



FALL EDITION 2014

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WATERLOO.

A PLACE TO CALL HOME: HOWE DRIVE DEDICATION!



You were with us in spirit! Earlier this fall, Habitat for Humanity Waterloo Region celebrated our Howe Drive Dedication and it was a joyous, emotional occasion. And because you're a cherished supporter of Habitat, we wanted to share with you some of the highlights of the day. After all, everything we do is possible because of the generosity and kindness of our donors and volunteers like you!

The Circle of Love is a cherished Habitat tradition where we inscribe a hammer with "A Place to Call Home" for each family and we pass it around during the Dedication ceremony. As it passes from hand to hand and heart to heart, each person shares a silent wish for the family. Volunteers, neighbours, families, friends and everyone in attendance pass their wishes and positivity through the hammer and into the home of each partner family.

Standing on her front step, Hayat shed tears of joy as she hugged one of our board members and carried her hammer inside. As she said in a quiet moment



later that day, "our dreams have come true".

We also wanted to share with you some updates from 2 other Habitat families who moved into Howe Drive this year—thanks to your generosity!

"What a year! We moved November 1st and I will always and forever cherish our first Christmas at home. It was incredible, and the first of many occasions this year when we were able to have lots of friends and family gather for birthday parties and barbecues. I have an

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awesome new job and we've started our basement renovation. With 2 kids with disabilities, we know that their transition to young adulthood is a key time in their lives, so we're building a fully wheelchair accessible basement that will give our kids more independence as they grow. I also found out at the Dedication Ceremony that our city councillor, Paul Singh, nominated me for a Kitchener Bloom Award for my garden! My pride and joy—besides my wife and kids—are my roses. Not only am I honoured to have my garden recognized, but my neighbours told me I inspired them to get dirty in their gardens, so next spring we're going to have the best gardens in the whole Region, I'll tell you that! But right now I'm focused on decorating our home for the holidays. I've got the best Christmas lights, and this year I'm doing a whole green and blue theme in honour of Habitat. Come check it out the first week of December!" – Kevin Kingsley, proud new homeowner, husband to Sheryl, dad to Kristina and Keegan

"Axl and I absolutely love our home! My cousins and sisters helped us move, and we were unpacked right away. Axl is so happy with his room. He loves having all his toys and stuffed animals with him. And of course, he's found all the hiding spots, mostly in the closets and behind doors. Mostly he loves playing outside with our neighbours. There are always kids running around playing tag, riding their bikes or scooters and it's totally safe because the only people in our parking lot live here so they drive really slowly and carefully knowing our kids are always out there! And we're so excited about our first Christmas at home. I've never done stockings for Axl, but now that we have a home it feels right. So he's going to have his first ever stocking! We really have so, so much to be thankful for. Every day I open my eyes and I smile from ear to ear. I feel so lucky!" – Deborah Ruiz, proud new homeowner, mom to Axl and first time acting as Santa's elf!



FROM HOWE DRIVE TO KEHL STREET

Jenn and Adrian are eagerly working their "sweat equity" to move into their Habitat home in the summer of 2015. And their positivity about their future shines even brighter than Jenn's smile: "It made my heart ache raising kids in an apartment in a not great neighbourhood. It's like a weight you can't take off when you're worried about whether your kids are safe. All I ever wanted was a safe and simple home that belonged to us. The fact that it's beautiful makes me feel like I won the lottery!" You'll hear more about Jenn and Adrian's journey in our next issue of *Rooflines!*

THE ADVENTURES OF THIS ONE, SIMPLE CABINET



In a quiet residential neighbourhood a family stands together in their kitchen. Today is the big day. They will start their renovation project and soon they will have a brand new kitchen that they love. Together, they have poured over paint chips, picked the perfect cabinets and countertops, selected sinks and faucets, stomped on sample flooring and found a few decorative touches they simply adore. The mother, a devoted home cook and experimental baker, can't wait to have an open, bright space where she can prepare meals while the kids sit at the table and have a snack or do their homework.

If you've done a renovation project before, you know the excitement and anticipation this family is feeling. But first...argh!... the agony of the "tear down". Removing everything from the old kitchen in order to start fresh is a big, complicated and expensive job.

But not for Habitat for Humanity Waterloo Region!

Did you know that our Salvage Crew will come to your house, tear down your kitchen AND give you a tax receipt for

your gift? Today, you're going to follow this kitchen cabinet from our donor's home (thank you!), through our ReStore and back out into our community.

Come on...the Salvage Crew is on the truck ready to hit the streets!

Carl, our Salvage Coordinator, says, "I call our Crew 'the Termites'. It's incredible and inspirational to watch these retired, non-stop volunteers, in their 60s and 70s, move so quickly. They are professional, efficient and so passionate. It keeps them active, healthy and they feel great because they're giving back to the community. They can take down a kitchen in 45 minutes to 2 hours, and the donor homeowners don't feel a thing."

The Crew jumps back in the truck and delivers the salvaged materials to the ReStore. ReStore volunteers and staff unload and sort the delivery. Some of it is in perfect condition. Other pieces might need some touch ups. And sometimes the donated pieces need to be taken apart for repairs. Our volunteers and staff set to work.



John, one of our ReStore employees, says, "Instead of a kitchen being beat up and thrown into a garbage bin, we're diverting it from devastation—and also diverting it from the landfill! We sell 3-4 kitchens a week for customers who come into the ReStore. Our customers can never believe that someone actually hauled this out. Just last week someone said to me, 'I mean, what are they putting in, if they pulled out this beautiful kitchen?' And I also hear 'man, all this kitchen needs is a bit of new hardware'...and they usually end up buying that here too!"

In a not-so-quiet corner of our ReStore, a man stands in front of the kitchen cabinets. He runs his fingers along the wood, and he can picture his wife smiling

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HEY, CAN YOU GIVE US A (FORK)LIFT?: THANKS, TOYOTA!

Keen volunteers? Check. Great construction materials? Check. A way to move skids of big, heavy stuff? That was the only thing missing from our Cambridge ReStore... until our friends at Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada gave us our very own forklift! Their kind donation is just another example of their ongoing generosity and support. And we have been so blessed to have the support of Jim Bowman, a Toyota employee who spent a month with us...and then used his vacation time to extend his placement for another 2 weeks. Jim was an inspiration and leader to the volunteers, truly embodying team work! **Thank you Jim, and thank you to everyone at Toyota!**



DID YOU KNOW?

- We sell new and gently used items at a fraction of retail prices—up to 80% off!
- Sales from the ReStores mean that 100% of your donation goes to building homes for families! Our ReStores cover all the administration costs here at Habitat.
- We help divert 800 tons of material per year from the waste stream—that would be a line of fully-loaded pick up trucks 8 kilometres long!

For more information about the ReStore, visit our locations in Waterloo or Cambridge, or contact us at **519-747-0664 ext. 221** or restore@hfhwr.ca today!

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and chatting with him about his day at work. In his mind, he sees her open the cabinet door, reach in and grab the salt and pepper to season the dinner that has smelled absolutely delicious since he walked in the door. He smiles to himself as he pictures their daughter sitting at the kitchen counter with her storybook. Today is the big day. They will start their renovation project and soon they will have a brand new kitchen that they love.

Here's what you can find (and donate!) at our 2 ReStores:

- Windows and doors
 - Kitchen and bathroom cupboards
 - Plumbing fixtures
 - Bedroom sets
 - Dining sets
 - Appliances
 - Lumber and trim
 - Electrical and lighting fixtures
 - Flooring
 - Hardware
 - Seasonal items
 - Electronic waste
- And so much more! Check out www.hfhwr.ca/restore for a full list of items you can purchase or donate!

HABITAT IN THE COMMUNITY: EVENTS

OKTOBERFEST

Thanks to everyone who came out for our rockin' Oktoberfest event in collaboration with the Kiwanis Club of Twin Cities! Oktoberfest had a country music feel with a benefit concert from The Reklaws, the 2013 Boots and Hearts Emerging Artist Award winners. Prost! **Thank you to the Kiwanis Club of Twin Cities for your support and co-running these events!**



HAUS FOR HUMANITY

What better way to celebrate Thanksgiving than to be surrounded by families and children from our wonderful Waterloo Region! We had a fantastic post-parade party with obstacle courses, face painting, balloons, outrageous Oktoberfest characters, crafts, music, dancing and more!



17TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT: THANK YOU!

Over 140 golfers joined us in June at Rebel Creek Golf Club and together we raised \$97,000 for Habitat Waterloo Region! Gifts from this event help with the current Kehl Street build and provide our partner families with interest-free mortgages and a place to call home. New this year—and certain to return for 2015—was having food and beverage sponsors on the course. Special thanks to the Great British Bake Food Truck and Innocente Brewery!

If you're interested in reserving your space at our 2015 golf tournament, or joining us as a sponsor, we would love to hear from you! You can contact **Jessica at 519-747-0664 ext. 234** or jeusebio@hfhwr.ca. And we're always keen to hear from you if you have your own inspired ideas for events you would like to host or join. **Contact Jessica for more details!**



SHOUT OUT TO OUR AMAZING TEAM VOLUNTEERS!

You can feel the energy and excitement when groups come together to the Habitat build site. We have groups of friends, family and corporate teams who come out to the site to develop new skills and give back to the community. Corporate teams are a vital part of our volunteer force, and companies have discovered that their employees love getting out of the office, working with their colleagues in totally different ways, and working together for something truly amazing: building a family a home.

Here's what Ken Whyte, President of Quarry, had to say about their experience volunteering with us:

"Involving our team in the Habitat build site for 3 days has been one of the most popular and rewarding experiences we've ever sponsored. The participation rate surpassed our expectations, and every teammate that I spoke with experienced a true sense of community building, in community of his or her peers. Thank you to Habitat and your wonderful team of volunteers who helped us contribute in meaningful ways – no matter what level of skill we arrived with. It brought to life one of our team beliefs – Be a Builder—in a whole new way!"

Find out how you can get involved in volunteering with us by contacting **Janine Ajje at 519-747-0664 ext. 223** or vs@hfhwr.ca today!

17TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

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**THANK YOU
for your support!**



MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD CHAIR, SETH JUTZI

A lot has happened since the last edition of *Rooflines*. Thanks to your continued support we enjoyed the 17th annual HFHWR golf tournament at Rebel Creek Golf Club, as well as two fantastic Oktoberfest events — Oktoberfest featuring the Reklaws and Haus for Humanity: A Family Fun Day, organized alongside the Kiwanis Club of Twin Cities.

We also celebrated my personal favourite event of the year — the official Home Dedication Ceremony. The Home Dedication Ceremony reminds us why we get involved as board members, donors, sponsors and volunteers. To be able to share in a family's joy as they cut the ribbon on the front door of their very own home and to then be welcomed into the home where they will make new memories is a truly humbling experience. This year we had the privilege of celebrating with 5 Partner Families — 3 on Howe Drive and 2 on Cherry Street — whose lives have been transformed by their hard work and the hard work and generosity of people like you. As they enjoy the first months in their new homes I want to say thank you to everyone who contributed to this remarkable achievement.

As the days get cooler and the holidays approach, it brings me great joy knowing that 5 more families will be enjoying the warmth of their new homes as they celebrate their first holiday season. With this in mind and the season of giving just around the corner, I ask that you think of Habitat for Humanity Waterloo Region and help us make one more dream come true for one more family during this festive season.

As we look forward to 2015, I can't help but hope that with your support we will have another successful year, with many more milestones to celebrate. Together, we truly are making a difference in the lives of hard working families in Waterloo Region.



T. Seth Jutzi



**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
WATERLOO REGION** Administration

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mail@hfhwr.ca
Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Each and every gift to Habitat Waterloo Region makes an impact in our community. Please contact us anytime if you have questions about your gift in action or other ways you can support our cause.

DONATE: You can give a gift of any amount by phone, mail or online. You can also arrange to make a monthly gift and support us every day of the year! Please visit www.hfhwr.ca or call Jessica at 519-747-0664 ext. 234 or jeusebio@hfhwr.ca for more information.

EVENTS: You can host an event, or contribute to an event like our Golf Tournament. Please visit www.hfhwr.ca or call Jessica at 519-747-0664 ext. 234 or jeusebio@hfhwr.ca

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP: Partner with Habitat to build a safe, affordable and decent home for a deserving family. Please contact Jerry Lawlor at 519-747-0664 ext. 229 or jlawlor@hfhwr.ca.

YOUR LEGACY: We invite you to contact us for a confidential discussion about how to remember Habitat for Humanity in your will. Please contact Jerry Lawlor at 519-747-0664 ext. 229 or jlawlor@hfhwr.ca.

GIFTS-IN-KIND: Donate physical materials for Habitat's builds, or the ReStore that sells used, recycled and manufacturers' surplus. Please contact Rob Snider at 519-747-0664 ext. 235 or rsnider@hfhwr.ca.

VOLUNTEER: You can donate your time and join our Build Team, Salvage Crew, ReStore or Office. Please contact Janine at 519-747-0664 ext. 223 or email jajie@hfhwr.ca



WATERLOO RESTORE
120 Northfield Drive East,
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519-747-0664 ext. 221
restore@hfhwr.ca
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Sat: 9:00am to 5:00pm



CAMBRIDGE RESTORE
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Sat: 9:00am to 5:00pm


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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  at facebook.com/HFHWR and on  @HabitatWaterloo

