

Celebrating "25 Years of Sharing Success"

bethlehem
housing and support services



Dear Friends:

You may already know, that as I approach 19 years at the helm of Bethlehem as Executive Director, I will be hanging up my hat. My stretch as Executive Director has been a personally remarkable, challenging and most rewarding experience. My career path seemed to lead me to Bethlehem and was a natural fit building on my prior 24 years of experience as a social worker in various related community service capacities. Bethlehem will always hold a special place in my heart. In my first newsletter dated Christmas 1994, I wrote "as I settle into life at Bethlehem and the Niagara Region, I realize how fortunate I have been, to become a member of such a responsive and caring community." This sentiment is as true today as it was then.

As I look back, it is the people that I have had the honour to work along side which has made this such a fantastic and incredible journey. Shortly after my arrival, as a result of the elimination of all support funding for second stage housing in Ontario, Bethlehem's continued existence was placed in imminent jeopardy. It was a devastating blow. I remember someone saying to me that I probably wished I never had accepted the position but this was furthest from the truth. Volunteers, staff, residents and the community rallied around Bethlehem and together we were determined that we would survive and maintain our operations. Faith and a strong belief in the value of Bethlehem's services to the community created a synergy that carried us forward.

Community partnerships and individual relationships have continued to develop and have resulted in a strong and viable organization. From that time to now, we have not only survived but have managed to grow from one transitional housing program for 65 people and an early learning centre, to a multi-service organization.

25th Anniversary Special Edition—Spring 2013

Today, our housing support programs, four early learning centres and community outreach programs provide services to approximately 750 people annually, many who access more than one of our programs.

I am incredibly proud of what has been accomplished and of all the people involved who helped make Bethlehem what it is today. I have learned so much from so many. I am always in awe of the strength, perseverance and resilience of people who turn to us for assistance with the hope and determination to rebuild their lives while facing often horrific and complex issues of poverty, homelessness, abuse and family breakdown. It is especially gratifying to know that as a result of the 115 apartments offered by Bethlehem that today 250 people including children have a safe, decent, affordable and supportive place to call home.

I certainly feel blessed for a career so fulfilling and I hope that I have helped to make a small difference in the grand scheme of things. It is with mixed emotion that I have made the decision to retire. However, I leave with a strong belief that Bethlehem will continue to take up the challenge to address and respond to the increasing needs for affordable housing and support services in our community. By doing so, I am confident Bethlehem will continue to help make Niagara a caring and inclusive community that we can all be proud to call 'home'. Thank you for the memories and I wish Bethlehem all the best as it begins a new chapter.

Fond regards,

Julie Dennis
Executive Director

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen"

Hebrews 11:1

Mission Statement

Bethlehem Housing and Support Services, in partnership with the community, provides affordable housing and services to support the personal growth of individuals and families.

The Spirit of Christmas

The Spirit of Christmas shone bright at Bethlehem Housing and Support Services when our caring community donated hundreds of gifts for our residents. Thank you all for your thoughtfulness and generosity!

Special thanks to the following organizations that held community events in support of Bethlehem Housing:

The Chapel Singers In December, a group of over 50 singers performed *A Jazzy Chapel Christmas* led by Conductor, Leanne Piller. For 22 years The Chapel Singers have been supporting Bethlehem with proceeds from their annual Christmas concert.

St. Ann's Catholic School We are grateful to the members of the St. Ann's Catholic School Council for continuing to organize a "Christmas Gift Shop" that raised over \$1,700!

Friends of Linhaven We appreciate the time and effort that the Friends of Linhaven volunteers put into organizing and selling shoe boxes full of goodies during the busy holiday season raising \$550!

A Christmas Carol A magical time was had by all as the Shaw Festival Actors performed their wonderful rendition of A Christmas Carol performed at St. Mark's Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake that raised a whopping \$2900!

Thank You!

To the following organizations who have donated \$500 and over to Bethlehem Housing and Support Services between December 1 to March 1, 2013.

First Grantham United Church	St. Ann's Catholic School
Friends of Linhaven	St. Catharines United Mennonite Church
Grace United Church	St. George's Church
Mennonite Foundation	St. Thomas' Church
Shaw Festival Actors	Willy's Greenhouses Ltd.
Silver Spire United Church	

We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the many people who so generously support the work at Bethlehem. Thank you!

Foundation of Inspiration



Ben Vandezande (centre) recently received a Paul Harris Fellowship award from the St. Catharines Rotary Club for his role in initiating and inspiring others to form what is now known as Bethlehem Housing and Support Services.

Celebrating 25 Years of Working at Bethlehem



Joan Gordon and Laura Arbour were recently recognized at our Anniversary event for their service as Support Counsellors at Bethlehem Place for 25 years. Over this time, they have assisted thousands of individuals and families facing issues of homelessness, abuse and family breakdown who have resided in our transitional housing program. Joan and Laura's dedication and vast knowledge has contributed significantly to the success of Bethlehem.



25 Year Anniversary Luncheon



In January we celebrated 25 years of providing support services and housing to thousands of individuals and families throughout the Niagara region. More than 160 attendees enjoyed a delicious meal at Coppola's Ristorante which was sponsored by Meridian Credit Union.

During the luncheon, an emotional video produced by Gail Richardson, showcased testimonials from individuals whom Bethlehem has helped over the years. Local artists from Genesis Court exhibited their creative artwork and a time capsule was filled with memorabilia from the past 25 years to be opened on our 50th anniversary - in 2038!

A special appreciation plaque was given to The Rev. Val Kerr, The Rev. Canon Rob Fead and members from St. George's Anglican Church for being a long time supporter of Bethlehem Housing and Support Services. Heartfelt thanks were extended to Grace-Ann Cambray for her role as Chair of the Anniversary Committee. As well, congratulations were extended as Grace-Ann recently received a Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal award in recognition of her many accomplishments and commitment to Niagara.

Thanks to Daria Zmiyiwsky from Sun Media for hosting the event and our 25th Anniversary Planning Committee Grace-Ann Cambray (Chair), Vicky Bradshaw, Maureen Chudyk, Pat Cicci, Tom Kelcey, and Gail Richardson for doing such a wonderful job organizing the event.



Grace-Ann Cambray

Special 25th Anniversary Raffle

Tickets for our 25th Anniversary Raffle remain on sale and the draw will take place at our Annual General Meeting on June 25th. Don't miss out! You could win the grand prize of a cruise for two on any Royal Caribbean cruise ship.

Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25 - please call 905.684.1660 ext. 1 to purchase your tickets.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR 8TH ANNUAL EMPTY BOWLS

Held at the Four Points by Sheraton, St Catharines, our 8th Annual Empty Bowls event raised **more than \$20,000 after expenses** for Bethlehem Housing and Support Services thanks to the generosity and support of a caring community.

RESTAURANTS & CHEFS

Canadian Food & Wine Institute at Niagara College

David Gibson and students—
Italian White Butter Bean Soup

Dani's Bistro & VQA Wine Bar

Alex Garcia—*Loaded Potato Soup*

Feastivities Events and Catering

J. Mark Hand / Rob Webster—*Gingered Butternut Squash Bisque with Tarragon Crème Fraîche*

The Garrison House

David Watt—*Niagara Beer Soup (Oast House Onion Ale Soup)*

The Heat is on Catering & Personal Chef Service

James Cuttriss—*Grilled Cheese and Roasted Tomato Soup*

In Piazza at Four Points by Sheraton, St. Catharines

Len Camelino—*Chicken and Corn Soup with Jalapeno Mint Salsa*

LIV Restaurant at White Oaks Resort

Michael Price—*Roasted Butternut Squash and Coconut Soup*

Prince of Wales Hotel

Chris Smythe—*White Mushroom Velouté with Mushroom Syrup and Crispy Shallots*

Stacie Royds Personal Chef Services

Stacie Royds—*Mediterranean Tomato Soup with Phyllo Crisp*

The Soup Shoppe

Sharon Pleau—*Apple Cheddar Beer Soup*

Strega

Kelly Gillard—*Curried Chickpea Soup*

Treadwell Farm to Table Cuisine

Matt Payne and Laura Ramik—*Smoked Ham Hock Chowder*



Zest Restaurant

Anthony Greco—*Great Northern White Bean and Smoked Ham Soup with Fresh Snipped Chive Crème Fraîche*

DESSERTS

Criveller Cakes and Chocolate Boutique

BREWERY

Great Lakes Brewery

WINERIES

Calamus Estate Winery
Diamond Estates - The Winery
Henry of Pelham Family Estate Winery
Hernder Estate Wines

COFFEE & TEA

Balzac's Coffee Roasters
Gwen's Teas Specialty Tea Shop

BREAD

Ace Bakery
Real Canadian Superstore Bakery
Riganelli's Bakery Ltd.
St. Joseph Bakery Inc.
Thorowest Bakery

POTTERS

Carmelle Basset
Darlene Benner
Marsha Cox
Kim Deamude
Barb Galbraith
Liz Haden
Cheryl Horvath
Nancy Howes
Ian Macmillan
Jenn McSpadden
Kerri Michalica
Bette Molnar
Johann Munro
Ruth Palleck
Aimee Roger
Robbie Schmidt
Chris Sora
Dagmar Van Ravenswaay
Caroline Chin Yet
Sonja Zanuttini
Ron Zimmerman



MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Domenic Cortese

PHOTOGRAPHER

Tom Schmor

JUDGES

Marilyn Colbert
Guy Gnadinger-Harris
Amy Hildebrand
Mike Thomson

VOLUNTEERS

Elsie Bedford-Jones
Maggie Cunningham
Vicki Davis
Candice Foley
Jordon Foley
Kathy Fraser
Linda Glover
Linda Gnadinger-Harris
Dawn Gordon
Ming Henson
Stephanie Jeffrey
Anne Kennedy
Toby Laugher
Lisa MacLeod
Nicole Martens
Jane Miller
Paula Ollier
Eleanor Reed
Pam Roberts
Amanda Sagon-King
John Howard Sandham
Bobby Jo Smith
E. Ann Smith
Sandra Wismer

EVENT COMMITTEE

Tom Kelcey (*Chair*)
Vicky Bradshaw
Grace-Ann Cambray
Dawn Marie Cavin
Pat Cicci
Maggie Patterson
Mary Lynn Pidduck
Janice Quinn
Robbie Schmidt
Sonja Zanuttini



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR 8TH ANNUAL EMPTY BOWLS

PRIZE DONORS

Andrew Peller, Peller Estates
 Bill and Dawn Gordon
 Canadian Food & Wine Institute at
 Niagara College
 Chateau des Charmes
 Chris Sora
 Dani's Bistro
 Diamond Estates – The Winery
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 Health Clinic
 Friends of Bethlehem
 Gwen's Teas Specialty Tea Shop
 Harbour House Hotel
 The Heat is on Catering and Personal
 Chef Service
 Helen Brannigan
 Henry of Pelham Family Estate Winery
 Hernder Estate Winery
 Inniskillin Estates Wines
 Michael Gruyich, Niagara Duty Free
 Niagara Air Bus
 Oban Inn
 Queenston Pottery
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 Pen Financial Credit Union
 Tina Triano

ADDITIONAL DONORS

Dan's Produce
 L'Escoffier Kitchen Emporium
 Lisa's Trophy Shop
 The Pottery Supply House
 Prima Wrap



Judge Marilyn Colbert presents the Platinum Ladle award to Chefs J. Mark Hand and Rob Webster of **Feastivities Events and Catering** for their **Gingered Butternut Squash Bisque with Tarragon Crème Fraîche**



Pat Cicci (Empty Bowls Committee Member) and her daughter Pam (**Gwen's Teas**) happy with their choice of pottery bowls



Winners of the People's Choice award Danielle Murray (owner) and Chef Alex Garcia of **Dani's Bistro & VQA Wine Bar** for their **Loaded Potato Soup**



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Annual General Meeting

Antipastos di Roma

Tuesday, June 25

Everyone is welcome!

Please RSVP to 905.684.1660 ext. 1



Golf Tournament

Willodell Golf Club of Niagara

Friday, July 12

Start your weekend off early with a day of fun!

Shotgun Start 9:00 a.m.



Amazing Race

Throughout the Niagara Region

Sunday, August 25

Put together a team for a day of strategy, timing and spirit!

To register a team or for further information please contact Gail at 905.682.8820 or grichardson8@cogeco.ca

Register your foursome for only \$125 per golfer and enjoy:

- * Four Player Scramble * Golf Cart *
- * Driving Range * Continental Breakfast *
- * Cart Snacks * Hot Catered Lunch *
- * Hole Contests * Raffles * Prizes *



Don't delay call 905.684.1660 Ext. 1 and register today!



What is the Amazing Race?

Our theme this year will be the War of 1812 with various activities reminiscent of that era. The Amazing Race consists of teams of four members, who compete against each other by travelling by car throughout the Niagara Region and completing various tasks in order to receive clues for the next location.

The race takes approximately 5 hours to complete. The first team to successfully complete the course wins the race!



Our Services

- * Transitional Supportive Housing
- * Permanent Supported Housing
- * Early Learning Centres
- * Community Outreach Support
- * Community Life Skills Programs

Bethlehem Housing and Support Services is a multi-service organization serving the diversified needs of Niagara residents by offering support for individual growth through housing and other focused services. Each year Bethlehem helps hundreds of people to improve the quality of life for themselves and their families.

For more information please visit our website www.bethsupporthousing.com



Bethlehem Housing and Support Services

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United Way
Member Agency