

# friendshipnews

## Still a House of Friendship “For All Nations”

In the last seventy-six years a lot has changed in Waterloo Region, and at House of Friendship (HOF). But one thing has not...HOF's commitment to extending the hand of friendship to our neighbours in need from 'All Nations'.

When founding Director, Joseph Cramer stood in the doorway of the original store-front mission in 1939, (right) he welcomed *all* people, 'regardless of race or creed'. Having witnessed and survived a Europe ravaged by war and poverty, his compassion extended to all in our community.

Today, HOF embraces this legacy. HOF tries to be a reflection of the rich ethnic, faith, and cultural diversity of our community. Visit any HOF program and you will meet people, both serving and being served, from around the world, from many faiths, ethnicities, cultures, and socio-economic backgrounds.

Staff and volunteers work to integrate HOF's core values (compassion, inclusion, dignity, justice, hope) into all programming. For example, Emergency Food Hampers include foods respectful of faith and cultural traditions, and halal meat is offered as an alternative



to a traditional Christmas Hamper turkey; community centre programming incorporates the faith and cultural traditions of residents; HOF works with various faith communities, the Chaplaincy Director participates in local interfaith initiatives, and a Spiritual Resources staff/board Committee provides guidance on issues of inclusivity; and, HOF's new web site will be our most accessible yet. Inclusivity is an ongoing 'work in progress'.

HOF's Chandler Mowat Community Centre program staff recently gathered for a 'team photo' (upper right); they are a mosaic of faith, cultural and ethnic tradi-

tions, working side-by-side every day to help their neighbours belong and thrive. One team member, Ummul, shares her story and again reminds us of why and how 'the house that Joe built' must continue to be a House of Friendship "For All Nations". (see p. 2, *Belong & Thrive*)



### In This Issue

- P2** **Belong & Thrive!**  
Wagemark for a Fair Community
- P3** **The Legacy of Community Leadership**  
Recognizing A Kindred Spirit
- P4** **How Can You Help**  
Helping Today and Tomorrow

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





## HOCKEY HELPS THE HOMELESS

Bringing Hope To People Experiencing Homelessness in Kitchener Waterloo

The second annual Hockey Helps the Homeless Kitchener Waterloo (HHTHKW) took to the ice this past October. Participants were treated like pros for the day, and skated with retired NHLers and Olympians. They raised over \$101,000 to benefit shelter and housing efforts in our community: HOF's Charles Street Men's Hostel, Homelessness and Housing Umbrella Group (HHUG), Lutherwood (Safe Haven), YWCA Kitchener Waterloo, and oneROOF.



### December 10-21, 2015

Since 2012, we've been inviting you to 'pay forward' the extraordinary efforts of the 650+ Christmas Hampers and Turkey Truck volunteers with your own 12 days of good deeds. Visit the web site, sign up to participate this year, check out the daily themes, follow the official 12 Do-Gooders, and remember to use the twitter hashtag #12daysforgood.

[12daysforgood.com](http://12daysforgood.com)



## Belong & Thrive!

Each year, House of Friendship (HOF) 'walks with' over 42,000 people, providing food, shelter, housing, addiction treatment, community development, and above all, a place to belong and thrive. Where is your "home"? Where do you "belong"? For many, these are complex questions. War forced Ummul's mother and grandmother to flee their home. Ummul was born somewhere between Somalia and Kenya. And spent her childhood as a refugee in Kampala, Uganda. Life as an immigrant in Winnipeg Manitoba offered many challenges for the 10 year old girl—urban violence, loneliness, and more responsibility looking after her ailing grandmother. Not wanting to place their grandmother in a care facility, the family came to Kitchener. Eventually, their housing application was approved and the Chandler Mowat Community welcomed them; Ummul's mother found work, her brothers joined the Community Centre Youth Drop-In program, and Ummul made friends and started tutoring neighbourhood children. Today, she is a third-year university student and leads children and family cooking groups for HOF's Community Centre program. She is grateful for the 'home' of her family and the Chandler Mowat community where she can belong and thrive. Help your neighbours in need 'Belong & Thrive!'; support House of Friendship's 2015 Annual Appeal (see enclosed).

“Renewing our Wagemark accreditation is part of our commitment to a vision where 'all can belong and thrive'. This means reducing the income gap. There is a ratio of 3:1 between the highest and lowest wage earners at House of Friendship.”

## Wagemark for a Fair Community

House of Friendship's (HOF) recently renewed its Wagemark ([www.wagemark.ca](http://www.wagemark.ca)) certification. Upon independent analysis, HOF has a Wagemark ratio of 3:1, meaning the position paid the most earns no more than three times the lowest paid position (a minimum ratio of 8:1 is recommended). We believe that HOF's participation in Wagemark, and Living Wage ([livingwagewr.org](http://livingwagewr.org)), are progressive ways of demonstrating our commitment to maintaining a competitive and sustainable income gap.

Warm thanks to over 300 guests and volunteers, who shared an evening of fellowship and inspiration at House of Friendship's (HOF) 20th annual Friendship Fundraising Dinner. They were treated to a special conversation by three community leaders (Mayor of Kitchener, Berry Vrbanovic, WRPS Chief of Police, Bryan Larkin, and Lyle S. Hallman Foundation E.D., Laura Manning) on The Legacy of Community Leadership, facilitated by Mike Farwell, and also an uplifting performance by Inshallah. Special thanks to the volunteer Dinner Committee for their months of preparation. The evening raised over \$16,000 for HOF's daily services for those in need.

## A Legacy of Community Leadership



- \* Advantedge Mailing Solutions   \* Arky Design & Print   \* Couch and Company   \* Erb Transport Ltd.
- \* Henry Walsler Funeral Home   \* KPMG   \* Leis Feed and Supply   \* Network Telecom
- \* Progressive Waste   \* Strassburger Windows & Doors Ltd.

## Recognizing A Kindred Spirit



Thursday November 19, 2015 marked the 14th annual **National Housing Day**, a day to raise awareness about the need for affordable housing. The Region of Waterloo hosted a special event focused on, "Impact of Housing." Celebrations included the presentation of the **Kindred Spirit Award** to **Steve Gosselin** (pictured, receiving the award from Doug Rankin). You may recognize Steve from his work with **Hockey Helps the Homeless**, including a recent feature story in The Record. Steve bravely and generously shares his personal story of recovery as he advocates for, and 'walks with', many in our community facing addiction, poverty, and homelessness. "Kindred Spirits are two people that make a special connection by sharing a bond that has joined them by the means of an experience that has drawn them together". It is very fitting reflection of his impact and commitment, that Steve be honoured with the Kindred Spirit Award. Congratulations, Steve!



## february 2016 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 29, 7:30pm  
The Aud, Kitchener  
Give spuds and money at the door!

### 2. Supermarket Blitz

Saturday February 6  
Donate spuds and cash at local grocery stores. Call Dawn, 519-742-8327 x119 to volunteer

### 3. Community Potato Lunch

Friday February 26, noon  
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Queen St., Kit.  
Best lunch in town! Free-will offering



**Christmas Hampers** and **The Turkey Drive** are partnering with the City of Waterloo to share the gift of food with our neighbours in need during the Holidays. The Waterloo 'Turkey Truck' will be relocated from Erb & Good Funeral Home to a new location, literally around the corner, at William St. E. and Regina St. S, in the rear parking lot of the City Hall of Waterloo, To help deliver Christmas Hampers, please call 519-742-8327 x120



## End of Year Donations

If you make your donation by December 31, it is eligible for a 2015 charitable tax receipt.



A gift in your will, and gifts to House of Friendship's (HOF) Friendship Fund, help extend the 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 Annisa, 519-742-8327 x336**
- **Charles Street Men's Hostel Kitchen** needs teaspoons, jams (preferably red jams), flour (all-purpose white), chocolate chips, coconut, nuts, vanilla, sugar, salt, juice, throw-away festive tablecloths, chocolates, candies, dishcloths, and meat, such as ground beef, beef roasts, stewing beef, and of course, any other meat would be gladly accepted. **Please call Sandra, 519-742-8327 x334**

## Volunteers Needed

The Emergency Food Hamper Program needs volunteers to help deliver hampers on Tuesdays and Thursdays. **Contact Matt Cooper , 519-742-0662**, if you can help us reach the most vulnerable people who need food, but are not physically able to pick up a hamper.

## Friendly Reminders

Please be aware that **Charles Street East, Kitchener, from Benton to Borden, is closed to through traffic**, and there is no on-street parking. ION construction updates can be found at [www.rideion.ca](http://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 **Charles Street Men's Hostel**, 63 Charles Street East, Kitchener. We accept food donations only at the **Emergency Food Hamper Program**, 807 Guelph Street, Kitchener.

Donations can also be mailed or made on-line at [www.houseoffriendship.org](http://www.houseoffriendship.org). *Thank you!*

## Staying In Touch

If you already receive a copy of **Friendship News** through your place of worship and do not wish to receive another copy at home; if your name or address need updating; if you prefer to receive **e-news**; if you donate more than once-a-year, but prefer only one annual receipt; or, if you would like to change how we communicate with you, **please contact Shelley at 519-742-8327 x131 or fundraising@houseoffriendship.org**. *Thank you.*

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



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