

SHELTER NOW

FALL NEWSLETTER



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Message from our Executive Director, Sheila Storey

As things start to gear up for Phase II, it is time to reflect back on some of our accomplishments in 2011 and I would like to start with the Shelter Now Staff. From 2010 to 2011 we have grown from 1 1/2 staff to 5 and while it has been an incredible journey, it reminded me of the opportunity I've had to meet and work with such dedicated and compassionate team members. With that said it is easy to forget that not all workplaces operate the same, and I believe we are pretty unique. The work ethic and devotion are a key part of our workplace, and I would like to thank all of our staff who have worked so diligently.

We are proud to be offering a service delivery model that is not only working but is truly building healthier communities in North Simcoe. We are continuing to make connections with individuals and work with community partners to deliver the "Wrap-around Model" and our client's success has been remarkable. One of our Health Care partners writes "In addition to providing safe and affordable housing – which otherwise would not have been available – the structure and support provided by this organization has contributed greatly to the success of many of our former patients."

Shelter Now Garden Project a Great Success!

Wednesday June 8th was a wonderful day at Hartog House! In partnership with the Midland Home Depot and the Huronia Community Foundation, volunteers from the Home Depot staff and the clients and staff of Hartog House spent a beautiful (and hot!) summer day planting a large vegetable garden and building a gazebo. In total over 15 different types of crops were planted.

Not only did this project assist low-income individuals and families to access and enjoy healthy vegetables, it also had a huge impact on both our organization and most importantly, our clients. As many of our clients suffer from mental illness and addiction, the garden and gazebo have proven to be therapeutic. Horticulture has aided our clients in developing social and work skills, literacy and numeric skills, the opportunity for social interaction and the development of independence, self-confidence and self-esteem.

After many of our clients having experienced homelessness, there has been an overwhelming response that the new garden and gazebo have created a sense of home and a sense of belonging. Through the development of new skills, the sense of responsibility that they feel in managing the property, the sense of fulfillment for completing a community project and the positive effect on their health, our project has been extremely successful in making a positive difference in the lives of our clients.

Thank you to the Midland Home Depot, Huronia Community Foundation, Charles Morden Construction, the Home and Cottage Centre and Harvey's for your role in a very special project.

Client Programming with Shelter Now

A Busy Year for Shelter Now Clients!

Client programming is an essential part of the Shelter Now Transitional Support Program. All clients must actively participate in programming offered by Shelter Now.

Client programming consists of various activities including workshops, focus groups, community kitchens, support groups, social activities, recreational and fitness/health living activities.

Over the past year, Shelter Now clients have been very busy participating in numerous activities. Some of the highlights included, a trip to Christian Island, our garden project day, a hiking trip to McRae Lake, a smoking cessation group, expressive arts workshops, fitness classes, yoga, weekly focus groups, various support groups, a trip to the Wye Marsh and a trip to Snow Valley.

Client programming is a very important aspect of the Transitional Support Program as it exposes our clients to activities that they may not otherwise have the opportunity to experience and most importantly, assists in increasing self-esteem levels, gaining confidence and reducing anxiety in social settings.

We would like to thank our excellent support staff for their hard work in planning, organizing and implementing our client programming and would also like to thank our community partners for their involvement and support.

Shelter Now Clients Give Back

Shelter Now promotes volunteerism as a means of building healthy communities.

After basic needs are met, initial problems and barriers have been identified and goals have been established, our clients look to give back to their community as a way of saying "thank you" for the support and services provided.

Our clients are currently working in our local communities by volunteering their time with the Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre, Community Reach, Out of the Cold, Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous and several other local support groups.

Thank you to our clients for giving back to our communities!





Shelter Now Phase II Project

Exciting News! Shelter Now Phase II project coming soon!

After purchasing the land, completing a thorough needs analysis, and circulating a housing survey to local agencies, our Board of Directors and staff met for a very productive planning day to establish a proposal for our Phase II project.

After careful consideration, it was decided that our Phase II project will consist of 30-40 one and two bedroom supportive housing units. We have purchased the proposed land directly adjacent to our existing facility on Hartman Drive and are currently involved in the rezoning process with the Town of Midland.

We are very fortunate to have extremely supportive partners in our local agencies and have been receiving numerous letters of support regarding our success as an organization and the need for such a project in our area.

To date, we have been very fortunate to have received funding from the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation to assist with costs related to environmental site assessment, exploration of funding sources, the development of a business plan and a preliminary design of the project.

Thank you to CMHC for your very generous contribution to our Phase II project!

Phase II Gets Support!

We are delighted to hear that you are ready to begin planning for Phase II of your housing services. Thank you for the great work Shelter Now has done to date. I know your next project will be equally successful and will meet yet another important need for this community.

- Wendat Community Programs

We are only too pleased to strongly support your efforts in providing new affordable housing in the town of Midland.

- Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness

Hartog House has been very successful in providing transitional housing in the Midland and Penetanguishene areas. You, the staff and board are to be congratulated on the superior outcome of what was once only a concept. We are happy to work with you as you being the planning for Phase II housing.

- Community Living Huronia

Living at Shelter Now has been an invaluable experience. Not only is it a supportive environment free of judgment, it is also a safe and secure place to live. It is important to me that the community understands the difference that Shelter Now has made in my life and how programs like this will make a difference in the lives of many others.

- Client of Hartog House

Welcome to New Staff and Board Members

Shelter Now is growing!

We have grown exponentially over the last twelve months. We are delighted to welcome two new full-time staff members to our organization, Kate Hunter our Resource Developer and Tina Archer our Program Assistant. Both Kate and Tina have proven to be excellent additions to Shelter Now and we would like to thank them both for their hard-work and dedication. Welcome aboard!

Our Board of Directors has also undergone some major changes. First, we would like to welcome our newest Board member, Sharron Warren. We are very excited to have Sharon join our Board and look forward to working with her. After 10 years, Larry Radko has retired from the Board; Sharon Lapham has stepped down from President and has been replaced by David Boyce who will serve as our new Board President.





Upcoming Events with Shelter Now

Tribute Evening to the late Robbert Hartog

Stay tuned for our first signature fundraising event to occur in late spring/early summer!

Tag Days

2012 will see Shelter Now staff and clients solicit contributions at local area businesses, giving each contributor a token of appreciation. Keep your eyes open for us!

Shelter Now Staff:

Executive Director:	Sheila Storey
CSW:	Sonia Ladouceur
Program Assistant:	Tina Archer
Resource Developer:	Kate Hunter
Cleaning:	Karl Martell

Board of Directors:

President:	David Boyce
Vice President:	Tracey Rynard
Treasurer:	Janet Walter
Past President:	Sharon Lapham
Director:	Michelle Quealey
Director:	Susan MacDonald
Director:	Larry Arnold
Director:	Sharon Warren

2011 Shelter Now Supporters

We have been very fortunate to have received in-kind donations and funding from wonderful supporters during the 2011 year.

We would like to thank:

Anonymous
Canadian Women's Foundation
Charles Morden Construction
CMHC
County of Simcoe
Havey's Midland
HGR Lawyers
Home and Cottage Centre
Home Depot
Huron Community Foundation
United Way of Greater Simcoe County

We would like to give a very special thank you to the Weber Foundation for their support!!

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