

MEDIA RELEASE

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Message of Accessible Housing Recognized

At a ceremony held on Sunday, October 30th in Niagara Falls, ONPHA, the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association presented their 2011 Tenant Achievement Recognition Awards to Kingsville residents Todd Bradley, Chris Kelly, Tim Knight and Kevin Knight. Though not considered a traditional housing provider, Community Living Essex County supports people in over 50 small group living homes throughout Essex County. Todd, Chris, Tim and Kevin live in one of these homes, located in Kingsville.

To effectively illustrate a method of supportive housing, Community Living Essex County approached Todd, Chris, Tim and Kevin about participating in a video demonstrating their enhanced quality of life while living in affordable, accessible housing that met their needs. They were thrilled with the opportunity to allow cameras into their home and lives and did not hesitate for a second to put their privacy aside so others could learn. They know the difference a safe, affordable, accessible home means to a person's independence and emotional well-being after living the majority of their lives in situations that did not meet their needs and were not in their home community.

Since the taping of the video, *Much More Than Just a Home* in early 2010 it has been viewed by many in a variety of forums and symposiums and its inspirational message that community's can overcome barriers to establish affordable, accessible housing for everyone has been very well received.

For Todd, Chris, Tim and Kevin, their willingness to share this message serves as a model to communities across Ontario to foster independence and encourage every person to develop their capacity to live, learn, work and participate in every day living in their own community.

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