

A Home of Their Own

This year, LIGHTS is celebrating five years since its launch. Feeling proud of many accomplishments in these few short years, we can't help but feel proudest when LIGHTS recipients complete their final phase and find a home to call their own. Most recently, this incredible achievement occurred to Karen and Krystal.

Having casually known each other through the Developmental Services Sector, Karen and Krystal's mothers - Margaret and Madeleine - came up with the plan to have their daughters move in together at a LIGHTS parent networking meeting where they both discovered both Karen and Krystal were ready for independent living.

After many facilitated meetings and planning sessions, the young women decided they wanted a mentor roommate to help them navigate this huge step to independence. They found that in Maggie, a 24 year old Masters student from York University. The three women began their apartment hunt immediately, and it wasn't long until they found their perfect home; a two-floor duplex apartment on the Danforth.

With the guidance of Maggie, all three ladies conduct weekly household meetings that include the division of chores and dinner preparation discussions. Pub night planning sessions and downtime activities are also regularly scheduled in, and are a favourite!

Both Karen and Krystal, who recently held a housewarming party to show off their beautiful new home, are extremely excited and proud of their recent transition; "I don't think my dream to move out would ever have happened without LIGHTS. I love it here." Karen said. Meanwhile, Krystal, who had been slightly hesitant about moving out is adjusting very well to her independence; "It felt scary to leave home and packing up made me emotional," she says, "But it feels much better without my mother around always giving me reminders. And I'm doing things differently now." Congratulations Karen, Krystal, and Maggie!



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Filling the Gap

A gift to LIGHTS will help provide funding for those in need and seeking a home of their own.

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