

Thank you

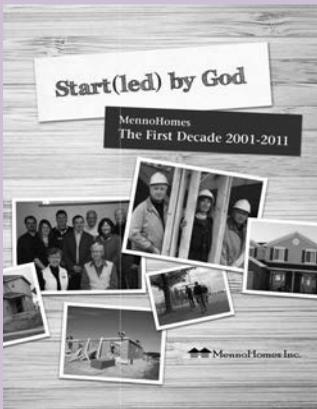


The two large family units at 2 and 4 Centre Street in Elmira.

The Board of MennoHomes acknowledges the important contribution of **Clare and Bonnie Brubacher**, members of Floradale Mennonite Church, who served as Project Managers during the construction of the two large family units on Centre Street in Elmira. Thank you Clare and Bonnie for making it possible for MennoHomes to provide much needed rental homes for two large families in Elmira.

The Board of MennoHomes also acknowledges the contribution of **Larry Shantz** of Web D Zines Inc. in Bloomingdale. Larry generously hosted and managed our website from 2005 to 2012. Thank you Larry for your support over the past seven years.

Annual General Meeting – Launch of 10th Anniversary Book and DVD



You are invited to MennoHomes' Annual General Meeting, to be held at 7pm on Monday November 19, 2012, at Wellesley Mennonite Church, 157 David Street in Wellesley.

The 10th anniversary book, **Start(led) by God**, written by Susan Fish, and DVD, produced by Jonathon Steckley and Ken Ogwasara, will be launched. Jeffrey Schumacher, Supervisor of Housing Supply Initiatives for the Region of Waterloo, will give the keynote address on the need for affordable housing in Waterloo Region. Following the talk, participants will engage in a

discussion about important issues for MennoHomes in the coming years. Songwriter Nichelle Bauman will provide a closing song. Please join us!



Bike-a-thon raises \$63,600 for affordable housing

MennoHomes held its second bike-a-thon, **Out-spok'n for Affordable Housing**, on Saturday June 23rd, 2012. The bike-a-thon raised \$63,600 in support of the campaign to raise \$250,000 for five affordable housing units.

Sixty-two participants enjoyed wonderful sunshine and a cool breeze as they set out on bicycles, motorcycles or on foot for the Kissing Bridge Trail between West Montrose and Wallenstein. All returned with smiling faces and enjoyed lunch at Elmira Mennonite Church. About 15 local churches helped recruit participants. Clare and Bonnie



Brubacher organized the motorcyclists who enjoyed a 3-hour road trip, including the Cheltenham Badlands.

Thank you to Elmira Mennonite Church for hosting the bike-a-thon and our sponsors for their financial support - Mennonite Foundation of Canada, Mennonite Savings and Credit Union, and MAX Canada Insurance Company. Thank you to the following individuals and businesses who provided in-kind donations: Doug & Dorene Rudy-Snyder, Home Hardware, Sip and Bite Restaurant, Macs Milk, Robins Nest Coffee Shop, MacDonalds, Foodland, Paul & Adele's No Frills, and At The Crossroads Family Restaurant. And thank you to the riders and walkers and their sponsors for making the bike-a-thon such a success.

Mark your calendars – the 2013 bike-a-thon will be June 22, 2013, hosted by Elmira Menonite Church.

\$96,000 needed to reach the MennoHomes 2-year \$250,000 campaign goal

Having reached the milestone of 100 affordable rental units in 10 years, MennoHomes plans to purchase or build an additional five (5) rental units over the next two years. These units are particularly suited for the large rural families MennoHomes aims to help.

- 3 units on Ratz Street in Elmira
- 2 units on David Street in Wellesley

Federal and provincial government funds will help support these projects. MennoHomes' share of the cost for the five rental units is \$250,000 or \$50,000 per unit.

To date a total of \$154,000 has been raised in cash and pledges to meet the campaign goal of \$250,000, including the \$63,600 from the June bike-a-thon, leaving \$96,000 still to be raised.

Please consider making a donation or pledge to make the five rental units for five families a reality. You will find the donation and pledge form on the back of this page.

Thank you for your support!

Yes, I want to support MennoHomes' campaign to provide affordable rental housing for five families.

Here is my gift of _____

or

My pledge for 2012 _____

My pledge for 2013 _____

Name _____

Address _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

Please return this form to:
MennoHomes Inc.
50 Kent Ave.
Kitchener, ON N2G 3R1

Charitable Registration #:
86304 7015 RR0001

For further information, or if you would like to contribute to the **Special Needs Fund**, contact: Martin Buhr - 519 578-5546, pama@sympatico.ca

Update on the four new rental units under construction



Mike and Rob Gondosch in front of the duplex at 11 Ratz Street in Elmira that will be completed in the first quarter of 2013.

See the Spring 2012 MennoHomes newsletter for the story of two brothers, Mike and Rob Gondosch, and their generous donation of three 4-bedroom units salvaged from a fourplex they owned in Waterloo.

Two of the three units are being used to construct a duplex for two large families at 11 Ratz Street in Elmira, and the third unit will be used to construct a duplex for two large families at 146 David Street in Wellesley.

Waiting for a home

He calls MennoHomes several times a month to ask when the duplex on Ratz Street in Elmira will be ready, and to ask whether his family might be a candidate to live in one of the two units. For over a year he has been living with his brother's family in a two-bedroom apartment. Their mother also lives with them.

When he calls he is careful not to apply pressure. Nor does he complain about the very difficult living situation for his brother's family, his own family and their mother. MennoHomes hopes to provide him with a more liveable space, a genuine home, before the end of this year.



Lot at 146 David Street in Wellesley where construction of a duplex will begin before the end of 2012.

Determined to make it

Marta (not her real name) is a single mom from Central America with six children. When she arrived at a house owned by MennoHomes, she was on social assistance. Shortly after becoming our tenant, Marta found employment. The rent was low enough for her to cover as well as meet all of her family's household expenses.

Unexpectedly, Marta was diagnosed with cancer. She took time off work to undergo treatment, but has now returned to work. Determined to be independent, Marta has requested extra time to catch up on her rent and utility payments. MennoHomes will be flexible in giving her that time. If you would like to help this family, or other families in similar situations, you can do so by contributing to MennoHomes' Special Needs Fund. Please contact Martin Buhr at 519-578-5546, pama@sympatico.ca.

Who is living in MennoHomes' rental housing?

To date MennoHomes has provided 101 affordable housing units. The rents are low enough to be affordable for those on social assistance.

- 50 units on King Street East in Kitchener are for seniors
 - 8 units – couples
 - 42 units- singles
 About 15% attend a Mennonite church. Some residents receive financial support or some form of living support.
- 16 units on Village Road in Kitchener are for families
 - 11 units – single parent families
 - 5 units – 2-parent families
 Currently there are 3 Muslim families and 2 families are active in a Christian church. Five families receive some form of government support.
- 25 units in Waterloo are for single adults
- 1 unit in Kitchener is for a refugee family
- 9 units in the townships of Wellesley and Woolwich are for larger families, 5 of these for Low German families and another 2 for families on Ontario Works.

