



Ignatius Jesuit Centre

A Place of Peace

February 4 2021

Letter of Support for Guelph Welcome In Drop-In Centre's Parkview Initiative

The Ignatius Jesuit Centre has a long, rich history with the Guelph Welcome In Drop-in Centre. We have been neighbors to the Stepping Stone shelter for men, since 1985. Our local Jesuit Community lives beside Stepping Stone and you might see them sharing a summer evening's tale out in the front yard.

In April of 2020 the Ignatius Jesuit Centre's Loyola House became a COVID Isolation Shelter to those without homes and this extended until August 2020. This alternative use of the retreat house offered those in need with a safe place to live while remaining isolated.

In September the Ignatius Jesuit Centre entered into a collaboration with the County of Wellington and the Welcome In Drop-In Centre and the formation of Loyola House Supportive Temporary Accommodation Pilot (LHSTAP) opened in November 2020. The initiative was part of the community's work to end homelessness in Guelph-Wellington.

This approach reinforced the need to shift to a model with a strong housing focus that supported multi-sector service delivery. The LHSTAP provides food and temporary housing for up to 40 adults and includes health care, housing services, addiction and mental health counseling.

LHSTAP is now in entering its third month and while the Ignatius staff knew there could be challenges opening the House for a 12-month period, the transition in having this group at our Retreat House has been grace filled each day.

We continue to build relationships with these folks, each with their own remarkable and often challenging life stories. It is a key mission of the Jesuits to help those in marginalized communities.

We support the Parkview initiative and encourage the current neighbors of the Parkview to keep open minds and even more importantly, open hearts, in welcoming this to their neighborhood.

It is incumbent on us all to work together to end homelessness. Thank you.

Lisa Calzonetti
Director of Operations

Roger Yaworski, SJ
Executive Director and Jesuit Superior