



The **16th Annual Wesley Open** was held on Monday, September 8, 2008 at Copetown Woods in Ancaster. Thank you to all our sponsors, participants and volunteers who helped make the day a success. Children, seen to the right, from our After-School Program express their "thanks". A special thank you to our Wesley Open Committee members for **presenting Paul Johnson, Executive Director of Wesley Urban Ministries with a cheque for \$60,000** toward our many child and youth programs!



Every year Wesley Urban Ministries gratefully receives donations of food, gifts, and knitted items from area congregations, businesses and individuals, for our **No Charge Christmas Store**. These donations are arranged in a store like setting, where people who are living in poverty are offered the dignity of choice, while providing a Christmas for themselves and their family. The No Charge Christmas Store could not operate without these generous donations, or without the many volunteers. If you are interested in making a donation or volunteering please contact Carolyn Cade at 905-528-5629, ext. 240 or via email at [carolyn.cade@wesleyurbanministries.ca](mailto:carolyn.cade@wesleyurbanministries.ca). We are in great need of food and gift items for the many families who require our help this year.

## RAISING THE ROOF

Wesley Urban Ministries is the local partner for the National Campaign called Raising the Roof. This campaign educates the public on the issue of homelessness and raises funds through the sale of toques. This year we will be having an official launch on **December 2nd with the official Toque Tuesday on February 3rd, 2009**. Toques will be available shortly. If you are interested in selling them at a pre-Christmas event like a bazaar or joining the campaign this year, please contact Carolyn Cade at 905-528-5629 ext. 240. A portion of the sale of each toque comes back to Wesley at the end of the campaign. For more information visit [www.raisingtheroof.org](http://www.raisingtheroof.org)

## International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

On Friday, October 17th, Wesley Urban Ministries recognizes the United Nation's Day through featured workshops, gatherings and events. **2008 marks the 60th Anniversary** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The 2008 theme for the International Day is **"Human Rights and Dignity of People Living in Poverty"**.

At Wesley Urban Ministries, we are committed to respect and dignity and are enthused to be providing the Hamilton community an opportunity to be involved in a series of events to both educate and inspire. Our featured presenter is **Maggie de Vries**, [www.maggiudevries.com](http://www.maggiudevries.com). Maggie is a well regarded Canadian writer, teacher, editor and speaker. She is known for her advocacy of the missing women in Vancouver's East Side and her recently released edition of Missing Sarah: A Memoir of Loss. For information on our many community events, please visit [www.wesleyurbanministries.ca](http://www.wesleyurbanministries.ca)



DECREASING BARRIERS...

INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES



Safaa Alrheih and Yinka Sola-Olurin recently participated in our Parent Nutrition Class at Wesley Urban Ministries' Ontario Early Years Centre located at 155 Queen Street North. The program includes food safety, nutrition, and tips on how to prepare affordable, easy and nutritious meals for families. The Class is just one of the programs Wesley provides in an effort to reduce the level of poverty in our community.



By providing quality parenting programs, Wesley Urban Ministries can increase the opportunities for children to experience healthy development and opportunities to reach their full potential. To find the Ontario Early Years Centre in your neighbourhood or to discover what programs are available to your family, please visit [www.ontarioearlyyears.ca](http://www.ontarioearlyyears.ca) or [www.wesleyurbanministries.ca](http://www.wesleyurbanministries.ca) or call Wesley Urban Ministries at 905-521-0926.



Children watch in wonder as staff member Rosy Zheng shares science secrets during the "Science Fun" program at the Ontario Early Years Centre on Queen Street in Hamilton.

Peter Corbett is a dedicated volunteer at Wesley Urban Ministries, loved by all and known for his loyalty, hard work and humour. When asked, Peter recalled he had been volunteering for Wesley Urban Ministries for approximately 15 years. His relationship with Wesley began when he retired in 1993 and a couple of his friends were already volunteering. At about the same time the Presbyterian Church was asking for a representative to sit on the board of Wesley. Peter, a life long member of Chalmers Presbyterian said "yes". Peter has said "yes" to Wesley many times over the years. In addition to his work on the board, Peter has used his expertise to assist with maintenance tasks and he volunteers regularly at the No Charge Christmas

Store, Golf Tournament, Case for Kids, and has even played Santa Claus to bring some cheer to the folks at Wesley Centre. Peter laughs when he remembers the number of pillows needed to make him look like Santa. Peter, along with Paul, Dave and Ben, continue to manage the many donations that supporters drop off at Wesley Centre. **"Betty and I have had a good life, we have a lot to be thankful for"** says Peter in explaining why he continues to volunteer for Wesley Urban Ministries. In addition, **"I enjoy it, I figure its something I can do and the staff have always treated me well, although the pay isn't so good."** Peter continues to volunteer for Wesley, playing an important role in the day to day operations of our organization. **Thank you Peter!**



Peter Corbett, Dedicated Volunteer

#### OUR VISION

Wesley Urban Ministries has a vision of community, where justice and compassion guide the way we live, where all members are treated with respect and dignity.

#### OUR MISSION

##### Decrease Barriers

by developing and delivering programs that address the needs of people who are marginalized

##### Increase Opportunities

by providing services that help individuals to achieve their full potential

##### Be a model and catalyst for social transformation

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