th anniversary, Bruce House remains committed to not only offering a place to live but a place to call home, full of hope for the best possible quality of life. Many changes have occurred over the past several years, but the original purpose for Bruce House has never been forgotten, and today we are still faithful to that purpose.

Thirteen years ago I passionately pursued the opportunity to work for this incredible organization, knowing that Bruce House was uniquely positioned to be a leader in the support of people living with HIV/AIDS. Over these past thirteen years the mission of Bruce House; the people we have helped to live and those we have helped to die with love, compassion and dignity; the dedicated people who staff the agency; the countless people who have

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**“The goodness of people is at the centre of all that we are and all that we do.”**

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volunteered over the years and the ongoing support of individuals and community who have given so generously to sustain our efforts are all instrumental in why today I remain so energized and determined in my work. Having spent more than a quarter of my working life at Bruce House - which is more than half of the life span of Bruce House - I cannot recall ever being as proud of any job as I am of this one.

Over the past years I have observed that our core strength lies in our people. Whether it is the person looking to Bruce House for help, the incredible selflessness of staff, the heart and soul of our volunteers or the generosity and caring of individuals and community, the goodness of people is at the centre of all that we are and all that we do.

I am still astonished at how Bruce House remains one of a handful of organi-



zations in North America that has retained such a team of dedicated and skilled staff members. In this era where a life-long career with one job is an anomaly, my 13 years pales in significance to the number of years of some of my colleagues. This retention rate is most notable in our frontline staff. Given our knowledge that changes in support personnel can be a stressor exacerbating the physical and mental health outcomes of people living with HIV, this has contributed to the quality of life of the people we serve.

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**“Bruce House has had a profound impact in Canada as leaders in the field of HIV and housing.”**

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Two years ago, we publically recognized Richard Naster, Team Leader of our Transition House, for his 20 years of full-time service to Bruce House. Full-time caregiver Linda Carr is approaching her 15th year as a full-time caregiver, in addition Bruce Miller and Jay Veerappah

**cont'd on page 3**



are both approaching their 13th year of full-time status and Sandra (Sam) Taylor achieved full-time status in 2010. All began as volunteers and/or part-time casual relief staff for several years prior to full-time status.

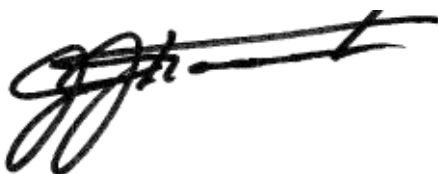
In this newsletter, one of our longest serving staff members, Doug Cooper, is recognized for his more than 20 years of work with Bruce House clients - I invite you to read about his contributions and dedication in this issue (see page 5).

Given this history, it is no coincidence that this little agency called Bruce House has had a profound impact in Canada as leaders in the field of HIV and housing. With the combined knowledge, wisdom, and skills of our long serving-staff it is no surprise that we have grown from the little agency that "can" to the little agency that "does".

As you read this, Bruce House is still working hard and quietly to continue offering the best in transitional and supportive housing; has already marked our 25th year presence during Capital Pride where I was incredibly honoured to be appointed Grand Marshall of the 2013 parade; has worked hard to lead Ottawa agencies in the upcoming September 14th Scotiabank AIDS Walk For Life and prepared for our September 30th AGM all leading up to our 25th anniversary date of November 28.

In closing I would be remiss in not thanking you, who have been so generous in your support of Bruce House over the past 25 years both in your donation of time, caring and your financial contributions. We will continue to earn your respect, trust and support as we move forward in our common goal of eradicating HIV/AIDS in our lifetime.

Thank you and with much respect,



J.J. (Jay) Koornstra, Executive Director.

# Introducing our Newest Team Member

## Bruce House Welcomes Lorraine Kelly

J.J. (JAY) KOORNSTRA,  
EXECUTIVE-DIRECTOR

In the spring issue of Inside Bruce House we announced the departure of Jennifer Bruce who is starting a new chapter in her life, and with husband Andre moved to Frankfurt, Germany. After slightly re-tooling the job responsibilities and title, we set off to recruit a new person to be our Office and Financial Administrator. In April, after an arduous hiring process, we achieved what we thought would be a Herculean task when Lorraine Kelly agreed to take on this pivotal role.

Lorraine Kelly arrived at Bruce House with a long history and sound skills in financial management within the not-for-profit sector. And she arrived at a most critical time. Just days before our biggest fundraising event of the year (A Taste for Life) and literally a few weeks before the start of our annual audit, Lorraine went straight to work and soon demonstrated that we had selected a remarkable person for the position. She dove into the deep end and miraculously not only kept afloat but showed us very quickly how well she could swim in the swift moving waters of our every day operations. In fact, on her second day Lorraine quickly stepped in when a



volunteer had to withdraw from hosting at one of the A Taste for Life restaurant venues. With the dust not yet settling afterwards, she was then immediately thrust into working with the auditors in providing the financial documentation, files and accounting data to complete our annual audit.

Her vivacious energy and positive nature melded well with other team members and her productivity excelled within the fast paced demands of the organization and our clients' needs. There is an old adage that suggests one of the most critical and vital decisions an employer can make is to hire the right person for the right job. And with Lorraine, this was more than accomplished.

Please join me in welcoming Lorraine to our team! •

### Please join us for the Bruce House Annual General Meeting

Monday September 30, 2013 7:00pm  
Registration at 6:30pm

Dominion Chalmers United  
Church. 355 Cooper Street  
(at O'Connor)

Please note that you must be a member in good standing thirty days before the AGM in order to vote.

For RSVP or membership contact Lorraine at admin@brucehouse.org or 613-729-0911 xt. 21



# Looking Back, Moving Ahead:

## 25 years of hope, housing and compassionate care

For 25 years Bruce House has been More than a House. It has been a shelter from the storm of AIDS, and a foundation for support, independence and healing.

*In the beginning, there was a house, and it belonged to Janet Bruce. She had bought it with an inheritance, and she had a plan. Having witnessed the tragic fallout of mental illness in her own family, she wanted to take action.* And that she did.

In 1988 Janet received a phone call from Dan O'Leary and heard about the AIDS Housing Group - which later adopted the name of Bruce House in Janet's honour - an offshoot of the AIDS Committee of Ottawa. He explained that they had been looking to rent a house for over a year, but no property owners were willing to rent to them due to the fear of AIDS.

*They walked into my little house, and said, "It's perfect!"* In September 1988 the 'perfect' little house became home and shelter for those with AIDS. This little house was the start of some-

thing HUGE, and 25 years later has changed the landscape in Ottawa for those affected by HIV/AIDS.

The Bruce House transition house is now located in Westboro, and continues to provide round-the-clock care by loving and devoted staff, some of whom have remained with Bruce House for over two decades. Our original house on Arlington has become part of our apartment program and houses a family of five. Bruce House did not expect the need to help would increase, but it did and today there remains a waiting list of over 200 people to enter the Apartment program. There is still much work to be done, and we remain diligent in our mission to provide the opportunity to have a home and to have hope.

Ottawa, we are humbled and honoured to be a part of such a caring and generous community. Thank you for helping to make Ottawa such an outstanding and dedicated leader for so many who have relied on your help. Bruce House is tremendously grateful. •

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*"What began in 1988 as simply a wish to provide a comfortable home for a few people in need has now become, twenty five years later, a well-established, non-profit organization serving the citizens of our community.*

*Looking back now to that small house on Arlington Avenue, it feels insignificant; there were only three bedrooms after all, and the need was so great. But perhaps what mattered most way back then in the scary days of the eighties, was that it was a start, a beginning and the first step towards what has grown into an enterprise that offers a wide variety of services that contribute to the comfort and well-being of all."*

*Janet Bruce*

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*"The time that I spent working at Bruce House was very special and important to me. As the Coordinator of Volunteer Services I learned the value and kindness of those that gave their gift of time to others. I was often touched by the simple things that were done for others and the results that happened due to that simple gesture.*

*After my retirement from Bruce House my husband Jacques and I continued in the Bruce House spirit and implemented 2 major events while living in Puerto Vallarta Mexico. We were instrumental in establishing the first Walk for Life in Puerto Vallarta and a Red Ribbon dinner to help raise funds for 3 gay organizations. Thru those volunteers experiences in Mexico I felt that the spirit of Bruce House continued and grew into 2 annual fundraising events that help to educate and support those living with HIV/AIDS. It is because of my time at Bruce House that we were able to continue the work and example of helping others thru our gift of time and volunteer talents.*

*Happy Anniversary and congratulations to all of you for the good work you do in the name of others."*

*Craig Hinman and  
Jacques Bourguignon*



Transition House as it is today, featuring the expansion

# Doug Cooper

## Supporting our clients for over 20 years



**In the world of AIDS Service Organisations (ASO) it often seems that “senior staff” refers to anyone working at an agency for more than a few months. In this context the dedication, passion, and stamina of those whose work is measured in decades is truly remarkable.**

In this issue of Inside Bruce House we are privileged to recognise Doug Cooper’s 20th anniversary as a full-time front-line staff member. Working diligently in the background with little fanfare but with a great deal of impact, Doug is one of the heroes of the ASO sector.

Currently Team Leader of our Supportive Independent Living Program (aka “the apartment program”), Doug was the first staff person dedicated to this service when it was first launched in 1992. A year later Doug was appointed as full time caregiver, and under Doug’s guidance this program grew from providing permanent supportive housing for a handful of households to now supporting close to 40 households. This program is unique in its ability to provide supportive housing and services to a variety of housing units located in multiple locations throughout Ottawa.

### The Cooper Effect – 20 years later

*Richard Naster,  
Team Leader – Transition House*

Bruce House itself was always meant to be a transition house - between homelessness and housed, illness and wellness - but even though we spoke determinately of people living with HIV, and we have seen this belief come to fruition, in the early 1990s, at the height of the epidemic, it seemed that our brothers and sisters were dying at a truly horrifying rate. It was during this desperate time that a young ginger-headed Doug Cooper came to Bruce House. He was the friend of a guy I had recently hired as a caregiver. Bright and eager, he had some experience in social services and seemed committed to the tasks at hand.

I have always contended that we could teach workers the nuts and bolts of caregiving but not a bit about the open heart and mind crucial to do this work. In those days, burn-out was standard fare, the pay was abysmal and the stress extraordinary. Staff changed rapidly but Doug stayed on. And on. From a part-time caregiver to a full-time worker, he became the leader of the apartment program when we moved from the original Centretown house to Westboro.

For 20 years now he has managed that program, dramatically increasing the stock of apartments and creating safe, affordable places for our clients and their families to live, grow and flourish. He has from day one been a constant blessing to our agency and to the HIV community at large.

Thanks, amigo, for all you have done.

### Consistent calm, level-headed support

*Lana Duss, Housing Support  
Worker*

Doug is a person who can be consistently counted on to support our clients and give them advice or guidance; always with their best interest at heart. Some people in our supportive independent living program have little or no sympathetic relationships, which can make life very challenging. Clients are comfortable with Doug because they feel they can talk to him without being judged when something in their

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**“They see a calm and level-headed person in the midst of an often chaotic social world.”**

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life doesn’t go as planned. They see a calm and level-headed person in the midst of an often chaotic social world.

As a member of the supportive independent living team, it is reassuring to see leadership that is well balanced in meeting client needs with the resources we have. Doug has helped us create some excellent new programming for our clients, in collaboration with other Bruce House staff and supporters. We are fortunate to have someone like Doug on our team who is both very knowledgeable of housing issues and has an incredible amount of compassion for those who find themselves in difficult situations. •



# Walk. Run. Connect. Reflect.

## Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life blossoms into community celebration

Thanks to you - our supporters, fundraisers, and volunteers - last year's event drew hundreds of participants and raised almost \$75,000 - money used by the seven partner agencies to provide life-changing services to people affected by HIV/AIDS in our community.

There are many ways for you to get involved this year, including a new 5km and 10km run. Join us in making the Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life Ottawa a bigger success than ever!

### Walk!

The heart of the event remains the Walk. As in previous years you can join a team or walk individually, collect pledges, and show your support for the agency of your choice. Register through our web site ([AIDSWalkOttawa.ca](http://AIDSWalkOttawa.ca)) and you can be collecting pledges in minutes. New this year is Facebook integration, allowing you to reach out to all your friends from your Facebook timeline.

### Run!

The Ruby Ribbon Run, sponsored by the Running Room, offers three different races for participants. The 1K Fun Run will take place around City Hall, while the 5K and 10K timed runs will provide an opportunity to challenge yourself and feel great about who you will be supporting. With the Army Run the following weekend this is an awesome opportunity to get a good timed practice in. You can register at the Running Room's website, <http://is.gd/1qtdgi>.

### Connect!

This year the Community Fair is all about YOU! Starting at 3:30 and running until 7pm, you will find: food vendors; kids' entertainment; music; and tables from community groups, agencies, and businesses. Located inside city hall this is your chance to celebrate your accomplishments, reconnect, share some



Ne restez pas planté là

Don't just stand there

warmth and enjoy some amazing food and fun.

### Reflect!

Interactive "Why are you Walking?" wall, two panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, and a pause for reflection at the Human Rights Memorial invite you to remember those who have gone before us. It is also a moment to reflect on the enormous advances we've made in the past decades, and a chance to aspire to building a more engaged and committed community in Ottawa.

Whether you plan to walk, run, connect, reflect, or all of the above the 2013 Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life will bring the community together in honour of your support, our work, losses, and achievements as we continue our fight against AIDS. •

## Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life

Sept. 14 - Ottawa City Hall

Community Fair 3:30pm-7:00pm.

Run check-in 3:30pm-5:00pm;  
run starts at 5:30pm.

Walk check-in 4:30pm - 6:30pm;  
walk starts at 7:00pm.

## Partner Agencies

Funds raised at the Walk support HIV/AIDS programming at the following local agencies:

Bruce House (lead agency)  
AIDS Committee of Ottawa  
Pink Triangle Services  
Planned Parenthood Ottawa  
Snowy Owl AIDS Foundation  
Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health  
Youth Services Bureau



Even our youngest supporter can join in the fun with our 1km family run!

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# Community Support Embraces Bruce House

Over the last few months Bruce House has been wrapped in quilts, swirling and twirling, dancing on Bank and tasting Ottawa's finest food. We have been embraced by a community that has supported our work with events all over the city.

After wrapping up a highly successful A Taste for Life we headed off to the Ernst and Young Centre on May 7th as a beneficiary of Bon Appetit. This outstanding foodie evening raised tens of thousands of dollars for over 20 charities in the city. Armed with enthusiastic volunteers we were greeted by the organizers, restaurants and local breweries and wineries. Everyone participating, including the attendees is there to taste Ottawa's best and support grass-roots charities. We are so thankful to be a part of this evening and honoured to receive its generosity year after year.

The month of May continued to be a whirlwind of activity. We were invited to be part of Swirl and Twirl on May 31st that raised over \$10,000 for four charities. Organized by volunteers for over a decade, this evening showcases each charity and invites the hundreds of attendees to enjoy an evening at City Hall that never disappoints the palate. We thank the volunteers from Bruce House who graciously helped at the event, and Swirl and Twirl for honouring our 25th anniversary with proceeds from the evening.

Ben Gunter, owner of the Shoppers Drug Mart on Bank and Gladstone, threw a great BBQ on June 1st with all proceeds going to Bruce House. We had an afternoon of



Eileen, Murray, and Carmel volunteering at the Shoppers Drug Mart BBQ



Gustavo and Richard at Share The Warmth

music by DJ Ashley, professionally flipped burgers by our incredible volunteer, Murray Lavigne (who jumps in to help us at every opportunity) and a party on Bank that made for smiling faces and full stomachs. Over the past two years over \$1500 has been raised. Our thanks to Ben and his staff for a seamless party, and for being such a foundation of community support.

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**“We have been embraced by a community that has supported our work with events all over the city.”**

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The evening of June 7th was one of remembrance and celebration. Share the Warmth, our first fundraiser for the quilt program – a collaborative venture with ACO – was a huge success. Trattoria Caffé Italia hosted the evening that saw 75 attendees enjoy fine food, laughter and the beautiful quilts completed by the Stitch-Wits in memory of our darling, Davis Colbeck. Over \$2000 was raised towards the quilting program through the auction of 11 quilts. Topping off the evening, and it would be remiss of us not to mention, was the sensational musical talent of Richard and Gustavo. They tore down the house with a musical duet of harmonica, voice and guitar that will not soon be forgotten. Thank you to organizer, and lead Stitch-Wit Lois Smith, who was instrumental in making this evening a reality.

As we begin to celebrate our 25th anniversary we extend our gratitude to the organizers of these wonderful events, and look forward to many more.

*If you are interested in raising money for Bruce House through a special occasion, please don't hesitate to contact us. We can provide you with any support you may need. Contact [Jill@brucehouse.org](mailto:Jill@brucehouse.org) anytime! •*

Walk. Run, cont'd from page 6

## The Ruby Ribbon Run is a new initiative to rejuvenating the Ruby Ribbon Circle.

We are so grateful to the Ruby Ribbon supporters whose generosity has been key in covering much of the extraneous costs for the Walk. These supporters will be invited back again this year to sponsor the Ruby Ribbon Run, and have their businesses, names, or agencies advertised at key spots along the Run routes.

This exciting direction offers new opportunities for AIDS Walk supporters – like you – to support Ruby Ribbon, with the eventual goal of underwriting all costs of the Walk. Register to run today! •

<http://is.gd/1qtdgi>

# Stem Cell Transplants: Cure for HIV... or not?

It was recently reported by mainstream media that two HIV-positive men who underwent bone marrow transplants are now free of HIV. With headlines in the Windsor Star on July 3, 2013: “Men with bone marrow transplants now free of HIV” and as reported in the Ottawa Sun: “Stem-cell therapy wipes out HIV in two patients”. These headlines, regrettably, lead many people to believe a cure for HIV exists.

There still is no cure, and HIV is still affecting the lives of millions of people around the world.

We are aware that among the general population the belief that HIV is curable and not a major concern is a rapidly growing phenomenon. Headlines suggesting a cure has been found or is just around the corner may be a contributing factor to why new infections are still on the rise thirty years after the first reported cases of this disease hit the media in North America.

These news articles were prompted by findings presented at the 7th annual International AIDS Society Conference in Kuala Lumpur where researchers at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston reported they had treated three HIV-positive men for lymphoma (a blood cancer) with reduced-intensity chemotherapy followed by stem cell transplants. The preliminary results from the trial reported one of the three men died

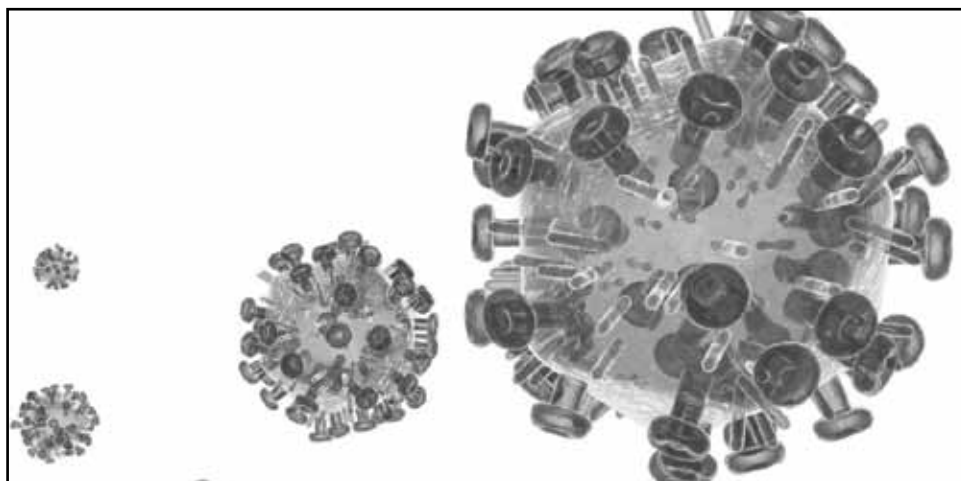
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**“The transplant these men received is not a feasible route to a cure... as the procedures are highly risky and have a mortality rate of 15 to 20 percent.”**

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of lymphoma; the other two later stopped taking their HIV antiretrovirals (ARVs) and neither of them has any sign of the virus.

It is important to note that one of the men was treated five years ago and the other underwent his stem-cell transplant



Representation of HIV virus

two years ago. However, both patients had been on long-term drug therapy to control their HIV, and even so, continued taking their antiretroviral medications for a time after the transplants. While it is too early to say for sure that the virus has disappeared from their bodies altogether, one patient has now been off antiretroviral drug treatment for 15 weeks and the other for only seven weeks.

The Harvard University researchers stressed it was too early to say the men have been cured, but said it was an encouraging sign that the virus hasn’t rebounded in their blood months after drug treatment ended. They went on to say, “Only time will tell.” The HIV virus may be hiding in other organs such as the liver, spleen or brain and could return months later.

Further testing of the men’s cells, plasma and tissue for at least a year will help give a clearer picture on the full impact of the transplant on HIV persistence because the virus may be hiding out in ‘reservoirs’ — parts of the men’s bodies, such as their brain or gut, which can harbour the virus for decades.

Further, the transplant these men received is not a feasible route to a cure for anyone who does not otherwise require one to treat cancer, as the procedures are highly risky and have a mortality rate of 15 to 20 percent.

“These findings clearly provide important new information that might well

alter the current thinking about HIV and gene therapy,” said Kevin Robert Frost, CEO of amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research, which sponsored the research team over the past year in their effort to remove the men from ARVs. “While stem-cell transplantation is not a viable option for people with HIV on a broad scale because of its costs and complexity, these new cases could lead us to new approaches to treating, and ultimately even eradicating, HIV.”

It still may be a long way off before there is a viable cure option for most patients, but research such as this can teach us important lessons that may lead to a cure in our lifetime.

And until such time, we at Bruce House will continue to do our share in the fight against HIV/AIDS – which sometimes includes clearing up misconceptions about recent headlines. •

*“Is this scientifically interesting? Absolutely. Does it help us in research towards developing an HIV cure? Yes. But is it particularly useful for patients currently infected with HIV? Not at all.”*

*Dr. Steve Taylor, Birmingham Heartlands Hospital (as quoted in the Huffington Post)*



# Thousands help celebrate the 15th annual A Taste for Life

The celebration of 15 years of A Taste for Life did not disappoint. Not only did we have a record number of restaurants this year—48 in total—thousands of people came out to support the event. The seed of an idea, planted in 1999, has blossomed into an evening in April that brings an outpouring of generosity and community support so outstanding it is hard to put our thanks into words.

Our Anniversary celebrations started a week before the Taste evening with a filled-to-the-brim launch at Urban Element. Guests were treated to culinary delights from Main Street Cellar, New Generation Sushi, Taylor's Genuine Kitchen, Il Primo and our illustrious Taste spokes-chef Steph "the Grilling Gourmet". Complementing the delicious food was the premier of Daniel Lenko's Chadonngay wine, and delicious tastings of Big Rig's fine brew. Mayor Watson joined the happy crowd, offering his support of A Taste for Life and honouring the 15 year achievement with a plaque commemorating the evolution of the event.

Seven new restaurants joined Taste this year, and we celebrated three who have supported us over the last 15 years: thanks to Les Fougères, Zola's and Trattoria Caffé Italia who jumped on board in 1999 with generous hearts and have been tremendous leaders. The generosity of the restaurant community in Ottawa is unparalleled, and their support is a critical part in helping us help others through supportive housing, hope and compassionate care.

A Taste for Life is a bonding experience in the Ottawa community. It is a gathering of thousands of people who unite for one night to help strengthen their community. We look forward to April 23rd, 2014 with grateful hearts and the knowledge that we are surrounded by a remarkable community. Thanks to your continued support and enthusiasm the 16th annual A Taste for Life is sure to be a 'sweet and savory' night to remember. •

*Celebrate our Taste restaurants year round at [www.atasteforlife.org](http://www.atasteforlife.org) ; on Twitter @atasteforlifeot and on our A Taste for Life Ottawa Facebook page <http://is.gd/nvpfaz>*



Jill Woodley with chefs at the Taste launch event



Kim Burns (owner) and staff at Main Street Cellar



L-R J. Koornstra, Mark Giberson, Mayor Jim Watson, Lise Turpin

# Bruce House—25 years and counting; what's on the horizon?

**Bruce House is celebrating a major milestone this fall. For 25 years it's been providing people living with HIV/AIDS a place to call home, and the kind of compassionate care that brings dignity to their lives and comfort to their families, friends and loved ones.**

When organizations pass milestones such as this one, it's natural for them to pause; take stock of where they've been and what they've done; and to reflect on where they're going and how they intend to get there.

A dear friend of mine spent the last two weeks of his life at Bruce House. That was my introduction to this remarkable place. Visiting my friend over the course of those two weeks, I got to know members of the Bruce House family—the caregivers whose kindness and humanity helped to transform a tragically sad time into something that was also gentle and sweet. The effect on my friend's mom was profound. How different her memories would have been had her son ended his life in a sterile hospital room.

That's why I volunteered for the Bruce House board of directors. And, for the last six years, I, too, have considered myself a member of the Bruce House family.

I've had the good fortune to serve on the board with some wonderful people—talented, caring, and in many cases, inspired individuals who give freely of their time in order to make a difference.

Unlike members of the Bruce House staff and frontline volunteers whose good works are very much 'out there' for all to see, board members tend to spend their time and energy attending to organizational apparatus—things that are far less public, far less obvious, but no less important.

There are lots of examples of organizations whose boards of directors are asleep at the wheel, fractured and dysfunctional or simply disengaged. Eventually, those organizations fail.

But, given the current crop on the Bruce House board, that's not likely to happen to our organization anytime soon.

The Bruce House board—and Bruce House the organization—turned an important corner in March 2010, when the board adopted a five-year strategic plan. The plan wasn't some meaningless, pro-forma exercise. It flowed out probing, and thought-provoking discussions with clients, staff and allied organizations. It includes real timelines, and real deliverables. And, it's doing a pretty good job of ensuring board members and staff work together to keep Bruce House moving forward—rather than resting on its organizational laurels.

We're now into the third year of that plan, so if you're interested in knowing what Bruce House has been up to over the last few years, and where it's committed to going over the next little while, I encourage you to have a look at the plan. You'll find it at: [http://www.brucehouse.org/BH\\_StrategicPlan.pdf](http://www.brucehouse.org/BH_StrategicPlan.pdf) or go to the Bruce House website and click on Newsletters & Reports, then on, Strategic Directions.

Past chairperson Sandi Bonini, who will be leaving the board at the end of September, has been instrumental in keeping the strategic plan front and centre. I will be thanking Sandi and other board

members—past and present—at the Bruce House annual general meeting set for Monday, 30 September, at the Dominion Chalmers Church Hall, 355 Cooper Street. Registration begins at 6:30 pm.

Bruce House executive director Jay Koornstra and I will also be providing a progress report on the strategic plan at that meeting.

And, here's another reason to attend. Our guest speaker that evening will be Allison Fisher, executive director of the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health. Wabano serves more than 10,000 Aboriginal people through its culturally based health programs and services every year. I'm thinking Allison has an exciting and inspiring story to tell. I'm looking forward to hearing it, and I hope you are, too.

And, besides, we have a birthday to celebrate!

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**MARK GIBERSON**  
*Chairperson*

**Steve Dufresne passed away this summer at our Transition House. Part of the Bruce House mandate is to help those with HIV/AIDS live, and sometimes die, with dignity. We are grateful to have been of service in the latter months of Steve's life. Our condolences to his friends and family, and our sincere appreciation for the thanks they have directed to our staff.**

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*As a frequent visitor I could not help but observe the kindness, the care and the attention that each worker displayed toward all clients (not to mention the quality of the meals provided – I was stood up on at least one occasion as a result of Bruce's culinary talents!)*



*I sincerely hope that Bruce House continues to receive the support required to help these clients and I, for my part, will help in any way that I can. Once again, on behalf of the Dufresne family, I thank everyone with all of my heart for all of your devotion and dedication.*

*Debbie Dufresne (Steve's sister)*



Your donation is part of the solution in helping support those affected by HIV/AIDS in your community with hope, housing and compassionate care.  
 Thankyou!

402-251 Bank St. Ottawa, ON K2P 1X3  
 613-729-0911 · www.BruceHouse.org  
 Charity # 13412 7166 RR001

I have enclosed a gift of:  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ each month using my credit card. (We will contact you to confirm details.)

I would like to be added to Bruce House's mailing list (approx. 4 items per year).

Please email my tax receipt.

Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or above.

Credit Card Donations	Name on card _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard	<input type="checkbox"/> Amex
Card Number _____				Amount of donation
Exp. Date _____	Signature _____	\$_____		

# Bruce House and Research – More than a house

Did you know Bruce House has been a leader in HIV and Housing community-based research (CBR). To date Bruce House has been involved in many CBR projects related to HIV, health and wellness in order to best respond to the HIV epidemic. Best known is our 5 year longitudinal research project “Positive Spaces Healthy Places” the first ever Canadian research project linking HIV, housing and health. This fall Bruce House will be launching a new website and will

include links to the various research projects and the more than a dozen associated published articles in which we have been involved with.

In the interim, for a complete listing of HIV and housing related research you may wish to visit both of the following websites •

[www.pshp.ca](http://www.pshp.ca)

[www.healthyhousing.ca](http://www.healthyhousing.ca)

# Workplace United Way Campaign

## Cut me out and take me to work

You can support Bruce House through your workplace's United Way campaign! Simply write 'Bruce House' in the space provided along with our charitable number: **13412 7166 RR0001**

We do not receive any United Way funding other than the support you direct at us by doing the above, and we are extremely grateful to you for taking the time to support Bruce House during your workplace United Way campaign.



**Antranik Boghossian**  
 B.Sc.Pharm.

**Bell Pharmacy**  
 737 Gladstone Avenue  
 Ottawa, Ontario K1R 6X4  
 Tel: 613.234.1890  
 Fax: 613.234.2568

Hours:  
 Mon. - Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
 Sat. - Sun. 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Supportive housing and compassionate care

**BRUCE HOUSE**

Logement avec services de soutien et soins humanitaires

If undeliverable please return to:  
402-251 Bank St. Ottawa, ON K2P 1X3

## These are a few of our favourite things....

The winter may seem far away as we celebrate the lazy, warm days but for those who count on Bruce House the cold weather is a looming reality. The following is a list of items that would mean to world to many.

- Electric wheelchair – Recently a client had his electric wheelchair stolen. It is the lifeline to his quality of life and ability to be mobile and independent. If you can help with this devastating loss, please contact us at [jill@brucehouse.org](mailto:jill@brucehouse.org) or 613-729-0911 x23
- Winter boots – for men & women
- Winter coats – for men & women
- Running shoes and casual shoes – for men

Please contact [jill@brucehouse.org](mailto:jill@brucehouse.org) for donation information.

## Be a Silver Lining in your Community

### Donate monthly and help us help others.

**Supporting Bruce House is a direct way to impact a life. For 25 years we have been assisting people affected by HIV/AIDS in your community, and today we continue to provide care, support and quality of life through our programs.**

Bruce House strives to balance the needs of the client and the development of programming, while sourcing out funding to sustain the vision. Without our donors, we would not be able to support the men, women and children in Ottawa affected by HIV/AIDS. We simply cannot thank you enough for your ongoing commitment to giving Hope, Housing and Support.

To mark our 25th Anniversary we are initiating the Silver Lining Monthly donor program. All donors are vital but monthly donors provide a strong foundation of financial support.

In honour of our 25th Anniversary please consider a monthly donation of \$25 to help us help others. This funding provides nutrition, supported housing, round the clock care, counseling, community kitchen, medication and quality of life. The difference it will make in so many lives is invaluable.

“A monthly donation gives me an opportunity to provide some financial stability without worrying about a lump sum every year. It is simply in my budget. I know that my monthly donation is making a true difference”

To make a donation, or to become a monthly donor please visit [www.canada-helps.org](http://www.canada-helps.org) or contact [jill@brucehouse.org](mailto:jill@brucehouse.org) to discuss your best options. •

