



JAKE'S HOUSE
for Children with Autism

JAKE'S HOUSE INCLUSIVE LIVING

For people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), the concept of home does not follow a single model. Further, as circumstances and needs evolve, the *best* place to call home may change many times over a lifetime. For youth on the spectrum, home can be a place of independence, provided there is access to a full range of individually determined supports. Caregivers play a vital role in seeking appropriate long-term care solutions, as they best understand the unique combination of strengths and needs of their loved one.

THE HOUSING GAP

- There are approximately 135,000 people with ASD in Ontario—and their options for housing and long-term care are entirely inadequate.
- There are over 14,000 identified individuals on wait lists for affordable housing in Ontario. According to the Auditor General's 2016 annual report, with every person who comes off the list, six new people are added. These figures do not include those who have not identified a current need for housing or those who believe they are ineligible for such supports.
- In 2014, the Developmental Services Capacity-Building Task Force on Housing assembled to address the housing crisis confronting Ontario adults with developmental disabilities.

Engaging multiple sectors and community partners, Jake's House is developing creative and innovative solutions to address this housing gap. Jake's House will soon be offering those who need it a place to call home.

THE VALUE

Whether it is going to school with peers or socializing with neighbours, engaging in a community is an important piece of a quality life.

For those with ASD, remaining close to loved ones when placed into the care of others is vital to their mental health, as isolating them can lead to depression and sadness. We all need emotional connections to thrive and survive; this includes some form of connection to our community.

Research shows that housing with support can generate positive outcomes, including enhanced life skills, improved health status, positive mental health, increased social skills, and an increased sense of empowerment and involvement in the community, as well as decreased hospitalization, police and emergency service interactions.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Parents of children with ASD are often most concerned about what will happen to their child when they are gone. Leading collective action and pooling resources, Jake's House is partnering with retirement residences to provide supportive, long-term, inclusive living solutions to individuals with ASD.

Seniors and people with ASD will have a choice of lifestyle options. With a range of service levels available, everyone can be accommodated and supported—from independent individuals seeking help with chores like cooking or cleaning to those requiring ongoing nursing care.

- ▲ PHASE ONE: 15 unique housing units within retirement residences to be available in January 2019.
- ▲ PHASE TWO: Expanding housing opportunities for young people in retirement centres to four communities across Ontario and building further capacity in established centres by 2020.
- ▲ PHASE THREE: Launch units outside of Ontario in 2021.

By 2020, \$1MM is needed to support the development of the Jake's House Inclusive Living solution.