

BEST WISHES THIS



# Holiday Season



& THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



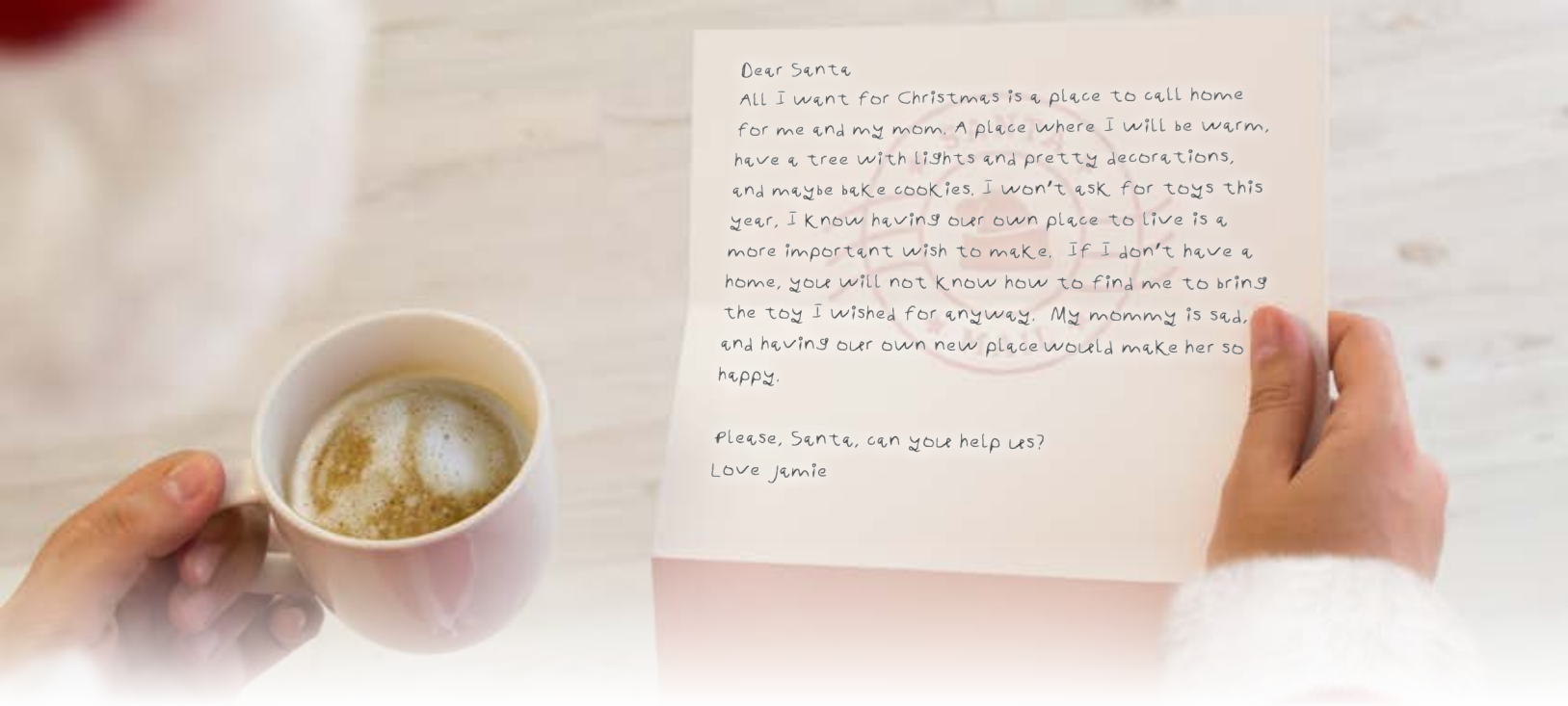
**bethlehem**

housing and support services



2024 Winter Newsletter

[BETHLEHEMHOUSING.CA](http://BETHLEHEMHOUSING.CA)



## 2024 Message & Reflections

FROM BETHLEHEM'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

***“Kindness is like snow. It beautifies everything it covers.”***

**- Kahlil Gibran**

If a child has suffered trauma from homelessness, poverty, or family violence, this may be the letter they write to Santa. Their minds are not on wishes for toys, as they should be. This could also be the Santa letter of the children that live in shelters or come to live in Bethlehem Place and all the future children who will come to live with us. A child should not have to give up their Christmas wish to ask for a home or shelter or safety.

Each year, we house over 100 children, including this little guy on our cover, who has been living with us since he was born. 42 children will be living at Bethlehem Place Transitional Housing over the holiday season. We try to take away the stress and sadness our families endure while changing their lives and make sure that our children get to use their Santa wish for a toy.

Share the warmth and spread the love! Keep a child enchanted with Christmas!

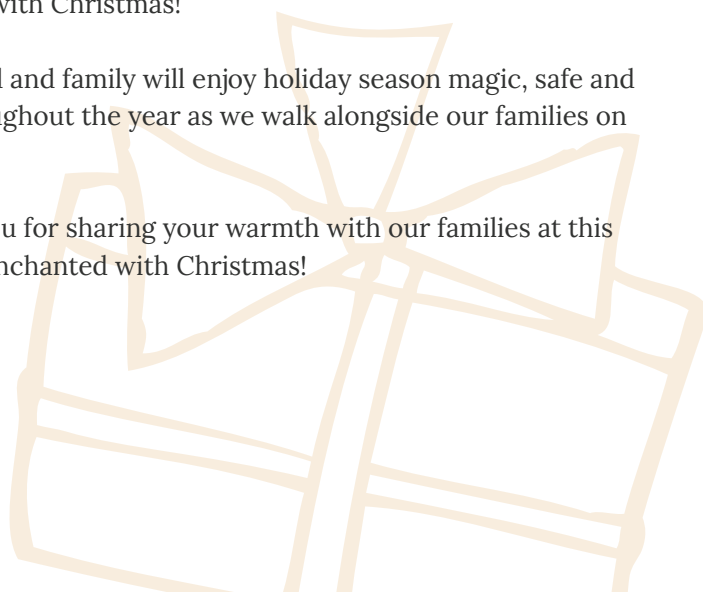
Through your generosity, we can fulfil their wish, and each child and family will enjoy holiday season magic, safe and warm in their own home. Your gift will also keep on giving throughout the year as we walk alongside our families on their journey of healing towards housing security.

Christmas is a time for generosity and compassion. We thank you for sharing your warmth with our families at this special time of year. Let's come together to keep our children enchanted with Christmas!

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Beech".

**Lori Beech**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





## MY STORY

# HOW BETHLEHEM PLACE HELPED ME

At Bethlehem Housing, we offer in-house and community support services for those living in our transitional and permanent housing, as well as people living in the community.

**“** I was introduced to Bethlehem's Transitional Housing Program when my child was first born. Leaving my abusive relationship meant becoming a homeless solo parent, so I took my FACs worker's advice and we began the application process.

We moved in when my child was 7 months old and the support we have had since has been life changing. The staff at the EarlyOn Centre have always been amazing. Being able to utilize the centre and ask them whatever questions, has brought me so much comfort; we still visit weekly.

Having on-site support workers also significantly helped me through my ups and downs. I was very scared and stubborn when I moved in but the patience and understanding provided in this program gave me the opportunity to begin to heal and create a proper life for myself and my child.

I didn't know what to expect when beginning the program and if someone told me that in only 3 years I'd be in permanent housing or enrolled in college, I wouldn't have imagined it being possible. I've accomplished so much that wouldn't have been possible without the help of Bethlehem.

I'm forever grateful,”

Kaylee

## Our Impact in 2024

39

families including  
42 children lived at  
Bethlehem Place

235

households lived  
in our permanent  
supportive  
housing

114

people were served  
through our com-  
munity outreach  
program

100%

of those we served  
through outreach  
were homeless or at  
risk of becoming  
homeless

58

women were  
victims of domestic  
violence

197

children made 1964  
visits to our EarlyON  
Centre

74%

of those who moved out of sup-  
portive housing transitioned to  
stable & secure housing. 100%  
continued to retain housing  
for 180 days after.





Presented By



## Thank You Niagara!!!

**Our 2nd Annual Country Harvest Soup Fest Was An Amazing Success!**

We are beyond thrilled to announce that our 2nd Annual Country Harvest Soup Fest raised an incredible amount - over \$24,000! A huge THANK YOU to everyone who made this possible—our sponsors, vendors, staff, volunteers, and of course, everyone who attended. You truly made this event special!

The soups were delicious, the atmosphere was heartwarming, and the community spirit was undeniable. A heartfelt THANK YOU to the Niagara Pen Centre for providing the perfect venue for our event. We're already counting down to next year and our 3rd Annual Country Harvest Soup Fest. ***Thank you to our community for supporting us for this event, you are the true Housing Heroes!***





# Bricks of Hope

Helping to build a place to call home, one brick at a time.

Can you imagine a Niagara where everyone has a place to call home?

By supporting our Bricks of Hope Campaign, you're helping lay the foundation for a stronger, more caring community. Each brick is a building block supporting vital programs with the goal of breaking the cycle of homelessness, empowering families with the stability, skills, and confidence they need to thrive. Buy a brick today and be part of the solution.



Sponsored by

**BRANDBLVD**



holiday fundraiser

## Stained Glass BUTTERFLIES

Option A  
(4"W x 3.5"H)



Option B  
(4.25"W x 4"H)



Option C  
(4"W x 2.5"H)



**\$25 each or Set of 3 for \$60**

\*each individual art piece may not be exactly as shown

*In support of*

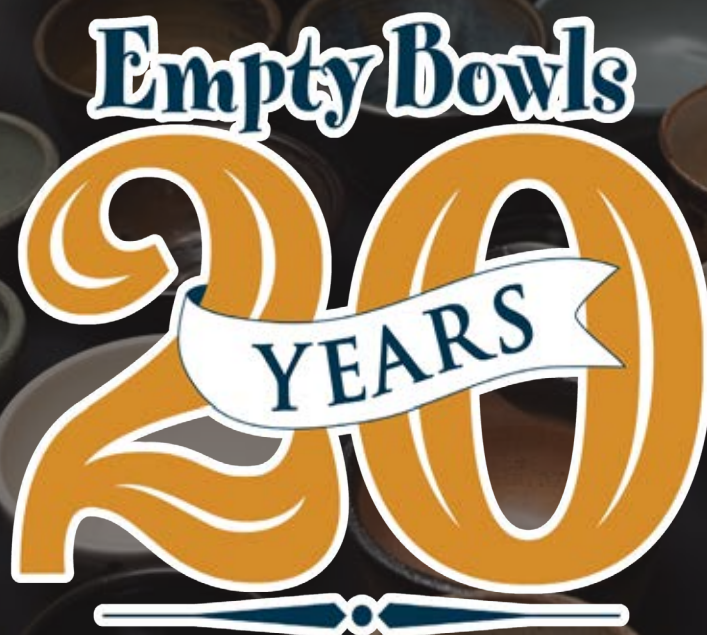
**bethlehem**  
housing and support services



**Lyons**  
STAINED GLASS ART  
[www.LSGART.ca](http://www.LSGART.ca)







**bethlehem**  
housing and support services

presented by: **FirstOntario**  
CREDIT UNION

# SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, March 5, 2025  
Holiday Inn & Suites Parkway Conference Centre, St. Catharines

**New Venue, it'll be BIGGER and BETTER than ever!**

**5pm VIP Reception | 6pm Main Event**

Reserved Seating Only - Get Tickets Today, They Make a Great Christmas Gift!

**[www.bethlehemhousing.ca/empty-bowls](http://www.bethlehemhousing.ca/empty-bowls)**

VISIT BETHLEHEMHOUSING.CA AND SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER FOR STORIES AND UPDATES

**bethlehem**  
housing and support services

Bethlehem Housing and Support Services  
111 Church Street, St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 3C9

📞 905.641.1660 ✉ [info@bethlehemhousing.ca](mailto:info@bethlehemhousing.ca) 🏠 [bethlehemhousing.ca](http://bethlehemhousing.ca)