



# “Inn-Home Support” a Homelessness Prevention Program

Su Knorr

Inn from the Cold--Kelowna

# Introduction

The Inn-Home Support (IHS) program is coordinated by one part-time employee with Inn from the Cold—Kelowna; it was developed in response to the question:

*“How can we keep marginalized & vulnerable individuals housed?”*

The IHS works to keep people from slipping (back) into homelessness, by pairing them up with a Volunteer Mentor, for one-on-one long-term support.

# Inn Home Support Overview

- Volunteers are recruited, trained, and supported by the IHS Coordinator.
- Mentees are referred by their caseworkers, who maintain all clinical responsibility for their client.
- Mentors provide their mentee with companionship, mentorship, and advocacy, for a minimum of one year.



# Impact

- Mentors report all visits on a confidential log which is monitored by IHS Coordinator and the referring agent—this serves as an early warning system, enabling **intervention *before* crisis** occurs
- increases **sense of belonging** in mentees; by **reducing isolation, increasing self-esteem, & increasing participation** in the community
- Currently there are 30 active partnerships, and 16 referring agencies
- IHS has a **96% success rate** of keeping people housed

# Moving Forward

1. In efforts to further assist individuals, we have developed as a part of this program, **pet fostering program** for individuals who are accessing treatment. This removes the barrier of 'pet ownership' from someone pursuing their wellness plan.
2. IHS is an inexpensive, community-based solution to increasing client's ability to maintain housing. We would love to **share our program model** with anyone who is looking to start a similar initiative in their community.