



Huron House Boys' Home CHRISTMAS BULLETIN 2014

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Making a Difference One Boy at a Time Matt Influenced by Alumni

February 18, 1986: A boy named Scott arrived at Huron House Boys' Home. He came directly from an open custody facility; things hadn't been going too well.

Fast forward to February 18, 2010: A boy named Matt arrived at Huron House Boys' Home. He had just been kicked out of another foster home.

The connection? Twenty-six years later Scott, now a Residential Counsellor at Huron House, became Matt's primary worker at a place that was transformative for both of them.

Matt wasn't a bad kid; most kids aren't. By the time he arrived he had already decided he did not want to continue the family history of bad choices that had resulted in Children's Aid Society involvement for many generations. But the predominant influences in his life made getting into trouble easier than staying out of it. Matt enthusiastically confirms that Huron House Boys' Home provided the environment he needed to make better choices. He quickly became a model resident, gaining lawn jobs, full privileges and access to the Independent Living Program.

Like Scott and others who have lived at Huron House, Matt has returned to places that helped him. He has worked at the Children's Aid Society as an Administrative Assistant and as an Information Technologist. He is also involved with the CAS as youth advocate. He attended their annual general meeting in ...more inside



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Message from Executive Director Don Adam

We are all glad that Matt, Kayne and Scott had the wonderful resources of Huron House Boys' Home to help shape their lives in positives ways. Their stories are evidence that Huron House Boys' Home is a good investment.

Over the past 18 months, I have had the privilege of meeting several graduates of Huron House and their stories are similar. Some even say the Boys' Home saved their lives. The more I learn about the work that has been done, and is being done at Huron House, the more impressed I am. What a great staff team!

This year we were re-accredited as a Children's Mental Health Facility by the Canadian Centre for Accreditation. It was an onerous but important task to ensure our programs meet the needs of our kids.

...more inside

It's easy to smile when someone cares!



Run/Walk/Skate/Bike BIG NEWS!

We are excited to be adding **ADRENALINE TRAIL** as an event at the Run/Walk/Skate/Bike on Father's Day 2015. Created for teams of four, it will be a series of creative physical challenges. It will take place in Mike Weir Park, adding an 'extreme' option for participants looking for something unique.

Details are in the works, but we know we'll have opportunities for sponsorship and volunteers, and the number of teams will be limited. Contact scrowe@hhbh.ca to get involved early!



Boys' Home News

Twenty-four social service agencies have come together to strengthen the capacity and promote the values of community-based health and social services throughout Sarnia-Lambton. We are proud to be a part of this coalition, the **Social Services Network of Sarnia-Lambton (SSNSL)**.

Our website is being redeveloped with a fresh new look, easier navigation and more accurate representation of our organization. It will soon be up and running. Check it out and let us know what you think! www.hhbh.ca

Giving Tuesday is an easy way to support Huron House Boys' Home and 25 other local charities. Throughout December you can text **SLGIVES** to 20222 to donate \$5 or \$10 through your phone bill. Again, we're proud to be part of a community of charities that care about each other and the greater good of the community.

Men Who Cook will brighten up your winter with good food and good cheer on Saturday, February 28, 2015, at the Dante Club. We're happy to have Safway (pronounced 'safeway') as Event Sponsor and The Starek Wealth Management Group, RBC Dominion Securities, as the Entertainment Sponsor. The entertainer, Vocal Illusionist Marc Crocker, will tickle your funny bone with his lineup of irresistible characters.



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September and participated in a Foster Parents Awareness meeting earlier in the year. These activities are outside of his comfort zone but he knows they're important and he knows that it's important to do things outside your comfort zone. Hobbies that suit him better include computer programming, gaming and strategy card games. He's also still connected with Huron House Boys' Home and with his very first foster family, where he goes for holidays and visits.

Matt is now in his second year of a three-year Computer Program Analyst Program at Fanshawe College. He shares an apartment with Kayne, another Boys' Home alumnus. Matt, like Kayne, is receiving financial support through Huron House Boys' Home to help with education expenses.



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Additionally, for the sixth straight year, we were licensed by the Ministry of Child and Youth Services; this year with no conditions. Again what a great staff team!

We had many great excursions over the summer for the boys, including a fishing trip and trips to Canada's Wonderland and Niagara Falls. We continue to fundraise to help pay for these excursions but the looks on the boys' faces when they talk about the trips make it worth the effort. "It's easy to smile when someone cares!"

This year we were fortunate to be involved in 'Race to Erase,' an exciting Amazing Race type of event, as part of our fundraising. We had seven teams! That's the most of any agency, and it raised over \$8,000 for our programs and activities.

Sarnia and Lambton County thank you for your ongoing support. Your donations make it possible for us to provide the environment needed to nurture the boys in our care. Your donations make heartwarming stories like Matt's possible.

It's easy to smile when someone cares!



Community Support

Volunteer Mike Blondin was recognized for all he does for Huron House Boys' Home. After being nominated for an online volunteer award "Unsung Heroes", he was lauded in The Sarnia Journal, the Quality Control Council of Canada (QCCC) national newsletter and recognized by Lambton County Warden Todd Case as volunteer of the month in August. Through it all Mike grins humbly and acknowledges the great support of those around him.

Mike has coordinated the QCCC golf tournament for the Boys' Home for four years. Teams have a fantastic time, local businesses are generous and more than \$35,000 has directly benefitted the boys. Among other things, funds raised this year purchased mattresses to replace our deteriorating stock.



Men Who Cook's top auction prize is coveted for good reason: it's a dining experience that cannot be equalled. This year's memorable meal was prepared by award winning cooks Marty Raaymakers (MIG Engineering), Jason Harris (Hazlitt, Steeves, Harris, Dunn, LLP) and Murray Budden (The Cheese Store). Transportation in classic cars was included.



Sizzlin Sisler Sisters blew away the competition at Race to Erase raising more than \$3,500 for Huron House Boys' Home. For their efforts the team was chauffeured by limousine to the Race to Erase challenges. Seven teams supported Huron House, including three by staff and friends. Good fun was had by all.



The Independent Living Program got a boost this year. Thanks to donations from the Sarnia Community Foundation and Noelle's Gift the program was expanded to include weekends and holidays. This important program prepares youth for self sufficiency.



Canadian Heavyweight boxing champion Frank White lives right here in Sarnia! He came to talk to residents, share stories, show his championship belts and his very cool motorbike. The boys were delighted with his visit.



Photo courtesy of www.lambtonshield.com

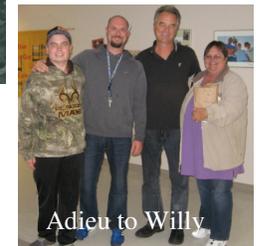
Boys' Home Gallery



Olympic Day Fun



Chillin' in the Summer



Adieu to Willy

It's easy to smile when someone cares!



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Support Staff SPOTLIGHT

Featuring Boys' Home Staff—Janice Acland



Hi, Everyone!

I'm Janice Acland and I'm the in-house clinical social worker at Huron House Boys' Home. In 2002 the Executive Director decided it would be beneficial to have a social worker on staff as more and more residents were presenting with increasingly complex issues. I was enticed to leave my vibrant private practice and was brought on board in May 2003.

I love my job which involves developing intervention plans and providing therapy for individual residents and their families. Over the years I have come to recognize the vast array of skills that all Huron House staff members possess. The custodian, the cooks, the frontline staff and, of course, the management members all work together as a dedicated, supportive team to assist our residents in realizing their potential.

Sometimes, the impact of our program can be seen very quickly but sometimes that positive impact may not be seen until years later when a former resident contacts us and thanks us for helping him turn his life around. Those moments are precious and they remind us of the powerful role we can play in another individual's life.

My husband and I are proud of our two married daughters and our four grandchildren. We are also owners of two furry bundles of Shih Tzu loving joy. We are avid travellers, frequently visiting Europe and England where I was born. If I'm not out gardening in my yard, you'll be sure to find me curled up with a good book when I'm not at work.

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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 needs are approved.

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 cheque payable to: *Huron House Boys' Home*

Name: _____ Address: _____

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