

Project Comfort January 2019 Updates

January 2019 Meeting Schedule

➤ **Donations Committee**

Tuesday January 22nd 8:00 pm – Monthly Meeting Conference Call
Call in Number 1-647-497- 9373. Register to attend donation@projectcomfort.ca

Agenda:

Update / discussion on clothing barrels (Volunteers Needed)

Corporate Strategy Initiative (Volunteers Needed)

➤ **Events Committee**

January 17th - Arts Session Planning Meeting (Volunteers Needed)

January 26th – Arts Session Lakeshore and Bathurst Respite Centre (Time TBA - afternoon)

January 29th – 8:00 pm Monthly Meeting Conference Call
Call in Number 1-647-497- 9373. Register to attend donation@projectcomfort.ca

➤ **NEXT MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING**

Tuesday February 12th 7:00 pm Media Room 231 Fort York Boulevard. Registration required email info@projectcomfort.ca

January 8th , 2019 General Meeting Minutes

Welcome and introductions – Project Comfort was pleased to welcome 5 new volunteers to the meeting. In addition, Joe Cressy (councillor for Ward 10) and his Chief of Staff, Lia Brewar also attended the meeting. Representatives from St Felix Centre (operators of the Lamport Site) and Fred Victor (operators of the Bathurst Site) were in attendance. Homes First (operators of the Queen Elizabeth site) did send their regrets but provided input on discussion items in advance.

An overview of December activity was provided. Project Comfort held a holiday party at the Bathurst site attracting approximately 100 residents. Sponsorship of food and drinks were provided by many of the local merchants. As new centres in the area all 3 respite centres were decorated by Project Comfort

in holiday decorations including, lights, garland through the centres and a tree at each site. During the holiday week a couple of Project Comfort volunteers also hosted a trivia night at the Bathurst Site.

Meeting with Joe Cressy – Husain and Richard updated the group on their meeting with Councillor Cressy. Key suggestions from the councillor were to engage other councillors, advocate at public planning meetings to ensure specific developments allocate a percentage of units for affordable housing. A question was raised by our government liaison lead with respect to seeking meeting with Mayor Tory. Joe indicated we should pursue a meeting and perhaps invite him to our February meeting.

Events Committee Update

Husain updated on January strategy which includes Project Comfort hosting an “arts therapy” event for respite centre residents. This is scheduled for January 19th. Husain asked for volunteers to assist and participate in the event. Most critical would be any individuals in the community that have a background in teaching art who would be willing to attend the event and provide assistance.

A second trivia night is being considered for January.

Richard raised the possibility of hosting a book fair. Many of the residents in the sites have little access to reading material. The concept here would be to host an event in the area where volunteers / community members would bring 2 books each. They could exchange 1 book for another (if the wish) and remaining books would be provided to shelters to build a library.

After the meeting one volunteer offered to take the lead on the book fair. Additional support and help would very much be welcomed.

Donations Committee Update

Eric updated the group on clothing donation activity. In September Project Comfort started with 6 rain barrels in local condos. Currently we are at 49 barrels. During December a number of barrels were placed in commercial companies for the holiday season. They have been returned and we now need to find a place for them.

It is estimated that we have collected over 10,000 lbs of clothing. Based on research by donation organizations it is estimated that each pound of clothing represents 6 items.

Volunteers are needed to help canvas local condo boards /management group to seek their consent in Project Comfort placing a donation barrel in their lobby. The barrels are aesthetically pleasing (wraps are being designed to provide an even more pleasing look).

Richard updated the group that initial discussions have taken place with respect to piloting a project with two national drug stores to place a donation bin in their area stores seeking hygiene and personal items (Similar to donation bins at local food stores seeking food donations).

Next Donation Meeting is Tuesday January 15th by conference call. Time will be

Communication Update

Erin updated the group that communications continues to support Project Comfort messaging, information and committee leads. We have, and continue to receive, interest from media on Project Comfort.

Project Comfort has also been asked to submit our organizations name for a community award program.

Project Comfort Logo

Following December's meeting and discussion an email was sent to all volunteers asking them to submit logo designs for consideration. The email was also supported by social media campaign. No logos were received (possible a result of a busy holiday season).

Ella (social media lead for Project Comfort) had sent an email prior to the meeting indicating she was working on a couple of logos.

Richard indicated that it is important that we move forward with finalizing a logo. Both for media purposes but in addition finalizing certain marketing items (barrel wraps) the urgency is critical.

It was suggested, and agreed by attendees, to ask Ella to finalize the logo as with her mandate to support our social media presence she would need to be comfortable with the logo selection.

Sponsorship Acknowledgement

A question was raised during December as to how best to acknowledge sponsors of Project Comfort activities.

After discussion the group agreed on the following:

- 1) Maintaining a list / inserting logo's on Project Comfort would be time consuming to maintain (update) and may lead to one or more sponsor's accidentally not being recognized.
- 2) Each committee lead will design a standard "thank you letter" containing Project Comfort logo.
- 3) Sponsors will be provided with a placard that they can display in the window of their business. This will give them recognition but in addition also provide comfort to respite centre residents that not just individuals but businesses care about them.

Project Comfort Respite Centre Coordinators.

After discussion with the operators of the respite centres Project Comfort will be assigning a single point of contact between Project Comfort and the individual operator. The purpose of this is to stream line communication and ensure we are not taxing the time of the operators.

The following are the centre coordinators:

Lakeshore and Bathurst (Fred Victor) – Eric

Lamport (St Felix) – Maya

Queen Elizabeth (Homes First) – Richard (interim) Project Comfort is seeking a volunteer who will take on this role.

In addition it should also be noted that no activity should be arranged with individual sites without the prior discussion at the Project Comfort general meeting or Events Meeting. This will provide operators advance notice and participation in understanding the purpose of the event and ensure there is no overlap in services they provide.

PROJECT COMFORT WALKS TOGETHER WITH ST. FELIX CENTRE

ON THE COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR, SHARE THE WARMTH IN YOUR HEART!

The winter season can be full of treasured moments with family and friends, for most of us. However, there are members of our community who really struggle during these cold nights - homeless, hungry, many times feeling hopeless.

It is for them that we invite you to walk with us and the St Felix Centre, at dusk on February 23rd , as part of our 1st annual Coldest Night of the Year fundraising walk. Join your co-workers, colleagues and neighbours in making a difference for those in need!

St. Felix Centre, located in downtown Toronto, supports people experiencing poverty, homelessness, mental illness, and addiction – and we take care of their pets too! Our Centre provides compassionate service and a safe, welcoming and respectful environment inclusive of all religions, genders, cultures and abilities. Among other programs, in partnership with the City of Toronto, we operate the 25 Augusta Avenue and the Liberty Village 24-Hour Respite sites.

We will walk on the Coldest Night of the Year because while the weather may be cold, our hearts should always be warm to show compassion and support to those in need.

How can you be part of this amazing and fun opportunity to give back to the community?

●Join the Project Comfort team or, if you can't join us please make a donation. You will find us at <https://secure.e2rm.com/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=840094&langPref=en-CA>

- Let your company know what you are doing and invite them to match the funds your team raises
- The walk will take place on February 23rd – approximately 6km long with a resting stop in the middle for a nice warm beverage. Then we will head back to the starting point to celebrate your generosity and compassion
- The event will be accessible for all ages and abilities