



Ambitious Vision, Focused Mission

In our 38 years of history, Homestead Christian Care has periodically reflected on our ministry. After almost a decade, we have done so again, renewing our focus in our new vision and mission statements.

Our Vision:
Hope and Homes
for All!

Housing is an essential human need. For many people—especially those experiencing the effects of poverty or illness—finding and keeping a stable, safe, and affordable home is an ever-pressing challenge. It is often easy to lose hope in such situations, which in turn compounds despair.

We envision a future where everyone experiences hope for a better future, including a place they call home. Indeed this vision is a fundamental part of the resurrection promise of Jesus Christ.

Everyone needs connections to provide identity, purpose, and fulfilment in our human experience. Financial distress, mental or physical illness, and many other factors can lead to isolation and loneliness.

Homestead is committed to helping our tenants succeed by breaking these cycles. We combine truly affordable housing with various supports to promote community participation, empowering our tenants to achieve their goals for health, wellness, and belonging. Underpinning our vision and mission are essential Christian values:

1. *We value the inherent dignity of all people as image bearers of God.*
2. *We live out our Christian calling to love our neighbours as ourselves.*
3. *Hope is the foundation of all our actions.*

We are excited each day to impact the lives of people we serve. Please join us in celebrating our new vision and mission, as together we seek Hope and Homes for All!



Our Mission:
Homestead Christian Care
creates affordable housing
communities that support
people seeking health,
wellness and
belonging.



Tenant Story

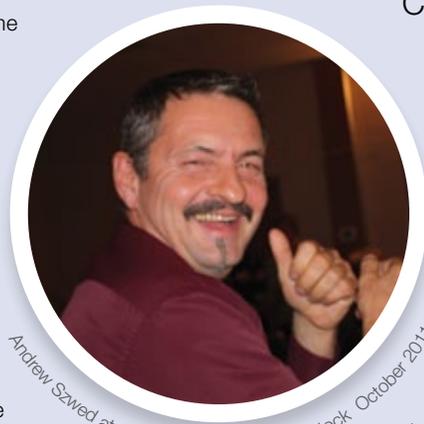
Lonely desperation

"This is my journey that I am willing to share with you. I didn't think this was going to happen to me. Like most people, I felt I was invincible.

I was in my mid-40's, living outside of Shelbourne, Ontario and working in landscaping, when we had a particularly difficult winter. With no winter tires, I didn't feel safe driving. That meant no work, and no prospect of work. Every day I woke up worrying about the bills piling up. I became more and more isolated, and soon felt that brutal winter close in on me as I became more and more overwhelmed. I saw only one solution: suicide. I tried—not once, but twice!

After that I was homeless for two month, by reason of insanity. I then became desperate to make good decisions. Searching the internet for a place where I could fit in, I found Homestead. My intuition was strong; my conscience said "Go, it will be better." For me it was a leap of faith, because I didn't really want to move here to Woodstock.

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Andrew Szwed at Celebration Dinner, Woodstock October 2011

The Journey

I packed up what few belongings I had and, with the help of a Christian acquaintance, moved to a new city and a completely different living environment in a group home. I was selective with my open mindedness and soon became judgmental of other tenants. Several weeks passed before I accepted that we were all at different levels with different disabilities.

Circumstances may stay the same, but by the grace of God my perspective has changed. Now I can really see God's work in all this madness.

One day, I found a reading on the bookshelf in the group home. This started a shift in my thinking and helped me realize that "Nothing Changes if Nothing Changes." Learning to respect myself and my boundaries, I started to attend AA meetings where I met Tom. He has become a good friend. Tom's patience, kindness, and trust helped me to regain my confidence and dignity.

Communion: A sharing of something with others

Homestead has changed me; I am now more accepting of others. Although I still struggle with personal issues, I am comfortable discussing these issues with Homestead Staff. I can speak freely without feeling judged. Their guidance also encouraged me to seek other professional assistance which I am still receiving.

Homestead Christian Care, based on my experience, is a vital part of Woodstock's community. Without Homestead and its professional, compassionate care my journey would not have been as complete and comfortable as it is today. I believe God is in charge and will meet my needs."

(Excerpts from Andrew Szwed's speech at the Celebration Dinner, Woodstock October 2011)

Update: Andrew has moved out of the group home and into a Homestead apartment. He is again working part-time, has deepened his involvement with his church, and has a girlfriend. He continues to struggle with feeling overwhelmed by the financial challenges of life, but is praying for continued strength to rebuild his life.



The Numbers Speak For Themselves: 2011

- 46 new apartments opened at The Dr. John M. Perkins Centre in Hamilton
- 228 people supported in achieving health, wellness, and belonging
- 84 new tenants welcomed into programs
- 55,845 meals served in our residential care programs
- 98.6% occupancy rate maximized available housing resources
- 5,700 hours of direct supportive programming provided by staff
- 4 years - average length of tenancy, exceeded average in general rental market
- \$8,300,000 invested in affordable housing by our supporting community

Volunteers Needed

- General office administration
 - Hamilton
- Facilities maintenance and improvements
 - Woodstock and Hamilton
- One-on-one support to individual residents and tenants
 - Woodstock and Hamilton
- HEPI product assembly coordinators
 - Hamilton

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

Rudy Hulst Retires

After serving 13 years as Executive Director, Rudy Hulst is retiring from his full-time role. Rudy joined Homestead's Board in 1995 and assumed the role of Executive Director in 1999. Rudy has made significant personal sacrifice for the benefit of Homestead. His first year was served as a volunteer out of budget necessity.



Under his leadership Homestead has grown from serving seven residents, to a multi-site, multi-city organization that serves over 215 people. Nathan Cooper, Board chair says, “Rudy has been instrumental in building Homestead into a ministry with a reputation for financial stability, credibility, and sustainability.” Homestead is thankful that Rudy will continue to serve as part-time Chief Financial Officer. The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Jeffrey Neven to the position of Executive Director.

New McMaster School of Nursing Community Site at the Perkins Centre

In 2010 the McMaster University School of Nursing entered into a formal partnership with Homestead Christian Care, a first of its kind for the School. As part of this, the School now has office, classroom and clinic space at the new Perkins Centre for student learning within the community.

The relationship between Homestead and McMaster is about more than the exchange of resources. Rather, it is symbolic of the School's firm commitment to meaningful community engagement and the creation of non-traditional, community-based nursing education opportunities. The partnership has led to the development of exciting alternative clinical and community health placements, and it has been integral to the development of the Health in the Hubs initiative.

“Having this space here for our faculty to teach and our students to learn is a wonderful opportunity for McMaster,” said Catherine Tompkins, associate dean of the School of Nursing.

“The students here really add vibrancy to the Perkins Centre,” said Jeff Neven, Director of Operations for Homestead. “Having a connection with the School of Nursing strengthens Homestead's holistic approach to health.”



Upcoming Events

1. Hope and Homes Banquet

You are invited to attend
Homestead Christian Care's

HOPE & HOMES BANQUET



STABLE HOUSING: FOUNDATION FOR HEALTH

SPEAKERS



Dr. Chris Mackie, Associate Medical Officer of Health

Rev. Dwayne Cline, past chair of North Hamilton Community Health Centre and lead pastor at Hughson Street Baptist Church



Dr. Mackie and Rev. Cline will draw on their experiences to discuss how supportive housing impacts public health and strengthens our local community.

Friday, May 25, 2012

The Perkins Centre

1429 Main St E, Hamilton L8K 1C2 (just east of Kenilworth)

Reception and tours 5:30 pm

Dinner 6:30 pm

Tickets: \$25 per person

RSVP by May 18

For tickets call 905-529-0454 or email thowe@hsc.ca

2. Celebration Dinner: Oxford Program

SAVE THE DATE!
Celebration Dinner
Friday, October 26, 2012
at Innerkip Presbyterian Church



John Prinzen with Jeffrey Neven, newly appointed Executive Director, Homestead - September 2011

John and Siny Prinzen shared a commitment to love the communities they were part of. As a social worker, John was trained to understand mental illness and addictions. But as a family the Prinzens moved beyond knowing to actually supporting individuals in crisis. As deinstitutionalization swept provincial institutions in the

1970's, John and Siny began cooperating with others from their church to offer supportive housing to young people in crisis. They welcomed Homestead's first tenant into their home—a young woman dealing with schizophrenia and drug addiction. For the next two years they continued this ministry, convinced that a stable, safe living environment with love and boundaries could provide hope for recovery.

When he retired, John once again became active in Homestead's ministry, John claimed that his hearing impairment disqualified him from sitting through Board meetings; he'd rather organize volunteer work crews to help renovate the newly-acquired Caroline Street apartments! For four years he recruited volunteers and coordinated renovations as we welcomed tenants.

With John's passing we reflected that his life was one of service to God and his neighbours. He leaves us grieving the loss of his presence, but inspired to follow his example by using our interests, talents, educations, and connections to share the love of God with a broken world.



Homestead Christian Care is excited to announce the official launch of HEPI, Homestead Enterprising Partners Incorporated—our first social enterprise job-readiness business model. Since February, HEPI has hired 15 Homestead tenants, most who have had no or limited prior employment experience. HEPI specializes in property maintenance and janitorial services in Homestead's Hamilton and Woodstock apartment programs. HEPI has also been awarded an assembly contract with FOX 40 International in Hamilton. Eight HEPI employees are currently putting together products that you can find on your local Canadian Tire shelves. HEPI provides encouragement and help with skill development, team work, time management, independent working skills, and job preparedness skills for possible future jobs within HEPI or the community. HEPI is looking for start-up resources and partners in Hamilton and Woodstock that will help us develop fruitful employment opportunities for our tenants. As one tenant employee put it, "I'm so thankful for the chance to learn how to work—it sure gives me confidence, and gets me out of my apartment!". For more information contact Darryl Exelby, Social Enterprise Development Manager at dexelby@hsc.ca.



HEPI employee assembles Fox 40 product

Homestead Christian Care Receives Certification



The Canadian Council of Christian Charities has approved Homestead Christian Care as a member receiving its CCCC Seal of Accountability. This verifies that Homestead Christian Care is a charity that meets rigorous and nationally-recognized standards of financial management and ethical practice. Look for the Seal of Accountability on our materials and know that Homestead Christian Care is among a select group of trusted Christian Charities.



Martha Tigchelaar served Homestead in many capacities over the years: as a board member, long-time volunteer, and dedicated supporter. We are thankful for the care Martha gave to so many of us at Homestead in so many thoughtful ways; she will be missed.

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 Andrew? **Your help makes this ministry possible. Charitable Registration Number 131295198RR0001**



Title: _____
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Postal Code: _____
 Tel: _____
 Email: _____

- 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? _____

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