



# Fall 2009 - Newsletter

## A Place Called Home

*Imagine having no place to go at the end of your day,  
Now Imagine...  
A Place Called Home we can help...*



In these tough economic times our agency has seen an increase in the need for our services both in our shelter and in our 'Homeless Prevention Programs' As the country is still seemingly shaky on the economic front, we expect our numbers will continue to rise and that more trends will be identified. These past few months in particular have been extremely busy with a record 93% occupancy rate. Most nights we are full to capacity and need to use local motels for our overflow. Single males, females, along with families with children make up a

very diverse community at A Place Called Home - arriving with 'no where else to go' and as each group leaves - new people arrive and the dynamics change depending on the age and make up of each group.

We were pleased and thankful once again to be approved for funding by our local United Way for our 'On Call Program' giving us the ability to bring in 2<sup>nd</sup> staff during times of emergency or higher than usual numbers in our hostel.



This past month our residents consisted of five children under the age of four from a total of three families. This made for a very busy household combined with nine single people, many of whom had little life experience living with children. Staff reported that although it is always sad to see families in the position of being homeless; the children always brighten everyone's day.



From Jan. to Aug. our Hostel has supported 237 individuals providing 3,970 Bednights – 191 singles, 21 families. The daily rate funded by the government is currently at \$41.10 per bed night...our actual costs however are \$47.84, (a **shortfall of \$6.74 per person per day**). In addition we are not funded for empty beds nor are we funded for all who need our help. This results in us relying heavily on the generosity of those in our community (*individuals, businesses, church groups, service clubs etc*) who have made A Place Called Home their charity of choice supplemented by some funding from private Foundations and our own fundraising efforts.



Seniors and Youth continue to be the growing sector when it comes to Homelessness during tough economic times. Jobs are fewer and they are harder for young people to find due to their lack of experience and training. Seniors on fixed incomes come face to face with the reality that the wait list for affordable housing is approximately three years or more.

### Preventing Homelessness

For many in our community "at risk" is a daily condition

#### Emergency Home Energy & Resource

The month of August shows that client's needs were at an all time high. One trend was an increase in the number of senior clients and a high proportion of them seeking to re-enter the work force simply to keep up with the



high energy costs. Fortunately the program was successful in assisting clients of all ages to stay in their own homes.

#### Youth in Transition

In August the YIT program provided services to 20 youth. Eight of the youth accessed our

hostel services, 12 youth were outreach clients receiving help with basic living skills. All are attending school and all but two have found housing. They are still working on getting housing and hopefully they will find a permanent home by Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.





**Identification Clinic** has processed approximately 30 birth certificates, one marriage certificate and 16 SIN cards this month. While most of our clients who come for help in obtaining their I.D. need financial assistance to pay for the fees, we also help those who just need help with the process. Our staff expressed their

pleasure this month in assisting a 93-year-old woman who needed some help completing her birth certificate application. All of her ID had been stolen and she kept being directed to complete the application online. As her credit card was also stolen and she was not familiar with the internet, this presented problem for her. Our staff was able to complete the

application with her and provide her direction on sending it in and was also able to walk her through the next steps needed to replace her SIN, OAS, Library and Health Cards.



## We Get By With a Little Help from Our Friends

*Since our last Newsletter individuals, groups & our own volunteers have stepped forward to help raise money on behalf of the Homeless. Our sincere thanks goes out to all of you who continue to support our efforts on behalf of the Homeless*

Scotia Bank gives Support to our Antique Show



Ride in Support of the Homeless

6<sup>th</sup> Annual Mark-a-Thon Over \$6,000 raised



Ops Fire Fighters Boot Toll



Lindsay Adult Education Plant Sale



## Ontario 2009 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards

This past June - six of our volunteers were recognized at the Ontario Volunteer Awards Ceremonies. These are volunteers who have made significant volunteer contributions for more than five years. Awards were presented to **Mark Fevang, Margaret Fevang** (deceased), **Lois Hunter, Maurice Jackson, George Skerratt** and **Marion Thurston**.

THE ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION  LA FONDATION TRILLIUM DE L'ONTARIO

We are pleased to acknowledge recent funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation in order to hire a much needed 'Operational Manager'. With our growth over the last few years the need for an Operational Manager was identified in order to deal with the non-client issues that have taken valuable time away from our Director, Program Staff and Hostel Staff alike. We welcome Johna Parker to our team.

## Annual General Meeting



Our Annual General Meeting took place on June 24th at Cambridge Street United Church. The theme this year was 'Feet on the Pavement or A Place Called Home' with Musician, Song Writer Sarah Loucks performing songs from her latest album including "Feet on the Pavement" and Theologian, Author Dr. Brian Walsh with reflections from his latest book 'Beyond Homelessness'.

Our Board of Directors has remained committed to addressing the needs of those who are faced with a Housing crisis. We acknowledge the contribution of our outgoing Board Members Art Bartlett and Carol Williamson and welcome our new members John Atkins and Roger Worsley.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Chair-Norm Price • 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Lois Hunter • 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair- Brian Walsh • Treasurer- Zita Devan  
John Atkins • Anna Friend • John Hassan • Roger Worsley • Helen Yazdani

## **"Building a stronger community by meeting a basic need" – Shelter**

A Place Called Home has taken its role in the community very seriously and feels that by working with many agencies and participation in Community Events and Committees that we are showing our level of commitment to our work and to help build a Stronger Community.

### **Protocol has been established between A Place Called Home and:**

- ♦ Disaster Trust Fund & Kawartha Lakes Fire Department  
A Place Called Home acts as a call center for the trust fund in the event of a fire.
- ♦ Canadian Mental Health  
Homeless clients receive priority status with CMHA when dealing with mental health issues.
- ♦ John Howard Society  
Homeless residents receive priority status with JHS for assistance in searching for housing
- ♦ Children's Aid Society  
Ensuring that any case of child abuse is efficiently reported
- ♦ Aids Resource Network & Kawartha Lakes Health Unit  
A Place Called Home provides outreach services to clients of the Needle Exchange.

### **A Place Called Home also sits on many committees including;**

- ♦ Access to Permanent Housing,
- ♦ City of Kawartha lakes Emergency Services Committee
- ♦ City of Kawartha Lakes Homeless Services Planning Table,
- ♦ Harm Reduction Coalition,
- ♦ Kawartha Lakes & Haliburton Domestic Violence Committee,
- ♦ Poverty Coalition,
- ♦ Safe Communities Canada,



### **Agencies affiliated with A Place Called Home include but are not limited to:**

- ♦ Adult Protective Services
- ♦ Brock Mission Peterborough Ontario
- ♦ Central East Community Access Centre
- ♦ CHIMO Youth and Family Services
- ♦ City of Kawartha Lakes Fire & Rescue Services
- ♦ City of Kawartha Lakes Police Dept.
- ♦ City of Kawartha Lakes Social Services
- ♦ Community Care
- ♦ Elder Abuse Coalition of City of Kawartha Lakes
- ♦ Haliburton Highlands Mental Health Services
- ♦ HKPR Health Unit
- ♦ Point in Time Family Services in Minden & Haliburton
- ♦ Ross Memorial Hospital
- ♦ SPAN (Survivor's Psychiatric Survivors Advocacy Netw.)
- ♦ Trillium Lakelands -Adult Education Centre
- ♦ The Lindsay & District Branch of The Canadian Red Cross
- ♦ Women's Resources and Victoria's Shelter
- ♦ Victim's Services of Victoria County (VCARS)



## Gift of Shelter Christmas Cards

While we are enjoying our Fall Season thoughts of Christmas fast approach; **A Place Called Home** once again will be offering an alternative to your gift giving. We thank you for your participation in the past and hope that you will consider our "Gift of Shelter Christmas Card" again this year

**This Christmas when you are looking for a unique and meaningful gift to give to friends, work colleagues, your pastor, a teacher and others on your list that are difficult to buy for ... please consider "A Gift of Shelter"**

Shelter is one of our most basic needs. When you make a donation of any size to our "**Gift of Shelter**" Campaign, we will provide you with a unique 'Christmas Card' for you to give as a gift to someone on your list. This card will let the recipient know that the donation you have made on their behalf will help ensure that there is a safe place for the homeless men, women & children in our community to return to at the end of their day.

The "Gift of Shelter Christmas Cards" will be on sale starting November 1<sup>st</sup> by dropping in at our office at 64 Lindsay St. South or look for us at the Lindsay Square Mall Saturday November 21<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday December 2<sup>nd</sup>. For more information, please call 328-0905 ext 21.



Many thanks to Peter Robson of Topic Computer Consulting for designing our New Website.

Log on and access information about all our services, our history, news items and up coming events. [www.aplacecalledhome.org](http://www.aplacecalledhome.org)

**facebook**

Visit our facebook page.

We have joined 'Facebook' add your name to our membership. Simply search 'groups' for 'A Place Called Home'. Once you are a member...event & agency news will come directly to your Facebook!



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

### *The Benefits of Donating Securities*

#### **GIVING & SAVING WHETHER THE MARKET IS UP OR DOWN**

As always there are countless benefits to making a charitable donation of Securities. **TAX SAVINGS** and the procedures for giving & receiving are the same for appreciated or depreciated securities.

A Place Called Home is set up to receive and properly receipt donations of Securities. Please consult your broker or tax specialist for more information. **A Place Called Home can be reached at (705) 328-0905 OR Toll Free 1-866-520-2689 Ext. 22**

Make a Tax



An on-line alternative to make your donation Just log onto [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org)

Deductible Donation Today!

Thank you on behalf of the Homeless in our Community!  
**A PLACE CALLED HOME IS A REGISTERED, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**  
*Charitable Receipts will be issued for All Donations of \$10 and over*

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

**Help the Homeless of our Community**



Mailing Address: **A PLACE CALLED HOME**  
64 Lindsay St. South Lindsay, Ontario K9V 2M2 (705) 328-0905 ext. 22  
[lorrie.polito@aplacecalledhome.org](mailto:lorrie.polito@aplacecalledhome.org) [www.aplacecalledhome.org](http://www.aplacecalledhome.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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.