

May 2014

Sometimes all people need is a second chance . . .

My girlfriend and I had lived at Bethlehem Place back in 2010 and after we moved out things began to fall apart. We had a six month old son at the time and she had another son from a previous relationship; I was a father to both of them. Shortly after living on our own things changed, we tried to make it work but there were too many challenges we couldn't work through.

Our relationship became unhealthy and deteriorated to the point that I moved out. With nowhere to go, I moved back to a small town in Southern Ontario where my family lived and began working there. I stayed in contact with my boys and even had them up to visit me for a few weeks.

Shortly after having the boys up for a visit I found out that something happened where FACS got involved and took away the children. Upon assessment they were given to a family member to become their guardian. When I spoke to FACS they informed me that if I wanted to see my children I would have to move back to the Niagara Region, so I quit my job and quickly moved back. I was in that familiar situation once again, homeless and couch surfing at friend's places – trying desperately to make it on my own but having no money and little success.

over . . .



Annual Campaign

My Gift to Bethlehem Housing and Support Services is:

\$35 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other

\$ _____

Tax receipts will be issued for donations \$10 or more.
Charitable Registration No. 12192 6547 RR0001

I have enclosed a cheque payable to Bethlehem Housing and Support Services

I prefer to use my credit card: VISA MasterCard

Name on Card: _____

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: ____ / ____

Signature: _____

OR I want to be a Monthly Supporter
in the amount of \$ _____ / month.

Please debit my credit card (details above)

I have enclosed post-dated cheques payable to Bethlehem Housing and Support Services

You can also donate online by visiting
www.canadahelps.org

During the two and half months I was homeless I was in contact with a Community Support Worker at Bethlehem Housing and Support Services who helped me get in touch with the resources I needed and expedited my entrance into Bethlehem Place.

I am so thankful that the workers at Bethlehem Place don't judge people - they accepted me with open arms. I know this was my second chance and this time I was determined to focus on myself and become a good role model for my boys.

I've been living at Bethlehem Place for over four months now and feel comfort in talking to my Support Worker and the Family & Child Resource Coordinator. I have a team of people who are there for me every step of the way. My 'team' and I meet regularly with FACS at wrap-around meetings to discuss my progress, goals and what I need to do to get my boys back.

The Creative Parenting program has helped me out with parenting techniques. I have learned so much about taking care of children such as discipline vs. punishment and to think before reacting. My children come for short visits and I get to do the things I've learned.

I'm attending the Life Skills program and learning about budgeting and how to live a healthy lifestyle and taking a CODA (Codependency) class to help me overcome barriers and how to say 'no' to people. I'm glad that I got back into Bethlehem Place, it has helped me out a lot and I am taking this opportunity to make my life better for me and my boys.

We all make mistakes, but I'm doing my best to make things better moving forward. I don't know what I would have done if it weren't for the housing and support services I've received from Bethlehem.

I'd like to thank all of those who support this great cause.

-SS

Bethlehem Housing and Support Services is the only organization in the Niagara Region that offers supportive transitional housing and supported permanent affordable housing for women, men and families.

We help people facing issues of poverty, abuse, homelessness and family breakdown to rebuild their lives through in-house and community supports.

For more information on our diverse range of services please visit www.bethlehemhousing.ca



**A heartfelt *thank you* for supporting
our many programs and services!**

bethlehem
housing and support services