



Haven Highlights

Spring/Summer Newsletter 2025 Issue



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Andrea Paszti**

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A Note From our Executive Director *Interim*

It has been an exciting time of change in the first quarter; a time of momentum, growth, and meaningful progress at Street Haven. Through these changes, our teams have been working with incredible dedication to launch several exciting new initiatives that will help us better support the women who rely on us for shelter, housing, and healing.

One of the most significant developments this quarter is the procurement of 93 Pembroke, a new supportive housing site that will provide 12 additional units of deeply affordable housing for women in need. This acquisition marks a major step forward in expanding our continuum of care and long-term stability for our clients.

In addition, renovations are underway across several of our existing locations to increase our capacity to serve more shelter and housing clients. These improvements not only enhance the physical spaces but also reaffirm our commitment to creating safe, welcoming, and dignified environments for the women we support.

As we move through the year, I look forward to continuing this exciting trajectory together with you all—with compassion, collaboration, and a shared vision of hope and possibility.

Shelter & Housing

Transitional Housing Program

We are excited to announce the successful launch of our Transitional Housing Program, at the 87 Pembroke shelter location. This marks a significant step in our efforts to provide structured support for individuals transitioning from the correctional system, to stable housing. To accommodate the new Transitional Housing Program, 10 clients were relocated from 87 Pembroke to 93 Pembroke. Necessary preparations, including the purchase of beds and mattresses, have been completed to ensure a smooth transition and comfortable living conditions for all residents.

Potential Cooling Centre at 87 Pembroke

There are plans to open a cooling center at our 87 Pembroke location to provide relief during extreme heat. The city will notify us when operations should begin, and we will keep everyone updated as details are confirmed.

Site Updates

First quarter of 2025 has seen several new renovation projects started, in order to increase capacity at both our shelter and supportive housing locations. The computer lab at 87 Pembroke was also completed, allowing for new and more functional space, that will be the future home of a resource centre for clients across all programs.



Training Services

Our Employment Services program started in March 2025, with funding from the Ministry of Labour Immigration, Training and Skills Development, administered by WCG. This is part of the transformation of Employment Services across the province. We have a strong team in place and we have placed in the top 15 service providers in the City of Toronto each month.

We continue to provide Literacy and Basic skills programming for clients at Grant House and within Shelter services. We offer the Successful Housing program and Computer Basics to support clients. Our Inclusion Project is well underway and upcoming initiatives include the mentorship program with 4 active mentorships and a webinar with the City of Toronto Small Business Enterprise Centre on inclusive hiring practices.

Pathways to Independence continues to support recently housed clients in the community. The project is currently experiencing an increase in referrals from within Street Haven and from Coordinated Access/City of Toronto.

Successful Housing Train the Trainer is now ready to launch in partnership with the Idea Training Collaborative. We will now be able to bring this 8 workshop series to more agencies and shelters in the community so they can support their clients.



Addictions Treatment, Mental Health, & Outreach

The Grant House team continues to expand its impact through proactive community engagement and strengthened internal supports. Our outreach team has been actively canvassing the community and successfully secured presentation opportunities at several partner agencies to promote our outreach case management services.

The mental health program is thriving with the addition of our in-house Psychotherapist, who provides one-on-one support to clients across sites and clinical supervision to treatment staff. Art therapy remains a client favourite, contributing meaningfully to client wellness. Our live-in treatment team remains deeply committed, working week over week with both treatment and transitional housing clients. They have also participated in important community events such as Pride and Red Dress Day, as well as a planned outing to Centre Island.

Additionally, clients are developing valuable life skills through hands-on activities in gardening—facilitated by the training services team, and continue to watch their hard work grow and flourish in our very own backyard. Clients are thrilled to continue to be engaged on the weekends with outings to the ROM, 12 Step barbecues and gatherings, as well as other community offerings on a weekly basis.



Events

It's been a vibrant season at Street Haven, with events that brought joy, reflection, and community spirit to every corner of our programs. Our 60th Anniversary celebrations, including our staff party, where laughter, music, and shared stories reminded us of the strength and heart behind the work. This spring, we honoured Red Dress Day with ceremony and remembrance, paying tribute to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. In May, we welcomed the public during Doors Open Toronto, offering a glimpse into our history and the work we continue to do today.

Pride Month brought powerful energy, with our Pride BBQ filling the backyard of 93 Pembroke with colour, food, and celebration. We closed the month with a proud showing at the Toronto Pride Parade, where clients, staff, and supporters marched together in solidarity.



Upcoming Events

Internal Event	Date & Time	Location
OD Awareness Day	August 29, 2025, 1:00-3:00pm	Grant House
Truth & Reconciliation Day	September 30, 2025, 1:00-3:00pm	Grant House
Staff Town Hall & Lunch	October 15, 2025, 1:00-3:00pm	Regent Park Community Centre - 402 Shuter St.

Public Event	Date & Time	Location	Description
Annual General Meeting	September 29, 5:30-8:30 p.m.	TMU Oakham House - 63 Gould St.	Join us for a look back at the year and what's ahead.
National Housing Day	November 21, 2025	Queen's Park	A moment to reflect on the importance of housing and our collective impact. More details to come.

To register for public events visit streethaven.org/events



Haven Heroes

This season, we've seen the incredible impact of volunteerism across Street Haven. From supporting events to lending a hand in everyday moments, our volunteers continue to show up with compassion and heart. We're also excited to launch our new volunteer portal, making it easier than ever to get involved and stay connected.

We're proud to recognize Kasie Williams as our Volunteer of the Month for June. Kasie's energy, leadership, and kindness shone throughout Pride Month, especially during our BBQ and parade preparations. Her presence reminded us what it means to be in true community.

To join our growing team of volunteers, visit streethaven.org/volunteer and sign up today!

Staff Spotlight

Meet Esther Wambui, whose journey over the past two years is nothing short of inspirational: once facing homelessness, she now serves as a dedicated Personal Support Worker (PSW) at Street Haven. Her resilience and compassion shine daily as she offers support, care, and companionship to our clients. Esther's presence brings hope and renewal, reminding everyone that brighter days really can follow the darkest nights.



Visit our new Website Today!



We're thrilled to share that Street Haven's website has officially been updated!

The new site offers a refreshed look, easier navigation, and up-to-date information about our programs, services, and ways to get involved.

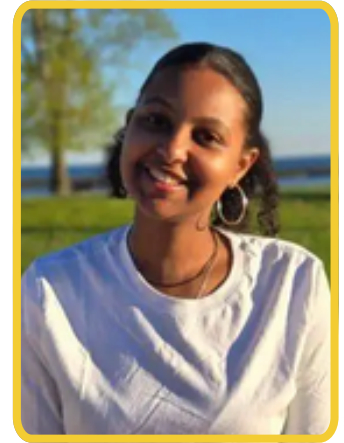
Whether you're seeking support, looking to donate, or hoping to volunteer, everything you need is now just a click away.

Client Success

Lidet Wolodesenbet

Originally from Ethiopia, Lidet arrived in Canada as a refugee with the goal of rebuilding her life through learning, connection, and contribution. She joined the 2024 cohort of Street Haven's Pathways to Employment program with determination, openness, and a powerful work ethic. Always focused and eager to grow, she quickly became a source of encouragement and support for her peers.

Lidet's journey has come full circle. She is now completing the Immigrant Women Integration Program (IWIP) – at the Centre of Learning & Development and has rejoined Street Haven's Training Services team. Her contributions span across the 2025 Pathways to Employment program, the Inclusion Project, the Addiction Outreach and Mental Health site, and Pathways to Independence—bringing insight, dedication, and lived experience to every space she's in.



With Gratitude

To all our generous donors, thank you. Your support sustains the programs, services, and sense of community that women at Street Haven rely on daily. From emergency shelter to education, harm reduction, and housing, your contributions leave a lasting impact on real lives. This quarter, we gratefully received donations of perishable food and women's hygiene products from United Way Greater Toronto, Metrolinx, and the Toronto District School Board, CIBC, and The Toronto Blue Jays. These thoughtful gifts help us meet our clients' basic needs with dignity and care.

Whether you've donated your time, resources, or partnership, we sincerely appreciate your belief in our mission and the women we serve. To make a donation and continue supporting Street Haven, visit: streethaven.org/donation



What's up with Haven?

Recent Activity in the Community

Street Haven's roots on Pembroke Street are historic. Since purchasing 87 Pembroke in 1969 and expanding to 91 Pembroke in the 1980s, this block has been at the heart of our mission, providing women with a place of safety, support, and possibility.

This year, we proudly added 93 Pembroke to our growing campus. More than just a new address, it represents a vital space for community gathering, healing, and connection. The backyard at 93 has already become a sanctuary, hosting shared meals, celebrations, and moments of rest and reflection.

Looking ahead, we envision a unified, purpose-built campus where women can plant their roots, access the full continuum of care, and find renewed hope for the future.

