



Mike's  
Place

*Grand  
Opening  
Celebration!*

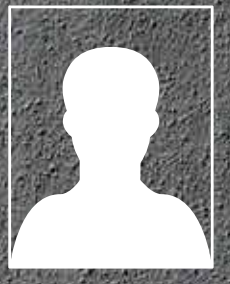


JUNE 2019 NEWSLETTER

SHOW invites you to join us for the  
Grand Opening celebration of Mike's Place  
at 402 Erb Street West, Waterloo  
on Wednesday, June 19th at 5:00 PM

[www.showaterloo.org](http://www.showaterloo.org)

# Lives Of Our Residents



## FRANCISCO

My name is Francisco and following a family breakdown I was forced to live in a shelter. The shelter seemed very institutionalized, like a jail, which is something I've experienced. I began befriending people from the shelter and looking for work at the same time and I began to drink. I lost track of time, I lost my sense of self and I lost hope that my life could be happy again. The crowd that I associated with was certainly not a good influence in this respect. I left the shelter for the streets and lived outdoors for 5 years. I got so discouraged and I lost hope entirely for a while. I was depressed and cold, I had no change of clothes and my belongings had been stolen.

I chanced to meet with an outreach worker who showed me where to go to get food at soup kitchens in Kitchener. I landed in the hospital because of my drinking and its effects on my liver. I was afraid I was going to die at this point, when someone from SHOW

came to the hospital and they told me I had a place to stay. I was in shock when I saw the apartment because it was big and I wondered who I'd have to share it with?! But they told me it was mine and I was shocked and happy. It took a while to get used to my apartment because of street habits and alcohol. Since I've been living at SHOW, I have experienced wonderful support. It took me a few years but with a lot of support and a lot of self-discipline and effort, I quit drinking. I found a new perspective on my home since I have been sober and can see things clearly. I look differently at my apartment, now, as a home and a refuge. I am hugely appreciative of the fact that my belongings are no longer being stolen, I have a warm roof over my head, and I feel safer in general. I have control over who can come over, how long they can stay, and SHOW helped me find that path to stability with continuous support, compassion, and most importantly, a home and safety.

## TROY

I was staying home looking after the kids, and hadn't been working for a while. My ex told me to leave the house. At that point, I had \$50 dollars to my name and I was living in a small town. Because it was a small town, there were absolutely no supports or shelters for people down on their luck. I stayed outside and was so cold and tired that I spent the money on a bottle and drank it outside the liquor store in the hopes of being arrested. I was thinking that at least I might be warm and fed in jail. It worked, but after I was released the problem of where to go just became more complicated. I was so desperate that I finally called my estranged sister and she brought me to Kitchener. I stayed in some shelters for a while, but found the climate extremely hostile. People tried to take anything they could from you. My trust in others fell apart as did most other things.

I chose to stay outside for 4 years off and on. Finally, a kind worker took notice and put my name into SHOW. Now, I have a place of my own where I can shut and lock the door. There is no privacy in homelessness, and this is one of the qualities of SHOW I appreciate the most. If you don't have a secure place to live, you lose your very self. Being ostracized by the larger society is just another layer. At SHOW, I finally have a place to cook, and most importantly to me, I have the choice to lead my life as I see fit.



## PETER

I was one of the lucky ones. I had a wonderful childhood, a loving family and I grew up with all the confidence and self-worth necessary to lead a happy and successful life.

All that changed as I passed my first century on this planet. In quick succession I lost my first born son, I lost my wife and then my home. My life was in tatters. I ended up in a shelter, grieving, broke and completely alone. I was assaulted and half of my possessions were stolen, including all the photographs I kept of my family. Pneumonia resulted in a diagnosis of heart disease and was told that I should get my affairs in order and then sent off to another shelter.

To become homeless is to lose everything. Losing your possessions is the easiest part of all that. What's hard is the loss of self, your confidence, your dignity, everything you spent your life building disappears. Homelessness can reduce you to the point where you start to fear for your soul. You suddenly become a second class citizen, someone who no longer has a voice. It feels as though one can go from being a person to an animal.

For me, homelessness was an utter shock to the system. I lost all privacy, didn't know where my next meal was going to come from, didn't know if I'd be harassed or physically attacked. The experience of homelessness can be utterly dehumanizing, and for someone with no experience of street life and culture, can be profoundly traumatic.

When I was accepted at SHOW all of that changed. I had my own space again. I had my own life again and was finally able to start grieving my losses. To this day I am still trying to refocus my life to the point where I can contribute again. SHOW has let me do all that and more. There is always someone to talk to if I need to talk. We have our own little community and we try to support each other as much as we can. My hope is that those who support us will read these words and come to understand that although we're all responsible for our own lives, our society has cracks and God forbid you fall into one. If you're very, very lucky.... You'll end up in a place like this.

# IN MEMORY

In June of 2010, 30 individuals moved into SHOW, all of whom had been participants at Out of the Cold sites. **Jean Francois Banville** was one of those people who found a community, a home and much needed stability. Originally from Montreal, he had worked all his adult life until the company that employed him was sold and moved to the US. Unable to find work, he ended up on the streets doing his best to keep body and soul together. Jean Francois was a warm, kind, generous man who looked after many of our tenants by cooking up great meals, sharing his vast collection of movies and always making sure staff were treated properly by his fellow tenants. He died on April 18th at the age of 58 and will be deeply missed by his many friends at SHOW. A very talented man who left us with the knowledge that his music will live on with his friends and family.



**Doug Spence** moved into his brand new apartment in Mike's Place on March 8th after having spent considerable time without an address. He had suffered a traumatic brain injury due to an accident some years earlier, which cut off his opportunities to pursue his musical career. A short two months after moving into his new home, Doug passed away, leaving his family to grieve his untimely death. A PhD in music composition he was

## DONORS

Every once in a while I have the pleasure of meeting someone who is committed to and acts upon the notion that each one of us can contribute to the creation of change in the world. Rob Veitch is one of those wonderful people who, when learning of our mission to ensure housing for the most vulnerable, reached deep into his pockets and made a very generous donation for our new building at 402 Erb St. West, now known as Mike's Place. Rob and I spent some time talking about our work, and our philosophy of welcome to those who have often only known rejection. The complexities of our tenants' histories touched a place in Rob's heart and we are so delighted that he came forward to add his support to SHOW.



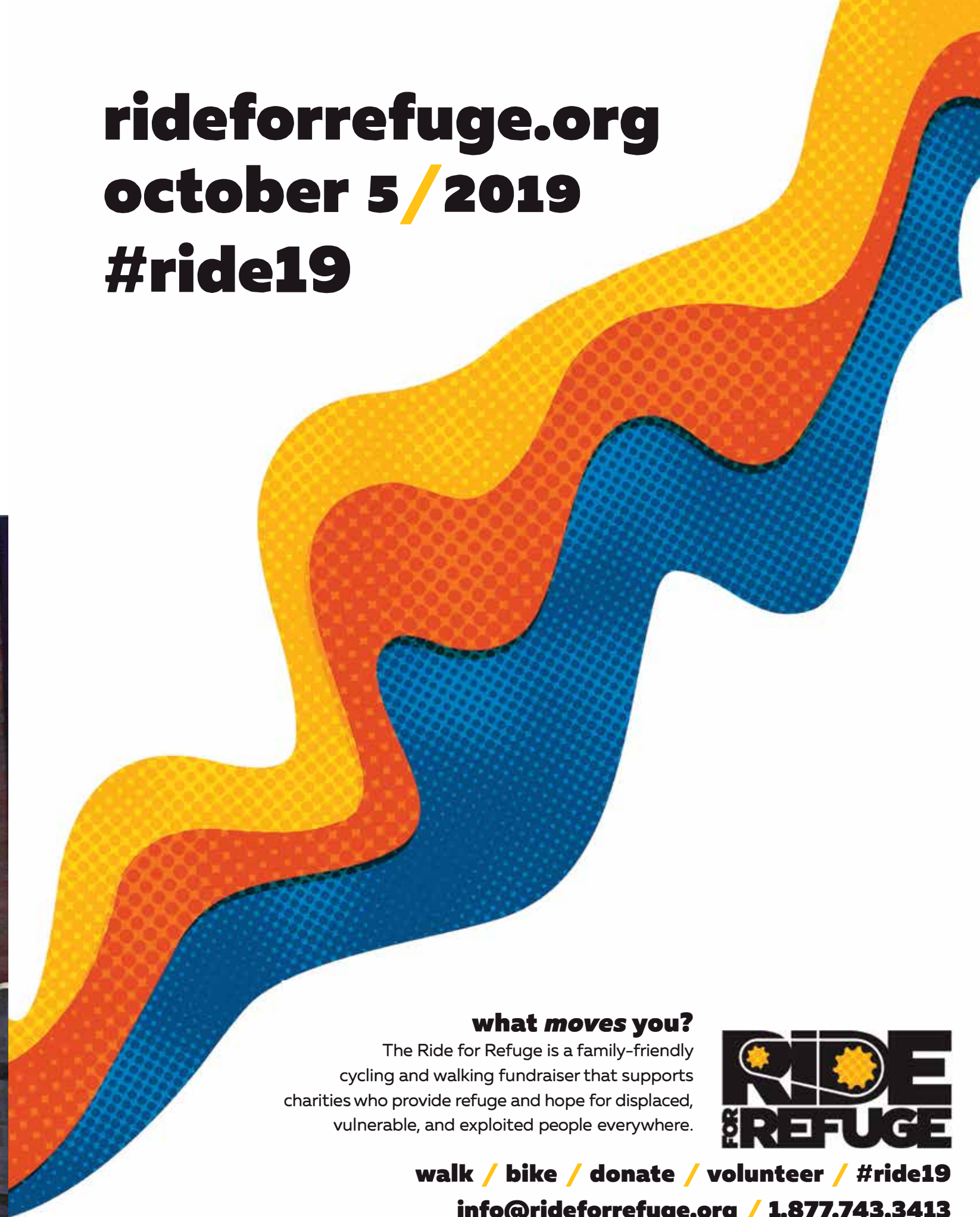
# MIKE'S PLACE

Almost five years ago the board and staff of SHOW began the work of creating new affordable housing in our neighbourhood. A property at the corner of Erb West and Churchill Street was purchased, funding applications submitted, meetings ensued with the architect, the community, planners, City and Region staff. It was a long, occasionally challenging process of plans, permits, design adjustments, meetings, more meetings, and of course, fund raising. Every step of the way was supported by a committee of volunteers from the community, board members and staff to ensure the creation of new housing for 9 people, all of whom needed very

affordable housing. Aberdeen Homes was chosen for the build and Nathan Hallman and his team have been perfect partners, ensuring that Mike's Place's is a beautiful new addition to our community. Donors stepped up, Bob and Judy Astley, the Heffner family, Rob Veitch, Len and Brenda Jewitt, Highview Community Church, John Sweeney Catholic Elementary School, Mike Maxwell, our Board of Directors, so many of you in our city were so very generous with funds, furniture, and gifts. We still need your help as we raise the last \$200,000 and hope that you will find it in your hearts to help SHOW complete this new project.



**rideforrefuge.org**  
**october 5 / 2019**  
**#ride19**



### **what moves you?**

The Ride for Refuge is a family-friendly cycling and walking fundraiser that supports charities who provide refuge and hope for displaced, vulnerable, and exploited people everywhere.



**walk / bike / donate / volunteer / #ride19**  
**info@rideforrefuge.org / 1.877.743.3413**

**WITH YOUR SUPPORT OF \$200 WE CAN PROVIDE A GARDENING PROGRAM FOR 20 TENANTS.  
WITH YOUR SUPPORT OF \$500 WE CAN PURCHASE A BED AND BEDDING FOR A NEWLY HOUSED INDIVIDUAL.**



## **BUILDING SUPPORTED HOUSING, BRICK BY BRICK**

Please help us build 402 Erb St. West by purchasing Bricks for \$5 each. 20,000 Bricks will create a new home for 9 people who desperately need affordable housing

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

I wish to donate:  \$100  \$50  \$30  Other \_\_\_\_\_

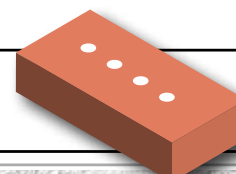
I wish to pay by:  cheque  VISA  Mastercard

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ CSH# \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheques are payable to Supportive Housing of Waterloo. Gifts of \$10.00 or more will be receipted for income tax purposes and are also accepted online at [www.showaterloo.org](http://www.showaterloo.org) or at [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org)

I want to buy a brick for \$5.00 each: # \_\_\_\_\_



**Contact Supportive Housing about being a Legacy Donor**

**[www.showaterloo.org](http://www.showaterloo.org)**

362 Erb St. West, Office 5 Waterloo, Ontario N2L 1W6 • 519-886-8200