

## Welcome Inn Community Centre



Fostering Community RESILIENCE Through EDUCATION and RELATIONSHIP

### Fall 2012

#### Vision Statement:

In partnership with others we will dedicate ourselves to combat the poverty of exclusion and loneliness. We will foster healing and justice, trusting in the mystery of faith.

### Upcoming Events

#### Open Streets

Sept 23 ~ James St North is closed off to cars and becomes pedestrian-only for the day!

#### BizPLAN

10 wks starting Sept 24 ~ BizPLAN is a free workshop series that guides people in starting or expanding a small business. Gain business planning and financial skills as well as build on your network.

#### Just Desserts

Oct 13, 7-9pm ~ Join us for a fun morning of baking, and then a tasting party to follow! Try desserts from local restaurants and caterers, sample gourmet treats and seasonal favourites.

### Thank you Mennonite Disaster Service

It has been an incredible summer at Welcome Inn. Throughout the month of July, we had the special honour of hosting youth groups through Mennonite Disaster Service. It was a summer of transformation as Welcome Inn received a physical facelift and folks from Welcome Inn and visiting youth groups learned and grew through meeting one another. We are particularly grateful that the visiting youth joined in our summer camp program, building relationships with local youth and together nurturing the children who attended camp. They also did incredible work in the community at local homes and Hamilton City Housing. The pictures within share a small sampling of the changes — large and small, internal and external — that occurred.

I want to extend a special thank you to several people from Mennonite Disaster Service without whom this project would not be possible. Glenn and Esther Buck worked diligently and thoughtfully preparing in the months leading up to the project, ensuring that it would be a wonderful experience for everyone involved. Orlan Martin served as project leader and used his expertise as a builder to lead the youth to complete all of the work projects with finesse and a positive outlook. Marshall Ragland offered leadership and a ready smile, assisting Orlan and leading the youth by example. Evelyn Peters-Rojas coordinated from Winnipeg and spent a couple of days working along side the youth while visiting the project, as did Nick Hamm, MDS Canada Board Chair. And last but not least, Martin Durksen worked tirelessly before, during, and after the project lending his skills and expertise and connecting other contractors who generously offered their time and services. Special thanks go to Floyd Waasenaar, Erwin Wall of Trenchline & Roads, Hermans Building Supplies, Niagara Pre-hung Doors, Master Paints, Henry Weber, and David Wiens of Weins Farms for their generous donations of time, tools, supplies and services. And finally, thanks to all of the youth and their leaders for their enthusiasm, openness to the experience and people here, and for sharing their faith in this unique way. Thank you everyone from MDS for their incredible generosity – it has truly been a blessing for us at Welcome Inn!



Carly Gaylor  
Executive Director



From left to right:  
Roseanne, Edna, Orlan,  
Theresa (Hamilton City  
Housing), Carly, Glenn,  
Martin, Esther, Marshall  
and Nick

# Memories from Camp

# MDS 2012



*Will the real moose please stand up?*

The Welcome Inn camp counsellors and the MDS Youth got on wonderfully—whether urban or rural, home-schooled or public, Canadian or American it was all about the kids and having fun.

**"I would just like to thank you and all your staff for the great experience had by my daughters at your summer camps; they are always excited and grateful for attending. Gladys and the volunteers exceeded our expectations as camp counsellors." ~ Joanne**



High school student Desiree Marsh has volunteered at WICC Summer Camp in 2011 and 2012, she appreciates seeing the campers from last year grow and become leaders themselves. Desiree plans to come back next year not only for the kids but to win that PIE eating contest, she was so close. ☺

*"Seeing that they appreciate me and enjoy being around me make it all worth it."*



*Playing tag at the Bennetto Playground*

"My children attended the camp and I loved to see the interaction between child and counsellor – they really got in and got dirty with the kids!"

***I loved the BBQ each week, everyone was so nice!***  
~ Nikki, volunteer



*Welcome Inn Camp at Bronte Creek*

Thanks to the many donors we were able to sponsor extra children and also visit Bronte Creek Conservation Area, the Museum of Steam and Technology, Chatters Playground, and the Children's Museum at Gage Park this year!



South wall before



Storage cubes



Foundation prep



Moving the cubes



In progress



Finished!



The youth worked hard inside and out giving our entranceway, Sanctuary and storage units a fresh coat of paint. They patiently worked around visitors to the Inn, volunteers and summer camp kids!



# Scrapbook



**Mennonite  
Disaster  
Service**

## Sojourners in a Foreign Land



Members of the Warwick River Mennonite Church Youth Group, Newport News, Virginia

**AS** a sponsor serving with the youth group of Warwick River Mennonite Church from Newport News, Virginia, we were privileged to serve for a week this past summer at the Welcome Inn. We spent most of the week focusing on building the addition that would house the refrigerator and helping with the day camp. Our youth were blessed by the diversity of opportunities to serve. They all spent time working on the building project and serving as camp counselors, but were also allowed to focus in the area of service that best reflected their strengths. The youth also enjoyed the opportunity to talk with youth counselors and to get to know some of the children through the day camp and their parents through evening socials. Our youth were impressed with the diversity of ministries taking place at the Welcome Inn and were very glad to have been a part of such a vital ministry. ~ John Dey



*It wasn't all work. Some of our Welcome Inn community members had an opportunity to share their faith journeys with our MDS visitors: John, Mona, Bill, and Marg each shared a dinner with the groups and got to know them a little better. The evenings were often spent sightseeing in and around Hamilton, venturing as far as Niagara Falls or Toronto some nights. We've enjoyed seeing photos of some of their outings!*



Orlan (below) and Marshall (above) spent the whole month with us, connecting with staff, volunteers, and neighbours and keeping the projects on track.



MDS brought with them staff to prepare the meals, it was a delight for those of us in the building to smell dinner simmering in the afternoons! Their presence also gave our community and camp kids the opportunity to learn about another culture. When asked, Maggie laughed and thoughtfully explained their cape dresses and prayer coverings. Thanks to Maggie and Margaretha (wks 1, 2), Roseanne (wks 3,4), Kevin (wk 3) and Cathy (wk 4)!

Cooks Maggie and Margaretha with Agatha, Nancy, and Margaret



Each week on Thursday afternoon MDS hosted a barbeque for the Welcome Inn community. This was a great opportunity for the staff, youth and leaders to get to know the families in the neighbourhood over a hot dog and lemonade.

## A Message from the Board

Hello Everyone:

I am the new chair of Welcome Inn for 2012. I have been on the Board for the past four years in other roles. I am a lawyer who has been practicing law in downtown Hamilton for over thirty years, through which I have knowledge and experience in dealing with the needs of our community. I also have a family of three grown children, a grandson and a spouse of 32 years. Family is important to me and much of my spare time is spent with them. An enjoyable activity of mine is to run outside to keep me physically and mentally fit.

I believe in our Hamilton community and that everyone can play a role in making the City better. Our North End community is a special area. It has a lot of potential. Welcome Inn treats people as each having a contribution to make whether providing or receiving services. It is this practice, while treating everyone with respect and dignity, that makes Welcome Inn so unique.

The Board of Directors is made up of people with different talents that help shape the general direction of our Welcome Inn team in providing services and programming needed by the community. I am pleased to have a part to play at Welcome Inn. Together with the dedicated staff and volunteers the Board is looking forward to leading Welcome Inn to future growth in its programmes and activities.

Bob Charko



Bob Charko, Chair

## Donor Corner



United Way  
Burlington &  
Greater Hamilton

The LAF (Learning & Fun) After School Program is sponsored in many ways: snack donations, private and corporate donations, and grants. For several years the United Way of Burlington & Greater Hamilton has been the primary funder of the program.

One of the wonderful things about United Way's support is that it is long term funding. We know that we can offer the same program to new children struggling with math and literacy, and provide a learning and growth opportunity for the mentoring youth.

The United Way raises money to fund programs that support our community's most vulnerable – seniors, individuals, families and children in-need – many of whom live below the poverty line.

Donations to United Way directly support 131 programs and services right here in Hamilton including our LAF Program.

When donating to the United Way you can specify which of these programs you would like to support.

You can also support the United Way by attending, or volunteering on Sept 22 at the CityQuest Challenge, one of the fundraising events for at-risk-youth programming happening in this fall.

*Thank You, United Way!*

### Board of Directors 2012

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 and Leah Schwenger.

### *“We came for the food, but stayed for the community!”*

Kate Sharrow's family first came to the Welcome Inn Church when she was a young child in the 70's, partly because her family was looking for a church to attend but mostly because there was busing offered from her east end home. One of their favourite parts of the week was the Sunday lunch following church: all of the families gathered on the side lawn for a potluck lunch and games for the kids. It was at these lunches that Kate and her family got to know the Welcome Inn community. Kate remembers coming to Welcome Inn and not knowing anyone, but soon felt part a family.



*Kate told this story on a visit while touring the recent improvements to the Sanctuary. She is currently Art Director at Town Media and a supporter of our Food Pantry.*

### *How can I make a donation?*

Donations can be made by returning the enclosed self-addressed envelope with a cheque to the address below, or online at [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org)

40 Wood Street East  
Hamilton, On L8L 1E4  
905-525-5824  
[info@welcomeinn.ca](mailto:info@welcomeinn.ca)