

MHI News Release

Long housing wait is over for first tenants of The Haven

Monday, April 10 - Ottawa - The Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI) is pleased to announce the doors are open at The Haven and the first tenants have moved into their new homes.

The Haven is a community for lower income residents in need of housing. It consists of 98 rental homes in townhouses or low-rise apartment units located in Longfields in Barrhaven. The project was supported by the City of Ottawa, the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada.

"It's like winning the lottery!", says Leila Sieg, a single mother who has been on Ottawa's waiting list for affordable housing for seven years. "For me and my son, we are truly blessed to be moving into this beautiful new community. Our future is already brighter."

The Haven offers a community setting with a children's playground and a communal garden. Ten homes were designed to accommodate persons with physical disabilities and all units are accessible to visitors. Further, the community was built with environmental responsibility in mind, and will be certifying to a LEED Gold standard. The first tenants moved in on April 1st and a second wave will arrive on May 1st. It is expected all tenants will be home by July 1st.

Established in 2002, MHI is a coalition of local faith communities -- Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Baha'i, Unitarian and more -- which are coordinating their efforts to provide and promote safe, affordable housing to lower income households in Ottawa. The National Capital Region is experiencing an affordable housing crisis. In 2015, more than 6,000 people were counted living on the streets or in shelters. More than 10,000 households are on the wait-list for housing for affordable housing, with an average wait of seven to 10 years.

MHI owns and operates 139 rental housing units, in Somerset Gardens, Kent House, Blake House and The Haven. A registered charity, MHI fundraises to maintain these units and provide additional housing. The next building to be constructed is a 40-unit building for Veterans on the site of the former Canadian Forces Base Rockcliffe. To donate or volunteer, please visit the MHI website at multifaithhousing.ca.

It is expected a formal opening ceremony for The Haven will be conducted in June, at a date TBD.

MHI Coming Events:

Multicultural Concert to Support the Haven, at Barrhaven United Church, April 30

RCMP Pipes, Drums, and Dancers Commemorate Canada 150 in support of the Veterans House Project, at Dominion-Chalmers United Church, April 30

Tulipathon fundraiser at Dow's Lake: Sunday, May 7

Official opening of The Haven: Date TBD

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Notice to Editors - The MHI office would be pleased to arrange interviews with tenants of The Haven and with MHI officials.

For more information:

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Multifaithhousing.ca

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