

Indwell (formerly Homestead Christian Care)

1430 Main St E 866-529-0454
Hamilton ON info@indwell.ca
L8K 1C3 indwell.ca



40th
ANNIVERSARY
1974 - 2014

Hope and Homes for All

From our Executive Director



It's been forty years since John and Siny Prinzen started taking people into their home as a Christian response to deinstitutionalization. That spirit and the commitment to provide hope and homes to the most vulnerable remains strong.

Our model of housing with supports has evolved over four decades, but we've always had a dedicated community of volunteers, staff, donors and supporters who have worked hard and cared deeply about the marginalized in our province. They've been a blessing and we give all glory to God.

Through the years we've had several different names, each serving the purposes of a specific era. We were incorporated in 1976 as *Home for Substitute Living*

Incorporated. In 1988 we became *Homestead Residential and Support Services*. Then in 2001 we took the name *Homestead Christian Care*. While our mission and commitment have not wavered, now once again we need to change our name. We are often confused with other similarly named organizations, or thought to provide homecare or healthcare. Our new name will reflect our commitment to our mission of being caring people motivated by our faith.

We are pleased to announce that on this 40th anniversary we are changing our name to *Indwell*.

With this new name we will continue to provide excellent housing with supports and will be better able to develop our own identity. It's our prayer that Indwell will quickly become synonymous with our caring Christian community of tenants, volunteers, staff and supporters.

Each of you reading this booklet have played a part in the success of our organization over the last forty years. While much has been accomplished, much is still to be done. Our waiting lists are growing and governments are doing less, so we ask for your continued support as we move forward together in carrying out the work that God has called us to.

“Say no to wrong. Learn to do good. Work for justice. Help the down-and-out. Stand up for the homeless. Go to bat for the defenseless.” (Isaiah 1:17 The Message)

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. Neven'.

Jeffrey Neven
Executive Director

The Beginning: Siny Prinzen’s Story

By the early 1970’s, Siny and her late husband John, saw a real need in area churches for support for vulnerable adults dealing with mental health issues. With their home already a hub for young people, John wanted to see if one-on-one support would make a difference in the life of a young woman struggling. Siny, home with their two young children, was – as she says with a grin – “a part of the experiment.” That woman lived with them for a year before moving on and getting married.

By 1974, John had organized a group of professionals to devise solutions for families with adult children who had disabilities. That year, *The Homestead* as it was affectionately known, was born in downtown Hamilton. House parents were hired and seven residents were accepted into the home. Through the late 1990’s that home saw many, many people served, usually moving to independent living within a year or two.

When Indwell’s first apartment building was purchased in 2000, John organized volunteers to complete maintenance and repairs, while Siny scrubbed and cleaned to get apartments ready for tenants.

“At times things were overwhelming,” Siny admits.
“But the hard times are nothing. The Lord has blessed us in so many ways.”



Siny and John, with their children Wesley and Daphne, as *Prinzen Flats* are named in their honour in 2010.



The Homestead



Velva & Rudy DeVries

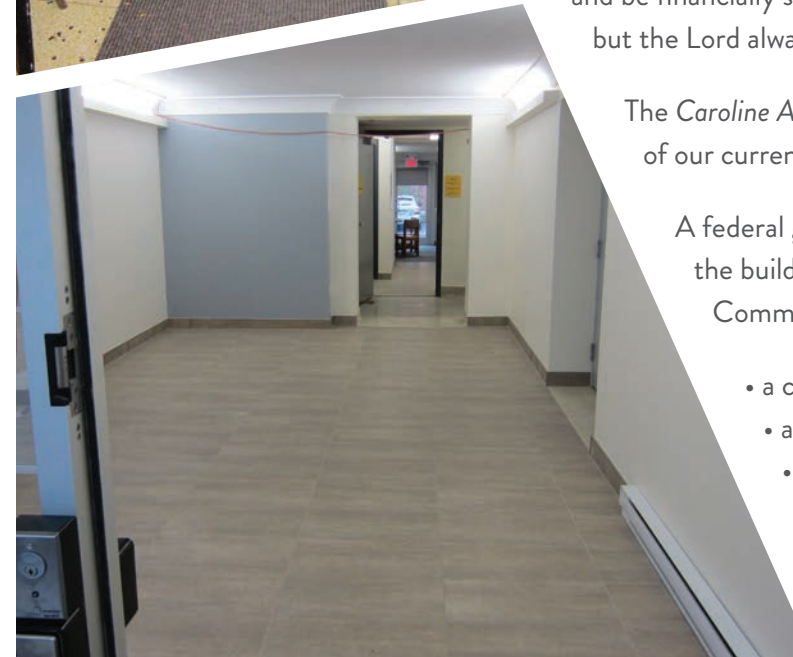
Velva and Rudy were not the first house coordinators at The Homestead, but they were with Indwell the longest – 23 years! They and their two boys lived together with the tenants, helped by part-time staff and many volunteers. Over that time they supported dozens of tenants and their families, developed relationships with churches across Ontario, sat on community boards, launched an employment program, and helped to demystify mental illness in their downtown Hamilton neighbourhood. A good number of current staff and volunteers first heard of *The Homestead* through Velva and Rudy. Like Siny, they attest to their commitment of faith: “The Lord has been a good source of strength and encouragement through it all.”



Rick Bosch & Judy Holtvluwer

Rick and Judy met as tenants on Locke Street when Velva and Rudy were House Coordinators, and have been friends since then. They moved into their own apartments after a few years, having by that time established themselves in work. To this day, Rick is a janitor at Melrose United Church, a job he started 20 years ago through the employment program, while Judy has fond memories of her 12 years of work at Goodness Me.

When Indwell purchased their first apartment building in 2000, the *Caroline Apartments*, Rick and Judy were among the first tenants to move in and established a comfortable routine. “It’s nice being in the same building,” says Rick. Judy adds, “Before we had to walk through the elements to see each other. And the other apartments weren’t so safe.”



Before and After renovations of *Caroline Apartments* front entrance way.

Caroline Apartments

Purchasing the *Caroline Apartments* took a big step of faith for Indwell in 2000 – 40 more people in a whole new context! More staff were needed, as well as increased donations to bridge the gap between rents received and cost of program supports. Offices were moved into the building, and a staff couple lived on-site for several years.

Rudy Hulst, Executive Director at that time, remembers, “We knew that the program had to be professionally credible, provide stability for the tenants, and be financially sustainable. This combination has never been easy, but the Lord always has provided what we’ve needed.”

The *Caroline Apartments* have proven a huge success with 33% of our current tenants having lived there for over 5 years.

A federal grant helped fund renovations in 2014 to make the building entrances and office physically accessible.

Community donations helped create:

- a community kitchen
- a community activity room, and
- a renewed laundry and computer room.

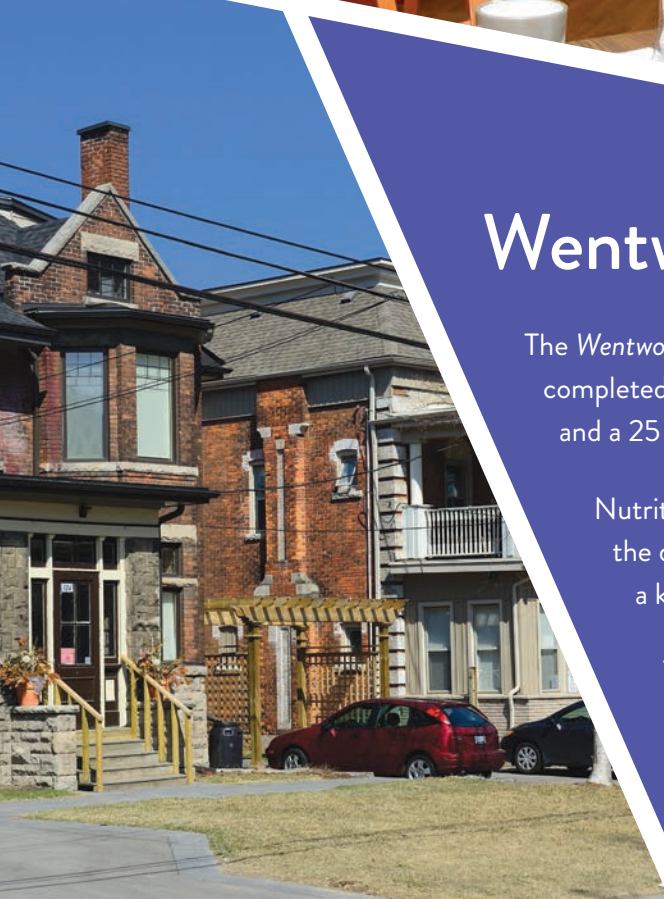


Wentworth Program

The *Wentworth Program* opened in 2001, with extensive renovations completed in 2008. It supports a total of 36 tenants: 11 apartments (left) and a 25 bed group home (right).

Nutritious meals, medication support and programming are provided by the dedicated staff team to meet each tenant's needs. Volunteers play a key role in helping with meals, recreation, upkeep and renovations.

The large house to the left was completely remodeled in 2012, and is now home to 11 tenants in lovely studio apartments. Tenants can live independently or join group home residents for meals and other activities.



Wentworth Program

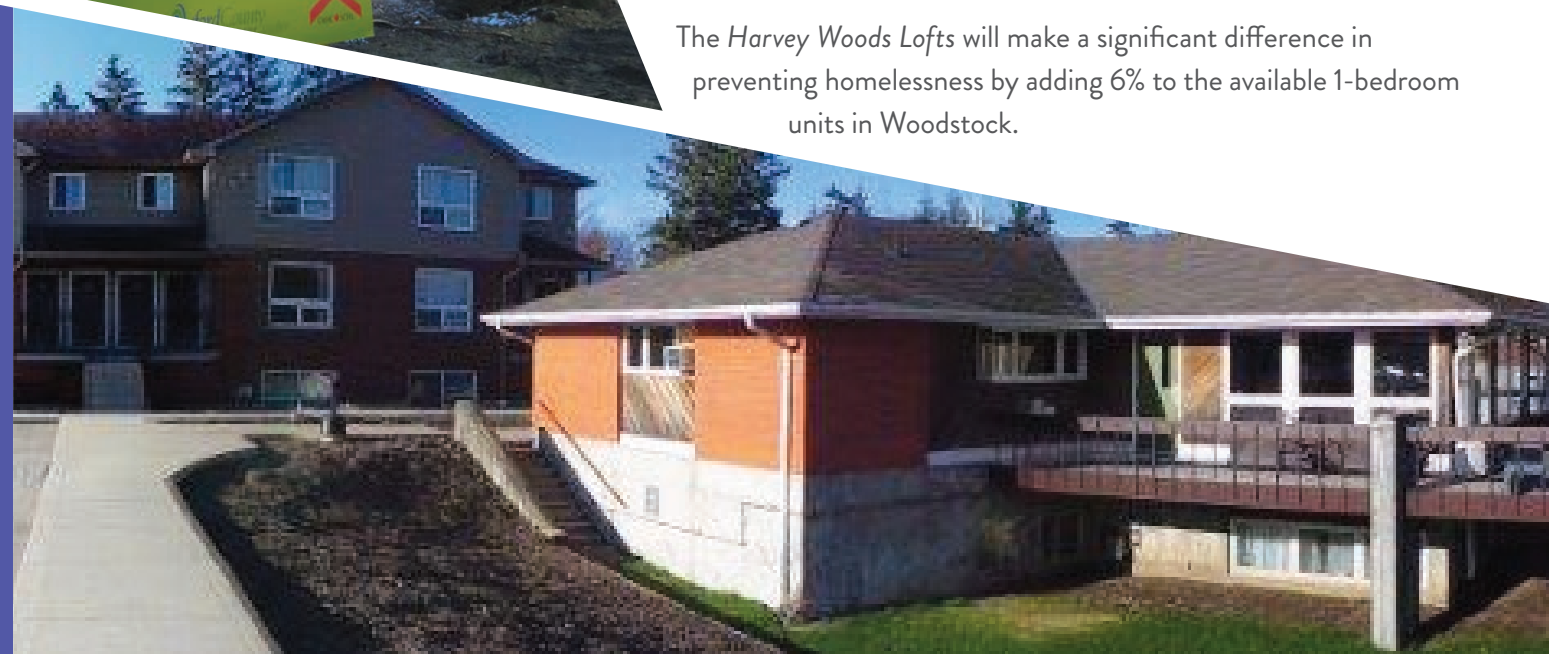


Woodstock

In 2004, Indwell expanded into Woodstock. With strong support of the municipality, local churches and the community at large, the previously underused group home (centre) was fully occupied. In 2007, 27 townhouse style one-bedroom apartments were built on the property. Similar to the *Wentworth Program*, *Blossom Park* apartment tenants can access staff and supports as needed.

The City of Woodstock, Oxford County, and many donors and investors are working with us to transform a derelict factory into the *Harvey Woods Lofts* – 54 one-bedroom affordable apartments in downtown Woodstock. The construction site is bustling, with a target opening of early 2015.

The *Harvey Woods Lofts* will make a significant difference in preventing homelessness by adding 6% to the available 1-bedroom units in Woodstock.



Blossom Park, a sprawling group home on a large property is home to 26 residents and 27 apartment tenants

Dr. John M. Perkins Centre

The *Dr. John M. Perkins Centre*, named after a Christian Community Development pioneer, combines 46 affordable studio apartments with a community development centre and other rental spaces. *Perkins Centre* tenants have access to staff support both on-site and on-call. Tenants help to organize collective kitchens, tea times, community meals, book discussion groups and a community council.

Indwell's vision for the *Perkins Centre* is to maximize its benefit to our community. This is achieved through active partnerships with New Hope Church and McMaster School of Nursing – which hosts a variety of community nursing courses on-site. The Refuge Centre for Newcomer Health, a catering company, and a wide variety of civic events regularly use space, building our community through collaborative efforts.

Mobile in atrium of the *Perkins Centre* has 220 doves, one for each tenant supported by Indwell when the *Perkins Centre* opened in 2011.



Olympian Clara Hughes sets off from the *Perkins Centre* on the second day of her cross-Canada ride to raise awareness of mental health issues, Spring 2014

Bill Vis, *Perkins Centre* tenant invited Hamilton mayor Bob Bratina to play his piano while touring the *Perkins Centre* with Graham Cubitt.

Indwell

What's in the name?

Over the years we've been known by many different names, but we have increasingly become confused with a large private landlord which owns many apartment buildings in downtown Hamilton. As we sought a new name, *Indwell* became the clear choice. For a Christian agency creating affordable housing communities that support people seeking health, wellness and belonging, the name evokes the peace of the Holy Spirit, the presence of Jesus in our lives and ministry, and the welcome provided by a safe, stable home.

Volunteers

Volunteers have always been a key part of *Indwell*. In the early days, the names of all committee members were published in newsletters – and there were many committees completing the everyday tasks of running the organization.

We can no longer publish all those names – there are just too many! With over 100 volunteers each month, they continue to play key roles in the life of *Indwell*. From board and committee members, to maintenance workers, to groups who host meals, to office volunteers, to people providing one-on-one support to tenants – our volunteers add passion, enthusiasm and energy to everything *Indwell* does.



Each Wednesday morning staff and volunteers at our main office gather for prayer, with off-site offices joining by phone when able.



Renovations of the *Blossom Park* kitchen were completed in large part by volunteers



Each month *Perkins Centre* tenants pack Good Food Boxes – a non-profit low cost produce distribution program

Moving Forward

“You crown the year with a bountiful harvest; even the hard pathways overflow with abundance.” Psalm 65:11

With this passage as inspiration, Indwell’s Board of Directors has set ambitious goals through 2017:

- Engage our tenants
- Double our housing capacity
- Leaders in homelessness prevention
- Strengthened financial capacity
- A vibrant and growing team

We are constantly aware of our dependence on the grace of God for achieving these goals.

- Building projects are inherently full of hurdles and unexpected challenges.
- People have their ups and downs, whether tenants, staff, or volunteers.
- Governments’ priorities and policies change.

Please join us in prayer, and give your time, talents and resources as we seek to serve the needs of people on the margins of our communities.

Our Vision

Hope and Homes for All.

Our Mission

Indwell creates affordable housing communities that support people seeking health, wellness and belonging.

Our Values

We value the inherent dignity of all people as image bearers of God.
We live out our Christian calling to love our neighbours as ourselves.
Hope is the foundation of all of our actions.

Contact Us

If you have any questions, or you’d like to partner with us, please contact us.

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\$5.7 million government grant and nearly \$1 million in generous donations from supporters will cover a large part of the cost of the Rudy Hulst Commons, Hamilton, 47 apartments.



Staff and tenants celebrate the launch of the Strategic Plan, 2013 – 2017, Blossom Park, Woodstock