

friendshipnews

www.houseoffriendship.org Volume 15 Issue 4 WINTER 2014 EDITION

Sharing the Gift of Food at Christmas-time for 50 Years



Since 1964 House of Friendship (HOF) supporters have been sharing the gift of food with our neighbours in need during the Holidays. It started as a way of meeting the need created by holiday extended lay-offs, higher living costs (heat, food, childcare), and greater food need (kids off school, visitors).

Led by HOF's, Tony Bender, the mission of feeding thousands starts with a local business (this year, MTD) that assists with warehouse space (61 Kent Ave., Kitchener). Then community partners like The Food Bank of Waterloo Region and Rockway Mennonite Collegiate help fill the warehouse with food.

The Rotary Club of Kitchener Conestoga stepped up to include a turkey in the hamper to ensure every family could have a Christmas dinner. For many recipients, this meat is a special treat.



Over 700 volunteers sort, pack and deliver Christmas hampers to over 4,000 homes, and distribute turkeys to hamper recipients. Local churches prepare soup for warehouse volunteers. Some volunteers have been helping for many years, using their Christmas holidays. For some families, volunteering is a family tradition. **To deliver hampers, call Gail, 519-742-827 x120 and to help at the turkey trucks, Dawn, x119.**

None of this is possible without you and the hundreds of people who give to the Turkey Drive (www.turkeydrive.ca) and Christmas Hampers. *Thank you for sharing the gift of food!*



Coming Events

12 Days For Good
December 8-19, 2014
www.12daysforgood.com

Menno Singers Concert
December 14, 2014

20th annual February Potato Blitz 2015
Don Cameron Potato Night -Fri. January 23
Supermarket Blitz—Saturday February 7
Community Potato Lunch—Fri. February 27

10th annual Trek 4 Kids hike & bike
Saturday, May 2, 2015



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



HOCKEY HELPS THE HOMELESS

Bringing Hope To People Experiencing Homelessness in Kitchener-Waterloo

Steve (right) shared his story at the inaugural Hockey Helps the Homeless Kitchener Waterloo (HHTHKW) this past October. Participants were treated like pros for the day and shared the ice and meal times with some of their hockey heroes. Together, they raised \$80,000 to benefit shelter and housing efforts in our community—House of Friendship (Charles Street Men’s Hostel), Homelessness and Housing Umbrella Group (HHUG), Lutherwood (Safe Haven), & YWCA Kitchener Waterloo.



For the Love of Humanity

Each year, House of Friendship (HOF) supporters ‘walk with’ over 42,000 people, providing food, shelter, housing, addiction treatment, community development, and above all, acceptance and hope. After a lifetime of addiction resulting from childhood abuse, Steve (above) turned to HOF as a last resort.

His journey was hard, but no matter how many times he stumbled, we were there to walk with him. Today, Steve has a sense of belonging, is healthy, and enjoying life as a newlywed. He is also giving back, working as a Peer Health Worker at HOF’s Charles Street Men’s Hostel, walking with other men through their journey. What was the most powerful aspect of the support Steve received? The humanity of it.

“Next day, I read the letter in group, down on my hands and knees, afraid. ‘You’re okay. You’re not alone. What do you need?’ I found Rick’s office down the hallway. He hugged me; the first hug in my life. In that moment of humanity, one of many I experienced at HOF, I knew that I was not a bad person, and that I was worthy of love. I realized I knew the answers for me; only I could make me happy.” Won’t you walk with Steve and people in need and make a donation today? See the insert or www.houseoffriendship.org.



Christmas Concert

Sunday December 14, 3pm
St. Peter’s Church
49 Queen St. N., Kitchener
www.stpeterskw.ca

Enjoy an afternoon of Holiday cheer, breathtaking singing, and beautiful music.

There is NO cost/ticket; in the spirit of the season, concert guests are invited to give to House of Friendship.

“ Signing on to Living Wage WR is part of ‘walking the talk’. We’re committed to a vision where ‘all can belong and thrive’. This means having a living wage. We can think of no better way of honouring this vision and staff in our 75th year of service than by supporting a living wage. ”

Living Wage for a Healthy Community

House of Friendship’s (HOF) Board of Directors recently approved a motion that declares HOF a “Supporter” of Living Wage Waterloo Region (www.livingwagewr.org). All full-time employees currently earn equal to or above the living wage rate established for our community, and we are committed to increasing the pay of lower wage part-time employees within the year. We believe that a Living Wage is part of a healthy community where all can belong and thrive.

Warm thanks to over 400 guests, including sponsors and volunteers, who shared an evening of fellowship and inspiration at House of Friendship's (HOF) 19th annual Friendship Fundraising Dinner. Guests were treated to a special performance by Rockway Mennonite Collegiate students and faculty of 'The Ever-stretching Table,' theatrical vignettes written by Johnny Wideman to capture pieces of HOF's 75 year story. Special thanks to the volunteer Dinner Committee (below) for their months of preparation and to Arlene Martin (below, right) and quilters for the 'Summer Lake Log Cabin' quilt. \$25,000 was raised for HOF's daily mission. Thank you for joining us at HOF's ever-stretching table of friendship!

The Ever-stretching Table of Friendship



Friendship
Fundraising Dinner

KPMG

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Kiwanis House Update

Inspired by House of Friendship's (HOF) updated mission and new vision of 2012, HOF has undertaken program reviews in its four service areas: Addiction, Community, Family and Residential. Earlier this year, the Review of Kiwanis House residential program concluded that current program funding was not sufficient to address local trends in youth homelessness, particularly youth struggling with mental health and addictions.

In response, HOF is working to repurpose original funding to develop community based services to better serve youth. Meanwhile, we have also entered into a pilot partnership with Reaching Our Outdoor Friends (ROOF). ROOF (www.roof-agency.net) will lease the Kiwanis House property from HOF and provide supportive housing for youth 24/7, starting this winter. We appreciate the input and support of community partners, funders, staff, youth, and neighbours throughout this journey. It has been inspiring to see the level of commitment by all to ensuring that youth experiencing homelessness have the opportunity to access the supports they need.

For more information, call Ron at 519-742-8327 x129.



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Years of Spuddy

february

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 23, 7:30pm

The Aud, Kitchener

Give spuds and money at the door!

2. Supermarket Blitz

Saturday February 7

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

3. Community Potato Lunch

Friday February 27, noon

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 54 Queen St. N., Kit.

Best lunch in town! Free-will offering

Save the Date!



May 2, 2015



End of Year Donations

Gifts made by December 31 are eligible for a 2014 charitable tax receipt.



Bequests and gifts to House of Friendship's (HOF) Friendship Fund help extend your hand of friendship, today and tomorrow, to our neighbours in need. Call 519-742-8327 x122 or x121 for more information.

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You Can Help

- **Charles Street Men's Hostel** needs bus tickets, men's underwear, winter jackets, boots, scarves, mitts, and gift certificates for Christmas. **Please call Allison, 519-742-8327 x336**
- **Supportive Housing (Cramer, Charles Village, and Eby Village)** Community Garden group would like items to help with their winter indoor gardening project! Potting soil, house plant cuttings, spring bulbs and seeds. The 'Mabel & Friends' catering social enterprise is in need of stainless steel mixing bowls of all sizes and new or gently used large rectangular food storage containers. **Please call, Catherine or Daryl, 519-570-2400**
- **Courtland Shelley Community Centre** program needs a couple of sets of computer speakers for labs; a laptop (with Wi-Fi capability) to provide Wi-Fi accessibility on the main floor for people with mobility issues, and speakers with Blue Tooth capability for youth. **Please call Dave, 519-571-7953**
- **Sunnydale Community Centre** program Sewing Group is in need of large pieces of cotton and fleece fabric, elastic (all sizes) and thread in neutral colours. The Community Outreach Program is in need of feminine hygiene supplies. **Please call Linda, 519-883-0410**
- **Emergency Food Hamper** program can always use: healthy school snacks, rice, pasta, peanut butter, canned tuna, diapers, and baby food. **Please call Matt, 519-742-0662**

Donated groceries and prepared food from 'publicly inspected kitchens' are gratefully accepted 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!*

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 x.131 or fundraising@houseoffriendship.org

“ I want to see a mighty flood of justice, a torrent of doing good. ” Amos 5:24



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