

Second Stage News

In the fall of 2015 we welcomed two students to Second Stage Housing, Nadine Kuiper from St. Joe's Secondary School and Candice Pinnock from Fanshawe College's CYW program. They each took the time to write about their experiences below.

In September I was given the opportunity to do my coop placement at St. Thomas – Elgin Second Stage Housing. I was both excited and nervous because I was stepping outside of my comfort zone to learn from the community instead of reading a textbook in a classroom.

Some people ask me why here? Why not somewhere else? Instead of giving my typical response of “I don't know” or “Because that's where my teacher said to go” I put some thought into these questions. My response has become “I wanted to learn and gain experience”. The opportunity to work at Second Stage Housing can help me figure out if this is the job I want to do after high school.”

My work days range from shadowing staff, assisting with tasks or working independently. I often assist staff in the Children's Program while Mom attends her Counselling Programs in the building. Weekly I sort out donations that are available to the women and children in the program. Additionally, I assist with office tasks such as getting the mail, entering information into the computer and designing bulletin boards in the Common Areas.

Throughout the past couple of months I have learned a lot more things than I would if I was reading a textbook in a desk at school. I have learned that everyone is impacted from the abuse, not just the abused woman but the family as well and everyone heals differently. I have also learned that even the strongest women you meet here will sometimes need a hand to hold onto. The women have the chance settle into a safe apartment and connect with the other women. These supports for the women and children are things that I now understand and appreciate due to experiencing it firsthand.

I am truly blessed to have been able to call this place my classroom for the semester. I am thankful that it was a hands on experience with an agency that share the same values that I do. Thank you staff, volunteers, and clients for making this experience learnable, fun, and memorable.

Nadine

I, Candice, am a Child and Youth Worker student from Fanshawe College currently completing my third year placement at St. Thomas - Elgin Second Stage Housing. The Child and Youth Worker program is a three-year course with three 15 week placements attached in order to give students real life experience.

I chose to be placed at Second Stage Housing because it would be a great learning experience for myself. Working with women leaving abusive relationships as well as children and youth that have experienced and/or witnessed abuse was a new area for me to become more knowledgeable about.

I have learned about the programs at Second Stage and I have been able to shadow many of the staff at Second Stage Housing which helped me to see their different work styles. The opportunity to understand more about supporting victims of abuse through shadowing staff and attending staff meetings has been of great value. Learning about the different agencies Second Stage Housing connects with and the services those agencies have accessible to the women has also been very informative. I am currently working with the Children's Advocate. I help facilitate the preschool group, baby group, the school age support groups, as well as shadow the Children's Advocate during individual counselling sessions with both women and children.

My experience as a student at Second Stage Housing has offered me a wealth of information and has been a positive learning opportunity for me.

Candice

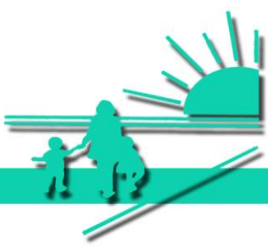
**Thank you Nadine and
Candice for all your
hard work!**

St. Thomas-Elgin Second Stage Housing

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A United Way Agency



Second Stage News

“Hit the Floor for Her” a Success!

On June 6th, 2015 we hosted our first annual “Hit the Floor for Her” fitness event at Central United Church. The event was a success raising over \$1500 for our Women’s Program. Thirty participants raised pledges for an hour and half cardio and ab work out, followed by 45 minutes of relaxing yoga. Thank you to Amanda Travnicek, Lori Anne McNulty and Debbie Hamilton for volunteering their time as fitness instructors.

Mark Saturday June 4, 2016 on your calendar for next year’s event!



13th Annual Golf Tournament

Thursday July 16 was another beautiful day for our 13th Annual Golf Tournament at St. Thomas Golf and Country Club. 34 golfers helped us to raise just over \$4500.

A Special thank you to cart sponsor Karin Barrie at HollisWealth Management and to hole sponsors: Williams Funeral Home, Centennial Sports Club, The Co-operators, Southwestern Tax Service and Carol McConnell in memory of Dennis Brown.

Change is happening!

Please note that next year’s golf tournament, our 14th annual, will be taking place on Thursday June 9th, 2016 in the afternoon at St. Thomas Golf and Country Club. *Please email Melissa at mmcleod.stessh@rogers.com to be added to our email list so that you don’t miss out!*

Volunteer Opportunities

Bingo Worker

Must be 18 years old and complete training prior to volunteering. Duties include cleaning tables of garbage and cards during the bingo sessions. As well as greeting players and representing Second Stage Housing.

Golf Committee Member

Assist with the planning, organizing and implementation of our annual golf tournament. Duties include recruiting golfers, approaching local businesses about sponsorship opportunities and assisting as needed on tournament day.

Email Melissa at

mmcleod.stessh@rogers.com for more info!

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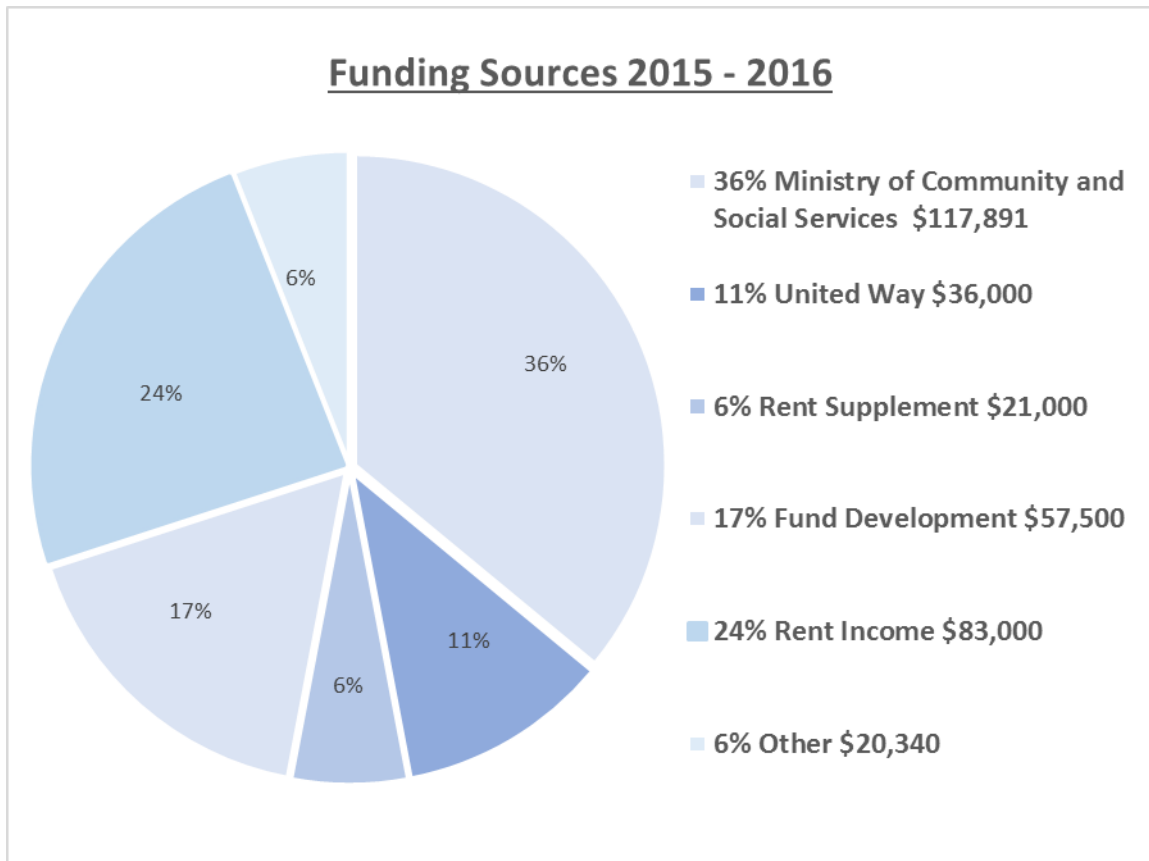


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Where our \$ comes from...



Help us raise funds through FundScrip!

At Second Stage Housing we are beginning to use FundScrip to help us raise funds. FundScrip helps us to raise money for our organization when you buy gift cards for everyday purchases from a wide array of retail categories such as groceries, gas, restaurants, clothing stores and many more. The gift cards are sold at face value and Second Stage earns rebates ranging from 2% - 12% from the purchase price of the cards.

Please visit www.fundscrip.com for more information or ask Melissa at Second Stage.

Our group invitation code: K7PT33

100 Club

The 100 Club is a planned giving initiative, which aims to get 100 individuals, families, or groups to commit to making an annual donation of \$120 or more to our agency. It is the most convenient way to support us. The objective of the 100 Club is to generate sustainable funding for our programs. Our hope is to be able to focus less effort on fundraising and more on the programming we offer to the women and children at our agency.

In 2014 the 100 Club had 40 members and raised just over \$7,500.

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Second Stage Financial Donors May 16, 2015 to November 30, 2015

<p align="center">\$1,000 +</p> <p align="center">Canadian Women's Foundation Forever Legacy Foundation Dexter United Church</p> <p align="center">\$500 - \$999.99</p> <p align="center">St. Anne's Council of Women Elgin – St. Thomas Community Foundation Joshua And Company</p> <p align="center">\$100- \$499.99</p> <p align="center">Williams Funeral Home Catherine Murray Bayham United Church Southwestern Tax Service Sybil Hagerman</p> <p align="center">\$1-\$99.99</p> <p align="center">Alexandra Berger</p> <p align="center">Memoriums</p> <p align="center"><i>In memory of Thelma Houston</i> Mona MacDonald Wilfred & Margaret McLean</p> <hr/> <p align="center"><i>Please note we strive for accuracy in listing donors; however, some errors may occur. Please contact us if any errors or omissions are detected.</i></p>	<p align="center">100 Club Members</p> <p align="center">A. Verhoeven F. Edgar E. York R. Jackson R. & S. Broadbent R. & D. Broadbent A. Lounsbury J. Jones E. Lanning J. Irvine T. Sherratt M. Cheney W & L Tymchyshyn MJ & J Collins J. Irvine N. Newby J. Unwin J. Andrews A. Pol P. Morfee T. Phillips J. Francis E. Kitts S. Westaway</p>	<p align="center">100 Club Members</p> <p align="center">con't</p> <p align="center">G. Clark B. Wright C. Keefer A. Meeuse A. Wright M. O'Brien B. Blackman B. Andrews C. & K. Jolliffe P. Pol M. Keefer H. Ainsworth P. Newman J & J Harris M. Ladd</p> <hr/> <p align="center">Please join our 100 Club today!</p> <p align="center">Contact Melissa at 519-637-2288 or mmcleod.stessh@rogers.com</p>
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✂*please cut along the dotted line.*.....

Enclosed is my gift of: \$ _____ One time gift: _____ 100 Club: _____

Paid by: Cheque Series of post dated cheques

Automatic Bank Charge ___1st or ___15th \$_____ each month(encloseVOIDEDcheque)

Mastercard **Visa** #: _____ expiry date___ / ___ (secure site)

Name: _____ **Phone #:** _____

Address: _____

Mail to: St. Thomas – Elgin Second Stage Housing, 15 Golding Place, St. Thomas, ON N5R 6B6

Thank you for your support!