

Reaching 100 Units in 10 Years!

After completing four units in Wellesley for large rural families, MennoHomes achieved the supply of 96 rental units. This year, in its 10th anniversary year, MennoHomes is providing four units for large rural families in Elmira, two through purchase and two through construction. *Thus 100 units in 10 years.*

Two townhomes, with three plus bedrooms each, are being purchased on Stillwater Street. One purchase will close at the end of April; the other at the end of August. Built in 2004, the homes are in excellent condition with energy-saving features. On a cost comparison, MennoHomes came to the conclusion that it could hardly buy serviced lots and build homes in Elmira for less than the approximate \$250,000 it paid for each townhome.

The four Rural Outreach and Support Workers, currently partnering with MennoHomes in Wellesley, will extend their services i.e. provide translation, help with settlement needs, liaison with schools, etc. to the families to be housed in Elmira.

10th Anniversary History Project

The Board would like to begin a journey of recollection and reflection. We are commissioning a history and want to share it in a variety of media as we celebrate our 10th Anniversary! We are looking forward to sharing the **original vision based on Jeremiah 29: 5-7** that it is God's will that we work for the good of the city where all deserve affordable and decent housing.

Please Plan to Celebrate With Us!

10th Anniversary Celebration on November 21, 2011

A special 10th Anniversary Celebration is planned for Monday,

November 21 in the Elmira Mennonite Church

7:30 -8:30 p.m.

Refreshments will be provided.

More details to follow closer to the event.



Elmira Build 2011 Partnerships

MennoHomes is very happy to announce that Clare and Bonnie Brubacher will serve as Project Managers for our **Elmira Build 2011**. The Brubachers are members of the Floradale Mennonite Church and both are owners of Woolwich-based businesses, Clare of Paradigm Homes and Bonnie of Royal LePage Elmira. They can be reached at: 519-669-3192.

We asked the Brubachers to say how they came to take on the role of Project Management. Here is their response:

"Because both of our careers involve homes, construction and real estate, the opportunity to be Project Managers for the Elmira Build 2011 seemed to be a great fit. It enables us to give back to the community and to work with a fine organization which exists entirely to provide affordable housing, as its name denotes. We look forward to a positive experience with the community, the many volunteers, the donors and supporters and the positive results we can achieve by working together."

Also pictured is Scott Shantz of Elmira District Secondary School. Having considerable construction experience, Scott will be on site daily during the upcoming September-January semester to supervise 15 students from EDSS and to co-ordinate their activities with the Brubachers. The EDSS students will frame, roof, shingle, insulate, install the drywall and do many of the rough-ins. MennoHomes is thrilled to have the involvement of the local community!



(left to right) Martin Buhr, Scott Shantz, Bonnie and Clare Brubacher.

10th Anniversary Fundraiser

To cover the costs of its Elmira units, MennoHomes launched a new \$500,000 Fundraiser in January, 2011. As of now, \$200,000 remains to be raised over a three year period, 2011-12-13.

Please refer to the attached flap and the Project List to consider how you would like to participate .

Benefit Concert by Menno Singers

**Floradale Mennonite Church
Saturday, May 14, 2011.**

**Concert starts at 7:30 p.m.
Followed by refreshments.**

Menno Singers with guest soloist Brandon Leis will perform a gospel-themed benefit concert in support of MennoHomes' four Elmira housing units.

The ticket price is \$20.00. Concert tickets will be available through MSCU branches and choir members. Donations over and above the ticket price will be fully tax-receipted. A collection will be held.

You can help through a one time gift or a pledge for each of the next three years. Still need to raise \$200,000.

I would like to sponsor _____
from the Project List (page four)

or

Pledge for 2011 _____

Pledge for 2012 _____

Pledge for 2013 _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

e-mail address _____

Please return pledge & donation to:

MennoHomes Inc.
50 Kent Ave.
Kitchener, ON
N2G 3R1

Charitable Registration #:
86304 7015 RR0001

For further information:
Contact: Martin Buhr 519 578-5546
Or, pama@sympatico.ca

Elmira Build Project List

MennoHomes Inc. is building a semi in Elmira this summer on Centre Street, near Church. This project will create affordable housing for two large rural families. MennoHomes will be partnering with the Elmira District Secondary School through its trades program for labour. Please continue to pray for the project and the families who will live there. We suggest you invite a MennoHomes speaker to talk about the Elmira Build 2011, or take a Special Offering in support of an item or items selected from this Project List. Already, an individual contributor has chosen to cover the floors with the materials needed, and a church has chosen to raise sponsorships to cover the roof with shingles.

Because many churches, Sunday Schools, service groups and individuals have expressed an interest in participating, we've prepared the following list for your sponsorship consideration :

- two "Welcome to Your New Home" quilts or comforters still needed
- pail of high sheen paint, \$40.
- energy-efficient windows, \$500.
- hot water heater, \$1,000.set of stairs, \$1,500.
- one set of stove, fridge, washer, dryer, \$2,200
- heat recovery ventilator, \$2,500.
- hi-efficiency furnace, \$5,500
- framing material for each unit, \$15,000.
- concrete foundation \$28,000.
- paint for one room, \$150.
- garage door, \$800.
- set of cupboards, \$4,500
- insulation \$8,000
- siding \$9,400

For further information, or to report which item you would like to sponsor, please contact Martin Buhr, president of MennoHomes, at either 519-578-5546 or pama@sympatico.ca

Trades and Suppliers List

To supplement the labour of students from EDSS, skilled labour will be needed for the following trades: electrical; plumbing; taping and mudding; painting; trim carpentry; installing doors, stairs and cupboards/cabinets; siding; excavating; cement work; heating and ductwork; and so forth.

If you are able to donate supplies and building material, or provide reduced prices, please contact:

Project Managers Clare and Bonnie Brubacher at 519 669-3192.

"Your contribution will make a great difference in providing affordable housing."

10th Anniversary Year

MennoHomes Inc is in its 10th anniversary year. In response to an invitation from a MCC Housing Working Group, a group of local Mennonite reps from area churches and community agencies gathered for a consultation in May, 2001 in the MCC Ontario Board Room at 50 Kent Avenue, Kitchener. The meeting focused on the extremely low apartment rental vacancy rate, and the severe difficulties encountered by seniors, singles and families in obtaining affordable housing. With prayer and earnest reflection, the gathering unanimously supported the concept of initiating a new organization with a mandate to provide affordable housing. By September, 2001, MennoHomes came into being as a non-profit charitable organization.

Realizing that 2011 would be a milestone year, the Board of MennoHomes set a goal of 100 units by its 10th year. That goal is being achieved. There will be 100 units in 10 years representing \$10 million in affordable housing stock. These numbers are significant because of more than 200 people who have had their lives bettered through improved living conditions. One tenant reported that every member of her family felt better both physically and emotionally, the day after moving into a new unit. Another family saved \$1,000 a month through lower electric and heating bills during the winter months. Along the way, homeowners who initially resisted the presence of units supplied by MennoHomes, came to befriend their new neighbours.

Much prayer support and sharing of personal resources are invested within the 100 units. For this, MennoHomes offers a hymn of gratitude and praise to God and God's people, along with an appreciative acknowledgement to Federal, Provincial and Regional Governments for their contributions.



Welcome, Home!