



## Participating Agencies

Bruce House  
 Cornerstone  
 Daybreak  
 Emily Murphy  
 Harmony House  
 Tewegan House  
 Options Bytown  
 Ottawa Salus  
 Shepherds of Good Hope  
 YMCA-YWCA

Visit the HousingPlus  
 Network Website  
[www.housingplus.ca](http://www.housingplus.ca)

### Inside this issue:

Up-dates & Accomplishments	2-3
Year 1 Challenges	3
Plans for Year 2 & Other Research	3
Publications & Presentations	4
Pictures of the Group Members	4

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October, 2008

## The HousingPlus Collaborative Communities Project

The HousingPlus Collaborative Communities Project (HPCC) is a participatory action research based project that is being conducted by jointly by the inter-agency Ottawa Supportive Housing Network, (also known as HousingPlus) and researchers from the University of Ottawa, the Provincial Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health at CHEO, and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, under the direction of Dr. John Sylvestre. Participating agencies include: Bruce House, Cornerstone, Daybreak, Emily Murphy, Harmony House, Tewegan House, Options Bytown, Ottawa Salus, Shepherds of Good Hope, and YMCA-YWCA.

The objectives of the HPCC project are: 1) to develop tools and methods for evaluating the implementation of supportive housing by network members, 2) to evaluate program implementation, and 3) to use evaluation findings to assist network members to collaborate in finding solutions to shared implementation challenges.

Participants in the project include a research team, comprised of university professors, graduate and undergraduate students and professionals in the mental health field, executive directors and senior managers from the HousingPlus Network, and staff and tenants representatives from each



## The HousingPlus Research Project Participants



With funding from:



Social Sciences and Humanities  
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## Overview of the Project

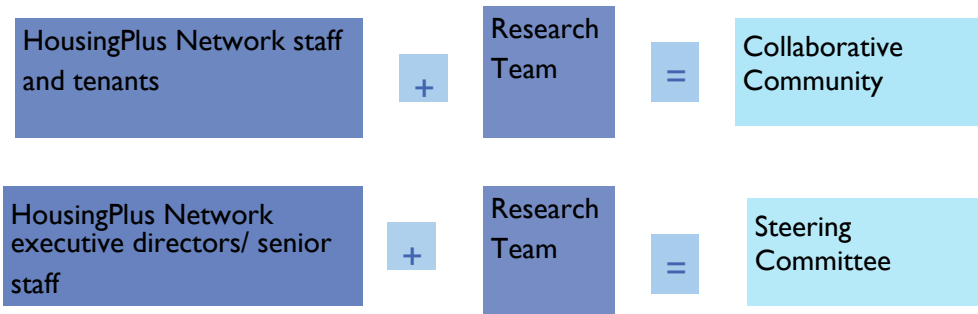
Year 1 – Develop guiding values, develop descriptions of common service delivery practices, and create an implementation evaluation tool.

Year II– Evaluate agency practices using the developed evaluation tools.

Year III – Use evaluation findings to develop plans for improving agency practices.

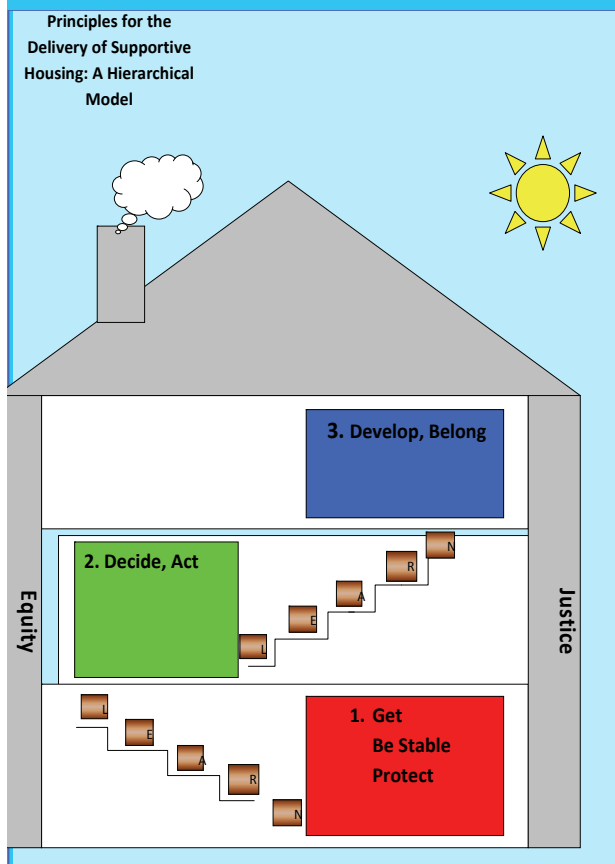
## Year 1 Accomplishments of the HPCC Project

**A Steering Committee and a Collaborative Community were created and monthly meetings were held.**



**Achievements of the Steering Committee:** participated in discussions related to the management and direction of the study, reviewed findings from the study, and assisted in the development of a tool for evaluating the implementation of supportive housing by participating agencies.

**Achievements of the Collaborative Community:** participated in discussions on the strategies for working together effectively, values and principles for delivering supportive housing services, what is good housing, what is good housing support, how do we meet individuals' needs, and how do we make sure that programs do what they are supposed to do.



## The HousingPlus Values

**Fundamental Principles: Get, Protect, and Be Stable:** Supportive housing should enable people to GET resources that they want, to support them in becoming STABLE in their housing, and to PROTECT themselves and be safe.

**The Learning Process:** a continuous, on-going process that supports achievement of values at various levels

**Intermediate Principles: Decide and Act:** DECIDING means having choice, exercising rights, gaining power and control and making one's voice heard; ACTING means being pro-active, acting on choices, making commitments.

**Higher Order Principles: Develop and Belong:** Through good supportive housing, people DEVELOP and grow as a whole person and BELONG in their housing and their communities.

**Broader Principles– Equity and Social Justice:** The values of EQUITY and SOCIAL JUSTICE support the achievement these values for all.

## An Implementation Evaluation tool

Based on the Collaborative Community's discussions, an evaluation tool was developed by the research team and the Steering Committee. The tool identifies 33 supportive program components in four domains (Housing, Support, Person, and Agency Systems). For each program component, we have described levels of program implementation that extend from low level, to partial, to full implementation. These levels of program implementation correspond to our fundamental, intermediate and higher order values. This tool will be used in the coming months to evaluate the participating programs.

## Plans for Year 2

### Evaluating the Supportive Housing Programs

Our objectives for the second year of this project are:

1. To train participants to evaluate their agencies using the tool we have developed
2. To collect data on the evaluation of their agencies
3. To collaboratively analyze findings from the evaluation to identify successes and challenges in the implementation of supportive housing in Ottawa.

There is a solution to homelessness in

Ottawa:

Housing + Support,  
Housing + Counselling,  
Housing + Learning,  
Housing + Community,  
Housing + You

Equals stronger, safer  
neighbourhoods



Members of the  
HousingPlus  
Research Team



## Other Research Planned or Underway

- Literature review on the use of collaboration to improve program practice.
- Development of an Evaluability Evaluation Plan of the HPCC project.
- Literature review and development of a questionnaire to evaluate the collaboration.
- A case study of the evolution of collaboration within the HousingPlus Network.
- Using Photovoice to evaluate program implementation within context of HPCC.

## Publications and Presentations

- Bendell, K., Sylvestre, J., Smith, J. Review of Professional Practice Improvement Using Collaboration. Poster presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> Quebec- Ontario Community Psychology Conference, May 23-25<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Montreal, Quebec.
- Smith, J., Sylvestre, J., Bendell, K. Can an action research project be evaluated?: Assessing the HousingPlus Collaborative Communities Project. Poster presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> Quebec-Ontario Community Psychology Conference, May 23-25<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Montreal, Quebec.
- Sundar, P., Sylvestre, J., Cousins, B., Aubry, T., & Hinsperger, V. (May, 2008). *Engaging stakeholders in the planning of a collaborative multi-agency evaluation: The HousingPlus Collaborative Communities Project*. "Social Work National Conference: Human Rights in a Diverse Community". Toronto, Ontario.
- Sundar, P., Sylvestre, J., Cousins, B., Aubry, T., & Hinsperger, V. (April 2008). *Engaging stakeholders in the planning of a collaborative multi-agency evaluation: The HousingPlus Collaborative Communities Project*. Paper presented at the Carleton University School of Social Work's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Research Day. Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario.
- Sylvestre, J., Cousins, J.B., Sundar, P., Aubry, T., & Hinsperger, V. (In press). *Engaging Stakeholders in the Planning of a Collaborative Multi-Agency Evaluation: The HousingPlus Collaborative Communities Project*. *Studies in Educational Evaluation*.
- Sylvestre, J., Sundar, P., Manion, M., Smith, J., Bendell, K., Cousins, J.B., & Aubry, T. (Accepted). *The HousingPlus Project: A Collaborative Values-Based Approach to Evaluating the Implementation of Supportive Housing in Ottawa, Ontario*. American Evaluation Association's Annual Conference, November 5 – 8, 2008.

## WANT MORE INFO?

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