



MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER



The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members, a heart of grace and a soul generated by love - Coretta King

THANK YOU!

It is time to say thank you. Gratitude is a word we use freely but don't necessarily express to those who need to hear it. SHOW is completely dependent on our community, for funding, for donations, for volunteers, for students and staff, for gifts at holiday times, for furniture when we have new tenants who need assistance, the list is endless. This newsletter is our thank you, our way of recognizing the remarkable efforts, assistance and support we receive from our community. No doubt I will be unable to recognize all of you in this issue but there are a few individuals whom I would like to acknowledge.

WE SAY FAREWELL...

On January 10, 2019, Michael Schmitt, President of the Board of Directors passed away. SHOW was honoured to have this wonderful man lead our agency, advocate for those in our community who need homes and share his kindness and generosity of spirit with all who knew him. He will be deeply missed. The following are the words we spoke at his funeral:

"Good morning. My name is Gael Gilbert, I'm the Director of Supportive Housing of Waterloo, and am honoured to speak about Michael on behalf of SHOW. I first met him in



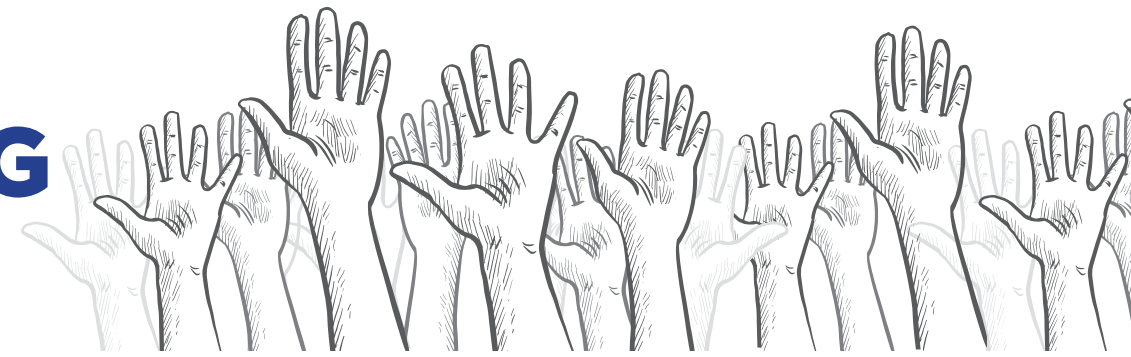
early 2012 when he chose our agency as one that matched his personal commitment to work toward ending homelessness for the most marginalized in our community. As an Out of the Cold volunteer here at St. Louis, he understood that the need for housing, the need for often very intensive supports to maintain housing, was a challenge he wanted to assist SHOW in meeting. Mike worked tirelessly on behalf of our tenants in an effort to understand their stories, to

learn as much as he could about the systemic roots of marginalization, the histories of poverty, family dysfunction, mental illness and addictions so that he could champion our work and be their advocate in the community. Michael brought to me and to our board best practices from other agencies and it was not unusual for him to mention that the YMCA had an excellent process in dealing with an issue, or Hospice Waterloo was a model in an

area from which we could learn, he was very passionate about the work we all do in this community. He was also of the opinion that if only Catholic principals ran this Region, all of its' issues would be resolved. I knew when Michael joined the SHOW board that he was sharing his life with myeloma and he gave me permission to be his Jewish mother, I would often check in with him about his health. So committed to his role as our board chair, on a stay in hospital some months ago he determined that if he was unable to get to a board meeting, he would arrange a room at Grand River and the board would meet there. He gave SHOW 7 years of compassion, guidance, dedication and courage. In the face of our ongoing funding challenges, he was tireless in his advocacy on our behalf, in the face of his health challenges, he refused to bow down. He and I walked from Waterloo Square to Kitchener City hall for the United Way campaign launch in September, we walked slowly each step an effort for him but he insisted on finishing. He taught me many invaluable lessons about

facing our dragons and never giving up. Deb, Kate, our hearts ache for you and your family, I know the magnitude of his loss on this community but you, his family, meant everything to him, he was a most exceptional man. Our new housing has been renamed Mike's Place in his honour and I know he and his legacy will live in our hearts forever."

HELPING HANDS



RANGER DAVE

as he refers to himself, is a very skilled "handyman" who voluntarily gives us his time each week to repair, replace, rehang, redo, renovate our apartments and common spaces with a huge smile, a wonderful sense of humour and a love for humanity which has drawn each and every tenant to want to assist him, open their doors to him, share a joke with him and welcome him as a friend. Ranger Dave is a rare human who has made himself a star member of the SHOW family.

HELEN KROEKER



Helen Kroeker lives in our community and has been a volunteer at SHOW providing meals and friendship since we first opened. When we decided to host a Community Dinner at The Cedars each month, Helen was the first to sign on, organizing food, assisting in the kitchen, publicizing our desire to bring isolated folks in our community together. She is a remarkable woman who continues to impact the lives of our tenants and neighbourhood.

DONORS

John and Willy, donated \$25,000 to SHOW for 402 Erb Street West and we are so very grateful for this gift which will allow us to landscape the outdoor space in memory of their mother Mary. Len and Brenda Jewett through the Abundance Foundation sent us \$20,000 to help us house 9 brand new tenants at 402, a gift that immediately allowed me to cover all of the appliances we needed for those apartments. Rotary Waterloo has chosen SHOW annually as a recipient of their support through the Mayor's Breakfast and through many individual gifts from Rotary members.



WORKING HARD

SHOW has a board of directors second to none. I know this because with over 40 years in this sector, I have worked with many boards but this is the best there is. Commitment to supportive and affordable housing, advocacy with funders and politicians, passion for the cause of improving the lives of those marginalized by poverty, homelessness, mental health and addictions is paramount for them. Helping this small but mighty agency steer its' ship through challenging times is no small feat in light of funding shortfalls, tenants' needs, even floods and a fire. We have been guided by 12 people who never lose sight of the importance of housing for those who



need homes. Gratitude does not begin to express it.

SHOW is staffed 24/7 by a small team who work tirelessly to keep people housed, laugh and cry with them, keep them connected to external supports, make sure no one is hungry, or lonely, or scared or isolated. It can be exhausting at times but it is mostly humbling to be trusted by our tenants, to be a part of their lives.

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 _____

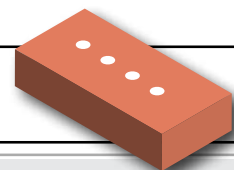
I wish to pay by: cheque VISA Mastercard

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 or at CanadaHelps.org

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



www.showaterloo.org

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