



Community and Health Services  
Housing York Inc.

## Memorandum

To: Members of the Housing York Inc. Board  
From: Rick Farrell, General Manager  
Date: February 1, 2018  
Re: **Housing Operations – Monthly Activity Update**

---

This Housing Operations update highlights activities that took place in December 2017 and January 2018.

Partnerships and Programs

### **YOUTHink Video Contest and Movie Night**

Throughout the year, Housing York organizes several resident engagement events to connect with residents and recognize their contributions within the community. Occasionally, larger events are planned linking multiple Housing York communities together. For example, in 2016, Housing York's Good Neighbour Awards honoured residents who care about where they live and who do special things that make life better for others. This year's event, the YOUTHink Video Contest, focused on recognizing youth who live in Housing York communities.

The campaign invited youth, aged 25 and younger, living in Housing York communities, to submit a one-minute video that highlighted who they are and what they want to do in the future.

Housing staff, together with 360°kids support staff, and volunteers from a Town of Georgina youth group, held pizza nights and after school events leading up to the YOUTHink Video Contest submission deadline to encourage participation in the campaign and support youth in the development of their videos. For Housing staff, this was an excellent opportunity to work more closely with our youth population, a group that contributes much to our communities.

Thirty-two creative, moving and inspiring videos were received from participants aged five to 24 from six Housing York properties in the Town of Richmond Hill, Town of

Newmarket and Town of Georgina. Each participant and their family were invited to an award presentation held at the SilverCity Richmond Hill Cinemas on January 18, 2018. Youth were excited to see their submissions on the big screen. Eight submissions were awarded prizes.

The grand prize winner, a resident from Mackenzie Green, received a MacBook Pro laptop. His submission spoke to his aspirations in life and how a strong family bond has given him a good foundation for success. Other award recipients submitted videos that demonstrated Enthusiasm, Spirit, Charisma, Ambition, Community, Creativity and Quality. Finalists in these categories were awarded laptops, headphones and iPads.

The night concluded with a screening of Ferdinand for participants and their guests to enjoy.



**YOUTHink Awards and Movie Night promotion**

### **Every Bite Matters – Connecting Seniors and Youth at the Richmond Hill Hub**

360°kids, an organization that delivers programs and services for at-risk youth in York Region, received funding from Service Canada to deliver a pilot employment program at Richmond Hill Hub. “Every Bite Matters” provides youth living in York Region with culinary training to prepare and serve meals.

360°kids invited 20 seniors living at the Richmond Hill Hub to join the “Every Bite Matters” initiative by enjoying the youth’s culinary creations over lunch, three days a

week, in December. Youth served a number of scrumptious meals including a variety of soups, fish, meat and vegetarian dishes and stir-fry.

Youth prepared the meals in the commercial kitchen located in the 360°kids space at the Hub and served the meals to seniors in the 6<sup>th</sup> floor resident lounge. Program participants were also invited to enjoy their culinary work and dine with the seniors.

The program helps to create a connection in the Hub between youth and seniors. The program also provides seniors with an opportunity to interact with other residents.

The program was well received by both 360°kids youth and senior residents living at the Hub. A second session is currently running from January 23 to February 20.



**360°kids “Every Bite Matters” initiative**

## Site Activities

### **Temperature Swings results in increased maintenance calls**

Over the first weekend in January, temperatures across York Region swung from a low of minus 25 celsius to a high of plus 10 celsius. Extreme and drastic temperature changes can affect buildings and equipment performance. Housing York’s after hours emergency maintenance line received an increased number of calls over that weekend. Staff responded to a number of calls including no or low heat calls, false fire alarms, frozen doors and burst pipes.

Residents were most affected by a burst fan coil unit pipe that ruptured in a 6th floor unit at Mackenzie Green in the Town of Richmond Hill. Five apartment units and the main lobby experienced varying degrees of water damage. Housing York’s strong relationship with vendors allowed for a very quick response time from emergency restoration and mechanical equipment repair contractors. One family has been displaced from their home. Repair work in all areas is ongoing and Housing York’s insurance provider has been notified of the event.

## Capital Project Update

### **Northview Court, 39 North Street, Elevator upgrade**

The elevator at 39 North Street, a seniors' building in the Town of Georgina, is being replaced to ensure continued reliable service for the two-storey building. In order to complete the work, the building's single elevator will be out of service for five weeks starting February 5.

Staff held a meeting on January 24 to review the elevator upgrade schedule and discuss supports to assist residents. A notice has been delivered to all residents in the building, highlighting information provided at the meeting. Residents were asked to complete a survey to help identify their needs while the work is in progress.

A number of measures will be in place to support residents throughout the work:

- Temporary seating will be available between floors to provide rest stops when using the stairs
- A support worker will be made available to help residents get groceries to the second floor during regular working hours a few days a week

---

Rick Farrell  
General Manager

RF/kh