



MULTIFAITH HOUSING INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER

Helping people achieve greater stability and financial security through safe, affordable, and secure rental housing.

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**CIRCLE THESE IN
YOUR AGENDA!**

AGM: March 22, 2015
First Unitarian
30 Cleary Ave

Tulipathon: May 3, 2015

**An Exciting Announcement
from MHI's president
Hugh O'Donnell**

MHI is happy to announce that it has been awarded the *Action Ottawa 2014* project, which aims to build an *affordable housing complex* in Barrhaven. This is a wonderful (and positively major!) opportunity to build a safe, affordable community *embedded with Multifaith Housing values from the ground up*. To learn more about this project, please join us on **January the 18th 2015** at 2:30pm at Ottawa Torah Centre Chabad 111 Lamplighters Drive, Nepean.



MHI's board Secretary Gay Richardson (Left), Barbara Levine, board member and Chair of the Development Committee (center) with Suzanne Le, the Executive Director (right) signed the agreement.



The Most Reverend Mgr Terrence Prendergast, S.J., Roman Catholic Archbishop of Ottawa, poses with delighted MHI president, ED and MHI supporters with a \$35,000 cheque from the proceeds of the annual Archbishop's Annual Charity Dinner.

In the Fall, the **ARCHBISHOP OF OTTAWA** organizes an annual large-scale charity dinner to raise funds in support of local charities. This year MHI and Bruyère Village were the designated beneficiaries. We are pleased to announce that, thanks to the generosity of ticket holders, donors, volunteers and sponsors, the Archbishop was able to donate a very LARGE! amount of money to MHI: \$35,000!! We thank the **ARCHDIOCESE OF OTTAWA** for its generous initiative. Our gratitude also goes to our friends, volunteers and supporters who donated or otherwise supported the Archbishop's Annual Charity Dinner.

Please note: This year's charity dinner was to take place on Wednesday, October 22, 2014. Unfortunately, it had to be cancelled in the wake of the tragic shooting event that occurred on that day at the National War Memorial and at the Parliament of Canada. Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone who was affected by these tragic events.



DR. FAROOK TAREEN TULIPATHON AWARD

On November 6, 2014, MHI and its partners, Canada Lands Corporation, CAHDCO, Ottawa Salus, The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Commands Homeless Veterans Initiative & District G, Soldiers Helping Soldiers, True Patriot Love and Vets Canada, gathered at the Eastview Legion Branch 462 to announce a new Supportive Housing project that will house homeless Veterans in Ottawa called **Veterans House**. MHI and its partners are pursuing the prospect of securing land on the former Rockcliffe Airbase to build units to house veterans. Fundraising efforts are currently under way to raise about \$ 1.5 million as seed money to start the project.

Congratulations to First Unitarian for winning the prestigious Dr. Farook Tareen award. The award was presented by Nazira Tareen at the interfaith prayer service at this year's National Housing Day celebration to Rev. John Marsh who accepted the award on behalf of the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa. Our sincere thanks go to First Unitarian who has already raised about \$16,000 of their \$18,000 pledge towards the Capital Campaign! And to all the faith communities, groups and individuals for all their support in helping to provide affordable housing in Ottawa.



National Housing Day

Once again, on Sunday, November 16 MHI and our friends and supporters gathered at City Hall to celebrate the annual National Housing Day Prayer Service. This year's theme was "Supporting Veteran Housing". The inspiring interfaith prayer service was followed by a free reception for all who attended to socialize.

Thank you for your generous donations at the event which raised \$1,743. Your financial support helps MHI continue the mission of providing affordable housing in Ottawa. Our sincere thanks goes to this year's guest speaker David C Kettle, former Chaplain General of the Canadian Armed Forces, our patrons from the various faiths communities, all of the choir members under the direction of Barbara Clark, the volunteers from Cordova Academy and all our friends and supporters who came out to celebrate National Housing Day with us.

Profile of a Faith Community Member

In 2003, **St John the Evangelist**, Ottawa, launched its first efforts to address the affordable housing crisis in Ottawa. A newly formed committee, inspired by St John's long history of social outreach, started its work by considering housing for a refugee family, and quickly added to its agenda the possible development of affordable housing on the church parking lot. Following MHI's successful application to the City for assistance in purchasing 10 units in Somerset Gardens, St John's committed funds and people resources to support this initiative. Each year, the committee organizes St. John's participation in MHI's annual Tulipathon, raising the top team amounts in 2013 and 2014, totaling \$9,700. In addition to personal gifts to the St John's affordable housing fund, the sale of Loblaws Gift Cards provides up to \$2,500 annually which is used to support affordable housing, largely dedicated to MHI - \$500 annually since the committee's inception, plus \$16,700 for capital projects. Thank you to **St John's Affordable Housing Committee for your ongoing support!** Your efforts are worthy of emulation!

Stay tuned for a profile of First Unitarian in the next newsletter.