

## **Homeward Trust and Schizophrenia Society of Alberta Present the Iris Court Grand Opening**

**March 19, 2015 (Edmonton)** – On Thursday, March 19, Homeward Trust Edmonton and the Schizophrenia Society of Alberta is hosting the official grand opening of Iris Court. Iris Court provides affordable, permanent, supportive housing to 21 individuals living with severe and persistent mental illness and at risk of homelessness.

Homeward Trust funded the purchase and renovation of Iris Court through the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy, and the Program Partner for the Iris Court project is Alberta Health Services. Other major funders include Alberta Seniors and Community Supports, Mental Health and Addictions, REALTORS Community Foundation, and The Stollery Charitable Foundation.

"We are pleased to partner with Homeward Trust Edmonton and other local organizations on initiatives that help prevent homelessness," states The Honourable Candice Bergen, Minister of State for Social Development. "Our goal for individuals coming out of homelessness is for them to thrive and secure employment so they can contribute their skills and talents to our communities."

"Homeward Trust is pleased to support the Schizophrenia Society of Alberta, and to see this project having a positive impact in the community," says Susan McGee, CEO of Homeward Trust Edmonton. "We are happy to be able to provide funding through the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy, as Iris Court fills a vital need in our city by providing permanent supportive housing to people living with severe and persistent mental illness, and at risk of homelessness."

"The Schizophrenia Society of Alberta is thrilled to officially open the doors of Iris Court," says Rubyann Rice, Provincial Executive Director, Schizophrenia Society of Alberta. "With many of the beds already filled, we are happy that Iris Court is already making such a positive impact on both the community, and our clients' lives."

Iris Court provides support staff 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. Services include 3 meals a day and snacks, fully furnished rooms, free laundry facilities, medication monitoring, and assistance with daily living, recreational and support activities, and community service referrals.

Homeward Trust Edmonton funded \$1.6 million to Iris Court, through the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy. In 2014/15, we are also contributing a further \$450,000 from Alberta Human Services funding for operational funding.

The event will take place at 8533 90 Street, Edmonton Alberta, with the program starting at 10:30 a.m.

*Homeward Trust Edmonton is a not for profit organization that uses a community-based approach toward the goal of ending homelessness in Edmonton. Our primary role is to coordinate response to housing needs by working together with local agencies and all orders of government.*

For more information, please contact:

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