



Coming Events

Volunteer Appreciation Week & Dinner

Week of April 20, 2009

Trek 4 Kids 2009

Sunday May 24, 2009
(NOT the long weekend)
Registration 1:30 pm

70th Annual General Meeting & Strawberry Social

Late June, 2009—details
to follow

13th Annual Friend- ship Golf Tournament

Wednesday July 8, 2009
Grand Valley Golf Course



For more info visit:

houseoffriendship.org

In this issue

Christmas Hampers & Turkey Drive	2
February Potato Blitz	2
Volunteer Appreciation	2
Trek for Kids 2009	3
25 in 5	3
Volunteers Needed	4
You Can Help	4

Bringing Housing Stability to Our Neighbours in Need

With funding support from the Region of Waterloo, House of Friendship's Charles Street Men's Hostel is participating in a *Shelter to Housing Stability* pilot project staffed by Caseworker, Brandon Spunar. As the title implies, the project aims to help men who are episodically homeless (i.e. homeless for shorter periods of time on more than one occasion) find and maintain stable housing.



Brandon is currently working with six men, all of whom have been residents at the Men's Hostel and who volunteered to participate in the project. While at the Hostel they met with Brandon and developed both support and life plans, which are reviewed on a weekly basis—the latter focuses on what the men want to do with their lives; the former on the developing the necessary community-based and personal support systems and steps towards reaching their goals.

Their subsequent development of life skills, peer support, positive coping skills, and community networks, combined with Brandon's ongoing coaching, advocacy and support, enable the men to better deal with the barriers that have previously prevented them from maintaining their housing.

In one instance, a man who had successfully found housing and employment while 'getting back on track' after a devastating experience with addiction, had to address an unresolved issue that threatened to undo all of his recent good work. Brandon walked with this man through his time of crisis, advocated with his landlord and different community members, encouraged support from his peers, and connected him with different community resources. As a result, the man was able to stay in his home and is now back to focusing on taking care of himself.

To learn more about *Shelter to Housing Stability*, please visit 'What's New' at www.houseoffriendship.org

Seventy years of Friendship & Service

This year marks 70 years since Joseph Cramer first reached out to our neighbours in need. Do you have a story about House of Friendship? We want to hear from you! We are collecting stories, some of which we may share in our communications.

Please fax your stories to 519-742-8868 or email christiner@houseoffriendship.org



2009 FEBRUARY POTATO BLITZ



Spuddy was back with volunteers, rounding up potatoes and donations throughout February to help feed those in need. Highlights included:

- * Don Cameron Potato Night
- * Supermarket Blitz
- * Community Potato Lunch



Thanks!

Potato Blitz volunteers, in particular Glenn Stewart and John "King Spud" Lambert (below); Don Cameron; the Kitchener Rangers; Loblaw; local churches, especially St. Andrew's Presbyterian and churches that assisted with the Supermarket Blitz; media partners, and participating supermarkets.



Sharing the Gift of Food

2008 Christmas Hamper Program & Turkey Drive

The annual Christmas Hamper Program and Turkey Drive helped feed 8,725 people, almost half of which were children! A big thanks to the approximately 550 volunteers who helped pack and deliver 3,195 hampers—the most ever, and over a 10% increase from Christmas Hampers 2007. Thanks also to several local churches for their donation of homemade soup for volunteers.

Food came from the Food Bank of Waterloo Region and local food drives, the largest of which is the annual Christmas Food Drive by Rockway Mennonite Collegiate (right). Laurelwood Public School also collected food and other items as part of its Week of Giving, which celebrates the school motto: "We Make a Difference".



Each Christmas Hamper had a voucher for a turkey or chicken, courtesy of the Kitchener Conestoga Rotary Club. The Club's annual Turkey Drive raised an incredible \$154,396.11 to pay for the poultry and to support the Hamper program.

Thank you to everyone who helped share the gift of food with our neighbours in need. Volunteers were moved by the stories they heard when distributing hampers and poultry. We are grateful for your support in helping us respond to this need.

Volunteers: From Compassion to Action

Volunteer Appreciation Week April 19 –25, 2009

House of Friendship is blessed with about 260 volunteers in 18 programs, who are part of a provincial and national team of 12 million volunteers.

Without volunteers we would not be able to help as many people as we do. For example, in 2007, volunteers contributed around 16,140 hours or half of the labour needed to run our Emergency Food Hamper Program.

One of these volunteers, Nelson Weber, recently celebrated his 90th birthday, demonstrating you are never too young to lend a helping hand!

Tours Welcome

Throughout the year House of Friendship welcomes tours of its various programs by community members, groups, funders and donors, and professionals.

Tours can be designed to meet the interests of visitors, depending on what is happening in programs.

If you would like to arrange a tour or speaker, please contact:

Christine Rier,
Development Director
519-742-8327
christiner@houseoffriendship.org

25 in 5: Network for Poverty Reduction 25% Reduction in Poverty in 5 years

To some, now might seem like a strange time to be pursuing poverty reduction, but now more than ever we see the need for long-term efforts to address the root causes of poverty.

25 in 5 (www.25in5.ca) is a broad-based community coalition that reaches across all sectors and interests to bring people together to develop an achievable poverty reduction plan. At its core are key principles that are seen as vital to reducing poverty. These include investments in affordable housing and early learning and child care, together with strengthening supports for vulnerable families and adults. To date, 457 groups and 1,121 individuals have endorsed the initial plan, and the government of Ontario is listening with the recent release of its Poverty Reduction Strategy.

House of Friendship's members whole-heartedly endorsed 25 in 5 as part of our mission *to serve low-income adults, youth and children in need of support, and to promote opportunities for personal growth, wholesome relationships and community development through the application of holistic Christian principles.* As someone who supports this mission, and shares our vision for poverty reduction, we invite you to join us as we endorse efforts to reduce poverty by 25% over the next 5 years.

Regards,

Deborah M Schlichter

Deborah Schlichter, Executive Director

13th Annual Friendship Fundraising Dinner

**\$15,000 raised in support
of our daily mission**




Thank You!



Arkay Design & Print
Bill Snyder Electric Ltd.
Cowan Insurance
Kastl & Zuch Plumbing & Heating
Mennonite Foundation of Canada
Next Energy Geothermal



TREK 4 KIDS



**HIKE & BIKE 2009
Sunday, May 24**

Hike & Bike With Us

Each year House of Friendship sends over 100 kids from low-income families to summer camp. To help send a kid to camp this summer, come hike, walk, run or bike with us on the historic Iron Horse Trail on Sunday May 24, 2009 beginning at 2pm (registration 1:30pm) from the MCC parking lot at 50 Kent Ave., Kitchener. *You can collect TREK sponsors or donate to the summer camp sponsorship program.*

If we meet our goal for camp sponsorship, any additional funds raised will support children's programs at our four Community Centres, which are located in low-income neighbourhoods.

**To register, call 519-742-8327
or visit houseoffriendship.org**

Volunteers Needed

Reliable **volunteer drivers and childcare assistants** are needed for the *Live & Learn Program* on Tues., Wed., or Thurs. afternoons, 1:15-3:15 pm. Call Michele, 519-570-0954

A volunteer with a van or small truck is needed to assist the Sunnydale Community Association, in partnership with the House of Friendship, with their Food Distribution Program on Thursday mornings. Mileage is reimbursed at \$.40/km. Please contact Linda Kruger, 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**.

You Can Help

- * *Live and Learn* is looking for 9.5" x 11" scrapbook cardstock and any scrapbooking supplies; an average size microwave in new/good condition; a toddler ride-on toy; &, a pre-schooler shopping cart or toy stroller. Please call Michele, 519-570-0954
- * Kingsdale Community Centre needs: sewing machines, small appliances (e.g. Crockpot), grocery bags, keyboards (piano), guitars, bookshelves. Please call Alyssa, 519-748-6463
- * Chandler Mowat Community Centre After-School program, *the 3:30 club*, is in need of new craft supplies and board games (for ages 6-11). Please call Jeremy, 519-570-3610
- * *Charles Village* and *Eby Village* could use greeting cards of various types, especially birthday cards. Contact Taylor at Charles Village, 519-742-8327 x.401 or charles-village@houseoffriendship.org
- * *Kiwanis House* is in need of alarm clocks and pillows for residents. Please call Lori, 519-578-0171
- * Zehrs markets tapes are welcome for our *Family Services Programs*. Please label your tapes for "Doris Martin" and drop them off at 63 Charles Street St. E., or call Doris, 519-742-8327

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.CanadaHelps.org. Thank you.

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 or admin@houseoffriendship.org. Readers can also contact us should you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or any of our other mailings. We respect your privacy. We do not share, sell or trade donor or personal information or our mailing lists.

NEW! If, like some readers, you prefer to receive an electronic version of *Friendship News* by email, instead of print, please let us know at admin@houseoffriendship.org. We are working towards having email distribution ready by this Fall. In the meantime, issues are posted at www.houseoffriendship.org under Resources.



www.houseoffriendship.org

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