



INNsights

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

SUMMER 2016

Welcome Summer!



Welcome Inn Summer Day Camp is committed to providing children and families in the North End with fun, safe, inclusive and accessible childcare. Our staff of amazing volunteers focuses on the values of relationship, self-esteem, respect, and cooperation through structured activity, engaging play, and memorable experiences. All spots are offered at a subsidized rate. You can join with us in making this summer a great one for kids in our neighbourhood. Help send a kid to camp this summer!

Summer camp provides kids with opportunities of a life time! The experiences of learning, fun, laughter, friendships and joy create lasting **memories....memories that every kid should experience. Summer, fun, adventure ... what it truly means to be a kid at camp.**

This summer Welcome Inn Day Campers will experience a camp that is infused with the Best of **Children's Literature! We will** explore some classic and modern fairy tales, Roald Dahl, Harry Potter and the always fun Dr. Seuss! Each week campers will enjoy games, activities and crafts relating to the books of the week. Imagine the Green Eggs & Ham! Quidditch anyone?



Vision

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

Mission

To achieve our vision, we:

1. Offer programs to children, adults and seniors that support basic needs, enhance potential, and nurture spiritual life.
2. Empower people to develop skills & share their strengths.

"I loved the games we played because they were challenging and fun. I also liked my group because they were so nice to me. And I also liked how I got to see my friends" – Jess* on what she likes best about summer camp.

Financial Success at LAF

Aaron is a grade 7 student in our after school program. He is a funny, well-mannered, and quirky kid that loves video games, music, and riding his bike around the neighbourhood. Despite Aaron's usual sunny disposition he has also faced many challenges in his young life. He comes to LAF to receive extra support with his homework and reading fluency issues. Aaron and his mentors work hard every day to decipher sounds and letter shapes and over time he has shown great improvement. Aaron also attends LAF for the social aspect. He



struggles to make friends at school and has often been the target of bullying. Here at LAF he's found a place he feels safe and belongs, often playing football or grounders at the park with his peers.

In December Aaron chose to use his Financial Literacy saved allowance to help his mom make sure his new baby brother Josh had all the things he needs. He promised his mom at least \$10 of his

savings for essentials like diapers and also promised to buy his little brother a Christmas present. Aaron also decided that he wanted to donate \$10 of his matched savings back to help children through Operation Smile. When asked what else he planned to do with his savings he stated that he might get himself something too, probably a video game.



Aaron is a wonderful example of the decision making and personal growth that we're hoping to see in our youth through this

financial literacy programming. He makes independent and conscientious choices about his finances while also taking the needs of others into consideration. He has demonstrated growth in financial knowledge but also in his personal development.

WELCOME INN TURNS 50!!



Come and celebrate our 50th Anniversary Homecoming!

Welcome Inn began as an outreach of Hamilton Mennonite Church in 1966 providing friendship to people isolated by poverty in Hamilton's North End. This year we celebrate 50 years of community in the North End! We are planning celebrations the weekend of September 23-25th. Mark your calendars!! Friday evening we will be hosting a fundraising dinner at Sarcoa (right here in the North End!) Saturday will be our Community BBQ here at Welcome Inn and Sunday will be our community worship also here at Welcome Inn. If you would like to be involved in the planning of these events, please email 50years@welcomeinn.ca to find out how you can be involved.



We LOVE our volunteers!



On Saturday April 16th we gathered our volunteers for our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch! It was a great morning filled with laughs, smiles and learning about each other. Volunteers at Welcome Inn provide such an amazing support to the many programs and services that we offer. Volunteers give over 8,900 hours of their time towards helping others in our community! It was so nice to have the opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication.





Dear Friends,

For the past 50 years, the Welcome Inn has been part of the fabric of the North End in Hamilton. These past few have seen some great changes! The ongoing waterfront clean up, the building of the GO station to allow commuting to Toronto with ease, and the arrival of new neighbours are some of the differences that we've experienced. With all of these changes, it is difficult for seniors with low income to be able to afford to remain in their own neighbourhood. We know how important it is to age in place in a community that you are connected to. This is why Welcome Inn is exploring how we transition our space to provide affordable housing for seniors with a low income, while continuing our existing community programs. These are exciting days for Welcome Inn as we respond to the call to build apartments for seniors. Through partnerships with our community, we are striving to build hope and homes. 50 years has seen some great changes, and as we respond, we will need your support. Join with us in this journey to provide welcoming, affordable apartments for low-income seniors and create 'Dwelling at the Inn.' Jen Kellner

Upcoming Events

June 24— Ice Cream Social 6pm-8pm

July 1—Fireworks Food Drive at Bayfront Park Hamilton

July 4— First Day of Camp!

August 9—Senior's Grand River Cruise

September 23,24,25th HOMECOMING!

For tickets and info email: 50years@welcomeinn.ca

Love and Dedication- Hugo and Doreen

For 18 years, Doreen and Hugo Neufeld lived in the North End and called Welcome Inn home. Hugo and Doreen have seen the evolution of Welcome Inn; they recall the store front drop-in centre of 428 James Street North. Who could forget the monthly family outings, including the annual night-time smelt fishing in Burlington Bay, followed by a midnight fish-fry! Hugo and Doreen recall the move from the store front to the 3-storey house at 132 Wood Street where there were many renovations and improvements made to the space. They recall, "One Sunday we had 120 gather for worship service and shuddered at the thought of what the fire marshal would say. After 10 years, we needed to find a larger facility." When the former Eastwood Baptist Church became available on a one-year rental arrangement with option to buy, there was such enthusiasm. Doreen and Hugo remember, "There was so much that went into the many fundraising projects, including the first ever walk-a-thon around the North End. How proud the Welcome Inn Community was to host many people, including Mayor Bob Morrow, at the dedication service on October 2, 1983." Of course credit must go to the crews of Mennonite Voluntary Service Workers (VSers) from all across North America that were invaluable in building relationships and leading programming at Welcome Inn. While many things have changed in the community, Hugo and Doreen believe that there are still common themes that emerge 1. A strong belief that everyone has enormous potential. 2. All of us are designed to give and receive, and are blest when we can do both. 3. Spiritual nature is encouraged. 4. Our society functions in a healthy way when

all have access to the bountiful resources in our country. 5. "The rich and the poor meet together, the Lord is the maker of them all." Since leaving Welcome Inn in 1989, Hugo and Doreen have spent 8 years as co-mission minsters with Mennonite Church Eastern Canada and 6 years as co-pastors of Trinity Mennonite Church in Calgary, Alberta. Now in their retirement they have done several interim pastorates, written 4 books and continue to volunteer. They host many people in their home, love to meet new people and enjoy hiking, bike riding, canoeing, reading books, playing games. They also love to interact with their 4 sons, who grew up in the North End, and their families including 8 grandchildren! "Welcome Inn continues to vibrate in our hearts. The 18 years we lived in the neighbourhood are precious to us. Thank you to those who have given, and those who continue to give, energy to Welcome Inn. It is a gift to us all." Hugo & Doreen hope to see you at the upcoming 50th fall celebration.



We practice kindness and respect for everyone.

We recognize that we do not all hold the same values or perspectives. Out of respect for one another we offer service and care to each other without judgement.

A Message from the Board



For fifty years, Welcome Inn Community Centre has been a source of connection for our community. This year has been no exception. We have seen how good food, healthy community and empowerment opportunities have merged together to help build a resilient community that supports one another. With the changing and gentrifying neighbourhood, Welcome Inn is hearing the need for affordable housing for seniors. We are responding to this need through listening, building partnerships, and remaining committed to ensuring that all in our community have a place to find and give needed supports. This year has seen positive growth, renewed purpose and excitement for the Board as a result of these initiatives. With generous support, we have been able to see increased financial health as well. New projects such as our SNACK + food literacy project help to create empowered interactions as people access food supports. This past year we have seen transition with staff restructuring – internal roles changing and the addition of new faces at our Thrift Store, food access, administrative support and fundraising. There has been an overall increase in the number of volunteers, volunteer hours and people connecting through Welcome Inn Community Centre. We are grateful to those who help make this a safe space for all. We will continue our active role in the community and look forward to the next 50 years!

Board of Directors 2016

Leah Schwenger –Chair, Bob Charko - Past Chair, Gale Payne, Sarah Lawson, - Treasurer, Keston Roberts, Rene Farrow, Louanne Shakeshaft, Sarah McDonald—Secretary

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

Thank You!

Hamilton Spectator
Summer Camp Fund

CHML Children's Fund

United Way of Hamilton
Burlington

Ministry of Health in Ontario

Hamilton Food Share

Hamilton Mennonite Church

Bethany Mennonite Church

MaJohn Plastics

Canada Summer Jobs Grant

Harry Foster Foundation



New Horizons Thrift Store
Mon-Sat 10—5pm

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

www.newhorizons.welcomeinn.ca

Come and enjoy SUMMER at New Horizons.

We are all about celebrating the new season. Bright coloured clothing, spring jackets, rain boots, camping gear, gardening supplies, fun toys for the backyard.....and much, much more.

We welcome all donations to be dropped off at the store during store hours.

Interested in joining our volunteer team?

Call Suzanne @ 905-529-6891 to get the conversation started.

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



Rain or Shine Mac Serve

Big Thank you to the MacServe teams!

On a rainy day in May the MacServe team was at New Horizons for an awesome barbeque and book sale!



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