



# Huron House Boys' Home

## SPRING BULLETIN 2014

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### Making a Difference One Boy at a Time

#### Jake is Moving On

Jake shakes his head and grins broadly. He has no idea why he got into so much trouble while living with his family. His parents and older brother were honest, caring people. Maybe there wasn't enough structure, or real consequences? Certainly his choice of companions and peer pressure were factors. Regardless, Jake clearly was into trouble. Drugs, theft and property damage were all part of his repertoire. He had anger issues and rarely attended school.

Fortunately he was bright enough to know he needed help, and Huron House Boys' Home seemed to offer a solution.

Jake is proud of his turn around. He has a perfect attendance record at Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School, has good grades and is involved with their Goodwill program.

Jake isn't exactly sure where to assign credit for his success. He learned from the weekly group meetings. He appreciated the long talks with his primary workers; they helped him recognize the probable outcomes of different choices. He thought the empathy program was a very wise initiative. But he glows when he talks about working at community jobs. Come to think of it, the work ethic he brought with him was a big factor in his success. It really paid off on community jobs, where his hard work led to an enviable bank account balance.

Jake responded well to the structure and guidance of Huron House. At present he is living in the in-house apartment and thriving in the Independent Living Program. He'll take important lessons with him when he graduates from grade 12 in June and moves to living independently in his home community. He already has a permanent part time job lined up.

Jake is happy, optimistic, and feeling great about his future. We couldn't be happier for him!



### From the Executive Director

Believe it or not I have been here a year, and what a year! The more I see of this community, the more I love it. I have been able to see our famous Run/Walk/Skate/Bike and our spectacular "Men who Cook" gala. I have been able to speak to various groups, e.g. Kiwanis, Optimists, and churches. Each event reinforces the fantastic community support for the Boys' Home, which is greatly appreciated.

We have implemented significant therapeutic programming at the Boys' Home, have hired a part time psychologist, have reworked our Policies and Procedures and are embarking on the process to be re-accredited as a Children's Mental Health Facility.

Additionally the system is changing. While the majority of our youth come from Sarnia, boys from across southwestern Ontario are being placed with us as other resources are being closed.

I have met many graduates of the Boys' Home this year and heard community success stories of men who have moved on. It makes me proud to be here, working with a great staff team and with young men like Jake.

With my gratitude, Don

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





**Run/Walk/Skate/Bike  
Mike Weir Park  
Sunday, June 15, 8:00 a.m.**



@Huron\_House



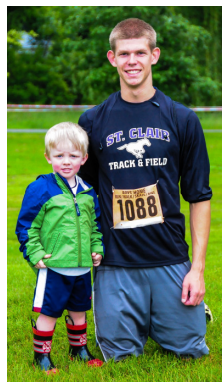
Father's Day Race Event



Fast or Slow

Young or Old

Friends and Families



**An Event for Everyone!**

We've always been inclusive, welcoming competitors and recreational athletes, fitness buffs and families. This year we are pleased to be able to include My Team Triumph. Captains (in wheelchairs) will have a team of 'angels' wheeling them along either the 5k or 10k race course. To avoid potential collisions they will start at 8:05 a.m., five minutes before the 10k runners. Runners with strollers will start at that time as well.

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





## Men Who Cook Unique, Creative, Delicious

Generosity reigned at Men Who Cook.

Perhaps it was a positive response to the great evening...exquisite food (40 cooks), excellent service (wonderful volunteers), dynamic entertainment (dueling pianos), lovely décor (Par T Rentals) and florals (Grower Direct). Maybe it was recognition for the great work done at Huron House.

Sold out once again, this year's event raised more than \$22,000 for the boys of Huron House.

Professional Winners: Jason Harris, Marty Raaymakers, Murray Budden (The Cheese Store Three)  
Runner up: Donald Traxler (Watermark Bistro)

Thanks to all who made it a success again this year



Amateur Winners: Willie and Jake (Huron House )  
Runner up Jeff Hodgins (Sarnia Chiropractic and Performance Centre)

## Community Support



We are continually impressed and appreciative of the many ways people show support. Some are long-time donors, some come across us by chance.

Many donate money, others donate goods and services. Each of you help make the great things we do possible.



**Ted Helbin** didn't know what to do with his full sized Brunswick snooker table when he had to move it. Fortunately **Mark from Aqua Pools** did! Together they arranged donation and installation in the boys' recreation room. Ted plans to use the funds from the income tax benefit he received to help with medical costs for a friend in need.



**Bill Chong** of **Haines Printing** has been a supporter of Huron House Boys' Home for many years, donating printing services for Men Who Cook, Run/Walk/Skate/Bike, and multitudes of other jobs. He is also a mighty fine cook!



**John Strachlin**, a Boys' Home alumni and owner of **Surface Solutions**, helps from time to time. This spring he shaved cement so one of our doors would close properly. Was it a coincidence that John was on hand to move the pool table?



## Meanwhile at 'Home'...

Some things never change. Spring means spring cleaning inside and out at Huron House Boys' Home.



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## Support Staff SPOTLIGHT

Featuring Boys' Home Staff—Jack Martin



Retirement didn't sit well with Jack Martin. He was bored! After all, he'd been working since he was 13. So he was happy to find a new outlet for his mechanical and handyman talents at Huron House Boys' Home. That was seven years ago. Now at 78 years of age (79 in July) he thinks he's found the perfect balance working Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The remainder of the week he keeps busy with model ship building, home maintenance, visiting with family, and accompanying Betty, his wife of 58 years, on shopping excursions, mainly for quilting supplies.

Jack has worked for many businesses in his long career, including Air Ontario for 16 ½ years, Anning Motors for 7 years, Snider's Garage for 7 years, and at a number of other local garages. But Huron House Boys' Home has earned a special place in his heart. He finds that 'the staff' have a great attitude, and the kids are fine'. He really likes the general atmosphere. The other thing he really likes is that no two days are alike. With the variety of tasks he is called on to perform, from fixing the many lawn mowers to hanging banners for the Father's Day Run, he's never bored, and he'll never run out of things to do.

Besides that, working here keeps him young!

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\*All donations are collected by the Huron House Boys' Home Foundation and provided to Youth Services of Lambton County (o/a Huron House Boys' Home) as required.

## 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 Foundation\***

☐ \$50    ☐ \$75    ☐ \$100    ☐ \$250    ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**For credit card payment, please complete the following:**    ☐ Visa    ☐ MasterCard

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