



## Year In Review

**What a year it's been for Ryandale! We welcomed 13 new residents in 2022, and nine found permanent housing.** We were also fortunate to make some great new partnerships, work with fantastic people and improve services for members of Kingston's vulnerable community while growing our resources and learning from other organizations along the way.

It began in January of this year, with our collaboration with [St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church](#) to open a second transition house at the church's property at 146 Clergy St. Members of the congregation and the church leadership have been involved regularly in projects at the house over the past 12 months, including providing a prepared dinner once a month and pizza for New Year's Eve. Their involvement has helped the residents to feel like an important part of the community.

In March and April, Ryandale held a series of meetings with representatives from [St. Mark's Lutheran Church](#) to secure funding for workshops that would benefit all Ryandale residents. Discussions are ongoing into the shape these workshops might take, but the church's kind gesture was very much appreciated.

In September, three students from [St. Lawrence College's](#) business program volunteered to help Ryandale review some of its HR policies, and later in the autumn Ryandale was invited to participate in SLC's Volunteer Fair.

Throughout the year, Ryandale has received support and donations from [Bread & Butter Bakery](#), [Khalsa Aid](#), the [Kingston and Area Real Estate Association](#), [Lionhearts](#), [Loving Spoonful](#) and the [Food Redistribution Hub](#), [Novel Idea](#), [Pig & Olive](#), [Pizza Pizza](#), [Smith's Army Surplus](#), [SOCKS Kingston](#), [Sysco Canada](#), the [1000 Islands Soap Company](#), [Tony Deodato's](#) and [Verde Alternatives](#). This year, Ryandale was also fortunate to receive funding from [Community Spirit Gaming](#), the [Ontario Trillium Foundation](#), the [United Way](#) of KFL&A, the [Community Foundation of Kingston and Area](#), and many individual donors to support our further expansion and service provision.

As the service delivery sector recovered from the pandemic, Ryandale residents were happy to access the support and services offered by [Lunch By George](#), [Martha's Table](#), [Peers of the Round Table](#) and [St. Vincent de Paul](#). These organizations, along with Street Health and AMHS, are vital components of the care continuum that supports the health and well-being of our residents and many of Kingston's vulnerable citizens, and communal meals go a long way toward creating a feeling of community. We look forward to the time when more eat-in services can resume.

# Ryandale Year in Review

continued

In 2022, Ryandale also expanded its board of directors and added two new staff members. These individuals have diverse backgrounds and life experiences, but share a common desire to improve living conditions for people here in Kingston and elsewhere. We are grateful for their support every day, as well as for the support of our dedicated volunteers.

Following the October 24 election, Ryandale board members and staff were pleased to meet one-on-one with several new members of City council. We look forward to working with them to advance the City's responses to homelessness and housing support.

In the new year, Ryandale will be part of a United Way-led initiative that will help us to examine our equity, diversity, inclusion and indigenization policies and practices and gain insight into how best to serve the Kingston community. Ryandale is also hoping to expand programming for residents by partnering with the [Centre for Mindfulness & Meditation Kingston](#) to participate in stress management courses. PTSD is a serious concern for most Ryandale residents, and stress management is an important component of acceptance and recovery.

Ryandale capped off the year in both transition houses with turkey dinners and gifts from Santa and his helpers. On Dec. 24 and 25, as Kingston experienced its worst winter storm in more than 10 years, our residents were safe and warm. They had full bellies and they had companionship. What some might call a Christmas miracle is really the result of the generosity and support demonstrated by so many members of our community—agencies, workers and private individuals—throughout the year.

We thank you for your ongoing support, and wish you all the best—now and always.



Poinsettias were donated to both transition houses by the Manse Committee of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.



Left: Dave McQueen and Jane Bailey accept a cheque for staffing from the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area (new employee Caroline Abraham shown in absentia). Below: Jane accepts a cheque for new beds at Victoria St. from KAREA, presented by [Mary Ambrose](#).



# House Updates

## Victoria St.

The residents at Victoria St. experienced a challenging autumn. Three residents experienced noticeable declines in their physical health, and two had to be moved on from the house because of recurring substance use, property damage and personal issues that were beyond the means of staff to address. One resident relapsed into addiction and enrolled in a treatment program at another facility. Upon completion of the program, he may choose to return to Ryandale.

The Victoria St. house was the beneficiary of a **United Way Community Income Fund** grant that will let Ryandale make much-needed repairs to the ceilings and flooring in two rooms. However, because of the frail health of the occupants of these rooms, work has been put on hold until these individuals can be safely moved to other accommodations during the time of the repairs.



These issues highlighted the importance of protecting the health of our residents and staff. Thanks to generous support from the Community Foundation and the United Way, Ryandale was able to increase our staffing coverage and welcomed Caroline Abraham to Victoria St. as a new housing support worker in October. She and house manager Dave McQueen provide extended hours of service to the Victoria St. residents, and the extra coverage is already making a difference in the quality of life at the house.

**REFERRALS: 15; OUTREACH: 8; NEW RESIDENTS: 2; HOUSED: 1**

## Clergy St.



Polar Man stopped by at Halloween to admire the Clergy St. jack-o-lantern.

The residents at Clergy St. continue to find ways to give back to the community. At Halloween, they carved a pumpkin and pooled their money to provide candy for trick-or-treaters. During the summer and fall, they performed light groundskeeping duties (raking leaves and mowing grass) around the house, and one resident now has contracted with St. Andrew's to provide snow shovelling services on days when their regular groundskeeper is away. Although the residents attend some of the community meal programs available in the city, they also continue to share communal meals: Stuffed pork loin with sauteed mushrooms, roasted potatoes and apple crisp for dessert were a big hit this autumn.

Many of the Clergy St. residents endured a bout of COVID in November, but because of diligent attention to sanitation procedures and masking in common areas, other residents and staff were unaffected.

One resident is looking forward to moving into housing in Alberta in January. Since he arrived at Ryandale, his social anxiety has greatly improved, and we are hopeful that he'll use the tools he has developed in the two years he has spent with us to stay successfully housed in the future.

**REFERRALS: 2; OUTREACH: 3; NEW RESIDENTS: 2; HOUSED: 2**

