



London
CANADA

Diversity, Race Relations and Inclusivity Award Nomination Form

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Name of organization: Sanctuary London	
Business Address: 531 Talbot Street	
City: London, Ontario	Postal code: N6A 2S5
Name(s) of contact people (including position titles): Darryl Reckman (Exec Director); Gil Clelland (Exec Director)	
Business Telephone: Darryl 519-280-8895; Gil 519-902-9774	Business Fax:
Business E-mail: darryl@sanctuarylondon.ca gil@sanctuarylondon.ca	
Category: (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Small business/small labour (49 or fewer employees/members) <input type="checkbox"/> Large business/large labour (50 or more employees/members) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/community services (including Not-for-Profits) (49 or fewer employees/members) <input type="checkbox"/> Social/community services (including Not-for-Profits) (50 or more employees/members) <input type="checkbox"/> Youth/young adult groups or organizations (<26 years of age)	

INITIATIVE INFORMATION (attach additional sheets or supporting material as required)

Program initiative: Sanctuary Homes (Community Home Living in London) *See Attached Materials for more.
Date of implementation: April 1, 2016 (women's home) and July 1, 2016 (men's home)
Key department(s) or committees involved: Sanctuary London Executive Directors, Support Staff, Sanctuary Homes Staff; Community Volunteers; Anchor Members
Key people involved: Darryl Reckman and Gil Clelland (Executive Directors, and Pastors); Jeremy Jongejan (Music Support Staff); Breezey Allen (Female Support); Sarah Reckman (Volunteer Admin Support); Community Volunteers and Leaders; Board Members including Sharon Devries, President & Chairperson).
Description of initiative: Sanctuary Homes (Community Home Living): includes residential living, where a house becomes home, where healthier anchor members live with those who are struggling with poverty and mental health, and create family and supported living together in London, leading to welcome, inclusiveness, community, family, and stability. These spaces of home are a unique answer to homelessness and unstable living in London. *See attached materials for more
How has the initiative contributed to the promotion of diversity, race relations, inclusivity and human rights in London and promoting London as a welcoming city? Sanctuary London's mission is to be a welcoming community space for the vulnerable and excluded, and those facing poverty of all kinds, including economic, social, and relational poverty. This organization strives to be a place of home, belonging, safety, healthy relationships, and a place where all are included no matter their background, story, struggle, faith, gender, sexual orientation, race, and more. Those facing poverty, mental health, addictions, and social barriers are fully and intentionally welcomed and included. Inclusivity, diversity, and being open and welcoming to all is at the very core of Sanctuary's work, and their 'Sanctuary Homes' initiative makes this possible. Welcome is at the center of their efforts--to bring the outsider in, marginalized to the centre, and those without home into a safe and stable home. This welcome extends to all Londoners and beyond, thereby helping to shape London as a welcoming city. *PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FOR MORE DETAILS.

What short or long-term impact has/will the initiative have on the promotion of diversity, race relations, inclusivity and human rights in London and promoting London as a welcoming city?

Sanctuary London has always been a place of both care for its members, and education about poverty, inclusiveness, and welcome to those facing varying life struggles. They not only serve those who are poor and struggling, but invite the 'poor' and 'rich' to be together—in other words, all Londoners and those outside London are welcomed to participate in drop-ins and the large Sanctuary community. This allows for learning about poverty, mental health, addictions, and homelessness... *See attached for more details.


What is the potential for expansion and/or inspiration for replication of the initiative?

Sanctuary Homes has only just begun. We have one duplex so far, and this has been divided and renovated into a beautiful and welcoming home for 4 women and 4 men. They hope to have additional homes in the near future, where more men and women in London facing poverty, street-level living, mental health, and more, can have a safe and welcoming home to live, and will be treated with dignity, justice, and equality; they will be accepted and respected as human beings who have many wonderful gifts to offer.
*Please see attached for more details.

How can receiving this Award be used to further promote diversity, race relations, inclusivity and human rights in London and to further promote London as a welcoming city?

If Sanctuary London were to receive this Award, I believe they would use it extremely well to further promote diversity, race relations, inclusivity, and human rights in London. The staff and community would be encouraged in their work. This award would offer an opportunity to receive recognition and request funding towards more Sanctuary Homes, as well as their other important initiatives, including the Generous Space group for the LGBTQ+ community. They would have increased credibility and recognition in the city of London, which would promote their work, increase partnerships and community involvement, and and hopefully create more sharing and educational opportunities.

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Name: Debra Franke	
Address: 475 Adelaide St. North	
City: London	Postal code: N6B 3J1
Telephone: 519-434-8009	Fax:
E-mail: debrafranke4@gmail.com	Signature: 
Date: September 28, 2016	Note: By signing this form you are hereby confirming that the Nominee has consented to the nomination.

Submissions must be received by September 30 to:

London Diversity and Race Relations Advisory Committee
c/o Committee Secretary, City Clerk's Office
City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue, PO Box 5035
London, ON N6A 4L9

Phone: 519-661-2500 Ext. 5417
Fax: 519-661-4892
E-mail: jmartin@london.ca

NOTICE OF COLLECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

Please be advised that all nominations submitted for the Diversity, Race Relations and Inclusivity Award become part of the public record. The nominations will be published on a public agenda and made available electronically through the City of London public internet website. The personal information collected on this form is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act 2001, as amended, and will be used to administer the Diversity, Race Relations and Inclusivity Award program. Questions about this collection should be addressed to the City Clerk at 300 Dufferin Avenue, London, Ontario N6A 4L9 Tel: 661-2500 Ext. 4937

Nomination for the City of London Diversity, Inclusivity, and Race Relations Award

Nominating: Sanctuary London

(Nominated by: Debra Franke, 519-434-8009)

Program Initiative: *Sanctuary Homes*

Description of Initiative:

Sanctuary Homes is an excellent and caring initiative in London, and well-deserving of this Diversity, Inclusivity and Race Relations award. I have observed and participated with Sanctuary London for the past 6 years, and have always been impressed and deeply touched and impacted by their intentional work to care for those facing poverty and exclusion in London, and especially with their newest initiative, Sanctuary Homes. Sanctuary London is a social non-profit organization, which runs entirely on fundraised dollars, and which has impacted hundreds and hundreds of folks on the streets, in shelters, facing mental health and addictions and more, by offering them a place to come, join, belong, and develop healthy relationships. One of the core causes of poverty is lack of social connection—Sanctuary London focuses entirely on forming the social connections needed to bring stability, hope, and 'home' to those who feel lost and hopeless.

Sanctuary London's recent and ongoing initiative, Sanctuary Homes, involves residential living, where a house becomes home, and where those who have been marginalized and ostracized will belong and have a place to rest their head. They will have a sense of family on a long-term basis, hopefully for life. As an extension of the work Sanctuary London has been doing for years, including weekly drop-ins, community meals for 120-140 people, music and art drop-ins, and faith services, Sanctuary Homes takes this intentional caring for the poor to a whole new level of housing and home. In a Sanctuary home, some of our members can finally leave their homelessness, temporary shelter, or less-than-desirable daily living, and literally 'come home.' Anchor members live with those who are struggling with poverty, mental health issues and loneliness, and create family-style and supported living together in London, which leads to welcome, inclusiveness, community, family, and stability. This includes often London members, but has extended outside of London, to bring others to London as well.

This is a unique-to-London answer to homelessness: each home will offer a space where those who are facing poverty, living at street-level, or struggling in ways that make stable housing an impossibility, can come and live alongside 'anchor members' who had been living on their own, but choose to be part of a type of community living that is bigger than themselves—where those in need are treated with dignity, respect, and love. In this way, strengths and weakness are offered to one another, and growth and healing can take root. All are impacted in positive ways. House residents are chosen based on their need and compatibility to one another, and are then offered this home as long as they need it, potentially for the rest of their life.

Through the mutuality of recognizing each other as human and as needing one another in life, Sanctuary Homes is creating spaces not only of housing, but also of beautiful togetherness, welcome, safety, family, and stability, and wellness. In a similar model to L'Arche in London, the live-in members and anchor members accompany each other in daily life, thereby taking away the sense of loneliness, and replacing it with belonging. Some time each day is spent together, meals are shared

through the week, and social activities and celebrations such as birthdays, provide a sense of hope, friendship, and community. Sanctuary's vision is for these homes to address homelessness in London, where the revolving door of street-living, emergency housing, shelters, and low income housing will be replaced by successful, stable, long-term housing and most importantly, home.

Sanctuary Homes cares for the human rights of each person invited, and is an excellent example for human rights in London. These homes are established to treat each house member with dignity and respect and equality, and to work towards the positive treatment of each individual, where justice means offering not only social services and community supports, but also a caring and stable place to live and belong.

How has the initiative contributed to the promotion of diversity, race relations, inclusivity, and human rights in London and promoting London as a welcoming city:

Sanctuary London's mission is to be a welcoming community space for the vulnerable and excluded, and those facing poverty of all kinds, including economic, social, and relational poverty. This organization strives to be a place of home, belonging, safety, healthy relationships, and a place where all are included no matter their background, story, struggle, faith, gender, sexual orientation, race, and more. Those facing poverty, mental health, addictions, and social barriers are fully and intentionally welcomed and included. Inclusivity, diversity, and being open and welcoming to all is at the very core of Sanctuary's work, and their 'Sanctuary Homes' initiative makes this possible. Welcome is at the center of their efforts—to bring the outsider in, marginalized to the centre, and those without home into a safe and stable home. This welcome extends to all Londoners and beyond, thereby helping to shape London as a welcoming city.

Sanctuary London has always been a community gathering place, with its primary focus on vulnerable populations in London who face particularly poverty and exclusion, so that those who feel unwelcomed, abandoned, or marginalized will have a place to belong and be cared for. Sanctuary offers many programs and initiatives, including weekly social drop-ins and meals for up to 120-140 people, art and music drop-ins, community outreach, education for those in London and outside of London, a new Sanctuary online store called "A Taste of Home" (fundraising initiative), and recently a new and wonderful initiative called Generous Space support group, which comes out of connection and mentoring by New Directions ministries in Toronto, and will support the LGBTQ+ community.

Education for those inside and outside London teaches many youth groups, professional groups, and faith groups about poverty and involves downtown London walks and education about how to care for and welcome the poor and homeless. These educational tours bring many from surrounding cities, and allows them to see London as a welcoming and caring city. Also, we have many people attending our drop-ins of all different levels of intellectual and developmental abilities, and many races are represented. Some of our folks struggle with language barriers. We have a few people who regularly attend, with Hispanic, Haitian, Aboriginal, African, and German backgrounds. All are welcomed, and through art, writing, and music drop-ins, we had had many opportunities to build beautiful understandings of our culture, race, and language differences. We often find that with our inclusivity, diverse backgrounds, and positive race relations, that we have both similarities and differences—but we have one core and common desire and need: to be cared for, loved, and to belong, and to experience and open and welcoming space in London.

Most important to note, is that the women's home has several race and cultural backgrounds, including Haitian, Bahamian, Aboriginal, German, and Swiss, and that these members are excited

to lessen any racial divisions that might exist, and to build understanding and connection in the midst of such a beautiful and diverse group.

What short-term or long-term impact has/will the initiative have on the promotion of diversity, race relations, inclusivity, and human rights in London and to further promote London as a welcoming city:

Sanctuary London has always been a place of both care for its members, and education about poverty, inclusiveness, and welcome to those facing varying life struggles. They not only serve those who are poor and struggling, but invite the 'poor' and 'rich' to be together—in other words, all Londoners and those outside London are welcomed to participate in drop-ins and the larger Sanctuary community. This allows for learning about poverty, mental health, addictions, and homelessness, and also creates familiarity and relationships between the 'healthier' and 'less healthy' groups. Fear is slowly diminished and replaced by connection and mutual understanding. Also through their website, newsletters, regular speaking engagements at events and churches, fundraising initiatives, newspaper articles and other community information opportunities, their mission and vision is always being shared to inspire and lead others towards the promotion of positive responses to diversity, race relations, inclusivity and human rights. Finally, as a more specific example, Sanctuary Homes has been chosen as the beneficiary for this weekend's Parade of Renovations by the Home Builders' Association, meaning that all who attend this tour will learn more about Sanctuary London and Sanctuary Homes.

What is the potential for expansion and/or inspiration for replication of the initiative:

This model of living, where those with disabilities or life struggles live with those who are healthier anchors, comes originally from L'Arche. Jean Vanier founded L'Arche in France, when he chose to bring home and live with 3 men from a hospital institution in France. He did this not as a staff person, or nursing staff, or any other professional reason, and he did not do this for pay. He lived with them in friendship and family format, where they could feel included and safe, and know they were loved and belonged. They were not 'clients' or 'residents' and instead, were family members in home where time and daily life was spent together, meals were eaten as a group, and everyone was treated equally, and with dignity and respect. This is the model that was then adopted by Sanctuary Toronto, with two community homes of 4 men each. And this is the model now being adopted by Sanctuary London, with a men's home of 4, and a woman's home of 4. The potential for expansion is there, as we continue to look for London residents who desire to partner with Sanctuary London as benefactors in the purchase of homes. We hope in the future to have more homes where those facing poverty and mental health and past addictions can live with 'anchor members', so that more and more Londoners have a place to call stable 'home.' Not only a roof over their head, but a real and true place of home.

Finally, Sanctuary Homes strives to be an example for others. We hope that as our homes live out a just and respectable form of home-living, that others in the London community and beyond will see this example and perhaps choose their own ways of being more involved with the poor and vulnerable; perhaps they will even consider to try this kind of living on their own. Sanctuary is always happy to offer information, live by example, and educate others by sharing our stories and experiences, so that they too can be inspired to be welcoming and respectful of the worth and human rights of others.

Closing Comments:

Thank you for considering my nomination, and taking the time to learn more about Sanctuary Homes, a program initiative of Sanctuary London. This organization and their initiative Sanctuary Homes, is making a huge difference in the lives of Londoners and beyond; not only do they care and welcome those who are marginalized, but they inspire and teach many others to do the same.

I have included photos attached, which demonstrate some 'real-life' illustrations of the belonging, welcome, and togetherness of our Sanctuary London community, as well as a couple of pictures and articles about the first community house, and Sanctuary's excellent work in the London community. Sometimes pictures speak louder than words.

If you need any more information, please email me during the month of October (debrafranke4@gmail) as I will be travelling and checking my email, and then after October, please feel free to email me or phone me at 519-434-8009.

Also, for more information about Sanctuary London, please go to www.sanctuarylondon.ca and they also have a link there for Sanctuary Homes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debra Franke', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Debra Franke

Click to add a signature