

FORTY YEARS OF HOMES FIRST



HOMES FOR DINNER

The Ruby Gala

Saturday, November 16th, 2024
The Globe and Mail Centre

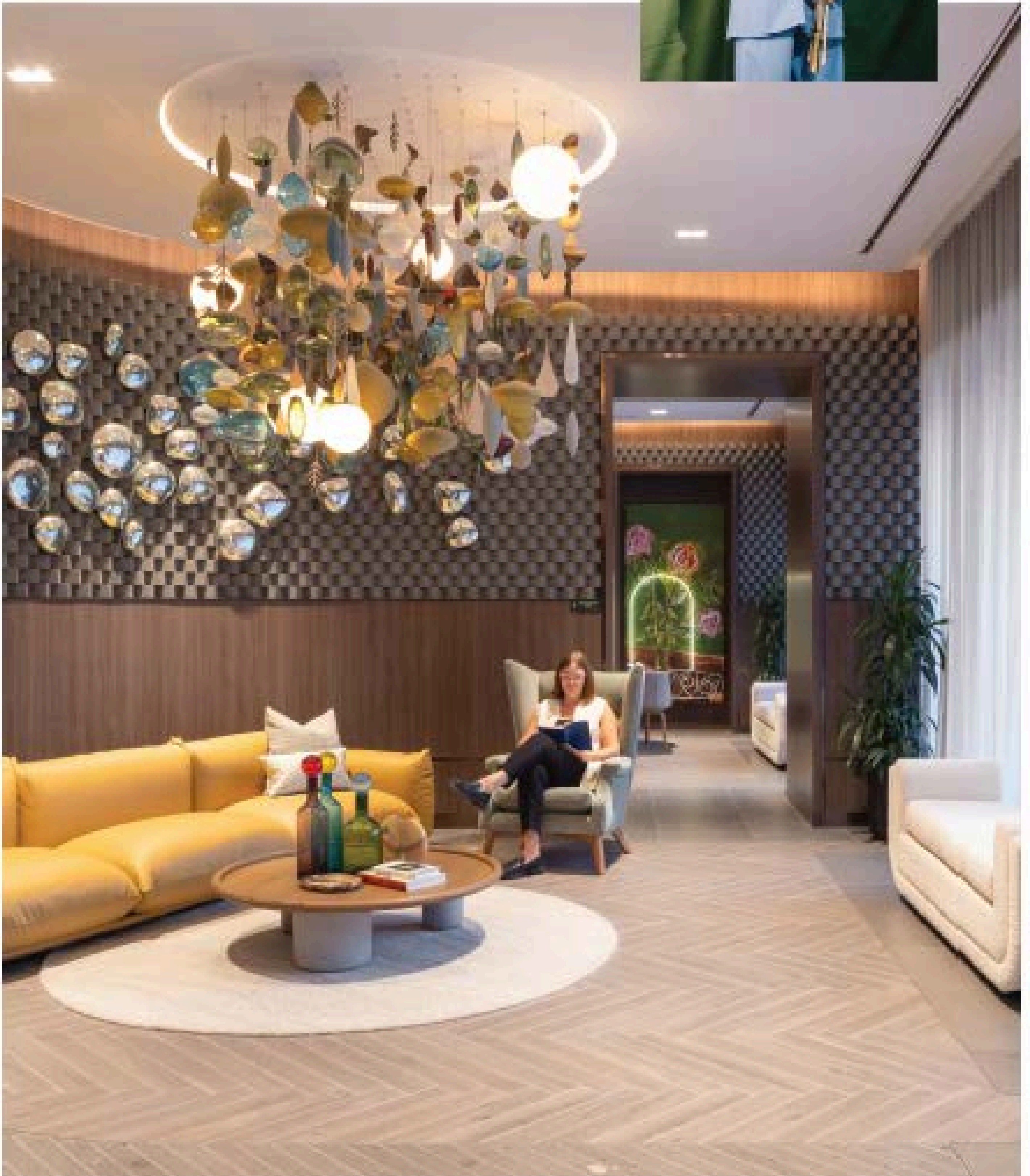
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SIGNATURE FUNDRAISING EVENT





The future of rental living is here.



4th Floor

DONATE NOW



EVERYONE
NEEDS A
HOME

HOMES FOR DINNER

The Ruby Gala

OPENING REMARKS

Hear from our host, Anthony Farnell, Homes First's Senior Leadership & Guest Speakers

MINGLE, WINE AND DINE

Enjoy the delicious spread by McEwan Catering & open bar.

THE HOMEFULL DRAW

Purchase tickets for you chance to win a ruby & diamond ring!

SILENT AUCTION CLOSES

Final bids on specialty items including sports tickets & one-of-a-kind experiences must be placed before 11:00pm.

**THE
GLOBE
AND
MAIL** 
CENTRE

HOMELESSNESS IN TORONTO

10,339

The number of people experiencing homelessness on any given night.
(Shelter System Flow Data, October 2024)

7,000

The approximate number of active shelter beds in Toronto.
(Shelter System Flow Data, February 2024)

796

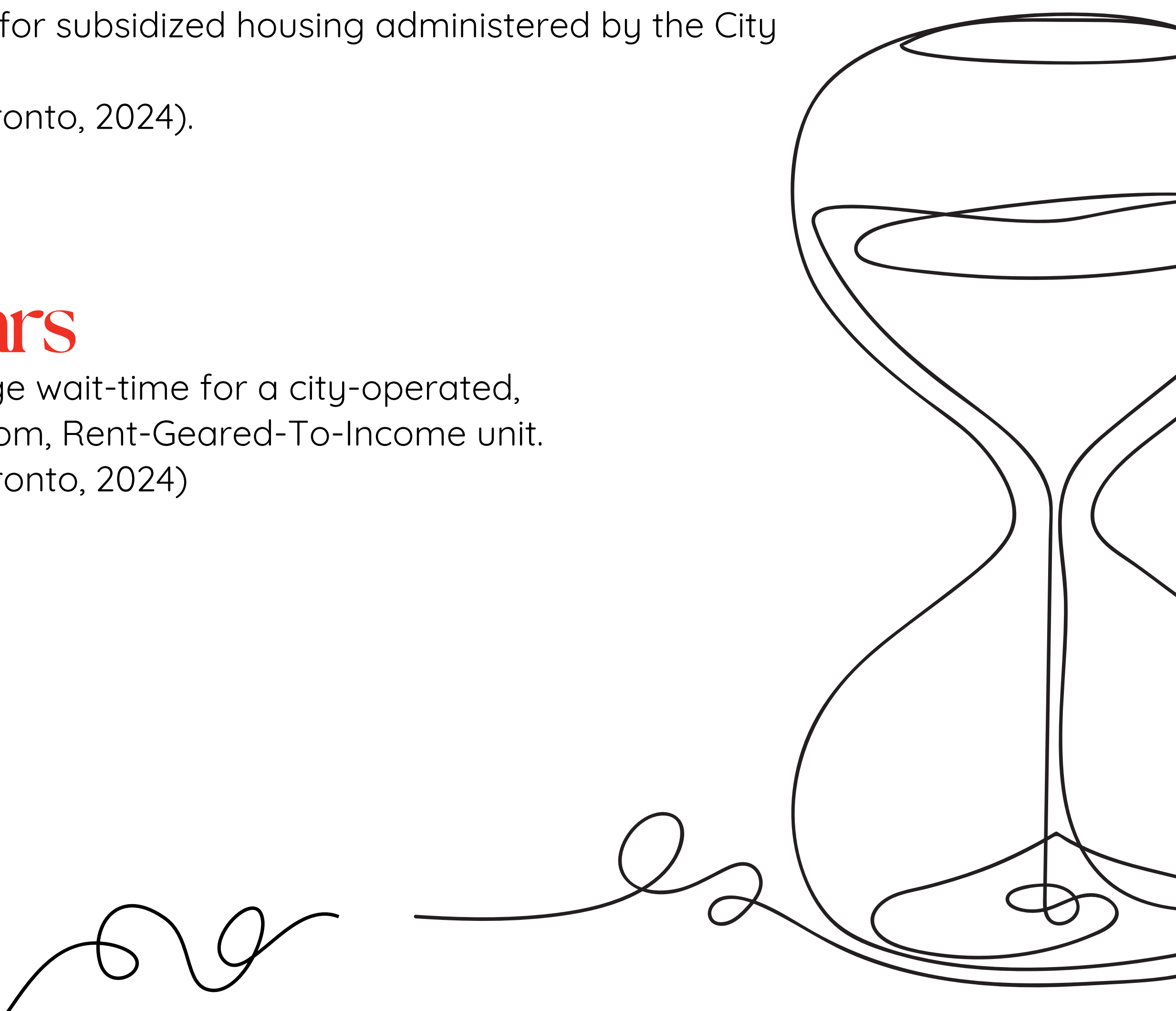
The number of non-fatal suspected opioid overdoses in shelter settings in 2023.
(City of Toronto, 2024).

26,495

The number of active applications on the centralized waiting list for subsidized housing administered by the City of Toronto.
(City of Toronto, 2024).

14 Years

The average wait-time for a city-operated, one-bedroom, Rent-Geared-To-Income unit.
(City of Toronto, 2024)





our CEO



I am delighted to welcome all of you—our valued guests, sponsors, and staff—to the 11th annual Homes For Dinner: The Ruby Gala fundraiser, coinciding with the 40th anniversary of Homes First.

For four decades, Homes First has been dedicated to providing affordable, stable housing and essential support services to break the cycle of poverty for those with the fewest housing options. A safe and secure home empowers our residents to access the resources they need to build brighter futures.

Thanks to your generosity, we can continue delivering the intensive support that helps our clients maintain their housing. None of this would be possible without the dedication of our frontline workers, the innovative leadership of our team and board, and your steadfast contributions as donors.

Tonight, as we celebrate this milestone year over fantastic food and inspiring conversations, let us reflect on how far we've come and renew our commitment to building a Homefull Toronto.

Thank you for being an essential part of this journey. Enjoy the evening!



Patricia Mueller, Chief Executive Officer



ABOUT HOMES FIRST

Our Mission

Homes First develops and provides affordable stable housing and support services to break the cycle of homelessness for those with the fewest housing options.

Who We Are

Homes First Society provides supportive housing, emergency shelter and support services to over 2,300 of the city's most vulnerable people every day, including seniors, families, single mothers, and those with complex physical, psychiatric and substance use challenges.

Why We Do It

Simply put, everyone needs a home. Every night there are over 11,000 people without a safe, stable place to live - hundreds are 'living rough' in ravines, stairwells, or on the street.

The lingering effects of the pandemic have also exacerbated the ongoing and intersecting housing, mental health and opiate crises, making stabilization that much harder to achieve. Homes First works to break the cycle of homelessness for the people with the fewest housing options.

OUR HISTORY

1984 **Homes First** was incorporated.

1989 We opened **StreetCity**, a revolutionary model of supportive housing, now used as a model throughout North America.

1996 **Strachan House** opened, another site with intensive built-in supports complex needs individuals.

We also opened our **first shelter**.

2009 We introduced **medical supports** within supportive housing.

2010 In partnership with CAMH, we developed a **reliable pathway for people with profound mental illness** and histories of prolonged hospital stays to access permanent housing.

2011 Our **Community Development Program** was established, prioritizing our relationships with surrounding communities and advocating for our residents' interests.

2014 We developed onsite **Life Skills** programs to support residents with hoarding, pest control and housekeeping.

2016 We opened our **first dedicated shelter for self-identifying women**.

2017 We further developed our **Harm Reduction** strategies into multi-year peer programs to support residents in shelter and supportive housing.

2018 We opened a **4 bed hospice** at one of our sites, in partnership with ICHA and St. Elizabeth Health Care.

2019 We opened **3 more shelters**, including our first **refugee-dedicated shelter**.

2020-2021 In response to the growing need during the pandemic, we opened **3 hotel shelters, 2 emergency shelters**, were awarded the operating agreement for another shelter.

2022 We were awarded the operations of **2 24-hour intensively supportive housing sites**.

We also began discovery for the redevelopment of Strachan House.

2023 We added 150 supportive housing units to Toronto's Inventory.

2024 **Homes First currently operates 26 sites** - 9 shelters & 17 supportive housing locations, including 24-hour and non-24-hour intensive supports.

We will continue to build a **Homefull Toronto**, a city where everyone has a place to live, thrive, and be hopeful for the future.

We must continue to develop programs and initiatives in response to our neighbours' growing needs.

tonight's HOST



Anthony Farnell

Growing up on the West Island of Montreal, Anthony Farnell developed a love for weather early on. After graduating with a BSc in Meteorology from Vermont's Lyndon State College in 2003, Farnell began his on-air career at KPAX in Missoula, Montana, as a morning meteorologist. He returned to Montreal in 2005 where he worked briefly at Bellator Energy, trading weather derivatives. That same year, Anthony joined Global Montreal's evening newscast but quickly moved to Global Toronto in 2006 to become Chief Meteorologist. Since then, Anthony has expanded his reach and now brings his weather forecasting skills and personality to all four Global News markets in Eastern Canada, from Halifax to the GTA. He can also be heard giving his seasonal forecasts across the Corus Radio Network.

Anthony Farnell has been a long time supporter of the Michael Garron Hospital, formerly TEGH. He helps out several local charities, including Muscular Dystrophy Canada, H2O4All, HOPE and the Safehaven Project for Community Living. Anthony has also been an ambassador for Engage and Change for more than a decade. Their Project Water and Project Winter Survival campaigns help bring needed supplies to vulnerable homeless on the streets of Toronto. He also makes time to visit schools and local libraries where he and his sidekick, Storm the Weather Dog, teach kids all about meteorology. Besides being a great friend of Farnell's, Storm is famous in his own right; he's been featured on numerous national newscasts like CNN and Good Morning America and even made the late-night rounds on Jimmy Kimmel and Conan.



THE HOMEFULL COMMITMENT

No one who calls Toronto home should live without one.

We refuse to accept homelessness as inevitable.

We believe in a Homefull Toronto.

A city where homelessness is history, where everyone has access to the transforming power of home and the most vulnerable have the support necessary to flourish, because...

You can be sheltered but hungry, safe but alone, housed but unhealthy, that's not homefull.

This is your invitation to reject the status quo, redefine expectations, confront stereotypes, and commit to building a Homefull Toronto together.

This is more than wishful thinking.

Homelessness is not an insurmountable challenge. Solutions exist.

We know the way forward.

All that's left is the collective compassionate commitment of a unified community to make this our reality.


For 40 years, Homes First has provided shelter, housing, support, and community for Toronto's most vulnerable people.

We're more than a charity; we're a catalyst for change.

We're committed to a Homefull Toronto.

But we can't get there without you.

If you believe Toronto should be Homefull,
make this your commitment too.

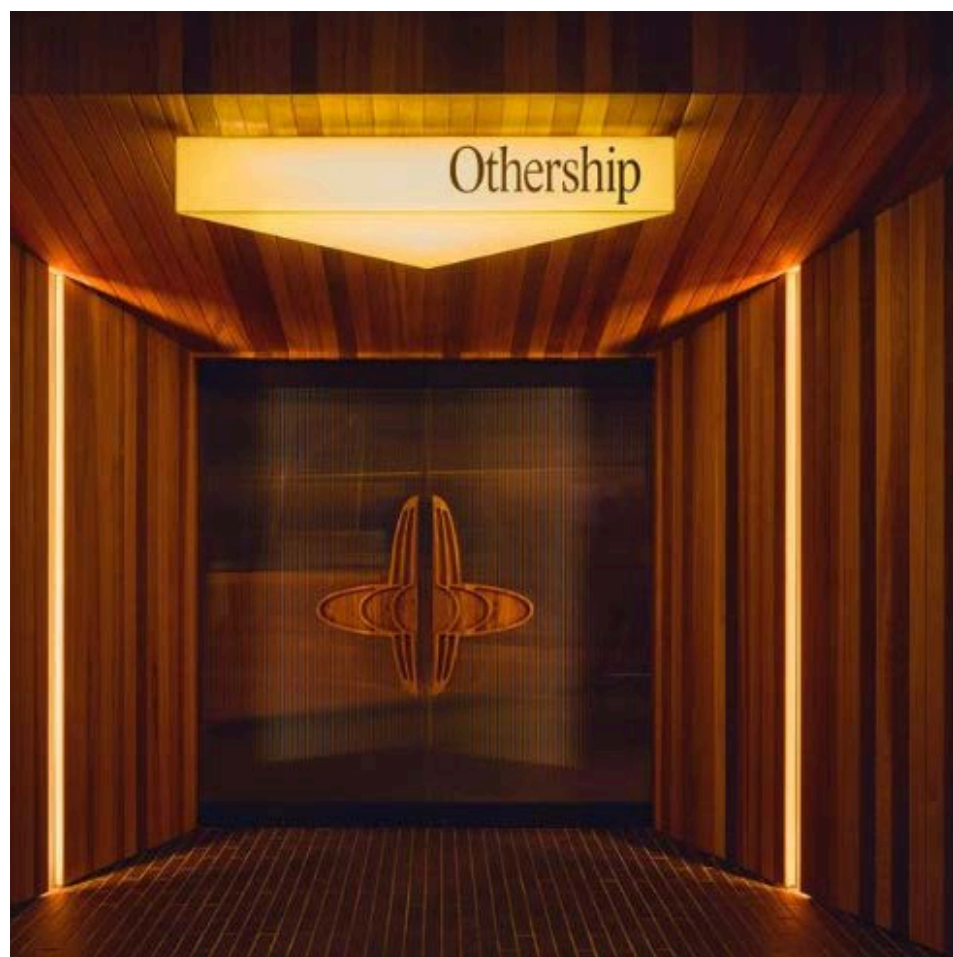


SILENT AUCTION

Don't miss out on the opportunity to win amazing prizes while supporting a worthy cause!

The Silent Auction closes at 11:00pm.

[PLACE MY BIDS](#)



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Homes for Dinner
Event

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THE HOMEFULL DRAW

Custom Ron Pollock Imports Ring
25 rubies surrounded by pave diamonds set in white gold

1 ticket for \$50 | 4 tickets for \$150

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HOMES FIRST'S SERVICE IMPACTS

2023

530

The number of housing placements completed by Homes First; this is roughly 1 person per day.

60%

The percentage of our residents with experience of chronic homelessness - to be without a home for 6 months or more.

79 Years Old

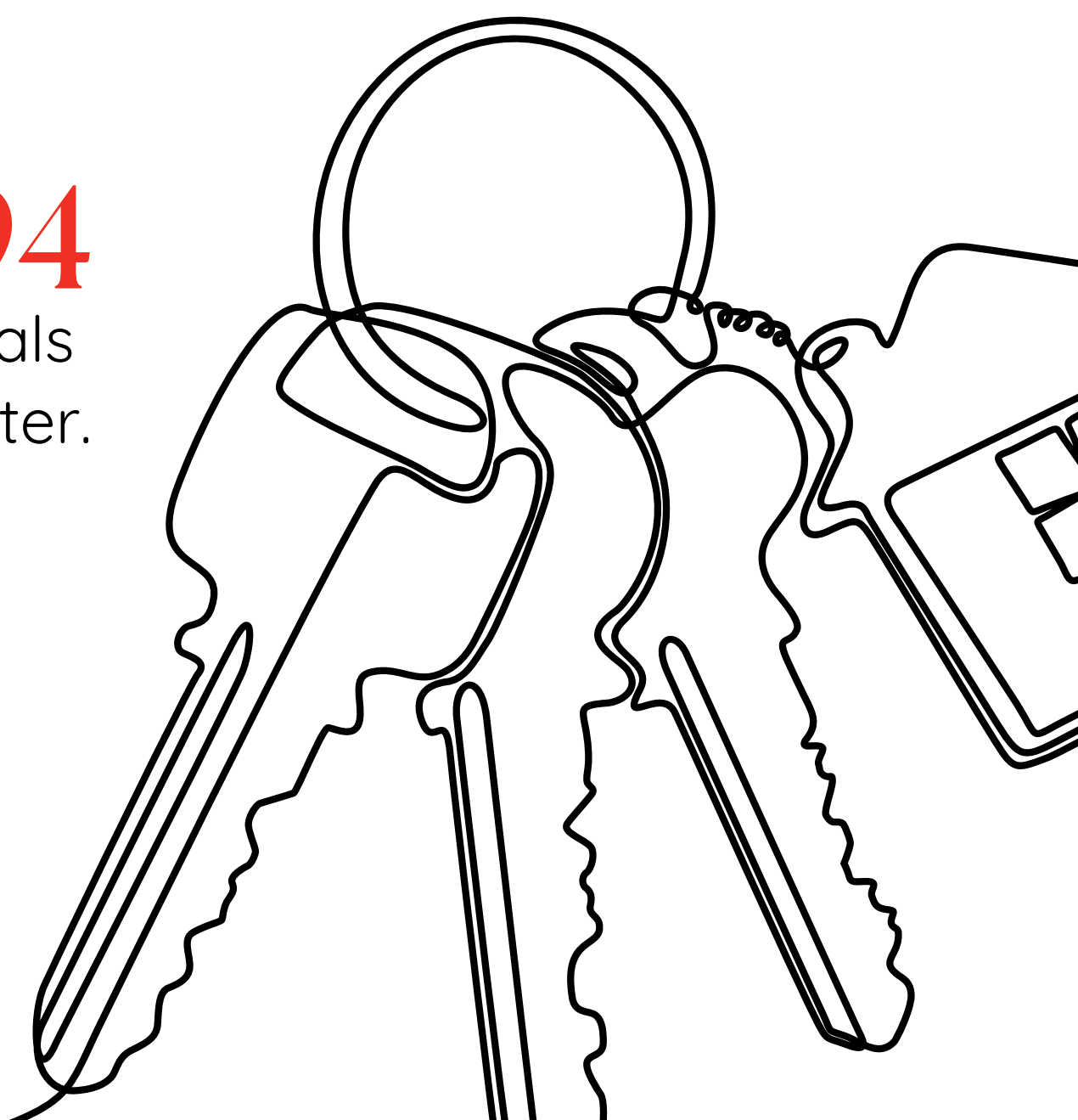
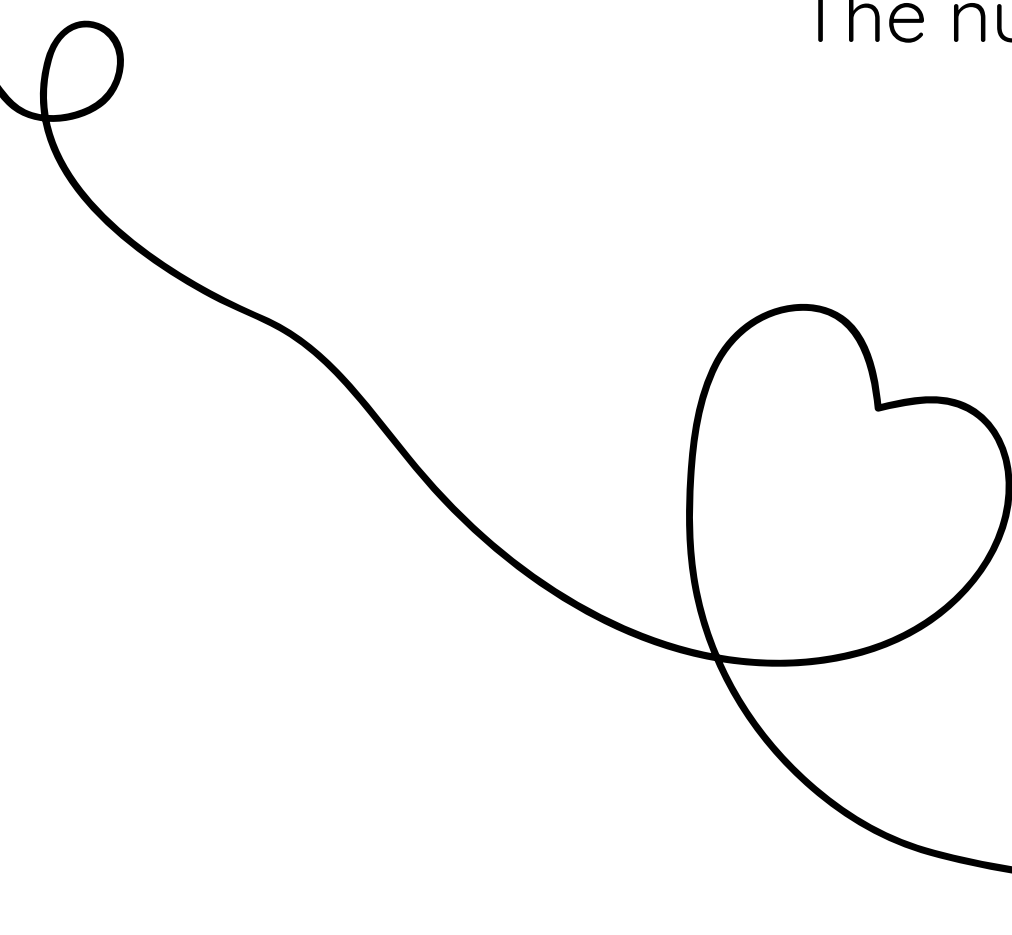
The age of the oldest client we helped find housing last year.

70%

The percentage of clients helped procure housing who identified as black.

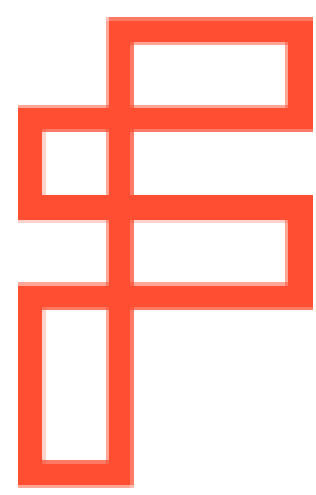
1194

The number of unique individuals we supported in shelter.



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HOMEFULL SPONSOR



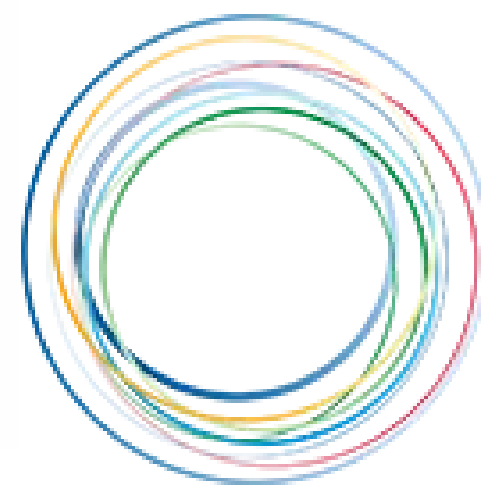
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chef MARK MCEWAN



Homes First provides those in need with the dignity of a roof over their head, a place to call home and the inner security that it provides.

A home is fundamental to one's well being.

-Mark McEwan, Celebrity Chef

Catering Provided by

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CATERING

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