



NEWSLETTER

Perkins Centre Dedicated!



The Dr. John M. Perkins Centre opened on September 14th with over 280 people gathering to dedicate the building for service to our community.

With three years of planning and construction behind us, we have welcomed 46 new tenants. The Community Development Centre has begun buzzing with activities: McMaster Nursing students are learning with neighbours about community health promotions, New Hope Church and the New Hope Bike Co-op are open and welcoming the community, and collective kitchens are under way each week. Indeed, many of our dreams for strengthening our community are becoming reality.

Dr. Perkins' address powerfully reminded us that Christ calls us to respond with His love to the pain and brokenness of our world. Recalling the death of his own mother—who died of malnutrition so that her son could survive—he implored the audience to consider what they are giving their lives to; how are they bringing renewal and hope to others?

In opening the Dr. John M. Perkins Centre, we pray that our tenants, their families, our neighbourhood, and those who learn, worship, or celebrate in the building will be changed by the power of love.

Thank you to everyone who supported Homestead in launching the Perkins Centre. Your prayers, encouragement, and financial commitments have renewed this building and now will transform our community in the years to come.

Tenant Story – Abu Pratt

My name is Abu Pratt, and I moved into the Perkins Centre on August 31st. I was the very first tenant to receive keys for an apartment here.

Before I moved here I was struggling to find a place. I moved more than ten times in the last ten years. I learned about Homestead through the help of the Cleghorn Program at St. Joseph's Hospital. I am filled with hope for how things will be better for me.

Living here at the Perkins Centre is more secure than where I have lived before. The people are good and respectful of one another. In my last place, I shared one bathroom with seven strangers. Now, I have my own brand new bathroom and kitchen



Abu Pratt addresses celebration

all to myself. I can leave my toothbrush out without worrying about anyone using it.

It is a great thing to live here without worry and with the support of Homestead. I am involved in my community, trying to serve other people. I am volunteering at Mission Services in their kitchen, preparing and serving food. I am trying to be involved with people who can be supportive of me so that I can return to the work force. Thank you for this opportunity.

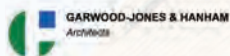
With Thanks

We thank our supporting community for enabling our continued success:

- Garwood-Jones & Hanham Architects, project design team
- G.S. Wark Limited, General Contractors
- Home Depot Canada Foundation, Perkins apartment appliances
- Ontario Power Authority, High Performance New Construction grant for energy modeling
- ArcelorMittal Dofasco Corporate Community Investment Fund*, funding for community kitchen appliances
- Ontario's Renewable Energy Initiative, solar-electric panels
- The many individual, corporate, and Foundation donors who wish to remain anonymous

We did not accomplish this project in our own strength, and recognize God's blessings along the way. Thank you for your prayers, inquiries, and encouragement as we overcame all the challenges of developing this program.

*The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of ArcelorMittal Dofasco



Volunteers Needed at the Perkins Centre

- Office administration support
- Tenant programming: social activities, homemaking and life skills mentorship, etc.
- Partnership in the Community Kitchen – assist members in planning and cooking healthy meals
- Facility maintenance and upkeep

Can you help?

Contact Teresa (905-529-0454 or thowe@hsc.ca) for more information about these positions.

DR. JOHN M. PERKINS CENTRE

“...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

DR. JOHN M. PERKINS CENTRE

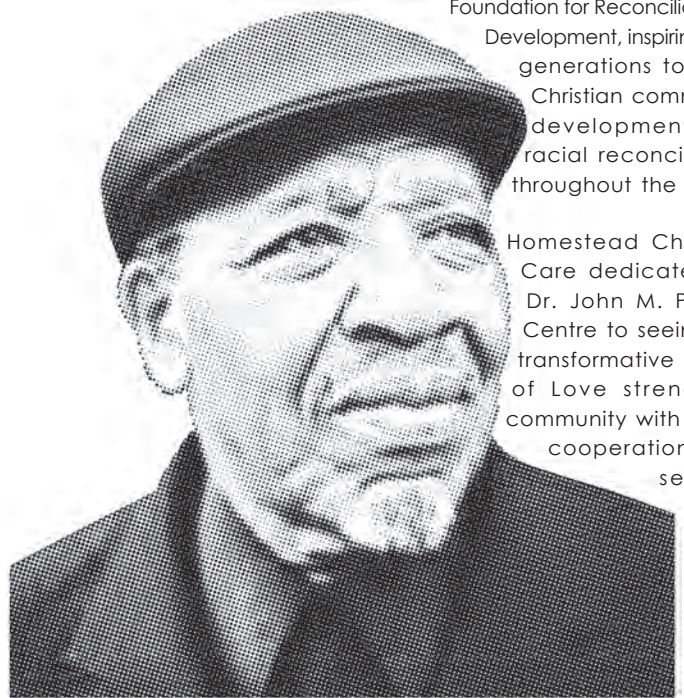
“Living the gospel means desiring for our neighbour and our neighbour’s family that which we desire for ourselves and our family... It means bringing our lives, our skills, our educations, and our resources and putting them to work empowering people in a community”

John M. Perkins grew up in dire poverty as a share-cropper’s son in New Hebron, Mississippi. After his brother’s murder by the town marshal, he fled to California at age 17. In 1960 at age 30, he encountered Jesus Christ and returned to Mississippi to share the Christian message of reconciliation. His outspoken nature and leadership in civil rights demonstrations resulted in repeated harassment, beatings, and imprisonments. However, his commitment to racial, economic, and spiritual renewal of communities was only strengthened.

Dr. Perkins and his wife Vera are pioneers in the Christian community development movement. They founded Voice of Calvary Ministries, which includes churches, health centres, youth and leadership development programs, social enterprises, and affordable housing.

They also oversee the John M. Perkins Foundation for Reconciliation & Development, inspiring new generations towards Christian community development and racial reconciliation throughout the world.

Homestead Christian Care dedicates the Dr. John M. Perkins Centre to seeing the transformative power of Love strengthen community with hope, cooperation, and service.



TRE



- Thanks to Service Canada funding through Canada Summer Jobs, Homestead hired Amy Brouwer and Esther Cubitt as Summer Recreation Coordinators, who organized and networked a wide variety of outings and activities for residents in Woodstock and Hamilton respectively.
- Close to 200 supporters enjoyed the 5th Annual Celebration Dinner in Woodstock on October 28th. Special thanks to BDO Canada and Paul Davis Systems for supporting the event.
- We thank the Dr. Leonard Reeves Foundation for generously donating \$5,000 towards improving the ventilation system in our Oxford Program group home. Additional donations are welcome as we tackle this long-anticipated project.
- Rudy Hulst (Executive Director), Daphne Prinzen (Program Director) and Jeffrey Neven (Director of Operations) were recognized for each providing ten years of outstanding, dedicated service to Homestead.



Collective Kitchen Workshop

Combine your love of food with your love for people.

Tuesday, January 17, 2012 from 7:00 – 9:00 OR

Wednesday, February 8, 2012 from 7:00 – 9:00

The Perkins Centre – 1429 Main St. E., Hamilton
(just east of Kenilworth)

\$15.00 (fee to cover ingredient costs)

Registration limited to 10/session

RSVP: Teresa – thowe@hsc.ca or 905-529-0454

Looking for a location for your next function?

The Perkins Centre has meeting rooms that accommodate from 15 – 200 people, suitable for conferences, board meetings, family gatherings, parties, and civic association or corporate meetings. The Centre is wheelchair accessible, has a fully equipped community kitchen, and off-street parking. Rates are low, helping your group afford to make a difference in our community.

For more information or bookings, visit www.homesteadchristiancare.ca or contact Carla at 905-529-0454 or choiting@hsc.ca.

Homestead Christian Care is a registered Canadian charity, committed to alleviating poverty and improving the lives of our tenants through affordable, supported housing. But we are also an enterprising non-profit—an organization committed to using sound business practices to invest in our communities and promote their peace and welfare.



Darryl Exelby

Our supporting community has invested over \$7,000,000 in Homestead for new affordable housing in Hamilton and Oxford County. New opportunities are possibly opening up in London and Cambridge. In November, we welcomed Darryl Exelby as Social Enterprise Development Manager. Darryl has entrepreneurial creativity for seeing how community needs can be met through socially-motivated enterprise. As he joins the Homestead team, we ask you: are you interested in investing in your community's future? As a Christian organization, our calling is to point towards a world where poverty, injustice, and pain are no more.

Please visit our website at www.homesteadchristiancare.ca for more information on investing in your community through Homestead, or call 866-529-0454.

Collective Kitchen

Definition: a gathering of people who come together to plan menus, buy ingredients, prepare food, and share a meal together, taking home the extra for future use.



Jessica Brand,
Apartment
Support Worker

Collective kitchens are springing up across the country as people realize the benefits of cooking together: cost savings from bulk purchasing and cooking from scratch, learning about nutrition, gaining cooking skills, and making friends over a common interest. Two collective kitchen groups started at the Perkins Centre in October; other food activities we anticipate include cooking in bulk, seasonal preserving, managing weight or diabetes with food choices, cooking for healthy children—the list could go on.

If you'd like to join or volunteer in a collective kitchen, please let us know. Jessica Brand, as part of her role in Apartment Supports at the Perkins Centre, will be conducting two workshops in early 2012 (see side bar for details).

My response

Homestead is a faith-based ministry and our support 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 Abu?
Your help makes this ministry possible.



Title: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

Please fill in, tear off and return this 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 costs.

Where did you pick up this newsletter? _____