

friendshipnews

Trekking So Kids Can Go To Summer Camp



Inspired by local brothers, Kevin and Eric Martin, who hiked the Bruce Trail and collected donations to help send kids living on low-income to summer camp, people have been trekking – walking, running and biking - the Iron Horse trail in Kitchener for nine years to send kids to camp.

Last year, 120 happy campers learned age-appropriate risk-taking, and when and how to go beyond their comfort-zone and challenge themselves so they can grow into their full potential. They developed independence, gained important social skills, and enjoyed new experiences and relationships. And let’s not forget they had a lot of fun getting outdoors! Over 30 children are already signed up this year, waiting to go!

76th Annual Meeting & Strawberry Social The Art of Community Leadership

Dwight Storrington, Media Artist, “Exploring Stories Together”
Tuesday, June 16, 2015, 6:30 pm, Kingsdale Community Centre, Kitchener

- 6:30 pm—Business Meeting
- 7:00 pm—The Buhr Legacy of Friendship
- 7:30 pm—Dwight Storrington, Media Artist
- 8:00 pm—Strawberry Social

All Welcome! RSVP:
<http://hofkw76agm.eventbrite.ca>
519-742-8327 x131
fundraising@houseoffriendship.org



Coming Events

20th Annual Friendship Golf Tournament
WEDNESDAY July 8, 2015 @ 11:00 a.m.
Grand Valley Golf & Country Club

20th Friendship Dinner
“The Legacy of Community Leadership”
SATURDAY October 17, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.
Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, Kitchener

www.houseoffriendship.org



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You Can Help

“ building a healthy community where all can belong and thrive ”



Thank you for Sharing the Gift of Food!



- 3 community events
- + 12 elementary schools
- + 26 local grocery stores
- + 45 faith communities
- + 56 #SpuddyUnselfies
- + 275 volunteers

= 314,860 pounds of potatoes (spuds and donations)

= enough potatoes for House of Friendship food hampers and meals to local individuals and families in need this year!



Trek 4 Kids (cont'd): It costs approximately \$650 to send one child to overnight camp for one week, including sleeping bag and transportation, when needed.

“Without this program my daughters would not have had this invaluable experience. We have never been able to take a family vacation of any kind so this (summer camp) is literally the only summer event my children have to look forward to. THANK YOU!”

Summer camp for kids living on low-income is funded mostly by Trek proceeds. For the 10th **Trek 4 Kids hike and bike**, we’re aiming to raise \$100,000 to make sure that every child who is eligible and wants to go, can enjoy camp and more! If we raise enough pledges to send all the kids to camp who have registered, any additional proceeds will support children’s programming at House of Friendship’s four community centres in designated low-income neighbourhoods, thereby ensuring kids have healthy opportunities in their communities, year-round.

For this 10th Trek, there is a new look (courtesy of Createathon 2014—Two Blonde Chicks, Capacity Canada and Conestoga 3rd Year Design Students) and an on-line sign-up, where you can create your very own fundraising page to share electronically with your families and circles. Sign up for Trek at <http://bit.ly/trek4kids>. Set your own personal fundraising goal. Consider being a Champion; raise enough pledges to send at least one child to summer camp for a week.

Martin is a Champion. Every year he cycles the full 23 klm distance and raises lots of pledges. He’s raised almost \$100,000 since he started trekking. What keeps him going? Knowing how many kids he has helped—by the end of this Trek, he hopes to have sent 200 kids to camp—what an incredible legacy! Join him—both you and the campers will be smiling.



House of Friendship President, Trent Bauman, pictured above left at Trek 4 Kids hike & bike, is the recipient of this year’s Volunteer Impact Awards for Outstanding Leadership, presented by the Volunteer Action Centre. Now in his final year of service with HOF, Trent has served for 26 years; 22 on the Board and the last 4 as President, leading us through the Under One Roof Capital Campaign and HOF’s 75th year of service. Truly, thank you Trent for your passion, hard work, and many contributions, but mostly for your legacy of leadership.

Staff and residents from House of Friendship's Charles Street Men's Hostel took a spin on the ice at a local rink recently as part of learning to enjoy community resources and building community.



Walking With Men Towards 'Home'

Last fall, Steve shared with you his story of recovery, from arriving on the doorstep of House of Friendship's (HOF) men's addiction treatment program one winter to more recently 'walking with' men at the **Charles Street Men's Hostel**, as they find their own path. This past winter, as many as 72 men per night found refuge at the *Hostel* and additional program space; November through February were the four busiest months of the past five years! The good news is that this shows the formal shelter system is responding to community need for emergency shelter; HOF has been heavily involved in the local shelter system response to the closures of almost all of the *Out of the Cold* (OOTC) sites. During this transitional year, as part of the shelter system, we have focused on those who have relied on OOTC for many years, assisting them to find housing or to use formal shelters.

The even better news is that with the input of residents, the Hostel has moved towards a Housing First support model that goes beyond meeting their basic needs to journeying with residents as they work towards finding stable housing, a place they can call 'home'. A series of five residents focus groups participated in a Program Review of the Hostel completed last December. They described how *"the Hostel creates a reliable refuge from homelessness by providing short-term accommodations, food, clothing, and access to medical care if needed"*. The report also encouraged staff to continue to build community skills and housing supports within the Hostel, and to further develop resident positive experiences, such as volunteering and informal peer support groups.



**HOCKEY HELPS
THE HOMELESS**

SAVE THE DATE

Friday October 30, 2015, RIM Park

<http://hhth.akaraisin.com/HHTHKW15>

Get Involved Today.

Be A Game Changer in Kitchener Waterloo.

20th Annual FRIENDSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT

Tee Up Against Poverty

Golf weather is almost here, just in time for you to register for House of Friendship's 20th annual Friendship Golf Tournament, Wednesday July 8, 2015, Grand Valley Golf and Country Club and Doon Valley Golf Club. You can choose one of two options:

1. **Pay & Play**—register and pay your fee of \$135 for a whole day of golf, food, fun and prizes!
2. **Pledge & Play**—register and raise pledges for all the fun of 'pay & play' and helping more people

www.houseoffriendship.org



Helping People When They Need It

During tax season many people review their financial plans. And with *Leave a Legacy Month* in May, some will also take the opportunity to think about how they can support the causes, that they and their families care about, beyond their own lifetime. During its 75th year of service, House of Friendship (HOF) received several gifts in wills, a caring way for people to leave a legacy and ensure that they continue to 'help people when they need it'. One specific way to do this is through a gift to the Friendship Fund, an endowment fund owned and managed by the Mennonite Foundation of Canada (mennofoundation.ca / 519-745-7821). Annual income from this fund helps your neighbours in need continue to receive community outreach from HOF today, and tomorrow.

Volunteers Needed

Kingsdale Community Centre is looking for volunteers to assist with driving, food distribution at the centre, and the pre-school program. Please call Alissa, 519-748-6463

Supportive Housing needs your help in growing the *Mabel and Friends* catering project, alongside program residents. If you are interested in getting involved or finding out more, please call Janine at 519-570-2400

Supportive Housing and the **Emergency Food Hamper Program** would love to have extra helping hands around the gardens this season. If you have gardening expertise to share (or an interest in getting some), please contact Matt at 519-570-3976.

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

You Can Help

- **Supportive Housing, the Emergency Food Hamper program, and HOF's community gardens** could use some garden seeds, bulbs, tools, and supplies: watering cans, shovels, twine, stakes, chicken wire, perennials, herbs (cuttings or seeds), tomato and pepper plants, wildflowers and small fruit bushes. Please call Matt, 519-570-3976
- **Supportive Housing** is in need of a web cam that will enable program residents to stay connected with friends and family abroad. Please call Janine, 519-570-2400
- **Kingsdale Community Centre program** needs building blocks (Lego, Mega Blocks), craft supplies, and a fridge and a stove to assist a local family. Please call Alissa, 519-748-6463

GOOD TO KNOW:

If visiting House of Friendship or dropping off donations at **The Charles Street Men's Hostel**, please be aware **Charles Street East, Kitchener, from Benton to Borden, is closed to through traffic**, and there is no on-street parking. Traffic is one direction on some portions of Charles Street East with traffic moving from Benton to Borden (with access to Charles Street East maintained from Charles West). ION construction updates can be found at www.rideion.ca. Groceries (and grocery store gift cards), prepared food from 'publicly inspected kitchens', men's clothing and monetary donations are gratefully accepted 24/7 at the back door of the **Hostel**, 63 Charles Street East, Kitchener. We accept only food donations at the **Emergency Food Hamper Program**. Monetary donations can also be mailed or made on-line at www.houseoffriendship.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; if you prefer to receive future issues via email; if you donate more than once-a-year, but prefer only one receipt at the end of the year; or, if you would like to change how we communicate with you, please contact Shelley at: 519-742-8327 x.131 or fundraising@houseoffriendship.org

We want to see a mighty flood of justice, a torrent of doing good.



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