



What Can We Control?

At first glance you might wonder what this headline has to do with A Place Called Home's Newsletter (but read on). The header references a quote made by a politician outside Canada but its message knows no borders and should have a ring of truth to it when you read it in its entirety below. **It carries with it a big impact, yet is so simple and logical.**

*"There is a lot that happens around the world we cannot control. We cannot stop earthquakes, we cannot prevent droughts, and we cannot prevent all conflict, **but when we know where the hungry, the homeless and the sick exist, then we can help.**"*

Growing Up in Small-Town Ontario

Homelessness for many was not a topic that crossed our minds. Some of us might have been considered well-off and some of us might have been thought of as poor, but (as children) for most of us, no matter what our circumstances were - having a home and a bed to sleep in at night was something we took for granted.

The Times They are A-Changin' ~ Bob Dylan~

With time our small world became larger; the media brought news about war and strife and word about our metropolitan neighbours where we would hear about the people who lived on the streets of Toronto. We heard about the 'Tent Cities' and as time went on we also heard about how a lot of the hostels and shelters were and are overcrowded; infested with bedbugs and often dangerous. We came to know about homelessness in the larger urban centres...but what did we know of rural homelessness, what do we know now about homeless in small-town Ontario?

What Do We Know Now?

A Place Called Home knows. They know that homelessness looks very different here as compared to larger urban centres. They know that the average citizen wouldn't recognize the majority of hostel residents as homeless, because they look just like the average citizen! And like the average citizen, a good number have been employed, are still employed, owned and rented homes, have been to college/university or finished highschool and have provided for themselves and their families.

What Happened?

An unfortunate set of circumstances happened to start these individuals and their families on that slippery slope leading to homelessness and despair. It often starts with a business closure and a subsequent lay-off, a relationship breakup, illness or just being stuck in one of the many low-paying jobs that come with no benefits and have unstable hours. The fact is that the number of families and individuals that are as they say **"one paycheque away from homelessness"** has been growing in leaps and bounds in the last ten to twenty years. *The Rural Homeless are rarely the chronic homeless that are seen in the larger cities and APCH's hostel is more like a large family home.*

The Front Porch

A short phrase that is often heard is one that A Place Called Home feels is worth repeating. **"We have lost our front porches"**. What's that about? It's a term to describe the way our lives have changed from when we grew up. In the past we knew our neighbours...whether it was through conversation from our front porches or a neighbourhood picnic, having a neighbourly cuppa' or borrowing a cup of sugar...we knew our neighbours, our parents knew them and if something was wrong in your home or if as a kid you misbehaved and a neighbour saw it, you can bet that Mrs. J, Mr. B and/or Miss S would soon be over to tell your parents of your indiscretion, or if they noticed a 'crack in your foundation. You can bet they would know if your dad or mom got laid off, had their hours cutback, took a pay cut or if an emergency or illness had left your family unable to cope with the growing bills. And you know they didn't just shake their heads and

walk away...they offered their support and rallied the rest of the neighbours to pitch in and help too. It was a given that your friends and family would also step up to support you.

This is not to say that there are not some right neighbourly neighbours still around, but with people's lives becoming more and more busy, careers becoming a priority just to keep our heads above water; things have changed...often we don't know much about our neighbours and might not notice if one of them were in trouble. (Family & Friends?) Yes they help when they can, but A Place Called Home has noticed a common thread among the clients they serve...they lack that social network and don't have family, friends or neighbours around to help or if they do...they are struggling too and don't have the resources to help.

Our residents come from every socio-economic background and maybe they will be your neighbour some day, one thing for certain is that before they became homeless, they were someone's neighbour and quite likely that neighbour didn't notice how serious things had become.

A Place Called Home Wants You to be Their Good Neighbour

With the uncertain economic times and increase in costs to many essential services (utilities, repairs, replacement of capital equipment)... A Place Called Home is often struggling to keep our head above water, similar to our clients. **It is in times like these that we need YOUR HELP more than ever.**

A Place Called Home is Making a Difference ~ You Can Make a Difference Too!

Please make A Place Called Home One of Your Charities of Choice



Our volunteers do amazing things for us without asking anything in return. They shop for our hostel groceries every week, they cook meals for our residents, fix our computers, mop our floors, sell our tickets and staff our volunteer events; they paint, sand, drywall, change our light bulbs, file our filing and prepare items for the mail.

Volunteers are involved in almost every facet of our operations and without them we would be lost...we appreciate and cherish each and every one.

A Place Called Home has a growing group of very special volunteers and those people are our former hostel residents...men, women and youth who have needed our services and support and have built a new community for themselves in the process... like 'Bill' a fellow down on his luck but with a heart of gold and great stories to tell. One look at his face told you had seen a lot in his life, but ultimately what shone through was the inherent honesty

and goodness in his soul. Not only did Bill have a heart of gold but his skills in assessing a situation when it came to maintenance and repair and coming up with a solution would have earned him a Gold Medal if such things were Olympic events. It didn't take long for us to recognize Bill's special qualities as he started tinkering around and fixing things while he was a resident.



*An invitation is coming
your way for our
annual Volunteer
Appreciation Reception
June 2nd
4 - 6 pm*



It's been almost four years since Bill spent four weeks at our hostel, but he is still the guy we call when almost anything mechanical goes wrong and Bill never fails to show up or to resolve our problem.

It never ceases to amaze us and cause our hearts to swell when another former client comes back to volunteer once their own problems have receded. So far this year, January to March our volunteers have provided 1,093.5 hours equaling 3.9 full-time people.



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.

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



**Wednesday June 23rd 2010
Cambridge Street United Church (parlour).
7:00 p.m.**

Light refreshments will be served. Everyone is Welcome

If it wasn't for Bad Luck...

The following narrative is an overview of a family who has been helped by A Place Called Home - Names and some circumstances have been change to protect the privacy of specific individuals.

Courtney, Emily and their dad Stan arrived home to find that they had been locked out of their apartment. A letter posted on the door stated that the apartment they were renting was illegally zoned and they were no longer able to reside there. Stan just stood there staring at the notice, tears welling up in his eyes as he thought...

"I can't believe it."... "If it wasn't for bad luck I'd have no luck at all".

Stan didn't know what to do...his day had started with a trip to the hospital to visit his wife Cheryl who had recently suffered a stroke. After meeting with the Doctors to discuss the latest developments in her condition, he had rushed off to drop his two daughters off at school. The family had been struggling since Cheryl, the primary caregiver for their children and manager of their finances had been hospitalized.

"She knew how to stretch a penny" Stan said. "And there I was, all alone and having to pick up the pieces and suddenly on top of it all we had nowhere to live!"

This family had struggled in the past financially but they always managed to get by. Never had they worried about being homeless. Stan had heard of A Place Called Home through a friend who had used their Emergency Energy Resource Program to help with a hydro disconnection notice. He heard that they were able to help set up a payment plan and stop their hydro from being cut off. Stan figured that if anyone would know how to help it would be them

"After receiving the notice I drove right to A Place Called Home." Stan recalled.

"I was in such a panic that I could barely think or speak. I was met at the door by a friendly woman. She was very understanding of my situation and assured me that everything would be okay. She didn't promise to solve my problems but she did say that they were there to help and that we would have a safe place to stay until we could find other housing. I still felt horrible about my situation but I felt better knowing that we weren't doing this alone"

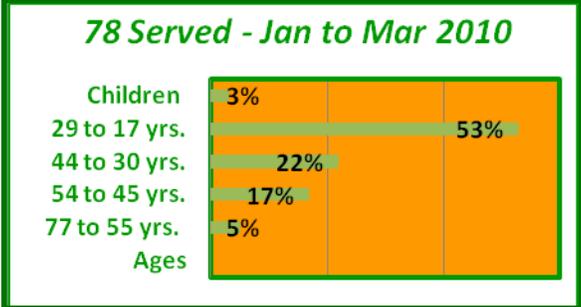
Stan and Cheryl had always done things on their own. They had never been introduced to any of the services that were in the community that are designed to help people living below the poverty line. While they had always made ends meet...this was a dilemma that Stan knew he couldn't solve on his own.

Courtney along with her dad and sister moved into A Place Called Home while Cheryl continued to recuperate in the hospital. After only 3 weeks they had found a new apartment and A Place Called Home had referred them to the local Community Legal Clinic to get their belongings out of their old apartment. Staff of A Place Called Home worked with Stan and the girls, helping them to design a plan of action that included a realistic budget to help ensure that their new home would be affordable. They also made referrals to a local counseling agency to help Stan deal with his worry and anxiety and advocated with the local Children's Club who took the girls into their 'after school' program at no charge. Throughout the following year, they sought & received support through APCH's Identification Clinic and through the Outreach & Aftercare Program.

"If A Place Called Home wasn't there I have no idea where I would have ended up" Stan was heard to say.. "All of our family is in Toronto, Cheryl was in the hospital, I work in Lindsay and the kids go to school here. I can't even imagine what could have been. I am just so thankful that A Place Called Home was there to provide all the help and support that they did. I think that my luck just might finally be changing. If things start to pile up again, we know who to call"

From January to March 2010 A Place Called Home's Hostel has served 78 individuals made up of 63 singles and seven families with children. The residents ranged in age from 77 years of age down to one year-old.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

We ask for your support both through volunteering and/or participation in the following events. For more information call 705 328-0905 ext 221



18th Annual Geranium Fundraiser

(Our longest running Fundraising Event)



In acknowledgement of
A Place Called Home's 15th Anniversary
we will be selling our Geraniums on two separate weekends.

May 1st

Rotary Garden Show

9am-4pm

Victoria Park

(beside the Farmer's Market)

&

May 8th

A Place Called Home

9am-2pm

64 Lindsay Street South

Parking Lot

Get these bright, colourful, long-lasting blooms that were chosen for their diversity & resistance to harsh conditions. We feel it speaks to the diversity of the homeless & the hardiness and resistance that those in crisis showed despite their devastating circumstances.

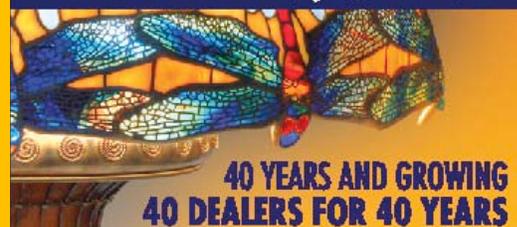
IN TIME FOR MOTHER'S DAY!

Cost \$3.00 per plant.

To reserve your order call 328-0905 ext 221 or purchase the day of the sale

*'Purchase Lindsay's Official Flower,
and help to ensure that everyone has... 'a place called home'*

A Place Called Home is pleased to host



THE 40th ANNUAL
ANTIQUÉ SHOW & SALE

Saturday July 10th - 10am-5pm

Sunday July 11th - 10am-3pm

In celebration of our 40th Annual Antique Show & Sale we are looking forward to offering **40 Dealers for 40 Years!** - Moving our venue from the Victoria Park Armoury to the spacious Lindsay Exhibition Building, Lindsay Fair Ground, offering shuttle service and ample free parking and the opportunity to grow.

Admission \$3.00

7th Annual Mark-a-Thon Saturday Aug. 13th



For the seventh year 'Mark Fevang' will be hitting the streets of Lindsay in support of the Homeless of our Community.

We invite you to join him in his walk this year by registering and collecting a minimum of \$25.00 in pledge.

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. ending at Boston Pizza

Since 2004 the Mark-a-Thons have raised \$24,474.39. We thank Mark for his effort and commitment to A Place Called Home and we thank you for your ongoing support.

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



7th Annual Kawartha Lakes Classic Cycle Tour Saturday September 11th

Calling all cyclists – come join the experience and choose from routes of 25km, 50km, 100km or 160km 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 50, 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. Considerations have been given in attempt to keep cyclists on lower 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-registration - \$25 same day

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

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



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

Name: _____ Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

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.