

Making Kenora HOME

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS
FOR HOMELESSNESS

NEWSLETTER Volume 1, Issue 2: May 2008

“*Kay’shi’daay’ing—Where We Live.*”

HUB Executive

Nan Normand, Co-Chair

Ralph Page, Co-Chair, Treasurer

Karen Essery, Secretary

Mercedes Alarcon

Dan Essery

Emily Goss

Shirley Kelly

Frank Kowal

Erika Olson

Diane Pelletier

Joan Schelske

Guiding Principles

- ❖ **EQUALITY:** We are all created equal within this world that we share
- ❖ **INCLUSION:** Every person living in Kenora is a part of our community
- ❖ **SHARING:** As a community we must care for each other
- ❖ **SELF DETERMINATION:** Each person has the right to choose his or her own path providing that path does not hurt another
- ❖ **EMPOWERMENT:** We are accountable for our own actions and need to look inward first before looking outward for change

What is Making Kenora HOME?

A concerned group working on solutions for homelessness in our community.

How do we achieve this?

- ◆ Community education and awareness about homelessness and poverty
- ◆ Promoting the implementation of our May 2007 report *Community Solutions For Affordable Housing Projects*
- ◆ Community caring projects to address poverty.

Why is Making Kenora HOME important to us?

- ◆ Stable housing is one of the most effective ways to break the cycle of poverty

YOUTH SHINES DURING WEEK OF ACTION AGAINST POVERTY

February 10-16 was Kenora’s *Week of Action Against Poverty*. This year, our citizens took action though



Tanner

food bank donations, coffee break discussions, meditation and prayer, random acts of kindness, bake sales and school breakfast benefits. Three projects were led by our youth.

Tanner Langlois organized a tooney day at Lakewood School. Cami Carpenter organized a rock concert with her Band of Awesome. Valleyview School created a wall of kindness and held a winter clothing drive.



Cami, Ryan, Bradley, Montana, Deklan, and Jordan
BAND OF AWESOME!!

The “Up from the Streets” art show featured seven local artists and showcased the talent, diversity and dreams of those who have been close to the streets. People First organized an awareness campaign that distributed 275 red ribbons throughout the community. Other participants included Walmart, Shaw Cable, Healthy Babies, Sunset Art Gallery, Anishinabe-Kweg, Wassay-Gezhig Na-Nahn-Dah-We-Igaming, Northwestern Health Unit, Mr. George’s, CICB, Scotiabank, Gardwine, Kenora Court House, KACL, Kenamatewin, Adult Learning Line, LOWDH-Lab, New Horizons

Seniors, Kenora Ministerial Association, Womans Place, Bodyworks, TD Bank, Canadian Tire Staff, the Campbell Family, HoJoe's, Fellowship Centre, Confederation College, Lakewood, SMB, St. Louis, Pope John Paul II, and Circle of Friends.

"Homeless In Kenora" Stories Released

A collection of short stories written by our homeless citizens was released on April 11, 2008 to a standing room only audience at HoJoe's. The booklet was developed by Dan Essery and Marie Morrison who were on hand to read excerpts from the collection and facilitate the community discussion on the issues of homelessness and underhousing in Kenora. The book launch was joint venture with Jon Thompson whose book, "The Homelessness Project" was also featured. Copies are available through the Kenora Community Legal Clinic.

HOME Recommendations

1. 24 hours emergency shelter.
2. 8 single room occupancy (SRO) units.
3. 20 SRO rent geared to income.
4. 10 single dwelling Aboriginal family units.
5. Tax discount, utility discount or maintenance tax credit for low fixed income seniors.
6. 2 supportive housing projects; 10 transitional units for victims of violence, 10 units for senior supportive health and assistive living.
7. Rent subsidization; 15 units for single parent housing and 10 units for individuals experiencing mental health dysfunction.
8. Revolving housing trust for low income families.

Kenora has the opportunity to improve its quality of life by investing in these recommendations in addition to working in creative partnership.

RELATIONSHIPS MATTER!

Making Kenora HOME wishes to thank all of the individuals, families, groups, organizations and corporate sponsors who have contributed to addressing poverty and homelessness within our community. We acknowledge support of the Northwest Health Unit and Kenora Community Legal Clinic to our organization.

Published quarterly by:
Making Kenora HOME, Charitable Services Inc.,
at www.makingkenorahome.ca

WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER?

Tell a member of our Executive

DID YOU KNOW ? ...

- ◆ 20% of all households are paying more than 30% of their income for housing costs. The most vulnerable are single people (41%) and single parent families (31%).
- ◆ 14% of owner occupied units are paying more than 30% of income for their mortgage/loans costs with average payments at \$922 monthly
- ◆ 41% of all tenants pay more than 30% of income for rent with an average rent of \$633.
- ◆ Utility costs have increased dramatically and are affecting housing affordability. Within the previous 5 years, crude oil has doubled in cost and electricity has increased by 25%.

Community of Friends Hosts Neighbourhood BBQ

Under the sponsorship of Making Kenora Home, a Minto area tenants group, Community of Friends, has been meeting weekly to develop their neighbourhood into a caring community. A BBQ was held on May 14, 2008 and was well attended. Representatives from Kenora District Housing assisted with burger flipping and recreational activities. The success of the event has stimulated the scheduling of neighbourhood tenant BBQ's in other locations.

National Hunger Awareness Day June 5, 2008



Join us at the Fellowship Centre to share food, companionship and entertainment. Our street picnic begins at 5 p.m. and all are welcome.

Bring a Tin for the Bin*



***Bins located at Extra Foods, Safeway, Recreation Centre and all Making Kenora Home events.**