

MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** January 23, 2017  
**TO:** Volunteers and Staff  
**FROM:** Robert Sykes, CEO  
**RE: Confirmation of Recent Staff Appointments**

Earlier in the January, I provided an update to volunteers and staff that included some planned changes in staffing. Two of these changes have been finalised.

I am pleased to announce that **Alison Baynham** has accepted the position of **Shelter Operations Manager** as of Monday, January 30, 2017. She was one of several qualified applicants who were interviewed. Alison is one of several qualified applicants who has volunteered at The Guesthouse, along with varied work experience which will provide her with an excellent base to continue the work so ably started and undertaken by Beth McCormick. Please welcome Alison as she undertakes her responsibilities at this very exciting and challenging time of finally accomplishing the shared vision of a permanent, appropriate emergency shelter in North Simcoe.

Alison's arrival will allow **Beth McCormick** to increasingly concentrate her attention on supporting guests at risk of losing their housing or experiencing homelessness to acquire an affordable, sustainable home as our **lead Housing Sustainability Worker**. Beth has already been very successfully involved in this work because of the urgent and specialized needs of many of the guests – beyond the requirements of the Shelter Operations Manager. Her work before coming to The Guesthouse, her in-depth knowledge of The Guesthouse, the guests and the community resources, along with the excellent results in pioneering this role, ideally qualifies her to take us to the next level in this very essential role. It is very significant as The Guesthouse develops as the community hub in North Simcoe in response to the local specific needs and conditions.

The work, learning and dedication of the volunteers - recognized by many in the community, municipal government and service providers - provided the background and support that led to recognition of the necessity to respond to homelessness in a more holistic way. The concept of community hubs is new to many, but has proven successful in other areas in decreasing the recurrence and incidence of episodic and chronic (long-term) homelessness. As those of you involved at The Guesthouse know, an appropriate home is necessary to the long-term improvement of the quality of life of those experiencing homelessness, as well as of the entire community. Our involvement with the guests provides a natural connection and opportunity to support them in improving their life condition - a prime part of the mission of our work.

As further plans and developments occur, I will continue to provide updates.

Thank you for all you do.