

## MennoHomes Board of Directors

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please contact:

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pama@sympatico.ca  
or 578-5546

**Rick C. Bauman, MCC  
Ontario, Vice Chair**  
rickcb@mennonitecc.on.ca  
or 745-8458

*MennoHomes is grateful  
for the lending services  
provided by Mennonite  
Foundation of Canada.  
We also gratefully  
acknowledge the support  
and encouragement we  
receive from MCC  
Ontario.*



*John Reimer, Chair of First  
Mennonite's Refugee Committee  
at the 39 Stirling House*

## MennoHomes responds to housing needs of refugee families

Creative Partnerships continue to emerge! First Mennonite Church in Kitchener has a long standing interest in refugee support and they wanted to sell a church-owned house at 39 Stirling Ave. [former home of Community Justice Initiatives]. At the same time, the Mennonite Coalition for Refugee Support has been

encouraging MennoHomes to create rental housing that is a good fit, both in size and cost, for the significant needs of refugee families entering the KW area. MennoHomes is finalizing the purchase of the house from First Mennonite at \$30 000 below market value. [Thank you First Mennonite for this generous contribution!] Watch for your opportunity to volunteer your renovating labour as we turn 39 Stirling back into a four bedroom home. There is an acute need for larger houses for our new neighbours. This cooperative venture between First Mennonite and MennoHomes Inc. is one other churches may want to explore.

## Affordable Housing Going West of KW?

### **Wellesley Mennonite Church hosts MennoHomes March 31**

Up to now, MennoHomes has concentrated its efforts on creating safe, decent, low cost housing in KW. But there has also been increased interest expressed from communities west of the Twin Cities. In response, MennoHomes and Wellesley Mennonite are inviting pastors, mission reps, and others interested in affordable rental housing for an information and discussion evening, Thursday March 31, 7:30 pm at Wellesley Mennonite Church.

## Help MennoHomes continue to respond to the need for affordable rental housing

Be part of the \$500,000  
campaign for new projects

\$206 000 already raised in  
Cash and Pledges

Immediate Priorities for  
MennoHomes are:

- new seniors' apartments to be built across from the Rockway Seniors Centre in Kitchener.
- to buy and renovate existing houses/duplexes to provide affordable housing for larger families including refugee families. [see p. 1 for just such a story]

For More Information, please  
contact:

Martin Buhr, MennoHomes  
Inc. Board Chair  
578-5546  
pama@sympatico.ca



You or your congregation can help by sponsoring a unit, through a one time gift, a pledge for each of the next three years, or a gift of land or a building!

Gift Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge for 2005 \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge for 2006 \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge for 2007 \_\_\_\_\_

Gift in Kind \_\_\_\_\_

I know MennoHomes hopes to begin renovations on the 39 Stirling Ave. house very soon. I would like to contribute my labour in the area of:

Electrical \_\_\_\_\_

Plumbing \_\_\_\_\_

Framing \_\_\_\_\_

Drywall \_\_\_\_\_

Painting \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Return to:  
MennoHomes Inc.  
50 Kent Ave  
Kitchener, ON  
N2G 3R1  
FAX 745-0064



*Dorene Rudy-Snyder, new Community Worker at 'The Village' just off Westmount on Village Road*

In part because she shares the MennoHomes commitment to seeing 'The Village' become a true 'village', Dorene accepted an invitation from MCC and MennoHomes to be a part time Community Worker for this, the first of MennoHomes' developments. Whether co-planning a welcoming gathering for new residents, exploring Neighbourhood Watch programs, or encouraging community gardens, Dorene wants to nurture the sense that these new houses are becoming 'home' to 16 families. She has part time office hours at MCC Ontario, 50 Kent Ave. and can be reached at 498-6181, or by email at [mennohomescw1@sympatico.ca](mailto:mennohomescw1@sympatico.ca)

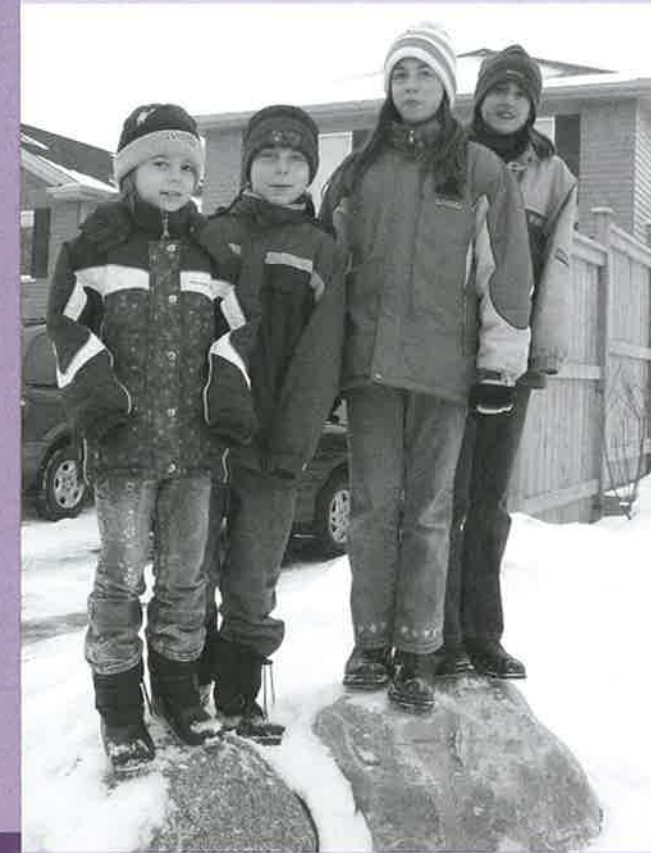
The Village Road housing project was built with the support and assistance of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo under its Affordable Housing Project. Assistance also was provided by Federal-Provincial grants under the Community Rental Housing Program Pilot Project. MennoHomes wishes to acknowledge with thanks the assistance of all three levels of government.

### Did you know...?

- Kitchener's Catholic Family Counselling Centre recently presented its 'Founding Fathers Humanitarian Award' to Martin and Pauline Buhr, honouring among other achievements, their commitment to community building through the creation of affordable rental housing.
- MennoHomes' partnership with Blaze Development in Waterloo is an attractive complex on Fischer Hallman known as 'Camelot'. All 25 of its affordable housing units are fully rented as of February 28, 2005.



## Neighbourhood Friendships begin to build Community



Eleven year old twins Megan and Casey Shaw, born and raised in the Village Road neighbourhood, may need to wait a few more weeks to pick up where they left off in last fall's soccer games with their new neighbours. Meeting at the nearby St. Paul Public School, they became friends with Zach [11] and Rena [8] Harrison who had just moved in August to 'The Village'.

*New Friends at 'The Village' Await the Soccer Season*

## Affordable Housing for Seniors beginning to take shape

A planning committee has begun crafting ideas for turning the vacant land beside Eastwood Community [1414 King St.] into accommodation for seniors. A combination of up-front equity [land gifted to MennoHomes as well as capital fundraising] and multi-tiered government support will be needed to create a well matched complement to the existing seniors housing next door. MennoHomes needs a strong and immediate response from donors to make this project a reality!