



SISTERS OF ST. MARTHA COLLABORATE WITH ANTIGONISH AFFORDABLE HOUSING SOCIETY (AAHS)

The Sisters of St. Martha have been involved in working for good affordable housing for persons living on low income for decades. Their collaboration with Antigonish Affordable Housing Society (AAHS) is enhanced by the 2019 Chapter Direction Statement:

“we desire to bring a contemplative and compassionate heart to our fractured world”

Several Marthas worked with the first Society in Antigonish, NS in early 2000s to offer inexpensive housing for people who are vulnerable socially, environmentally and financially, living in poverty or on low income. When the organization became active once more around 2015, the Sisters of St. Martha provided basic funds for capital operations. The Provincial and Federal governments, Municipalities of Antigonish Town and County, AVIVA Award and other private funders followed.

In 2018, the AAHS celebrated the official opening of Phase 2 of Riverside Estates, its multi-family complex on Hope Lane. Phase 2 includes 10 new affordable rental units—adding to the four units in Phase 1 which opened in 2017—and a Community Room. Phase 3 is now being planned for 10 new units.

Sr. Marion Sheridan, CSM, sat on the AAHS planning committee and is an active Member of the Board. It has definitely been a working board, never ceasing its fundraising efforts! Throughout the year, Sr. Rosaline Tynski collects recycling items to add to the AAHS funds. CSM continues to financially sponsor AAHS and helps in other ways. For instance, when Bethany Motherhouse closed, the Sisters donated furniture for the Community Room.



Riverside Estates, affordable housing supported by the local community



The AAHS envisions having enough environmentally, socially and financially sustainable, community-supported affordable housing available to residents of Antigonish Town and County who are living on low incomes. The integral parts of AAHS social sustainability pillar are Community Room, Community Navigator and a Tenant Advisory Group, all fostering social support for and among the tenants.