



INN sights

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITY: **It's a two-way street**

Spring 2014

I <3 Welcome Inn!!



Upcoming Dates

Soul Food
April 26 12-2pm

I <3 Welcome Inn
Campaign ends
March 31

Team Up to Clean Up!
April 26 10 –12pm
Meet at Welcome Inn to
help beautify the
neighbourhood.

Dear Friends,

Welcome Inn is a place of caring and friendship, generosity and resilience. In this issue of INN sights, we share more of the people and stories that make Welcome Inn the special place that it is. We are currently in the midst of our first “I Heart Welcome Inn” Campaign. We invite you to help share your love and support for Welcome Inn in one or more of the following ways:

- Share your experiences and stories about Welcome Inn with colleagues, friends, and family online or in person.
- Change your Facebook profile picture to the “I heart Welcome Inn” image available on the Welcome Inn Facebook wall (www.facebook.com/WelcomeInnCC).
- Donate to the “I Heart Welcome Inn” campaign. You can do this through our online campaign page (www.giveeffect.org/campaigns/254-i-3-welcome-inn), through Canada Helps, or by sending a cheque to Welcome Inn.
- Set up your own fundraising page on our campaign website (click on the ‘Participate’ link) and invite your friends, family, and colleagues to support Welcome Inn!
- Spread the word about the many ways to be involved at Welcome Inn as a volunteer, program participant, and gathering in-kind resources such as clothing, food, art, and office supplies. Wear your I <3 W.I. pin with pride.
- Help us celebrate and sustain Welcome Inn by continuing to build relationship with the many people who are part of this community!



All proceeds of the “I Heart Welcome Inn” Campaign will support Welcome Inn programs, and charitable receipts will be provided for all donations.

I continue to be inspired every day by the incredible people who are part of this community – volunteers, community members, staff and donors alike – as we share our lives and gifts together.

With gratitude for your continued support,

Carly



A long, tough winter in the North End.

“I’m so glad that you are open!”

~ Wendy

emergency food bank. As we chatted over a hot cup of tea, she shared that this has been a hard winter for her and the kids. The long, dark days didn't help with the depression that she was fighting. It was tough to get out some days. “But I like coming to this food bank, you're not just a number here. I don't feel so rushed to 'get in, get out, stop bothering me'. Here, I feel more like I'm seeing a friend” she shared. After noticing that there was no one handing out numbers to new folks coming in (our usual welcomer was off sick), she jumped in and helped out greeting people as they arrived. I am so grateful that we had been able to fix the old furnace and offer a warm place. I am grateful that Welcome Inn is the kind of place that you are most welcome to 'jump in' when you see a need and share what you can give. I am grateful that we are able to give breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks to a hungry, young family having a tough winter. I am grateful to all the people who help make this place beautiful. I am grateful.

- Jen

*Names have been changed for privacy.

“I’m so glad that you are open!” It was 1:30 pm on a blustery, snowy day. A typical day this winter, filled with snow, ice and cold temperatures. Wendy came into the food bank, sighed with relief that Welcome Inn was open and warm as she waited for her turn to access the



“I like coming to this food bank, you're not just a number here.” ~ Wendy



One of the MACserve teams that helped at Welcome Inn this year.

“Welcome Inn is a great place to be among friends, and strangers.” ~ Eileen



We welcome and accept all people as we are.

We are all unique and worthy human beings. At Welcome Inn, all people are accepted unconditionally and celebrated regardless of religion, ethnicity, colour, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and socio-economic status.

MAC SERVE

The halls of Welcome Inn rang out with music as the students from McMaster's MacSERVE dropped by. During their reading week, some students gladly came to meet with our LAF kids and have some fun playing music together. The kids loved it!! Through the lens of music, volunteers spent their reading week learning about Welcome Inn and helping to counter poverty in the City of Hamilton. We are so happy that the musicians performed and showed the kids their joy in music. "They were amazing, I was so blown away by their talent and how the kids just gravitated to the musical instruments!", said Gladys. They even left a thank you note, expressing their appreciation of having the experience of meeting the kids. A true example of everyone having something of value to give and receive.



"They were amazing!" ~ Gladys

Welcome Inn has been visited by so many people from McMaster University this year who have joined with us to help create a place of connection here in the North End! Garden and cleaning teams in the summer and fall did some hard work. At Christmas the MacServe staff purchased family movie night packages for community folks, which were a big hit! In the fall, a management team visited to help us look at systems as well as help out in the food bank. Even their marketing team stopped by and did a video to highlight the work of Welcome Inn that can be seen on our GivEffect Page here: <https://www.giveeffect.org/campaigns/254-i-3-welcome-inn>.

We <3 McMaster and are so grateful for their partnership!



"That's how it is at Welcome Inn. Unconditional love and respect."

~ Marion



We saved. We earned. We went on an adventure! The LEAD teens put some financial literacy skills into action by earning and saving money to go on an outing to a waterpark in Niagara Falls. After meeting at Welcome Inn in the wee hours one Saturday morning (OK, early for teen hours), they headed down the QEW for an adventure. Splashing, laughing and having a wonderful experience, the youth had a great time busting out of the winter blahs by pretending it was summer as they jumped in the pool and raced down the slides.

A Message from the Board

We asked board members to share what they love about Welcome Inn as part of our I <3 Welcome Inn campaign. Here's what they had to share:

"I <3 Welcome Inn because there is always a positive and joyful atmosphere in the building and in all the programs and events." -Eva

"I love Welcome Inn because of its wonderful people... children, adults, seniors, families... smiling faces and helping hands create a safe and welcoming community for everyone to share." - Sarah

"Welcome Inn has loved me " - Tim

"Because giving back and contributing to society makes for more equality and makes my life richer too. Love all that Welcome Inn does to enhance the lives of the North Enders." -Theresa P.

Board of Directors 2014

Bob Charko - Chair, Teresa Bendo - Treasurer & Vice-Chair, Gale Payne - Secretary, Art Heidebrecht - Past Chair, Tim Epp, Margaret Kneulman, Eva Jackson, Theresa Picone, Sarah Lawson, Leah Schwenger

Get to know our board members and read their bios at WelcomeInn.ca



New Horizons Thrift Store

Mon-Sat 10—5pm

Please drop off donations during store hours.

www.newhorizons.welcomeinn.ca

SPRING is finally coming! New Horizons is excited.

We are spring cleaning in the store....and that means lots of sales! We are on the look out for SPRING CLEANERS! We would love to help you find a home for your camping & gardening gear that you don't need this year. Spring clothing, shoes, boots and housewares are very welcome.

Our volunteer team would be happy to serve you.

How can I make a donation?

Donations can be made by returning the enclosed self-addressed envelope with a cheque to Welcome Inn, or online at

www.canadahelps.org - Thank You!!

Join the conversation! @WelcomeInnCC.ca



VISION

We envision a Hamilton where people from all walks of life work together to end poverty.

MISSION

Achieving our vision, we:

Offer programs to children, adults and seniors that support basic needs, enhance potential, and nurture spiritual life.

Empower people to develop skills & share their strengths.

Together, we build capacity in individuals and resilience in our community.

Thank You!

McMaster University

Hamilton Food Share

Picone's Fine Foods

Matta Matta Tattoo Studio

Hamilton

Mennonite Church



Some fun mid-winter beach party shenanigans! Our seniors had a great time enjoying the "summer" despite the cold and snow outside!

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