

June 5, 2009

To whom it May Concern,

I am a Sister of St. Martha and Director of a new initiative of the Sisters of St. Martha to help people who are both poor and homeless in Halifax. This endeavour began September 2008.

In order for us, Sr. Rose and I, to connect and meet people, we walk the streets; visit shelters, drop-ins, coffee shops and food banks. In doing this we get a front line perspective on the situations with which people have to deal.

A common thread going through our many conversations is that of finding a place to call home. We soon discovered that the solution is not only getting a 'place to live', but there needs to be structures of support set in place to help them in their 'living' in this new space. We were delighted to discover that Halifax Housing Help does both these things. It is amazing the amount of work the individual staff members do.

We have worked with many of the same individuals that Halifax Housing Help does and we have seen the pride and dignity that returns to the faces of the people who have been helped by this organization. The service they provide plays an essential role in supporting individuals who are/or at -risk of homelessness. It would be unfortunate that the many good things that have been started would be put on hold or cease, not to speak of what would happen to the individuals.

As I write this letter in support of financial support, specifically for this time, many wonderful faces flash before my eyes and multiple searching stories ring in my ears. Sr. Rose and I can testify to the need for Halifax Housing Help to continue its wonderful task of 'home-making'.

Yours sincerely,

Sister Jovita MacPherson, csm
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