

Faith and Housing Coalition

Blair Trainor

Who I am

- Volunteered and Slept on the Streets of St. John's for 432 hrs = 18 days, supporting to help raise of \$50'000.00 for youth housing and homelessness services (2010-2015)
- Former Board Member of End Homelessness St. John's (2013-2014)
- Chair of the Faith and Housing (2015-Present)

History of Coalition

- It was formed in 2014 in the wake of an initial workshop at the City's November 2013 Housing Forum and includes people from many different faith traditions.
- **Organized two forums:**
 - **Forum 1 → November 2014**
 - Presentation by Rev Miriam Bowlby: The Cochrane Street United Church Housing Initiative
 - Local housing and homelessness : complex problems and concrete plans for action
 - Toolkits: practical, take away resources to equip faith communities for housing action
 - Discussion and action planning time

History of Coalition

- **Forum 2 → May 2015**
 - Presentation on current local housing initiatives led by faith communities
 - Update on local housing and homelessness and community plans for action
 - Concurrent sessions on how your faith community can get involve in concrete projects:
 - 1) Organize NL's first Habitat for Humanity 'faith build' to create homes for families
 - 2) Help start a much needed community furniture bank
 - 3) Do your own faith community 'home makeover' to address inadequate housing
 - 4) Engage faith communities in *Sleep Out 120 to fight youth homelessness*
 - 5) Repurpose faith community land and buildings for housing initiatives
 - Discussion of next steps

What we do

- **Advocate Best Practices**
 - Federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy
 - City of St. John's
 - End Homelessness St. John's
 - NL Housing
 - Newfoundland Housing and homelessness Network

What We Do

- **Build Partnerships**
 - Faith Communities
 - Public Sector (federal, provincial, municipal)
 - Private Sector
 - Non-Profit organizations
 - End Homelessness St. John's
 - NL Housing and Homelessness Network
 - Associations and other networks

What We do

- **Tell Stories**
 - Non-Profit organization Success Stories
 - Resilient Children, youth, young adults, adults and senior
 - All demographics
 - **Story to Share**
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

!!Concrete Actions!!

Supporting Cochrane Street United

- **A Place for:**
 - our congregation to worship and continue to provide outreach
 - the sanctuary music and performance – that utilizes the wonderful acoustics and maintains the organ
 - supporting the local arts community
 - outreach that provides supportive housing
- **The facility is used as outreach**
 - Affordable housing
 - Community kitchen
 - Meeting rooms for arts, community and church groups
 - Offices and space for arts, music and community groups
 - Space for concerts and performances
 - Cochrane Street United Church

ReNew It (Habitat for Humanity)

- Pilot project
 - Faith and Housing sub committee formed
 - 2 meetings thus far with Habitat for Humanity
 - A meeting scheduled with Seniors resource centre to research needs/renovation projects
 - Early stages, growing organization and follow up in the new year
 - First formal commitment to develop the ReNew It program in the province

Presenting to Faith Communities

- **Educating on NL Housing and Homelessness**
 - Issues
 - Services available
 - How to support Community Plan to End Homelessness
- **Recruiting volunteers for concrete initiatives**
 - Cochrane Street United
 - Furniture Bank
 - ReNew it

Planning Third Forum

- Spring of 2016