



A Family Housing Journey

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Marilyn Forster Lo Turco - DAFRS - IBC -
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Not always this way....



BUSY...



The Big Move



My Making the Most of Your Passport
Funding Family-to-Family Learning series
experience



Interests → Roles → Relationship

INTERESTS

- Volunteering with people
- Horses
- Music
- Dance
- Culinary Arts

ROLES

- Volunteer Luncheon Assistant
- Horseback Rider and Groomer and Stable Hand
- Dancer
- Small Business Start Up

In Durham Region

- Day program...?????

DAFRS

A family resource and support organization

- Making the Most Family Learning Series
- A small committed Family Group with a facilitator
- Housing Project



Housing Project

- Researching and talking about many different forms of housing that would make possible our dreams of supported and purposeful lives in a home of one's own in typical neighbourhoods...one person at a time
- Following a set of guidelines



- **Imagining Home**

- The larger group of 30 families
- Common principles and ideas

- **Intentionally Built Community (IBC)**

- 12 families taking another route
- Incorporated

Intentionally Built Community- IBC

2015:

- Imagining Home Group began, and then the IBC Group merged with a vision across Durham but still focused on intentional community
- 12 Families



Who we are...

- We are different families
 - Siblings
 - Adult sons/daughters
 - Varying financial situations and opportunities
 - (buy or rent, etc.)
 - Varying supports needed
- But, we all shared a common vision



Common Vision

- Vision: an intentionally built community where our loved ones are an integral and contributing part of that community
- In ratios that commonly occur in our community (about 10%)



Chain of Events

- Before long we decided to incorporate
 - We were engaged with a builder-developer
 - We wanted to think about grants and seed funding
 - We wanted to show that we were serious players at the table
 - Carol was experienced – and we wanted to become a voice or an entity rather than just a group of parents

What Incorporating Means

- It allows legitimacy to meet with key stakeholders
- It offers our statement of beliefs and principles to others
- Our vision is to have 10% of future builds allocated as safe & secure home for our family member to be integrated in Community



What we're up to:

- Currently working on a 30 unit build – that will only include about 3 individuals and yet we are 12 or more families
 - We each support each other
 - Trying to create a blueprint so that it gets easier each time
 - Allows for great diversity of what kind of build or housing is being designed

Moving forward

- The incorporation allows us to be very creative into the future
 - Being in a position to hold loan or grant money
 - Eg., Van City credit union
 - Being available to more families in the future

What We Have Learned

- Collaboration
- Unique Gifts to the Table
- Celebrating our Families and our Journey as we move forward



Both groups are looking at many options

- Habitat for Humanity
- Legal secondary suites
- Cooperatives ie Rougemount in Pickering
- And the importance of Relationship for all Micro boards – circles – good neighbours

- ...as well as institutional thinking pitfalls!!





KEY MESSAGES

Key Messages

1. Home, Housing and Support ought to be addressed separately
2. Housing and home are lifelong tweaks, edits and stages
3. That housing challenges are mostly affordability challenges
4. That all people contribute to their neighbourhood
5. Helping families does not mean taking away control



Key Messages

6. Access to renovation dollars is a long term investment
7. Housing and home can only be designed one person at a time
8. A home of one's own is for everyone
9. That funders need to stop funding old style high profile congregated mega projects as if there are no other options
10. This is not for all families, but where there are keen families willing to partner, they ought to be resourced and supported



