



MennoHomes Inc.

a response to need for affordable housing

Fall 2017

New affordable rental home in St. Jacobs

As reported in the spring 2017 newsletter, MennoHomes has



entered into a ten-year lease agreement with St. Jacob's Mennonite Church to convert the house on the church's property (shown at left) into affordable rental housing.

Almost 50 volunteers,

from local churches as well as from the WLU lacrosse team, put in many hours removing wallpaper, installing drywall and painting. MennoHomes also installed a new hi-efficiency furnace, energy efficient lighting, a water heater, some new flooring and upgraded the electrical service.



A Syrian family, Ahmed Shehadah and his wife and five children, will move into the house by the end of October. Ahmed and his family have been in Canada about 18 months. He is pictured above at left with a crew of volunteers.



Former Foundry Site Now Called Home

In August the first tenants moved into the new affordable and accessible apartment building at 7 Memorial Avenue in Elmira.

The building is named **The Foundry**, in recognition of the foundry that was on the site for 118 years.

At right, Dan Driedger, MennoHomes' executive director, is shown greeting a new tenant.



The Foundry is the first affordable apartment building in the township that has elevators. There are 25 apartments on three floors, made up of 14 single, 9 two-bedroom and 2 three-bedroom units.



Gordon Bechtel, shown at left with his son Jason, was the first tenant to move in. His story was featured in the fall 2015 newsletter.

Gordon is thrilled to have an apartment with an elevator. See the MennoHomes website for Gordon's story and video.



At left is a photo showing the main living area of one of the units.

The photo below is a front view of the building and the main entrance.



Thank you to the many individuals, businesses and foundations in Waterloo Region, particularly in Elmira and area, that supported this project. In addition

to the Region of Waterloo' grant, more than \$2.5 million was raised.

Watch the MennoHomes' website for upcoming open house details.

Welcoming New Tenants to The Foundry

Karen Lebold, MennoHomes' community support worker, is shown below with quilts and comforters made and donated by 18 churches in Waterloo Region, which she distributed to the new tenants.





COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
OF CANADA

VitalSigns.

In October 2017, Community Foundations of Canada released the final chapter of *Belonging: Exploring Connection to Community*, a national series that explores what influences belonging in a community.

From the report:

- Housing is a physical dwelling that meets our basic needs of shelter and security. It's also home, a place of identity and belonging. When there is uncertainty about the very place we live, it can undermine our sense of community connection.
- Affordable housing, employment opportunities and public safety surfaced as the top three things Canadians say make a community a good place to live.
- Yet rising housing costs, economic inequality, and a lack of faith in public institutions are creating systemic barriers to belonging, most notably for newcomers, visible minorities and Indigenous Peoples.

"On their own, access to affordable housing, feeling safe in your neighbourhood and having opportunities for meaningful employment aren't enough to build a sense of belonging. But when we weave these things together with other aspects of community – like participation in a thriving local arts scene or getting a library card – we can begin to foster a stronger sense of belonging," says Lee Rose, Director of Community Knowledge and national Vital Signs lead.

<http://communityfoundations.ca/vitalsigns/belonging/>.

YES, I want to support MennoHomes projects to build affordable housing in Waterloo Region.

Here is my gift of _____
and/or

Here is my pledge of _____
for _____ years.

Please designate towards:

___ 7 Memorial Ave. Elmira

___ House Renovations St. Jacobs

Name

Address

Tel: _____

Email: _____

Please return this form to:

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

CRA# 86304 7015 RR0001

For further information contact:
Dan Driedger - 226-476-2535,
ddriedger@mennohomes.com.

www.mennohomes.com

Inshallah

Ensemble Sings
for affordable housing



Saturday November 25
7:00 p.m.

Rockway Mennonite Church
47 Onward Ave. Kitchener

Concert and Annual General Meeting for



MennoHomes

*a bit of business and a great evening of music
raising funds for affordable housing in Waterloo Region*

EVERYONE WELCOME

www.mennohomes.com

226-476-2535

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

Newsletter Editor: Nancy Regehr Printing courtesy of Waterloo Printing
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