

**PERSONAL REFLECTIONS FROM A RETIRING BOARD MEMBER**

*Harriett Rynberk, Board Chairperson*



**"I have a dream."** said Martin Luther King Jr

About 10 years ago I volunteered to "sort clothes" at Grimsby Life Centre. I had recently served in leadership roles on the boards of both the Welland and St. Catharines Centres and I had been seeking a light and easy supportive job. However, Rita, the Director at the time thought differently. I soon found myself on the support committee with a dream in my heart, planted by the work of the founding centre in St. Catharines. Initially, it seemed like the dream for Grimsby to have an independent, thriving centre would not be realised. We waited and watched as the project took root and the final stages of maturation happened. I have been so blessed

to be part of the process of incorporation; the planting of the West Lincoln Satellite; witnessing the property on Elm Street become a refuge for healing and hope, all the while, chairing the board these four years. A big dream became an even bigger reality.

The building at 18 Elm Street has great significance for me. The first time I stepped into it, a feeling of eeriness came over me – I just wanted to turn around and run. It had previously housed a tattoo parlor; it was filthy and the walls were dark, black and purple. However, a lease was signed and volunteers cleaned it up and transformed it into a welcoming counselling Centre. Thanks to the hard work of more recent volunteers, further renovations have been completed and the building has been transformed inside and out. Like so many lives that have entered our doors, the house has been rebuilt and redeemed and it is beautiful. A miracle!

Adjacent to the property stood a majestic but diseased maple tree that was deemed to be a threat to the Centre should it come down during a storm. When the tree was finally taken down by the Niagara Region, some of the wood from that tree fell into the hands of a local craftsman who then created a beautiful bowl from it. The bowl displays the unique lines of the growth of that tree. It is so very smooth, and even has patches of bark that often fall apart during the 'turning' process of lathing. These lines and patches are a testament to the work of our Artist God in nature, a reminder of His power and magnificence in changing not only nature, but changing us into the people that He wants us to be. Like that block of wood taken from a rotting, dying tree, God transforms broken, hurting people into the likeness of Himself. That's transformation!

The Grimsby and the West Lincoln Life Centres are places where miracles happen daily. Lives are transformed from hopelessness and darkness (like the house the first time I saw it) to a work of beauty that only God himself could create. Tears are turned to laughter through the miraculous power of a God who loves each of us so deeply. God wants to transform us, and make us whole. He does that by working through the Staff, Volunteers, Executive Director and Board of Directors who each become like clay in the hands of their Potter. They give of themselves and are obedient to the Holy Spirit within them. It is God who does the work. He just asks each of us, his servants, to be obedient.

At the Life Centres, we watch to see where God is already at work and we simply follow His leading and lives become transformed. As I retire from my Board position, it is my wish and prayer that this vision of healing and hope will continue far into the future. May many more miracles happen daily!

God in us the hope of glory.  
Grace abounds.  
Thanksgiving always on our lips.  
Joy in our hearts.  
Miracles happen.  
Dreams become reality!

**CLIENT TESTIMONIES**

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*Thank you for all you do and thank you for the help to my grand daughter. Her self esteem is starting to blossom and she is becoming a confident young lady. It is nice to know there is a place to receive counsel where they still believe we have a God who answers prayer. Keep up the good work.*

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**FROM ALL OF US AT  
GRIMSBY  
AND WEST LINCOLN  
LIFE CENTRE MINISTRIES,  
WE WISH YOU A BLESSED  
CHRISTMAS AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

\* \* \* \* \*

*The voice of truth, that's what Grimsby Life Centre has been to me. Immediately I knew it was a safe place and that I could trust my counsellor. My life journey brought me to a point where I was completely broken and had lost my identity. I needed to share the reality of my situation and was seeking to understand it. I needed to rediscover my value and worth as a believer in Christ. I had come to a point of acceptance and belief that I had no control over my life and I didn't deserve a better one. I believed a never ending tape recording in my own mind of untruths that had taken root. When I found the courage to take that first step to a new life, and then followed it up with sharing in one on one counselling at Grimsby Life, I found healing. My counsellor spoke His words of truth and unconditional love and prayed over me. Those words became the life giving truth that freed me! I would listen and then go home and repeat them over and over, speaking them out loud. As the weeks turned into months I found my perspective was changing. In recent months I have had to face even more very difficult struggles, yet, I have been able to continue to claim the very truths that set me free and find peace in the midst of the storm.*

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**THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ATTENDED THE  
2014 ANNUAL BENEFIT BANQUET!**



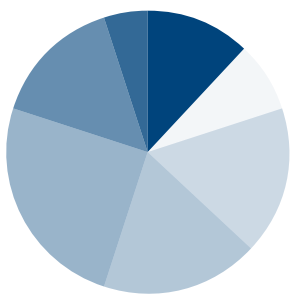
It was another magnificent year as together, we celebrated being 'Instruments of Hope' in God's world. We wish to thank all the volunteers, silent auction donors, table sponsors and for all attendees as together we raised the funds necessary to keep this growing ministry of hope and healing thriving. Please consider joining us next year on Friday, October 30th, 2015 and mark your calendar with this date. It really does take a community to help those in need. Thank you for coming to our banquet!

**INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST TEAM MEMBER  
Thank you so much Cheryl for joining our staff!**



Cheryl has lived in the Smithville area for most of her life. She and her husband have stayed in the area to raise their 4 children. As her children grew, Cheryl began planning to continue her education. Her hope was to work as a therapist to help people achieve the goals they set for themselves. Cheryl eventually graduated from Brock University with an Honours BA in Psychology and then went on to earn a Masters degree in Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy from Laurier. She is working at the Grimsby site Mondays and Tuesdays, and she is at the Smithville site on Wednesdays. "I feel God's presence in this ministry and it is really such a blessing to be a part of it."

**OUR CENTRE STATISTICS**



- Over 60
- 50 to 59
- 40 to 49
- 30 to 39
- 20 to 29
- 16 to 19
- Under 15

10% Couple-clients    36% males    54% females

**Grimsby and West Lincoln  
Life Centre Ministries are a  
vibrant, visible, Christian organization  
caring for families and individuals  
by offering help and hope.  
We are committed to providing  
practical and compassionate care,  
guidance and support for the needs  
of the individuals we serve.**

✂

**YES, I want to make a year end gift to the Grimsby Life Centre!** \*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Town \_\_\_\_\_

Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Cheque (Payable to Grimsby Life Centre)

VISA    Mastercard (Please indicate)    One time Gift    Monthly Gift

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Card# \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Or, you may wish to donate by visiting [www.grimsbylife.org/donate](http://www.grimsbylife.org/donate) or [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org).  
Official receipts for income tax purposes will be issued for donations over \$25. Please do not send cash through the mail. Charitable Organization # BN 80678 8824 RR0001

*News, Notes, and Needs*

♥ We are so in need of gift cards for food or gas! You have no idea how many people could use a helping hand during the Christmas season. It would be wonderful if you happen to have any extra gift cards lying around and we could pass on this blessing to people.

♥ Office paper for the photo copier, toilet paper for the bathroom and paper towels for the kitchen is always a necessity. Bottles of water are also in short supply.

♥ Thank you to whoever is raking up our leaves! We are so appreciative of this act of service, as the leaves are disappearing before our eyes!

♥ Do you have any of the following items in your home that you are not using? We could use them for the child and youth ministry:

- Finger paint
- Bristol board ~ painting paper
- Glitter glue ~ Craft glue
- Popsicle sticks
- Markers ~ Pencil crayons
- Stickers
- Construction paper
- Pipe cleaners
- Puppets
- Clay ~ Play dough
- The Game of Jenga

♥ To the guests who attended our Annual Fall Benefit Banquet, thank you! Thank you for your encouragement, and for the appreciation you extended to our staff. Thank you for expressing your blessings to this ministry, and for your prayers and financial support. We, and those we are able to help are forever grateful!

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*Let Christmas  
remind you  
of what really matters...  
Joy for the little things.  
Peace in the moments when  
we need it most.  
Love always and everywhere.  
And the little Baby  
sent to us  
who made it  
all possible.*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Grimsby**  
LIFE ♥ CENTRE

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905-309-0944 [www.grimsbylife.org](http://www.grimsbylife.org)

**Your donations change lives ~ Thank you!**