



INN sights

WELCOME INN COMMUNITY CENTRE

EDITION 5, SPRING 2009

Get **INN**volved

At Welcome Inn we believe everyone has something to give as well as to receive. Here are some ways you can get INNvolved:

- Host a food drive for the Emergency Food Pantry
- Donate products or gift certificates for the Penny Sale
- Volunteer for one of our programs
- Hold a furniture or clothing drive for New Horizons Thrift Store

Please call Kari Astles: 905-525-5824 or email: admin@welcomeinn.ca for more information. We look forward to meeting you!

Poverty Stats

did you know?

- ▲ Over **60 small businesses** have started/expanded since bizPLAN started in January 2007.
- ▲ Since January 2007, PLAN program volunteers have contributed over **860 hours** of their time to help people learn to manage their money and/or operate a microbusiness
- ▲ Almost **90%** of all PLAN program participants live with low incomes, and approximately half of these live below the poverty line (including many who are employed full-time)

Stay **INN**touch



www.welcomeinn.ca



admin@welcomeinn.ca



905.525.5824



40 Wood St. East
Hamilton ON L8L 3Y3

CHEERS to our Volunteers

April 19-25 is National Volunteer Week, a time the entire country celebrates the contributions of the many volunteers who share their time, talents and resources.

Here at Welcome Inn we want to take the time to say a huge **THANK YOU** to our **200+ volunteers** who contributed **20000 hours** during 2008. These men and women cook lunch for seniors, sort and pack food donations in the Food Pantry, organize and sell clothing and household items at New Horizons Thrift Store, coach entrepreneurs in the PLAN program, mentor students in the LAF program and assist with activities that make Welcome Inn a community.

Here's what some of our volunteers and program participants have to say about their experiences at Welcome Inn:

I really enjoy helping my buddy with his homework and seeing the difference my help made in his understanding ~ LAF Mentor

I appreciate the volunteers' generosity - providing their time, knowledge and experience. ~ PLAN participant

I enjoy the people I work with and the customers. I love watching people get a bargain and seeing their enjoyment. ~ New Horizons Volunteer

The best thing about LAF is having a Mentor to help me with my homework. ~ Student

An environment that is supportive and inspiring lead by an intelligent, experienced and generous team of hard working and caring individuals is what learning is all about. ~ PLAN participant



Great staff. Great environment to work in. Very rewarding experience. I wake up on Tuesdays wanting to come in to volunteer. ~ Seniors Kitchen Volunteer

I volunteer so that I can see the world through a kid's eyes, to help them learn and to have FUN! ~ LAF Mentor



INNspiration

from the executive director

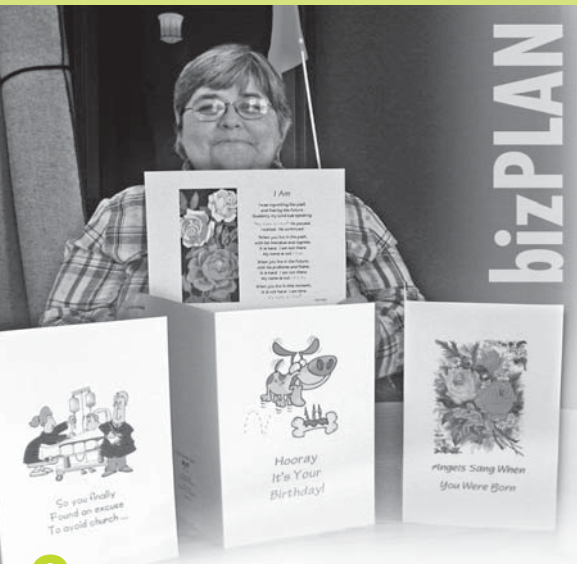
It feels like we are being hit from all sides! The news tells of a dire state of the economy. Donations of money, material goods, food and used goods are all down. Jobs are being lost at a rapid rate in Hamilton and more and more people are turning to Welcome Inn for help. We are cutting programs, scaling back on staff, lowering expenses where we can to make the budget, yet this is the time when these things are needed most. We are making choices that will enable us to serve as many people as possible as effectively and creatively as we can given the economic reality. I urge you to remember Welcome Inn in creative ways as you plan your financial giving, clean out your closet, or go about your daily activities throughout this year. Your care will make a difference in Hamilton today!



Donna Jean Forster

exdir@welcomeinn.ca

www.welcomeinn.ca



Ivy's Custom Cards: more than words

Ivy Morton makes greeting cards—including custom designs -- for religious and secular occasions. It is a privilege to walk along with Ivy as she undertakes a journey that evidences her courage, her resilience, her faith, and her creativity. Below is a glimpse into Ivy's journey so far...

Q What has been the scariest thing about starting your own business?

A Wondering if what I do is good enough to sell and to be accepted by others, and then getting out and promoting myself and my product.

Q What advice would you give to someone who wants to start their own business?

A Perspective is important – you have to know what you want out of it. Becoming financially independent is important to me, but there are other things that are more important: enjoying my work, developing my skills and learning new things, being proud of my products, and bringing pleasure to others.

Dream big, but start small. Don't measure success in strictly monetary terms. Don't think in black & white. Be flexible so you can take advantage of opportunities that arise. Celebrate successes, and look at mistakes as learning opportunities. Develop a network of people who will encourage you, support you, and be honest with you. You have to be willing to seek help from others. 🌟

To purchase cards contact Ivy: 905-524-5070 or ivy_morton@hotmail.com

Help Welcome Inn Win!

Give Welcome Inn Community Centre a chance to receive some much needed TLC with a dream spring clean-up valued at approximately \$1,000! Vote for Welcome Inn Community Centre and help us start off on a fresh and clean footing this spring.

Simply Clean Communities will award a great spring cleaning experience to one of six participating community centres in Ontario. From top to bottom, one lucky community centre from each region will win a spring cleaning experience using brands you know and trust – Mr. Clean, Swiffer, Febreze, Cascade and Dawn!

Valued at approximately \$1,000 CDN, the community centre with the most votes could win the following:

🧹 A spring cleaning experience by a team of professional cleaners using household cleaning products from the brands you trust – total of four hours.

🧹 Three-month supply of brand name cleaning products from Procter & Gamble

Visit www.simplycleancommunities.ca
to vote for Welcome Inn Community Centre today!

1st Anniversary for New Horizons Thrift Store!

It's hard to believe that this time last year we were finishing renovations and preparing for our grand-opening. One year later we are getting ready to celebrate our achievements, with thanks to the support of so many fantastic customers and donors!

Over 65 people from various locations in Hamilton staff the store as volunteers. Volunteers sort all the donations, operate the cash, stock shelves and price items all six days the store is open. Regardless of ability, background, or age, volunteers give back to the community and to Welcome Inn through their energy, innovation and commitment.

With help from the Trillium Foundation, we have been able to purchase a delivery vehicle for picking-up large donations or delivering large items people have purchased. We charge a small fee to cover the gas costs for pick-ups and deliveries. We have some amazing pieces of furniture for sale.

The store looks wonderful, the volunteers are friendly and resourceful, and there are great bargains to be had on new and used items. New Horizons Thrift Store is the perfect recession busting strategy!

Donations of quality used goods are always needed. Our current most needed items are:

- Men's clothing
- Furniture and household goods
- Spring/Summer clothing

Here's to another year of great deals, happy volunteers, and a healthier environment!

We Need Board Members

Volunteer as a member of the Board of Directors; a working board with bi-monthly board and committee meetings. Be a part of transforming community resilience through education and relationship.

Please contact Donna Jean Forster
at exdir@welcomeinn.ca
if you are interested.

Board of Directors

Art Heidebrecht, *Chair*
Linda Pearce, *Vice-Chair*
Wendy Collins, *Secretary*
Nick Pankratz, *Treasurer*
Eva Jackson
Bob Charko



Garage Sale Donations

Did you make the New Years resolution to de-clutter?
Do you have items that are garage sale worthy but no time to do a garage sale?

Welcome Inn is holding the 2nd Annual Garage and Penny Sale on Saturday, June 13th and we are looking for donations of quality used items to sell. You can arrange to drop off your donations between June 1st and 12th at Welcome Inn.

Bulk pick-up of donations may be possible, call for information.

Donations of new products and gift certificates are also being accepted for the Penny Sale.