



MennoHomes Inc.

a response to need for affordable housing

Spring 2016

MennoHomes provides a home for a Syrian refugee family

by Karen Lebold, MennoHomes Community Support Worker

On March 15, 2016, Mohamed and Eman Kanbar and their three children, son Thair (5) and daughters Maraine (4) and Lubna (2) moved into a three-bedroom MennoHomes unit on Village Road.



Karen Lebold (top left) and Hedeel Hasan (top right) with the Kanbar family

The Kanbar family lived in Dara, Syria until Mohamed was injured in a bomb blast. To get away from the terror of war, they fled to Jordan and lived there for almost four years until they came to Canada as refugees. They are thankful to Canada for accepting them and many other refugees. Mohamed and Eman chose Canada as their new home for the future of their children.

The family is settling into their home and attending English classes. The parents take turns going to class in order to look after the two little girls, as there aren't enough day care spots. Their son attends Forest Hill Public School near their Village Road home. They are grateful for the few things we have

been able to provide from items donated for refugee families.

Hedeel Hasan, an original tenant at Village Road, has been very helpful with translation and with helping this family adjust to life in Canada. Hedeel and her family came to Canada from Iraq fifteen years ago.

It has been a pleasure to get to know and support this family. They look forward to making new friends and a new life in Canada.

MennoHomes

A Place to Call Home



Top: Dan Driedger welcoming everyone to the ground-breaking ceremony.

7 Memorial Ave., Elmira

Ground-breaking, April 29, 2016

May this space, this land, on which new homes will be built, be blessed with a spirit where all will be welcomed in peace and gracious hospitality.



Right: Some of the local and regional people at the ceremony.



Left to right: Don Harloff, Mayor Sandy Shantz, Regional Chair Ken Seiling, MPP Michael Harris, MP Harold Albrecht, Dan Driedger, Naomi Freiburger, Bob Zehr, Arnie Bender, Brian Shantz, Lawrie Carter

From the 2015 Annual Waiting Lists Survey of the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association

When Ontarians live in safe and affordable homes, children perform better in school, families are healthier and employees are more productive. An affordable home is the foundation each of us needs to reach our full potential.

Ontario in 2014:

- 168,711 Ontario households were waiting for an affordable home.
- Ontario's housing waiting lists grew by 2.2%.
- The proportion of seniors waiting is growing.
- The average waiting time was nearly 4 years.
- The average food bank visitor spends 71% of their income on housing costs.

Waterloo Region in 2014:

- 2,962 households were on the waiting list compared to 2,719 in 2013 and 3,162 in 2012.
- 655 seniors, 1,281 families and 1,026 single adults/couples were on the waiting list.
- The average waiting time was 2.44 years for seniors, 2.94 years for families and 4.19 years for singles/couples.
- The average private monthly rent for a one-bedroom apartment in Kitchener/Waterloo/Cambridge was \$815, requiring an annual wage of \$32,600 and an hourly wage of \$15.67.

Local governments in Ontario are working hard to provide affordable housing for their communities. But to solve the affordable housing crisis, more support from the provincial and federal governments is needed.

Investing in affordable housing is smart economic policy. It is time all senior levels of government commit to dedicated, long-term funding that builds up communities, enhances competitiveness, and stimulates economic growth.

Fast Facts about the Elmira Project



- 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
- \$3.9 million in donations and grants pledged or received
- \$1.2 million still to be raised
- construction has already begun, with occupancy in 2017.

- Yes, I want to support the new affordable housing build in Elmira.

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:
Dan Driedger - 226-476-2535,
ddriedger@mennohomes.com.

www.mennohomes.com





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FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**SATURDAY
JUNE 18TH 2016**

REGISTRATION AT 9:00 A.M.

OR

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MENNOHOMES.COM

WALK, RUN, BIKE, OR MOTORCYCLE
BBQ LUNCH

ELMIRA MENNONITE CHURCH
58 CHURCH ST. WEST, ELMIRA

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CRA # 86304 7015 RR0001 All donations gratefully received.



Mennonite Savings
and Credit Union



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