

COMMUNITY AT THE HAVEN



Multifaith Housing Initiative

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MEMBER PROFILE

Sequoia Community Church

Sequoia Community Church is a vibrant and active faith community that desires to experience the real and lasting love that comes from God, the real relationships that come from authentic community, and the real purpose and meaning that comes from having their relationship with Jesus.

Sequoia has been an active member of the Barrhaven and greater Ottawa Community since Sequoia's beginnings in 1999. In times of need, Sequoia is known in the community as a people who love to reach out and help seniors and those in need with resources, emotional support, and practical help with small work projects. In particular, Sequoia has been committed to the people who live at Barrhaven Non-Profit Housing, providing spring and fall cleanup and organizing community meals and help to residents. Sequoia partnered with South Nepean Muslim Community & Barrhaven United Church to help settle and support a family from Syria.



Members of Sequoia have been involved with MHI for several years and recently at the Haven on the Community Building Team (CBT). Sequoia has been active in welcoming residents, providing

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practical assistance, and working with the CBT to plan events for residents. In September, Sequoia launched a drop-in session and activity night on Thursdays in the community room.

Sequoia meets Sundays at 10:10 a.m. at the Ottawa Christian School, 255 Tartan Avenue.

SEQUOIA BELIEVES THAT GOD LOVES ALL PEOPLE AND THAT WE ARE CALLED TO LIVE THAT OUT IN REAL AND TANGIBLE WAYS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO OUR CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP WITH MHI AND TO SERVING AND CONNECTING WITH THE RESIDENTS OF THE HAVEN.



MHI Resident: Mara

I first heard about the Haven from a letter sent to me from the housing registry. After googling it, I so desperately wanted to live there. It brought tears to my eyes, the thought of living in a community with a garden...in a safe area like Barrhaven...in a new building.

When I first came to visit here I was impressed with the design of the community, also the unit itself. I loved the open concept...the amazing size of the kitchen and bathroom...how bright the unit was and especially that it had central air.

Living here is an amazing opportunity to get to know people of different cultures and religious backgrounds and people with different needs – people I normally would not have associated with, nor had an opportunity to associate with. It's given me an opportunity to be involved and to help my community, to start programs and help with events. It's a growing experience for me and the community at large.

I have developed many new friendships. I am learning about other people's religious beliefs and how similar we are. I'm loving other people's children. At my age, the family has moved on and loneliness can set in, but not here. I'm also involved in building the community garden, learning how to make meals and using new spices. All in all, it's been an amazing experience and I'm looking forward to continue to grow and help my community grow.

SPECIAL MENTION

LEED Gold

Did you know that the Haven is not only affordable but also environmentally responsible? Ottawa's newest affordable housing community has been designed to maximize energy efficiency and make the most of renewable and sustainable resources. In fact, the Haven is seeking LEED Gold certification, and on September 29th, MHI hosted an event at the Haven that showcased the community's environmental features. "We envision this being a model moving forward for all affordable housing and



we are proud to be leading the way," said Mike Ward, President of MHI. Attendees also had the opportunity to tour the community and visit one of

LEED FEATURES AT THE HAVEN INCLUDE:

- High efficiency furnaces and hot water heaters
- Heat recovery with ventilation and air filtration that provides fresh air and superior indoor air quality
- Energy Star LED lighting
- Energy Star appliances
- Durable construction methods are incorporated to manage impacts of rain, wind, snow and sun, and to reduce building maintenance
- All the wood framing and lumber is rated by FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) and comes from sustainably managed forests
- Landscaping choices are low-impact and use minimal to no irrigation
- Inclusion of a Community Garden for food security

the apartment units where they saw some of the features that provide greater energy savings and lower utility bills.

LEED is an acronym for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ certification and is internationally recognized.

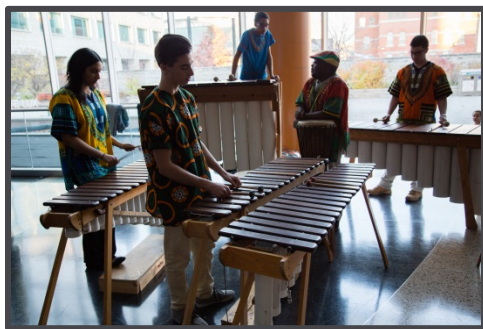
FEATURED EVENT

National Housing Day Celebration

Ever since the City of Ottawa's proclamation of National Housing Day as November 21st in 2010, Multifaith Housing Initiative has devoted a special time each year to reflect on our progress in finding solutions to our housing crisis in Ottawa.



This year, we come together in celebration of MHI's 15th anniversary – and as Canada marks its 150th birthday. This special year is marked by a significant milestone, the completion of 'the Haven,' our 98-unit project in Barrhaven. Families began moving into their new homes in the spring of 2017. The Haven is a mixed-unit, environmentally sustainable, and fully visitable complex where over 350 people, many of whom are children, now call home.



We also look forward to the development of our ground-breaking project, Veterans House, for homeless veterans on the former air force base, CFB Rockcliffe. Veterans House will provide not only a home but also support services to address the explicit needs of homeless veterans in Ottawa.

At this year's event, Dr. Lindy Samson, Chief of Staff and Chief Medical Officer at CHEO, will speak about the importance of affordable housing for health and well-being and the role non-profits, such as MHI,



play in helping meet this need. The celebration will start with sacred Aboriginal drumming, followed by presentations from Muslim, Jewish, Baha'i, Hindu and Christian traditions. We will end the afternoon with the lively performance of the Colors of Diversity Marimba Players and refreshments.

Please join us **Sunday, November 19, 2017** at **Ottawa City Hall, the Jean Pigott Place**, for a rich multifaith conversation around affordable housing in Ottawa. Doors open at **2:30 p.m.**

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