



AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, October 10, 2018

The Mustard Seed expands its services on December 1, and assumes operation of People's Place shelter

Red Deer, AB. – On December 1, 2018, The Mustard Seed will assume operations of People's Place shelter from Safe Harbour Society. Safe Harbour has been providing overnight shelter to homeless individuals experiencing sobriety at People's Place since 1998. The shelter currently accommodates up to 46 adults during the winter months, and 35 adults for the remainder of the year.

“Safe Harbour knows this is the right thing to do for our sober guests accessing People's Place. The Mustard Seed has more capacity than we do to enhance services; they are committed to working closely with us, and the broader community to ensure appropriate support systems are in place for our most vulnerable citizens,” says Kath Hoffman, Executive Director, Safe Harbour Society.

The transition of People's Place to The Mustard Seed allows Safe Harbour to focus their services on those who are not sober and still in need of shelter.

“The opioid crisis our community is experiencing demands emergency shelter and health care supports. Safe Harbour will be concentrating on enhancing its services, including – shelter support, Medically Supported Detox, referrals to residential treatment, housing, outreach, and Indigenous connections – for people who are actively using in our community. We will continue to provide the daytime Warming Centre at Safe Harbour and continue working towards enhancing services in the community,” adds Hoffman.

The Mustard Seed has worked closely with Safe Harbour in providing much needed support and services to Red Deer's most vulnerable citizens. With The Mustard Seed's addition of People's Place, individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty now have access to shelter, food, clothing, health and wellness support, and spiritual care in one centralized location.

“We are excited for the opportunity to increase our services and provide additional care for Red Deer's most vulnerable citizens. The overnight shelter will allow us to care for those experiencing poverty and homelessness at a deeper level. Our guests often experience several barriers in their lives, and having all of our services and support systems in one building will reduce the obstacles our guests face every day,” says Byron Bradley, Managing Director of Central Alberta, The Mustard Seed. “The Mustard Seed is

committed to providing a safe and secure environment; the increase of our staff will continue the positive, community-focused atmosphere for our guests and the surrounding area.”

“Safe Harbour’s dedication and commitment has positively impacted the community we collectively serve. Our goal is to build on the great work Safe Harbour has been doing for so many years, and learn from the holistic and progressive approach at our 370-person shelter [Foothills Shelter] in Calgary.”

Safe Harbour and The Mustard Seed will continue to work collaboratively towards a smooth transition of services. Safe Harbour will continue operations of People’s Place shelter until November 30, 2018.

About The Mustard Seed:

The Mustard Seed is a Christian non-profit organization that has been caring for men and women experiencing poverty and homelessness since 1984. The Mustard Seed delivers basic necessities, and support services including employment, advocacy, and counseling programs to those in need and partners with the community to address the root causes of poverty. <https://theseed.ca/>

About Safe Harbour Society:

Safe Harbour Society is a non-profit organization that has been providing a continuum of service to people experiencing homelessness, addiction and mental health concerns since 2007. Safe Harbour delivers supportive programs through intoxicated Shelter services, including a Medically Supported Detox program, Housing, Winter Warming centre and Indigenous support and programming. We are currently in partnership with Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services, the City of Red Deer and Turning Point to provide the space for the Temporary Overdose Prevention Site that will begin operations on October 1, 2018. <https://safeharboursociety.org>

Media Contacts:

Roberto Villanueva
Communications Coordinator
The Mustard Seed Red Deer
Phone: 780.426.9096
Cell: 780.991.7358
Email: RobertoVillanueva@theseed.ca

Kath Hoffman
Executive Director (Captain)
Safe Harbour Society
Phone: 403.347.0181
Cell: 403.357.4405
Email: Kath@safeharboursociety.org
www.safeharboursociety.org