



Coming Events

**Christmas Hampers
& Turkey Drive**

December 2010

FEBRUARY

POTATO BLITZ

Don Cameron Potato Night

Fri. Jan. 28, 2011, 7pm

The Aud, Kitchener

Supermarket Blitz

Sat. Feb. 12, 2011

Select KW supermarkets

Community Potato Lunch

Fri. Feb. 25, 2011, noon

St. Andrews Presbyterian-
Church, Kitchener

Building Character and Community



Each December, Rockway Mennonite Collegiate's Student Council organizes a food drive in support of House of Friendship's Christmas Hamper program. It is not just any food drive. In fact, it is the largest one in the region, annually raising the equivalent (cash and food) of more than 24,000 cans of food!

Mr. John Moyer, History Department Head, recalls how his colleague Mr. Stephenson believed caring for those living in poverty is at the heart of Christian faith, and inspired by this, he promoted the early food drive as a way of sharing with those in need at Christmas time. Today, Rockway continues this tradition, believing that activities like the food drive help build character and community. Rebekkah and Andy agree. They are two students who are helping to organize the 2010 food drive. *(cont'd p.3)*



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Events & News**

www.houseoffriendship.org

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**Special Attachment—
Christmas Giving Insert**

Click, Gobble, Gobble: www.turkeydrive.ca

They're back! Yes, the Kitchener Conestoga Rotary Club (KCRC) is back with their annual Turkey Drive in support of House of Friendship's Christmas Hamper Program. Last year, proceeds from the Turkey Drive helped House of Friendship (HOF) provide 3,620 Christmas Food Hampers and 3,000 turkeys.

Based on the level of need seen in HOF's Emergency Food Hamper program so far this year, we are preparing for 3,550 hampers and 3,000 turkeys, which will bring the gift of food to more than 9,000 people.

To make it easy for you to get involved, the KCRC has taken its annual Turkey Drive on-line. It's as simple as clicking on www.turkeydrive.ca, where you can make a donation of \$20 to give a family a turkey or donate \$80 to provide them with a Christmas food hamper *and* turkey.



In support of the House of Friendship's
Christmas Hamper Project



NEW! Spiritual Resources Committee (SRC)

New at House of Friendship is a Spiritual Resources Committee that will include membership by Michael Hackbusch and John Neufeld, Chaplaincy Director and Executive Director, respectively, at House of Friendship (HOF), and volunteers from member churches and the greater community:

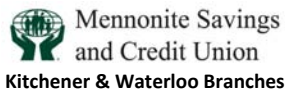
- * Lester Kehl, Chair
- * Elizabeth McNair
- * John Rempel
- * Sandy Milne (pictured above with Michael)

HOF relies on a committee structure to provide vital two-way communication between HOF and our community. The purpose of the SRC is to assist House of Friendship in discerning its identity as a faith-based charitable organization. In today's context, this means asking what it means to be a Christian charitable agency in an ecumenical and multi-faith region. For more on this story visit: www.houseoffriendship.org

Friendship

Fundraising Dinner

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sponsors, guests
and volunteers!**



Warm thanks to the 297 people who shared an evening of fellowship and inspiration at House of Friendship's 15th annual Friendship Fundraising Dinner at St. Louis Catholic Church in Waterloo. Special thanks to Dr. David Pfrimmer and *Inshallah* choir. \$13,500 was raised in support of House of Friendship.

30 Years of Friendly Service

"Finally...a repairman who understands the situation of someone living on social assistance".

You may not have heard of House of Friendship's Appliance Repair program, unless you're living on low income and desperate to have a major household appliance repaired before your food spoils or you are unable to cook food, because your burners are not working or your children run out of clean clothes. Then you'll appreciate the value of this program, which receives funding for eligible clients from the Region of Waterloo, client fees, and donations. For 30 years the program has been quietly lending a helping hand to people struggling to make ends meet. Daily, Keith (seen above) visits homes across Waterloo Region repairing stoves, fridges, washing machines, and dryers. He also educates people about preventative maintenance of their appliances. On average, he will visit approximately 775 homes per year, always with a friendly smile.



Turning Hope in to Homes



Meet Diana, a Senior Caseworker at House of Friendship's Charles Street Men's Hostel. With your support, Diana and her colleagues have come up with a creative approach to finding more stable housing for men staying at the Hostel.

Faced with very limited income and even shorter timelines, men sometimes ended up in rooming houses that could pose a risk of violence, theft, and unhealthy living. Using the internet, Diana has developed a network of landlords committed to renting safe clean rooms in townhouses and houses to men who are homeless. This new approach not only provides more housing options, but has created opportunities for support networks to develop. As a supervisor in a manufacturing facility, one landlord found employment for one of his tenants. Residents of a townhouse complex donated furnishings for new tenants from the Hostel. When sharing a home, the men can also rely on each other for support. Thanks to some innovative thinking, the Hostel is now a door to shelter and to hope for homes.

Building Character and Community (cont'd)

Rebekkah believes the food drive offers "a reality check" that helps her understand "what we have", while Andy sees it as part of Christian giving. Together, they and students from all grades will be collecting food and cash donations Nov. 16—Dec. 10, 2010 from family, friends and neighbours. The food will then immediately fill Christmas Hampers, and be delivered to local homes in December.

For some Rockway families the food drive has become a family Christmas giving project. Students will also chip in their own donations, as they try to reach their goal of 24,000 cans. And teachers will do their part, offering to help provide fun incentives to spur their students on. This has led to some healthy competition over the years resulting in teachers dressing up or singing, all in the name of service. The real winners, of course, are the people who receive the gift of food. Thank you Rockway Mennonite Collegiate!

Follow HOF on Twitter: twitter.com/HOFKW

Christmas Hampers Program

The annual Christmas Hampers Program is underway. Warehouse space is being shared with Operation Christmas Child at the NCR building in Waterloo. Last year, over 500 volunteers helped distribute 3,620 hampers with food for more than 9,500 adults and children. This year the need remains high; we are preparing to distribute 3,550 food hampers and 3,000 turkeys.

Where?

Christmas Hampers warehouse is at **NCR, 580 Weber Street North, Waterloo (corner of Northfield and Weber)**

When?

- Packing starts Fri. Dec. 3, 2010
- Deliveries start Fri. Dec. 10

How Can You Get Involved?

- **Volunteer** to pack or deliver Christmas food hampers or help hand out Christmas turkeys — contact Tony Bender at the warehouse: 519-883-3721 or volunteering@houseoffriendship.org
- **Collect food** to be used in the hampers
- **Donate** \$80 to sponsor a Christmas Hamper

Donations directly to House of Friendship can be made using the donation mailer enclosed or at www.houseoffriendship.org

Volunteers Needed

Child care volunteers

Child care volunteers are needed at Sunnysdale Community Centre to care for infants, toddlers and/or preschool children while their parents attend English Conversation Circles on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. Please call Linda, 519-883-0410

Friendship News is published quarterly by House of Friendship. It is edited by Christine Rier, printed by **Arkay Design & Print**, and delivered to local churches by **Waterloo Nissan**.

Staying In Touch

If you receive a copy of *Friendship News* through your church and do not wish to receive a copy through the mail; if your name or address need updating; or, if you donate more than once-a-year, but prefer only one receipt at the end of the year, please let us know at: 519-742-8327. You can also contact us should you wish to change how we communicate with you.



You Can Help



- * Did you know that the *Emergency Food Hamper Program* provides bus tickets to people using our services? Please consider donating bus tickets to help people take their food hampers home. Please contact Matt C., 519-742-0662
- * *Sunnysdale Community Centre* invites you to donate items (e.g. toothpaste, toothbrushes, bar soap, tea, dishcloths) that will go in gift bags to be given to families in the Sunnysdale community on December 17. Please call Linda, 519-883-0410
- * *Kiwanis House* is in need of twin fitted sheets, dish clothes and towels, men's flip-flops/slippers, briefs (men's M-L-XL), socks . Please call Nicky, 519-578-0171
- * *Live & Learn* requests two plastic wash basins and pillow stuffing, as well as left over Christmas fabrics to be used next year for their annual fundraiser (which they have to make late Fall) . Please call Michele, 519-570-0954
- * *House of Friendship's kitchen* always appreciates fresh or frozen meat, tea towels, dishcloths, candies for Christmas day, plastic Christmas table cloths, baking supplies (e.g. Chipits, condensed milk, pecans, walnuts, graham cracker crumbs, Cocoa, baking soda, baking powder), and silverware. Please call the Hostel kitchen, 519-742-8327

Zehrs tapes (no other tapes please) and other donated items may be dropped off anytime at the back door of the Charles Street Men's Hostel, 63 Charles Street East, Kitchener. Monetary donations can be mailed or made on-line at www.houseoffriendship.org. Thank you!



www.houseoffriendship.org

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