



FALL EDITION 2016

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WATERLOO REGION

“FULL AND GRATEFUL HEARTS”

CIRCLE OF LOVE: OUR INSPIRING DEDICATION CEREMONY

Kira takes the front steps 2 at a time and bursts into the front door. Urszula is there to scoop her up in a big hug. They are finally in their new home! Because of the amazing generosity of neighbours like you, we are celebrating 12 families moving into their new Habitat for Humanity homes this fall.

12 families, 28 children, 5 dogs, 5 cats, and countless hopes and dreams-come-true move in with them. Their story is your story—you have helped make this possible for these hard-working families. Thank you!



Habitat Dedication Ceremonies are truly special. Families from over the years stand alongside volunteers, staff and members of our community to welcome and honour our newest family members. Our Circle of Love tradition is to circulate a hammer among everyone attending, and each person says a silent prayer or wish for the family and their new home. The hammer becomes symbolic of the work accomplished and the wishes for a great future. It's really a beautiful and moving experience, and you're part of it.

Our families tell us, year after year, that they leave our Dedication Ceremonies with full and grateful hearts. They feel connected to their neighbours, to the other Habitat communities and to our Region. They feel proud beyond measure, and are so thankful that caring people like you helped make their dreams come true.



MORE THAN JUST HOMES: BUILDING FINANCIAL LITERACY

LIBRO FINANCIAL MAKES A UNIQUE AND IMPORTANT INVESTMENT IN HABITAT

As you know, our families are hard working community members; however, many don't have enough left over at the end of the month to save for a down payment. And now that they are proud homeowners, we have established an exciting new project—granted by Libro Financial's Prosperity Fund—that will help our homeowners learn the importance of careful and thoughtful financial planning, so they can make the most of the money they have, and make it work for them and their kids.

“Collaborating with local organizations helps grow prosperity for the entire community and we are thrilled to support Habitat for Humanity Waterloo Region,” said Martin Kihle, Libro's Regional Manager of Kitchener-Waterloo. “We share a passion for building vibrant communities, and the Prosperity Fund grant is an opportunity to support partner families with the resources they need to enhance their financial knowledge and create a path for their financial happiness and well-being.”

Jerry Lawlor, Vice President of Development, shares, “We are delighted to receive Libro Financial's incredible contribution to Habitat for Humanity Waterloo Region. This is a unique and important investment in our families and their brightest possible future. Libro demonstrates tremendous leadership in making this gift, and in working with us to improve the financial literacy of our families. Thank you, Libro.”

“ALL THE MOMENTS YOU SPEND, SMILING WITH GLEE”

GENWORTH MEANING OF HOME CONTEST



Home is a place, like no other place can compare.

It gives a wonderful feeling that everybody should share.

It is the place where you find lots of new things to discover.

It's the place where all your injuries recover.

When you look at it you smile so bright.

So you think to yourself, what a beautiful sight.

You learn even more things there that you never knew.

You learn what is false, and what is true.

You learn to walk, crawl and run at home.

You will find lots of new places to roam.

Think about the times you share with family.

All the moments you spend, smiling with glee.

This is an excerpt of a poem by John, an elementary school student from London, Ontario who won last year's Genworth Meaning of Home Contest. Great job, John!

Once again this year, kids in grades 4, 5 and 6 from across Canada will submit pieces about what home means to them for a chance to direct \$50,000 to a Habitat for Humanity build of their choice in Canada and win a \$1,000 cash prize for their school.

Best of luck to all the kids in Waterloo Region who will be participating.



WINTER IS COMING!

(NOT A WEATHER) REPORT FROM THE RESTORE

We don't need to remind you that, soon enough, the snow will be flying and we'll be wearing our woolies to work on the Salvage Crew. And, of course, we'll be out there in ice, snow, or sleet—the Salvage Crew work never stops!

That being said, now is the time for us to stock up on product for the ReStore, so that people undertaking fall or winter renovations can continue to have a terrific selection to choose from. In the colder months, many shoppers are looking for items for bathrooms and kitchens, as well as for living and dining rooms. If you have any loved-and-gently-used items you would like to move out, please contact us. We'll pick it up and clean up too!

Best of all, by donating your home renovation items to the ReStore, you provide Habitat with all the funds we need for operations including staff, offices and administration. ReStore funds take care of all the Habitat overhead so 100% of your cash donations go to building homes for families.

You're always welcome to come see us at one of our 2 ReStore locations or, if you're interested in either arranging a Salvage Crew pick-up or volunteering with us, please contact Rob at 519-747-0664 ext. 235 or rsnider@habitatwr.ca.



MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIR

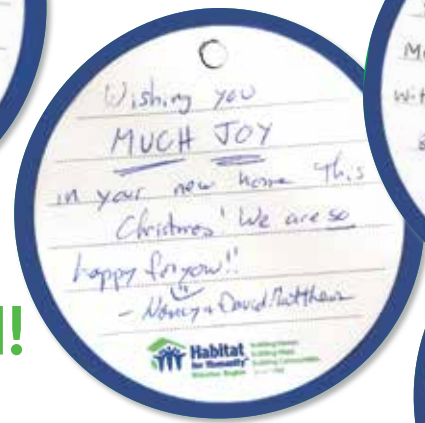
Thank you for your remarkable support of Habitat Waterloo. I hope you have enjoyed reading this update about your gifts in action! On behalf of your volunteer Board of Directors, we wish to extend our thanks and appreciation to all our donors and volunteers who support our organization.

Your Board continues to search for land we can acquire for future builds. We are very proud of our current builds in Kitchener, and it remains our goal to extend out further in Waterloo Region.

Looking ahead, 2017 marks the year the Jimmy Carter Work Project comes back to Canada. Nationally, the goals for the Carter Work Project include providing homes for 150 families in celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary, to inspire and mobilize Canadians to take action and become part of the solution to our country's housing crisis, and develop new opportunities with Indigenous families and communities.

I look forward to celebrating with you!

Martin Kern, Chair, Board of Directors



CELEBRATING THE SEASON! SHARING WISHES WITH HABITAT FAMILIES

Last year during the holiday season, we sent you and all our amazing donors our special Habitat holiday ornaments. One was for you to keep to decorate your own home, and we invited you to send a second one back to share with our families. Here are just a few of the touching and beautiful messages and wishes you shared. Thank you, so much, for brightening up homes and lives with your support!

And here's a sneak peek at our 2016 ornament—being created right now just for you! Right now, it's just an artist's sketch, but it will be in your mailbox this November!



THANK YOU! We would love to hear from you if you have questions about your gift in action, or other ways you can support Habitat for Humanity Waterloo Region.

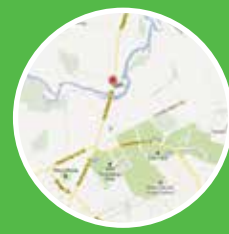
JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Habitat supporters and families are contributing everyday to our online community. You can join the conversation and find regular updates, exclusive photos and news, and ways to connect with us and your neighbours who also care about our community.

Find us on **facebook** at [facebook.com/HFHWR](https://www.facebook.com/HFHWR), **Instagram** at [HabitatWaterlooRegion](https://www.instagram.com/HabitatWaterlooRegion) and on **twitter** @HabitatWaterloo



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Sun: 11:00am to 4:00pm



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