



KCCU HELPS DAWN HOUSE WIN \$25,000 GRANT **Concentra “empowering your community” program**

(May 11, 2018 – Kingston, Canada) Almost a year to the day after Kingston Community Credit Union hosted a community barbecue in support of Dawn House which had been vandalized during the construction of their new building, KCCU applied for and won a grant of \$25,000 for Dawn House to construct a community kitchen at its 965 Milford Drive location.

Dawn House Services and Housing for Women is an example of an organization in Kingston that understands the needs of the community and under the leadership of Executive Director Maggie McLaren, has repurposed itself, in keeping with the City of Kingston’s 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, to provide Transitional and Permanent Supportive Affordable housing for women.

The KCCU SOCO (Social Committee) guided by Kathy Lavorato, Manager of Operations and with the assistance of Maggie McLaren wrote a proposal to Concentra Financial to seek funds through their “Empowering the Community” initiative. Member Service Representative Heather Shorthall has also been a tireless volunteer and proponent of Dawn House ensuring KCCU and Dawn House’s continued cooperative relationship.

Dawn House was founded in 1986 as an emergency shelter for women in response to a housing crisis in the City of Kingston. A diverse group of community individuals and organizations contributed to its setup and establishment as a non-profit, charitable organization. Dawn House sold its former premises at 302 Victoria Street and reinvested the proceeds in its new location to provide supportive housing and wellness supports.

Concentra awards \$200,000 annually through the company’s flagship corporate social responsibility program, Empowering Your Community. Now in its eighth year, Empowering has delivered over \$1.4 million in support of over 100 different credit union led initiatives in nearly 100 communities across the country. Empowering grants, awarded through credit unions, support a wide variety of

projects in key areas such as health, community development, education and the environment.

KCCU is a member-owned, democratically-operated financial co-operative – an open-bond community credit union. The Credit Union was founded more than 60 years ago, and has grown to become one of Ontario’s most co-operative and community-oriented credit unions. Over the past five years, KCCU has returned over \$1.7 Million in profits to its members and has donated approximately \$1 Million in assistance to the local community in cash and in-kind.

KCCU has \$156 Million in assets under administration, and serves over 12,000 members with its four branches downtown at 18 Market Street, at 76 Stuart St. (KGH), in Kingston West at 795 Gardiners Road at Taylor-Kidd, and at Kingslake Plaza at 1201 Division Street. To find out more about KCCU on the web visit www.kccu.ca.

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