

# Huron House Boys' Home CHRISTMAS BULLETIN 2006

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## A message from the Executive Director . . .

As I sit writing this newsletter, I realize just how busy we've been here at the Boys' Home since our Spring Bulletin mailing. After a great summer, we look forward to the routine that arrives with fall and the back to school ritual.

In most families, starting school is a time of anticipation, excitement, and perhaps some anxiety over the unknown. Who are my teachers? What are they like? Will I be able to do the work? All are common thoughts for students returning to school. Parents also find back to school to be a demanding time. At the top of the 'to do' list are the trips to the store to pick up supplies and clothes. Shopping carts are full of binders, paper, pens, markers, calculators, indoor and outdoor shoes, backpacks.

The same is the case at the Boys' Home. We had several new boys arrive over the summer, so getting them registered in the right school in a timely manner is always a challenge. Teachers and Principals are back in the schools just before the new school year, so we always find it pretty chaotic making sure the boys are all set for a new year at school, e.g., registered, correct courses, bus transportation, and fees paid. Just imagine what the typical family experiences *times 28* and you have an idea of what back to school is like at the Boys' Home! Our shopping carts are overflowing with supplies and clothing. Twenty-eight calculators, 28 registration fees, often up to 56 pairs of shoes (they require indoor and outdoor shoes), 28 backpacks (last year's are rarely able to do another year).

One of the main reasons why boys are here is because school is not normally a positive experience for them. We find that the boys' anxiety level goes off the chart as school gets closer. Once settled, most boys find that it is possible for them to achieve more success at school. The program at the Boys' Home provides stability, structure, and support - all extremely important for the boys to be successful in school and in life.

With Thanksgiving just behind us, and Christmas fast approaching, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for making a difference in these boys' lives. The generous support of the community has made it possible for us to continue in this very important work. I wish you and your family a very special Christmas.

With gratitude,  
*Ken Akers*

**It's easy to smile when someone cares!**

**Thanks to our Supporters and Sponsors:**

**20th Annual Run/Walk/Skate/Bike**

Our 20<sup>th</sup> annual Run/Walk/Skate/Bike took place in June on Father's Day. That's such a significant milestone for this popular event. Many of you gave pledges for the participants and supported us in so many different ways. We also received a lot of support from corporate sponsors. Lambton Financial Credit Union, Lanxess, Sentry Fire Equipment, Bluewater Power, Nova, Marion Watt C.A., Tim Horton's franchises throughout Sarnia, Team Outfitters, and Haines Printing to name just a few supporters. All were instrumental in determining our success. More than 650 people participated. We received more than \$20,000 in pledge money and \$14,000 in donations. Thanks to everyone involved, we raised \$30,000!

Next year we have a new location for this fun event - Mike Weir Park!

**Rotary Club of Sarnia**

The Board of Directors would like to acknowledge and give thanks to the Rotary Club of Sarnia for their recent donation to Huron House Boys' Home. The Rotary Club will be contributing \$100,000 as a multi-year donation in support of our Capital Renovation and Renewal Project that we recently completed.

We are grateful for their generosity and commitment to the Boys' Home. This donation will pay for the new kitchen and dining room that the boys now enjoy.

Such donations allow us to continue helping the young boys from our community learn the necessary life skills and to renew desire to become active and contributing members of our society.

**The Boys of Summer**

Summertime at Huron House is often a time when we have fun and try new things. The boys continue to have responsibilities/chores, but we mix in as much recreation as possible. After all, that's part of the summer experience for any kid. Many of the boys experience things during summers at Huron House that they may never have had the opportunity to experience before.

One such experience is a 'summer vacation' trip. This year, the boys and staff spent 2 days whitewater rafting down the Ottawa River. It was an exhilarating trip, and you can be sure the boys will be telling the story of this trip for years to come. The occasional fear in their eyes as they approached some of the rapids soon disappeared with the fun and success of a day of rafting! The pictures on the next page are just some of the highlights of this great time.

We also have a tradition at the end of the summer called "Olympic Day". Our summer students organize a full day of fun events in the soccer field here at Huron House. Events range from the challenging to the ridiculous. Teamwork, fun, and wet, messy activities are the spirit of the day - not skill. It's a great way

## Wet, Wild, and Fun Times



### Testimonial From Past Residents

“Just wanted to say much love and thanks for all the things that you have done for us along the way. Things have changed for us. We are finishing school this year and going to college to be a Child and Youth Worker.”

- Justin and Jeremy (brothers)

**It's easy to smile when someone cares!**



**FRONTLINE SPOTLIGHT**

Each Bulletin will spotlight one of our staff. Our 2006 Christmas Bulletin highlights Dan Corrigan.

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**Dan Corrigan**  
**Residential Counsellor**

Dan has a common-law partner and has 2 children. He has worked at the Boys' Home for 22 years and has a degree from Miami Ohio.

**Hobbies:** Hockey, golf, gardening, boating  
**If not working at the Boys' Home what would you be doing?** Stand-up comedian  
**Favourite getaway:** San Andres  
**Favourite movie:** Wizard of Oz  
**One person you would have dinner with and why?** Jim Carey. He's hilarious and makes me laugh.  
**Movie star you most resemble?** Burt Lahr (Wizard of Oz)

**Since 1970... a Home and Future for Boys**

**Yes,** I would like to make a difference in a boy's life! Please accept my gift to Huron House Boys' Home.

- \$50     \$75     \$100     \$250     Other     Visa     MasterCard

Please make cheques payable to: *Huron House Boys' Home*

Please send me information on giving through a bequest, life insurance, or stock.

I have made provision for Huron House Boys' Home in my will.

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**It's easy to smile when someone cares!**