



Huron House Boys' Home SPRING BULLETIN 2009

Huron House Boys' Home, 2473 Lakeshore Rd., P.O. Box 260, Bright's Grove, ON N0N 1C0
Phone (519) 869-4000 Fax: (519) 869-6999 E-mail: info@hhbh.ca Website: www.hhbh.ca



Michael with family, 2009

Making a Difference, One Boy at a Time

Featuring Boys' Home Alumni

My name is Michael Rand and I lived at the Boys' Home for four years. My family life was not that of a family. I felt more like an outsider. I had no one to look up to, no one to mentor me, and no way to be just a kid without worries.

At Huron House I found a sense of belonging and accomplishment. I learned values that are still part of my life today. I learned about honest work ethic and goals. I learned never to give up, and to ask for help, regardless of pride. Being able to grow physically and mentally are things I will always remember about Huron House. There I felt a part of something, and was never denied help or a listening ear.

Once I proved myself, I was fortunate to be permitted to live in their apartment in preparation to enter 'the real world'. Along with a select few, I was given more responsibility and more independence and I felt respected and trusted.

I know this for sure: I needed a friend, a father, a shoulder to lean on, and some encouragement and direction in life. I needed a chance. I found all these things at the Huron House Boys' Home and I will forever be in their debt. I am a Huron House friend forever.

A Message from the Executive Director

We need to be thankful for what we have.

In a time where there is a lot of uncertainty and fear in this climate of economic upheaval, holding on to what we have and cherishing those things are what's most important. Family will always be family. Those times around the dinner table, conversations held over doing the dishes, discussions we have while helping with homework, laughing with each other, or a hug at just the right time - all of these paint a picture of love and caring for one another no matter the circumstances.

Some relationships come and go and we all know that money is just money and has little reference to one's true happiness. On the other hand, family is there for you in all situations and through all the good and bad times we experience.

At the Boys' Home, family is what we are all about. Caring for those in need of help, providing guidance, support and encouragement to stand up and meet our hardships head on - these are things we provide for our Huron House family. For most of us that have life experiences to draw upon, pulling ourselves up and moving forward, although difficult, is usually accomplished with hard work. For young teenagers with no life experiences or skills to draw upon, it becomes a whirlwind tornado of where to start and how to make sense of all the confusion and turmoil in their lives. Having someone who cares, who shows understanding and gives guidance is often all that is needed to help them to become healthy strong young men - young men that go on to be responsible employees, husbands, fathers, or whatever future role they choose.

In 2010, we will be turning 40 years old! More than 800 boys have come and gone and we have seen most of them succeed in life. We sometimes hear from some of our former boys and when we do, it reminds us all of why we are here and that we are blessed with knowing we have made a difference in the life of one of our family members. So it is with Mike, who you can read about in his story above. It's the stories of men like Mike that demonstrate just how important Huron House's program is, and what an important role your continued support has played in the successes of Huron House.

With gratitude, **Ken Akers**

It's easy to smile when someone cares!



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The Father's Day Tradition Continues...Join Us!



23 Years Running Strong Boys' Home Run/Walk/Skate/Bike Sunday, June 21, 2009 Mike Weir Park

Be a part of this great family experience...as a participant, as a sponsor, as a spectator, as a volunteer, or just join us for our famous pancake and sausage breakfast! Our route is flat and fast, and there's something for everyone.

Find out about **our new start times and new registration information** by getting a registration form at the Boys' Home, our web site, www.hhbh.ca or at one of these area locations:

- Lambton Financial Credit Union
- The Running Room (www.runningroom.com)
- Tim Hortons
- Play It Again Sports

Successful fundraising contributes to success at the Boys' Home.

Thank you for making great things possible.

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pond hockey



board games



sledge hockey



laundry

At work and play, the Boys' Home program builds self-esteem and character in youth on their journey to independence and success. Fun, games, school work, yard work, house work, and outings in the community are all valuable experiences and memories-in-the making.

Watch for upcoming events in support of Huron House Boys' Home, including:

Geocaching at Wawanosh Wetlands

Sunday, September 27, 2009 and

Men Who Cook - Reinvented

Saturday, March 6, 2010.

For more information on these events or other ways to support the Boys' Home, contact us at:

(519) 869-4000 or
scrowe@hhbh.ca or
info@hhbh.ca



Bluewater Optimist Ron Yorke presents a cheque to Ken Akers, the Boys' Home Executive Director, as part of the Optimists' winding-down process.



Volunteers joined youth and staff at the Boys' Home to plant 60 trees as part of Arbour Week.

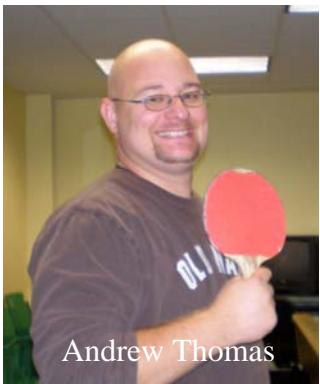
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FRONTLINE SPOTLIGHT

Featuring Boys' Home Staff



Andrew Thomas

A native of Sarnia and surrounding area, Andrew Thomas is a graduate of the Child and Youth Worker program at Lambton College. For the past six years he has been part of Huron House Boys' Home as a residential counsellor.

Andrew has particularly enjoyed his involvement in the planning of the annual summer camping trip. These trips develop independence, interdependence and a genuine rapport among the staff and youth.

Andrew and his wife have a daughter, who is a three-year-old whirlwind, and a cat named Delilah which they recently adopted from the Sarnia Humane Society. When not at work, he enjoys sports, karaoke and travel.

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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 \$ _____

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

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