



Fostering Community RESILIENCE Through EDUCATION and RELATIONSHIP

March 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.

get INNvolved

At Welcome Inn we believe everyone has something to give as well as to receive.

Supplies are always needed. Would you consider organizing a drive for:

Food and/or toiletries for our Emergency Food Pantry

Clothing for New Horizons Thrift Store

Children's books for our library

Cleaning Supplies (half used bottles are great!)

OR

Organize a fundraiser (and fun!-raiser) to support our

Will you be a 'Key' to the INN?

Greetings Welcome Inn Friends and Supporters,

Our fiscal year ends at the end of March and we are busy planning for 2012-2013. It is an exciting time at Welcome Inn: we have launched our Kids' Financial Literacy and Matched Savings Program as well as our Tapestry spiritual gatherings, we had a wonderful group of bizPLAN entrepreneurs graduate in December, and we are now offering more ongoing training and development for our many dedicated volunteers. In February, Board, Staff, and Community members gathered for energizing discussions about our vision for Welcome Inn going forward (see page 2). Every day I am inspired by the meaningful relationships that form here— staff, volunteers and participants alike find friendships and room at the Inn where they are accepted just as they are. Thank you again to all of you who have given time, money, or moral support this year!

In order to continue to walk with people in poverty, we depend on your continued support. Regular monthly or planned giving — in large or small amounts — helps with planning and program sustainability. I invite you to consider becoming one of our 'Key' supporters through monthly giving:

Sponsor a LAF child: \$100 per month from September to June

Sponsor an Adventures in Art youth: \$30 per month from September to April

Sponsor a Child for Summer Camp: \$12 per month or \$120 one-time donation

Sponsor a bizPLAN entrepreneur: \$50 per month

Sponsor a Food Pantry Customer: \$10 per month; \$50 per month for a family of 5

Sponsor a volunteer with a physical or intellectual disability: \$10 per month

General Key Sponsor: Donations directed where need most

Your donations will be put toward the program area you indicate, and donations of any size or frequency make a huge difference. Thank you for considering how you can be a 'Key' to Welcome Inn!

With gratitude for your support,

Carly
Executive Director



Carly Gaylor



Day Camp 2011

Adventures in Art



In Albert's Words

"Hey, Albert, do you know what a VSer is?" some one asked me the other day at a senior's lunch. - It felt a bit like my twelve year granddaughter asking me, "Hey, Opa, what's a telegram?"

Words come and words go just as the things they represent come and go. VSers were the life blood of the Welcome Inn in its early decades. They were people who committed one or two years of their life to Voluntary Service (VS). They came from many parts of the United States and Canada. While they were mostly in their twenties, there were occasionally older persons as well.

Helen Unrau was one of them. Helen came from Manitoba. She had all her life been heavily involved in church work and would have become a pastor if she had been born twenty years later, but at this time only men could be ministers. So Helen chose to become a VSer at the Welcome Inn. Together with four young people they formed the local VS Unit; they lived as a family in the VS House on 177 Wood Street East. Helen worked with single mothers, with children, with young people; she edited the 1966 - 1986 Welcome Inn Yearbook and when her term was over, she was all set to return to Manitoba to continue where she had left off.



Helen Unrau

The Welcome Inn Board and Betty Willms, the Program Coordinator, were very reluctant to let Helen go; surely there would be something here to entice her to stay. With her many talents, her creativity and dedication she would be the ideal person to start a new program. It didn't take much research to discover that the Welcome Inn had nothing for seniors.

Can you imagine the Welcome Inn without its lively, at times downright rambunctious Seniors Lunches?

By Albert Willms

Albert has been a part of Welcome Inn since 1966 as a Volunteer and a long time member of the Seniors Diners Club. We will miss him greatly when he moves to Waterloo this Spring to be closer to his family.

Visioning Day

On Saturday, February 4, 2012, after a hearty lunch of chili and buns, Board members, staff, volunteers, and program participants gathered in the Sanctuary and divided into small focus groups to vision together. We talked about:

- 1) What brings you to Welcome Inn/New Horizons? What is special to you about this community?
- 2) What do you hope for Welcome Inn/New Horizons?
- 3) Given what is special to you and what you hope for, what concrete ideas do you have for Welcome Inn/New Horizons and what would you be able to contribute to that change?

The participants exchanged thoughts and ideas and wrote short answers on coloured cards to share with the other groups. The answers were varied, creative and overwhelmingly encouraging. We heard words like inclusion, sustainability, unity, and family, and phrases such as skill building, ethnic diversity, asset mapping and bridge building, as well as ideas for new programs and activities.

We are all very excited about the next step - putting these ideas into action. As the participants were leaving many left their email addresses so we can organize another day like this one.

L'Arche at New Horizons

New Horizons is excited about the partnership that we continue to have with L'Arche Hamilton. Each week, several of the members of the L'Arche Hamilton Community volunteer their time and talents at New Horizons Thrift store, along with the assistants who accompany and support them. We are grateful for the faithful commitment, skill, and energy that each of the L'Arche members bring to the store. Special thanks to Michael, Kevin, David, Mandy, Ross & Phillip. We really appreciate all your hard work!

The L'Arche Hamilton community is part of an international federation of intentional communities for people who have a developmental disability and those who wish to share life with them. Founded in 1978, L'Arche Hamilton has five homes and a day program, where they seek to embrace, develop and share the unique gifts of each of their members.

~ Ruth Kaulback

Manager,
New Horizons



Getting Hands-on Experience

Hi, my name is **Ken Russell**, and I studied Addictions & Community Services at Everest College. I finished at the end of January and started my work placement at the Welcome Inn Community Centre in February. I chose this placement due to the variety of programs, and because I can work with seniors and youth. And there's a thrift store, New Horizons, just around the corner. It's a challenging mix, and I love it.

While I'm here, I want to learn everything I can about the field I've chosen as my career. I'm focusing on two specific programs: Learning & Fun After School (LAF) and Seniors Support. The seniors are teaching me a lot, and working with the children is an education by itself! I've arranged something special for them: my friend is a professional hair stylist and is offering haircuts to the kids. The March Break Hair & Beauty Day will be fun, and help everyone.

Thanks to all the staff at the Welcome Inn for their kind hearts, for their appreciation of what I can do, and for giving me the opportunity to do it. I'm looking for-

***Beata and Tina** are second year students in Mohawk College's Social Service Worker program, completing their 8 month placements with us in April. They have written this message to the Seniors Diners Club:*

Hello! As April approaches we would like to thank everyone for having kindness, patience and understanding. We have been part of Welcome Inn Community Centre since September 2011, and have been blessed with a wonderful opportunity to have personal contact with all the organizations members. We have learned what makes a community respectful and caring. We have come to know each of you by name and want to thank everyone for sharing your life stories with us. We will miss all of these lifelong learning experiences that Welcome Inn has offered us.

Thank you, Tina and Beata

LAF Kids give back!

As part of our financial literacy program, our students in grades 5-8 came up with charities they would be interested in donating to together. They brainstormed so many that we ran out of room on our white board! They mentioned agencies that many children their age would know little about, and some of the suggestions came from kids who had experiences with different local agencies, including the Children's Aid Society, St. Matthew's House Food Pantry, Interval House, and the Good Shepherd Centres. They approached this task with so much enthusiasm and careful thought because they were genuinely enthused about *giving back*. There was something incredibly empowering about them being able to make a conscious decision to help others in their own community instead of always being those who are given to. This week the students voted to donate to the Hamilton SPCA, and their June charity will be a global one. This experience has been about more than money: LAF kids are learning compassion and how they can make a difference in the world around them!

Gladys Flores and Kerry Turcotte
Children's Financial Literacy Coordinators



In their own words...

"I like the feeling that I get out of this place!"

~ Marnie, New Horizons Volunteer and Seniors Diners Club Member Participant

When it's time to make decisions, they (WICC) ask for everyone's opinions and ideas; decisions are fair. It reminds me of one of my favourite sayings: "there is no (I) in (Team)!"

~ Ken, Everest College Student

I couldn't see myself being anywhere else!

~ Eileen, Seniors Diners Club Member

"I love that I've made new friends and my grades are improving"

~ Paul, LAF Participant

I have been coming to Welcome Inn for 43 years and keep coming back because we are all like family.

~ Sylvia, Volunteer, Diner's Club, former Church member

Absolutely awesome experience. It's kept me motivated and I've learned so much. I feel as though I'm armed with resources to help me with anything I don't already know. Thanks!

~ Cynthia, Dec. 2011 bizPLAN Grad

I love being paired up with a child that I get to spend time with each week that I come. I feel like I'm making a difference by helping kids reach their learning goals.

~ Laura, LAF Mentor and McMaster Student

I like meeting new people. I like to help out and be needed. Welcome Inn gives me all of these things.

~ Nikki, Welcomer

A Message from Tim Epp

I've been connected to Welcome Inn for the past twenty-five years, since I first came here under Mennonite Voluntary Service. The WI community gave this small-town prairie boy such a warm welcome that I stuck around, living on Wood Street for four years, and on Macauley Street for two years. I still remember the long train ride from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan to Hamilton (the rocks and trees of Northern Ontario began to all look the same after a while). I remember living down the street from the Buckles, who watched over our house; picking pears from the little tree on our front lawn (no ladder, so we drove our van onto the curb and climbed on the roof); teaming up with Arlan, another VSer and arriving unannounced at the women's group in drag; and the many trips I took to the harbour just to think. I first met Karen, whom I would later marry, at New Horizons. She was folding used clothing, and I was carrying out the trash; our eyes met, and the rest is history! I served for five years as the chair of the Welcome Inn



Board of Directors: (back) Teresa Bendo, Trina Banko, Eva Jackson, Gale Payne, Theresa Picone, Margie Kneulman (front) Art Heidebrecht, Bob Charko, Tim Epp. Absent: Michael Bigelow

Church, where I also taught Sunday school, was a youth leader and pastoral support. I'm now a board member at the WI and a professor at Redeemer University College. I live in Dundas with my wife Karen, two daughters Naomi and Jennifer, Whiskers the cat and Sammy the Brussels Griffon (dog).

Upcoming Events

Soul Food Potluck

Bring a side dish or dessert and enjoy a community meal, music, and prayer
Mar 17, Apr 21, 12-2pm

Tapestry

Join us as we come together to share our faith journeys through music and reflection
Apr 6, May 4, 7-9pm

Perennial Plant Exchange

Plants & gardening supplies to exchange with your neighbours
May 11, 9-12pm

bizPLAN

Summer Session
Interested in starting a small business? bizPLAN is for you!
April 18, 6:30-9pm

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.

40 Wood Street East
Hamilton, On L8L 1E4
905-525-5824
info@welcomeinn.ca



We couldn't do it without you!

A huge thank you to the **Canadian Million Dollar Round Table Foundation** and especially **Mike Evers** as our Knight sponsor. With your support we are able to offer workshops to new and long-time volunteers to strengthen skills and build capacity!



Carly Gaylor (left) and Mike Evers (right) with staff and volunteers

Russel Metals

Thank you to Beth Holubeshen and the management, staff and families of **B&T Steel/Russel Metals** for their generosity towards the LAF After School kids this past Christmas. The Stoney Creek steel



company provided gifts, treats, and crafts for the LAF Christmas Party, along with donations of food for the

Emergency Food Pantry. The children were so happy to receive gifts that were specially selected for each of them!

Thank You

The Welcome Inn Seniors Diners Club organized a Penny Sale and Mennonite Quilt Raffle that took place in December. It was well attended and enjoyed by all. Thank you to the many individuals who donated items, as well as:

Lococo's, Staples Centre Mall,
Tree of Life Chiropractic,
Karma Kandy, Burlington Costco,
Mohawk College, Ancaster Costco,
Tim Hortons Sanford Ave
Anna Bella, Genie & 1001 Nights

