

175 SISTER PROFILES: Adsum House

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Historically it is amazing to witness how a seed of an idea can morph into a full-fledged outreach that enables individuals and families to experience a new lease on life.

That is what happened with Adsum House. Sister Jean Martell and novice Evelyn Pollard had volunteered at Hope Cottage, a soup kitchen in Halifax for homeless people, mostly men. They wondered why there wasn't a comparable place for women in the city.

In the early 1980s, a group of our Sisters, Sisters of the Good Shepherd and parishioners from St. Peter's, Dartmouth,



Adsum House, Halifax, NS



CELEBRATING

175

YEARS OF JOYFUL WITNESS

1849 - 2024

Christ Anglican Church and Grace United Church met to support the establishment of such a centre.

With the pro bono services of many professionals and the purchase of a house for the price of a dollar from the city, the project was underway.

Volunteer labour over weekends repaired and redid the home for its new objective as emergency housing. Donations of furniture, carpentry, linens and multiple supplies poured forth.

The vision of Adsum is simple:

Everyone has a safe and secure home.

According to the Adsum House website, the strategy to achieve such a place is:

- To be the best we can be as a centre of excellence in housing and homelessness
- To expand our ability to care for people along their housing and homelessness journey by offering a continuum of holistic supports in combination with case management
- To be truly client-directed by ensuring the people who use our services are engaged in identifying their needs
- To make Adsum a great place to work

Adsum's mission: To lead change in housing through advocacy, supports and services to end homelessness.

Adsum's values and guiding principles:

- Respect
- Self-worth
- Trust
- Inclusion

Adsum shelters and houses hundreds of people and provides services and support related to basic needs for safe and affordable housing, food, clothing and community each year. Adsum operates an emergency shelter and long-term affordable housing in Halifax and Dartmouth.

And so, the seed that was planted many years ago took root, grew, blossomed and continues to grow and multiply.

Adsum has grown from one shelter to an organization that provides a range of housing options, programs and services.

Sisters have supported Adsum House since its beginning and continue to be engaged in its mission to end homelessness.



Sister Jean Martell
A founding member of Adsum House