



Huron House Boys' Home CHRISTMAS BULLETIN 2012

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



Making a Difference One Boy at a Time

When Willy arrived at Huron House Boys' Home four years ago he never could have imagined it would lead to the experience of a lifetime. He's proud and excited to be one of only 20 Lambton County high school students to be selected to participate in a three week trip to Africa. Willy was invited to apply and successfully navigated paperwork and interviews to demonstrate he had the qualities needed; things like social skills, general fitness, co-operativeness, focus and reliability.

On the trip the elite group of students and six adults will spend a week helping build a school, a week climbing Mount Kenya, and two days on a Safari.

The project, created to develop teen leadership, is being organized through Big Brothers Big Sisters and the YMCA. Already Willy is developing those leadership skills. He has had the opportunity to present the project to the Moose Lodge and was successful in acquiring a donation for the project. It's not surprising, as he shows exceptional clarity of thought and true passion when talking about the trip and all the activities involved.

As the only student selected from Alexander McKenzie Secondary School, Willy didn't know any of the other participants when he applied. He grins when he shares, "that has all changed now". With a year of fundraising, team building, training and weekly meetings behind them, Willy says, "we've bonded"

As for how the group is raising the \$173,000 needed for supplies, transportation and activities, that too has been a team effort. From door-to-door personal invitations, to speaking to groups, assisting at Ribfest, Artwalk, Art in the Park, the Bridge Race, and Warrior Games, running concession stands and doing face painting at the power boat races, the group has only \$40,000 left to raise. Through all this, Willy also has grass cutting and leaf raking jobs. Revenue from that goes straight into his own bank account to provide him with some personal spending money.

We couldn't be prouder of Willy and know this trip will contribute to his future success. Meanwhile we're looking forward to a skype call from the mountain top, and great stories when he returns home to Huron House.

From the Executive Director

It is with mixed feelings that I write this Bulletin message. These past 12 years as Executive Director of Huron House Boys' Home have proven to be rewarding and challenging. After a 39 year career working with children and youth, the time has come for me to change paths. I recently advised the Board and staff that I will be retiring as of March 29, 2013.

There have been many changes in our community and at the Boys' Home while I have been here. I have strived to ensure that the youth and families of Sarnia-Lambton have received the level of support and service they expect from an agency whose purpose is to help them. I have enjoyed every minute of my time and learned so very much from the people of this community. I wish to thank each and every one of you for your ongoing support of myself, the boys in care, and the exceptional work my staff do. My final request is that in the years to come, you continue to find a way to support the Boys' Home and the young men we serve.



With my best wishes, Ken

It's easy to smile when someone cares!



Hurray! Father's Day Run Joins Social Media

Our annual fundraising event is entering the electronic age! We've been working with Leadwave Technologies to build a website that will answer all your questions. Also our committee members are creating a Facebook page that will keep you up to date on event details. Check us out at www.boyshomerun.ca and www.facebook.com/huron.houseRWSB. We knew you'd be happy too!



Other New Features:

Sponsors - Did you notice the new sponsors on the backs of the t-shirts? We are delighted to welcome Enbridge, Freedom 55 Financial, and AG Event Graphics to our great event.

Marshal Vests - Creative Education of Canada and Industrial Covers provided bright new vests for our route marshals.

Signs - AG Event Graphics made great new route signs.

Great Photos - Find yourself and your friends at this year's event through the new boyshomerun.ca website. We have more photos than ever, thanks to the Sarnia Photographic Club.



STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER™



Also New and Exciting and Coming in March...



John Wing Jr. Coming to Men Who Cook!

We're very excited to welcome renowned comedian and Sarnia native John Wing Jr. as the featured entertainment at *Men Who Cook*. What a wonderful way to make a great event even better.

Men Who Cook will take place at the Dante Club on **Saturday, March 2, 2013**. Book your table early to be sure to get a seat. Tickets are just \$75 each or \$600 for a table of eight! Contact Sharon at 519-869-4000 or scrowe@hbbh.ca.

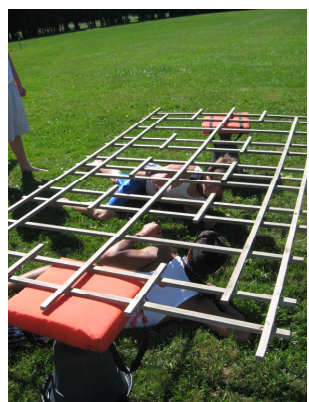


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Summer

When summer comes and the boys are out of school, that's the time when creativity and activities at Huron House become even more critical. Staff and youth interact continually and the hot lazy days are punctuated with work assignments and expeditions. It's all important to healthy development, but we know it's the exciting moments that the boys will remember for years to come. This year's highlights included whitewater rafting, sailing at the Sarnia Yacht Club, Canada's Wonderland, beach expeditions, picnics, barbeques and backyard Olympics. For some of our youth these normal relationships and activities are new experiences. Thanks to all of our supporters for helping to make them happen.



Our Generous Community Makes a Difference



Sylvan Learning Centre has been donating a barbeque for a prize at Run/Walk/Skate/Bike for many years.



Enbridge understands the importance of structure and stability for at-risk teenaged boys.



McCormick Insurance knows about growing boys and donates beef every autumn to help feed them. Thanks Wayne!

You Should Do This: Donate Libro's Money!

Until December 31, if you join Libro they'll give \$50 to the youth charity, group or cause of your choice. Simply go into the branch nearest you, have a brief meeting with a Libro coach, open an account that fits your needs, and tell them the name of your preferred youth group or cause. (We're sure you'll choose Huron House Boys' Home!) Libro will send us the \$50. That's it. No conditions. It couldn't be easier.

Mike Blondin is a man who has seen our need and set out to help. For two years, with proceeds from the Quality Control Council of Canada annual golf tournament, Mike has filled our boys' wish lists by replacing the worn out sports equipment. Then he noticed that some of our kitchen equipment had seen better days, so he made the cooks happy with good quality knives and small appliances. Then he learned about our boys in the Independent Living Program and provided some 'apartment basics' to get them started. It's no wonder we all smile when Mike pops by!



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FRONTLINE SPOTLIGHT

Featuring Boys' Home Staff—Kelly Jubenville



Apprehensive, to say the least. That's what Kelly Jubenville was feeling when she learned her third year Child and Youth Worker co-op placement was going to be at Huron House Boys' Home. She wondered if the boys would be more aggressive than her diminutive stature and gentle nature could bear. But it's funny how life works. It turns out that those very characteristics often bring out the gentle nature in our boys. Since then she hasn't looked back, being hired part time when she graduated from Lambton College in 2006, and full time soon afterwards.

What Kelly loves most about the Boys' Home is the calls she gets from alumni. It's gratifying when they call to thank her for what she did and acknowledge that yes, even though they didn't want to come here, and they weren't always co-operative, the things they learned here are the things that are helping them most in the real world. She laughs as she comments that some of them still come 'home' to do laundry and eat dinner with the 'family'.

Kelly is looking forward to the newest development at the Boys' Home, as she and three co-workers began implementing the Independent Living Program. She sees it as a brilliant response to the changing needs of those we serve.

When not bringing out the best in our boys, Kelly enjoys reading, singing and maintaining the old central Sarnia home she purchased two years ago.

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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 \$ _____

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