



## Spring 2011 Newsletter

Volume 4

### A WORD OF APPRECIATION AND BLESSING - Lisa Heuvig, Executive Director

*"Fear not for I have redeemed you, I have summoned you by name, you are mine." Isaiah 43:1b*



In 1996, John and Irene Vanhoffen were involved in starting the Grimsby Life Centre. They have watched the ministry grow from renting an office space at 5 Robinson Street belonging to the Catholic School Board, to the ministry's present location, recently purchased, the property at the busy corner of Mountain and Elm. John and Irene have been instrumental in many, many ways within the ministry centre. They have biblically counselled hundreds of people finding their strength and comfort in God's word, the Holy Scriptures. As I was preparing to write this, I felt overwhelmed because there are simply too many words that describe how

much John and Irene's ministry has touched so many families and individuals. They have been involved in fundraising, being on the support committee along with everything else that they have prayerfully and humanly done for the Grimsby Life Centre for the last sixteen years. Nancy Devries, also one of the founding members, said to me "Irene and John are such a blessing on my life; they are true spiritual mentors and are very special people." This past February, John and Irene shared with us that they would like to spend more time with their children and grandchildren beginning this spring. Their kind and gentle mannerism will be thoroughly missed by volunteers and staff; however, they have assured us that they will continue to stay involved whenever we need their help. We wish to acknowledge their dedication of over thousands of hours of volunteer time. Collectively, we are so appreciative of their actions and deeds; as well as their love and support for so many years. They have journeyed beside and blessed so many people. "May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you." 1 Thessalonians 5:23a and verse 28.

### CLIENT TESTIMONIAL...

#### How have we helped?

One individual said this - "I had no reason to live and I was contemplating suicide, but because of your help, I was able to see hope."

**How many people have we seen since moving to Elm Street?** 742

**What is the total number of walk in 'one time' crisis people?** 339

**What is the average number of calls per week we receive?** 85-100

**Why does Grimsby Life Centre need your donation?**

Your financial support saves lives and makes a huge difference to hurting people.

*A huge thank you for your continued prayers and support!*

### WELCOME!

We wholeheartedly welcome Sharon Kiers, who is a Registered Social Worker, to our ministry centre.

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"* This verse from Jeremiah 29:11 has appeared multiple times in my life, when the future seemed unsure. God has always known his plans for me in education, jobs, family and friends, and He has given me a

deep desire to work with people. At the Grimsby Life Centre I have a place where I am able to fulfill the desire to walk alongside families and individuals through difficult times in their lives. I have seen in the time that I have been here that this is a safe place where people sense and see the love of God. I pray that God will continue to work through me and be glorified; in every word, every action, everything good in His timing.

Sharon Kiers M.S.W., R.S.W

**Can there be a better reason to give?**

Let's celebrate community during the spring season!

*Sometimes we all need help.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTOR NEWS – Harriette Rynberk, Chairperson

*"Are you tired? Worn out?  
Burned out on religion?  
Come to me. Get away  
with me and you'll recover  
your life. I'll show you how  
to take a real rest. Walk with  
me and work with me –  
watch how I do it..."*



*... Learn the unforced  
rhythms of grace. I won't  
lay anything heavy or  
ill-fitting on you. Keep  
company with me and  
you'll learn to live freely  
and lightly."*

*Matthew 11:29-30 from The Message*

As a ministry that strives to help hurting and worn out people, our mandate is to follow God in His mission to restore everyone to wholeness as revealed in the verses above. Therefore, we accept His invitation to be the healing ministry in this community and to all who come through the door.

As a Board of Directors, we seek to follow God's leading, to walk with Him and work with Him. Sometimes that is frightening as the Centre is a very busy and happening place. We recently applied for a large government grant for renovations to make the Centre more accessible and to enlarge our building. We pray that this application will be approved.

Sometimes we are apprehensive. We may wonder who God will send to replace a retiring board or staff member. Sometimes it is exhilarating. Sometimes, we are blessed at the Centre to have unexpected funds arrive at our door by very generous donors.

Overall, it is pure joy to witness the work being done! God gives us rest for our souls, He makes the burden light. He lifts the apprehension and concerns, and replaces them with peace and joy that truly exceeds our wildest dreams. It is our privilege to be of service to God at the Grimsby Life Centre.



## the life change campaign

*-Plan to Participate -*

Nothing marks spring better than our annual Life Change Baby Bottle Campaign, which runs from May to June!

## INTRODUCING THE WEST LINCOLN LIFE CENTRE – Pastor Greg Fluit

We are excited to announce a new partnership between the Grimsby Life Centre and several West Lincoln churches. Beginning in January, a "satellite" Life Centre was established in Smithville at 6518 Smithville Road, to address the increasing needs for counselling and support services in the West Lincoln area. Currently, services are offered at the West Lincoln location on Wednesdays and appointments are made through the Grimsby Life Centre. We are so thankful for this opportunity to make this service available. It is our sincere and humble prayer that we can be a beacon of light within our community.



## Are you someone who might be interested in helping the ministry centre?

HELP  WANTED

**We are looking for a few good men** to BBQ at Turkstra Lumber in Stoney Creek every Friday from 11:30 – 1:00 starting on the long weekend in May and ending on Labour Day in September. This year we would like to set up three teams of two so that we have a rotating schedule. Last year, because of three dedicated volunteers, we raised over \$2500. Imagine what we can do this year! Life is good at the lumber yard! Please call if you would like to volunteer at the grill!

**Pray like there is no tomorrow!** We really look forward to our prayer ministry and we are looking for more volunteers to pray with us! It's a wonderful opportunity for fellowship. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month beginning at 9:00 AM.

**Do you like festivals – this is for you!** Are you available on Saturday, August 13, 2011, to join us at the Festival of the Forty? There is a huge need for more children's activities at the Festival, and we have been given the opportunity to raise funds by running these attractions! All proceeds will be given to the Grimsby Life Centre. If you are interested in helping we need approximately 16 people to make this event happen.

**Music for the Soul** entitled Spring Song – Would you like to do something special with or for your family? Come and join us on Saturday evening, May 14, 2011 at 7:00 pm. The Chapel Singers Choir will be making beautiful music at Mountainview Christian Reformed Church. All proceeds will be donated to the Life Centre. Watch for posters coming soon with ticket information!

**Mark your calendar** - Our annual benefit banquet and silent auction will be held on Friday, October 28th. We never know what to expect or how the evening will turn out, but we do know one thing – it's a time to come together and celebrate how God is changing lives. We will be hosting this event at Smithville Christian High school.

GRIMSBY LIFE  CENTRE

Grimsby Life Centre Ministries is a registered charity dedicated to helping those in local communities regardless of age, race, religion or marital status. All services are confidential and free of charge.