

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Low-income seniors organize toy drive for underprivileged children in Calgary**

**Calgary, Alberta – December 22, 2017** – The holiday season is a time to be grateful — a time we spend with our loved ones and appreciate the comforts of home. But, for over 3,000 Calgarians currently experiencing homelessness, home is just a dream. Lorraine, like many low-income seniors in our city, has faced housing insecurity before she found a home with one of the RESOLVE Campaign's Partners, Trinity Place Foundation of Alberta (TPFA). For the third year in a row, Lorraine has organized a toy drive with the seniors at her building to give back to underprivileged children. The seniors are committed to helping children in our city have a brighter holiday, despite many of the seniors only receiving low-income monthly pensions and benefits.

Lorraine had quite the journey before finding a home with TPFA. She was in an abusive relationship for 15 years before working up the courage to leave. Later, her house was destroyed in a fire and she lost her two beloved cats. She lived in a motel before being hospitalized for depression, where her doctor helped her find a place to call home.

"I'm very fortunate to have a home here. If I wasn't here, I would be on the streets. I have no family but, now, my family is at Peter Coyle Place. I like knowing that there is always someone here so I'm not scared to wake up alone," says Lorraine, a tenant with TPFA.

The RESOLVE Campaign is a unique collaboration of nine Partner agencies, including TPFA, fundraising the capital needed to provide up to 3,000 homeless and vulnerable Calgarians with urgently needed affordable rental housing with support services.

"Peter Coyle Place is a unique home environment for low-income seniors in Calgary. Some of our residents have complex health and social needs that may have dampened their joy of Christmas. I believe the toy drive characterizes a spirit of giving that can be reawakened when vulnerable people find safety and comfort in a home that gives them what they need to thrive," says Lawrence Brault, CEO of TPFA.

By raising capital for apartment buildings for vulnerable Calgarians, RESOLVE is changing the landscape of homelessness in our community and make a lasting impact on the quality of life for Calgary's most at-risk citizens.

"Creating urgently needed affordable rental housing with appropriate support services will not only move seniors out of hospital, off the streets and into appropriate homes, it will also alleviate an avoidable strain on the healthcare system. It costs \$1,000 per day per senior to keep them in hospital. That is an immense and unnecessary cost to hospitalize seniors who, with affordable housing and the proper supports, would otherwise function in the community," says Cheryl Hamelin, Executive Director of the RESOLVE Campaign. "It's inspiring to see the seniors at Peter Coyle Place give back in such a meaningful way."

TPFA's building, Peter Coyle Place, is a one-of-a-kind residence for seniors with complex health needs in a harm-reduction environment. The waitlist is sometimes as high as 70 people but only 10-12 of the most urgent cases can be accepted per year. Many of these seniors have been in hospital for weeks, months and sometimes more than a year. Buildings like Peter Coyle Place create a community and provide tenants with the support they need to thrive.

"It feels good to give. We don't have much ourselves, but we like to give back. It gives us a sense of belonging. I never had kids myself so I wish I could see the kids opening their gifts. I wonder how they like the toy I bought. It tugs at my heart," says Lorraine.

The RESOLVE Campaign has raised enough money to-date to provide 1,570 homeless and vulnerable Calgarians with a key to an affordable rental home with the support services they need to improve their health and wellbeing. But the need for additional affordable housing remains urgent. The Campaign is working diligently to secure as much funding, and as many pledge commitments, as possible prior to the Campaign's sunset date of March 31, 2018. Pledges made can be fulfilled any time before spring 2021. The Campaign has made strides; however, there is a great need for affordable and supported rental housing in our city. RESOLVE is encouraging private companies and citizens to join in and follow the example of the community and business leaders who have already helped to make a tangible difference in our city, by providing the safety and security of a home for our most vulnerable Calgarians.



### **About the RESOLVE Campaign**

RESOLVE is in the final four months of fundraising in its unique collaboration of nine Partner agencies, working together to create affordable and supported rental housing for up to 3,000 vulnerable and homeless Calgarians. The nine respected and established agencies have partnered with government, business and community leaders, all resolving to make Calgary a better home for everyone. The RESOLVE Partners include: Accessible Housing; Bishop O'Byrne Housing Association; Calgary Alpha House Society; Calgary Homeless Foundation; Calgary John Howard Society; Horizon Housing Society; Silvera for Seniors; The Mustard Seed; and Trinity Place Foundation of Alberta. Visit [www.resolvecampaign.com](http://www.resolvecampaign.com) for more information.

### **About Trinity Place Foundation of Alberta**

Trinity Place Foundation of Alberta (TPFA) is a charitable non-profit organization established in 1974 in response to the need for subsidized housing for seniors. TPFA is the largest provider of self-contained seniors' housing in Calgary, offering variety of facilities and services responding to the needs of their diverse clientele. TPFA's *more than housing* philosophy is based on hope for a future where appropriate housing and effective support services are available for all seniors in Calgary.

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