

# Week of Action Against Poverty Report 2016

Week of Action Against Poverty was declared and supported by City Council. This year's activities lacked the breadth of previous WAAPs but did have some very good keynote events. With the exception of Beaver Brae, schools did not report participation this year but this may be a reflection of the labour tension evoked by difficult contract negotiations in the fall of 2015. Reporting in general declined but there seemed to be more unreported participation. This could be an indication that the WAAP has become integrated into community activity or that these individuals wish to keep their giving private or that they simply forgot to report. Unfortunately, without reporting, we can't evaluate the activities. As always, media coverage was excellent.

## City of Kenora

Mayor and council officially declared February 14-20, 2016 as Week of Action Against Poverty.

## Red Ribbon Campaign



Eleven volunteers from People First met on February 2 to assemble 1500 ribbons. The ribbons were distributed to 25 locations around the city. The group made plans to set up production in conjunction with one of their full group meetings to increase the number of volunteers next year. Radio, online and print media covered the event

## Prayers from the Pulpit

All members of the Kenora Ministerial Association were notified and indications are that local congregations did participate as usual. There was no tracking of prayer efforts.

## Poverty Challenge



This year's challenge was issued to the business sector. Two individuals and one couple engaged in the "Walk in Other Shoes" exercise for five days. Their blogged experiences drew 450 hits on the challenge site. Participants also shared experiences within their own spheres of influence to expand community understanding of the reality of local poverty. Media coverage was ongoing for the challenge. Following the challenge, a presentation given to Rotary on the experience was received favourably and broadened the event impact.

## Soups On

Barley's Angels, sponsored by the Lake of the Woods Brewing Company, did a soup making class. Fourteen women participated and 90 litres of soup were made and distributed to the food program at St. Thomas Aquinas, Women's Shelter Saakate House and the Fellowship Centre.

## Heartsfull Tea



Coordinated by Marie Morrison, the Heartsfull Tea was held on February 13 (1 pm-3 pm). Eight volunteers assisted her in staging the tea for the 27 guests in attendance. Calvary Pentecostal provided the baking for the tea and the bake sale. The children's activity table was well used for younger guests. The event raised \$200.00 for Jubilee's discretionary fund. Leftover baking was donated to the emergency shelter.



## Angels Among Us Concert



Themed and original music was performed by Alex Call, Percy Cameron, Jan Boutwell and Jackson Klippenstein. There were 27 in attendance who donated \$150 to the Build Kenora Strong campaign.

Alex Call's song, *There's An Angel In There Somewhere*, garnered much media buzz, including CBC and Thunder Bay Regional news.

## Acoustic Night

Thirty four persons attended the fundraising concert by Mike Procyshyn, Ted O'Flaugherty and Ainslie Everett. All proceeds went to the local food bank.



## Miles of Mittens



Half a mile of donated new mittens were hung around and about City Hall in the culmination of the keynote Miles of Mittens campaign. Ladies in Black were primary in providing and hanging the mitten display. Donations were forwarded to the Kenora Fellowship Centre, Jubilee Church of God, Sakaate House, Pope John Paul II School and the Minto Family Resource Centre. Media coverage was comprehensive.

## Hot Meal Challenge

Three groups issued challenges (MKH- HUB, NWHU, KSAMHTF). The HUB delivered dinner on February 23 to the Helping Hands project. It was a full roast pork dinner that was certainly enjoyed by the guests. We had 7 volunteers serving. The costs were covered by donation.



## Beanfest

Seeds for Change issued the beanfest challenge. Three groups (KACL, LAO/NCLC, NWHU) participated in exploring cheaper protein dishes through beans & legumes. The health unit and KACL ladled up bean based soups while LAO/NCLC held a competition that brought out the beans through dips, salads, falafels and brownies.



## Wear Red

Only two groups (Q104 & LAO/NCLC) reported the wearing of the red on Wednesday, February 17. The Fellowship Centre patrons flashed their “red” by creating posters of their personal priorities for housing.



## Project Energize

Volunteers from the Kenora Seniors Coalition did online registration for 2 hour sessions over 3 days. There were several inquiries and 10 seniors signed up for the project (\$30 monthly for 5 years-total savings of \$18,000). There have been several inquiries since the event which were directed to the Northwest Community Legal Clinic for follow up.

It was later discovered that there was an error in the computer program which failed to direct applicants to the subsequent submission of a written consent to OESP. Applicants have received reminders since the online registration requesting written consents to be forwarded to the program. Media promotion by print, radio and online was helpful.

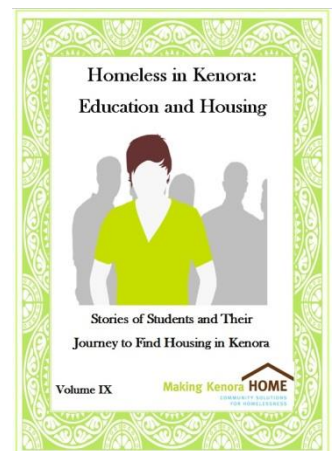
## Spills & Spaghetti



The Kenora Substance Abuse & Mental Health Task Force-Housing Pillar held a fundraiser for their Build Kenora Strong-One Home At A Time campaign. An evening at the local ski hill which included tubing, dinner and live entertainment raised \$112. Approximately 60 persons attended despite the extremely cold weather. Media coverage by radio, print and online.

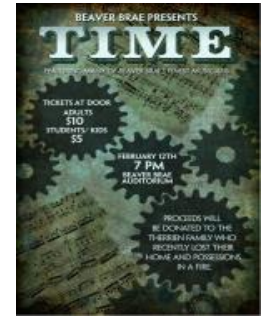
## Homeless in Kenora: Education & Housing Booklet Launch

This year's focus was on student housing which was one of the identified housing issues in the 2007 Housing Solutions Report. The booklet launch took place at Seven Generations Educational Institute (Manidoo Baawaatig campus) where students had shared their own stories of the impact of housing issues on their educational objectives.



## TIME Benefit Performance

BBSS held a talent fundraiser to assist a student whose family had lost everything in a housefire. The donation tally was \$1,000. Media coverage by print.



## Fellowship Share Dinner

The centre's Truth & Reconciliation committee invited community partners to share in a traditional circle and meal. There were 16 representatives who joined the committee in special time of healing and appreciation.



## Financial Institutions

Every financial institution in town put up the commitment poster during poverty week. There were no connected activities reported in conjunction to WAAP.



## Coldest Night of the Year



Jubilee Church and the Fellowship Centre organized participation in the national Coldest Night of the Year fundraising walk. Almost a 100 local citizens participated in the event that raised \$23,733.09.



*Week of Action Against Poverty: A uniquely Kenora Tradition*

