

NEWSLETTER

JIM KELLY

I want to share my story with you. I am a small representative of a minority in our society; those who experience delusion and fear of all things real and unreal; those living with paranoid schizophrenia.

I was diagnosed in '87, when I was admitted to hospital for acting strangely at a mall. I have never been comfortable with peers or superiors. Authority leaves me breathless with terror. This can lead to a pronunciation of my psychological condition. My joking and irrationality that day finally found a "home". I was given a diagnosis I could not escape - paranoid schizophrenic.

I lost everything rather quickly – my friends, my future, my dreams and wishes; I could not find work or a place to live.

When my real mind started to challenge my most basic beliefs

I found myself in and out of all sorts of problems. I was given monetary assistance in '89 and got by living in small rooms in parts of town frequented by those struggling with drugs, sex and alcohol. I fell into a dream-like state and drifted around Ontario for ten years. The year my father died I was rescued by Anglican Houses

Continued on page 2 ...



Jim Kelly and his mother Paulette

VOLUNTEERS COOK UP SUPERB KITCHEN RENOVATION!

Renovated Kitchen



The forty year old kitchen in our Woodstock residence has served us well, but with the health department turning up the heat, and kitchen drawers no longer holding contents, we knew it was time to move this much needed renovation off the back burner. The questions we asked ourselves were: who was going to do the work, and how were we going to function while it was being done?

Homestead has wonderful volunteers, two of which helped get this project underway. Harry Klingenberg invited a crew of fellow volunteers, who brought with them tools, expertise, and good humour. Mark Henkell, of Marson Plumbing Services, solved our

plumbing mysteries by magically fitting existing pipes with new fixtures. If it were not for Dianne Sinke's Country Kitchen generously bringing in delicious and diverse meals, we would surely have heard some rumblings by the time our new kitchen was functional.



Before Renovation

Within just 3 weeks, we had new ovens, and cupboards and drawers that closed. The fresh new coat of paint gave our old kitchen the modern facelift it needed.

We are so grateful for the volunteers who donate their time to projects such as this. When a volunteer was asked why they volunteer, they shared that a Homestead resident offered this thanksgiving during a prayer time at church: "I want to give thanks that God sent so many volunteers to help us with our new kitchen at Homestead." "That makes it all worthwhile," said the volunteer.

**See the Back page for a list of generous donors and organizations who gave over \$500!*

JIM KELLY (...CONTINUED)

(now known as LOFT) and the Public Guardian and Trustee's office.

This rescue lasted long enough for me to see into the future and wake up a bit. After a year, I was on my own again and as usual falling fast into bad habits. However, I took my medications, paid my rent, and bought my food. It was a few months later that I realized I was alone; stuck in the ruins of the society I had created in my world.

It took me much work, but I slowly gained some of my soul back and felt I needed a life that reflected that success. The power of faith brought me to Ingersoll and to Homestead Christian Care, where I was given a place to live and love.

I am so happy to be here. I'm blessed by my company – both staff and residents. I have been 'saved', as they say. Hearing people talk and interact is now a positive thing again. Working and caring is real. Economy and culture have become important.

Thank you very much Homestead Christian Care. You saved my life.

**This is abbreviated from a speech that Jim Kelly gave at the Woodstock Celebration Dinner – Sept 2010.*



"3 Dog Night"
Artwork by Jim Kelly

Investing Private Money for the Public Good

Over the past two years, financial uncertainties have dominated the news. All sorts of measures have been suggested to relieve the economic pressures that many people face. Yet questions remain about how to responsibly use private and public money.

A core Christian teaching calls us to love our neighbours as ourselves. In practice, this can include providing safe, quality housing for our neighbours experiencing financial hardship, illness, or other stresses. But how can you do this on a personal level?

If you are saving for a home or retirement, diversifying your portfolio, or looking for investments that align with your values, consider partnering with Homestead. Together, we can create new affordable, supported housing for our neighbours in need. You benefit from a stable investment with competitive returns, while knowing that your money is working for the public good. We offer flexible terms on any investment over \$1,000.

Please call Graham Cubitt or Jeff Neven at 1-866-529-0454 to discuss how you can invest in our community's future.

Perkins Centre construction update



Construction continues on the Dr. John M. Perkins Centre. Despite some initial delays due to asbestos removal, progress has been made over the winter. And now with spring's weather, we look forward to making strides towards a mid-August completion.

Progress photos can be viewed on our website at www.hsc.ca.

Save the date for the Grand Opening Sept 16th!



Lean on me... when you're not strong

If you or someone you know could benefit from being a part of the Homestead Christian Care Community, please call us to learn more about our housing options in Hamilton: 905-529-0454 or Woodstock: 519-539-2917

“...clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
... And over all these virtues, put on love, which binds them together in perfect unity.” Col. 3:12b, 14

Upcoming Events

1. Hope & Homes Banquet

At the **Waterfront Centre in Hamilton** on **Thursday, May 26th**. Nina & Bruxy Cavey will be speaking about ‘Faith, Hope & Recovery’.

Nina Cavey is faculty member in the School of Nursing at McMaster University. Nina has recently received a Masters Student Award of Excellence for her thesis paper: *The meaning of spirituality to persons with schizophrenia*. Nina’s husband Bruxy, is the Teaching Pastor of *The Meeting House* - a multi-site church community in the Greater Toronto Area. We are thrilled that they will speak about Faith, Hope & Recovery on the road to mental health.



Bruxy & Nina Cavey

2. Beyond Charity Conference

Thursday, September 15th

Dr. John Perkins will lead our 2nd Beyond Charity conference, to be held in the newly-completed Perkins Centre bearing his name.

3. The Perkins Centre Grand Opening

September 16th @ 1pm

The Dr. John M. Perkins Centre will officially open on September 16th with a momentous Grand Opening celebration.

4. Celebration Dinner

Woodstock - SAVE THE DATE! Oct 28th at the Southgate Centre.



Dr. John Perkins

**For further details on any of these events visit our website www.hsc.ca.
To reserve tickets, call 866.529.0454.**

PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS

Prayer reminds us of our reliance on God, and renews our determination in the face of challenges.

Praise the Lord:

- » for continued safety for construction workers on the Perkins Centre project
- » for residents enjoying a recently renovated building at the Prinzen Flats
- » for the summer programs that students will offer in both Hamilton and Woodstock.

Ask the Lord:

- » Renewed mental wellness for many residents who have struggled through the winter months
- » For tenants for the new ‘Perkins Centre’ apartments.
- » For wisdom in examining opportunities to expand housing supports to other cities in southern Ontario.



Cutting the ribbon at Prinzen Flats

Health in the Hubs: Neighbours and Nurses Working Together

In 2010, the Hamilton Spectator published a special report entitled “Code Red: Where you live affects your health”. It highlighted the health challenges facing many residents of Hamilton’s downtown neighbourhoods. McMaster’s School of Nursing, Homestead Christian Care, and Wesley Urban Ministries have partnered together with three local community associations to create Health in the Hubs, and began looking at ways to overcome these challenges.

Since January, community residents and Nursing students have canvassed the three neighbourhoods, hearing from residents of all ages on their dreams for themselves and their families. Homestead is using Community Development principles influenced by Dr. John Perkins to help improve health outcomes.

Homestead’s new Perkins Centre is in the centre of these communities. Opening in August, it will become a base from which many wellness-related activities can spring, including social enterprises, local food initiatives, and health education.

Volunteers Needed: Do you enjoy gardening? Have maintenance skills or other interesting talents that you could share with us at Homestead? We’d love to hear from you! Call 866-529-0454 for more details or visit www.hsc.ca for an application form.

The Page of Gratitude



"I'd like to thank you and Homestead for giving me this great opportunity to volunteer as a nursing student. I have learned a lot from Homestead staff and volunteers; it was a joyful time for me.

I hope that Jesus' blessings will be with you."

McMaster University Nursing Student

Dear Homestead,

I wish to thank you for presenting a candid look into the work that Homestead Christian Care is challenged with in Oxford County. With the Government off-loading so much of our social and medical support systems back into the public sector, I am always impressed with the way committed people take it upon themselves to step in and fill those voids left by the transition.

I hope that our small contribution helps in some way. Thanks Again!

Yours in Lionism, Lion Paul Wein
President, Thamesford Lions Club

Homestead would like to acknowledge the generous support from the following supporters and organizations who donated over \$500 to the kitchen renovation in Woodstock:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Jack & Corrie Pool | Dan Evely & Marks Supply Inc. |
| Dirk & Grace Miedema | Reyneveld & Sons Roofing |
| Oxford Community Foundation | Ingersoll Community Foundation |
| Lions Club of Woodstock | Rotary Club of Woodstock |
| Woodstock Healing Rooms | Innerkip Presbyterian Church |

If you prefer to donate online, please visit www.hsc.ca

Something to Share

Homestead is often uncovering many tenants with a gift for poetry and artwork. It should be noted however, that poems and art are not always cheerful and filled with hope. An example of this is the poem below. It exhibits the raw pain that some residents live with at points in their mental illness. We wanted to share this with you so that you could better understand some of the pain and anguish some tenants feel while on the road to recovery.

The Dragon and the Stranger

*Sometimes when I open my eyes all I see is darkness
I'm afraid I have fallen into my own madness
My psychoses taunt me
Teasing me and praying on my weaknesses
Dreams turn into a restless battlefield
Taking me through hell and back
My loved ones being constantly under attack
I lack the strength to stand and fight
I lose grip on reality and there's no where to turn
No one understands or cares
social workers just stare
Only if they knew what was actually going on
When I stand back up I always fall harder
Which leaves me paralyzed
I cried my last tear and I live in fear
I try screaming but no one hears sound
Maybe they can't hear
or they just ignore what is happening
Mental hospitalization bound
My future is finally unmasking itself
I cut my wrists and all I seem to do is bleed
I have no lingering emotions
There is no release no ease
My mind is only a disease
My world is a false reality
If I don't care anymore will I ever be the same
Or will I just forget my only name
I've been driven insane
Too bad everyone will miss it
No more pain I will live in vein
My head is torn
If I die will you mourn
or did you not notice I was even born?*

Written By: Justin Taylor

My response

Homestead is a faith based ministry. Our recovery programs rely on many generous donors each month. In the past year we have focused on gathering investments to provide financing for our new projects. However, our day-to-day needs still depend on the financial contributions from supporters like you. Would you consider helping Homestead provide hope and homes for people like Jim?

Your help makes this ministry possible.

Title: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

Please fill in, tear off and return the form to the address below.

- I would like someone to call me to discuss Homestead's work further.
- I would like to be added to Homestead's mailing list (2x/year).
- I would like a Speaker from Homestead to come to our church.
- I would like to give a donation* \$ _____
- I would like to support* Homestead on a monthly basis \$ _____

*100% of all donations go to programming and rehabilitation costs.

Where did you pick up this newsletter? _____

