

**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS - July – September, 2020**

Community Partnerships initiated and/or ongoing include:

*New/On-going - Emergency Food Program (EFP)* - Through the Brantford Food Bank and the Salvation Army in Paris now coordinate the distribution of emergency food hampers during COVID-19. Tenants can call these two organizations directly to receive food which can be delivered to them. In total the EFP served 32,966 individuals during this quarter including many LHC tenants.

*New/On-going - Healthy Aging Without Walls (HAWW)* - Many senior tenants shared feelings of loneliness and isolation during COVID-19. City staff were able to apply to bring the Seniors Centre Without Walls provincial program to the City of Brantford so adults 50+ can call in and participate in fun, educational programs with their friends and neighbours. Monthly program calendars (573) are submitted to all LHC senior tenants. In total 471 participants served through HAWW program during this quarter (July 165; August 127; and, September 179).

*New/Completed/Pending – Mask Distribution to Senior tenants* – Through the Healthy Aging Without Walls and in co-ordination with City staff 549 senior LHC tenants were issued washable masks along with Buzz Me program flyer information for additional supports. This initiative was completed following City Councils approval of the new Mandatory Face Covering By-law on July 17, 2020. Additional masks continue to be available for senior tenants upon request.

*Completed (June 2020) - Wellness Chats* - In response to the mental health concerns raised by seniors, the City partnered with Family Counselling Centre of Brant to offer free, group support sessions to adults 50+ during COVID-19.

*New/On-going - Terraband Activities/Exercise Bands & Activity Guides* - Many seniors wanted more information about easy exercises they could do from home. As a result, Terraband equipment including exercise bands and an activity guide listing a number of various exercises that could be completed safely at home using the bands were forwarded to all (573) LHC tenants. These items were issued directly to all LHC tenants.

*New/On-going - Buzz Me* - Many seniors were interested in receiving weekly calls from the Outreach Team to check in on their health and continue their friendly conversations. City staff worked with the community organization Seniors and Kids Intergenerational Programs (SKIP) to launch “Buzz Me” so seniors would still have an opportunity to connect with trained volunteers to build meaningful relationships over the

phone and receive information about the resources available for seniors. Program is averaging over 20 participants each month

*Ongoing* - Brant County Health Unit (BCHU) partners with Brantford Housing Services to offer programming at Brant, Lorne, Albion Towers and the John Noble Apartments. Programs focus on and emphasize health promotion and chronic disease prevention. Due to COVID-19, BCHU modified programming offered, as below.

*New – Brantford Food Bank/Salvation Army Christmas Basket Programs* – The Brantford Food Bank and the Salvation Army in Brantford in co-ordination with the Brant County Health Unit will be assisting senior tenants at Brant & Lorne Tower along with Albion Tower in registering for this year's Christmas Basket Program. Grocery gift cards to be issued out to tenants this year due to COVID-19.

*Pending – Physical Distancing Bingo* – Through the Brant County Health Unit (BCHU) - BCHU staff would attend various LHC locations including Brant & Lorne Towers for bingo sessions with senior tenants. All tenants would pre-register and would have to provide their own chips and masks along and maintain all current public health safety guidelines. Currently on hold due to common room closers and distancing measures. Potential approvals will be reviewed each month.

*Pending – S.A.F.E. ZONE Fall Prevention exercise program* – The program is designed by health professionals to assist seniors in the community to remain independent. Programming at Brant & Albion Towers is currently on hold due to common room closers and distancing measures. Potential approvals will be reviewed each month.

*Ongoing* - Wesley Live Well Program is onsite at Winston Court to offer intensive case management services seven days per week. Due to COVID-19 program services were modified and Wesley continues to offer recreational, life skills and a variety of programming for residents on a one-on-one basis in addition to intensive case management to improve quality of life and prevent homelessness. In addition, the program averages twenty-eight (28) people each month for the monthly Food Share program. This program expires on December 31, 2020 and an alternated staffing model will be introduced.

*Ongoing* - The Seniors Resource Centre assists Housing staff with facilitating income tax clinics during income tax season at Brant Towers, Lorne Towers, Albion Towers, Winston Court, John Noble Apartments and Trillium Way. Beckett Building, Heritage House and Slovak Village also benefit. All clinics were completed prior to COVID-19 situation and over 210 returns have been filed thus far for Housing clients up until the end of this quarter.

*Ongoing* - Community Paramedicine program continues to operate a monthly program at Brant and Lorne Towers, Albion Towers, John Noble Apartments and Trillium Way. The Community Paramedicine program utilizes a team of local paramedics who visit the LHC senior buildings to provide health supports. The program has received ongoing funding from the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) to keep this very effective program in operation.

*New/On-going* – Approach to clinics (Education focus & Direct Referrals) – the Community Paramedicine programs will change in how they operate to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone and change in its approach to client education. A new group education system has been determined to be more beneficial and new partnerships are currently being formulated which will be able to provide group education on a variety of topics including health, nutrition, safety, fall awareness etc. Other new programs currently under development will enable the Community Paramedicine program to directly refer people with various mental health or social challenges directly to those services.

*New* -Flu Vaccination Clinics –Through the Community Paramedicine program senior LHC tenants will be able to register for a flu vaccination appointment on-site. Clinics to take place at Brant & Lorne Towers on Oct 20<sup>th</sup>; Albion Tower on Oct 21<sup>st</sup>; Trillium Way on Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> ; & JNA TBD. All appropriate public health guidelines will be followed.

*Ongoing* - The SPCA is a very active partner in our communities offering, food pantries at various sites, rabies and microchip clinics, and ongoing supports to all sites when a client is in need of pet food, supplies or education on proper pet care.

*On-going* – *Emergency pet food & litter packages* - Due to COVID-19 the SPCA has provided social housing sites (Brant & Lorne Towers) with emergency pet food and litter packages which continue to be issued out to tenants as needed.

*Ongoing* - Fire safety and tenant fire safety awareness are critical issues for Brantford Housing, and ongoing partnerships with the Brantford and County of Brant Fire Departments help support life safety throughout the LHC portfolio. Staff partnered with Fire Department officials to provide education sessions for tenants about fire safety and the importance of life safety fire systems, including not tampering with smoke alarms or other fire alarm and prevention devices (i.e. mini-horns, heat detectors, and door closers). The respective fire departments assist with fire drills at LHC apartments, which usually include food, to encourage tenant participation, as well as fire prevention education. Fire drills continued to take place at LHC buildings in 2020.

*Ongoing* - At family LHC sites our community partners continue to work with staff to plan social-recreational opportunities, including spring garden planting days and back-to-school carnivals. Due to COVID-19 some of these opportunities have been modified to follow public health safety guidelines. These opportunities for inclusion and community outreach are being offered throughout 2020.

*Annual/Completed* - The annual Back to School Carnivals were held on August 25, 26 & 27<sup>th</sup> with modifications due to COVID-19 (unit sign-ups & drop offs) at various sites throughout community including Riverside Gardens, Northland Gardens, Eastdale Gardens & Daleview Gardens. Children had an opportunity to get a back pack with school supplies, and all families were received a food donation. Agencies involved in putting together this year's event include Jacob's Well Ministries Inc., City of Brantford Housing, Brant Family & Children Services, JC Homes/ St. Basil's, County of Brant, Brant Community Church, Church of the Nazarene, Freedom Christian Community, Hope CRC, Generations, Grace Gospel – Paris, Paris Presbyterian, GVCC, Shallow Creek Academy of Hair, & Salvation Army. In total 277 back packs & over 200 food boxes were given out to children and families at Riverside Gardens (48), Eastdale Gardens (83), Northland Gardens (119) & Daleview Gardens (27).

*New/Completed* – Healthy Kids Hand Sanitizer/Children Face Masks – Through the Healthy Kids program in co-ordination with City staff over 250 children's face masks and school bag hand sanitizer bottles were delivered to children at Riverside Gardens, Northland Gardens, Eastdale Gardens, & Daleview Gardens.

*Ongoing* - Support for individual tenants (seniors and vulnerable adults) continues to be provided through partnerships with: Behavioural Supports Ontario, the Alzheimer's Society, the Salvation Army, Integrated Crisis Services (St. Leonard's), the Local Health Integration Network, and the Brantford Food Bank.

*Ongoing* – Brant Family and Children's Services (BFACS) continue to provide services and programs at three Resource Centres located in the Local Housing Corporation (LHC) family sites known as Northland Gardens, Eastdale Gardens and Riverside Gardens. In addition to their own programming, FACS facilitates and hosts other community partners from the health, child/family, and social services sectors. A monthly calendar of activities is produced for the residents in each community. The EarlyON program is provided in the resource centres. Due to COVID-19 some services have been modified but are on-going.