

**Yes, I want to support
the new affordable
housing build in Elmira.**

Here is my gift of _____

and/or

Here is my pledge of _____

for _____ years.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

Please return this form to:

Dan Driedger
MennoHomes Inc.
202- 50 Kent Ave.
Kitchener ON N2G 3R1

Charitable Registration #:
86304 7015 RR0001

For further information contact:
Dan Driedger - 226-476-2535,
ddriedger@mennohomes.com.



www.mennohomes.com



Small change. **BIG DIFFERENCE.**

Round up your purchases automatically and donate to MennoHomes with ChangeIt®, an online charitable giving program offered by MSCU and other financial institutions. MennoHomes will issue a tax receipt for your donations. Learn more at www.changeitcanada.com. Let's make change together!



Mark Your Calendars

**Out-spok'n V for Affordable Housing –
Saturday June 20, 2015**



Where: Elmira Mennonite Church, 58 Church Street West, Elmira. Registration at 9:30am, official start at 10am.

There are opportunities for everyone – bicycling, motorcycling, running or walking. Put together a team or do a solo ride/walk/run.

Celebrate your participation by enjoying a barbeque and refreshments at the church beginning at noon, followed by door prizes and a short presentation, and ending with the send-off for the motorcycle enthusiasts at around 1pm.

Funds raised will support MennoHomes' new affordable housing project in Elmira. Charitable receipts will be issued for all donations. For more details and pledge forms, and for information on the 75km bike ride, contact Dan Driedger @ 226-476-2535 or ddriedger@mennohomes.com.

Newsletter Editor: Nancy Regehr



www.mennohomes.com

Printing courtesy of Waterloo Printing

MennoHomes 202-50 Kent Ave. Kitchener ON N2G 3R1

Neighbours helping Neighbours



When MennoHomes built the duplex at 146 David Street in Wellesley to provide affordable rental housing for two families, a small commercial space was added to the front of the building to meet zoning requirements.

As of April 13, 2015 that space is being used by the Wellesley Food Cupboard to provide supplemental food for people in the community who aren't able to get to the larger food banks in Elmira or New Hamburg.

The Food Cupboard grew out of the efforts of Sue Martin, a family outreach worker in Wellesley Township with Carizon Family and Community Services, who had been operating food cupboards for families. She saw the need to also serve seniors and singles and brought the need to the Wellesley ministerial team. An organizing committee was formed, chaired by Christa Gerber (the committee is pictured above). Churches, businesses and individuals donated time, materials, money, and food to set up the Food Cupboard and MennoHomes is providing the space rent-free for two years.

The Food Cupboard will be open Mondays, 10am to noon, and Thursdays from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Call 519-616-3663 (Food).

Elmira Housing Survey Identifies Need



Dan Driedger
Executive Director

MennoHomes recently conducted a Community Housing Survey for Elmira and the surrounding rural area to help us identify the need for affordable rental housing in Elmira.

More than 150 individuals responded – seniors and non-seniors, couples and singles.

If there was one theme that I noticed most often in the responses to the survey, it would be the need for this type of housing. But what does it mean to “need” something?

Allow me to share some of the comments we received.

My husband is disabled and needs a place with no stairs, a walk-in shower etc. but there is nothing in this area. We are both in our early 50's and so we don't qualify to be put on a senior's apartment list. We had to settle for a basement apartment which we recently moved into, since all the other apartments had too many stairs for my husband.

Currently I am residing with my daughter and family. I work part time but eventually will not be working and will be living on pensions and I am afraid at that time will not be able to afford to live on my own. I'm concerned on what the future will be on affordable housing for me.

I am in a senior's apartment already in Elmira, on the second floor to which there are only stairs. I'm having a hard time climbing them at this point and at the age of 60 it will not get any better.

Elmira is in great need of affordable housing. I know there have been a few older homes that have been renovated and converted to apartments, but being on a fixed income, there is no way to afford these places.

I have a hard time climbing stairs. I don't need a roll-in shower but do need a walk-in shower. I have been looking for apartments in Elmira and all are too expensive for me.

I think that affordable, clean, safe housing is very much needed in Elmira. Speaking from personal experience, I'm in my 40's, working full time and had to return to living at home with my parents because I do not make enough money to live on my own.

I'm 84. I am happy and comfortable at my present address but if I need to quit driving and am able to still live independently, I would need to move. In several years past I have heard that many senior home owners of modest means wishing to downsize and rent are very disappointed in not being able to find affordable housing, and have to leave their lifetime home town and move away.

I am 55 and my husband works but has degenerative disc disease. We will not have high pensions or any at this rate, so what do we do? Apt. rates and hydro and water will only go up, along with food and other necessities. What do we do when 60 plus?? You never think about this when younger, but now at my age I start to worry...I grew up in Elmira, I have my parents here, who at 80 need help. I do not want to move out of the area...

This survey has certainly provided us with statistical evidence of the need for housing, but our new project in Elmira is not about numbers, it's about people.

With your support, we can change these stories of need into stories of thanks.

“We are concerned what the future may hold as far as affordable housing is concerned, and we do want to stay in Elmira.”

Fast Facts about the Elmira Project



- located at the corner of Church St. and Memorial Ave. on the lot shared with Woolwich Community Services
- 14 one-bedroom apartments
- 9 two-bedroom apartments
- 2 three-bedroom apartments
- barrier-free design with elevator
- housing for seniors, non-senior singles, and small families
- affordable rent starting at 60% of average market rent
- overall budget of \$5.6 million
- fundraising target of \$4.3 million
- current fundraising at \$1 million
- construction start anticipated for early 2016