



# WESLEY URBAN MINISTRIES

DECREASING BARRIERS... INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES

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Summer Newsletter 2010

## Our Investments in People win BIG in 2010...

2009 & 2010 marked an incredible year for Wesley Urban Ministries. Not only have our programs, services and those we help seen tremendous impacts, our social investments and the investments of our donors have not gone unrecognized. Wesley has been providing innovative programs for many years and 2009/2010 saw incredible recognition for our achievements and collaborations.

Wesley Centre's role in the new Shelter Blueprint and work within the homelessness and emergency services sector awarded Paul Johnson, ED of WUM and the Shelter Blueprint, The Canadian Urban Institute's Local Hero Award. You can view full details and the video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HM23DjDq69o>

### "It's an honour just to be nominated."

Wesley was enthused to be nominated for the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce Awards in the Not For Profit Category in March of 2010. We were even more enthralled when Wesley was awarded the 2009 Outstanding Business Achiever for tremendous and innovative social investments in the community of Hamilton.

Wesley became a **Recommended Charity** by Charity Intelligence in 2009. Of the 97 charities supporting homelessness services across Canada, only 32 charities were recommended... one of which was Wesley Urban Ministries. To view the full report, visit <http://www.charityintelligence.ca>

**Incredible Leadership...** Paul Johnson was awarded the Bay Area Leadership Alumni Award for dedicated leadership and his commitment to affect positive change in the community. Congratulations Paul!

## Transitions to Home an Essential Piece of Emergency Homelessness Services

Transitions to Home (T2H) provides mobile, intensive case management services to deliver a "housing first" program that assists vulnerable individuals living in hostels or experiencing homelessness to move directly into affordable housing. Since the program start in January 2010, T2H is supporting a growing caseload of over 200 individuals to maintain stable housing and improve the health and safety of their lifestyles. The program provides services based on the principles of participant choice, recovery, empowerment, harm reduction and psycho-social rehabilitation. The program assists on average, 10 individuals a month to find affordable housing. It is anticipated that by the end of 2010 the program will be supporting a caseload of 400 individuals in a variety of private market and social housing units throughout Hamilton.



Karen first heard about the local Timeraiser's Program through volunteer participation with Wesley Urban Ministries. Last year, Karen was a successful art bidder, pledging to volunteer 125 hours to our community. Karen far exceeded her original pledge of 125 hours. Karen fulfilled her volunteer pledge in many areas; helping with set up at Wesley's Annual No Charge Christmas Assistance Program, making snacks and assisting with special events at Wesley's Early Years Centre's and by helping members in the conditioning room at the YMCA. Additionally, through volunteering at the Fringe Festival, Karen was able to see her first live play. She has learned and experienced so many new things through volunteering, while having the opportunity to meet some really interesting people. "Volunteering for the last year has impacted my life and has enabled me to become the person I am today." Thank you Karen... and enjoy your art work. To find out how you can get involved in Timeraisers and help your community, visit [www.timeraiser.ca](http://www.timeraiser.ca)

## Peter Corbett... Senior Volunteer of The Year

Peter Corbett is a well known and well loved volunteer at Wesley Urban Ministries. On June 24th, 2010 he received the Senior of the Year Award from Hamilton's Mayor Eisenberger. **Thank you Peter for all your dedication to Wesley, your church and other local community organizations.**

Since Peter began volunteering in 1993, he has been an integral part of our organization and has played many roles; leadership, helping clients, organizing, event support, just to name a few...

Many of our programs rely on donations of food. Peter volunteers every Monday sorting/managing donations, a role he has played since 1993. This role is critical to our agency's day-to-day operations. Peter also served on Wesley Urban Ministries' Board of Directors as the first Presbyterian representative between 1996 – 2002.

Peter has also volunteered at nearly every event for the past 17 years. At our annual Case for Kids, Peter collects pledges to raise funds for our many child and youth programs and volunteers his time to ensure the event will be a success.

At our Christmas Assistance Program Peter volunteers for set up and during the operation of the program and helps by recruiting family members to volunteer and support the program. Peter has been profoundly moved by stories shoppers have shared with him while he has been assisting them.



## 19th Annual case for kids walk, run, ride

## \$100,000 Raised for Children & Youth in Hamilton



Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's Case For Kids Walk - your support and dedication helped to raise \$100,000 for child and youth programming in Hamilton.

We hope you will all get involved and raise pledges to support our March for An End to Child Poverty!

## Summer Drive for Wesley's Many Programs...



Summer is here and many people and families in the community need our help more than ever. Donations, including food are critical to our many programs and those that look to us for help.

### So what is needed?

Donations, whether financial or in-kind to support Wesley Centre and the Hot Meal Program are critical. **Fresh fruits & vegetables** are much appreciated!

### Can I Help with the School Supplies Drive?

Our Back To School Drive throughout the summer will help to support children and youth with **school supplies, backpacks, pencil crayons, etc....** Support the drive this summer by hosting a drive at your work, or on your street/in your neighbourhood or invite your child to pick out some items for a child in need.

### What Other Items are Needed

We are in **great need of hygiene items for Wesley Centre** and items for folks that are moving into their new homes (i.e. bedding, housewares, etc...)

Contact us today at 905.528.5629, ext. 244 or via email at [info@wesleyurbanministries.ca](mailto:info@wesleyurbanministries.ca) to find out more about how you can help!

On Thursday May 13th, Wesley Centre Staff, participated in their 2nd challenge with the Hamilton Police Service. The challenges are a great way to build a better working relationship and break barriers. Their first challenge, a volleyball tournament in the summer of 2009 was extremely successful and set the stage for this Spring Challenge.

We look forward to another friendly challenge soon!



Seen above: Staff of both Wesley Centre and the Hamilton Police Service.