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Archway celebrates ARIDO redesign

Parkdale Villager

Surrounded by freshly painted walls and brightly coloured art, the clients and staff at the Archway Outpatient Clinic gathered to celebrate their newly made-over space in Parkdale.

Archway, at 1451 Queen St. W., is an outpatient clinic of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH).

It serves 369 clients with chronic mental illness and has 25 staff.

Archway helps give its clients the skills to live happy, healthy lives in the community, but according to Jim McNamee, executive director for the complex mental illness program, the space was not representative of the work being done at the clinic.

“In the era of fiscal restraint, we try to funnel all of our funding into direct client care and one of the parts of our service that does suffer is the physical environment,” McNamee said. “Having said that, I don’t think we can over estimate the impact that environment and workspace and the quality of that space has on recovery.”

The redesign project began almost one year ago when ARIDO, a professional organization for interior designers in Ontario, reached out to CAMH looking for a way to give back to the community.

They landed on the Archway Clinic, which was in desperate need of a facelift.

“They worked very hard, they consulted with staff, they consulted with clients and that dialogue informed their plans on how they would proceed,” McNamee said.

ARIDO and several volunteers reached out to the interior design industry and community to secure donations of product and services from 39 people and organizations, spearheaded by Sharon Portelli, the registrar of ARIDO. “I’m actually so proud of where we have taken this initiative and how successful it has been.” Portelli said.

“The proudest thing for me today is not just the work and the improvements that have happened here, it is seeing the interior design community come together.

It is such a strong community and such a generous community.” ARIDO’s goal through this initiative is to enhance and improve the interior conditions of the Archway Clinic.

The colours were specifically chosen to make the space look bigger, more welcoming and calm.

“The colours we basically wanted to lighten the space up and make it more fresh with earth colours,” said Najji Mourani Interior Designer at NORR Limited.

The walls were painted, new carpet installed in the foyer of the building and new flooring throughout.

Bright art has been hung in all of the rooms and the staff kitchen got a significant upgrade with new cabinets and Zodiaq Solid Surfacing countertops.

Jim Davey, corporate volunteer coordinator at CAMH, said at the Oct. 24 celebration it was clear to him that ARIDO understood the importance of improving the quality of life for people.

“That is what I see when I walk into the clinic,” Davis said, adding the result of the redesign is a wonderful respite for care and a place that promotes client wellness and recovery,” Davey said.

To see a list of sponsors involved in the project, visit <http://www.arido.ca/english/about/roi-renew-originate-implement-initiative.html>



Archway out-patient clinic case manager Franklin Omoruna, left, Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario registrar Sharon Portelli and case manager Maria Laines help unveil a mural Thursday created by clients at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health satellite centre. (Oct. 24, 2013)