

## Shelter to Housing Stability Caseworker at Charles Street Men's Hostel

A Shelter to Housing Stability (S2HS) Caseworker at House of Friendship's Charles Street Men's Hostel is helping men, who are episodically homeless\*, find and maintain housing so they can move from homelessness (including shelter stays) to housing stability.

*\*"Episodically homeless" is a term from the literature about homelessness that refers to people who have been homeless for shorter periods of time on more than one occasion. In contrast, people who are persistently homeless have been homeless constantly for a longer period of time.*

**Program overview:** The S2HS case worker provides some of the practical supports that men need, but whenever possible the worker also assists them in accessing supports that already exist in the community. This is so that the S2HS program does not unnecessarily duplicate existing services, and so that program members learn how to access supports that they will be able to continue utilizing. The S2HS program is comprised of four stages: 1) emergency shelter 2) assessment/intake 3) finding housing 4) maintaining housing. A person can be a participant in the S2HS program for 12 months.

**Assessment/Intake:** The assessment/intake process is intended to ensure the men appropriate to the supports offered by the program, participate in the program. Men staying in the hostel who appear to meet the program criteria are invited by a Hostel Caseworker or by the S2HS Case Worker to complete an application process to the S2HS program. The application process is conducted by the S2HS case worker. The assessment leads to a decision by the participant if he is interested in joining the program or not and a decision by staff as to whether the person is eligible for the program. The intake procedure consists of a written agreement that outlines the purpose of the support program and the individualized support plan for that person.

**Finding Housing:** Once a person is active in the program, the S2HS caseworker begins to support the person as needed to find housing that is affordable, decent and appropriate for housing stability. During this stage the person continues to live in the hostel.

**Maintaining Housing:** "Maintaining Housing" refers to ongoing supportive contact by the S2HS caseworker. The intention of the ongoing contact is to provide support to fully integrate the person into stable housing. This may be through personal support and ongoing practical assistance identified in the individual support plan, or by addressing new issues that arise. Practical supports might be related to the life skills of maintaining housing, landlord relations or peer relations with other tenants.

The Shelter to Housing Stability (S2HS) caseworker position is made possible by operating funding from the Region of Waterloo.

**For more information or to make an appointment, please contact the Charles Street Men's Hostel Program Supervisor, House of Friendship, tel: 519-742-8327 or email: [hostel@houseoffriendship.org](mailto:hostel@houseoffriendship.org).**