



You're Invited...

70th Annual Meeting

Monday June 22, 2009

Calvin Presbyterian Church

248 Westmount Road East
Kitchener

Business Meeting—6:45pm

Strawberry Social—7:30pm

Program —8:00pm

Special Farewell Tribute for
Executive Director, Deborah
Schlichter, thanking her
for 25 years of service.

Please join us.

All Welcome.

**If you plan to attend please
R.S.V.P. 519-742-8327**

admin@houseoffriendship.org

70
Years
1939-2009

A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood

Residents of Sunnydale, Waterloo were greeted with the sweet sound of music when they stopped by the Community Centre's weekly food distribution program on May 20. James Mason, Principal Oboist with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony and Professor of Oboe at Wilfrid Laurier University, accompanied by two students, Heather Baker and Aimee Foster, delighted residents, young and old.



Their visit had been arranged by Christopher Sharpe, Director of Education and Community Programs with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony. It all started when Chris' friend, Isabel Cisterna of Neruda Productions visited the Sunnydale Community Centre, one of four House of Friendship programs in low-income neighbourhoods. She was interested in providing opportunities for arts programs and activities for residents, particularly children. Isabel enlisted Chris, and the rest is history.

Chris hopes this will be the first of many visits. He believes that enabling people to experience music within their communities, in an informal and open manner, will spark conversations and inspire children to get 'upclose and personal' with music. We couldn't agree more.

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Every Child Should Experience Summer Camp

Harley is a bright, active 8 year old boy who loves to play outdoors. His mother, Ayesha, remembers how much he enjoyed living in the countryside as a toddler. Now they live in the city with Harley's two younger sisters. Ayesha, a single mother, learned about House of Friendship's *Summer Camp Sponsorship* program while participating in the *Live & Learn* program. Thanks to your support, she was able to send Harley to Camp Shalom for a couple of days last summer.



At first, Ayesha was worried that Harley would be home sick, but when he returned with tales of outdoor fun and stories about lots of new friends, she realized how important and special camp had been to him. This year, Harley is hoping to go to camp for four days. You can help sponsor him, and approximately 100 other children who are also waiting to go to camp. To find out more and to donate, visit our web site.



14th Annual Friendship Golf Tournament

Wednesday July 8, 2009
Grand Valley Golf Course
 Four-person Scramble
 Registration: \$100 per golfer
Shotgun Start 12:30 pm

Take a swing at poverty this summer. Register yourself or a team of four. Registration includes golf, golf cart, lunch, dinner, table prize and the chance to compete for golfing prizes. 'Dinner only' tickets are also available. Those interested in sponsoring a hole or donating a prize are also asked to contact 519-742-8327 or admin@houseoffriendship.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Friday October 30, 2009
St. Aloysius Catholic Church



Guest Speaker:
 Dr. David Seljak

Ontario Poverty Reduction Legislation Passed

The Ontario Legislature passed the Poverty Reduction Act (Bill 152), Wednesday May 6, 2009.

This is good news for families and individuals across Ontario, and good news for our community. Congratulations and thanks to the many groups and individuals who worked tirelessly to achieve this vision.

For more details, visit
www.25in5.ca

TREK 4 KIDS hike & bike
 because every kid should experience summer Camp!
 House of Friendship

People walked, ran and biked on the historic Iron Horse Trail on Sunday May 24, 2009. Martin Buhr was leading the pack again, both in enthusiasm and pledges, raising a whopping \$4,510, which will send 11 children to camp. He was helped and accompanied by his five grandchildren, the inspiration for his Trek. Brian Hunsberger, who had been in intense training, was not far behind with more than \$2,170 in pledges.

Proceeds will help send children from low-income families to camp this summer, where they will develop friendships and skills for a lifetime! Thanks to all participants and to our valued sponsors.

If you missed the Trek and would like to help send kids to camp, it's not too late - you can mail your donation or donate to Summer Camp Sponsorship by clicking on the Donate Now button at our web site.



Honouring Volunteers



House of Friendship volunteers gathered at Glencairn Mennonite Brethren Church during National Volunteer Week (April 20-24) for a lovely meal prepared by caterer Susan Pries and wonderful entertainment by *No Discernable Key* (above). Tony Bender, Community Services Program Director, thanked all volunteers for their efforts and recognized 19 volunteers for their years of service:

- * **30 Years:** Manheim Mennonite Church
- * **15 Years:** Dr. Jane Robinson
- * **10 Years:** Jane Cook, Wouda Engel, Daneil Entz, Patrick Germann
- * Laurie Strome, John Thiessen, Nelson Weber
- * **5 Years:** Maynard Bender, Patsy Campbell, Kori Caudle, Marilyn Coxon, Bob Graham, Les Litwiller, Margaret Reimer, Don Reist, Madalena Sanchez, Dat Tran

Turning The Page On Another Chapter



It was with very mixed emotions that Executive Director, Deb Schlichter announced her departure from House of Friendship. She has accepted the position of Director of Housing with the Region of Waterloo, effective June 29, 2009.

In that role, Deb looks forward to sharing her experiences and insights gained at House of Friendship, and to continuing to be a passionate advocate for housing in our community.

Although Deb is excited about the possibilities and personal growth with her new position, leaving House of Friendship after 25 years (11 years as Executive Director) is not an easy thing to do, for her or for House of Friendship. However, she leaves knowing that there is an excellent Board of Directors, a dedicated and experienced team of staff and volunteers, and very supportive partners and constituency. Things are in good hands!

The Board of Directors has already started the process of selecting a new Executive Director, and looks forward to being in touch with future updates.

All of us at House of Friendship thank Deb for her exemplary leadership over the years, and wish her all the best in her new position. We also thank you, our community, for your continued support as we undertake a new chapter in the history of House of Friendship.



Feeding Those in Need 2009 Community Potato Lunch

It was the perfect end to the 2009 February Potato Blitz campaign. Community members gathered at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at the end of February to share a potato lunch and to celebrate feeding thousands more.

Donations and potatoes poured in throughout February and March during the Don Cameron Potato Night with the Kitchener Rangers, the Supermarket Blitz, the Community Potato Lunch, and from other events hosted throughout the community by local churches and groups. Potato Blitz mascot, Spuddy, and friends collected the equivalent (cash and potatoes) of more than 300,000 pounds of potatoes, ensuring House of Friendship will be able to meet its yearly potato needs for meals in its various programs, and help respond to increased need in its Emergency Food Hamper program.



Waterloo-Wellington

www.leavealegacy.ca

May marked Leave-A-Legacy month. This national public awareness program encourages people to leave a gift through their will, or any other gift planning instrument, to a charity or non-profit organization of their choice. Anyone can leave a charitable gift from their estate, regardless of its size.

Enrich people's lives, provide support, leave a memory, make a contribution to the future...these are just some of the reasons to give. What's yours?

TOP 10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TODAY TO LEAVE A LEGACY

1. Prepare a will
2. Leave a gift
3. Be Specific
4. Consider assets
5. Name an alternate beneficiary
6. Existing life insurance
7. New life insurance
8. Memorial gifts
9. Encourage others
10. Ask your advisor

For information about legacy giving opportunities to House of Friendship contact Christine Rier at 519-742-8327 or Mike Strathdee at the Mennonite Foundation of Canada, 519-745-7821

Volunteers Needed

Cramer House would appreciate a volunteer to tend the front and back gardens on an on-going basis. The back garden is planted with perennials and needs TLC. The front garden requires some muscle power and inspiration. Plants would be provided. A group of volunteers is also needed to help spring clean the Cramer House "smoking area/room". Please contact Wendie, 519-742-8327.

Courtland Shelley Community Centre needs help fixing a fence (supplies provided). Please call Doreen, 519-571-7953.

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

- * *Charles Street Men's Hostel* needs single washable bed-sized quilts/blankets, linens for single beds, towels, deodorant, razors, shampoo, toothbrushes, men's socks and underwear, and gently-used clothing for men. Please call the Hostel Program Supervisor, 519-742-8327
- * *Kingsdale Community Centre* needs sewing machines, sewing notions, cotton fabrics any sizes, small appliances (i.e. blenders, crockpot), grocery bags, keyboards (piano), guitars, bookshelves. Please call Alyssa, 519-748-6463
- * *Kiwanis House* is in need of an upright freezer, and would like tents and fishing poles with which to take residents camping. Please call Lori, 519-578-0171
- * *Courtland Shelley Community Centre* needs garden tools, gloves, seeds and vegetable plants for its garden; letter computer paper for its homework program; chalk, skipping ropes, assorted balls and craft supplies for summer programs. Please call Doreen, 519-571-7953
- * Please consider planting garden produce for House of Friendship. Meat donations of beef, pork and chicken are always welcome and appreciated, as are donations of baking supplies (e.g. baking powder, cocoa, vanilla, chocolate chips), tea towels and dishcloths. Please call Sandra, 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 wish to change how we communicate with you. We respect your privacy and protect your personal information. We do not share, sell or trade donor or personal information.

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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