



Fostering Community RESILIENCE Through EDUCATION and RELATIONSHIP

## Summer 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

*Summer is always a busy season with lots of opportunities to get out and get INNvolved*

Host a Food Drive

Volunteer at  
New Horizons

Sponsor a child at  
Summer Day Camp

Share your talents or  
skills at a Community  
Event

OR

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

## Unexpected rewards

**H**i. My name is Dee Kankowski. I volunteer at New Horizons Thrift Store for three full days each week... and I love it! I used to work at another thrift store, but it was not a great experience for me. Although there were good things about it, I left feeling frustrated and lacking self esteem in my abilities and job skills. When I started volunteering at New Horizons, it felt like a relief to me. Working at New Horizons has increased my self esteem, my respect for my abilities, and my ability to voice my opinions.



Dee Kankowski & Ruth Kaulback, Store coordinator

I have enjoyed my responsibilities at the Store. They include working with other volunteers and customers, sorting, organizing and displaying donations, as well as managing cash. It has been encouraging for me to get positive feedback about my skills and abilities from others. I realize I CAN do this! I also love being back in the neighbourhood. I am no stranger to the north end, as I have lived at Wellington & Burlington Street when I was a child. Circa 1974. I fondly remember getting skates for Christmas and skating at Eastwood Park.

Maybe one of the best things about my experience at New Horizons is the really awesome friends I have made. Not only do they include me for coffee, but day trips, evenings out and opportunities to travel.

Finally, I would like to thank my husband Paul for being so supportive of me during this journey.

## INNspiration from the Executive Director

Friday was the end-of-year BBQ for LAF kids and their families. It was a special celebration (see the article on the next page!), but I wanted to highlight the coming together that happened. Many of the kids, especially the graduating class, have attended for years and made LAF special by their presence. Beth represented B&T Steel team, who generously provided food for the BBQ and feel connected to each student through their gifts to the kids at Christmas. One of our placement students, Shirley, came with her family even though her placement had already finished. Volunteers from McMaster and the community came out to help and to support the kids... too many to name.

Every day I feel blessed to be part of this community of caring people building community together. At Welcome Inn, each person leaves an imprint, and in my experience, Welcome Inn leaves an imprint in return. I know it has for me. And I hope and trust it has for the LAF kids, volunteers, and placement students who are continuing on in their journeys but still very much part of the fabric and life of Welcome Inn. Blessings to all in your next steps!



Carly Gaylor  
Executive Director

...we spent our days at Dorothy's Dry Goods, recently renamed, the 'Welcome Inn'. That was Dad's idea, so at the bottom of the sign, it would say, 'Well ...Come In!'

## The Mennonite Girl

This is not your typical Mennonite story. Nor is it a common story about someone growing up in the inner city.

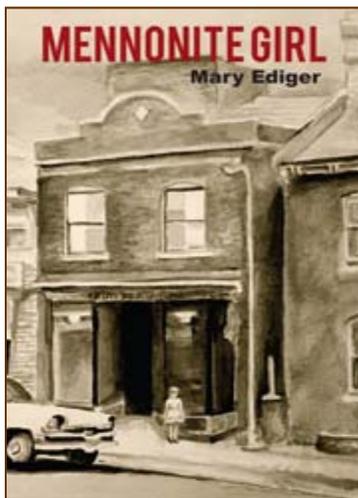
In **The Mennonite Girl** Mary Ediger tells of her unusual childhood as one of the daughters of parents who moved from a pastoral role in Oklahoma to run an Ontario outreach centre in inner-city 1960's Hamilton. This outreach centre became Welcome Inn Community Centre, and the year was 1966.

My friend Matt brought me the book to read, explaining that it was given to him with instructions to pass it on after reading, and I feel fortunate to have been the recipient! I read the stories hoping to learn about the early days at Welcome Inn, not expecting to be given a tour of the neighbourhood that I currently live in! I walked with my children through the streets, Mary's book in hand, pointing out where the sugar factory used to be, the old Bennetto School, guessing where the empty lot was that was the neighbourhood meeting spot. We talked about what it must have been like—moving to the city from the country, sharing your home with strangers, making new friends.

Welcome Inn has changed a lot over the years from a one room drop-in centre with a clothes exchange in the basement, and I hope Mary and her family would be proud of the changes and of the people within its doors.

**The Mennonite Girl** now has a home in our Welcome Inn library. ~ Laurie Remillard

\* Reprinted with permission from Mary Ediger



## Making Radio Waves



Corus helps nourish children's bodies and minds with campaign to raise funds for local food banks

On May 17, 2012, Carly Gaylor and food pantry volunteer Robb Smith visited with CHML's Bill Kelly for an on-air conversation about Hamilton's food banks, children's programs and volunteering during CHML's "Corus Feeds Kids Day".

If you would like to listen to the entire interview, visit: [www.900chml.com/Station/BillKellyShow/Audio.aspx](http://www.900chml.com/Station/BillKellyShow/Audio.aspx)

Listed as hour two, posted at 5/17/2012 10:57am

## LAF Year End Celebration

Once again the LAF After School Program finished the year with a bang, this time celebrating nine 8th grade graduates, the year end savings cash-outs and charitable contributions.

Program sponsors, teachers, families and friends gathered to enjoy bbq'd burgers and hot dogs as the children and mentors were rewarded for their hard work throughout the year. Between February and June, LAF participants earned \$1412.50 in allowance. They did this by adhering to the Code of Conduct they helped develop in September. LAF kids saved nearly 95% of their allowance, earning an amazing \$1371.50 in matching funds!

The LAF kids also learned about the benefits of sharing, and together they researched and selected a charity to contribute to. They

raised over **\$140.00** for the Hamilton SPCA between their own contributions, community contributions, and a bake sale at the end of the year BBQ.

This is what some of the kids had to say about LAF's Matched Savings Program:

*Anthony C. likes that he "can save his money instead of spending it all."*

*Paul says, "I like getting allowance because then I get to buy things and I get to learn about money and how to use it."*



Malcolm and David with their mentor Rameez



Neema presenting the SPCA with the donation jar.



Shadia (with Gladys) says that the allowance program has taught her that, "life isn't easy. There are a lot of things you want but can't afford, so you have to work for it!"

## Adventures in Art

The Adventures in Art program has just completed its 5th year, this year under the direction of Hana Pinthus Rotchild, an artist and art therapist with the assistance of volunteers from McMaster University.

The children were introduced to many techniques and had the opportunity to explore different art materials. In addition to the artistic experience the children benefited from the generous mentorship of the 8-10 university students who connected with the children and contributed from their knowledge and creativity.

This past spring the children visited the art studio of Gerardo Mansang and attended a gallery opening event at the Pearl Company in preparation for their final exhibition that was hosted by the Central Library as part of the James North Art Crawl on April 13, 2012. The students were very professional in presenting their art work to the public.

One participant, Neema Tchashenyi, said that she loved trying new techniques and getting to know new people. Neema, a graduating grade 8 student, is pleased that Adventures in Art is extended to high school students and is looking forward to coming back this fall.



Art Crawl participants with Carly and Hana



Neema Tchashenyi with some of her artwork



Welcomer Mary Weir

## New Book Drive

New dictionaries and reference books are needed for our Children's Library!

Email [gladys@welcomeinn.ca](mailto:gladys@welcomeinn.ca) for our wish list or to make a donation towards new purchases.



## Life Technologies

Visitors to the INN during the past month have noticed big things happening around the building, some of the biggest being our brand new laminate flooring in the Sanctuary and the beautiful gardens given new life. Thank you to the incredible staff at **Life Technologies** Oakville offices for spending their Global Volunteer Day on May 4, 2012 with us at Welcome Inn. This hardworking team immersed themselves in the community and worked alongside Welcome Inn volunteers in the Food Pantry, gave the building some much needed TLC inside and out, as well as offering the neighbourhood a free barbeque lunch at New Horizons.

A special thank you to Martin Durksen and Nick Tiessen of Mennonite Disaster Services for sharing your expertise.



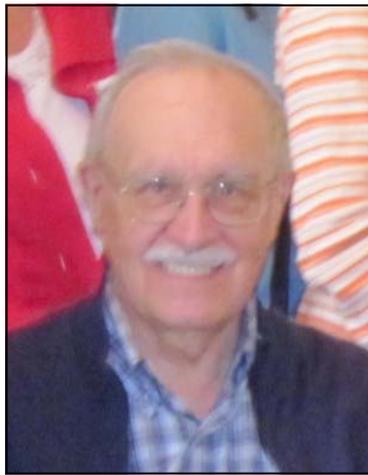
The Life Tech team along with WICC & MDS staff and volunteers

## Chairman's Message

I joined the Board of the Welcome Inn Community Centre in January 2006 and have been Board Chair for the past 5 years. While I will be continuing to serve on the Board for another year, I have now completed my term as Board Chair. So, this is a good time for me to reflect a bit about my role and relationship to Welcome Inn.

By and large, the experience of serving on the Board has been positive and enjoyable. I have appreciated getting to know my fellow Board members, Welcome Inn staff, volunteers and the people who are part of the Welcome Inn Community. There have of course been challenges as well, including dealing with financial crunches arising from the recent and current economic difficulties and finding an enthusiastic new leader to succeed Donna Jean Forster as Executive Director. However, putting things into perspective, these matters are "small potatoes" in comparison with the ongoing life challenges which are faced continually by many of the people in the community which is served by Welcome Inn.

What has been important and continues to be important to me is the opportunity to serve and use my gifts and skills at the Board level to enable Welcome Inn to reach out and provide both practical assistance and hope to the people in our community, particularly those who participate in Welcome Inn's activities and programs. I believe that these are making a difference to people and that facilitating and supporting those endeavours is valuable, important and helps to provide meaning for my own life.



Art Heidebrecht, Chair

### Board of Directors 2012

Art Heidebrecht - Chair, Bob Charko - Treasurer & Vice-Chair, Teresa Bendo - Secretary, Tim Epp, Margaret Kneulman, Eva Jackson, Theresa Picone, Gale Payne, and Leah Schwenger.

## Donor Corner

Thank you to Bill Balazs, owner of FreshCo at Barton & Gage for his support of our Emergency Food Pantry. With Bill's partnership we have been able to keep our Pantry shelves stocked with canned goods during these difficult times.



Thank you to Richard Bonaldo of Master Paints, Princess Street for his donation of exterior paints and supplies to freshen up our front entrance and outdoor storage cubes. Rich's knowledge and enthusiasm made paint selection easy!



Thank you to Macassa Bay Yacht Club for lending us their beautiful space, and to Dave Pascoe and his mad skills behind the camera, making all of our volunteers into stars at our 2012 Volunteer Appreciation Evening on April 30th.



## Thank You

## Upcoming Events

### Open Streets

James Street North is closed off to cars and becomes pedestrian-only for the day!

June 24,
Sept 23

### Summer Day Camp

For 5 weeks in July north end kids enjoy sports, trips, crafts, swimming and special guests

July 2
to Aug 3

### Ice Cream Picnic

Bring chairs and a picnic and enjoy make-your-own Sundaes, live music and kids activities—rain or shine!

July 6
6-8pm

## 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)