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&

UNDERSTANDING

JANET JACKSON'S BODY LANGUAGE



A HOME of their own

BY KIM ENGLAND

Tropicana Community Services to establish resource centre in East Toronto.

Tropicana Community Services will soon be establishing a new multi-purpose resource centre in Scarborough due to a \$2 million grant from the Ontario Government. The announcement that the province is supporting Tropicana in its bid to establish a Centre of Excellence from which the agency will offer all of its core services was recently made by Scarborough-Guildwood MPP, Margaret Best,

Tropicana's Capital Campaign to establish the multi-purpose Centre was formally launched in 2005. Through the generous donations and fundraising efforts of community members and organizations as well as staff and volunteers, over \$500,000 was raised.

Upon hearing news of the funding, staff members were overjoyed and many were seen wiping away tears of joy. "I am overwhelmed by the news," says Tropicana counsellor Sonia Brown of her immediate reaction to the news, "I am so grateful for the opportunity for us to continue this work on a much bigger scale."

Operating out of six separate sites, the agency served over 22,000 individuals in 2010-2011, a figure that represents approximately a 70% increase over the previous year. Over the years, client numbers have steadily increased and the agency has outgrown its current space. While some program areas will move into the new building, a few others, Tropicana's AYCE Employment Centre,

Shelton, executive director, "we look forward to serving an even greater number of clients from the new Centre. Service delivery will also improve as community members will have easier access to complimentary programs and services that were previously provided out of separate sites."

After renovations, the new site will house community and social facilities such as counselling rooms, resource and employment training facilities, computer labs, a teaching kitchen, classrooms, office space, and a recreational facility.

"Ontario is investing in infrastructure to better serve children, youth and families. This new multi-purpose facility will ensure that residents in this community can easily access the services they need well into the future."

Scarborough-Guildwood MPP,
Margaret Best

for example, will be represented by a satellite office.

"Many of our programs have waiting lists simply as a result of space restrictions" said Sharon

Fundraising continues for renovation costs and there are still many opportunities for individuals and organizations to get involved and have a presence in the Centre of Excellence. To get involved, or for more information, contact Tropicana at (416) 439-9009 or info@tropicanacommunity.org.

**For more info, call
416-439-9009 or visit**

www.tropicanacommunity.org



◀ Jubilant staff after funding announcement (L-R) Sylvia Waldron, Bernadette Hood, Sharon Shelton



◀ Board members cut celebratory cake with Minister Margaret Best (center). (L-R) Michael Callendar, Sharon Shelton, Gervan Fearon, Carmen James-Henry, Christine Williams



▼ Staff, Board Members and volunteers respond to the funding announcement

 **TROPICANA**
COMMUNITY SERVICES

416.439.9009

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