



**TORONTO HOSTELS  
TRAINING CENTRE**

*Training for Change*

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August 13, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Letter of Support for Cornerstone Place Men's shelter relocation

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Executive Director of the Toronto Hostels Training Centre to ask you to support Cornerstone Place Men's shelter relocation. Specifically, I am requesting City Council's support and requesting that City staff work with Cornerstone Place to secure a permanent home at 616 Vaughan Road in Ward 15.

Cornerstone Place Men's Shelter has been providing critical support services to the homeless for over 13 years at its St. Clair Avenue West location. Cornerstone operates 50 beds for homeless men and has had to suspend its operations on July 31, 2014 as a result of the organization's lease expiry to a condominium developer. As a result, residents have either been provided with temporary housing supports across the GTA or have been placed in available beds at various men's shelters.

My organization works closely with Cornerstone Place and we can attest to the essential nature of their services for homeless men. The Toronto Hostels Training Centre provides training to shelter staff and has worked closely with Cornerstone to develop and provide training services for the homeless sector.

Cornerstone Place is an important part of the web of community services of Oakwood Vaughan that support vulnerable individuals and their displacement has put additional strain on an already over-extended sector of resources.

I am respectfully requesting that the Community Development and Recreation Committee and City Council take a leadership role in supporting this valuable community agency to secure a permanent home at 616 Vaughan Road.

Yours truly,

*R. Gillson*

Ruth Gillson  
Executive Director