



## ***Message from Bethlehem's Executive Director***

*No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow - Proverb*

### **With Spring comes new beginnings!**

Spring is a great time of year to celebrate change and new beginnings. At Bethlehem Housing and Support Services we celebrated our 25th anniversary in 2013 and journeyed into 2014 with some new staff, new infrastructure and new ideas to build upon the past success of a strong organization. The spring of 2014 brings with it, the beginning of a new fiscal year where we get to do great events all over again and implement new initiatives in preparation for new challenges.

Thanks to our donors, supporters, volunteers and staff, we met our funding goals and had great fun while getting there through exciting events such as the Golf Tournament, Amazing Race and Empty Bowls. With help from new funding partners we are building our capacity to enhance service delivery through new technology solutions and software systems that will integrate all of our programs and service sites. We are truly grateful for these additional supports received from Niagara Community Foundation, Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Region of Niagara Housing Stability Program.

### **Hope Springs Eternal!**

*People always hope for the best, even in the face of adversity - Alexander Pope*

Our clients and families come to us because they want to change and improve their lives. They come to Bethlehem with hopes for a new beginning. Each year we house over 155 families including many new families who have settled in to live at Bethlehem Place in 2014. Through all of our programs, we continue to provide services to approximately 750 individuals, families and thousands of children facing challenges including the very complex issues of homelessness, abuse, poverty, mental health issues and family breakdown. Support from you provides them with a home and a chance for a new life. Their courage and your generosity are equally inspiring!

As we launch into spring, we look forward to making hope happen again with you this coming year.

Lori Beech  
Executive Director

## **What's inside**

Reflections on the Board	.....2
Upcoming Events	.....2
Donor Recognition	.....3
Volunteer Recognition	.....3
Legacy Giving	.....4



## ***Robin Lewis reflects on his experience on the Board of Directors***



My time at Bethlehem has been both challenging and rewarding. In a sense, it is similar to that of a marriage because the level of commitment has to be there for it to work. Some of the most moving moments for me personally have been hearing the stories from our residents who have utilized the various services Bethlehem provides.

**Q: Tell us how you first got involved with Bethlehem.** I first got involved when Maggie Patterson called me and asked me to be involved with the first golf tournament. As it turned out, she meant for me to chair the Golf Committee. Then I sat on Bethlehem's Development Committee and eventually chaired that committee then on to the Board of Directors.

**Q: What was your first impression of Bethlehem?** I was unaware of Bethlehem at that point. Maggie and Julie Dennis (Bethlehem's former Executive Director) gave me a thumbnail sketch of Bethlehem and the services offered, but it did not mean much until I began getting more involved.

**Q: What contribution or achievement are you most proud of?** The last seven years on the Board and in particular the last three, as Board President, have been rewarding in light of the transition that Bethlehem has gone through. I am most proud of building on the strength and success of the organization, and the hiring of Lori Beech, Bethlehem's new Executive Director. I am confident that upon my departure from the Board, through her leadership the organization will continue to grow and expand to service the diverse needs of our community.

**Q: Describe a memorable moment while being in your role of President of the Board.** Being appointed as Board President and the fear I would not be able to live up to expectations. Sort of like stage fright.

**Q: What do you hope Bethlehem will achieve in the next 5 years?** I hope the continued expansion and development that we have started in the last seven years will continue, and have the Bethlehem name become well known in the broader community as I feel it should be because of the programs, services and support it offers the entire Niagara Region. Bethlehem continues to be an outstanding organization. We should be proud of what we do and not be afraid to ask people for their continued support.

## ***Upcoming Events***



### **Golf Tournament — Friday, May 30, 2014**

Start your weekend off early with a day of fun at Whirlpool Golf Course! Register your foursome for only \$150 per golfer and enjoy four player scramble, golf cart, breakfast, snacks, hot buffet lunch, hole contests, raffles and prizes! **Call 905.684.1660 ext. 2 and register today!**

### **Amazing Race Car Rally — Sunday, August 24, 2014**

Put together your team for a day of strategy, timing and spirit! The registration fee of \$25 per person includes giveaways, snacks and lunch after the event. Each team is asked to raise a minimum of \$300. **For further information call 905.684.1660 ext. 2**

**What is the Amazing Race?** Teams of four compete against other teams as they travel by car throughout the Niagara Region and complete various activities in order to receive clues for the next location. This year's theme is the Olympics! The race takes approximately 5 hours to complete.





## Donor Recognition

Thank you to the many individuals and organizations who have generously supported Bethlehem, with special thanks to those who have **donated \$500 and over** between April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014.

Abitibi-Consolidated Foundation  
 Dorothy Barley  
 Elsie Bedford-Jones  
 Busy Bee Junk Removal/Tresham Painting  
 Burtnik Printing Inc.  
 Estate of Eleanor Eugenie Campbell  
 Canadian Tire Financial Services  
 Canadian Women's Foundation  
 Linda Cavasin  
 Chapel Singers  
 Richard and Maureen Chudyk  
 Steven and Stephanie Collins  
 Covenant Christian Reformed Church  
 Fairview Mennonite Brethren Church  
 First Grantham United Church  
 Val Fleming  
 Friends of Linhaven  
 Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce  
 Diane Goldsworthy  
 Jubilee Fellowship Christian Reformed Church  
 Kenmore Developments Inc.  
 Knox Presbyterian Church  
 Estate of Freda Kelly  
 David and Donna Lailey  
 John and Harriet Lehnen  
 Dugal MacMillan  
 Maranatha Christian Reformed Church  
 Mennonite Foundation of Canada

Anne Mirynech  
 Randy and Mary Momot  
 Mary D. Newman  
 O'Brien - Jackson Family Foundation  
 PenFinancial Credit Union  
 Providence CRC  
 Robert and Margaret Reid  
 Tom and Gail Richardson  
 Tim and Gini Rigby  
 Mark and Wendy Rittenhouse  
 Dianne Ruggiero  
 Elda Ryan  
 Sandra Sabo  
 Paula Shaw, Paula's Elegant Bride  
 Shaw Festival, Shaw Acting Ensemble  
 St. Ann Catholic School  
 St. Catharines United Mennonite Church  
 St. Thomas' Church  
 Tina Triano  
 Graham and Mary Turner  
 Trinity United Church  
 David and Carolyn Vilim  
 Vineland United Church  
 Walter Hildebrand Marine Services Ltd.  
 Willy's Greenhouses Ltd.  
 Elsje Zwart and Richard Klajnscek



### Vicki Davis – Volunteer Extraordinaire

On April 15, the City of St. Catharines hosted their 26th Annual Volunteer Recognition Night and Vicki Davis was recognized for her volunteer efforts at Bethlehem.

Vicki began volunteering for Bethlehem Housing and Support Services in April of 2013 with a desire to give back to the community. Since that short time she has been actively involved as a member of our organization and on our Development, Amazing Race and Golf Tournament Committees.

Vicki is always the first one to step up to the plate and can be counted on to do just about anything! She promotes our events, solidifies sponsors and donors, recruits volunteers and even researches new ideas to help us achieve our overall fundraising goal. Vicki goes above and beyond her commitment to seeing that our events are successful and fundraising efforts achieved.

Her quiet, selfless, dedication and heartfelt commitment make Vicki a valued volunteer. We are very thankful for all the contributions Vicki has made to the success of



We also wish to acknowledge the contribution of our donors who wish to remain anonymous and those who gave to the United Way and designated Bethlehem Housing and Support Services as the recipient of your gifts.

**Thank You!**





## Legacy Giving

A legacy gift is a lasting statement of your generosity and care for people in your community and their future. It is one of the most valuable ways you can help Bethlehem Housing and Support Services. These committed funds provide us with financial resources required to operate the various in-house and community support services and programs that are so vital in helping the many men, women and families we serve to get back on their feet and lead more fulfilling lives.

When planning your financial future, consider leaving a legacy gift of which you and your family will be proud. There are many ways to leave a legacy gift, through a will, estate planning and life insurance. Giving can also reduce your taxes, add to your income, and increase benefits to your estate and its beneficiaries.

Deciding what legacy gift is right for you is just as important as your decision to leave a legacy. If this is something you are considering and would like additional information on planned giving options, please contact our Executive Director, Lori Beech at 905.684.1660 ext. 5.

## Her legacy lives on . . .

### Gloria Rooney Scholarship Fund

Established in 1993, and held in trust by Bethlehem Housing and Support Services, the Gloria Rooney Scholarship Fund honours the memory and social activism of Gloria Rooney who had a lengthy dedication to supporting individuals in need as well as community grassroots causes.

Born in the 1920's in a small town outside of Ottawa, Gloria's journey through life opened her eyes to social justice and the inequity people experienced through their inability to improve their skills. After her death in 1992, the Gloria Rooney Scholarship Fund was developed to provide assistance to individuals, particularly women, who wished to improve their skills through education but could not afford to do so.

Gloria Rooney's legacy lives on through helping individuals improve their skills and making a better life for themselves through education.

The following is just one of many stories of an individual who received the scholarship fund to continue her college education: *"The timing of the scholarship couldn't have been better, I was at a point where I was running out of funds to continue the two-year program I was enrolled in and was just a few months away from graduating with my social service worker diploma. As a single parent who went back to school to get a career and improve upon her life, these funds helped to at a time when I needed it most. Getting an education is expensive enough; in addition to the courses there are other expenses like textbooks, transportation and materials. When I got the scholarship I really felt like people believed in me and that I was worth it."*



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