



# MennoHomes Inc.

a response to need for affordable housing

Fall 2016



Dan Driedger  
Executive Director

## Elmira Project Update from Dan Driedger

*“Elmira is a special place, and the support this project has already generated shows our generosity and community spirit. Everyone deserves a safe and affordable place to live, and we encourage everyone to support these efforts that will touch all of our lives.”*

With those words, a small group of anonymous donors has launched a **Matching Funds Initiative for MennoHomes with a goal of raising \$500,000 before the end of this year.** The \$250,000 challenge commitment means that new donations in support of the Elmira housing project received by Dec. 31, 2016 will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the group, resulting in a total of \$500,000 raised if new donations meet the goal.

Construction is well underway at the corner of Church St. and Memorial Ave. next to Woolwich Community Services. A ground breaking ceremony was held in late spring, and construction ramped up quickly mid-June.



MennoHomes moved forward with construction after receiving approval from the Region of Waterloo for a \$1,703,850 grant as part of the Investment in Affordable Housing Ontario 2014 Extension program. Additional development charge grants and credits of \$302,282 from the Region of Waterloo and \$43,952 from



the Township of Woolwich have demonstrated significant support by all levels of government.

The 25-unit building will offer below average market rental rates to qualifying households. The three storey apartment building will be a mix of one, two, and three bedroom units. The inclusion of an elevator is a key feature. There is a need for this type of housing as we currently have 190 households that want to apply for housing.

With an overall project budget of \$6.8 million, government support is important but will only meet part of the funding required.

MennoHomes is in the midst of a very active \$3.1 million capital campaign. On June 18<sup>th</sup>, 90 riders helped raise \$44,000 by participating in Out-Spok'n VI, MennoHomes' annual bike-a-thon. Riders of all ages enjoyed cycling on the Kissing Bridge Trail, joining the 75km road circuit, or riding in the afternoon motorcycle tour through parts of rural Southwestern Ontario. An outdoor live music concert hosted by Zion Mennonite Church in late August also raised \$3,600 to help kick-off fundraising efforts for the fall.

**As of the end of September, the total donated and pledged was \$2,025,073 towards the \$3.1 million fundraising goal.**

While there is still significant fundraising ahead of us, we remain encouraged. When a group steps up with \$250,000 to inspire others to get involved, we know we are on the right track.



### **EDSS Students Get Involved**

An energetic group of students and local businesses are combining their efforts to raise funds for the Elmira project. Supplies and services are being donated by Country Lane Builders, RMW

Exteriors, Wellesley Home Centre, Dr. Roof, and Active Towing. Skills Canada students at Elmira District Secondary School are building a utility shed that will be sold via an online auction in November. For details, visit [www.mennohomes.com](http://www.mennohomes.com).



## Message from the Alac Family



Back in late 2012, we were living in a two-bedroom rented apartment with our one-year old son. We desperately wanted to expand our family, pay down our debt, and start saving to purchase a home. We knew that affordable housing was the only way we could achieve these goals simultaneously, so we began our hunt for housing that fit our needs.

After a long search, we came across an ad for a duplex on Village Road in Kitchener. It was big enough for us to grow

our family, modern enough that it "felt" like a home, was in a fantastic family-friendly neighbourhood, and most importantly it was affordable enough for us to pay our living expenses while paying down debt and working towards our future goal of home ownership. A dream come true; I vividly remember crying tears of joy when we found out that we had been approved by MennoHomes for the unit!

We moved into the unit on Village Road in April 2013. Over the next three years, we were able to achieve everything that we had hoped for during our original hunt for affordable housing. We welcomed our second son in 2014, and we worked hard to become homeowners. We purchased a beautiful single family home in April 2016, and MennoHomes was a huge part of making that dream a reality.

Too many people are not able to achieve their financial and familial goals because the cost of living has become so high. MennoHomes does an excellent job in bridging that gap by providing an opportunity for young, low income families like ours to get ahead and thrive. Thank you again.





# RESCUE JUNCTION

LIVE IN CONCERT

Saturday November 26

7:00 p.m.

Woodside Church, 200 Barnswallow Dr. Elmira  
Concert and Annual General Meeting for



MennoHomes Inc.

*a bit of business and a great evening of music  
raising funds for new affordable housing in Elmira.*

EVERYONE WELCOME

[mennohomes.com](http://mennohomes.com)

226-476-2535



MennoHomes is a registered charity. All donations gratefully received. CRA# 86304 7015 RR0001

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[www.mennohomes.com](http://www.mennohomes.com)



MennoHomes 202-50 Kent Ave. Kitchener ON N2G 3R1  
226-476-2535



Yes, I want my donation to be **doubled!** Gifts made by the end of 2016 have twice the impact.

Here is my gift of \_\_\_\_\_  
and/or

Here is my pledge of \_\_\_\_\_  
for \_\_\_\_\_ years.

Name  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to:

Dan Driedger  
MennoHomes Inc.  
202- 50 Kent Ave.  
Kitchener ON N2G 3R1

Charitable Registration #:  
86304 7015 RR0001

For further information contact:  
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[www.mennohomes.com](http://www.mennohomes.com)



## Fast Facts - Elmira Project



- donations until the end of 2016 will be matched one-to-one for a combined total of \$500,000
- total donated and pledged at September 30, 2016 was \$2,025,073 towards the \$3.1 million fundraising goal
- construction underway, with occupancy in summer 2017.
- located at the corner of Church St. and Memorial Ave. on the lot shared with Woolwich Community Services
- 14 one-bedroom apartments, 9 two-bedroom apartments, 2 three-bedroom apartments
- barrier-free design with elevator
- housing for seniors, non-senior singles, and small families
- affordable rent starting at 60% of average market rent