

Winter 2018 Newsletter

Volume 27

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Lisa Heuving



Someone I recently met asked me "what is the best gift you have ever received?" I thought to myself what an interesting icebreaker question from someone I don't even know! I was at a loss for words because it was such a random inquiry out of the blue. I didn't quite know how to respond to this and my mind was racing to come up with an answer — would it be a material gift, a donated gift, or even a spiritual gift? No, I thought differently and started to think about my "best earthly gift" which is the birth of my three sons over 20 some years ago, and how significant each of my sons are to me. As I started to convey this to the individual, I also couldn't help but think

of God's blessing to the whole world in the birth of HIS son – and, not just for the world, but for me, and you and everyone around you! As we move through the Christmas Season, may we remember God's greatest gift, in Jesus, to all mankind and let's slow down enough to shine the love of Jesus through all of our daily interactions. May the light of the world shine through you and me this Christmas season!

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changing spaces

The theme **changing spaces** proved to be very fitting at the new venue Grand Olympia in Stoney Creek. Along with the testimonies and silent auction, the evening was a blessing for all who attended. The wonderful and surprising irony of the evening was that we could only have 350 guests and yet these

guests raised over \$60,000 which is the highest amount from any banquet in the past! Words cannot describe the overwhelming feeling of support for our community ministry. We are so humbled and grateful. Thank you! We have committed to hosting 500 guests next year, and our date is booked for **Friday, October 25th, 2019!**



Merry Christmas!

Wishing you a special season filled with joy, peace, and God's blessing to you and your family as you celebrate this wonderful time of the year!

CLIENT TESTIMONIES

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I was broken.

That's how I used to feel, anyway. I was a competent, capable adult in many areas of life, yet I could be undone by a to do list that kept cycling through my head, simple enough tasks under the right circumstances, would be utterly overwhelming for me. I felt handicapped by a lack of coping ability. During the counselling that I received, I learned valuable skills that improve the quality of my life on a daily basis. I thank God frequently for the Grimsby Life Centre.

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Thank you for inspiring me to take risks and believe in my myself, for being someone I can talk to whose opinion I value and trust...and for showing me what an amazing difference one person can make in the life of another! Thank you for helping me through the past year. I've learned some valuable coping skills and have come through to understanding of who I am. Thank you for everything.

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The service provided by those who support the Grimsby Life Centre is what the community needs and we are blessed to have this centre, it is so greatly appreciated.

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Offering help and hope - sometimes we all need help

FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAIRMAN - John Kendall



We recently took our grandkids to the movie theater. Needless to say, I was excited!! For me, that means buttered popcorn and twizzlers. (Some people never grow up). We enjoyed the Dr. Seuss classic, "The Grinch." As you may know, the Grinch grew up an orphan, a sad and lonely childhood without a loving family. A life void of any joy and happiness, especially at Christmas. The Grinch hated Christmas and lived a life of bitterness. One day he met a little girl named Cindy Lou, who "Changed his life forever." How? Very simply by showing the Grinch... "love and kindness." A fictional story yet one that embraces a powerful truth. The ultimate expression of "love and

kindness... 2,000 years ago...when God so LOVED the world that He GAVE us His son... Jesus. Be blessed this Christmas season... and more importantly... be a blessing! (Even if it means sharing your twizzlers.)

COUNSELLOR CORNER - Maggie Smit



With Christmas fast approaching it can give rise to panic and despair if financial resources are tight. We may want to be generous with others but find it difficult and disappointing when we don't have the extra money. However, we can always find time for a kind word or thoughtful note, a secret candy bar sent anonymously. I personally remember one lean year I made a crèche scene out of salt and flour. The figurines were then painted and a little bit of money was taped to the bottom of Jesus' crib so that He would be seen as the giver. It was fun to secretly send this to the door of a couple who were out of work and watch their wonder at how this occurred! Almost 40 years later I met up with this women and she

shared with me that her husband passed away some years ago. The first thing she said was that she knew it was us who gave her the crèche and she still puts it out every year!! I was so touched by this and it was so little, nothing grand but from our hearts. May the love of God be shed abroad from all of our hearts this holiday season.



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 or 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

♥ I (Lisa) have been working at the Grimsby Life Centre for just over eleven years and in the Summer/Fall newsletter, I thought to myself I am not going to ask for coffee, paper towels or toilet paper anymore because in my mind we didn't need it because we are sure to have a "stash" somewhere! Well, for the first time in my career here we actually ran out of these donated items! So, off I went to the grocery store to replenish coffee and toilet paper! We could really use some of these supplies to keep costs down — if you are willing to drop them off, we would be so grateful.

♥ It is the Christmas season and we love to hand out Christmas cards with a little gift certificate in them to clients who need an extra pick me up! If you happen to have a few extras or are looking to bless someone, we would wholeheartedly appreciate receiving any gift cards for gas/food etc.

♥ Thank you so much to the group of volunteers that painted the apartment on the second floor. A coat of fresh paint and new cabinets make this apartment look like new! Thank you.

♥ Thank you to all for the very generous donations we receive throughout the year! From office volunteering to picking up garbage around the ministry centre, everything you do makes a huge difference.

♥ Thank you to Dr. Joe Paolasini from Dr. Joe & Associates for their fundraising event "Smiles for Life campaign." This dental office raised \$5,550 for the work of this ministry! We are still smiling! ☺

♥ We are looking for some individuals who would like to be a part of our prayer team, If this is something that would be of interest to you, please give us a call!

♥ Thank you to Smithville Christian Reformed Church for providing a relaxing counselling space in your new facility, as well as coffee, tea and compassionate hospitality to Grimsby Life Centre clients on a weekly basis. It is very appreciated.

Grimsby
LIFE ♥ CENTRE

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Your donations change lives ~ Thank you!