



MESSAGE FROM BETHLEHEM'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Season's Greetings! My gift to you this year are the ten Paradoxical Commandments below which were created by Dr. Kent M. Keith in 1968 and is often attributed to Mother Theresa because she adopted and posted them as a motivation on the wall of her Children's House. In the form of a poem, it was gifted to me by our Bethlehem Board member, Karin Barnes, at the opening of one of my first Board meetings. It was an inspiration for the beginning of my tenure as Executive Director. Its meaning has been further revealed over the past year as I witnessed both, the loyalty of those who give to Bethlehem Housing and Support Services through donations and volunteerism, and the dedication of staff who serve our clients.

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered. ***Love them anyway.***

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives. ***Do good anyway.***

If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies. ***Succeed anyway.***

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. ***Do good anyway.***

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. ***Be honest and frank anyway.***

The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds.

Think big anyway.

People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs. ***Fight for a few underdogs anyway.***

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. ***Build anyway.***

People really need help but may attack you if you do help them. ***Help people anyway.***

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth. ***Give the world the best you have anyway.***

It is with heartfelt admiration and appreciation for the unrelenting efforts of our donors, volunteers, staff and clients that I share this meaningful inspiration as our Bethlehem Christmas message. The point is that we find meaning when we love and help people, no matter who they may be, or how difficult they may be. We find meaning by loving and helping them anyway.

On behalf of those who use our services, thank you to all who show your love and your kindness through your help and support of Bethlehem Housing and Support Services. We hope you continue to find meaning through the goodwill extended to Bethlehem not only at Christmas but all year round. May the blessings and joy of this season be with you and yours throughout the coming year.

Best wishes,

Lori Beech
Executive Director

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Christmas Greetings from the Board President



As we approach another Christmas season, I find myself reflecting on how truly blessed this organization is in so many ways. I am always amazed to see the passion people have to help others by volunteering their time, providing financial support or donating food or gifts to ensure others don't go without this time of year.

We have felt the Christmas spirit at Bethlehem as several businesses and individuals continue to provide donations to our families. The St. Catharines Meridian Credit Union branches donate wrapped presents for Santa to give out at the children's Christmas party. Henley House continues to sponsor outreach families with baskets of Christmas toys, decorations and food for Christmas dinner. Henry Schein ensures the children have warm hands through their mitten donations, the Canadian

Federation of University Women donate books for children and parents, and many of you donated cookbooks, journals and chocolates to the adults so that they too can feel the magic of Christmas. Vintage Hotels, the Summit Group, Superior, and Mastermind Toys donate wrapped gifts for the children at Bethlehem Place so that when they wake up Christmas morning they'll know that Santa had visited them. Once again the Chapel Singers are holding their Christmas concert, Shaw Acting Ensemble is performing 'A Christmas Carol' and Friends of Linhaven are holding their annual Mystery Shoebox Sale, all donating proceeds to Bethlehem.

As you know, what is unique to Bethlehem is the programs and services that support people to become self-sufficient and live independently, which are made possible in part by your financial support. You will read in the attached letter a personal story of how much of an impact these programs have on people, to aid them on their journey toward building a better life.

In closing, I would like to recognize the hundreds of long-term supporters who have contributed to Bethlehem throughout the years as well as the new supporters who have chosen to support this worthwhile cause. Special thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers and dedicated staff for their commitment to the organization, and my sincerest appreciation to our generous donors who help to keep Bethlehem's programs and services operating.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, warmest wishes to all of you for good health, a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year.

Warm regards,

Steve Stone



SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

We always enjoy sharing how Bethlehem contributes to helping people rebuild their lives. If you're interested in having us speak to your group or service club please contact dcavasin@bethlehemhousing.ca or call 905.684.1660 to make arrangements.

Thanks to Deloitte Canada, Greater Fort Erie Community Coffee Hour (Sherkston Community Church), Mountainview United Church, St. Catharines Rotary Club, and Workplace Safety and Insurance Board for inviting Bethlehem to speak to your groups.



Celebrating 20 Years of Service | Grace-Ann Cambray

In the fall of 1994, a parishioner at my church, St. George's Anglican, Betty Randle, asked if she could submit my name for a Board position at Bethlehem. Thus began a twenty-year journey that has so enriched my life.

My first Board meeting was in 1994. What a meeting it was! The elimination of all support funding for second stage housing in Ontario had just been announced – we wondered were we to be a Board for just an apartment building?

Fundraising became a more urgent activity. In the past I had organized a fashion show for our church and suggested we do one for Bethlehem. Working on a zero-dollar budget (everything was donated), a dedicated group of friends began work on the show. We had no idea what the outcome would be. The night of the show we had sold all 400 tickets and still people arrived. They stood and sat on chairs around the walls of the Canadian Polish Society Hall. It was amazing. Such a wonderful response from the community to the needs of Bethlehem. Over the next thirteen years we organized seven more fashion shows netting a total of over \$65,000.

As Julie Dennis, the Executive Director at that time, commented "We were not only raising dollars, we were raising friends for Bethlehem".



It is so heart-warming to look back and realize the literally hundreds of people who made the shows the successes they were - from the committee, models who ranged in age from three years to eighty-three, parishioners from various churches who made the sandwiches and squares, fashion store owners, merchants who gave door prizes, women and teenagers who served the refreshments and so many others. All there because they believed in what Bethlehem stands for in our community. Over the years, I have served as Chair on the Board of Directors, on the Development Committee and its various event committees such as Empty Bowls, the Chapel Singers Concert, and the organization of celebratory events.

If you are considering volunteering in our community, I could not recommend a better organization for helping those in need in our community than Bethlehem Housing and Support Services. As a volunteer, your talents will be greatly appreciated. Your time could not be better spent.

Celebrate Niagara - Community Spirit Awards



On Tuesday, October 28th, the Chamber of Commerce Niagara Falls hosted its Celebrate Niagara Awards Gala which included Community Spirit nominees. This event highlighted outstanding achievements in business and community service and Bethlehem volunteer, Irma Sebastiano, was recognized for her contribution to Bethlehem over the past year.

Irma has been a steadfast volunteer on many of Bethlehem's committees such as Development, Empty Bowls (Chair for two years) and the Amazing Race.

Irma motivates other volunteers to get involved to help ensure Bethlehem's fundraising endeavours are successful.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Volunteers are the backbone of our organization. We have volunteer opportunities available for special events, caregiving with children at our Early Learning Centres, office support and various Board committees.

If you'd like to find out more, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Kristin Foschini at 905.684.1660 ext. 4 or kfoschini@bethlehemhousing.ca



Thank you for supporting us!

The fundraising efforts we receive through third party events are instrumental in keeping our programs and services operating to support those who turn to us for help.

A third party fundraiser is organized and managed by people other than Bethlehem staff and funds raised benefit Bethlehem. Some of these events might include dress down/jean days, gift basket raffles, golf tournaments, car washes, barbeques, garage sales, bake sales, trivia nights, and much, much, more! It's easy to hold a third party fundraiser on behalf of Bethlehem – and can be a lot of fun!

If you'd like more information on how to host a third party event, please call Dawn Marie Cavasin at 905.684.1660 ext. 2 or email dcavasin@bethlehemhousing.ca

Thanks to all of the individuals and businesses for hosting these events and donating the proceeds to Bethlehem!

CHARITY BRIDAL SHOW

This is the third year that Paula Shaw, owner of Paula's Elegant Bride, hosted her Charity Bridal Fashion Show at Bethany Community Church with proceeds to Bethlehem and food donations to Bethany's food bank. The show featured the latest trends in bridal wear and exhibitors that offered products and services catered to the bride who has a keen insight to what she wants for her special day.

Thank you for all your hard work in organizing this event to support Bethlehem!



CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Seaway Farms hosted its annual Christmas Open House showcasing beautiful Christmas décor, along with a marketplace featuring handmade gifts from local artisans. A charity raffle was held with donations to Bethlehem – thanks for thinking of us!



UPCOMING EVENTS

A dramatic reading of Charles Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol" performed by Members of the Shaw Acting Ensemble

Sunday, December 21, 2014 at 3:00 pm | St. Mark's Anglican Church, 41 Byron Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake
Call 905-468-2172 for tickets or purchase at the door | Adults \$15, Children \$8 (Hurry this event sells quickly!)

Help end homelessness and reduce the impact of poverty
across the Niagara Region by joining us at the

10th Anniversary Empty Bowls

Fundraiser for **bethlehem**
housing and support services



Club Roma

125 Vansickle Rd., St. Catharines

Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 6:00 PM

Niagara's finest chefs prepare and serve their favourite soup in one-of-a-kind bowls created by local potters. Included as the perfect complement are Niagara wines, specialty beverages, and delicious sweets.

Guests take their empty bowl home as a reminder of those who struggle to meet basic living needs and secure affordable housing throughout our community.

***Silent Auction *Raffle Prizes *50/50 Draw**

Entertainment provided by
Frank Krahn and Linus Hand Productions

Food and beverages proudly served by:

- Calamus Estate Winery
- Canadian Food and Wine Institute at Niagara College
- Club Roma
- Dani's Bistro
- Diamond Estates - The Winery
- Feastivities Events and Catering
- The Good Earth Food and Wine
- Gwen's Teas
- Hernder Estate Wines
- Itty Bitty Pie Company
- Konzelmann Estate Winery
- Oast House Brewers
- Prince of Wales
- Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery
- Stacie Royds Personal Chef Services
- StoneHill Grille & Taps
- The Lancer Family Restaurant
- White Oaks Resort

Tickets
go on sale
Dec. 1st

Early Bird tickets \$75 each
until January 30, 2015
(after January 30 tickets \$85 each)

VIP tickets \$100 each
and include VIP Lounge and
Empty Bowls event (limited quantity)

Purchase tickets online at www.bethlehemhousing.ca or call 905.684.1660 ext. 1
Charitable tax receipt for a portion of the ticket price.



Scan for more information!

LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

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 people can help Bethlehem Housing and Support Services. These committed funds provide us with financial resources required to operate the many 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 a more fulfilling life.

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 other planned giving options, please contact our Executive Director, Lori Beech at 905.684.1660 ext. 5.

HIS LEGACY LIVES ON... THE HENK ZWART MEMORIAL FUND



The Henk Zwart Memorial Fund was established in 1990 to provide financial support to residents living at Bethlehem Place who require external therapeutic services but cannot afford to do so. Henk's family established the fund after his sudden passing as a way of honouring his legacy of compassion and quiet caring for others.

The fund honours the memory of Henk Zwart who at 17 years of age emigrated from the Netherlands. He understood what it was like to make one's way in an unfamiliar place and how important a community was in establishing a new life in Canada. Henk was a man of few words, whose actions defined his character. He was a loyal, kind and compassionate man who quietly offered support to help people overcome obstacles. He sought out those who stood on the sidelines and drew them in. His life was characterized by the words of the prophet Micah who in response to the question of what God requires of us answers, "... do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God."

Recognizing that Henk was humbled by the efforts of those who worked hard to turn their lives around, the Zwart family created a memorial fund to support people on their journey toward change and healing. His wife Ellen was the organization's first Executive Director.

If you are considering supporting this fund, please direct your gift for Bethlehem to the Henk Zwart Memorial Fund.

MONTHLY GIVING MAKES A SUSTAINABLE, LONG-TERM IMPACT

Make a monthly gift donation and enjoy the flexibility of spreading out installments throughout the year. Your monthly donation allows us to continue to provide the much needed programs and services that help to end homelessness and the impact of poverty across the Niagara Region. The benefits of monthly giving allows for a specific and affordable amount that doesn't interfere with your monthly budget, you can cancel or alter your payments any time you wish, and monthly gifts go further to help even more families.

As a \$40 per month donor, you will help to ensure a client family receives life skills programming and support advocacy services for their duration of stay at Bethlehem Place.

As a \$20 per month donor, you will help contribute toward providing two days of outreach support to twelve clients, or a two-month supply of food for the children attending one of our three Early Learning Centres.

Considering a monthly gift is easy. Bethlehem is registered with Canada Helps a Canadian online platform to make charitable giving simple through one-time or monthly donations. Please visit CanadaHelps.org and type "Bethlehem" in the search space or complete the Christmas Gift donation form located at the bottom of our client story.

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