Resilient together
2020 annual report
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Our vision
A Canada where all LGBTQI2S youth are validated, engaged, and empowered to lead better lives.

Our mission
Friends of Ruby is dedicated to the journey and well-being of LGBTQI2S youth through mental health services, social services, and housing.

Our values

**People-focus**
We value the dignity, strengths, and contributions of all individuals.

**Respect**
We are validating, respectful and welcoming, and exercise diversity, inclusion and equity through our interactions and practices.

**Accountability & transparency**
We strive to build and sustain trust with our partners, operate with integrity and sustainability with the highest possible ethical standards.

**Continuous learning**
We promote a culture of adaptability, embrace change and opportunity, encourage and motivate development, and always seek to improve.

**Collaboration**
We work together and foster strong and trusting relationships with our community partners, youth, staff, contractors, and volunteers.
This past year has seen an inspiring groundswell of action as Canadians rise to the challenge of unprecedented health challenges, economic hardships, and painful events that demonstrate the continued force of systemic racism and barriers faced by LGBTQI2S youth. Everywhere I look, I see community members taking action to address the needs of those most impacted by the events of 2020.

Our commitment to Friends of Ruby stems from a personal vision of a world where all LGBTQI2S youth have the supports they need to pursue the lives they dream of. It is a world where their health and well-being are prioritized, they are housed, and enveloped in a community of acceptance and support. Their equitable access to education, employment, and civic engagement means they are empowered to lead independent and fulfilling lives.

When I visit the Friends of Ruby Home and Youth Centre, I see a community of youth that are empowered with the support and community they need to carve their own path. I see a brighter future, but more can always be done.

It is an exciting time to help grow Friends of Ruby, and on behalf of the entire Board of Directors, we wish to thank everyone that has joined us on the path to creating an equitable world for LGBTQI2S youth.

In the coming year, the Board is committed to the ongoing work to support the safe, healthy, and happy futures of LGBTQI2S youth. The journey has just begun, and I look forward to working with you to strengthen and grow the Friends of Ruby circle of support.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

Ed Clark (he/him),
Board Chair
Message from the Executive Director

It has been a year of extreme growth, resilience, learning, and hard work.

We are beaming with pride that the Friends of Ruby Home welcomed the first group of youth to the transitional house, in time for the holiday season. This home was designed to support the emotional and mental well-being of youth, in a community environment that builds confidence and independence. This mental health approach will transform how unhoused LGBTQI2S youth are supported.

I am truly humbled and proud of the continued determination and resilience of the team. Despite extraordinary challenges, they have successfully grown and adapted our mental health, social and housing services to continue to support LGBTQI2S youth throughout the pandemic.

COVID-19 has exasperated the challenges faced by LGBTQI2S youth and highlighted opportunities for Friends of Ruby to address gaps in support. Through the passionate work of our team and collaborations with community partners, Friends of Ruby has done just that.

We are also in a critical time to proactively make meaningful and equitable change, both on a personal and organizational level through an anti-racism and anti-oppression approach. We are committed to continually unpacking our own privileges, educating ourselves on how we benefit from oppressive systems, and listening differently and better to Black, Indigenous, and other racialized voices.

None of our work would be made possible without the support of our tireless Board of Directors, community partnerships, funders, and supporters.

2021 will be a year of continued resilience, strengthening and growth, and I look forward to what our incredible team can do.

Carol Osler (she/her),
Executive Director
Why we exist

Every youth deserves a safe space

In 2012, Egale Canada published their “Not Under My Roof” research study, which confirmed what we sadly already knew: Toronto’s LGBTQI2S youth face high rates of family rejection, violence, homelessness, suicidality, and trauma. Friends of Ruby, formerly Egale Youth Services, was founded by Egale Canada in 2014 to meet their needs. In 2019, Friends of Ruby officially became its own registered charity, and expanded its mental health, social and housing services.

The Need is Real

35% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQI2S

63% of LGBTQI2S youth reported acts of self-harm in the past 12 months

55% of LGBTQI2S youth have not accessed a LGBTQI2S support in their geographic community

30% of trans youth are rejected from shelters due to their gender identity and expression

The Friends of Ruby team is grateful for the leadership of the Board of Directors. Their expertise, insight, and hard work ensure that our organization is in the best possible position to support the needs of LGBTQI2S youth.

Our Board

Ed Clark, Board Chair
Jen McCain, Vice-Chair
Malcolm Lang, Treasurer
Catherine Meade, Secretary
Paul Boniferro
Arundel Gibson
Keith Hambly
Jacki Lewis
Martha LA McCain
David Reycraft
Sheerin Sheikh
Brian Smith
Marianne Smith
Shelley Spence
Andrea Tsuji
How we help

Comprehensive, compassionate support from a team that truly understands

Friends of Ruby offers LGBTQI2S youth a unique combination of integrated, tailored services in mental health, social support, and housing; and a safe, welcoming space designed to help build community, emotional well-being, and confidence.

Our impactful counselling modalities, therapeutical groups, social activities and practical supports address multiple aspects of a youth’s life, from health and education to employment. Combined with an integrated transitional housing model, this supports youth towards independent living.

Every service and program we offer is informed by LGBTQI2S youth, grounded in evidence, and supported by research. Equally important, our services and programs are led and facilitated by highly-skilled LGBTQI2S individuals who reflect the diversity of the youth we serve. Here, nobody is an outsider. Instead, we work hard to help create a reality where all LGBTQI2S youth are validated, involved, and empowered to lead their lives.

“*When the pandemic hit, the youth we serve said the stressors they face increased exponentially. Our team worked hard to adapt to an accessible, online format and I am so glad this group is able to offer a grounding, connected space from our homes to youths’ homes. The youth who show up week to week demonstrate what resilience means and the power of coming together during challenging times.”*

Claire Lewis (She/Her),
Clinical Counselor and Co-Facilitator
of the Mindfulness Group

Friends of Ruby Youth Centre and Drop-In provides meals, social activities, support groups, and a sense of community for LGBTQI2S youth.

Friends of Ruby Home is a first-of-its kind transitional house, designed specifically to support the mental health of LGBTQI2S youth.

Counsellors provide mental health support through in-person sessions, virtual one-on-one sessions and therapeutic groups.

Case workers provide support for multiple practical needs such as education, employment, settlement, and more.

Support workers provide meals, activities, support groups, and a sense of community.

Residential workers provide 24/7 support and assistance in accessing all of Friends of Ruby services and programs along their journey towards improved well-being.
Why “Friends of Ruby”?

Ruby is a golden retriever who has been gracing our space for the past 6 years with her owner, Director Lucy Gallo. A calm, loving presence, Ruby often joins counselling sessions, therapeutic groups, and activities.

One of Ruby’s shining moments was with a youth who had been visiting the youth centre for months without ever talking to anyone. With Ruby at their side, the youth gradually grew comfortable enough to lower their guard, join discussions and start counselling.

Ruby is what Friends of Ruby aspires to be every day; encouraging, empowering, and always ready to support youth on their terms as they move forward in their journey of mental health and well-being.

*Everyone is like a ruby or uncut gem – unique and precious.*
Mental health services

Our counselling team reflects the diversity of the LGBTQI2S community and works from an integrative, trauma-informed, anti-oppressive practice framework. An integrative approach to psychotherapy means that we use a combination of interventions and frameworks that bring together different elements of specific therapies to provide tailored care to each youth.

We found that the top three common themes that arose in counselling and case management were anxiety, suicide ideation, and gender identity. To address these, we introduced therapeutic groups like Skills for Safer Living and Dialectical Behavioural Therapy.

The team has a wide variety of experience and each clinician combines several of the modalities listed below in their practice. Not all practitioners practice each of the therapies listed.

**EVIDENCE-BASED BEHAVIOURAL THERAPY APPROACHES USED:**

- Dialectical Behavioural Therapy (DBT)
- Acceptance & Commitment Therapy (ACT)
- Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT)
- Community reinforcement Approach (CRA)
- Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT)
- Internal Family Systems (IFS)
- Sensorimotor Psychotherapy
- Emotion Focused Therapy (EFT)
- Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR)
- Motivational Interviewing (MI)
- Skills For Safer Living (SFSL)
- Solution Focused Therapy

“I am so beyond appreciative of the welcoming and conscientious opportunity that Friends of Ruby provided for me and the other participants. This group experience was like being wrapped in a warm hug after standing outside in the cold for years, and I hope to be able to build on the skills and knowledge gained over the past ten weeks for many more years to come!”

Therapeutic Group Participant

20% increase in counselling sessions from 2019

- 39 youth completed their counselling program
- 34 art therapy sessions
- 15 BIPOC discussion groups sessions
- 6 mindfulness group sessions
- 10 dialectical behavior therapy sessions
- 3 BIPOC art therapy sessions
Drop-in and youth services

Community is essential to everyone’s mental health and well-being. This is especially true for youth experiencing family rejection or who don’t see themselves reflected in the world around them.

Youth Services and Drop-In activities include practical wraparound supports offered through our drop-in and case management services. Social services help youth navigate complicated systems and break through the barriers holding them back in achieving practical outcomes.

Five days a week, youth can access meals, shelter from the cold, TTC tokens to access services, peer support, a case worker, and essential services at the Youth Centre. Just as important, youth experience a positive social environment and sense of community that they may otherwise lack. When the drop-in centre adjusted its hours due to the pandemic, some services transitioned to virtual or take-out options.

**PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT INCLUDED:**

+ Rainbow Kitchen cooking classes
+ Art for Change
+ Youth Advisory Committee
+ Voice groups
+ Games groups
+ Meal and grocery pick-ups

223 unique youth served

- **220 harm reduction kits** distributed to help youth make safer choices
- **2053 TTC tokens** for transportation to access services
- **2181 meals**
- **296 grocery bags** distributed
Case management services

Case workers engage one-on-one to help youth establish goals, create action plans, and develop life skills to ultimately support them in reaching their personal goals. The number of sessions fluctuated throughout 2020 due to various capacity changes and two lockdowns that dramatically increased demand. We expect this increased demand to continue in 2021. We also now provide Trans Case Management to meet the trans-specific needs of our community.

MOST OUTCOMES INVOLVED HOUSING SUPPORT:

- Preventing eviction
- Finding affordable rent
- Providing inclusive emergency shelters
- Providing long-term housing
- Providing transitional homes
- Referring to gender-affirming healthcare

OTHER OUTCOMES:

- **Employment** through job searches, skills training and resume support
- **Income** support through applications for social assistance
- **Healthcare** through providing referrals and recommendations to inclusive doctors and clinics

467 case management sessions

182 unique individuals
**Housing services**

Based on a Housing First philosophy, the new Friends of Ruby Home is more than a roof over one’s head. It’s an essential first step towards well-being. A safer living environment is a solid foundation we can build on, enabling us to work towards additional supports including physical and mental health, education, employment, substance management and community connections. Through shared spaces and in-house programming, youth are part of a community, one in which they’re free to live true to who they are. Everything is geared towards supporting youth on their path towards independent, stable, and empowered living.

**Designed for LGBTQI2S youth with input from LGBTQI2S youth**

In 2015, community members, users of shelter systems, and LGBTQI2S youth engaged in a charrette to design the home with their mental health and needs in mind. The youth identified four guiding design principles:

- Sustainable, energy-efficient construction
- Balance of private and shared spaces
- Welcoming, non-institutional feel
- Accessible and pet friendly

**A house built to feel like home**

Every aspect of Friends of Ruby Home is designed to help build emotional well-being, confidence, and independence, so spaces feel less institutional and youth can feel safe. This is a unique strategy in Canada to support LGBTQI2S youth, reducing experiences of trauma for youth residing at the house.

- The energy-efficient design reduces carbon emissions by 46%
- Accessible single & double suites and shared spaces
- The dignity of private washrooms and individually controlled HVAC systems
- Fireplace, rooftop garden, games room, state of the art communal kitchen
- Floor to ceiling windows, natural fibers and finishes
- Pet-friendly house with pet grooming station

**WHY WE BUILT FRIENDS OF RUBY HOME**

35% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQI2S

LGBTQI2S youth experience disproportionately high rates of depression, anxiety, fear, violence, harassment, and substance use. Shelters and transitional homes are traditionally organized by binary gender distinctions, often making them unwelcoming and unsafe for LGBTQI2S youth.
A launchpad on the journey to independence

Through shared spaces and in-house programming, youth will be part of a community, one in which they’re free to live true to who they are. Everything is designed to support youth on their path towards independent, stable, and empowered living.

**THIS INCLUDES PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON:**

+ Cooking
+ Cleaning
+ Financial literacy
+ Professional mentorships
+ Crisis intervention
+ Counselling
+ Health check-ups
+ Physical activity
+ Maintaining healthy relationship
+ Planning and goal setting
+ Budgeting & Bill paying
+ Computer literacy
Adapting quickly to COVID-19

Even before the pandemic, LGBTQI2S youth faced greater risk of anxiety and depression. The added stress of COVID-19 exacerbated pre-existing mental health issues, leading to increased demand for our mental health services with unprecedented waitlists for counselling and case support.

FRIENDS OF RUBY ACTED SWIFTLY TO PIVOT OUR SERVICES AND CONTINUE SUPPORTING LGBTQI2S YOUTH

+ We raised funds to hire additional counsellors and case workers to address what we anticipate will be an ongoing increase in need.
+ We offered phone, chat, and virtual/video options to augment our in-person services and programs to ensure we remained accessible.
+ We equipped both the Youth Centre and Home with physical barriers, wayfinding signage, and hand sanitation stations to protect the health of our staff and youth.
+ Strict PPE and physical distancing policies are in place to ensure the safety of everyone that needs to access our facilities.

90% increase in counselling sessions during the March 2020 lockdown

40% of youth said access to counselling was the primary reason they engaged with us, up from 15% in 2019.

12 plexiglass barriers installed to encourage physical distancing

6 wayfinding posterboards installed
2020 Highlights

Continued growth and expansion

Friends of Ruby was built on a long history of providing LGBTQI2S youth support, since being founded by Egale Canada in 2014. With over 6 years of operational experience, Friends of Ruby continued strengthen and grow our capacity to create the change we want to see in our community.

The Friends of Ruby Home opens its doors!

Over five years in the making, Friends of Ruby Home welcomed its first residents in December 2020. Designed around mental health and wellness in consultation with LGBTQI2S youth, Canada’s first custom-built transitional house prioritizes the independence, comfort, and well-being of youth so they can ultimately have equal opportunity to live and succeed.

Chosen Family Day

For LGBTQI2S youth, family rejection can have devastating consequences on their mental health, career prospects, and even physical safety. We launched Chosen Family Day to raise awareness of the challenges LGBTQI2S youth face — and to celebrate the new relationships that help them through tough times.
Our 2020 impact at a glance

**ENGAGEMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>273</th>
<th>1779</th>
<th>467</th>
<th>182</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>new participants</td>
<td>counselling sessions</td>
<td>case management sessions</td>
<td>youth accessing case management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>456</th>
<th>1692</th>
<th>4394</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>group interactions</td>
<td>drop-in visits</td>
<td>overall engagements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>68</th>
<th>20%</th>
<th>149</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>therapeutic group sessions</td>
<td>increase in accessed services</td>
<td>youth accessing counselling services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**YOUTH SERVICES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2181</th>
<th>296</th>
<th>2053</th>
<th>223</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>meals</td>
<td>grocery bags distributed</td>
<td>tokens distributed to youth accessing our services</td>
<td>Unique youth served</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 first of its-kind custom-built transitional house
Statement of operations

Revenue

Project 48%
General Donation 51%

Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Designated funds</td>
<td>$1,591,472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted donations</td>
<td>$1,672,459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortization of deferred capital contribution</td>
<td>$22,464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>$1,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,287,770</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenses

Direct Service Delivery Costs 69%
Program Fees 4%
Professional Fees 4%
Rent 12%
Amortization of capital assets and website 5%
Administration 5%

Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct service delivery costs</td>
<td>$1,492,051</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>$254,110</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$138,554</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amortization of capital assets and website</td>
<td>$110,372</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program fees</td>
<td>$83,338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional fees</td>
<td>$78,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,156,996</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Excess of revenue over expenses

$1,130,774
Fundraising
We are extremely grateful for the continued financial support of each and every donor.

**Sources of operations donations**
The breakdown of the operating donations does not reflect the City of Toronto’s full year of base funding for the Friends of Ruby Home*.

*City of Toronto funds the Friends of Ruby Home for the last 30 days of the fiscal year.

**Sources of 2020 capital donations**

**Source of all-time capital donations**
Our vision for the years ahead

We take incredible pride in everything our supporters have helped us accomplish and we’re excited about what’s coming. Our four strategic priorities focus on strengthening and structuring the organization for growth.

BY THE END OF 2023 WE WILL HAVE:
+ Strengthened organizational capacity to successfully deliver our mandate
+ Diversified and strengthened our mix of programs and services
+ Continuously improved our model for mental health, social and housing services.
+ A strong sustainable funding stream for the organization.

Thank you for your continued support and trust. Together, we can make this dream a reality.
Thank you to our community partners!

The meaningful work Friends of Ruby does wouldn’t be possible without the collaboration of our community partners. By providing essential supports that complement our programs and services, they help us ensure the best possible futures for LGBTQI2S youth. We are deeply grateful for their time, resources, energy and expertise. In a year of social distancing, we all pulled together.
Capital campaign donors

Thank you to each donor and supporter for sharing our ambitious vision and creating a true home for LGBTQI2S youth. Please visit friendsofruby.ca/programs-and-services/transitional-housing for a complete list.

$3,000,000+
The Daniels Corporation
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Martha LA McCain
The Clark Family Foundation

$1,000,000 – $2,999,999
City of Toronto
The Home Depot Canada Foundation

$200,000 – $999,999
Intact Financial Corporation
Yabu Pushelberg Inc.
BMO Financial Group
Mike and Martha Pedersen
RBC Foundation
Scotiabank
Sustainable Architecture
TD Bank Group
Deloitte
Power Corporation of Canada

$100,000 – $199,999
CIBC
Manulife
Timothy M. Thompson
Bill and Teri Currie
Bob Dorrance and Gail Drummond
John Cappozzolo and Paola Ceolin & Robert and Simone Cappozzolo
McCarthy Tetrault Foundation
Sun Life
TELUS
The Harold E. Ballard Foundation
The KPMG Foundation

$50,000 – $99,999
Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP
Cadillac Fairview
Paul and Susan Douglas
Terry Burgoyne
Blakes, Cassels and Graydon LLP
PetSmart Charities® of Canada
Sharon Geraghty and Paul Wickens
Paul Boniferro
Bill and Bronwen Thomas
Kerry Peacock
Mark Samuel & Kevin Sanford
Mary Lou Maher and Virginia Hatchette
National Bank of Canada
TD Securities
The Johnston Family Foundation
Public Safety Canada
Hon. William C Graham, P.C., C.M., Q.C.
John Gordon
Frank McKenna

$10,000 – $49,999
Nimet & Riaz Ahmed Family Giving Foundation
Torys LLP
Elizabeth Hurly
Colleen Moorehead
Kelly Moffatt and Michael Fekete
Bonte Minnema
Geoffrey Smith
S. Firoz Ahmed Professional Corporation
Steven Smith
Ruth Woods
Lisa and Marianne Smith
John Unger
Jeremy Forgie Professional Corporation

Andrew Fleming and Roger Keglevich
Barbara Hooper
Brad Berg and Brian Rolfes
Bruce Lawson
Catherine Meade
Christopher Hewat
Connie Reeve, in Memory of Bonnie Tough
David W. Anderson
Douglas Stollery
Glenn Pushelberg
Heather Killough
John F. Clifford
Malcolm and Tara Lang
Marc Brazeau, CPA, CA
Mark S. Bonham
McKinsey & Company Canada
Paul Douglas
Richard J. Balfour
Richard Silver
Ryan Hindmarsh and Diane Niec
Stephen J. Graham
The Cantlon-McConvey Family
Gale Rubinstein
## Annual donors


### $3,000,000+
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- Martha LA McCain
- The Clark Family Foundation

### $1,000,000 – $2,999,999
- City of Toronto
- Ministry of Health
- The Home Depot Canada Foundation

### $100,000 – $999,999
- Balsam Foundation
- BMO Financial Group
- Deloitte
- Ian McPhail
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Mike and Martha Pederson
- Power Corporation of Canada
- Scotiabank
- TD Bank Group
- TD Securities Inc.
- Anton and Illana Rabie Charitable Fund at the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto
- The Harold E. Ballard Foundation
- The KPMG Foundation
- Timothy M. Thompson

### $50,000 – $99,999
- Paul Boniferro
- Cadillac Fairview
- Community Foundations of Canada
- Mary Lou K Maher and Virginia Hatchette
- The Peterson Foundation
- Bill and Bronwen Thomas

### $10,000 – $49,999
- Art-Squared
- AXA XL- Charities Aid Foundation
- Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP
- CIHR
- Community Food Centres Canada
- Gangbar Agency
- Stephen J. Graham
- Ryan Hindmarsh and Diane Niec
- Malcolm and Tara Lang

- Bruce Lawson
- M.E.H. Foundation
- Scott McCain
- Margaret Norrie McCain
- Catherine Meade
- Raymond James Canada Foundation
- Lisa and Marianne Smith
- Toronto Foundation
- United Way of Greater Toronto
- VOS Productions Ltd.

- Mark S. Bonham
- Jen McCain
- David and Jennifer Smith
- Toronto Fire Services

- Anthony Alexander
- Angell Gallery
- Doug Arcand
- Behaviour Inc. - An Ideas Company
- BentallGreenOak LP (Canada)
- Jonathon Borland
- Susan M. Carrigan
- Mary Beth Currie
- Julienne Day
- Mark D’Souza
- Anne Foerster
- Robert Gibson
- Arundel Gibson
- Stephen Gilles
- Andrew Gillespie
- Thomas Greenwood
- Paul King
- Melissa Koehn
- Russell Laishley
- Jackie MacKay
- Rod Miller
- Robert Mitchell
- Adrian Mitchell
- Fauzieh R Mohsenzadeh
- Drew Morier
- Richard Mortimer
- Peter Mustin-Jiwani

- Paul O’Brien
- Geoffrey Paterson
- Jonathan Quek
- Andrew Shenkman
- Toronto Drop-In Network (TDIN)
- Zebedee Trazo
- Urbacon
- Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) Canada

- Laura Anselmo
- Robert Brien
- Kirk Bryant
- Cabbagetown Group Softball League
- Anthony DeCarl
- Xudong Ding
- Diane Dumais
- Ali Esensoy
- Alex Galatis
- Michael Hale
- Keith Hambly
- Gordon Hamilton
- Ron Harris
- Esther Kays-Burden
- William Klein
- Ilana Ludwin
- Carolyn Luscombe
- Paul McFarlane
- Kieran Mulroy
- OverActive Media Corporation
- Michael Palmer
- The Period Purse
- Brian Smith
- Soulpepper Theatre Company
- TOPdesk Canada
- Toronto Police Service’s 51 Division
- Zubas & Associates
Thank you to our generous donors & funders!

We are extremely grateful to all our generous donors, funders and supporters, without whom none of this would be possible. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.
Friends of Ruby (previously Egale Youth Services), a registered charity dedicated to LGBTQI2S youth well-being, opened the doors of the Friends of Ruby Home, an innovative custom-built transitional house for LGBTQI2S young people, in December 2020. More than five years in the making, Friends of Ruby is deeply appreciative of the many partners, donors, supporters, and community members who helped to make this dream a reality.

The project began in 2012, when Egale Canada published ‘Not Under My Roof’, a study that identified the crisis of LGBTQI2S youth homelessness and made clear the urgent need for services specifically for LGBTQI2S youth in the shelter system. Moved to action, Egale Canada founded Egale Youth Services (now Friends of Ruby Youth Centre) in 2014, a drop-in and counselling centre to better support and understand the needs of youth, while they launched the capital campaign in 2015 to raise the necessary funds to build this Home. Construction began in June 2017 and in December 2020, the first residents moved in.

We are grateful for the leadership and shared vision of our founder, Egale Canada.

“Our Founding History

Friends of Ruby (previously Egale Youth Services), a registered charity dedicated to LGBTQI2S youth well-being, opened the doors of the Friends of Ruby Home, an innovative custom-built transitional house for LGBTQI2S young people, in December 2020. More than five years in the making, Friends of Ruby is deeply appreciative of the many partners, donors, supporters, and community members who helped to make this dream a reality.

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We are grateful for the leadership and shared vision of our founder, Egale Canada.

“We hope that with supports like this home, young LGBTQI2S people will go on to break down the barriers they have yet to face as we strive to create a truly inclusive Canada and world.”

Helen Kennedy, Executive Director, Egale Canada
**Friends of Ruby is grateful for your help**

Your generous support is essential for us to continue helping LGBTQI2S youth thrive. If you’d like to donate or volunteer, please visit friendsofruby.ca/support today.

**Connect with us**
info@friendsofruby.ca
416-359-0237

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**Friends of Ruby, Head Office & Youth Centre**
489 Queen Street East
Lower Level – LL01
Toronto, ON
M5A 1V1

**Friends of Ruby Home**
257 Dundas St. East
Toronto, ON
M5A 1Z8

Charitable registration number 709180889 RR 0001