



Charitable Organization
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**Fife House
Media Kit
- Corporate Profile -**

Fife House is Canada's largest provider of supportive residential programming and housing services for individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA). Fife House houses more than 300 individuals, and serves close to another 300 clients each year through our Homeless Outreach Program. While this is significant, it is estimated that the Greater Toronto Area has 18,000 people living with HIV/AIDS, and these are only those individuals who are aware of their status. This represents about 25% of all the cases in Canada. Today Fife House provides 80% of the supportive housing available to people living with HIV/AIDS in Toronto.

With a mandate to provide supportive housing, programming, and support services to hundreds of residents and clients, Fife House operates seven residences/programs that offer services through a network of qualified staff and volunteers. At any given time, residents/clients can call on these support services. These residences/programs are:

- **The Homeless Outreach Program HOP** (Homeless Outreach Program works with homeless, those at risk of becoming homeless, and those who are under-housed. Close to 300 individuals and families received supports around eviction prevention, private market housing search and housing waitlist application updates and transfer requests in 2018.
- **Sherbourne Apartments** (112 apartment units, 45 PLHAs operated by Fife House with 24-hour support services, and 56 for seniors operated by WoodGreen Supportive Housing).
- **Transitional Housing Program** (11 units at Sherbourne with communal living space with 24-hour support staff).
- **Jarvis** (82 units for PLWHAs with support services provided by Fife House)
- **Denison & Scattered Sites** (24-hour support services and housing to 5 individuals with support for an additional 15 PLWHA's at two satellite locations, soon to be three).

- **Addictions Supportive Housing** (part of a larger provincial program that provides 35 units of rent-subsidized apartments for PLWHA's with substance use issues, operated in partnership with Loft Community Services).
- **Huntley Transitional Housing Program** An 18-month transitional housing program serving 20 individuals who are in, or entering, the emergency shelter system.
- **Personal Supports and Care Planning at Seaton House** (In response to the George Street Revitalization GSR the Local Health Integration Network LHIN, along with consultants, has approached Fife House Foundation to develop and deliver a model of personal support and coordinated care in collaboration with the integrated shelter support teams and clinical teams at Seaton House (SH), on the 3rd Floor Infirmery/Annex Program and the 4th Floor Long Term Program, for 13 individuals.

History of Fife House

Fife House was started by a group of concerned citizens who were inspired by the story of George Fife, a local lawyer who lost his struggle with AIDS. The group recognized the urgent need in Toronto for supportive housing for people living with HIV/AIDS. On February 10, 1988, they established Fife House as a charitable organization to begin filling the need.

Denison, the first residence, opened on July 1, 1990 with a capacity for five people living with HIV/AIDS. With many people trapped on the waiting list, the second residence, Hastings, opened on June 1, 1991, doubling the number of spaces available. Fife House initiated 24-hour attendant care at these two residences in December, 1994.

At the request of the municipal government, Fife House began providing supportive services to residents living with HIV/AIDS in an 82-unit apartment building, [Jarvis](#), on July 2, 1996. Fife House's mission was then expanded to provide supportive housing and support services for people living with HIV/AIDS. On November 1, 1996, a fourth residence, [Gladstone](#), was opened as the first supportive housing program in North America serving the needs of women living with HIV/AIDS.

A growing awareness of the acute housing/homelessness crisis in Toronto led Fife House to take action on three fronts:

- Hastings, was converted into a [Transitional Housing Program](#) on April 1, 2000. This program allows us to solve people's immediate housing needs while working to find longer-term solutions.
- The [Homeless Outreach Program](#) began on April 1, 2000. This program helps homeless people access housing and shelter options, and helps link them with medical, health and financial supports.
- We secured a grant to develop a feasibility assessment for a transitional supportive housing program for people living with HIV/AIDS.

In conjunction with Wellesley Central Residences Incorporated and funders from all levels of government, the Sherbourne Apartments were opened in 2009, providing 45 units for PLWHA's, including the first units in Canada designated for families. The building also houses an expanded Transitional Housing Program with 11 units, allowing the closure of the Hastings and Gladstone residences.

Last year 388 unique volunteer roles contributed a total of 18,932 hours of their time to provide support services, assist with special events, and participate in governing Fife House.

Fife House executes three annual Signature Events to raise awareness and provide additional resources. Each spring [A Taste For Life](#), held on the last Wednesday in April, provides the

opportunity to dine out at selected restaurants which donate funds to Fife House. [Performer's For Life](#) is a fundraising campaign involving theatres across Toronto. And in the fall the annual [SPOTLIGHT!](#) benefit combines live performances with a cocktail reception and silent auction.

Fife House is the host agency for two provincial programs providing financial and administrative oversight. The AIDS Bereavement and Resiliency Project of Ontario (ABRPO) provides practical models for working with all kinds of transitions – everything from grief associated with death and multiple loss to AIDS service organizations across Canada. Michael Blair, the Executive Director of Fife House is a member of the ABRPO Advisory Council. The Ontario Harm Reduction Network (OHRN) provides training to substance use, mental health, and allied service providers in order to increase knowledge of HIV/AIDS and promote skills development.



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Fife House Fact Sheet

- Canada's largest provider of supportive residential programs for people and families living with HIV/AIDS.
- Provides housing, programs and support services to hundreds of residents and clients.
- Operates seven residences/programs that offer support services through a network of qualified staff and volunteers. At any given time, residents/clients can call on these support services in these residences:
- Sherbourne Apartments (112 apartment units, 45 for PLWHA's operated by Fife House with 24-hour support services, and half for seniors operated by WoodGreen Supportive Housing).
- Jarvis (82 units for PLWHA's with support services provided by Fife House).
- Denison (24-hour support services and housing to five individuals with support for an additional 15 PLWHA's at two satellite locations)
- Transitional Housing Program (11 units with communal living space with 24-hour support staff).
- Huntley Transitional Housing Program (20 unit, 18-month transitional housing program with 24-hour support staff).
- Addictions Supportive Housing (part of a larger provincial program which will provide 32 units of rent-subsidized apartments for PLWHA's with substance use issues, operated in partnership with Loft Community Services).
- Homeless Outreach Program works with homeless, those at risk of becoming homeless, and those who are under-housed, and last year served close to 300 individuals and families.
- Community Programs designed to address isolation and marginalization to foster a sense of social integration, health and well-being.
- Contact Information - Phone: (416) 205-9888 Fax: (416) 205-9919

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