



sheila's story

Sheila is a sixteen year old female who came to reside at Our Place Peel – Mississauga Shelter due to a family breakdown within the home. Her parents became involved in criminal activity and Sheila and her younger brother were placed under the care of an aunt by the Children's Aid Society. While living with her aunt, Sheila found herself in an increasing number of arguments between the two of them. The strain of the situation became too much for both Sheila and her aunt so Sheila felt she had no option but to leave the aunt's house. She was able to live with friends for over a month, but eventually that option came to an end as well. That's when she came to Our Place Peel for help.

Despite the instability in Sheila's life, she was able to maintain her grades at school. With the support of Our Place Peel staff and financial assistance from Ontario Works, Sheila was able to rent a room for herself in the area of her school so she can continue with her education.

Sheila is but one of the many youth that Our Place Peel continues to assist to keep them from being on the streets and help them into a more stable environment.

Nathan, **youth worker**

the way of volunteering

Hanif Ladha has been a volunteer with Our Place Peel for the past six years. Hanif's role has been as a member of our Board of Directors and for the past two years he has served as the President of the Board.

Hanif was first inspired to volunteer after deciding that he had certain knowledge and skills that he felt could be helpful to a community organization. He had a desire to contribute to his community in a meaningful way and decided to make the commitment to volunteer. Hanif chose Our Place Peel after learning about our Mission to help serve the homeless youth population in our community.

Hanif feels volunteering is important, in part, to create a balance in one's life between work, family, and community. Hanif also identified that people have many skills they can bring to community organizations. Only by their doing this can the community move forward and progress. One of the things most important to Hanif is being able to help lay a foundation that will make things better for today's children and the children of tomorrow.

Hanif speaks about the intrinsic reward that he receives from his volunteer work at Our Place Peel. He takes great pride in contributing to an organization that is making a difference in the lives of youth

who are the future of our community. It is of great importance to Hanif that the youth in our community know they are cared about and supported.

One of the things that Hanif would like people to know about the youth that access the services at Our Place Peel is that not all youth have the same opportunities or same home lives and that, although things may seem fine on the surface, many of these youth are leaving very difficult circumstances. Hanif states, "The youth often come to our organization in crisis and through the services that Our Place Peel offers, they have the opportunity to get their lives on track and benefit from the support and counselling of the staff".

in this issue

p2 h.y.p.e. program | bowling for funds | legacy giving

p3 paul's story | support form

p4 volunteer award | united way days of caring | bingo source of funding

p5 executive director's message | new faces | our wish list

p6 thank you

h.y.p.e. program

Over the last 20 years, Our Place Peel has observed a trend where youth using our Emergency Youth Shelter often secure accommodation only to return sometime within the next year because of a problem or crisis that resulted in them losing their accommodation. This is a major setback for the youth, undermining their confidence, and ultimately delaying the process of them becoming independent.

H.Y.P.E. (Helping Youth Prepare Effectively) has been developed to address this problem and work with youth to be successful once they have left the shelter. Through building community connections, staff support, and a variety of workshops, H.Y.P.E. is being built to give youth the life skills they require to make it on their own.

We are excited about this program at Our Place Peel, as we believe it will reduce youth returning to the shelter system as well as long-term reliance on Ontario Works support, and better integrate the youth we serve into the larger community.

Ian Baker was hired to coordinate the H.Y.P.E. Program. Ian comes to Our Place Peel with several years experience working in the shelter system and most recently working for MADD Canada, where he traveled Ontario and the East Coast giving multimedia presentations on drinking and driving.

legacy giving

More charitable organizations are starting to pay attention to gift planning that includes bequests, endowments, stocks, shares and insurance policies. Our Place Peel is no exception, and we want to provide you with information about why we consider this an important part of our fundraising initiatives. One of the reasons planned giving is important is to ensure the long term viability of the organization in providing shelter, hope, and support well into the future.

Highlights of a recent poll of Canadians found that:

- Over 1 million Canadians have left gifts to charities in their wills, and an equal number are considering making legacy gifts in the future.
- These still living Canadians have made bequests totaling at least \$42 billion.
- Direct mail donors are more than twice as likely to make charitable bequests as people who don't give through the mail.

It was recently brought to our attention that, when Bell Canada is sold, everyone owning shares will be paid out for them. This could amount to a significant tax burden to many people. However, shareholders could make a contribution of shares to a local charity and receive a tax benefit in return. We want to let any of our donors know they can donate on line with a charitable organization called Canada Helps. Visit their website at www.canadahelps.org in order to make an online gift.

For more information about legacy gifts or any other donation-related matters, please contact **Jacqueline** at **905.238.1383**.

bowling for funds

On March 29/2008 Our Place Peel hosted its first fundraising Bowling Event. The event took place at the Classic Bowl in Mississauga and it generated a lot of excitement for the participants.

Our first Bowling Event was a great success and we raised over \$10,000. Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped and participated and especially to all first time donors who pledged. A special congratulation goes out to OP1 residents and staff for collecting the most donations for the event.

Although raising money for the event was a goal, so was promoting community awareness. New supporters learned more about Our Place Peel and what we do within the community. People had fun and were rewarded with a number of prizes for a variety of games that were planned.

A big THANK YOU to our Prize Donors; Stage West Theatre & Restaurant, Alice Fazooli's, Mississauga Waterfront Festival, Tim Hortons just to mention a few. Thank you to a young artist and friend of Our Place Peel, by the name of Dayanara who entertained our bowlers by drawing their caricatures.

Thank you to all of our Sponsors for the event: Canadian Tire Corporation, IRIS Power, Mentor College and Time Play Entertainment. Thank you all for your support and we look forward to seeing you next year.



Team from IRIS Power.

paul's story

At 16 years of age Paul came home one day to find that his mother had left his belongings on the doorstep and locked him out of the house. Unable to get any response from his mother he contacted the police for help. They referred Paul to Our Place Peel.

Paul initially had to stay at Our Place II Emergency Youth Shelter in Mississauga while he was applying to live at our long term residence in Brampton. While living at the shelter Paul traveled daily from the Mississauga shelter to his school in Brampton.

Paul has been extremely successful in our program. He attends school regularly where he excels at Auto Service Shop class. He has received numerous awards from the school for this class and has the highest mark in his school for this course. This is not the only talent Paul possesses. He has a strong gift for working in the kitchen. There is nothing that he cannot create in making dinner or baking for his peers. His specialty would be crepes and home made apple pies.

Paul is an exceptional role model for his peers. He never misses school; he is always willing to help anyone out and is working hard on achieving his goals. No one that has come into contact with Paul has anything but positive things to say about him.

With all that Paul has been through he still works hard to make everyone around him feel good. He remains positive and optimistic about his future. Paul is working on attending college in another year for the Automotive Service Technician Apprenticeship. He hopes to someday be an automotive mechanic. Paul has only been with us for five months but has been able to make Our Place Peel his home for the time being until he is ready to move on to college. We have faith that Paul will continue to be successful in whatever he sets his mind to.

Elisa, program manager



✂ Detach and mail or fax fully completed form back to Our Place Peel. Thank you for your support! ✂

volunteering

continued from page 1

When asked how Hanif manages the time requirements of volunteering with Our Place Peel, he described that it actually feels like a very small amount of time. "Our Place Peel has a great management team and very dedicated and loyal staff – as a result this makes my job as board president much easier. Our Place Peel brings a lot of value to the community and I know that the youth benefit greatly from the services. There is clear passion from the front-line and management staff for the work that they do" says Hanif.

On behalf of the management, staff team, youth and volunteers we would like to extend our warmest appreciation to Hanif for his years of leadership and dedication to Our Place Peel. The youth in the Region of Peel have benefited from his compassion for their circumstances and his desire to do whatever we can as an organization to best meet their needs.

“

On most nights our emergency shelter is full. As the only shelter in the Region specifically for young people, we are committed to expanding our services to better meet the needs of this vulnerable population.

”

Tanya Godson, executive director

yes, i want to support our place peel

Please accept my **single donation** to Our Place Peel in the amount of:

\$250 \$100 \$75 \$50 Other \$ _____

Please charge my credit card for this amount accordingly or enclosed is my cheque/money order payable to **Our Place Peel**.

OR

Please accept my **monthly donation** to Our Place Peel in the amount of:

\$40 \$25 \$15 \$10 Other \$ _____

Please charge my credit card or withdraw from my bank account (enclosed is a voided cheque) the above indicated amount on the **15th** day of each month.

contact details

Mr / Mrs / Ms First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

credit card details

Type of Card VISA MasterCard AMEX

Card Number _____ Expiry date ____ / ____

Signature _____

help us help you!

Please send me more information on planned giving or a gift of life insurance.

I would like to remain anonymous when Our Place Peel publicly acknowledges its donors.

guarantee: You can change or cancel your contribution at any time simply by contacting us by mail, telephone or fax.

charitable registration number: 119074136RR0001

volunteer award

This year we were so pleased to nominate one of our long-standing volunteers, Doug Turner, for the Sam McCallion award.

Doug has been involved with Our Place Peel for several years – most recently Doug served for several years as the President of our Board of Directors and for the past few years as a member of our Fundraising Committee. Through his volunteer work and his career as a Police Officer, Doug has dedicated himself to helping troubled youth.

Congratulations Doug, we couldn't be prouder!



Sergeant Doug Turner, Recipient of Sam McCallion Award.

bingo source of funding

Bingo, as you know, is a game of chance in which randomly selected numbers are drawn and players hope the cards they purchase match those numbers. When we think of bingo, we think of people having fun and a relaxing time.

For a charitable organization like Our Place Peel, bingo is an important and a substantial source of funds for supplementing our grocery bill and household goods. These funds are vital to support our annual budget, which is why we work five per month. Our role at the Bingo Hall is to serve as sales people and represent Our Place Peel in the community.

Volunteers are valuable and needed by Our Place Peel to assist staff to work at these bingos. They participate in the counting and selling of bingo cards, and the paying out of prize money. Shifts are approximately 5 hours long and the schedule is very flexible. Bingo sessions vary between weekday and weekends. We need a minimum of 3 people for each session and volunteers are always welcomed to help out.

If you like numbers and enjoy spending time with people, we need your help. Our Place Peel is currently looking for volunteers to assist us with our bingo sessions. Bingo takes place at the Meadowvale Bingo Hall and training will be provided.

If you are interested please contact **Grace** at **905.238.1383** ext **40**.

united way days of caring



Volunteers from DuPont Canada.



Volunteers from the Region of Peel and Bell Canada provide a much-needed facelift!

executive director's message

Welcome to Our Place Peel's summer newsletter! It is hard to believe it has been six months since we introduced our brand new identity last winter. I hope that you and your families have had a safe and happy spring and are excited about heading into warmer weather and sunny days.

It has been an exciting time for us, as we have had new events and new programs happening at the organization. In December, we were so pleased to feature Gordon Cressy as a keynote speaker during our silent auction fundraiser. Gordon provided us all with wonderful words of wisdom and his support of our organization is much appreciated.

In March, we were thrilled to have our first (and hopefully now annual) Bowling Event. You will hear more about this great event in this newsletter edition but, needless to say, it was a very successful and fun-filled day for our staff, youth, and community friends.

Just this past June, we were so very happy to officially launch our brand new program H.Y.P.E (Helping Youth Plan Effectively). Through the support of the Region of Peel, Astra Zeneca, and GE Capital Canada, we are so happy to be bringing this much needed program to the youth who access our shelter. Please read further in the newsletter for much more information about all that H.Y.P.E. has to offer.

This season, we are also pleased to share with you some wonderful stories of our volunteers. It is only through the tireless support of our volunteers that we are able to provide the kind of support and programs needed by the youth who come to our organization.

We are very excited about some upcoming plans we've developed to better meet the needs of youth and families in our community who find themselves in crisis, homeless, and unsure which way to turn. We are currently exploring ways to continue responding effectively to the growing and increasingly complex challenges put to us. We look forward to updating you on these plans in the months to come.

Please stay tuned to our website. Over the past few months, we have been working with our friends at Boss Print + Creative Services to develop a brand new website. The new site will more effectively provide the community and youth with information on how to access our services, how to get involved in the many activities and events our agency has to offer, and the many volunteer opportunities that exist – so please check back often.

I would like to wish you and your families a wonderful and safe summer ahead and, on behalf of all of us at Our Place Peel, we thank you for your continued support.

Tanya Godson, **executive director**

new faces

We were very pleased to welcome Crystal Da Silva into the role of Shelter Manager earlier this year. Crystal has been an employee of Our Place Peel for almost 4 years. Originally from Winnipeg, Manitoba, she moved to Mississauga in 2004 and became a member of our front-line staff team in December of that year.

Crystal brings to this position front-line experience at Our Place Peel, an educational background in Healthcare and Family and Community Services and strong administration skills that are essential in the role of Shelter Manager. Since February, Crystal has worked hard to ensure operations at our Emergency Youth Shelter run smoothly and effectively.

Crystal will be leaving in July 2008 with the birth of her new baby. Replacing Crystal during her maternity leave will be Shana Thomas.

Shana joined Our Place Peel in January 2007, as our Resource Counselor. She has done an excellent job in that role at the shelter. Shana grew up in Mississauga, studied at Monroe Community College in Rochester, New York, and completed her Bachelor of Science at Syracuse University. She has worked in youth residential services in both the United States and Canada. We look forward to Shana carrying on the foundation Crystal has built and continuing to grow the Emergency Youth Shelter and staff team.

our wish list

Gifts in lieu of monetary donations are always welcome!

Gift certificates from local grocery stores are needed for extra supplies or unexpected visits for dinner from former youth living in the community. Gift certificates from Walmart, Shoppers Drug Mart, Tim Hortons, and Aurora Meat and Cheese at Dixie and Burnhamthorpe are also appreciated.

We are currently in need of:

- Knapsacks / Bags
- Wallets / Purses
- Day Timers
- Watches
- School Supplies / Pens
- Pads of Paper
- Books / Magazines
- Diaries / Journals
- Chocolate Bars / Treats
- Alarm Clocks
- AA Batteries
- Toiletries (m/f)
- Hats / Headbands
- Slippers
- Socks / Underwear (m/f)
- Pajamas / Nightshirts
- T-Shirts / Sweatshirts (m/f)
- Jeans / Shorts (m/f)
- Bus Tickets (adult)
- Phone Cards
- Footwear

We also appreciate the donation of "treat" items such as movie passes, CDs, MP3/CD players, and DVD movies to help us celebrate reward and milestones in our youths' lives.

Due to storage space limitations, we regret that we can only accept new or nearly new items at this time.

We like to thank all of our donors so be sure to leave your information with the staff when dropping off donations.

our place peel's privacy protection policy

Our Place Peel is committed to ensuring your privacy. We will periodically contact you or send you information about Our Place Peel, funding opportunities, and related events.

If you prefer a specific method of contact or do not wish to receive information, please call us at **905.238.1383** ext. **31** or email us at jcrawford@ourplacepeel.org

Thank you for your **support!**

thank you

Our Place Peel is committed to protecting the privacy of our donors. If you do not wish to have your name published, please let us know. Our Place Peel would like to thank the following Community, Business and Corporations, Individuals and Community groups for their financial support in 2007/2008.

Mr. & Mrs. Nellie Alsop
Anglican Church Women
Applewood United Church
AstraZeneca
Claudett Bailey
P.A. Baker-Dean
Dikran Balian
Jack Balian
Louise Balian
Rose Balian
Bell Canada Employee Giving Program
Crystal and Rick Da Silva
Celeste Bernard
Errol Bernard
Beta Sigma Phi (Omega Master Chapter)
Beta Sigma Phi (Laureate Alpha Chi)
Joseph & Dorothy Brown
Michael Brown
Manjit Budwal
Donors through Canada Helps
Canadian Tire Corporation
Canadian Tire Foundation for Families
Catalina Canola
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Carlson
Cawthra Park United Church
Christ Church Anglican
Christ Church United Clarkson
Tom Church
Church of Saint Luke
CIBC
CIBC Mellon Global Securities
James Colgan
Community Foundation of Mississauga
 Lessard Family Fund
 Meyer Family Fund
Cooksville United Church
Counterpoint Engineering Inc.
Randy Cowan
Jacqueline Crawford
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Cressy

Crownseal Basement & Waterproofing
Counterpoint Engineering Inc.
Marilyn Dalzell
Kironmoy Datia
Bonnie Duarte
E2 Energy
Wendy Edmunds
Atef Elgindi
Jeffrey Elliott
Carol Elliott
Nancy Erb Kee
Erin Mills United Church
Harold Everts
Brandon Fang
Frank Fowler Foundation
Kathleen Freeman
Harold Brathwaite Secondary School
Linda Galen
Diane Gardisch
Tina Gauvin
Shanali Gayadeen
GE Commercial Distribution
The George Lunan Foundation
Meadowvale Secondary School
Wendie Gibbons
Tanya Godson
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Gudjurgis
Mert Guler
GX Transportation
Erin Hann
Harold E. Ballard Foundation
Hillsdale Investment Management
Donna Marie Howell
Hunter Keilty Muntz & Beatty Limited
Jonathan Hussman
Philip Hyland
Morris Ingram
Iris Power
Erin Jamieson
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Jenkins

Annie Johnston
Camille Kanhai
Hillside Investments – Diane Kewley
Koran Khosla
Knights of Columbus JFK Council
Knights of Columbus Our Lady of Peace
Knights of Columbus St. Patrick's Council
Grace Kopacz
Konrad Kopacz
Dr. Nancy Korenic
Mr. & Mrs. William Krizmanich
Mr. & Mrs. Hanif Ladha
Murray Laidlaw
Landmark Tuesday Morning Stitchers
Barbara Lewis
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Littler
Mr. & Mrs. Llewellyn
Susan Lloyd
Dr. Tze Yuen Ma
Sandra MacDonald
Ayishwarya Mahendra
Malvern Investments
Terri-Lynne Marchand
Charlotte Marino
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Martens
Laura Martin
Patricia Mastropaolo-Inkpen
Joseph Mbuyi
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher McCanna
Carol McCurdy
McKesson Canada
Janyce McLaren
Beth McVean
Mentor College Educational Inc.
Michael Spaziani Architect Inc.
Tiffany Moniz-Groen
Jennifer Nemes
Edward Netten
Peter Hoyle & Adrienne Nice
One Design Boatcovers
Ontario Trillium Foundation
OPG Employees' Pension
Esel Panlaqui
Paula Paterson
Jean Paumier
Helen Pavan
Peel Crown Attorney's Office

Debbie Pereira
Cory Phillips
Joanne Prince
Diana Pronay
Andrea Pyman
Nirvana Read
Region of Peel
Elisa Reid
Sophia Reid
Restoration Ministries
Craig Rideout
Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Ruth Roberts
Karen Robertson
Mila Robin
Stephen Rocchi
Arlene Rogers
Alina Roscoe
Stephen Roscoe
Rotary Club Mississauga – Airport
Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Henriette Rotsch
Sheridan College – Davis Campus
Mr. & Mrs. F. Silvestri
Duke Singh
Sir Joseph Flavelle Foundation
St. Mary's Catholic Women's League
St. Peter's Erindale
Donald Stacy
Daniela Stalteri
Strathcona Executive Search Inc.
Streetsville United Church Women
Carol Suhay
Andrew Swanson
Maureen Tabuchi
Wendy Townsend
triOS College
Turner Fenton Secondary School
United Way of Greater Toronto
United Way of Oakville
United Way of Peel Region
Christy Upshall
Derek Wun
Youth Dance Theatre
Shelley White
Zonta Club of Mississauga



A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to everyone who participated, donated, and volunteered for our first bowling event. We sincerely appreciate the donations and your time and effort to make this event a huge success.



3579 Dixie Road, Mississauga, ON L4Y 2B3
T: 905.238.1383 F: 905.238.6916

shelter. support. hope.