



Huron House Boys' Home CHRISTMAS BULLETIN 2011

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



Corry and Shirley Coyea

Making a Difference, One Boy at a Time

Featuring Boys' Home Alumni

Corry Coyea exudes enthusiasm. His upbeat attitude is contagious. He is well grounded and focused. Was he always this way? Of course not. When he came to Huron House at eleven years of age he was persistently adversarial, and overly defensive of the family he avoided as much as possible. Fighting with anyone and everyone was standard behaviour.

He acknowledges he didn't get a personality remake during his time at Huron House, but the seeds were planted and he acquired tools to choose the way he wanted to grow.

Corry remembers vividly the things that helped him learn more appropriate behaviour and how to make choices that would advance rather than defeat him.

Number one was work ethic. He lives it today and uses it as a guiding principal in all he does. Another big one was the summer trips. They were awesome. But Corry points out that the simpler things like outings to a Sarnia Bees' game, or a movie were equally important. The times a staff member brought a few of them to his home for movie nights taught him how to be comfortable with togetherness. That was invaluable. Other little things that were reinforced daily stuck to him like glue and have impacted his life. It wasn't just the issues he learned to deal with either; he laughs when he talks about etiquette. What kid thinks that's important? But he was sure glad he learned it when he was able to impress his girlfriend's family!

As an adult, there isn't much Corry hasn't done. Currently he's the owner of a Bell Satellite service company, and part time truck driver. His hobbies include scuba diving, snowmobiling (he's Operations Director for clubs in Southwestern Ontario), and motorcycling. He credits the latter for meeting his wife Shirley ten years ago. He was out for a ride one day when he stopped to watch a soccer game in Glencoe. Shirley noticed him and his bike and started talking with him. They forged a bond that has grown stronger ever since. Shirley had two kids in their early teens at the time, and her husband had recently passed away, leaving an emptiness in their lives. Corry's enthusiasm, energy and motorbike were a breath of fresh air to them. And he was happy to open new worlds to their family life with his can-do attitude and the work ethic learned at Huron House.

There's no doubt Huron House made a difference in Corry's life. He's still proud to have 'given back' when he was a kid living here, raising \$2,000 for the Run/Walk/Skate/Bike. He's still in touch with several of the staff and residents who made a difference, and glad that Huron House continues to influence troubled teens.

A Message from the Executive Director

It is so nice to hear how well Corry is doing. Although I wasn't at Huron House when Corry was here, I know that the struggles he experienced are the same as those the boys we have today are dealing with. Whether it's learning social, life, or independent living skills, or just having the opportunity to have new experiences, all of these elements help to provide a foundation for future success. The boys need our help and guidance, and during this time of economic downturn, we need your help as well. Please consider how you might support this very important work we do with the future men of our community.

Warm regards, Ken Akers

It's easy to smile when someone cares!



Father's Day Run

The 25th annual Father's Day Run/Walk/Skate/Bike was a big success. The weather was perfect and the new 5 km run was very popular. We were happy to welcome RBC Dominion Securities, Eagleson Hazzard Group as our Event Sponsor. As well as sponsorship funding they participated in several events and managed a water stop. Thanks to all who participated and supported the event!



Registration at the Lambton Mall



Draws for great prizes



Winner of Trex 820 bicycle donated by The Bicycle Shop

Summer Storms

Violent weather was a recurring theme all around this year. Huron House trees were among the casualties of the storms. Staff and youth pitched in to restore the beautiful grounds. Fortunately no people or buildings were affected.



Corporate Caring

In a whirlwind of paint and energy, employees from Suncor, Imperial Oil and Dulux Paints repainted halls, bedrooms and the gym at Huron House. Thanks to Dulux for supplies and to The United Way for coordinating the event.

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Summer Activities

Summer was just about perfect here at the Boys' Home. Activities were varied and active and allowed the boys an opportunity for more casual interactions and experiences than they get during the school year.



Community Support

We are always grateful for donations of supplies and money from the community. You'll know some of our donors.



Union Gas Millennium Fund donated money to purchased work boots for our boys.



Slater Wealth Management donated BBQ lunch proceeds



Crabby Joes donated golf tournament proceeds.

Make a Difference

We encourage you to help support the excellent programs and activities of Huron House Boys' Home by donating today. You can even direct funds to activities of your choice.



Join us in 2012

- Saturday, March 3, *Men Who Cook* will be back at the Lambton Inn. Tickets for this fabulous event will again be \$75.
- Sunday, June 17, the annual Father's Day *Run/Walk/Skate/Bike* will be held at Mike Weir Park. Be there!

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FRONTLINE SPOTLIGHT

Featuring Boys' Home Staff

Had Andy Collins chosen meteorology over social services, he wouldn't have got to enjoy the camaraderie developed here at Huron House (particularly with other Leafs fans), the work ethic the kids here achieve, or the family atmosphere between youth and staff.

As a Residential Counsellor, he's particularly proud of the influence his interest in music has had. During his 12 years here he has taught the basic guitar chords to 50

boys. Of those, eight still play for pleasure, one plays professionally, and another performs at weddings and other gatherings. Andy and the boys would like you to know that "donations of gently used musical equipment would be most appreciated".

When not at work Andy enjoys the Toronto Maple Leafs, gardening, playing guitar, storms (remember he almost became a meteorologist), and he struggles with his long-term ensuite renovation that continues to elude completion.

Andy and his wife Linda were married on the island at Huron House. Together they are raising two teenaged boys who are an excellent point of reference for the work he does here. And, yes, he uses the same strategies and ethics at home as he uses with the boys in his Huron House family. They really do work.

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It's easy to smile when someone cares!