

# friendshipnews

## Thank You For The Fresh Start To Belong & Thrive

### The Birth of Dry Houses in Kitchener-Waterloo

Gary knows first-hand that upon graduation from an addictions treatment program, graduates face the difficult decision of where to live. This decision has a dramatic impact on the future of their sobriety. In the absence of a safe place that will support their recovery, some end up returning to the very environments that they removed themselves from in search of freedom. Left to integrate back into their community with little to no support, in time many individuals succumb to their former lifestyle of addiction.

This unmet need for local *transitional housing* birthed a vision within Clarence, an Intensive Housing Support Worker at House of Friendship. As one who has previously lived with and felt the pain of addictions and homelessness himself, Clarence's personal journey helped him recognize this significant gap in our community. He began to advocate for post-treatment housing that would help men, like Gary.

This vision became reality thanks to community partners including *The Working Centre*, a *KW Community Foundation* generous donor, and *Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church* who renovated three of their homes



House of Friendship Dry House resident, Gary (left), with his mentor, Clarence (right).

beside the church to repurpose them as Dry Houses for men. Here men are allowed to stay in a home that is free of drugs and alcohol, for up to a year post-treatment. During this time they are individually supported by a Support Worker who walks with them in their journey of finding belonging in this community, whether through completing their education, acquiring independent living skills, or finding stable employment. *"Living here has been a constant support to maintain my sobriety"* reflects Gary.

While the first men's Dry House in Kitchener opened in July 2013, today

there are three Dry Houses which provide 9 bedrooms for gentlemen. Additionally, *Emmanuel United Church* (Waterloo) is renovating a duplex on their property which will become a Dry house for 6 women called *Vera's Place*. Coming from no Dry Houses just three years ago, by the end of 2016 there will be 15 beds in KW!



### In This Issue

**P2** Walk With Me  
Creative Generosity

**P3** Making Belonging Possible  
Turkey Drive Turns 10

**P4** How You Can Help  
Friendship Fund

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



## HOCKEY HELPS THE HOMELESS

### Bringing Hope To People Experiencing Homelessness in Kitchener Waterloo

Our community's third annual Hockey Helps the Homeless hockey tournament took place October 28<sup>th</sup>. Sixteen hockey teams played in the tournament, being treated like a pro for the day with retired NHLers or Olympians on their team. This competitive fun and intentional generosity raised over \$155,000 to benefit homeless shelters locally. The proceeds will be split between HOF's *Charles Street Men's Shelter*, Lutherwood's *Safe Haven*, YWCA Kitchener Waterloo, oneROOF and Homelessness and Housing Umbrella (HHUG) Group.



### Thoughtful Philanthropy

It takes over 600 volunteers to make Christmas Hampers and Turkey Trucks a success. In this spirit of *generous and thoughtful philanthropy*, come and be inspired by 12 'official' do-gooders this Christmas season who will share their good deeds online. Join the initiative, using our twitter hashtag #12days4good and inspire others to do the same.

**December 8-19, 2016**

## Walk With Me!

I know first-hand what these gentlemen, like Gary (*Dry Houses*, page 1), are experiencing after they graduate from addictions treatment. They need a safe and



*Clarence Cachagee, House of Friendship*

clean home within a supportive environment. The need is great to have someone walk alongside of you - to challenge you, check up on you and cheer you on.

I needed that in my life as I journeyed through homelessness and addictions recovery. Having lost so much as a young boy who grew up in foster care, I struggled with the pain of not understanding why I did not have parents, why I was not wanted, why I was always labelled the "foster child", and why I didn't belong to anyone or anywhere. My introduction to alcohol as an eight year old became my drug of choice to numb this anguish. As a teenager, I progressed to drugs and made poor choices in

search for where I could belong. My journey of addiction and homelessness took me into adulthood when, though I was a functioning addict with a family and home of my own, in my brokenness I chose drugs and alcohol over my family.

When I eventually found myself at *House of Friendship's Charles Street Men's Shelter*, the support I received from the staff was the pivotal turning point for me. This was followed by completing House of Friendship's **174 King Street North** men's addiction treatment program which became the foundation of my sobriety.

House of Friendship walks with those in need to embrace, empower and equip them for life. **Would you consider how you can support House of Friendship's annual appeal that raises funds to help our neighbours in need with food assistance, shelter and supportive housing, addiction treatment and community development?** Please use the gift envelope attached, or give online at [houseoffriendship.org](http://houseoffriendship.org) or call our office at 519-749-8327 x 131.

## Creative Generosity by the Card-Full



Regular coffee time with friends has opened the door for creative giving. Long-time *House of Friendship* volunteer, Ed Ruppe, is sure to collect the coffee stickers and fill the cards that can be redeemed for free coffee. He then delivers these cards to *House of Friendship* staff where they are used by Outreach Workers, Shelter Staff and the Supporting Housing Team to distribute to the program participants as a way to say "I care". So many of you contribute to those we collectively serve in creative and meaningful ways, and we celebrate your creativity and thoughtfulness. Small acts do make a difference!

*Long-time HOF volunteer Ed Ruppe donates 90 McDonald's "free coffee" cards.*

# Thank You for Making Belonging Possible

The welcoming hum of over 400 voices at House of Friendship's 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Friendship Dinner celebrated the diverse and caring group of supporters, like you, who make the mission of House of Friendship possible. An inspiring mix of donors, volunteers, community leaders, and staff came together for a common purpose – to help our neighbours in need Belong and Thrive in this community. Laughter ensued as Terry Fallis, award-winning author, shared his journey to belong in the world of authors, and the beautiful music of Bel Air Jazz Trio enhanced the atmosphere. We ended the evening by celebrating the completion of Opening Up Food Hampers fundraising, and we'll all be thrilled when 807 Guelph Street re-opens later November as a more welcoming place of greater dignity. To all of those who made this evening and the \$18,000+ proceeds possible – thank you!



Sunnydale Community Centre supporters enjoying the dinner together: Mamaye (participant/volunteer/HOF staff), Rasha (HOF staff), Jane (Regional Councillor) and Linda (HOF staff).



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## The Gift of Camp for Kids

This summer, children ages 4-12 years were able to attend House of Friendship's Courtland Shelley two-week summer camp. Various activities included indoor and outdoor games and sports, arts and crafts, music, literacy and math activities, computer labs and field trips. This experience was made possible by **The Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation, Waterloo Region Record and Lyle S. Hallman Foundation Kids to Camp Fund**



THE KITCHENER  
AND WATERLOO  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION



## february 2017 POTATO BLITZ

Spuddy, Sweet Potato and friends will be out and about next February gathering potatoes and donations to meet the need for 300,000 pounds of potatoes in House of Friendship's food hampers and meals. Join Spuddy and Sweet Potato at one of the following events.

### 1. Don Cameron Potato Night

Friday January 27, 7:30pm  
The Aud, Kitchener  
Give spuds and money at the door!

### 2. Supermarket Blitz

Saturday February 4  
Donate spuds and cash at local grocery stores. Call Dawn, 519-742-8327 x119 to volunteer

### 3. Community Potato Lunch

Friday February 24, noon  
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church  
Queen Street, Kitchener  
*Best lunch in town! Free-will offering.*

## Turkey Drive Turns 10!

For over 50 years, House of Friendship supporters have been sharing the gift of food with those living on low income



by supporting, packing and supplying now over 4,000 Christmas Hampers. In 2006, the Kitchener-Conestoga Rotary Club stepped up and began The Turkey Drive which generously adds over 3,000 turkeys to the hampers. **Happy 10th birthday Turkey Drive!** We celebrate and recognize you, our community and supporters, over 600 volunteers, this Rotary Club and the Food Bank of Waterloo Region for making this significant endeavour possible each Holiday season for our neighbours in need.

## End of Year Donations

If you make your donation by December 31, it is eligible for a 2016 charitable tax receipt.



House of Friendship has built a commitment to our community to be there when needed, always. You can be a part of extending your hand of friendship to people in need in the coming years. A gift or bequest to **The Friendship Fund** endowment (1995) in support of House of Friendship's community outreach will enable you to continue to build a healthy community where all can belong and thrive, and comfort and support those in need. For more information, please contact MarilynJ@houseoffriendship.org or 519-742-8327 x133.

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

## You Can Help

- **Charles Street Men's Shelter** needs bus tickets, men's shoes, socks and underwear, men's winter boots and coats, single bed sheets, towels, and a variety of personal hygiene items. **Christmas gifts for the men staying over Christmas at the Shelter:** full size shampoo, disposable razors, shaving cream, body wash, deodorant, combs, underwear, socks, hats, mitts, scarves, hot paws. **Call Ashley, 519-742-8327 x332.**
- **Charles Street Men's Shelter Kitchen** needs disposable Christmas table cloths, Christmas serviettes, meat, baking supplies, sliced bread, jam, peanut butter, juice crystals, ketchup and coffee. **Call Sandra, 519-742-8327 x334.**
- **Sunnydale Community Centre** needs baby wipes, 2017 wall calendars or small day-timers, adult and child toothbrushes, toothpaste and bar soap. **Call Linda, 519-883-0410.**
- **Kingsdale Community Centre** needs craft supplies (clear Elmer's glue, construction paper, paint & brushes) and diapers. Volunteer drivers are needed for hamper delivery and appointments. **Call Alissa, 519-748-6463.**
- **Chandler Mowat Community Centre** needs children's boots of all sizes. **Call Janine, 519-570-3610 x1.**

Donated groceries and prepared food from 'publicly inspected kitchens' are gratefully accepted anytime at the back door of the Charles Street Men's Shelter, 63 Charles Street East, Kitchener. Monetary donations can be mailed or made on-line at our website [www.houseoffriendship.org](http://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 us at: **519-742-8327 x131** or [fundraising@houseoffriendship.org](mailto:fundraising@houseoffriendship.org)

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



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