

News Release-February 14, 2017

Helping Hands New Transitional Bed Program in Brechin has Expanded

Helping Hands is proud to announce the opening of 3 additional Transitional beds. In January 2016, Helping Hands opened a pilot 6 Transitional Bed site, located in Brechin, Ontario. This program is being funded by the North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network (NSM LHIN). Due to the overwhelming success with the Transitional Bed Program, the NSM LHIN Board has approved funding for a 3 bed expansion, providing the site with 9 beds in total, available to the region.

The program utilizes a new facility designed, built and provided by Jack Steenhof and Fayne Bullen who have provided generous and on-going support of this important initiative. The additional beds are now operational and being accessed by hospitals across NSM LHIN.

The Helping Hands Transitional Bed model offers 24 hour support in affordable, converted apartments close to concentrations of clients in the community with qualified personal support workers providing activities of daily living to clients. The transitional beds provide an interim, safe and inviting environment for clients who are recovering or transitioning to more permanent living arrangements, alleviating pressures on all hospitals in the region. The program enables those clients requiring acute care to have access to hospital beds and resources. Over the past eight years, Helping Hands has demonstrated an effective Transitional Bed model in the region at Hillcrest Lodge, Barrie Road in Orillia and in Coldwater, at the Coldwater Seniors Apartments and now, most recently, in Brechin. This most recent expansion brings the total number of transitional beds available in the region to 15, which represent a considerable resource for the healthcare system and family caregivers.

These transitional beds offer flexibility for Helping Hands Coordinators, providing responsive options such as respite/caregiver relief, recovery from surgeries and other client needs requiring temporary living and care arrangements. Clients at the site who are eligible to receive therapy and nursing services through the North Simcoe Muskoka Community Care Access Centre (NSM CCAC) will receive their care on site.

Helping Hands Coordinators work with hospital discharge staff and NSM CCAC quickly to provide temporary care in these beds for clients whose home arrangements are not suitable or ready for return and to monitor clients with infections, post surgeries, those who are palliative, Surge alleviation and those who require post-fall assistance.

Building on the success of its existing transitional bed program, Helping Hands has joined with OSMH and the North Simcoe Muskoka Hospice Palliative Care Network (NSMHPCN) to broaden its capability to serve clients with greater complexity in needs, including palliative care clients and clients awaiting access to a long-term care home.

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