



# CCSC Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 2

September 2011

## Upcoming

### Events

- Harvest Bowls
- Christmas Bags

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## Guelph Community Food Drive a Success!

The Guelph Community Food Drive took place from May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and raised 13 000 pounds of food in total. This annual event is a collaboration between 14 local neighbourhood food pantries and is intended to raise awareness of the smaller food pantries throughout the city that struggle to keep their shelves filled. Summer is a particularly difficult time for food pantries and often shelves are low on supplies in July and August.

Each food pantry was designated an area of the city that they could canvas, requesting donations of food. In addition, there were four city wide drop off locations that donors could bring food to if they could not make it to one of the neighbourhood food pantries. This food was brought to a centralized sorting station and divided amongst a number of pantries requesting additional food. Chalmers Community Services Centre participated for the first time this year and collected 500 pounds of food directly and received another 600 pounds from the city-wide drop off locations.

"We did not collect as much as we hoped for but we are satisfied with the

result for a first year effort. We will make modifications in next year's plan, most likely going door-to-door to collect food which we hope will yield a better result," says Anita Jarvis, Program Team Leader for CCSC.

### Coming in September...

The Orientation Week Committee at the University of Guelph has provided an opportunity for the Central Students Association Food Bank and CCSC to join forces to run an on campus food drive during new student move-in day on Saturday September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Food collected will be divided equally between the two organizations. A few more volunteers are still needed to help supervise the collection station and transport food to the CSA Food Bank for sorting. To help out or for more details about the event contact the office at [community@chalmerscentre.ca](mailto:community@chalmerscentre.ca) or 519-822-8778.

*By Anita Jarvis*

## Welcome Sandi as Program Team Leader

In June we were sad (and more than a little nervous) to receive the resignation of Anita Jarvis as our first Program Team Leader. Anita has over the past eighteen months developed this job into a vital part of the volunteer management of CCSC. We do after all operate with more than 80 volunteers who require training, scheduling of tasks, monitoring and guidance.

We are delighted to be able to report that Sandi Leach has joined us on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and we welcome Sandi to our organization. Sandi was able to spend two weeks in August 'shadowing' Anita which we hope has greatly helped her to hit the ground running and made the transition as seamless as possible.

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## From the Chair...

### Dear Guests, Volunteers, Supporters and Friends of CCSC:

The news of the summer has been full of it. Money: Debt ceiling conflagration in the United States, Stock Market wild fluctuations, a slowing Canadian economy, etc., etc., etc.

But as chair of the Board of CCSC I have to say that money is a huge issue for us too. It is obvious that as diligent and careful as we have been in the past three or four years we will have to expand our sources of revenue. First of all, our food costs are going up and we continue to be committed to good nutritious food. We could cut corners by purchasing poorer quality food but that would be a retreat from the values that guide us. Second, we have finally made the decision that we cannot continue to function by asking our two employees to receive third rate compensation for their work and loyalty. Third, we have received word that we will receive a grant in 2012 from Hamilton Conference of the United Church of \$7,500 but that will be the end of this source of funding

as the United Church retrenches with falling Mission and Service givings.

For several years now, I have contributed financially to CCSC through PAR, pre-authorized giving. Every month as I balance my cheque book I see the amount that has come out of my bank account. I take satisfaction and joy that I support CCSC not only through my volunteer time, most of it behind the scenes, but through my good fortune as a middle class Canadian. It is not a lot each month but every contribution, large or small, adds up to continuing the original vision of feeding the hungry that Pat de Vries launched in 1997.

If you happen to be a fortunate middle class Canadian like me, I hope you will consider supporting financially the excellent work of the Chalmers Community Services Centre.

And may your autumn be blessed with all the riches of this beautiful season.

Yours sincerely,

*John Butters*

### Toilet Paper Tower

When Bobbi Porter, a volunteer at CCSC and student at Living Yoga & Health was asked what was needed at the food pantry, she announced, "toilet paper." Living Yoga & Health then decided to run a toilet paper drive for one week at their Wyndham St. studio, but had no idea what the response would be. They asked their students to bring in a roll or two for Chalmers Community Services Centre. After seven days, 1088 rolls of toilet paper were collected and delivered. The CCSC guests were thrilled!

By Diana Sterenberg



Instructors Lisa Silverstein and Jacqueline Gilbey, with Yoga Students  
Photo by Jayelle Lindsay

# How does your Garden Grow?

The 2011 harvest has begun. On July 5, Mary Heyens, a CCSC volunteer, began travelling to **Ignatius Community Shared Agriculture (CSA)** to pick up any surplus produce available. On Thursday evenings various volunteers meet the owner of **Cedar Down Farm (CSA)** at 40 Baker St. On Saturdays, Margaret and Richard Heath, CCSC long-time volunteers, meet Cindy Lunau who delivers surplus produce from the Milton Farmer's Market.

Along with produce grown at **Three Willows and Harcourt United Churches**, the CCSC 3 pantries are able to distribute fresh produce such as tomatoes, cucumbers, basil, lettuce, and zucchini so far. Not only does this save on valuable grocery dollars but it ensures that CCSC guests

receive nutritious, fresh food which has become the mandate of the Program Committee serving CCSC. *By Diana Sterenberg*



## Wednesday Evening Program Continues to Grow

This January CCSC began serving guests on Wednesday evenings thanks to \$3000 in funding from the Guelph Community Foundation. The goal in starting the new program was to provide services to those who could not attend during

the day such as students and individuals who work but still find it difficult to make ends meet. The program saw a slow start with only 2-5 people attending each week. Happily, the word has spread about the program and continual increases in guest turn out is being seen. Currently, an average of 10-15 guests attend each week and it continues to grow.

*By Anita Jarvis*

## Attic Doll Clothes Benefit CCSC

When a friend of Chalmers cleaned out her attic, a bundle of dolls' clothes from the 1940's netted \$120 for CCSC.

Five friends-most of them -grannies - were invited for coffee and to see the clothing, lovingly handmade and trimmed with ribbons and embroidery. There was a miniature smocked dress. There were tiny sun suits and sun bonnets, knitted bootees and bed jacket and mittens on a string, satin trimmed party dresses and a white dress with embroidery, tucks and stitches that would not look askance on the finest christening gown.

By the time the friends had chosen treasurers for their grandchildren and paid what they thought the clothing was worth—knowing of course that the money was going to Chalmers—there was \$120 in the envelope.

Who knows what treasurers you might have in your attic that could bring similar gifts for a good cause.

*By Ann Middleton*

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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 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.**

**Welcome to Sandi Leach – CCSC’s New Program Team Leader (cont.)**

Sandi joins us with a very impressive resume of community work in Guelph and Wellington County. She is a very active member at Three Willows United Church and chairs their Property Committee. She was largely instrumental in creating the community garden project there which assists CCSC as well as other local families. Her professional experience includes a number of years working for Community Living Guelph-Wellington where she interacted with adults in the Supported Independent Living programme.

Sandi has recently completed the Volunteer Management Programme at Conestoga College. This course includes recruitment and management of volunteers, creation of job descriptions and many other facets of the very important task of managing the human resources which CCSC depends on. So the next time you are at 40 Baker Street, please drop in and say hello and welcome to Sandi. *By Peter Gill*

**Save The Date**

**Harvest Bowls** will take place Wednesday, **October 19 4-:30 — 7pm**, at Three Willows United Church. Please join us to pick out your personal hand crafted bowl and fill it with delicious soups and local breads, donated by local restaurants and bakeries. Tickets will be available soon at the CCSC office or the office at Three Willows United Church, as well as from CCSC Board Members.

**The Christmas Bag campaign** will begin Monday, October 3, 2011. If you would like to fill a cloth recyclable bag with practical toiletries and treats, please contact the office. The Bags are due back to 40 Baker St. on December 9.

This year the Christmas Bags will include one pair of gloves, one pair of socks, hand towel, face cloth, regular size shampoo, comb or brush, toothbrush, toothpaste, personal size bar soap, powder or talc, shower gel or body wash, anti-perspirant, bag of disposable razors, candy or gum, chocolate candy, and a small jar of instant coffee, tea bags, or hot chocolate packages. Thank you to all for your participation in this vital project.

