



Couchiching Jubilee House

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From a Post Resident - One Woman's Story ...

In 2008, my world came crashing down around me. In 30 days, my fiancée cheated with a 16-year-old girl and walked out on me and my boys, I got fired from my job, and my brother committed suicide. By the end of this time I had lost 25 pounds, I couldn't pay rent and was about to lose my housing. I would have been on the street with my kids.

I turned to Green Haven and received a lot of support and an amazing reference letter to go along with my subsidized housing application. They also introduced me to Charlene Taylor. Shortly after, I moved into Couchiching Jubilee House.

I remember the day when housing called – it was only two weeks before Christmas! I was extremely excited. The unit was close to my children's school, the unit number was the year I was born and, the wall paper border in the master bedroom had my favourite animal on it – wolves. It was all meant to be!

I've learned many things through my experiences. I've had to learn to love myself and look within for answers. I've had to make long and short term goals and work towards them. Lastly, I've come to realize who matters, who never did, who won't anymore... and who always will.

I thank God that there is support in my community. Charlene and Jubilee House helped me give my boys, not only a place to live, but also a wonderful Christmas. I don't know what I would have done without them.

Hope Lies in Dreams!

"Great achievement is usually born of great sacrifice, and is never the result of selfishness" *Napoleon Hill*. These words were most evident this year as campaign team, business and community came together to support Couchiching Jubilee House's dream to purchase a residence for our families. Karen O'Coin (chair) & Jane Sorensen (Vice-Chair) and team members Sylvia Smith, Mayor Angelo Orsi, Susan Clarke, Al Langman, Dave Simson (Treasurer), worked tirelessly to bring community awareness to our urgent need to find funds to purchase a new home for our transitional housing program. A place where homeless or near homeless women could bring their families to begin rebuilding their lives.

Couchiching Jubilee House is very grateful to all who worked to make our new home a reality, from contractors to local businesses, from community and sponsoring church volunteers, to all who gave so generously. CJH was able to open our doors to families in August; this was the result of many sacrifices by our community of their finances, their time and their talents.

We are a very unique program. It is exciting to be part of such a dynamic team that includes board members, volunteers, business and community partners and staff that all work together to support homeless, single women families to improve their quality of life and make dreams of a better future a reality.

"Hope lies in dreams in one's imagination and in the courage of those who dare to make dreams into reality" *Jonas Salk*. Thank you for making Couchiching Jubilee's dream a reality.

Charlene Taylor, Executive Director

Recognizing Our Volunteers!

Thanks to more than 100 volunteers offering more than 1000 hours of support, we accomplished a very successful transition into our new house for CJH. It was a busy season, but our dedicated, committed volunteers were so willing to lend a hand and their skills in so many ways: as packers, movers, painters, cleaners, general construction and landscaping. We certainly could not have done it without their vast support.

Marianne Gleed, Coordinator of Volunteers



**CJH Newsletter
Fall 2011
Volume #20**

**What's New!
What's Happening!**

*Couchiching
Jubilee House
presents
a special reading of
A Christmas Carol
by Charles Dickens*

**Sunday, December 18, 2011
St. Paul's United Church**

*Dramatic readings by:
Phyllis Johnson, John Caryl,
Molly Atkinson, Albert Greer,
Mary Lou Fallis*

**Tickets \$20
Call 705-325-3722 to order**

Christmas Sponsorships
Christmas is quickly approaching. On December 5, Santa will be visiting at our annual Christmas party. This year, we are in need of stocking stuffers, gifts for children and teenagers, and other items like food vouchers. We also have approximately 35 families who need a Christmas sponsorship. Please call the office for more information on how you can help.

A small group can change the world!

Message from the President, Board of Directors

For years I had heard about the work being done by Couchiching Jubilee House. I knew that I wanted to be a part of this remarkable organization, but first work and then other volunteer commitments took precedence. Then in 2008 I became the Stage Manager for "Women in Transition" - a play that ran for three nights at the Orillia Opera House; it raised approximately \$20,000 for three Orillia agencies focused on women in need – one of them being Jubilee House. That was the impetus I needed to put forward my name to sit on the Board of Directors.

2009 – Director, 2011 – President. What takes decades of hard work to achieve in the corporate world, can be accomplished in two years in the not-for-profit sector! But I am having a wonderful time. This past year has been unbelievable. The Capital Campaign team reached their \$500,000 target, we purchased our own four-plex, and over the summer, we moved lock, stock and baby-carriage from the old residence to the new. The dust has now settled so we are now trying to find our footing as property owners for the very first time.

My own work with Jubilee House will focus on strategic planning and the development of five active Board-led Committees: Finance, Human Resources, Property, Public Relations & Fundraising and Service Delivery. Each Committee has been tasked with the development of policies that will take this grass roots organization to the next level. Even after ten years of operation, it's exciting being a part of new growth!

With the continued dedication of staff, volunteers and Board members, I believe that anything can be accomplished. In the words of Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has!"

Irena Lawrenson, Board President

Board of Directors

President:	Irena Lawrenson
Past President:	Christine Hagar
Secretary:	Lisa Welch Madden
Treasurer:	Ange Mesei
Director:	Fran Carpino
Director:	Robin Fleguel
Director:	Michelle Higgins
Director:	Kevin Lehman
Director:	Marilyn Rolland
Director:	Gayle Schofield
Director:	Gaye Sclater

Couchiching Jubilee House Staff

Executive Director:	Charlene Taylor
Coordinator of Volunteers:	Marianne Gleed
Development Coordinator:	Shauna Crawford
Administrative Assistant:	Rene Jacobson

Dragon Boat Race

Way to go Team!
Dragon 'R Butts
Raised \$2,700!



Diva Day April 1, 2012

Tickets make great Christmas gifts!
Call the office for information

705-326-4337
9 am to noon daily

Fall Fashion Frenzy Stirs Up Great Fun and Funds to Support CJH

There's nothing that defines "Fashionomics" better than our annual Fall Fashion Frenzy event. On November 8th, more than 70 women scored big deals in the annual clothing swap and silent auction – and the biggest score for the evening was that it raised \$2,500 to help provide vulnerable women with the supports they need to make positive changes in their lives!

"It was great fun!" said first time event participant and volunteer, Marlene Anderson. "It's win, win, win all the way around. You're getting clothes, other people are getting clothes and Jubilee House gets money they need for their programs. You can't go wrong!"

We would like to extend a special thank you to the organizing committee including a team of students from Lakehead University's Social Work program, Amanda King, Chelsey Alderson, Emma MacDonald and Kendra McLean. The organizing committee also included Andrea Town, Gill Tillmann, Colleen Wilson and Gayle Schofield. We would also like to thank the evening sponsors for their support as well as the vendors, *Fusion 3*, *Kat's Kreations* and *Simply You* by Peaches & Cream.



Thank you

Couchiching Jubilee House wishes to acknowledge with much gratitude the financial support of our Capital Campaign, and the ongoing general financial support of our program.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your generous donation, time and efforts. You are truly making a difference in the lives of women and children.

Thank you again for your continued support!

Apartment Sponsors and Volunteer Base

- St. Paul's United Church
- St. James' Anglican Church
- Orillia Presbyterian Church, St. Andrew's
- Catholic Women's League of Canada, Guardian Angels Council

Faith
WORKS

Empowering vulnerable women to improve their quality of life through a program of individual support and transitional housing.