



The Beacon



Newsletter of the Salvation Army Toronto Harbour Light Ministries

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The Salvation Army's Mission

The Salvation Army exists to share the love of Jesus Christ, meet human needs and be a transforming influence in the communities of our world.

Toronto Harbour Light Ministries Mission

We offer support to enable people to rebuild their lives, reengage in community and reclaim their future to the glory of God.

Our Vision

In cooperation with others, we will be a stimulus for excellence, encouraging people to explore their full potential and experience new beginnings.



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DONATIONS

We are grateful for the support of our community. Without them, we would not be able to run highly effective programming. For more information on donating please visit us at www.torontoharbourlight.ca

Dignity For All

April 4th is Refugee Rights Day in Canada. On April 4, 1985, in the Singh decision, the Supreme Court of Canada stated that everyone (including refugees) in Canada is entitled to justice when life, liberty or security of the person is at stake. This year to commemorate Refugee Rights Day, Toronto Harbour Light Ministries hosted an event called Dignity for All.

"Rights are essential, but this year we wanted to go one step further and celebrate dignity-dignity for all people," explains Florence Gruer, Director of Immigrant & Refugee Services. Everyone who came to the event wore a name tag in the shape of a heart because "showing dignity must be done with heart," says Florence.

112 people came to celebrate human dignity, including E.S.L. Students, Transitional Housing Residents, Harbour Light Staff, Church members, M.S.W. Students, staff from partnering agencies and other Salvation Army units. It was inspiring to see people of different backgrounds and life experiences sharing vegetarian samosas, falafels, dumplings and conversation at the break.

There were three guest speakers: Huda Bukhari, from the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture, spoke about clients

overcoming barriers and showing great strength. Auxiliary Captain Alain Luasu, a corps officer in the Jane-Finch community, spoke about programs The Salvation Army runs to promote dignity for broken families and newcomers in his neighbourhood. Dion Oxford from The Gateway men's shelter talked about treating people as friends and walking through life together rather than giving or receiving hand-outs. Students presented a skit showing some of the challenges refugees face in Canada and staff members read monologues showing how all people have challenges, fears, hopes and joys. Varshana Sathanathan led a word project, asking people to explore what dignity means to them.

"We are all unique and different, and yet we are all human beings," says Rochelle McAlister, Transitional Housing Program Coordinator. "When I recognize your dignity, it means that my dignity is alive and well." Recognizing each other's dignity was exactly what we did at Harbour Light on April 4th.



Drug Addiction Treatment Program

The Toronto Harbour Light Concurrent Disorder treatment program was highlighted in the November, 2012 Newsletter. Since then there have been many exciting changes happening in the program that are designed to create an integrated treatment approach for men with substance abuse problems and who may have a mental illness

This integration of services consists of two community outreach counsellors, the Turning Point substance abuse program and the Toronto Harbour Light Concurrent Disorders Treatment program. The goal is to have men move seamlessly through a system that is designed to meet their specific treatment needs.

Within this model, a community outreach counsellor works with men who use The Gateway, Maxwell Meighen and Hope Shelters. The primary purpose of this counsellor is to develop relationships with men who use the shelter system and to support them "where they are at". This could mean having conversations about housing, finances, legal issues, personal problems or substance abuse issues. The outreach counsellor, when possible, will refer the client to appropriate services within and without the addiction system. These referrals could include withdrawal management services (detox) or Turning Point and Toronto Harbour Light.

Turning Point, housed in Maxwell Meighen, is an 18 bed residential substance abuse facility for men over the age of 18 years of age. The program is 28 days in length and provides treatment for men with substance abuse problems. Clients receive individual counseling and group treatment while in the program and are discharged to appropriate support systems.

The Toronto Harbour Light Concurrent Disorder Treatment program is a 36 bed in-patient residential treatment facility for men over the age of 18



who have a substance abuse problem and are diagnosed with a mental illness. Men can stay in the residential treatment program up to 14 weeks and receive individual and group counseling as well as spiritual and medical support while in the program. We are happy to say that we have added 9 Floor Counsellors to the Concurrent Disorder program. These counsellors provide professional counseling and support to our clients 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As a result we are finding that the men in treatment are more stable throughout the course of their treatment.

And finally, the second community counsellor position provides short term counseling to men who are in recovery with an emphasis on relapse prevention. Men who access this program may have been referred by Turning Point, Toronto Harbour Light or the Toronto Harbour Light Transitional Housing program. Having this counsellor available gives men a better chance to be successful in their personal recovery journey. The outreach community counsellor also provides Aftercare to men who have graduated from any residential treatment

As you can see our goal is to support men in their recovery journey in an integrated fashion. Whether the men receive services through the outreach counsellors or in the treatment programs we are all working together so that men can receive treatment that is a fit for them. Nevertheless, we have not finished our integration process.

This team meets monthly to look at barriers that prevent men from getting support in their difficult and complex journey through addictions. By working together to remove these barriers, men with complex mental health and addiction problems have a better chance in their personal recovery journey.

John O'Mara
Program Coordinator Addictions



International Womens Day

Ladies of THLM Celebrate Women Worldwide.

Although typically celebrated on March 8th, this year on March 7th, Toronto Harbour Light Ministries celebrated International Women's Day (IWD) with a gathering of women of diverse backgrounds, cultures and ages.

The women of Toronto Harbour Light Ministries, which included transitional housing residents, ESL students, employees and volunteers, were given a floral pin and invited to the gathering where baked goods, tea and coffee were enjoyed. The gathering featured guest speaker Tamam McCallum who briefly explained the history and significance of IWD, and then shared some of her personal story in relation to the internationally observed day.

Throughout her talk, themes of women's strength, hard work, support and respect for women's rights were demonstrated. All women in attendance were then invited to share their name, and discuss women who personally inspired them. One at a time, several women around the room rose and spoke of important and inspirational females in their lives.

Most spoke of their mothers, sisters, aunts, and grandmothers, while others talked about colleagues, neighbours, or other women from the community. It was a moving discussion and a few women were brought to tears when speaking about the incredible ladies who have had such a significant impact on them. Expressing admiration and love for influential females with other amazing women was quite the way to celebrate International Women's Day at THLM.



Our Garden



In 2011 the grassy knoll in our Meighen courtyard became a vegetable garden. Under the direction of Kent Brown, Relapse Treatment Counsellor and some of his clients, the sod was removed, new soil brought in and a variety of spring bulbs, veggies and herbs were planted. In 2012, our Maintenance Team of Gary Cresswell and Bill Burnett extended the garden upwards and replenished and added to the soil.

Under the voluntary care of one of our residents, after planting, this garden took off. See photos. The garden on our north courtyard was lovingly tended by their residents and was a thing of beauty. These gardens and the amazing produce are just some of the miracles that happen here at Toronto Harbour Light Ministries.



Volunteer Maurice Kokoma's Story

My Journey to Canada started with an invitation to come and intern on a film set as a budding film director. I was born in the coastal town of Mombasa in Kenya on the east coast of Africa. Being a coastal town Mombasa is a cultural melting pot with rich history and diversity.



I first became active in the performing arts in church, acting in church plays, this simple interaction with the arts grew bigger when I went into high school, where I got really involved in the Drama club. My love for the Arts blossomed in college where most of my work got attention and were performed at the Kenya National Theatre.

My veil of innocence was lifted with my experience living in Nairobi – the Capital in the late 90's. The level of tribal hatred and official corruption stung all over the place. Personal experiences and the sight and frustration of the masses, led me to channel my experiences into my writing.

My work highlighted corruption and tribalism that threatened to cannibalise the country. Elections are a very sensitive and sometimes dangerous activity in Kenya. Corruption is usually at its highest level and tribal egos bulge as cunning political play out ethnic tensions for their political gain.

2012 was another election year. I was working on my next production called 'Two Gods and a Mistress' with themes of ethnic animosity and corruption. Production was to start after my training program in Canada in September 2012. This was not to be as most of the politicians who were running for office went out of their way to stop the production by frustrating our efforts.

My producers started receiving threatening messages and twice were attacked and asked about my whereabouts. The police were of no help as they seemed to be part and parcel of the intimidation. Sensing their failure to silence us, they attacked one of my producers who lost his life and one is still missing. Sensing my life was in trouble, I applied for refugee protection in Canada knowing what awaited me back home.

As I settle into Canada and intergrate into the community – I volunteer my skills to the Toronto Harboulight Center as a graphic designer and computer tutor.

Don't just talk like you know what Grace is. Live like you know what Grace does

Message from the E.D.

Where has the time gone? A frequently asked question when one is reflecting on the past, planning a special event or contemplating change. It is hard to imagine that three years has passed since my appointment to THLM. Ten days past that anniversary date; I received a transfer to a new appointment Ottawa Grace Manor.



When reflecting on the past three years, changes to organizational structure (back office integration), amalgamation of addiction services (Homestead & Turning Point) and the addition of addiction counselors with TSA Shelters.

Three years ago, during a staff meeting, I have a definition of leadership: "Leadership is the relational process of identifying and facilitating the potential in others." I also stated that during my tenure, I would demonstrate this definition by being transparent, situational, and a servant leader. This has been a rewarding experience for me and I hope it has been for you. I trust you will extend the same privilege to Major Elizabeth Price as she assumes the responsibility of being your leader.



New Executive Director

We welcome Major Elizabeth Price as the new Executive Director of the Toronto Harbourlight Ministries.

Events

June 19

Volunteer Recognition Barbeque

August 18

Welcoming of new Officers: Majors Colin and Maureen Bain at THLM Corps

IRS

Summer ESL program: July & August
We Are Neighbours Info Fair: March 2014
Christmas Craft Sale: December

Volunteers

Being a volunteer brings a sense of purpose to one's life and the satisfaction which comes from having a positive influence and impact on someone else's life. It can be a hugely enriching experience.

To Volunteer call (416)682-2494.

Kettle Volunteers needed for NOVEMBER and DECEMBER 2013

Department News

Transitional Housing

Transitional Housing Residents continue to work on their goals, which include finding permanent housing, employment and education. Many comment on how grateful they are to have a safe, affordable place to live for a year while rebuilding a healthy life. Residents in our cooking class have been learning to cook paella and ratatouille. One of our staff members (Deneive Rigg) recently completed her Bachelor of Social Work.

Hope Acres

On April 12 2013, Hope Acres along with family, friends and members of the community gathered to say goodbye to Roger Chauvette who passed away unexpectedly on Saturday April 6. Roger was a dedicated and loyal employee of Hope Acres for 20 years.

He was a multi-talented man who was well respected by clients, fellow staff and members of the community. Roger will be greatly missed and we ask that you remember his wife Donna and his family in the difficult days ahead.

Addictions Treatment

The Family Wellness Program exists to EQUIP and ENCOURAGE clients' families and friends towards healthy relationships in recovery. Alcoholism/addiction is a family disease affecting not only the alcoholic/addict but the friends and family as well. At Harbour Light, families and friends are equipped and encouraged to work toward healthy relationships, with particular emphasis on the relation to their loved one's recovery through Family information Sessions. This is done through support groups, by phone, or in person. Support is provided to help them towards their personal journey from the past and shaping their journey for the future.

If you would like more information, please call Major Patricia McInnes (the Family Wellness Counsellor) at 416-682-2514

Community Church: New Corps Officers

Majors Colin and Maureen Bain were born in the UK and immigrated to Canada in 1986. After joining The Salvation Army, they felt the call to serve as Officers and entered Training College in 1996 from the Woodstock Ontario Corps, in the Builders of the Kingdom session. They have two children, Simon and Sarah. They also have two grandchildren (2 years and 3 months) to Sarah and her husband Cuinn.



Following commissioning they were appointed to Fernie BC, Red Deer AB, Owen Sound ON and Coventry UK. Each of these appointments has given them a wide experience of integrated mission.

Colin was a Pharmacist before entering Training College and still maintains an Ontario licence. Maureen recently gained her BA degree in Biblical and Theological Studies at Booth University College.