

The Inglewood Project

Working closely with leaders in the rehabilitation and human services field, we identified a **critical gap/or crisis!** For one brain injury survivor an institution was home for over seven years; for another-six! Young males between the ages of 15 and 24 have the highest rate of brain injury, and often they will have to share a room with the elderly or return home where the occurrence of family burnout skyrockets because they are ill prepared to deal with 24 hour personal care regimes, medication administration, and specialized rehabilitation.

As an alternative to institutional living we envisioned a home in the Calgary community which would enhance the quality of life for each survivor by providing intensive personal care and rehabilitation. The general consensus amongst our colleagues was that the residents would live out their lives in this home and as a result no time limitations were imposed. Our fundamental beliefs ensure that we maximize the rehabilitation potential of each individual who is severely disabled; we reduce the oppression, preserve the worth and the dignity of all people with disabilities who are socially, physically, emotionally and spiritually estranged.

By September 2003 we had raised almost \$500,000 and completed a unique twelve bed duplex, 100% wheelchair accessible home. The residents moved in and families, friends and significant others helped to decorate the bedrooms and to turn the house into a home.

URSA believes a community setting and our wholistic approach increases the overall quality of life by providing the twelve residents with a safe and secure home and with opportunities to relearn daily living activities, socialize, and pursue personal interests. Whenever possible residents learn techniques to cope and manage life long affects of the brain injury

- ✓ constant exhaustion
- ✓ extreme loss of memory
- ✓ loss of ability to walk
- ✓ life long rehabilitation
- ✓ frequent disorientation
- ✓ severe attention deficits
- ✓ loss of vocal communication or verbal skills
- ✓ personality changes

Natural support systems evolve as families forge friendships! Shared common experiences provide the necessary emotional, psychological and spiritual support required for healing and acceptance.

Located in the heart of Inglewood and just across the street from the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and river paths, the residents' daily living activities include easy access to the Inglewood community and other Calgary amenities.

The Inglewood Community Association has welcomed us and the respective alderman supports the home. The Calgary Health Region provides the ongoing operating dollars, but the onus of construction and mortgage payments is ours. Financial assistance has come from individuals, corporations, service clubs, foundations, Lottery Funds and the Annual Motorcycle Awareness Ride – Walt Healy & Bob Kane Memorial Ride.

Since the home opened, *three Inglewood residents* have graduated and moved into less structured living arrangements or returned home to live with their families! The intensive community based support seems to be the catalyst for one young man who is relearning to speak six years after his injury occurred!

To date we have secured almost \$980,000.00 and we have assumed a \$1,000,000.00 mortgage. Our goal is to reduce the overall mortgage of the home so that a further burden is not added to the lives of individuals with a severe brain injury living in a community setting. Your support assists our services by reducing the oppression and preserving the worth and dignity of all people who are socially, physically, emotionally and spiritually estranged.

Suggested avenues of support

To turn a wheelchair 360 degrees a 5 foot diameter circle is required or 19.625 square feet for \$3,267.17; for people who are mobile, it typically takes the diameter of the width of our shoulders

Contribute by the square foot—20 square feet for \$3,329.60 or 10 square feet for \$1,664.80...

The home is not time limited and each resident can stay as long as necessary. The cost to build the home per resident is \$145,666.66

Personalized, private bedrooms are totally wheelchair accessible which is critical to the overall quality of life - \$30,000.00, or

A donation that you are comfortable with.

Features of the home

- ✓ 10,500 square feet
- ✓ for a totally accessible environment everything is on the main floor: 12 bedrooms, living rooms, kitchen, toilet, wheelchair accessible showers, century bath tub, and laundry facilities
- ✓ full size windows: many residents have restricted range of motion, limiting their visual field
- ✓ to reduce the effects of disorientation colourful walls change from room to room
- ✓ to minimize damage from wheelchairs the lower half of the walls are protected
- ✓ to minimize injuries to residents and staff each bedroom has an overhead tracking (transfer) systems
- ✓ bedrooms are outfitted with a private sink, with the option to hook up the internet, cable and telephone. Each has an intercom system
- ✓ accessible kitchen counters and dining room table
- ✓ a Century bath tub is designed to promote healthy skin and increase blood circulation
- ✓ for emergencies we are directly linked to the Inglewood fire station
- ✓ an oversized garage acts as a bus shelter to protect residents from inclement weather; and the elevator transports residents to the main floor of the home

Support from the community has enabled URSA to grow and provide quality service to individuals with rehabilitation needs.

When mailing in your donation please complete the following. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postal Code: _____ **E-mail:** _____

We would like to contribute:

- \$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 \$500.00 other
 wheelchair accessibility \$3,267.17 10square feet for \$1,664.80

Payment method: **Visa** **Cheque**

Name on Visa Card _____
Visa Number (if paying by Visa): _____ **Expiration Date:** _____

Signature of Card Holder: _____

Please make the cheque payable to:

Universal Rehabilitation Service Agency
808 Manning Rd. NE
Calgary AB T3A 7N8

Attention: Valerie Hornett

In accordance with the Alberta Charitable Fundraising Regulations, please be advised of the following:

- ✓ 100% of all contributions are dedicated directly to the Inglewood project.
- ✓ Manpower is absorbed within our current model.
- ✓ Cost of fundraising is postage and stationary supplies. All other funds are directed to programs
- ✓ Fundraising license/Registration #: 310321
- ✓ A Tax receipt will be issued and our Revenue Canada Charitable #108160904RR0001
- ✓ Contact Person is Doug G Hauser, CEO, URSA or Valerie Hornett, Fund Development Manager, URSA

Thank you for caring