



CCSC Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2

September 2010

Special points of interest:

- New CCSC Logo
- Christmas Gift Bags

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CCSC has a new LOGO

Chalmers Community Services Centre has a new visual identity. Over the summer, we have rolled out a new logo that appears on letterhead, signs and brochures.

Freelance designer Virginia Durrer worked with CCSC's Development and Fundraising Committee to create our new look.

Describing the logo Virginia says, "Our logo represents the feeling of community that we have created for those who use our services. We welcome anyone who is unemployed, underemployed, between jobs, or waiting for compensation. We are a violence and judgment-free center and offer a safe and comforting place for people who have run out of options. The people in this logo are different colours, holding hands, and are surrounded by a circle, which we feel represents the

feeling of community we offer at Chalmers."

The logo is featured on the new sign on the side door of Chalmers Downtown, on collection boxes and shopping

carts at some of our supporting churches, on brochures and this newsletter as well as on our new letterhead. It will be the new standard for identifying CCSC and its programs.

By Brian Clark, Vice Chair, CCSC



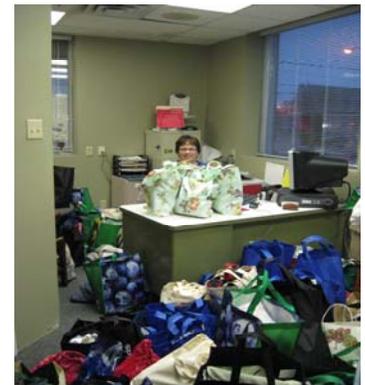
Christmas Gift Bags

Last year 337 Christmas Gift Bags were distributed on the 2 food pantry days before Christmas, at both Chalmers Downtown and Chalmers West.

During a guest focus group, we heard again that this was the only Christmas Gift they received.

This year we will need 375 gift bags. These gift bags contain new

toiletries like a bar of soap, shampoo, hand towel, toothbrush and toothpaste, and also, a new pair of socks and gloves and a Christmas treat, like chocolate or some other candy. If you are interested in providing one Christmas Bag or more, please contact the office for a complete list of suggested items and more information.



Harvest Bowls—October 27, 2010



The Labour Day weekend was blustery and cold: a prelude to colder months to come....

Hot soup and fresh bread comes to mind to nourish and warm the body and to comfort the soul. With that in mind we invite you to join us for **Harvest Bowls 2010**.

Three Willows United Church is again hosting Harvest Bowls, an important fundraiser for

Chalmers Community Service Centre.

Come with your friends or family to enjoy a simple sumptuous supper on your way home from work or on your way to your evening event. There will be a variety of soups hot, cold, vegetarian, or meaty. Something for everyone, these soups are prepared and donated by local chefs. Select your own unique hand made pottery bowl and then taste as many of the soups as you like. The bowl is yours to take home courtesy of very

creative potters.

Soup is served from **4:30 to 6:30**.

Tickets go on sale **September 20th** and are available through Three Willows office (519-822-7690) or the CCSC office (519-822-8778).

May there be food for those who hunger
And hunger for justice for those who are fed.

A grace from Iona
Amen. By Rhondda Lymburner

*From a Guest at
Chalmers
Downtown:*

*"I love the woman
who checks us in!
She is a warm &
loving human
being!!!*

*Many thanks to Leona and
also to Patricia, our new
registration volunteer.*

A New Guest's Experience Downtown

One Friday, a new guest arrived and when she began to empty her purse for Identification and proof of income, residence, etc., Patricia, our new volunteer registration volunteer, welcomed her and told her that no ID was necessary and that CCSC required no proof of address or

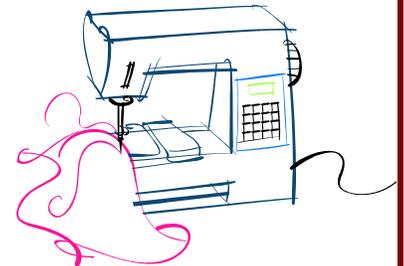
income. This woman was very surprised and proceeded towards the entrance door to the pantry to choose her fresh produce and make choices of milk, meat, breads and canned goods. When she exited the pantry, she stopped by Patricia's desk and burst into tears. She was deeply

moved by the generosity of CCSC and dignity bestowed by CCSC volunteers.

The Mending Ladies

For the past 2 years, Jill Gill has been diligently providing mending services to our guests. Jill comes in every Friday morning and repairs holes, hems and broken zippers while chatting away with guests. She is often the last to leave and takes her work home with her, spending up to 10 extra hours a week finishing the mending so it's ready for the next Friday morning. With her warm smile and giving spirit, she is sure

to have mended a few hearts along the way as well!
We must also mention Jill's right hand woman, Gayle Rice, who helps out when the workload is heavy. Gayle drops in Friday mornings, when needed, and helps with the mending from home. Thank you both for giving your time and skills to CCSC. We know how much our guests appreciate your free service.



Welcome New Volunteers



(pictured left to right) Jessica Martin, Patricia Miller, Audrey Friendship, Lesley Parsons, Catherine Stevenson, Mary Heyens, Bruce Roberts and Douglas Schneider (in front). This is an enthusiastic bunch that is doing a great job for us. Thanks for joining the team!

As always our volunteers have continued to be the backbone of our organization. Over the summer, we have had to say good

bye to one crucial member of our team. Sheryl Spencer, who has been the Chair of the Program Committee and volunteered many Friday mornings, will no longer be with us. Sheryl is working on her Master of Divinity Degree at Emmanuel College at the University of Toronto, in training to become a minister in the United Church of Canada. Her placement at CCSC was a requirement for a course in Contextual Education. As of September 1, Sheryl will be engaged in an eight-month internship at Sydenham St. United Church in Brantford before she does her final year of academic studies. Sheryl has made a sizeable contribution to CCSC in a very short amount of time. She's kept the Program Committee focused on key goals and objectives, facilitated two focus groups which provided crucial information that guided our program directions, and helped us define our mission. Each Friday her warmth and compassion was felt by staff, guests and volunteers. Thank you for everything you have brought to CCSC Sheryl. Best of luck with your studies!

I am happy to report the addition of several new and returning volunteers. I would like to introduce

by to one crucial member of our team. Sheryl Spencer, who has been the Chair of the Program Committee and volunteered many Friday mornings,

CCSC has a video!

Thanks to sponsorship by the Volunteer Centre of Guelph-Wellington and the work of local filmmaker, Thomas Gofton (Synn Studios), CCSC has a five minute video available for individuals, groups, or businesses to view. The video showcases the work of our 60+ volunteers, their dedication and commitment to serving those in need with dignity and respect, and the history and philosophy behind CCSC.

This video can also be viewed on the CCSC website, www.chalmerscentre.ca or the Volunteer Centre website: www.volunteerguelphwellington.on.ca.

Sincere appreciation goes to Thomas Gofton for his professionalism and quality filmmaking.

Please call the office to borrow a copy of the video.

"I like coming here because they are so friendly and helpful. The people that volunteer deserve a thank you as well for all the good work they do."

Sandra

Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

On Saturday, April 24, CCSC Volunteers and Supporters, were treated to a delicious hot breakfast at Norfolk St. United Church. Eggs, pancakes, muffins, sausage and bacon, coffee and juice were served in celebration of our dedicated volunteers. Many thanks to the Norfolk Volunteers who prepared and served breakfast!

Photo by Elm Alyea



**CHALMERS
COMMUNITY
SERVICES CENTRE**

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We strive to serve those in need without prejudice; all are welcome.

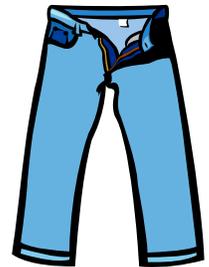
If you would like to donate food or clothing, please call Diana at the office, to arrange a convenient time for delivery of goods. This will ensure that your valued donations will safely get to the guests of CCSC.

PAR (pre-authorized remittance) is a convenient way to donate to CCSC. Forms are available at the office.

Many thanks to Ignatius Farm CSA, Cedar Down Farm CSA and Sandi Leach, Gardener at the Chalmers West Community Garden, for all of the beautifully fresh produce, donated to Chalmers Downtown and Chalmers West.

The clothing department is always looking for donations of:

- | | | |
|----------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Towels | Running shoes | Kitchen essentials |
| Bedding | Belts | Pots |
| T-shirts | Knapsacks | Frying pans |
| Jeans | New socks, men's underwear | |



Volunteer Giving

The Canadian Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (CSGVP) was released in the Fall of 2009. The survey measures charitable donations, volunteering and helping others directly. According to the survey, 41% of Canadians participate in at least 2 of these behaviours. 12.5 million Canadians volunteer. The survey saw a 5.7% increase in the number of volunteers since the last survey in 2004. They also noted an increase in the number of hours a volunteer serves. An average volunteer contributed 168 hours every year, but the survey discovered that 52% of the total volunteer hours were contributed by only 10% of the volunteers.

Information was provided by the Volunteer Centre of Guelph-Wellington, VolunteerLink Winter 2010. CSGVP Results of the Canadian Survey of Giving, Volunteering, and Participating, by Amanda Topping.



L to R: Brenda, Bobbi, Chuck, John, working in the portioning room at 40 Baker St. Photo by Elm Alyea.

