



## CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SERVICE IN OXFORD COUNTY

**INDWELL:**  
40 YEARS  
OF MINISTRY

### First Steps in Woodstock

Thirty years after beginning its ministry in Hamilton, Indwell expanded into Oxford County at the invitation of local Christians and the County. We were able to purchase an existing facility from the House of Jabez, in Woodstock. Many volunteers helped us renovate and we expanded to serve 26 people, each resident having their a private room while enjoying meals in a community dining room. In 2007, we added 27 one-bedroom apartments on the sprawling property (pictured above). Apartment tenants enjoy a high level of independence, with staff and programming available on site for those who desire.



## Moving Forward

In 2013, Indwell purchased the former Harvey Woods factory (below) on Vansittart Ave with the support of Oxford County, local churches and ministries, and many individuals. By the end of 2014, construction is almost complete on the new 54 affordable supported apartments. Indwell looks forward to welcoming its first tenants into the Harvey Woods Lofts in the spring of 2015. Those who have toured during construction have been amazed at the transformation and delighted that the building is being restored for the benefit of the community.

## HARVEY WOODS LOFTS GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION SPRING 2015 - Stay tuned for details!

### Community Support

Over 200 people attended our 10th anniversary Hope and Homes Banquet on November 6 in Woodstock. We offer a huge thank you for your generous donations: a record \$15,000 was given to support Indwell!

## What People in Woodstock Are Saying:

*At Indwell, my sister's real self has been let out of its cocoon, and she's happy.*  
- Lynn Romagnoli

*Indwell is a gift from God, and has made all the difference in our family's lives. I used to long for our kids to set the world on fire, but now I know that what's most important is that our kids are happy.*  
- Matt's mom

*Our professional care teams are witness to the transformation of residents who take part in Indwell's community of contribution and care. Very intentionally, Indwell is providing the foundation upon which residents and their service partners can map the Road to Recovery.*  
- Mike McMahon, Executive Director,  
Oxford Branch – Canadian Mental Health Association

*Indwell's sustained commitment to our community over the past decade has allowed us to expand shelter options for our most vulnerable citizens. We look forward to continued partnership with Indwell into the next decade and beyond.*  
- Warden Don McKay, County of Oxford

*With one in 14 households in Oxford identified as having a core housing need, the County must rely on partnerships and innovation to meet the shelter needs of its citizens. Indwell has been a partner with the County for 10 years, working with us hand in hand as we move towards our goal of affordable, suitable and stable housing and good quality of life for all.*  
- Paul Beaton, Director of Human Services,  
County of Oxford

*Indwell has been a great partner in serving those in our community that are suffering with mental illness by providing stable housing and supports. Operation Sharing values our positive relationship with Indwell.*  
- John Klein-Geltink, Operation Sharing

*I have been humbled and blessed by being a volunteer at Indwell. I have always been impressed by the staff. They have provided a home-like place for individuals to live and to feel like they are part of a family. Our small group from church has also enjoyed preparing and serving meals on a monthly basis. We all know many of the tenants and can easily talk and share with them. We just want to pass on Jesus' love and blessings to everyone at Indwell.*  
- Carol Mac Lachlan, volunteer



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*"You crown the year with a bountiful harvest; even the hard pathways overflow with abundance." - Psalm 65:11*

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## Lisa's Story

On Nov. 18, 1999 I got on my bike to go to school where I was doing academic upgrading to prepare for university. The next thing I remember was waking up with nurses over me. My first question was, "Am I going to die?" The nurse looked at me, shaking her head and said, "God isn't done with you yet!"

I had been hit by an SUV, thrown onto the roof, and then tossed 15 feet across traffic. Since then, I've had five surgeries on my left leg and there are still some residual effects of the accident including brain injury.

There are two ways to look at something like this: The first is "Why me, poor me" and the other is to be thankful and "happy" for what is. The latter is not easy and I'm not always successful but I have hope that I'm alright and know that God is with me. My hope is in Him.

*But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*  
- Isaiah 40:29-31

Sometimes we soar like eagles, sometimes we are running and sometimes we are walking. During the past 15 years I've walked most of the way, but I think I'm starting to run.

### Mental Illness

At the time of the accident I was doing well physically, mentally and academically. After my accident things started to go awry. At first I was sent for PTSD counselling, was in denial about any other diagnosis, and begged the doctors not to "label" me. Eventually things became overwhelming and I engaged in self-destructive behaviour.

I moved to Woodstock (city number 10 for me), where I was once again admitted to a psychiatric ward. I was diagnosed with bipolar disorder. I found this hard to swallow and struggled with what this meant. However, help was coming.

I was now living at Indwell, had the support of staff and phenomenal doctors, and was assigned a worker who has helped me deal with the effects of my diagnosis. I finally have some stability in my life and it's beginning to show.

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*I feel most normal when I am out walking my dog... All they see is a person walking her dog.*

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### My Dog and Future Plans

My dog, Benson, came to live with me three years ago when he was only three months old. He has helped bring my blood sugars under control through walking and regular exercise. I feel most normal when I am out walking my dog: No one knows where I live or that I am bipolar. They don't know my past. All they see is a person walking her dog.

I would eventually like to work in the education sector but I'm not sure how feasible that is or if that is God's will for my life. Basically, I'm pretty content where I am in life and know that nurse was right – God's not done with me yet!

**SAVE THE DATE**  
HOPE & HOMES BANQUET, HAMILTON  
**MAY 28, 2015**



Lisa speaking at banquet in 2013

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2014 HOPE AND HOMES WOODSTOCK BANQUET SPONSORS!

Access Care Pharmacy  
BDO Dunwoody Woodstock  
Cabinet Solutions  
Lannin Electrical  
Oxford Plumbing  
Quality Hotel & Suites  
SmartMeds Pharmacy  
Sierra Construction  
The Dispensary

## MEET NEW PROGRAM MANAGERS IN WOODSTOCK

Abla Tsolu worked with Indwell in Hamilton for several years before completing a Master's degree. When she returned to another job in Hamilton in 2011, she mobilized a group from her church to volunteer monthly at our Wentworth Program. She also became a member of Indwell's Governance Committee. Please pray for Abla in her new role as Program Manager at Blossom Park in Woodstock.

Natasha Thuemler has held various roles at Blossom Park in Woodstock, and is now taking on the new Program Manager role at Harvey Woods Lofts. Natasha is interviewing prospective tenants and promoting Indwell in the community. If you or your group is interested in a pre-opening tour, please contact us.



## Please support our ministry!

Hope Builders give monthly to sustain day-to-day operations.

Home Builders give one-time gifts for creating new homes.

*Indwell is a Christian charity; we rely on the generosity of many donors each month to sustain the services we provide our tenants.*

### Become a Hope Builder

Robin often jokes that she "came with the building", but it's true. Robin lived at Blossom Park since before Indwell took over. She dreams of one day living on her own, but for now is happy to have the supports available at Indwell.

At the Hope and Homes Banquet ten new people became monthly donors. *Would you become a monthly Hope Builder and ensure that day-to-day supports are available for people like Robin?*

### Become a Home Builder

Natasha (pictured above) shares the story of a man who has been living in a motel for over 3.5 years. He now hopes to move into the Harvey Woods Lofts. He is just one of the hidden faces of homelessness in Ontario.

Indwell is currently building 101 new apartments in both Woodstock and Hamilton. *Become a Home Builder with a one-time donation and help us continue to expand housing options for people in need.*

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Cut off and return to Indwell

**Yes! I want to help prevent homelessness in Southern Ontario!**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Count me in as a Hope Builder at \$\_\_\_\_\_/month
  - ☐ I'm including a void cheque
  - ☐ Call me to make other arrangements
- ☐ Count me in as a Home Builder with a one-time gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ I'm including a cheque
  - ☐ Call me to make other arrangements
- ☐ Please add me to the mailing list (twice a year) and email list (monthly)
- ☐ Please contact me to discuss Indwell's work or for volunteer opportunities

Please contact us or return this form to:

Indwell  
A - 249 Caroline St S  
Hamilton ON L8P 3L6  
1.866.529.0454

Designated Giving: Indwell will use restricted contributions for approved programs or projects. Should those needs be met, the contributions will be used where most needed.

Charitable Registration Number: 131295198RR0001

