



## MY PERSPECTIVE

At sixteen I became pregnant with my first child. By eighteen my mother told me to leave with my baby. I moved into my first shelter. Over the years I have stayed in many different shelters with my baby until he was removed from my care in July 2015. He was almost three. That October I moved in with my partner and found out I was pregnant with my second child. Due to conflict, the hospital placed a referral to Family and Children's Services and I was informed that I would have to move into supportive housing to keep my baby in my care. It did not work and then my second baby was placed into care. When I came to Marillac Place I felt very scared and nervous but also like it was a fresh start. I didn't cry like before. The staff at Marillac Place are helpful and approachable. They like me and I like them. It can be both easy and difficult to be here with the other moms; hard because they have their babies with them but easy because I have made friends and feel supported. I am currently attending community and residential programming to develop my skills. When asked what advice I would give other women, I would say just call Marillac Place; it never hurts to try. I think they might be surprised. I am working very hard to have my baby returned to my care. I hope to move out independently and begin to work on getting my oldest son back too.

## AN UPDATE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS...

The future looks bright. Nine years ago Marillac Place was at the risk of closing its doors for good. Publicity of this fact brought much needed funding. The newly formed Board of Directors found ways to improve existing fundraising methods, raised awareness in the community, and established plans for new organizational directions.

This past year Marillac Place was able to address the physical needs of our building. In addition, Epiphany at Work has completed a pro-bono organizational review which has steered our goals towards the following:

- Establish committees to respond to the needs stemming from the organizational review.
- Develop actions for our strategic plan.
- Complete our application to the Standards Program at Imagine Canada.

It will be a very busy year and we look forward to building community support as we continue to grow.

Walt Sowinski & Sharon Penlington  
Chair & Vice Chair



Building Blocks  
for Brighter Futures



## LOWE'S HEROES ARE OUR HEROES

The Lowe's Local Heroes Campaign was held at the Ira Needles Store last spring. The campaign, which is matched by Lowe's head office, raised \$5,451 for Marillac Place. The best part of this campaign is that donations stay in the community of Waterloo Region. The raised funds are then used to purchase items from Lowe's to complete a project at the chosen charity.

The Lowe's employees decided to replace our flooring in the kitchen at Marillac Place, because it was no longer able to be cleaned properly. They had also raised enough to replace our basement vinyl flooring which had torn and was repaired with duct tape.

All of the installation was done by employees on a volunteer basis using their own time.

We are extremely happy with our new flooring and forever grateful to Lowe's Ira Needles Store, Waterloo.



## twinning (twɪnɪŋ)

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Marillac Place would be short on the ability to feed our participants and their children if it was not for Twinning. In 2008, Julie Goyeche (pictured to the right) former treasurer of the SVDP at Transfiguration Parish in Toronto, read about the plight of Marillac Place. We were in desperate need of funding to remain open. She contacted our residence and our Twinning relationship was born. Since then, the SVDP executive and members, through treasurer Maureen LaPorte, have paid for some of our memberships, but most importantly our membership to the Food Bank. The food bank provides us with our much needed milk allocation and many other donations of food and perishables. Thank you to the generous donors of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Roman Catholic Church for helping to feed our participants and their children.

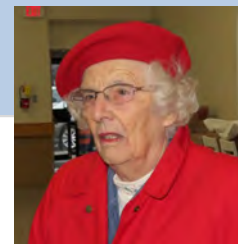


Photo by M. LaPorte

L to R - Linette Nibbs, Ruwanthi Gurawardena, Margaret Dunlop (Co-ordinator), Deacon Kevin Grandy, Marie (current Secretary) & Jim Greig, Julie Goyeche (former Treasurer), Fr. Mark Van Patten, (Former Pastor), Christine (Former President) & Ian Pinto, Melissa Trelle (current Vice-President), Sophia Coleman, Gemma Fernandes (Current President), Maureen LaPorte (current Treasurer) .



# KITCHENER OutGROW OutPLAY

Our partnership with Kitchener OutGROW OutPLAY continues to flourish. Sasha and Amy are wonderful to work with and we continue to increase the community awareness of our shelter through our attendance at their massive consignment sales. These sales are held twice a year and take place in the spring and fall. Thank you to all the donors who added \$2 to their shopping total in support of Marillac Place. We look forward to seeing you again soon.



## OUR STAFF / OUR VILLAGE

After graduating from the Social Service Worker program I knew I wanted to work with young mothers. I joined the Marillac Place team as a relief staff in 2009. I recall being nervous and shy but remember how kind the women residing here were by introducing themselves. The staff were approachable and good to answer any questions I asked. I enjoy working at Marillac Place. We have a great staff team and all of us are here to support the participants. I have been lucky to cover maternity leaves for the Program Manager and now the Case Manager. These opportunities provided me with a closer look and understanding of the barriers and challenges our participants work hard each day at overcoming. I love knowing I am helping the women reach their potential, but it can also be challenging developing that trusting relationship so we can move forward as a team. I always wanted to be a full time staff within this agency and I am excited to become the permanent Program Manager in April 2017. I love holding the babies and supporting the women in reaching their full potential. - Rebecca Hammond.



The Catholic Community Foundation of Waterloo Region was pleased to be able to support updates to our Coach House, which holds our toddler room, offices and meeting rooms for clients, staff and the Board. Pictured is Doug Hess, Foundation Chair, presenting the \$3,500 grant to Karen Gilmet, Residential Director and Walt Sowinski, Chair, of Marillac Place.



## HERE'S AN IDEA!



Are you interested in supporting OUR charity at YOUR event?

Marillac Place received over \$650.00 this past May when two friends gathered their family and friends for a fun evening at Social Art to support us. What a very COOL idea. We are thankful for all of our third party fundraisers who found unique ways to assist Marillac Place this year.



## ENCOURAGING YOU TO VOLUNTEER...

Marillac Place relies on volunteers to assist with endeavors that provide Funding for the operating costs of our shelter. We would like to take this opportunity to spotlight Matthew DiMarco.

Matthew has truly filled a need in assisting with our obligation to supply volunteers at the bingo centre twice a month. As a certified John Maxwell speaker, trainer, and coach, Matthew brings the same enthusiasm and motivation when he is volunteering as he does in his professional career. Matthew

quite literally puts a smile on the face of everyone he interacts with and has been a saving grace during those summer months which are especially challenging for volunteers to commit their time.

Marillac Place would like to express our gratitude to each of our volunteers - without you our services would not be available.



### Brain Architecture Supports Lifelong Learning, Behaviour and Health

Learning how to cope with moderate, short-lived stress can build a healthy stress response system.

Toxic stress - when the body's stress response system is activated excessively - can weaken developing brain architecture.

Without caring adults to buffer children, toxic stress associated with extreme poverty, neglect, abuse or severe maternal depression can halve long-term consequences for learning, behaviour and both physical and mental health.

## IMHP TRAINING



Staff at Marillac Place have been able to take advantage of the online webinars offered by the Infant Mental Health Community Training Institute. This training afforded them the opportunity to gain an understanding of the impact of stress and trauma on infants. (The information provided to the left was presented by Nathan Fox, Ph.D. Harvard University during his presentation on The Impact of Early Trauma on Development, Session 6)

## YOUTH AND PHILANTHROPY INITIATIVE

Thank you to Mackenzie LeBrun, Anna Ribeiro, Morgan Riddell and Megan Shantz for choosing Marillac Place as the charity for your presentation and for taking the time to come and tour Marillac Place as well. These four grade 10 students from Resurrection Secondary School, participating in Bridget Kennedy's Civics Course, won the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative for Marillac Place. "YPI is an inclusive, multi-award-winning secondary school program



that strengthens the social sector by engaging youth in social issues, local charities, and grant-making." Thank you as well to the Toskan Casale Foundation for taking part in this very impressive initiative and their donation of \$5000.00 to Marillac Place.



Building Blocks for Brighter Futures

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