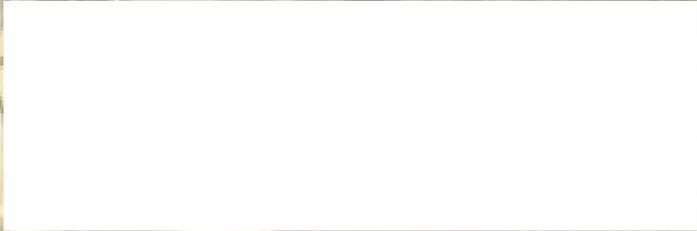


# BRUCE HOUSE

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Dear friends of Bruce House;

This year has been, and will continue to be, a test of who we are and who we want to be—as individuals, communities, and societies.

As we struggle to keep ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities, safe and healthy we witness more than ever before the basic inequities of our world. If you look at a map of COVID hot-spots in any large city you will also see of map of poverty, food insecurity, precarious working conditions, lack of social connections and supports, and other factors which we know through experience and study are all determinants of health.

*Tested by these realities, we have collectively and individually stepped up.*

Systemic racism is being called-out like never before. Bruce House is proud to have signed a joint statement from the Ontario AIDS Network in solidarity with Black Lives Matter. Everywhere anti-racism work has accelerated, and organizations are engaged in facing their own internal racism. This is just the beginning, but it is well begun.

We have also seen great strides in recognizing the historical and current realities of Indigenous peoples. In a short time we have moved from ignorance to acknowledgement, and from news headlines to personal and community reflection.

*flip over →*

## Your Support Makes A Difference!

*“By providing these food deliveries, you guys are a lifeline at this time and it means everything to me.” — Ross*

*“Thank you so much for saving the stuff for us. And thank you all for working during this time. We are truly grateful.”*

*“Bruce House is one large family. Bruce House works because of the love.” —Alice*

*“I REALLY appreciate the food but the delivery is a HUGE help!!”*

*“Bruce House has supported me more than any other organization has in my life.” —Dave*



Anne and her mother Joanne donated these great masks.

We have a long road to travel yet, but we have firmly embarked on this journey.

As a community we have also taken immediate and concrete steps to help each other. Donations to The Ottawa Food Bank (of which Bruce House is a partner agency) have increased tremendously. The wonderful people behind The National Capital Pride Run not only found a creative way to hold their event this year, but they raised more funds than ever before. Corporations are stepping up, from breweries like Beau's adapting to make hand sanitizer to retailers like Ikea making huge donations of housewares. Despite their own struggles, local businesses such as The East India Company and Living Colour Tattoo Studio have continued to raise funds and awareness for Bruce House.

*We can all be part of the good work, part of facing these testing times and being part of the solutions.*

This will be different for each of us, based on our own challenges and resources. That could be volunteering, dropping a few items in the food collection bins at the grocery store, helping out a neighbor with shopping or a friendly check-in, and supporting our local charities.

Please have a look at the work Bruce House is doing to support our clients (at right). If you can support this work by making a donation your gift will go directly to feeding, housing, and supporting people living with HIV. We know that everyone needs to be cautious making financial decisions right now—if a monthly gift is easier on your budget, this will assist Bruce House to project monthly revenues which will help planning and delivering our services throughout the year.

You can donate at [BRUCEHOUSE.CA/HA2020](https://BRUCEHOUSE.CA/HA2020) or by using the form below.

Thank you for being part of our community!

***The Bruce House Team.***

## **From One Pandemic to Another...**

*Founded to cope with HIV, Bruce House has stepped up to this new challenge.*

- We more than doubled support provided by our Pantry Program, including fresh meat and vegetables.
- We are providing masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer to our clients.
- We launched a vitamin program.
- We assembled and delivered personal care packages with several months' supply of soap, shampoo, lotion, and more.
- We assembled and delivered health-and-wellness packages with everything needed while recovering from illness; from comfort foods to tissues and warm socks.
- A donation from Ikea allowed us to provide bedding and cookware to sixty households.
- We now offer delivery of food and household items for clients, with volunteer support.
- We continue offering mental health support, in partnership with Somerset West Community Health Centre.
- We offer wellness-checks to clients, in some cases weekly or more.
- We have increased distribution of gift cards (grocery, pharmacy, dept. stores).
- We are providing transportation for clients through taxi vouchers and bus tickets.
- Our client intakes continues to increase during COVID, as we welcome new clients on a weekly basis.

**The above is made possible by:**

The Ottawa Food Bank; Emergency Community Support Fund administered by the United Way; emergency funding from the City of Ottawa; incredible community support including Virtual Pride Run, various fundraising campaigns; grants and donations including Food Rescue.