



# INNights

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

Christmas 2015



## Upcoming Events

Christmas Tree  
Decoration  
November 26 -10am

Christmas Open  
House Dec 11  
5-8pm

All are welcome to enjoy  
some holiday cheer with  
food, music, door prizes &  
family photo!

Christmas Brunch  
Dec 25 9:00am  
A Christmas morning  
tradition continues. Let  
us know if you are  
joining us!

## Merry Christmas!

*Dear Friends,*

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year. The smell of delicious cookies, the lights, the carols. The time spent with family and friends connecting over the joy of a good meal together. At Welcome Inn Community Centre, we are grateful for the many ways we are connected to each other during this season and throughout the year. In sharing our stories, building new friendships, supporting each other in good and hard times, and loving unconditionally we celebrate together the true meaning of Christmas.

The Christmas season is quickly approaching and as we anticipate good times with family and friends, I would encourage you to remember the many people among us who experience a sense of isolation and longing. For some, Christmas is not a time of peace on earth, but can be a time of deep loneliness as the loss of loved ones is deeply felt. Each year, we host special events to bring people together to share good food, stories and laughter as well as providing extra support to people for the season.

As you reflect on the many gifts in your life and those you share with others this Christmas season, please consider a financial gift to Welcome Inn Community Centre. Know that it will provide essential support for kids, families, adults and seniors who live in poverty in our community. This year, consider giving a reciprocal gift that will connect kids and youth to caring mentors, provide opportunities for seniors to build friendships over a home cooked meal, provide job placements for people looking to get back into the workforce, supply food to individuals and families to help make ends meet, and much more.

Thank you for your continuing generosity - the gifts of time and treasure that you give. Join with us in helping to build capacity in people and resilience in our community. Thank you for being part of our extended family here at Welcome Inn Community Centre and I wish all the blessings of the season upon you and your family.

With Peace and Joy,

*Jen Kellner*

Executive Director



# A Special Take Your Kid to Work Day!



Seatoh is a former Learning and Fun (LAF) After School Program participant who now attends Sir John A. Macdonald Secondary School. This year on take your kid to work day, Gladys our children's program coordinator became his 'adopted parent' as he shadowed her throughout the day.

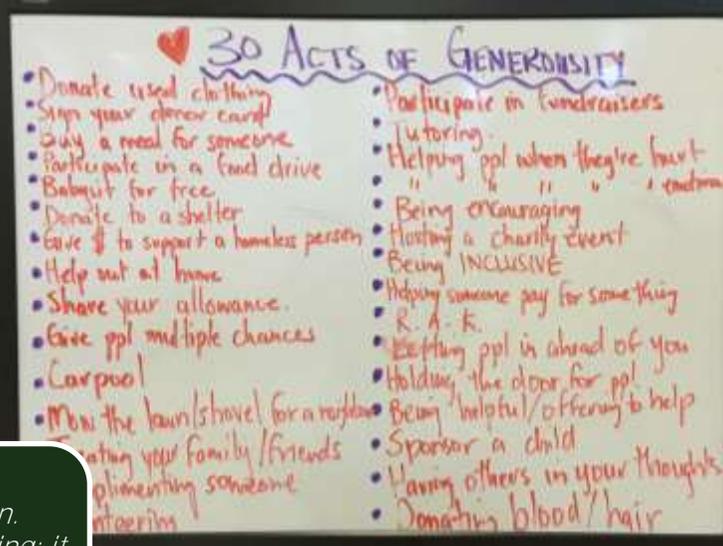
*"I first connected at Learning and Fun LAF when my friend Malcolm brought me here in Grade 6. I was lucky because there was one more spot left. I stayed so I could get help with my homework and then I was here until I graduated from Grade 8 last year. While at LAF, I learned how to make friends but most of all I learned a lot about financial literacy. I learned to manage money and definitely how to save. On Take Our Kids to Work Day, I chose to shadow Gladys, because I wanted to learn how she runs the LAF Program for the day and I wanted to work in the community. I like working with kids, especially the little ones. It's important to contribute to community —it makes you feel a part of something. People know you – people know me here at LAF.*

*My favourite subject in school is Math! It's so confusing sometimes but when you figure something out it feels awesome. For fun, I love to play basketball. I'm going to try out for the midget team at my school. When I grow up, I want to be a design engineer."*

**Q: What does Welcome Inn Community Centre mean to you?**

**A: Without it there would be no help for kids like me after school!**

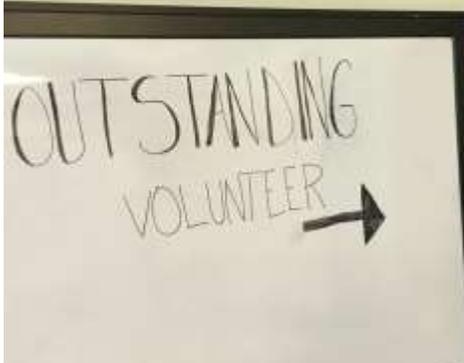
LAF program kids brainstormed these 30 Acts of Generosity as part of a Financial Literacy activity. October's focus for financial literacy was on sharing. This activity was meant for kids to think about the different ways we share with those around us.



Annie & Lynn enjoying the Halloween Party for Seniors!!



*"It has been a pleasure volunteering at Welcome Inn. Life is better with volunteering; it brings you more fulfillment and peace. It keeps you busy doing something great"-- Rob*



Snow, rain, or shine - nothing stopped Rob from walking half an hour to volunteer at Welcome Inn Community Centre's food bank. After four years, he has decided to take a break for a while. During his volunteering at Welcome Inn, Rob enjoyed the positive experiences of meeting people with different backgrounds and appreciated the diversity of the community. He says "people in general are good in nature." Although at times tiring, Rob always looked forward to coming here. His joyful singing as he packed boxes will be missed! THANK YOU, ROB!

We love you and wish you all the best!



## We all have something of value to share and receive

All of our lives, we are all in need and we all have something to give. We call forth the good in all people and strive to be a place where everyone can give and receive

### Beautiful Strength of Spirit

Linda has been a valued volunteer at New Horizons Thrift Store since September 2008. Linda has made people feel welcome, worked the cash register and offered fashion advice



to customers every week since that time. Ruth Kaulback, New Horizons Manager, often jokes that she can tell when Linda is volunteering because our clothing sales dramatically increase, as a direct result of Linda's flair for fashion.

One year ago Linda received a serious health diagnosis, and needed to take time away from volunteering at the store. Linda is a retired teacher and received a lot of support from family and friends as she navigated the health system and walked this daunting path. As Linda reflects on this time, she says she was struck by how much the people at New Horizons had an impact upon her. "During my illness, it became very real to me how much I missed being at the store. I realized how much the customers meant to me.

*I realized, I needed them in my life.*

We are thrilled to say that Linda has come through this journey amazingly well. Her courage, determination and beautiful spirit have been an inspiration to all of us. We are delighted that Linda is once again volunteering at New Horizons. As a community, the customers, volunteers and staff are thrilled that she is back with us again.

Linda's experience highlights how the warm, reciprocal community at Welcome Inn & New Horizons gets inside of us, sometimes without us even noticing, and makes our lives a whole lot better.



### Gift Catalogue 2015

Give the gift of connection, community and joy this season with gifts that support the work of Welcome Inn Community Centre. Artisan, fair-trade gifts and program donations are a great way to celebrate the season.

**Reciprocal gifts**  
Help those in your life receive the gift of giving to others this Christmas.

Visit [welcomeinn.ca](http://welcomeinn.ca) to check out our 2015 Christmas Gift Catalogue!



A man stopped by one day to fix our leaky roof. Knowing we were short on funds, he convinced a couple of friends in the roofing business to donate shingles and lend a hand. He said that they felt good about what they were doing because a couple of years ago they had to use the food bank when times were tough. Now he understands that as a part of the community—you give what you can and you take what you need. We are all in this together. Thanks for patching us up when we needed it so badly. Thanks for reminding us about reciprocity this Christmas season.

Welcome Inn Community Centre hosted Fall BBO and Corn Roast for the community. It was an amazing evening with perfect weather, perfect company of friends and family enjoying music, eating hot dogs, sweet corn, roasting marshmallows, playing games and building connections!!



# A Message from the Board



My name is Rene Farrow. I am new to the Board of Welcome Inn as of September and I am really looking forward to getting more involved! I am a life long Hamiltonian. I was born, raised, educated, worked and live in this great city. I look forward for the opportunity to give back and serve this community.

My professional background is in Information Technology in the area of Operations. Areas of focus are: Business development, Communications, Finance and Relationship management. I worked for 15 years at Hamilton Health Sciences before moving my career to Toronto.

On a personal level, family is very important to me. I have two grown daughters who are both actively involved in the community. My youngest daughter works at the North End Community Health Center and has introduced me to this wonderful area and its community members. I like to travel and get to experience and learn about different cultures and traditions.

Diversity is the art of thinking differently together!

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Bob Charko - Chair, Leah Schwenger -Vice-Chair, Gale Payne - Secretary, Tim Epp- Tresurer, Sarah Lawson, Keston Robert, Steve Dykstra, Rene Farrow**

## New Horizons Thrift Store

Mon-Sat 10—5pm :: 905-529-6891

520 James St. N

**Experience the warmth of the New Horizons community. Meet friends. Enjoy the best prices in town. Lots of Christmas Decorating and gift items. We have everything you need to help you keep warm this winter! Blankets, coats, winter accessories, shoes & boots, house wares, toys. Great selection!!**

**Join us as we count down the 12 days of Christmas. Starting Dec 10<sup>th</sup>, each day will have a different pop up sale.**

**Please drop off donations during store hours.**

[www.newhorizons.welcomeinn.ca](http://www.newhorizons.welcomeinn.ca)



*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](http://www.canadahelps.org) - Thank You!!

Find us on twitter at @WelcomeInnCC or

Facebook at [facebook.com/WelcomeInnCC](https://www.facebook.com/WelcomeInnCC)



## THANK YOU

- |                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| B and T Steel          | Hamilton Community           |
| McMaster University    | Foundation                   |
| Picone's Fine Foods    | Curtis' Food Drive           |
| Hamilton Mennonite     | United Way                   |
| Church                 | World Vision                 |
| Mazon                  | Mayberry Family Fund         |
| Cranksiving Food Drive |                              |
| Adventure Attic        | <i>Thank you to the many</i> |
| David Miller Shoes     | <i>Individuals who</i>       |
| Children's Fund        | <i>generously support</i>    |
| Robert Musselman       | <i>Welcome Inn!</i>          |



HALLOWEEN FUN AT LAF!!

**40 Wood Street East, Hamilton,**

**ON, L8L 3Y3**

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