



Message from Bethlehem's Executive Director

This is the year to tackle the issue of affordable housing!

Safe, secure and affordable housing is the first key factor that determines an individual's or family's social well-being and health. When families have safe affordable housing along with the right supports, they can start to pave the way forward through a crisis and focus on what they need to do to improve their lives. In our annual campaign letter, you will read the story of Tatiana's life – it is not an easy one - but it is a story of hope. Her journey began with a home, supports, connections to services and setting goals to rebuild and become healthy. Also in this letter and on our website you will read about some examples of the many support programs that assisted Tatiana and her family.

There are others like her, which due to personal challenges or trauma, led to a life of poverty and a risk of becoming homeless. In Niagara there are approximately **6,000 households on the affordable housing wait list** and at any one time over the past few years between 276 and 589 can be identified as a risk priority that includes homeless, becoming homeless and/or victims of domestic violence. **In Niagara 14% of the population (60,390 households) is struggling with a low income under the poverty line**, and 44% of rental households are paying more than 30% of their income on rent. These individuals and families are at risk, and improving their chances starts with access to affordable housing. Improving the housing affordability for struggling families will positively impact the Niagara Region economy from which we all benefit. If we don't, the cost to the community and local economy will continue to rise.

Bethlehem Housing has the experience and proven capacity to provide successful affordable supportive housing solutions. As a Housing and Support Services organization, we have an unequivocal duty and responsibility to respond to this very important issue. Our new strategic plan for the next three to five years includes a leadership role and strategies to expand the affordable housing stock in the Niagara Region.

With your help, we will have the ability to enable resources, build partnerships and solve the affordable housing crisis in our Niagara communities. **Everyone in Niagara deserves to have a stable, affordable place to call Home.** Join us in the crusade to build affordable housing!

Let's talk about how you can help, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Lori Beech, Executive Director

lbeech@bethlehemhousing.ca / 905.684.1660 ext. 5

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The Power of Creativity

Bethlehem's Early Learning Centres are open to the community and are free to parents/caregivers with children ages birth to six years of age. Participants take part in a range of programs and fun learning activities. Thanks to the funders and your donations for allowing us to continue to serve the community with our parent-child activity programs!

Carter enjoys visiting the Early Learning Centre each week and likes taking part in the science activities. Here is a photo of Carter exploring 'cause and effect'. Carter added some dish soap to this bowl of food colouring and milk, and VOILA! as you can see in the photo, Carter is pleased with the result of this experiment!



Expression and creativity are important to the creative art programming in our Early Learning Centres. It allows children to experiment with colors, lines, forms, shapes, and textures; but it is an expression of their feelings and emotions as well. If you would like to take part in fun free learning activities, please feel free to visit our Early Learning Centres.

For more information or to locate an Early Learning Centre in your area, please visit www.bethlehemhousing.ca.

Legacy Partner



We are a proud LEAVE A LEGACY™ Golden Horseshoe program partner. LEAVE A LEGACY™ is a national public awareness program designed to inspire people to leave a gift by will (or other gift instrument) to a charity or non-profit organization of their choice.

LEAVE A LEGACY™ is a donor-oriented education campaign to raise awareness of the importance of including a charitable gift in the estate planning process. LEAVE A LEGACY™ is a program of the Canadian Association of Gift Planners (CAGP).

These gifts are essential to support the work of many charities in Southern Ontario. We find that people are often unaware of the attractive benefits of making a gift in their will or estate plan, enabling them to continue to help people in need beyond their lifetimes – and that this can be accomplished so tax efficiently. If you'd like to know more about legacy gift planning and where to start, please visit www.leave-a-legacy.on.ca.



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, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

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| Dorothy Barley | O'Brien - Jackson Family Foundation |
| Bayview Flowers | PenFinancial Credit Union |
| Elsie Bedford-Jones | Irmgard Penner |
| Owen Billes | R.J. Momot Professional Corporation |
| Canadian Tire Financial Services (Oakville) | Robert and Margaret Reid |
| Canadian Women's Foundation | Tom and Gail Richardson |
| Chapel Singers | Tim and Gini Rigby |
| Richard and Maureen Chudyk | Mark and Wendy Rittenhouse |
| Church of St. John the Evangelist | Rotary Club of Niagara Falls |
| Steven and Stephanie Collins | Elda Ryan |
| Constellation Brands | Carmen Sauer |
| Covenant Christian Reformed Church | Servicemaster Clean of Niagara |
| Estate of Eleanor Eugenie Campbell | Paula Shaw |
| First Reformed Church of St. Catharines | Sideline Telephone Services Inc. |
| Valerie Fleming | Silver Spire United Church |
| Friends of Linhaven | St. Andrew's United Church |
| Clifford Ironberg | St. Catharines United Mennonite Church |
| Mike Jones and Anne Andres-Jones | Sullivan Mahoney |
| Kenmore Homes | Synergy Benefits Consulting Inc. |
| Val Kerr | The Shaw Festival |
| Lancaster Brooks & Welch | Graham and Mary Turner |
| M & N Walker Foundation at the Niagara Community Foundation | David and Carolyn Vilim |
| Meridian Credit Union | Willy's Greenhouses Ltd. |



Community Leader Program Helping rebuild lives

Welcome Emily Barry of REVEL Realty to our Community Leader Program!

Our Community Leader Program is exclusive to real estate agents and mortgage brokers as they pave the way to becoming leaders in giving-back to our community.

If you are a real estate agent or mortgage broker and wish to join our program, please contact Dawn Marie Cavasin at 905.684.1660 ext. 2 or dcavasin@bethlehemhousing.ca

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..

Upcoming Events

June

CCSwirls
CREAMY CANADIAN FROZEN YOGURT™

CCSwirls is giving back to the community by donating 20% of sales to Bethlehem on their CCSwirls Nights!

Stop by the below locations and purchase your creamy frozen yogurt:

- **Niagara Falls**, 7805 Lundy's Lane,
Thursday, June 11, 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- **Welland**, 545 Niagara Street,
Friday, June 12, 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

This coupon must be presented at time of purchase to direct proceeds to Bethlehem Housing and Support Services.

Sunday, August 23, 2015

AMAZING RACE NIAGARA



Amazing Race Niagara is a car rally, scavenger hunt and team competition that raises funds to support **Bethlehem Housing and Support Services** and **Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara**.

It's a family event (ages 10 and up) where teams of four travel by car throughout the Niagara Region competing against each other by completing various activities in order to receive clues for the next location.

Our theme this year is 'Superheroes' with Super Powered clues and activities!



\$25/person registration fee includes: T- Shirt, Snacks, Survivor Kit & Dinner (Minimum pledge amount of \$400/team.)

Funds raised go towards the services and programs of the charity you register your team under.

Space is limited - register early!

www.amazingraceniagara.ca

Follow us on Twitter! #ARNiagara

bethlehem
housing and support services



Our events are also online at www.bethlehemhousing.ca under Events and click on our Events Calendar!

Item Donations

Many of our residents at Bethlehem Place have difficulty meeting their basic needs. To help improve the quality of life for our residents the following donations are welcomed:

- **Toiletries** – feminine products, hair products, toothpaste, tooth brushes, soap, toilet paper, etc.
- **Baby Items** – strollers/baby cribs (must meet current safety standards), diapers, wipes, baby shampoo, nursery bottles, etc.

Due to space limitations we cannot accept clothing, furniture or kitchenware. We use the assistance of our community partners to gather these items for residents who require them. Although from time to time we may have a resident who urgently needs such items; therefore we communicate these donation requests on our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/BethlehemHousingandSupportServices.

For further information regarding these donations contact 905.641.1660 ext. 57.

Donations can be delivered Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to: Bethlehem Place, 58 Welland Avenue, St. Catharines.

Bethlehem Housing and Support Services
166 James St. | St. Catharines | Ontario | L2R 5C5
Business Line: 905.684.1660 | Housing and Programs: 905.641.1660
info@bethlehemhousing.ca | www.bethlehemhousing.ca

