



A Letter From The Director:

The year 2010 was a great success! Our most recent fundraiser – The Annual Gala at Liuna Station was a huge hit! Raising over \$25,000 and complete with silent and live auction, the 200 guests had a fantastic time. Then on into the Christmas Season with great expectations of reaching as many “working poor” families as we possibly could. Thanks to our generous donors we were able to give out and feed over 300 people! AND we gave away more than 600 toys to kids who otherwise may not have had a fabulous Christmas. Walmart and Zellers had a huge hand in that too.

Upcoming Events 2010

Pastor's
Breakfast-
February 24th

Bowl A Thon-
March 26th

Girl's Night Out
June 16th

10th Annual Block
Party - August 20th

Annual Banquet -
October 13th

Dreaming of
Christmas Launch -
October

**We gave away more
than 600 toys!**

Christmas in 2010 was different. Not only did we reach out to the clients who are working and living in poverty, otherwise known as the “working poor”, but we were able to stay true to one of our Core Values—To Serve With Dignity. “Working Poor” simply means that the families may be working with one or two incomes but still find themselves living below the poverty line while trying to get ahead. Sometimes they have part time jobs, or work for minimum wage. Currently if you fall into this category The Dream Center is the only agency to provide help at Christmas. And provide help we did! It was great! This year

we allowed the mom and dad's to come and shop — no money changed hands – for their own children. They chose two gifts they knew their kids would especially like or had specifically asked for. The response from the Parents was amazing! They shopped while listening to Christmas Carols and sipping Hot Chocolate and then one of our volunteer groups wrapped up the gifts—just like at the mall! It was truly the best Christmas we have ever put on. I look forward to doing it again in 2011.

In 2010 we also did a pilot project of a Breakfast Program in the wee hours of the cold morning. Currently there are at least 12 free meals a day in Hamilton, but none of them breakfast! We already contribute to 2 of the highschool breakfast programs but know we need to do more. We found a hole and now we need to fill it. Having done over 6 trial runs and getting great feed back from the hungry adults and children in line out front, we know what our next project needs to be. Serving these families a healthy *hot* breakfast is the goal. Breakfast burritos, French toast, & Breakfast bagels are just a few items on the menu. We have an amazing team of people cooking and preparing the food and making sure we have enough for everyone. But there is a shortfall. **Now, this is where you come in.** To run this program effectively, 5 days per week and 60 people per day to start, it will cost \$31,777.00 per year. **We need to raise these funds.** “Hungry people have been found to be more likely to have clinical levels of psychosocial dysfunction than those who are not hungry. Anxiety and aggression, in particular, have been found to be closely associated with hunger. (Kleinman et. Al., 1998)” How can you help? I ask you to give generously today! The 11587 lives that we reach each year need your support. Thank you in advance for partnering with us to make a difference in Hamilton.

Rebekah Hill ~ Executive Director

Everyday, our staff here at The Dream Center encounter countless families, some in crisis situations. The following is how a typical day goes at the center:

From the Front Line

I was asked to write about my experience while here at The Hamilton Dream Center. With great pleasure, I would like to share with you; A Day at 627 Main Street East.

It's a Tuesday morning and as I drive by, I see a line up outside the building, about 15 to 20 people waiting to use The Hamilton Dream Center food bank. Inside I see Karen, the food bank manager, pulling client files, challenging herself to remember each person's first and last names. Julie is getting hot coffee ready for the clients, which is especially nice in the deep freeze of February. Gail is bustling around...hanging clothes and straightening chairs. Betty and Morris, long time volunteers, are getting interview offices ready.

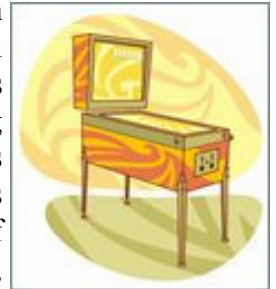
I then head to the sorting room. I see Eric washing cans and taping cereal boxes. Dan is getting soup cans ready for the shelves. As the day continues, I see Ace getting a decaf coffee, listening intently to a new volunteer, earning that right to speak into their lives.

With an enthusiastic greeting, there is Gerda, our Silent Auction coordinator, filling her day with organizing events, block parties, banquets and women programs. Eventually I hear singing, good singing! Today's song is Oh Happy Day. It's Joy, she is in the janitor's closet. She must be taking a break from meetings, emails, and Pastor "stuff", to do some cleaning. Now as I head up the hallway, juggling phone lines between The Joshua Center and the Dream Center is Michelle.

Later during the day, the Food Bank is closed from serving and supporting approximately 40 families receiving Ontario Works assistance. I hear a cheerful hello from Brian, who has come in after work and is unloading groceries off the truck. He most likely is praying for a need The Hamilton Dream Center has because he is certain there is an open window of heaven above the sorting room.

As time is getting close to 5 o'clock, Eddy is stocking shelves, Laverne is breaking down boxes, and Peggy is sorting food. Because it is Tuesday, the food bank re-opens at 5:30 to serve the "working poor". Kaiti is sometimes there, with her youthful energy, helping her mom Delores check out clients and bag their groceries. Roly and Colin are back from picking up groceries. Colin is debating on having a Mars bar or a can of soup with only 60 calories.

Throughout my day, I see Rebekah. The best way to describe her day at The Hamilton Dream Center is like a silver ball in a pinball machine. She is everywhere...foodbank, sorting room, emails, on the phone. As Executive director, Rebekah is involved in every aspect of The Hamilton Dream Center, fulfilling the vision of future programs.



So let me share with you what I do - other than keeping tabs on everyone. Now that I have been on staff for about 3 months, I have the pleasure to co-ordinate volunteers, individuals and groups. I also participate in the events such as Dreaming of Christmas, Thanksgiving Giveaway, Free Tax Clinic and Fundraising through events. Currently I am working along side Rebekah organizing our Bowl-A-Thon, one of our biggest fundraisers.

As I close, I would like to thank the founders, Ace and Joy Clarke for The Hamilton Dream Center that is showing compassion and love within the neighbourhood and throughout the city of Hamilton. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your vision. I also want to thank the volunteers that keep the centre running like a well oiled machine.

Last but not least, I thank you the sponsors for your support that has made so many positive differences in so many lives...including mine. Written by: Lisa Bechard

Our Vision

The mandate of The Hamilton Dream Center is to help change the destiny of the neighbourhood by reaching out to its most vulnerable residents-the disadvantaged (working or not), the people on Employment Insurance benefits, Ontario Works, disability pension, or people living below the poverty line.

4th Annual Bowlathon!!



This year's bowlathon is Saturday March 26th, at Waterdown Lanes, Hamilton Dr. Waterdown. It will be bigger and better than ever! Our goal is to raise \$10,000!! The prize for the most money raised is **A FLAT SCREEN TV!!**



There will be prizes for highest bowler, and best team score. We are holding a penny sale with incredible items and a 50/50 draw. Lunch is provided. We need your help to reach our goal! Be a team Captain and compete for the title! Come



join one of our teams, or sponsor someone TODAY! Our Agency is run solely on fundraisers and donations. We need your help to continue helping our Hamilton residents! Call now, ask for Lisa (905) 527 8605.

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Recent News.....

The Hamilton Dream Center has started demolition and reconstruction of the newest program "Out of the Dark." This program is designed to provide a safe place for women working in prostitution, or addicted to substance, or living in abusive situations to come and find HOPE.

We will offer a beautiful place to come and feel safe and cared for. A place where we first earn the right to speak into their lives. A hot nutritious dinner will be served in the evenings. As well; clean socks and undergarments will be provided – this is the number one thing people in poverty live without.

The program will give us a chance to get to know the hurting women in this city, reignite their dreams, and provide inspiration to make noticeable changes in their lives and situations.

Now more than ever The Hamilton Dream Center needs your help. In 2010 we gave away \$543,746.50 worth of food and clothing! That is FANTASTIC! Feeding 11587 mouths this year alone!

There are so many more to feed, clothe and help. We can't do this without you. So, please consider an ongoing gift. Donate monthly by cheque, credit card or paypal. With your gift, we can help more people. There is hope. You can make a difference. Please give your best gift, today. Enclosed is a donation form with an envelope and all donations receive an income tax receipt.

Thanks for caring, thanks for helping.~ Joy Clarke co-founder