



INNights

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

Fall 2014

Back to School and the Fall Harvest



START UP DATES FOR PROGRAMS

LAF after School Program

Oct, 6th, 2014

Mon—Fri

3:00 - 5:00 pm

Seniors Diner Club

Sept 9th, 2014

Every Tuesday

12 pm to 2 pm

Join us for our

Fall BBQ!!

Friday Sept 26

5-7pm



\$2 pp
\$5 for family of 4

*name changed

The harvest is the time of year when the fruits of hard labour pay off in colourful and delicious fashion. Whether it be potatoes or corn or apples - all are the product of dedication and patience. Here at Welcome Inn we hope that our investment in helping the community come together and grow pays off in a similar way. Through the relentless efforts of our staff, volunteers and the support of businesses and community, we see beautiful growth and changes in people's lives. Hope and meaningful connection are cultivated.

At times it can get tough, with dwindling food supplies and high demand, but with some patience, dedication and support, we are able to make it through. Food Bank this summer was marked with the usual increase in demand as a result of kids being home from school. During these peak times, we are able to help out families only because of donations from supporters like you. With your continued support, we look forward to filling hungry tummies with healthy snacks as kids head off back to their classrooms this month.

"This food bank is different because of the dignity and respect with which we are treated here" ~ Food bank program participant

Inside this edition of INNights Newsletter, you can see stories of camp and summer outings by the seniors, as well as meet Adam*, our first Teen LEAD Volunteer of the year. See how Welcome Inn is changing lives in the North End of Hamilton.

Dear Friends,

It has been a whirlwind of a summer! The speedy days were filled with children's laughter at camp, ice cream picnic, BBQ's and many changes here at Welcome Inn Community Centre. We have said good-bye to old friends and welcomed new ones. The tearful good-byes of campers saying farewell to their beloved summer counselors was truly a memorable moment that showed just how much of a bond was formed over the 4 weeks of camp.

With fall on our doorstep, we begin to prepare for the back-to-school season and look forward to our new project – Kids Can Spend, Save, Share that will happen during the LAF program. Learning financial literacy as a child is so important and we are happy to be able to mentor these valuable skills.

Harvest season is upon us and as we begin to stock our food bank shelves with nutritious food, we are thankful for friends like you who continue to connect with Welcome Inn's community. Each month over 400 households find support through our food bank. Whether it is snacks for school lunches, healthy breakfast choices or food staples to see a person through a few days, Welcome Inn strives to provide a place of dignified connection and access to good food. Thanks for being a part of us!



Jen Kellner
Interim Executive Director



Ann's Story:

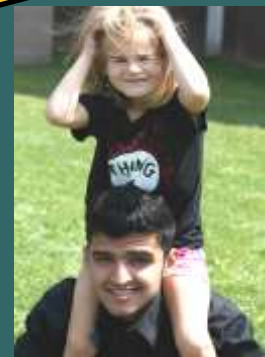
While the concept of camp revolves around group activity, it is also very much an individual experience that holds a different meaning for everyone. To Ann* and her family, camp meant a chance. A chance to change and a chance to burst open previously closed doors.

"The pool! I love being a fish that goes swim, swim, swim..." – Ann about her favourite camp activity

Ann was someone who found it difficult to connect with people outside of her family due to her unique way of perceiving and reacting to situations. However, after coming to camp on a daily basis, and seeing the diversity and welcoming faces of her counsellors and fellow campers, Ann discovered a way to connect and started coming out of her shell.

"You all have made Ann's time at camp a wonderful experience & I sincerely thank you all ~ Camper's family"

Initially, Ann was reluctant to participate in many of the activities that we had planned - in her own favourite words, "why do I have to?" Nevertheless, the dedicated involvement and motivation of her counsellor's provided her the comfort she needed to gradually open up and eventually become one of the most enthusiastic and talkative campers in her group.



Not only did she find her voice, she also found a little courage. While she loved the idea of swimming, she was terrified of venturing in to the deeper areas of the pool. It was only after seeing other campers having fun and splashing around that Ann decided it was time for her to face her fears and take on deeper waters. Soon after, she became the first one in the pool and the last one out, finding passion out of a weakness that she thought she had! It is for beautiful stories like Ann's, that we here at Welcome Inn strive to provide children opportunities for growth and accomplishment.

CAMP this year was an amazing experience! We had a fabulous crew of counsellors including Haider who displayed superb, outstanding leadership skills. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of all the counsellors, we were able to carry out various activities for the kids including weekly trips to places like Little



Ryan's Reptiles zoo, Ontario Science Centre, Bronte Creek Park and Hamilton Museum of Steam and Technology. Besides this, the financial literacy educational piece of the camp was a success. Each day the kids were rewarded with camp bucks. By the end of the day, each child had the option of either spending that camp money on freebies or save it for spending during the weekly auction of the items at the camp store. This way the kids learned about spending, saving and sharing of finances in a fun way. Positive progresses in spending habits were noticed in kids over the course of the camp.

"What does gravity look like?" – asked Ben* when he heard some counsellors talking about science

The kids built strong bonds with their fellow campers as well as the counsellors and did not want the camp to be over. On the last day of camp Janet* expressed this as "I'm going to miss you [the counsellors], I'm not going to forget you. I promise."

* name changed



New Horizons Thrift Store
520 James Street North
905-529-6891
Mon – Sat 10 am – 5pm

New Horizons is the place to be for all your Back-to-School needs: We have backpacks and binders, shoes, school supplies, sweaters, uniforms, sports equipment, lunch boxes and more! Interested in some treasure hunting this fall? Our volunteer team would be happy to serve you. We have amazing deals on a huge selection of unique items!!

Please drop off donations during store hours.

www.newhorizons.welcomeinn.ca

We work together for peace and justice.

We value collaboration and working in partnership together with one another and other organizations, community and faith groups toward a goal of alleviating poverty while remaining true to who we are

Teen LEAD Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations to Adam* on winning the first annual Teen LEAD Volunteer of the Year Award. The award is presented to a teen that has gone above and beyond in their volunteering efforts within the Teen LEAD Program at Welcome Inn. Adam is 16 years old and a grade 11 student .



He has been part of the Teen LEAD group over the past 2 years but this is not Adam's first connection with Welcome Inn. He attended the Learning and Fun After School Program for 5 years during his time at Bennetto Elementary School. Adam

has shone as a leader and positive role model amongst his peers. As Teen LEAD Coordinator Tom Wittreich puts it, *"Adam is the kind of kid that steps up whenever needed. He's the first to arrive and the last to leave when we do our volunteering jobs and never complains. He gets the value of giving back. That's a pretty amazing thing to see in such a young man."*

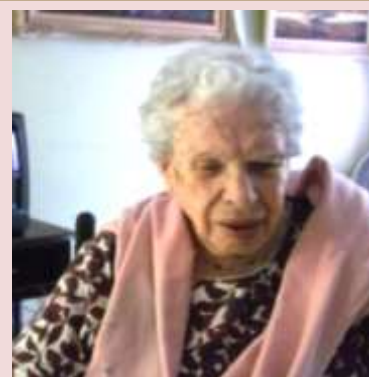
Adam is an avid skateboarder and in recognition of all his hard work and generosity was treated to a new professional grade skateboard and his absolute favourite food sushi - as his prize. Thank you to our anonymous donors who sponsored this award!

* name changed



SENIORS MAKING MEMORIES

The trip for the year was the Grand River Cruise which was on August 12th. Light breezes and a mix of clouds and sun provided the perfect weather for the seniors cruise. The lovely scenery, sweet music, great food and of course good company was enjoyed by all.



Happy 104th Birthday Edna!!

We wish you a day full of peace and love on your special day!

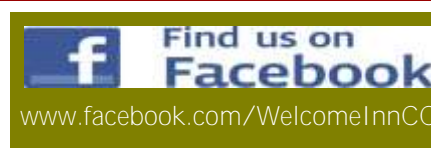


We promote a peaceful, just and fair society for all people. This includes access to basic needs, freedom from discrimination, a safe and clean environment, and a sustainable livelihood.



CRANKSGIVING 2014 Bicycle Food Drive Alleycat Race

Get set and ready to go for the upcoming Cranksgiving event!! Tune up your bikes and mark your calendars for October 11th. Come join the exciting combo of a bike ride, food drive and scavenger hunt to support Welcome Inn Food Bank!



A Message from the Board

I have been a member of the Board of Directors for a little over two years.. I am a retired school teacher and spent almost thirty years with the Hamilton School Board/Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board. During my last eleven years with the Board I had the privilege of being the Principal of Dr. J. Edgar Davey Elementary School, which is located in the Beasley neighbourhood. Even though I have not missed my job, I have missed my connection with the children and their families and often go back to the school to volunteer. Welcome Inn also helps fill that place in my heart. I am pleased to hear of all of the activities that are taking place at Welcome Inn this summer. I know from experience how important it is for children and adults to have a connection with their community, to be engaged and active and to feel valued. I feel that Welcome Inn works hard to make this happen and I am proud to be a small part of that.



Leah Schwenger

Thank you to Jennifer Kellner who has stepped in as our Interim Executive Director. Jen has kept us on track over the summer and things are progressing smoothly under her guidance. We are currently in the process of looking for our permanent E.D. We have received an overwhelming number of resumes from people interested in being a part of this wonderful organization. We hope to have this position filled over the next week or two so that Welcome Inn is prepared for the busy new year starting in September.

In spite of our crazy weather, I have enjoyed a great summer. I spent a week kayaking in the North Channel of Georgian Bay. The weather was perfect for my week away. When I am not kayaking I enjoy running, swimming, biking, playing croquet, reading and spending time with family and friends. It has been a good summer for all of these activities. I hope that you are also experiencing an enjoyable summer and have had the opportunity to do the things that make you happy.

Board of Directors 2014

Bob Charko - Chair, Leah Schwenger - Vice Chair, Gale Payne - Secretary, Tim Epp - Treasurer, Theresa Picone, Sarah Lawson

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

Donor Corner



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Many Individuals
who generously
support Welcome
Inn Community
Centre.

**Thank you all for your
generous support and
contribution to the mission
of Welcome Inn
Community Centre**

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](https://twitter.com/WelcomeInnCC.ca)

40 Wood Street East
Hamilton, On L8L 1E4
905-525-5824

info@welcomeinn.ca
www.welcomeinn.ca