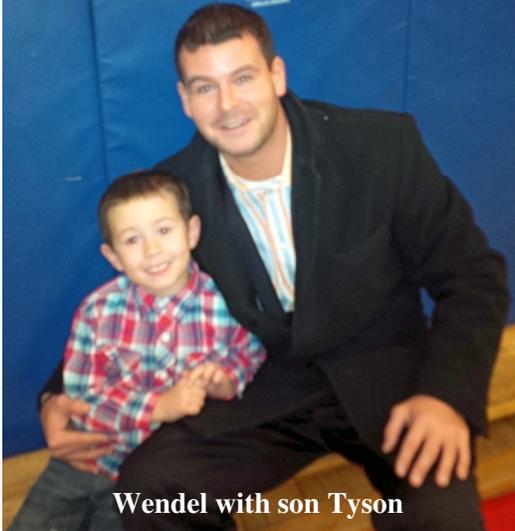




Huron House Boys' Home SPRING BULLETIN 2015

Huron House Boys' Home, 2473 Lakeshore Rd, P.O. Box 260, Bright's Grove, ON N0N 1C0



Wendel with son Tyson

Making a Difference One Boy at a Time

Almost every week Wendel O'Brien's new job with FedEx took him past the entrance to Huron House Boys' Home. Each time he passed he thought about going in, but it was many months before he worked up the courage. He feared the emotions revisiting his past might revive. He had no idea how powerful those feelings would be until he finally made his way down the long driveway – the driveway he had entered for the first time when he was a young teenager who challenged authority; the driveway he had walked down to and from the school bus; the driveway he had driven down for the last time after he had more or less had completed his attitude adjustment.

Well, Wendel didn't become successful in the business world by avoiding challenges, so even as his gut writhed at the prospect of visiting his former home, an equally compelling need for closure brought him nearly trembling through the door.

For Wendel the next two hours were a roller coaster of memories of incidents, feelings, friendships and challenges overcome. He met with some of the staff who had helped him, disciplined him, and motivated him. He walked through the hallways, bedrooms and recreation rooms where he had lived. He talked with the new Executive Director and shared his story.

It seemed a lifetime to Wendel since he had left the Boys' Home...eleven years is a lifetime when your life has turned around. He came to the Boys' Home angry and confused. He left with confidence and a strong sense of values. Since then he has proven himself at university and in the business world. Last year he was recruited as one of the youngest account executives in the history of FedEx, where he is now responsible for managing large revenue accounts.

Wendel is content, happy and proud; proud of his success in business, proud that he's a good father, and proud that he had the courage to come down that long driveway. Now that he knows how welcome he is, he'll be back to visit, without the fears.



Message from the Executive Director

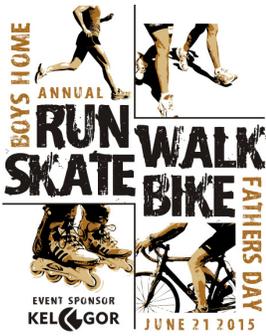
Huron House Boys' Home has been part of my life for two years now, and it's hard to express the feelings of satisfaction and accomplishment that have grown steadily since I began. The longer I am here the more I appreciate the great work that has been done and continues to be done.

Equally impressive is the amazing generosity of this community. Wherever I go people ask me "How can I help?" It's that level of support that makes all we do possible, from our great fundraisers to building a music room; from developing new programming to uplifting stories like Wendel's that are evidence of the success of our work.

Thank you Sarnia and Lambton County for your ongoing support, making stories like Wendel's possible. It's easy to smile when someone cares.

Don Adam

It's easy to smile when someone cares!



Join Us on Father's Day Sunday, June 21 Mike Weir Park

Athletes and families coming together for the Run/Walk/Skate/Bike experience can expect even more this year! Watch for:



Running is a family affair.

ADRENALINE TRAIL, a new event that combines athleticism, personal challenge, teamwork and brainwork. It's an option for adults looking for something out of the ordinary.

Jr. Adrenaline Trail, a new event, free for children ages 4 - 10, with priority to those who register in one of the other events before June 7.

New routes for skaters and bikers to keep them off busy Lakeshore Road.

Visit www.hhbh.ca for details!



Staff families join in.



Pancakes and sausages fill hungry tummies.



Volunteers help out.

Boys' Home News



Art Program - We are constantly adapting programming to meet the needs of the youth we serve. Thanks to Artist Janette Hewitt we now have an art program. The mural painted by some of the boys in the new art room is an excellent example of their formerly hidden talent.



Music Room - It was a real community effort that brought our new music room together. Labourers Union Local 1089 worked for many hours; Dunlop United Church raised funds to purchase materials; and, Sarnia Lambton Business Development Corporation donated excellent instruments and equipment.



The Stories Project - We love stories! We love them so much that we would like to hear stories from you of how you became connected with Huron House Boys' Home. Please contact Sharon by phone at 519-869-4000 or send her a message at scrowe@hhbh.ca.



Volunteer Honoured - Enthusiastic volunteer Mike Blondin was among the deserving recipients named to the Mayor's Honour Roll for 2014. We appreciate all our volunteers!



Increasing Awareness - For a broader reach and to reduce expenses we're trying a different bulletin delivery format. It may seem less personal than addressed mail, but we hope you'll understand.

It's easy to smile when someone cares!



Winner Paul Haggerty, runner-up Rory Ring



Winner Murray Budden, runner-up Paresh Thakkar

Men Who Cook Oh What a Night!

The smiles on the faces of the cooks and guests spoke volumes! This year's Men Who Cook surpassed all others when we didn't think that was possible.

The food was spectacular. The auction and games were a hit. The décor was impressive. Everyone had a great time. Thank you all who supported Men Who Cook 2015.

Congratulations to winning cooks Paul Haggerty, Rory Ring, Murray Budden (The Cheese Store) and Paresh Thakkar (Personal Touch Catering), who were voted best of the night by guests.



Cooks Dr. Ken Walker and Wes Harding enjoy themselves

Community Support



Vendors at the **Farmers' Market** contributed; hundreds enjoyed our **pancake breakfast**.



St. John Ambulance Therapy Dogs are welcome visitors.

LiUNA!

Feel the Power

LiUNA built us a new music room! **Dunlop United Church** covered the cost of materials.

CURRAN

Curran Contractors, a long time supporter, asks only that we continue our good work.



With many fond memories **Knox Presbyterian Church** Camlachie donated funds when their property was sold.



County of Lambton passed on gently used computers when theirs were upgraded.



The thoughtful members of **Sarnia Christian Women's Volleyball League** donated toiletries.

Coming Events



Mike Blondin will hold the annual **Quality Control Council of Canada Golf Bash** on **July 25**. Funds raised are used for 'boy stuff'.



Mark your calendars and join in **Race to Erase** fun on Saturday, **September 26**.



Details are in the works for an open house this fall to celebrate 45 years serving the community.

It's easy to smile when someone cares!



Huron House Boys' Home, 2473 Lakeshore Rd, P.O. Box 260, Bright's Grove, ON N0N 1C0
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FRONTLINE SPOTLIGHT

Featuring Boys' Home Staff—Jenn VanRuymbeke

After seven years as a Relief Youth Worker at Huron House Boys' Home Jen's wish came true last September when she became the newest full time Residential Counsellor.

She beams when she recalls the day she got the word. The reason she was so happy was because Huron House Boys' Home 'has her heart'. When asked what is so great about the Boys' Home she replies "Everything - the boys, the programs, my co-workers, the atmosphere."

paradox, but in fact Jenn's replies reflect one of the key strengths at Huron House - the ability to change and still maintain excellence. Jenn epitomizes the excellence of staff who accommodate changes of all kinds. Her favourite change is the new art room; she now has a place to share her creative side.

In her personal life, Jenn's favourite pastime is baseball. She plays on two teams, including a ladies team which competes yearly in Provincial championships. One of her life highlights was travelling to British Columbia in 2013 to play in the National Ladies' Championships.

Jenn's career at Huron House is shaping up to be a grand slam!

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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:

City, Prov: Postal Code: Phone #:

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

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To receive our bulletin by e-mail rather than regular mail, please e-mail Sharon at scrowe@hhbh.ca.



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