

A Voice for Equality, A Strong Voice for Women VOLUNTEERS AT THE YWCA

BY EMILY BAETZ

With thousands of local YWCAs in over 100 countries, the YWCA movement is truly worldwide. Since 1905, YWCA Kitchener-Waterloo has been working tirelessly to improve the lives of women in the community and beyond. But there is one group without whom it could not have been possible: volunteers.

According to Statistics Canada, over 12 million people volunteer annually in Canada contributing almost two billion hours to servicing their communities. They are all types of people doing all types of jobs to help organizations in need. As you will see in this issue of *Interchange*, the YWCA has volunteers in many different areas, from helping with maintenance at Mary's Place to working in our administration departments and everything in between.

YWCA volunteers are a team of individuals who are making a difference for women, children and families fleeing domestic violence, homelessness and poverty. Volunteers come to the YWCA

for many reasons, from their strong belief in our mission, to wanting to give back since being helped by one of our programs.

But what is volunteering all about?

Volunteering is about making a difference in the community. It's taking whatever skills you have and putting them to use for a bigger purpose. It's about wanting to be part of something larger. It's about plain, old helping others and making the world a better place.

The concept of volunteering is a bit strange to some people. The fact that volunteers aren't paid to some people means that they aren't receiving anything for their work. However, volunteers know that that is far from true, and that monetary compensation isn't the only kind.

Contributing their skills, talent, time and heart, volunteers enhance our programs and initiatives in so many ways. They bring new ideas and perspectives to the organization, share their knowledge, develop new skills, gain work-related experience and make new friends.

There are so many ways to volunteer! Is there something you excel at? Do you know how to do something that not a lot of other people do? Can you spare a few

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY JOANNE RAYMOND,
PRESIDENT OF THE YWCA BOARD

Volunteering is the practice of people working on behalf of others or a particular cause without payment for their time and services. The YWCA Board of Directors is comprised of dedicated women doing just that. They bring to the Board varying skills and



YWCA staff and Board members at our Annual General Meeting

areas of expertise but underlying all of these attributes is the desire to guide the YWCA Kitchener Waterloo as it works to improve the lives of women and children at critical turning points, as part of a world – wide women's movement for social justice.

As a Governance Board, it is accountable to the general public and ensures that the business of the association is conducted in a transparent, legal and ethical manner.

As volunteers, the Board strives to exercise good stewardship on behalf of the organization and does so with much care and enthusiasm. The public and the funders of the YWCA Kitchener-Waterloo should be proud of the excellent voluntary contributions the Board brings to the association. Their continuing efforts on behalf of the women and children serviced by the YWCA are definitely appreciated.

Girls on the Move Girls' Drop-In Centre

**Downtown
Community Centre**
35 Weber St. W.



Tuesdays and Thursdays
6:15 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

For more information, contact
Youth Worker, 519.576.8856, ext. 115,
www.ywcakw.on.ca.

*Activities: karaoke, art
and crafts, movie nights,
sports and fitness, etc.*

VOLUNTEERS CONTINUED FROM P. 1

hours a week, a month, a year? Whether you have one day or everyday, there are so many opportunities and organizations that need your help!

You may not change the whole world, but it is so simple to make it a little better for someone else. Volunteer; donate your time, your energy and your skills to make the community better for everyone.

▼ Are you looking to get involved in your community? Check out great volunteer opportunities with the YWCA at www.volunteerkw.ca or by contacting the Volunteer Action Centre at 519-742-8610.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

BY ELIZABETH CLARKE

The worldwide YWCA movement could not move very far without the driving force of the millions of volunteers who enable the work of thousands of local YWCAs in more than 100 countries of reducing poverty, eliminating violence, and creating peace in their communities.

YWCA Kitchener-Waterloo is no different. Last year, our 75 volunteers contributed thousands of hours of unpaid – but never unvalued – labour. We rely on our volunteers to set the direction for our association and to oversee its work, to raise the funds that make that work possible, to assist our staff, and to support our clients. Our volunteers can be found in our board room and our offices, in our classrooms and our kitchens, in our gardens and working on our behalf in their neighbourhoods! In this issue of *Interchange*, we will tell the stories of just a few of the YWCA's wonderful volunteers.

But there is another group of volunteers with whom the YWCA is pleased and honoured to work, and they are the volunteers of Supportive Housing of Waterloo. These remarkable individuals had been helping out with their churches' Out of the Cold programs when they realized that the homeless people who visited them for a hot meal or a warm cot on cold winter nights deserved much more: they deserved affordable, safe and supportive homes.

Most people would have simply sighed over the unjustness of a society that neglects its vulnerable members. Maybe an energetic few would have contacted politicians or written letters to

the editor, demanding that government fix the problem. But the Supportive Housing of Waterloo volunteers are not like most people. The comedian Lily Tomlin once said, *I always wondered why somebody didn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody.* And the Supportive Housing of Waterloo volunteers are certainly somebodies!

With little experience in housing development and even less money, with no organization behind them and no staff to assist them – but with very big dreams – they incorporated as Supportive Housing of Waterloo, secured



Barry Cull and Tricia Siemens, of Supportive Housing of Waterloo

charitable status, and set about raising funds to design and build a 30 unit apartment building for homeless men and women. After years of effort, the volunteers' dream was realized in June of this year, when their \$5.45 million building was completed, and when their Out of the Cold friends moved off the streets and into new, permanent homes.

And the YWCA was fortunate to be part of that. Supportive Housing of Waterloo has contracted with the YWCA to operate their program, and to deliver property management and tenant support services. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to partner with such an extraordinary group of volunteers.

VOLUNTEER

MARY'S PLACE

ROBERT BROCKHUS

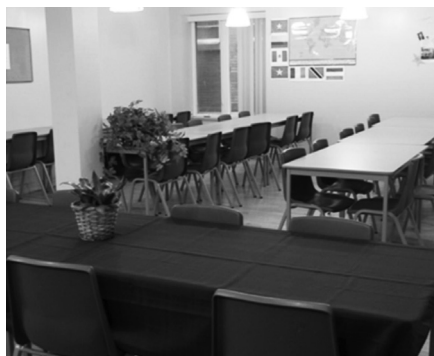
Robert has been volunteering at Mary's Place since June of 2004 and assisted our Maintenance person for many years. Wherever Francis was, Robert was not far behind. He dedicated many a summer volunteering full time for the YWCA. He is a pleasure to have around and provides some very valuable services.

IAN HOLLINGSWORTH

We've known Ian since January 2005. Once a week, Ian comes looking for work. In particular he enjoys folding laundry for food services. Ian is supported by a very special person Lois Weller. Lois and Ian provide the YWCA with a most valuable service...their time.

MARILYN LEEDHAM

We've had the privilege of having Marilyn as a volunteer for over 13 years. She volunteers in food service every other Wednesday. When she is not volunteering, Marilyn works as a PSW providing home care in the community. Along with all the hard work, Marilyn brings her great sense of humour to brighten our day.



The dining room at Mary's Place

TONY MICCICHE

Tony has been volunteering since October of 2002. He is extremely organized and refuses to leave until the job is done. He is a quiet, gentle soul and we are so fortunate to have him volunteer in Food Services.

MARTIN RIDZINS

Martin has volunteered in the kitchen at Mary's Place since June of 2001. He is a happy go lucky person who has been a huge help in Food Services. Martin refers to himself as a "human ladder." If you met Martin you would know what he means. He is a gentle giant who enjoys doing the reaching and high work where certain people small of stature can't go.



SPOTLIGHT

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE

DONNA SZILOCK

Since retiring as a high school math teacher, Donna has been putting her free time to use volunteering in our Finance Department one day per week, processing invoices and deposits, reconciling statements, and taking on various other accounting jobs as needed for seven years.

Due to Donna's help, the YWCA's Finance staff is able to manage during their busy times of year, and during quieter times have opportunities to make improvements in processes and to work on ongoing projects. Without Donna's help, they would struggle to meet their deadlines and would never be able to get ahead.

Donna's coworkers report that "Donna is first and foremost a pleasant and happy person. It is a bright spot each week when she comes in. She digs in and gets a sizable chunk of work done her time with us, and her work is always thorough and accurate. We really count on that and her!"

YWCA VOLUNTEERS

BY BARBARA ARMITAGE,
PRESIDENT OF YWCA ALLIANCE,
OHIO USA

**Our community's problems are
many
Solutions seem painfully few.
It's so easy to find yourself wailing,
"Where to start? There's too much
to do."**

**Yet for one group the answer
seems simple
Their direction is always quite clear
They reach out their hands when
the need comes
They're first to volunteer.**

**The common vision they work for
Encompasses folks one and all
Peace, justice, freedom, and dignity
No matter how helpless or small.**

**They serve in a myriad of venues
That's the most essential piece of
this pie
No matter how young or how
worldly
No matter how educated or spry.**

**So today we acknowledge your
efforts
And in your honor proudly raise
cheers
May God bless you one and all
Our wonderful volunteers!**



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

CONTINUED FROM P. 5

LINC PROGRAM

The LINC program has a number of volunteers who come and work with us for many different reasons and lengths of time, but they all contribute to the quality of care offered to children. In the past year, we have had a number of post secondary students complete their required volunteer time with us. They usually come in for one or two half days a week, depending on their class schedule. Another volunteer was looking for work and needed something to do in the mean time, coming in almost every day for four months to work in the preschool room. In the past and still today, there are immigrant women eager to assist our staff, while gaining some Canadian experience.

We also have some longer term volunteers. Three to five days a week, we have a volunteer who helps out where ever she is needed. She also is on our supply list, so some days she comes in and ends up being paid for her time, while other days she is a volunteer. One of our longest-serving volunteers has been with the LINC program for more than 30 years. She is 80 years old and comes 3 mornings a week and volunteers with in our toddler program. The children call her grandma and love to spend time with her.

Working in the LINC program can be challenging at times, working with newcomers to Canada and their children, who may speak little or no English. From January to July 2010 we have benefited from over 275 hours of volunteer help. We feel very blessed to have all these wonderful volunteers come faithfully and contribute to the well being of our children.

ETFO HONOURS WOMEN'S GROUP FOR CAMPAIGN SCHOOL

The Elementary Teachers Foundation of Ontario (ETFO) has awarded its *Women Working in Social Activism on Behalf of Women and Children – Women's Program Award* to a local Waterloo committee for it's efforts to get more women involved in municipal politics.

The committee organized a campaign school over two days in February and May of this year for women wanting to break into local politics. This event was sponsored and co-organized by the YWCA Kitchener-Waterloo and

featured the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Transportation, speaking about her personal path to politics, as well as Regional Councillor Jane Mitchell, Waterloo Mayor Brenda Halloran, Public School Board Trustee and President of the Ontario Public School Board Trustees Association, Catherine Fife, and City of Cambridge candidate and retired teacher, Donna Reid as panelists in the February school. How to win and the aspects of a successful campaign were covered in the May session.

CLUB 84 CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF GIVING!

BY SHERYL LOEFFLER,
DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY

*In 30 years, the YWCA has grown from four programs to 22. From one homelessness program to five and from two children's programs to 14. From one building in downtown Kitchener to 20 sites across Waterloo Region. Thirty years ago, YWCA Mary's Place housed single women in single bedrooms with communal bathrooms. Today, Mary's Place has 21 suites. We still house single women, but we also house mothers and fathers, their teenaged daughters and sons, and many, many children! Things have changed. But for 30 years, Club 84 has been a constant friend on whom we've been able to rely, and without whom the YWCA could not have accomplished what we have accomplished. **Without Club 84, we would not be what we are today.***

—Elizabeth Clarke, Executive Director,
YWCA Kitchener-Waterloo

Club 84 began 30 years ago as **Heather Lackner's** invitation to 84 friends to make an annual gift of \$84 to Mary's Place, the YWCA's emergency shelter for women and families who are homeless (the club took its name from the shelter's address—84 Frederick St.).

It has grown into a giving circle of about 300 members, and it has expanded its support to all YWCA programs.

Every year, Club 84 members contribute the greatest percentage of all funds raised for the YWCA. In 30 years, **more than 750 past and current members** of Club 84 have raised **more than \$1.5 million** (in endowed and operating funds) for the YWCA. In the past decade, Club 84's endowed funds have generated an average of **\$45,000 in interest income annually**.

Today, Club 84 members commit to one of four annual giving levels (\$84+, \$184+, \$484+, \$840+). Most Club 84 members have given annually for many, many years. Thirty-two of its members, our Current Founding Members, have given annually for all 30 years. A remarkable achievement!

Club 84 is a group of wonderful, generous people who have made a significant difference not only to the YWCA, but also, and more importantly, to the women and families the YWCA serves—among them, our community's most vulnerable.

▼ **To become a Club 84 member or for more information, contact Sheryl Loeffler at 519-576-8856-106 or sheryl.loeffler@ywcakw.on.ca.**

CLUB 84 CURRENT FOUNDING MEMBERS — 1980-1981

Sally Bastedo

Carol Ann Bott

Aileen Brown

Trudy Bryant

Shirley Cunningham

Mary Dennis

Patricia Dunker

Mary Dunker-Guy

Arleen Dunnette

Beverly Dyck

Hope Eaton

Shirley Filiatrault

Mary Heier

Anonymous

Pam Irwin

Alberta and

Roderick Jack

Heather Lackner

Nancy Lackner

Shirley Madorin

Margaret Marsland

Mary Ann Martin

Mary Lloy McFadden

Marilyn McMillan

Anne Neibert

Helen Pearse

Helga Segler

Elizabeth Sims

(Betty)

Helen Smith

Bernice Steep

Margaret Turnbull

Helen Waind

Elva Zehr

THANK YOU! THANK

Our heartfelt appreciation is extended to all of our recent donors for making such a difference, in so many ways, to the women and families served by the YWCA.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO

Stephen and Vera Aldersley

Sara Brown

Trish Brown

Estate of Saimi Chapman

Pat Cunningham

Shirley Cunningham

Deloitte & Touche Foundation
Canada

Elmira Maple Syrup Festival

Shirley Filiatrault

Ute Hilgers

Helen Howatson

Eleanor Kaufman

Mary Kuntz

Carol Lansky

Pat Laurin

Desta Leavine

A. Gordon Linkletter

Margaret Marsland

Parkminster United Church

RBC Foundation

Jean Riedlinger

Jan Robertson

Winifred Shantz

Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo

Anonymous 4

**FOR YOUR GENEROUS
DONATIONS.**

- ▼ To those who gave generous gifts in memory of **Dianne Laforme**.
- ▼ To **Calvary Memorial United Church** and **Ruth Hess** for your gifts of quilts.
- ▼ To **Erb Street Mennonite Church** for your gift of a meal at Mary's Place and gifts from the Mary's Place Wish List.
- ▼ To **Jackie Hayes** of the *Record* for her excellent coverage of Club 84's 30th anniversary.

RALPH CARTER

Ralph began painting in 1974 at the Mary Schneider School of Fine Arts in Actinolite. His instructor Anita Carson introduced him to acrylics and he attended workshops with Guttorn Otto, Ron Leonard and Don Fraser.

Several years ago, Ralph started wood-carving. Although it is a more intricate art form, he found it challenging and entered into wood shows. He has won several awards for his work.

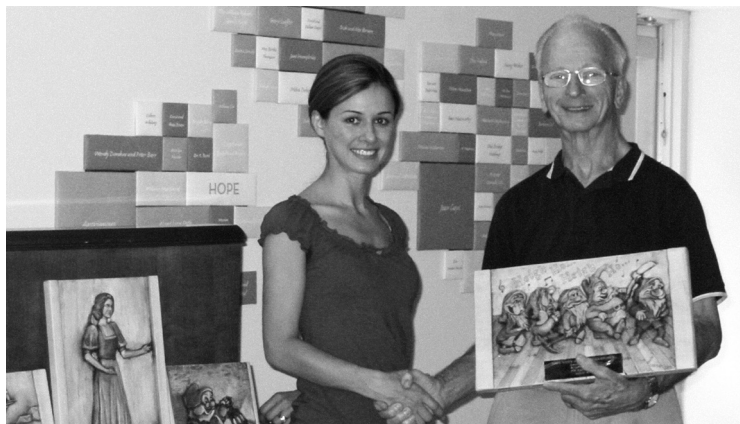
He took a course in soapstone carving with Umberto Fusari and another trail was opened. He followed it to the Halliburton School of Fine Arts and a course with Sandy Kline.

YOU! THANK YOU!

- ▼ To the **Kitchener Downtown Community Health Centre** for your gift of tables and chairs for our new Community Room.
- ▼ To **Don and Hanna Pestell** for your gift of dolls made in Chile, which we use for birthday gifts.
- ▼ To **United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 1977** for hosting a community barbeque at Mary's Place.
- ▼ To **local businesses, faith groups, service clubs, and other groups and organizations** for making both financial and in-kind donations.
- ▼ To our **Club 84 members and annual donors** for their generous gifts, both financial and in-kind, and for their gracious words of support.



The Lego table at Mary's Place was hand built by Gary Griffith for his grandchildren to play with. Unfortunately Mr. Griffith was unable to watch them play for too long and passed away. He is sorely missed by his family. Mrs. Ann Griffith and her daughter Cathy brought this and other items to YWCA Mary's Place for the children to use and enjoy.



Ralph Carter presenting his donated artwork to Diana Houghton from Mary's Place.

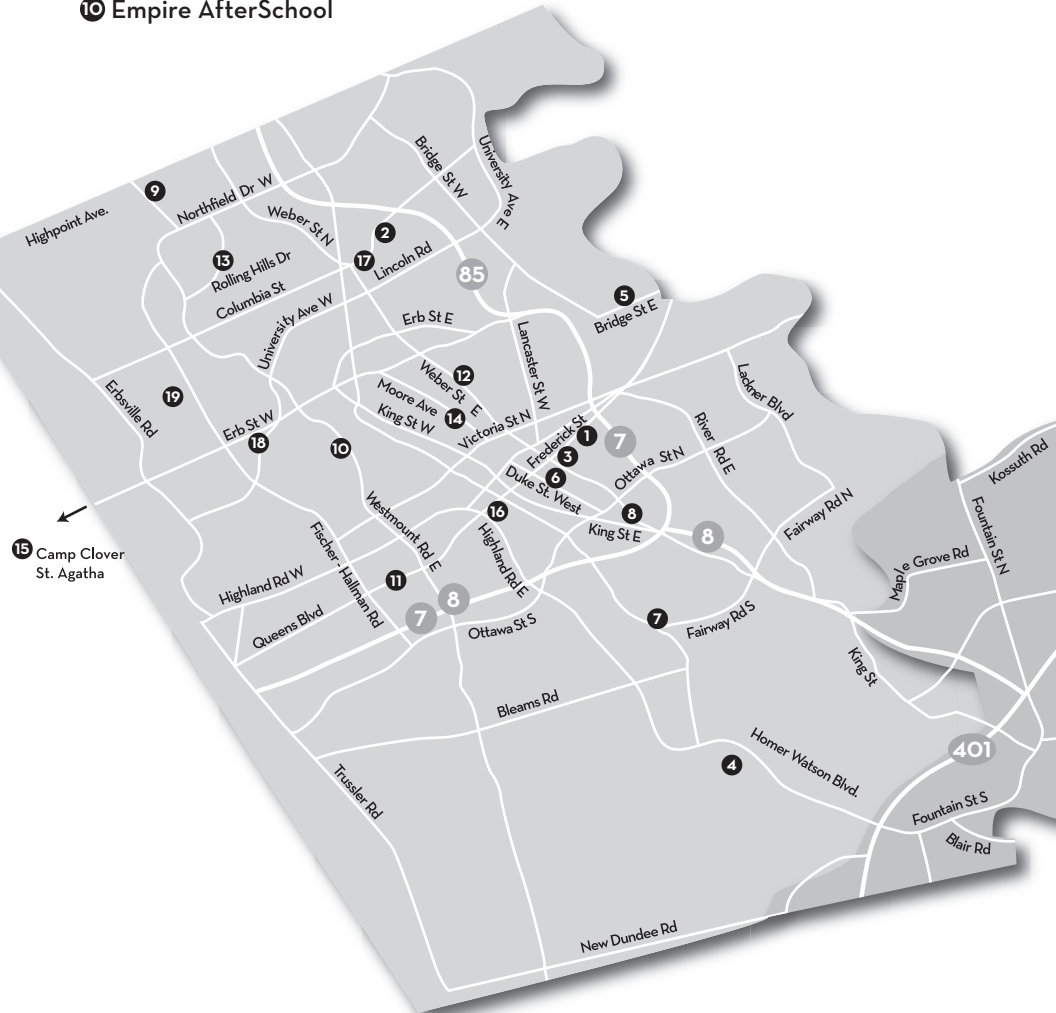
Since then, painting, wood carving and soapstone have combined to become an interesting life of creativity.

Ralph has been a part of the Royal Bank Seniors Jubilee on nine occasions

since 1997 at Roy Thomson Hall, which was a wonderful experience. He produced a CD of 16 songs entitled *Memories for Someone* that will live on.

YWCA LOCATION MAP

- 1 YWCA Kitchener-Waterloo
Community Resource Center
- 2 Lincoln Road
- 3 Mary's Place
- 4 Survivors of Abuse and Trauma
- GVI
- 5 Bridgeport Childcare Centre
- 6 City Kids Daycare
- 7 Downtown Daycare
- 8 Girls on the Move
- 9 Laurel AfterSchool
- 10 Empire AfterSchool
- 11 Southridge AfterSchool
- 12 Sheppard Homework Club
- 13 N. A. MacEachern
Homework Club
- 14 Elizabeth Ziegler Homework Club
- 15 Camp Clover
- 16 Benton Street
- 17 LINC Program
- 18 SHOW Program
- 19 Mary Johnston Homework Club



YWCA KITCHENER-WATERLOO RESPECTS YOUR PRIVACY.

We adhere to all legislative requirements having to do with privacy protection. We do not rent, sell, or trade our mailing lists. For more information, visit www.ywcakw.on.ca.

If you do not wish to be contacted, please telephone Sheryl Loeffler at 519-576-8856 or e-mail her at sheryl.loeffler@ywcakw.on.ca.

We wish to recognize our donors in our Annual Report and newsletter, *Interchange*. If you do not want to have your name published, please indicate here:

I do not want my name published in YWCA publications.

SIGNATURE



YWCA Kitchener-Waterloo follows Imagine Canada's Ethical Fundraising Accountability Code.

Charitable Registration Number
BN 11898 7643 RROOO1



INTERCHANGE

Interchange is published twice a year by YWCA Kitchener-Waterloo.

Writing, editing and photography co-ordination:
Emily Baetz.

Graphic Design: LINDdesign.ca

YWCA Kitchener-Waterloo relies on financial support from United Way, businesses, corporations, faith groups, employee associations, foundations, service clubs and other organizations.

Most importantly, we rely on people like you.

Please consider a gift to the YWCA. Help to improve the lives of women and children in Waterloo Region.

I support the YWCA!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Province _____ Postal code _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Please send this newsletter to me by e-mail.

I would like to support YWCA Kitchener-Waterloo with a gift of
 \$50 \$150 \$300 Other _____

I would like to become a Club 84 member with an annual gift of
 Mary Kaufman Circle, \$840 Four 84, \$484
 84 and More, \$184 Level 84, \$84

I have remembered YWCA Kitchener-Waterloo in my will.

I have enclosed a cheque or money order, payable to YWCA Kitchener-Waterloo.

Please charge my donation to  

Card no. _____

Expiry date _____

Signature _____

I would like to make my donation in monthly installments. Please deduct the following amount from my credit card on the 15th day of each month: _____

(minimum \$10). *Monthly donations can be changed or stopped at any time by contacting YWCA Kitchener-Waterloo.*

Please use my gift

where it is needed most.

for the following: _____

for the YWCA's international development projects.

Funds raised in excess of those required for a designated department will be applied to the general charitable purposes of YWCA Kitchener-Waterloo.



Mail to YWCA Kitchener-Waterloo, 153 Frederick St., Kitchener, ON N2H 2M2



A TURNING POINT
FOR WOMEN

153 Frederick St., Kitchener, ON N2H 2M2

Phone 519-576-8856

Fax 519-576-0129

general@ywcakw.on.ca

www.ywcakw.on.ca

If undeliverable, please return to sender.

