



A Place Called Home

January 2009 - Newsletter

Since 1996; after our very first year of supporting the Homeless of our community; *A Place Called Home* has marked the third week in January has 'Homeless Awareness Week' - calling out to the community to increase their awareness of homelessness.

Awareness is the first step in becoming knowledgeable about the needs of others. There are many who know of the Homeless and our services, however there are still many who think that homelessness is a 'big city' problem and not an issue in our smaller, rural community.

The City of Kawartha Lake's homeless are among the "hidden homeless" – they are people like you and me who are in crisis and need a safe place to stay while they solve their housing crisis. Our experiences show that homelessness affects more than just the young and single persons. **Families, seniors and the working poor are now far more apt to find themselves facing the possibility of homelessness.**

We have many stories of individuals as well as families who came to *A Place Called Home* this past year. Each one different yet all the same.... They were without a safe place to return to at the end of their day and with the help of our community and caring staff, they were able to move on to permanent housing.

As the numbers of Homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless grow, the demands on our services also grow. Economic recession places an even greater demand on our services and increase to our challenges of keeping up with the growing costs that are needed. Basic costs such as hydro, heat, water, food, cleaning supplies and repairs along with the wages to staff a 24-hour 7 days a week facility continue to rise making us more reliant on our community's support.

Currently the Ontario Hostel Association is lobbying the government for an changes in how the per diem (bednight rate) is funded but

until then *A Place Called Home* if left with the challenge of raising in addition to our funding, approximately \$113,000.00 per year in order to provide our essential services. We do this through the generosity of our community, help from private Foundations and through our Fundraising events that you support.

While we are grateful to those who have made *A Place Called Home* one of their charities of choice we enter into 2009 hopeful of your continued support and welcome questions from those who may be interested in adding their name to our list of supporters.

Volunteering is another valued way you can support our efforts. From helping with fundraising events to assisting with meal preparation in our Hostel to our grocery shoppers, those who assist with office clerical tasks to general maintenance and repairs. In 2008 our volunteers have donated 6,663 hours without which we could not continue to do all that we do.

Our Year in Review

Our year (2008) in review shows that our youngest resident was a three month old little girl part of a family of four and our oldest resident in 2008 was an 85 year old man who moved from being Homeless to a Nursing Home.

We see little change in the actual numbers of homeless who came to our Hostel, however having an average of 85% occupancy rate which is higher than the provincial average we had few days with empty beds.

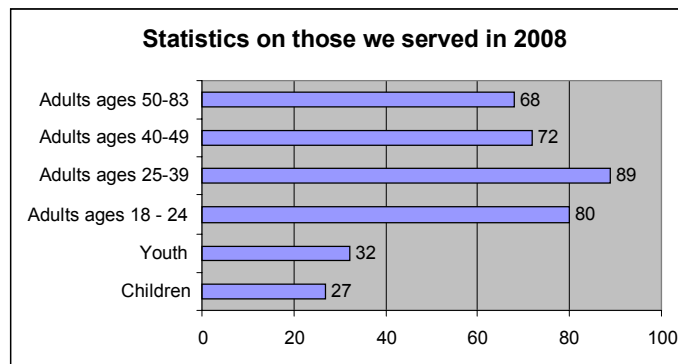
Our numbers do show that people have needed to stay with us longer than in past years with families needing to stay approximately 70% longer than singles. This confirms the great shortage of affordable housing for families in our community. The good news is the number of homeless families are down and we would like to think that this is

because of the success of our Homeless Prevention Programs helping those at risk to stay in there homes.

The over '50' population continues to grow. Seniors come to us with additional challenges in finding permanent housing such as health issues, affordability and accessibility. Networking with other agencies that support seniors is a critical part of assisting them with a plan that will help them move into permanent housing.

While all who come to us are in crisis and need support the seniors and youth require additional support. Since the

beginning of our 'Youth in Transition Program (YIT) we have seen our homeless youth numbers increase mainly because youth in crisis no longer have to go to



Peterborough for support. They come to APCH and through the YIT program we have had great success helping them become financially stable and remain in school. It is often easier for youth to find housing as the reputation of our trustee portion of the program gives landlords the assurance that rent will be paid on time. Prior to our YIT program youth who come to our Hostel would receive the same services as all other residents. If a youth required further assistance above and beyond what APCH offered their only option would be to move to Peterborough

to access the Youth Emergency Services. Keeping them in their own community we have been able to give disadvantaged youth a better start at adulthood that they might not have otherwise had.

While each year brings a different set of statistics there still remains the need for a safe place to return to at the end of the day. Our Homeless thank you for caring and helping them in their time of crisis.

Our community is not unlike other communities in Ontario and Canada. Statistics show that Canada's 21st century homeless crisis is a symptom of deepening poverty – but it also reflects a broader and less visible erosion of housing security for a broad spectrum of Canadians: the working poor, seniors and students.

Did You Know

Federation of Canadian Municipality Gord Steeves President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities

The estimated 150,000 to 200,000 homeless people in Canada are the visible tip of a much larger population of financially marginal individuals and households that are at risk of ending up on the street. According to some estimates, some 700,000 households nation-wide are spending more than half of their income on shelter, leaving them at considerable risk of homelessness, with some 600,000 to 650,000 people, many of them children, living in inadequate or sub-standard housing.

Time is running out. Cities and communities are deeply concerned about the upcoming expiry of all current federal housing programs in March 2009, as well as by the ongoing reductions in federal funding as long-term operating subsidies expire. We need a long-term coherent national housing strategy, one that can achieve a measurable reduction in homelessness and improve housing affordability. And we need it soon.

Housing in affordability – a leading cause of the evictions and homelessness – is growing in Canada.

In the years from 1997 to 2005, housing spending by the median (middle) tenant household grew by 21% (faster than the rate of inflation) even though the median tenant household income grew by just about half of that (12%). Renting costs outpaced renter incomes in six of the ten provinces. Ontario: Housing costs up 17%; income up 4%

The affordable housing gap – the measure of the affordable rent that the median (middle) renter household can afford to pay compared to the average market rent – has moved into the negative numbers at the national level and in five of the ten provinces. This means that **more than half the renter households cannot afford the average rents being charged by private landlords**. The annual gap was biggest in Ontario at \$1,776. The affordability gap measures the split between affordable and average rents at the statistical middle. It grows larger among lower-income renter households - *Wellesley Institute National Housing Report Card 2008* - www.wellesleyinstitute.com

The Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) is ready to work with the Province of Ontario and other concerned stakeholders to reduce poverty by ending homelessness in Ontario.

Municipal governments have long been committed to their key responsibility in addressing the many issues presented by homelessness. And over the years the Federal and Provincial governments have provided funding to support innovative municipal and community initiatives. But now the funding is scheduled to come to an end. By early 2009, all of the federal programs will end - *Ontario Municipal Social Services Association Strategy to End Homelessness – April 2008*

Our Continuum of Services

Serving the City of Kawartha Lakes and County of Haliburton

Hostel Services – 19 bed Emergency Housing

Our 19-bed emergency house operates 24 hours/day 365 days/year. Offering shelter, three meals a day, laundry facilities, advocacy, referrals to other agencies and support through our “Next Step Program”.



Outreach & Aftercare Program

The Program's goal is to assist clients with various issues or circumstances that, if left unresolved, could result in the client becoming homeless.



Youth in Transition Program

The YIT Program is designed to fill a gap in services for Youth (16 to 25) who are affected by poverty and who are at crisis and at risk of becoming Homeless



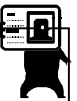
Emergency Home Energy Resource Program

Providing clients with loans or grants along with financial planning and advocacy to those facing disconnection notices and assisting in arranging payment plans with utility companies. This program has proven to be one of the most effective in directly preventing homeless in CKL & Haliburton



Identification Clinic

Supporting those who need specific forms of Identification, in order to access services and/or employment. Our outreach component boasts satellite services in the following communities – Lindsay, Kinmount, Little Britain, Kirkfield, Coboconk and Omeme.



Homeless Awareness Week January 18th to 24th 2009

We have Homeless in our Community and
A Place Called Home is making a difference

Homeless Awareness Week Events



Come to the Mall

Look for us at the Lindsay Square Mall
Monday January 19th - Wednesday January 21st
Friday January 23rd and Saturday January 24th.

Our display will provide information about homelessness in our community and how *A Place Called Home* is making a difference.

Back Again this Year Our Week Long Silent Auction Sponsored by Southern Comfort Lindsay Square Mall

Monday January 19th to
Saturday January 24th 2009

Come and place your bids on a number of finely crafted pieces of furniture.

Bidding ends at 4 p.m.
Saturday January 24th



Enjoy Dinner at East Side Mario's and help Support A Place Called Home

Bring this coupon to East Side Mario's Lindsay any day from
Monday January 19th to Thursday January 23rd 2009

PASTA



Enjoy unlimited complimentary refills of soup or salad and their famous garlic home-loaf with a purchase of any entrée –15% of the sales from guests, who come to support the Homeless, will be donated right back.

You will receive our Homeless Awareness Kit with helpful information and a Homeless Quiz that will test your knowledge with prizes for correct answers.

Test Your Knowledge

Anytime during the month of January while eating at East Side Mario's increase your awareness of the homeless issue by completing a board game printed on your placemat ...add up your score and -

Use your change to make a change in the lives of the homeless!



An American Italian Eatery



Wear an Empty Safety Pin

*Why an empty safety-pin? ...it symbolizes the **EMPTINESS & DESPAIR** of homelessness
But more importantly, it symbolizes **HOLDING THINGS TOGETHER***



Sending information by e-mail is becoming more and more popular. 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.

Help the Homeless of our Community



The Benefits of Donating Securities

Security Donations GIVING & SAVING

There are countless benefits to making a charitable donation of Securities. **TAX SAVINGS** are extremely beneficial. Giving shares directly to your Charity of Choice instead of selling your stock and making a cash donation is the more advantageous way to go. **CAPITAL GAINS TAX** on a donation made directly to the Charity is fully eliminated and you will also receive an Official Charitable Receipt to be used when filing your Income Tax Return. A winning situation for everyone!

A Place Called Home is set up to receive and properly receipt donations of Securities. For more information call your broker or tax specialist OR **A Place Called Home** at 328-0905 ext. 22 Toll Free at 1-866-520-2689

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair-Norm Price ◊ 1st Vice Chair Lois Hunter ◊ 2nd Vice Chair- Brian Walsh ◊ Treasurer- Zita Devan
Art Bartlett ◊ Anna Friend ◊ John Hassan ◊ Helen Yazdani ◊ Carol Williamson

Make a Tax 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

Many Ways to Give



An on-line alternative to make your donation. Just log onto www.canadahelps.org

**Call us to discuss
Planned Giving or Bequeaths**

A way to leave a lasting legacy

Air Miles collected through many Credit Cards can often be donated to a Charity of your choice. This translates into a charitable receipt for income tax purposes. Please refer to your awards catalog for details



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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Postal Code: _____

I would like to make a donation in the amount of: \$ _____ Enclosed are monthly cheques 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.*