2015 Annual Report

I am often asked, “Do most of your guests at the shelter have mental health issues?” If we have not been on the margins of society ourselves, it can be easy to fall into the trap of thinking of people experiencing homelessness as simply, “the mentally ill” or “the addicts.” There are a multitude of reasons why individuals are homeless. For many, there are complex inter-relationships between trauma/abuse, mental health issues, substance use problems, income disparities, unemployment, inadequate housing, victimization and criminalization. There is never a simple one sentence answer.

Being involved with Today House is a constant reminder for me that we need to go out to meet people where they are in their journey in life, not wait at the top of the hill, while watching people struggle on the way up. We need to help them en route.

I know this is not a readymade solution to end homelessness, but it is a common sense approach to help those trying to survive on the perimeter of our community. When we help as many as possible in need we all benefit and we can only hope nobody gets left behind.

Our caring community supporters have played an important role in helping Today House offer essential basic needs such as shelter and food with their generous donations. Thank you to the concerned community for their constant support that enables Today House to offer rudimentary essentials and hope.

It is truly a pleasure to chair an outstanding team who bring resourcefulness, caring and passion to every aspect of our important work in the community. Many thanks to that team for their steadfast commitment to Today House.

May we never forget those we shelter.

Warm regards,

Simone Penner

Chair

Today House Inc.