

Media Release re: Nazareth House Joins Forces with Jean Tweed

“It’s a win-win for women and children” noted Lucy Hume, Executive Director of the Jean Tweed Centre. *“Integrated care, including housing, is essential in achieving a healthy and independent lifestyle”*. *“This is very much in keeping with a broader shift in health care to expand housing options”*

The Jean Tweed Centre (JTC) and Nazareth House are pleased to announce that effective July 12, 2016, Nazareth House Inc. will transfer its operations to the Jean Tweed Centre. The addition of transitional housing to Jean Tweed’s existing suite of services will create a wider range of housing options for women with substance use and mental health concerns.

The Jean Tweed Centre is a community-based organization that provides services for women and their families in a safe and supportive environment for women with substance use, mental health, and/or gambling issues; Nazareth House provides transitional housing for women at risk, including mothers with infants to support them as they move towards independent living.

With shared values and complementary mandates, the two organizations saw a wonderful opportunity to provide a seamless continuum of support for women experiencing both substance use and mental health issues as well as housing instability. *“We believe that offering stability and a safe space for women where they can work towards their substance use and related mental health, physical health, parenting, employment and personal life goals is essential”* (shared statement from Board Chairs, Erin Keleher and Walter Spracklin).

Staff from both JTC and Nazareth House are eager to work together and believe that this type of integration can truly make a difference for women and children. *“Most importantly, we are excited to be in a position to provide our clients with more options and support as they navigate towards their goals and move in the direction of more stable and independent housing”* noted Leanna Savion, Manager at Nazareth House .

Staff from Nazareth House will join the staff team at the Jean Tweed Centre and the JTC Board of Directors will welcome representation from Nazareth House’s Board. We hope that you share our excitement for the future of our agencies. If you have any questions, please contact: Lucy Hume, Executive Director, the Jean Tweed Centre, 416 255-7359 x223. lucyhume@jeantweed.com.

Sincerely,

Erin Keleher, Chair
Board of Directors, Jean Tweed Centre

Walter Spracklin, Chair
Board of Directors, Nazareth House



Q&A's:

What prompted Jean Tweed and Nazareth House to come together?

It began with a conversation between past JTC board chair, Katherine Devlin, and the current and past board chairs for Nazareth House, Walter Spracklin and Sheila Lynett; recognizing the common ground between the two organizations and current funding pressures, they formed committees and discussions began. *“Our history of working together with Nazareth House, combined with our mutual interest in providing seamless housing supports, made this a natural development for the two organizations”* stated Katherine Devlin.

The Jean Tweed Centre has been providing a range of services for women and children in Toronto for 30+ years and recently added supportive housing.

How does this fit with the LHIN's vision for your sector?

We believe that this is very much in keeping with the LHIN's transformation agenda (as outlined in their strategic plan). Integration, seamless care, housing as a 'determinant of health', aligning funding to priorities -- these are some of the key messages and actions that the LHIN has been promoting.

Does this mean there will be changes in funding?

The Toronto Central LHIN has generously provided operational funding to ensure the continuation of this service; this, combined with existing funding from the City of Toronto and the generosity of valued donors, will ensure much needed financial stability.

What about the Jean Tweed Centre? Do you have a strategic plan?

Yes we do and we especially want to ensure housing options for women and children. Women continue to be the primary care taker; it's vitally important that they have safe and affordable housing options with supports built in. For more information, our full strategic plan is available at www.jeantweed.com.

Will any changes be made to the leadership team at Nazareth House?

All staff at Nazareth House will become employees of the Jean Tweed Centre. They will continue in their current roles with Leanna Savion continuing as House Manager. An Implementation Committee will now carry on where board members left off.

Will there be any changes to the services offered?

Nazareth House's transitional housing program will become part of the JTC's existing housing continuum. The addition of transitional housing (with accommodation for infants) will make for more seamless movement to permanent housing. Women will also benefit from increased access to other supports at Jean Tweed.