

Making Kenora HOME

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS
FOR HOMELESSNESS

Kay'shi'daay'ing - Where We Live

www.makingkenorahome.ca

NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 2: Fall 2012

Proud and Happy Family move into their new Home

Dan Jorgensen and Sallie Hunt fall 2012

Kenora finished building its first Habitat for Humanity house and the chosen family moved into their new home in October 2012. Being the first, this build created a great buzz of excitement for all the volunteers who made it happen. But for the family who moved into their new home, it is life-changing.

"I never thought I'd own a house," Ashley, the mother commented. "I thought I'd be renting for my whole life, because, as a single Mom, I just couldn't afford to buy a house."

Ashley and her daughter moved from a tiny 400 square foot bunkhouse into a two-bedroom modern home. This means that her 3½ year old daughter now has her own bedroom, which she happily chose. And, for Ashley, it is the chance to settle down into a home that she and her daughter can call their own.

"My daughter won't be a 'tumbleweed'," Ashley said. "She's going to live in one spot and she's going to have roots. When she comes home from school she'll be able to say, 'Mommy, I'm home' and it REALLY will be our home."

Ashley has advice to other people who might be interested in applying for a house through *Habitat for Humanity*. "Don't be afraid of the unknown and go for it. I never thought I'd get past the first interview."

Ashley added, "I thought there must be other people applying who deserve this, but I applied anyway. Just go for it – you've got nothing to lose."

Ashley would like to be a volunteer on the next *Habitat for Humanity* build. She has only praise for the *Habitat for Humanity* program and all the volunteers who contributed many, many sweat hours, as well as donations.

"These people gave me a real hand up in my life and I want to pay it forward," Ashley commented. "This is just amazing, that's the only word to describe it."

FOCUS QUESTION:

Why has the need for food banks increased?

FACTOIDS:

- 850,000 people living in Canada use a food bank monthly
- 300,000+ children use a food bank monthly
- 1st Canadian food bank opened in 1981 in Edmonton, Alberta
- Today there are 800+ food banks
- People using food banks have gone up by 26% since 2008
- About one-third of food banks run out of food
- About one-quarter of people using food banks are working.
- Pasta, Rice, soup and peanut butter are some of the most eaten food.



The OPP "Stuff a Boat" campaign

BDO Campaign

Sallie Hunt October 2012

Psst – pass it on, BDO was at it again!! It seems that they can't be kept down. Every time there is an opportunity, BDO is at it – again. Makes one crazy, especially if ones office does not believe in volunteering and in commitment to the community.

For BDO, the inspiration came from the FCC – *Farm Credit Canada*. FCC sponsors a *Drive Away Hunger Campaign* each fall. Last year, *Drive Away Hunger* collected more than **2.4 million pounds of food** for food banks across Canada.

The *Drive Away Hunger Campaign* runs from late September into late October. While BDO became a partner with the *FCC Drive Away Hunger Campaign* about five years ago, the Kenora office joined the campaign in 2010. The goal for all BDO offices is 350,000 lbs. of combined food and monetary contributions. The goal for the Kenora office is 10,000 lbs. In the end they collected 15,928 pounds!

Across the country BDO offices ran events along with FCC in support of their local food banks. All the food and money raised stays local. In 2011, BDO raised over 300,000 lbs, surpassing its goal of 180,000 lbs. So, this year, BDO increased their goal of 350,000 lbs. Will they achieve their goal? Of course they will, and likely much, much more.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Making Kenora Home AGM

- November 21st, 2012 at 5 pm at the Legal Clinic

Gingerbread Lane

- December 8th, 2012 from 11 am to 3 pm at Jubilee Church of God

Week of Action Against Poverty

- February 10th to 16th, 2013

Printing donated by BDO



Say it six times, fast: "Burger Baby Blanket"

Street Picnics

Nan Normand Fall 2012

Street Picnics are held during the month of August outside the Kenora Fellowship Centre. These upbeat events are held to help erode socio-economic barriers within our community, as well as to provide special summer feasts for those without other holiday pleasures. This year we had new volunteers and donors, plus interesting presentations. The Living History project performance of "Waterways" was well received. The actors were amazed at the personal knowledge that many of the audience had about environmental changes.

Booths set up by the Northwest Health Unit focused on immunization and sexual health and by the Kenora Métis Council focused on management of health issues common among the aboriginal population.

Donations to the project were higher this year and included the following donors: Teds No Frills, Canadian Wholesale Club, Safeway, WalMart, Keewatin Place, St. Vincent de Paul, Mary Ruth, and the Kenora Métis Council. Attendance was 20% higher than last year and culminated with 100 plates served at the final Thanksgiving in August.

The honour paid by the picnic patrons to a former volunteer recovering from a stroke, the revelation that many of the street people have knowledge that is meaningful to a group of middleclass student performers, and the shared tables are evidence that, one event at a time, barriers are being reduced in our community.



Filleting for the Feast

Minto Summerfest

The *Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation* campaign kicked off with fun in the sun at the 3rd annual *Minto Summerfest* on July 31st. *Minto Summerfest* brings agencies and clients together with a summer festival. The goal is to allow relationships to be strengthened by breaking barriers and reducing apprehensions.

Food and games enticed over 100 Minto area residents. A tent donated by Best Way Rentals was set up on green space and various stores and restaurants donated food. Games, activities and some snacks were also donated by agencies at the event.

Of the numerous agencies invited about 20 attended. Agencies were encouraged to bring a table, a display and pamphlets or other sources of information, as well as food and/or games.

Now that the *Minto Summerfest* is into its third year, everyone seemed familiar with the event. Both agencies and residents look to *Minto Summerfest* as a positive summer tradition for the Minto area.



Glitz and Glam at the Minto Summerfest

Volunteering – a True Gift

Sallie Hunt Fall 2012

It is not always easy to feel that one is part of ones community, especially if someone has just moved to a new community. As a true citizen of any place, one must connect and become involved. And what better way to do this than by volunteering. The importance of volunteering cannot be over stressed. Obviously, any organization or agency benefits when volunteers help out. But volunteers themselves gain so much. For young people – volunteering is a good way to gain work experience; for all of us, volunteering allows us to stretch ourselves – to become involved with new spaces, and to gain experiences that may be outside of our day-to-day routine. Volunteering provides an opportunity to meet new people, to contribute to a worthy cause (and there are so many worthy causes), and to feel good about our contribution. One could say that volunteering makes the world go around.

We live in one of the wealthiest countries and many of us are truly blessed. For those of us who are fortunate, it is important to count our blessings and to find a way to give back. So many people do volunteer, and often, not just for one organization. If you have not yet found your volunteer place, take that extra step and ask yourself, "How can I contribute to my community?" And go find that organization. We are all waiting for you.