

A PLACE CALLED HOME

Building a Strong Community by Meeting a Basic Need: 'Shelter'

Spring 2011
Newsletter



Our Volunteers are very Special People

In this issue we are showcasing a few who help in our day to day operations and make our days a little bit brighter.

Ken was referred to us by Community Living's Job Quest and he has been faithfully coming to our offices three times a week for over five years now. He sweeps and mops our floors (upstairs and down). Ken always has a smile on his face, a howdy doo and a story to tell while he goes about his work helping to make our workplace clean for staff, clients and visitors. *Thanks Ken, what you do is very important and we appreciate it more than you know.*



Bud is a quiet man who volunteers twice a week and has been helping out for just over a year now. Bud's volunteer tasks are quite varied, but he can wash dishes, water flowers, cut our lawn and shred paper like nobody's business. Featured on our latest video (*not yet released*) - Bud tells the camera that he likes helping at A Place Called Home because "it makes him feel good"! *Having Bud around makes us feel good too!*

Cheryl has been volunteering in our hostel kitchen for about 2 years, sometimes coming in two, three and even four times a week! Cheryl helps prepare and serve lunch to our residents and does any pre-prep work for our supper meal. Again, Cheryl is quiet and comes and goes sometimes without us noticing, but the support she gives never goes unnoticed. Cheryl: thank you for all your help!



Let's Talk About Homelessness

For most people it's not something they are comfortable talking about or even thinking about...

THE TRUTH IS THAT IT IS NOT A VERY COMFORTABLE SITUATION TO BE IN!

Is it any wonder that it's often an uncomfortable topic of conversation?

WHY ARE WE SO UNCOMFORTABLE?

It could be that we don't know enough about homelessness here at home and/or we don't like the idea that people could be homeless in our community.

We did a random study recently and found that although people feel bad that others are homeless and some would like to help...they are unsure of what they should do and are also affected by what they see and hear about in larger cities and therefore are a little apprehensive.

Through our research the fact remained clear that the topic of homelessness does not in most cases make people respond the same way they would if it was another injustice such as abused animals, hungry children or someone who has been victimized by a phone scam. So how do we show the public that homelessness is as much an injustice as any of the other causes?

The homeless we serve are made up of men, women, and families with children and youth; without A Place Called Home, you would start to see these people on our streets, sleeping in our parks, in cars and in building alcoves. Our homeless have most often worked their whole lives and/or are still working, or are attending school. Before they were laid off from their jobs, kicked out of their homes by abusive parents or faced a major crisis in their lives, they could have easily been your neighbour, classmate or member of your church or service club. The changes in society over the past twenty years have made it very easy for a whole family to fall through the cracks unnoticed by neighbours or friends. They are not dirty, scary or illiterate, they are just down on their luck, looking for someone to reach out and offer them hope. A Place Called Home prides itself on being able to successfully partner with other community agencies to ensure our clients get the best possible support.

Here is a snapshot of three individuals and families who have come to A Place Called Home for shelter and support in the last year. These situations won't make you feel good about homelessness...we shouldn't feel good about it, but perhaps it will give you a clearer picture of what can happen and how A Place Called Home is able to respond and help people in crisis – facing situations beyond their control and quite possibly not what you might expect. *(please note; names and places and some identifying information has been changed to protect individual's identity)*

facebook

Visit our facebook page.

A reminder that we are on 'Facebook'. Add your name to our membership. Simply search 'Place Called Home Residence'. Once you are a member...event & agency news will come directly to your Facebook!

Doug... a 43-year-old male from rural City of Kawartha Lakes ended up on our doorstep one day. His story involved a situation beyond his control. "Doug" owned a house in Bobcaygeon. He was a long-haul truck driver who was five-years away from being mortgage free. Doug began having issues with his vision and was eventually told that he was no longer able to drive a truck. While Doug was eligible for some financial entitlements it was nowhere near enough to cover his bills. Doug was devastated. He only had five years left on his mortgage and knew that he had to do something. He couldn't find any work in his small community and was no longer able to drive. In a last ditch effort to save his house Doug decided he would rent it out to a family and move to Lindsay hoping to find work... Doug arrived at APCH and within 2 weeks he was able to find a job and housing. Doug is happily working away towards his five-year goal of being mortgage free and moving back into his home.



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Tammy is a 60-year-old female who is disabled. She had lived with her mother and father her whole life but when her mother passed away and her father had a stroke there was no one to take care of her. Tammy had never lived alone. She had never cooked for herself, didn't know how to use a bank card, had never been left alone overnight and had no family in the area. She arrived on our doorstep with a bag of clothes and a friend and advocate who wasn't sure where to turn to get help for Tammy. A Place Called Home worked outside of the box and although Tammy had a home available to her and didn't fit the official definition of "homelessness" she was definitely not able to live safely in her current situation. APCH welcomed Tammy and worked around the clock to connect with her relatives who lived out of province. Her relatives were upset by the situation and made plans to come and help Tammy. Flight availabilities and other scheduling issues made it impossible for Tammy's family to come and get her for about 10 days. Tammy fit in well at our community style shelter, made friends easily and was made quite comfortable during her stay. Tammy's folks were relieved and extremely thankful that she had been in good hands at APCH and that staff had been able to support her until they could get here.

THE ONTARIO
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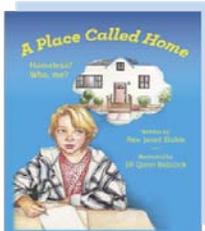


You are cordially invited to
A Place Called Home's
Annual General Meeting

Wednesday June 22nd 2011
Cambridge Street United Church (parlour)
7:00 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served. Everyone is Welcome

80 year old Vincent came to us after being evicted from his room in a local rooming house for nonpayment of rent. After only a few days at APCH it was evident that he was not fit to care for himself and that he appeared to be the victim of elder abuse (particularly with respect to his financial well-being). Our staff worked with Ross Memorial Hospital and The Central East Access Centre to provide much needed support for Vincent. During his first few weeks at the shelter Vincent's health quickly declined as he was not receiving the crucial care that he needed for his kidney disease. When APCH and the Access Centre arranged for a home care nurse to come and check on him it was recommended that he go to the local hospital right away. It was discovered at that time that Vincent's kidney function was extremely low and he was referred to the Dialysis Clinic and that treatment needed to begin immediately. Staff, the Access Centre and Ross Memorial Hospital worked quickly and tirelessly to find accommodations for Vincent as it was very clear that he needed round the clock attention. During this time, with the help of A Place Called Home, the Access Centre, our local police service and the Public Trustee - an approved Financial Trustee was appointed to Vincent which halted any further abuse of his finances. It took three weeks before a bed at a local nursing home became available. Vincent was able to move in right away and APCH staff still visit him on occasion.



For those of you who have not read, purchased or heard about our new storybook...we want to tell you a wonderful story.

Since 1996 our Director and Board have been discussing the possibility of a children's storybook, which would raise awareness in young people about the homeless issue...particularly in small communities. We felt it would generate a better understanding in our children who would grow up to not only be less uncomfortable talking and thinking about homelessness, but maybe this new generation would be the ones who would find a way

“Homeless Who Me?”

to end homelessness! Wouldn't that be wonderful?

For A Place Called Home's 15th Anniversary in 2010, everything fell into place. We accidentally met a wonderful children's author, searched out an amazing children's illustrator and also connected with a graphic design artist and members of our community who were willing to give their time or their money to see this project finally happen. Many thanks go to Author Reverend Janet Stobie, Illustrator Jill Quinn Babcock, Graphic Designer-Tom Collver - See Design and our benefactors, Cathy & Randy Burke - Evergreen Home & Cottage, Carol Young and Diane Claridge

The result is an amazing little book that takes the readers through a day and a half in the life of a 10-year old girl whose family has fallen on hard times and has moved into our local homeless shelter. Simple, ordinary things become more complicated when one is homeless and the story tells us about it in a non-stereotypical and non-threatening manner.

Complete with Teacher/Parent Dialogue Pages, the book is full of additional information about how the book was developed, the history of A Place Called Home and about services available to those in crisis. We encourage you to contact our office to find out about purchasing a book to read with a child in your life. The book sells for \$10.00 (tax free)

Since January of this year A Place Called Home has provided shelter and support to

112 individuals

12 Families with Children and 85 Singles

39 Females and 73 Males

Ranging in age from 1 year to 72 years of age

If you would like to be included on our e-mail list please send us an e-mail at lorrie.polito@aplacecalledhome.org and let us know if you would like to receive future newsletters and other news items by e-mail.



Gerome Update



Thank you to everyone who has helped support Gerome the Homeless Gnome over the past five-months. With your help, we have raised an incredible \$3,862.50, leaving us with only \$3,424.50 remaining to reach our goal of \$7,287.00 by June 15th when Gerome will be able to start work as a garden gnome. We are over half way there!

In the past 5-months, Gerome has been a guest at several community churches, a Cub Scout Meeting, promoted yard sales, attended Board Meetings and was the guest of several kind souls who gave Gerome a place to sleep when our hostel was filled to overflowing and there wasn't even a couch or comfortable chair for him to rest in. During his stay with us Gerome has joined the other residents with daily chores like cooking, laundry etc.

He plans to keep busy making guest appearances over the next couple of months, but will be resting up for the next few days healing a broken wrist that he suffered after a little tumble that he took after a recent engagement. Gerome is doing well and the cast on his arm is due to come off by the end of the week.



Help Gerome reach his goal of covering the cost of one bed in our emergency house for a man, woman or child until June 15th.

If you would like Gerome to come to your place of work or your community group to speak about A Place Called Home or his escapades, please call Lorrie Polito at 705-328-0905 Ext. 222. To read up on Gerome's history with A Place Called Home go to www.aplacecalledhome.org and check out our January 2011 Newsletter. To see updated photos of Gerome, check out our Facebook page.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

We ask for your support with our upcoming events both through volunteering and/or participation . See our Event Flyer included in this newsletter for details of the events or how to volunteer . For more information call 705 328-0905 ext 221

**Saturday & Sunday
July 9th – July 10th**

**Antique Extravaganza
Bigger & Better
50 Dealers Plus**

See insert for details

8th Annual Mark-a-Thon

Plan on joining Mark in his walk this year by registering and collecting a minimum of \$25.00 in pledges.

See insert for details

Saturday August 13th

Saturday September 11th

**7th Annual Kawartha Lakes
Classic Cycle Tour**

Calling all cyclists – come join and choose from routes of 25km, 50km, 100km or 160km

See insert for details

Your ongoing support will ensure that everyone has a safe place to return to at the end of the day.

A PLACE CALLED HOME IS A REGISTERED, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
Charitable Receipts will be issued for All Donations of \$10 and over



Mailing Address: **A PLACE CALLED HOME**
64 Lindsay St. South Lindsay, Ontario K9V 2M2 (705) 328-0905
lorrie.polito@aplacecalledhome.org www.aplacecalledhome.org



Make an on-line donation. Just log onto www.canadahelps.org

I would like to make a donation in the amount of: \$ _____

Enclosed are monthly cheques in the amount of: \$ _____

Direct my donation to the Gerome the Homeless Gnome:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

A Place Called Home **does not** sell trade or share mailing lists. We will only use your personal information to send you newsletters, information about volunteer opportunities or other special events/promotions pertaining to A Place Called Home and our operations and to include your name in our list of donors. Please check if you do not want your name published on our list of donors.
 Please check here if you would like us to remove you from our mailing list.



A Place Called Home is pleased to host

**'Antique Extravaganza'
Bigger & Better
50 Dealers Plus**

**Lindsay Exhibition Building
354 Angeline St. S, Lindsay
Admission \$3.00
Lunch Counter**

**Saturday July 9th - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday July 10th - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

FOR INFORMATION – CALL (705) 328-0905 EXT 221 or 1-866-520-2689 e-mail apch3@bellnet.ca

A Place Called Home is a Non-profit Charitable Organization

**8th Annual Mark-a-Thon
Saturday Aug. 13th**



For the eight year 'Mark Fevang' will be hitting the streets of Lindsay in support of the Homeless of our Community. Plan to join Mark by registering today

How to Register:

- Drop into APCH at 64 Lindsay St. S.
- By calling 705 328-0905 ext 221
- e-mail apch3@bellnet.ca

This is a 10 km walk through the street of Lindsay starting at Farmers Market at 10:30 a.m.

We thank Mark for his effort and commitment to A Place Called Home

To make a pledge and for information call 328-0905 ext 221 or make a pledge online at www.canadahelps.org - be sure to check "Mark-a-Thon Pledge" on the designation sections.

Charitable Receipts will be issued for all pledges of \$10 and over



**8th Annual Kawartha Lakes Classic
Cycle Tour
Saturday September 11th**

Calling all cyclists – Plan to participate in this ride through the Kawarthas, starting and finishing at Cambray Community Centre.

The cycling routes chosen for this event will take participants on a tour of the City. Cyclists will ride through the communities of Lindsay, Valentia, Oakwood, and Kirkfield as well as a number of the smaller villages in the outlying areas. A portion of the 100 and 160km ride will take riders along the shoreline of Balsam Lake Provincial Park.

Cyclists will enjoy refreshments at checkpoints and learn about some of the local attractions. The routes are along hard top roads and are well suited for either road or mountain bikes. Consideration has been given in an attempt to keep cyclists on low traffic roads to maximize rider safety. All routes will be well marked.

Complimentary lunch will be served upon rider's timely completion of their chosen route.

Fees or a minimum of pledges:

- \$25 pre-registration - \$30 same day
- Sixteen and under \$20 pre-reg. - \$25 same day

Registrations available at A Place Called Home
64 Lindsay St. S. Lindsay, ON or on line at
www.aplacecalledhom.org



**We need volunteers for our summer events
Call 705 328-0905 ext 221**

Antique Show – We need people to help with distributing posters & road signs, set-up, admissions desk, and take-down

Mark-a-Thon – We need Route-Marshalls, Cycle & Car Support Vehicles along with Volunteers to Tag at various locations

Cycle Tour– We need people to staff checkpoints throughout the route and help with setting-up and serving lunch