

Friendship Lodge Update

July 6, 2009

I went to Friendship Lodge today to talk to manager Niki Lindstrom about a referral. My 26-year-old adopted daughter has moved home to stay with me until she is stable enough to live on her own. Friendship Lodge is one of her options.

I can't tell you enough how impressed I was about how Friendship Lodge is running so far. They officially opened on June 1st and they are currently full with a big waitlist of potential tenants. The security system and monitoring they have there is incredible. It reminds me of the control center at the jail...it's that effective.

All of the visitors have to sign in at the office and present I.D. to the staff. This deters drug dealers and other inappropriate people to access the premises.

I was informed there have been two resident meetings already. I met the two on-site life-skills workers. They have had a number of presentations for residents including staff from CNC coming to F.L. and talking to residents about upgrading and other college programs. The residents have had two barbeques and other community-type activities to build relationships with each other and the staff.

Best of all, F.L. reports they have not had to call the RCMP once since they opened. I feel this is a very positive start.

I must commend the folks from the Millar Addition who sat with me on the Friendship Lodge planning committee. It was because of our diligence and strong advocacy to keep our neighbourhood safe that the Friendship Centre included us in the creation of policies and procedures for F.L. There will be another planning committee meeting before F.L.'s grand opening in September.

Written by: Diane Nakamura