



NORTHUMBERLAND POVERTY REDUCTION ACTION COMMITTEE

Reach Out. Change Lives.

April 2010

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In this issue:

About NPRAC— Members, Guiding Principles	4
Act to Reduce Poverty—Sub- Committee Updates	2-3
Contact NPRAC	4
Do the Math!	2
FOOD 4 All Relocation	1
211	2
HEART—Bike Helmets	4

YOU CAN HELP!

- Treat people living in poverty with respect and dignity.
- Shop locally.
- Support a community garden. Donate seeds/plants or volunteer. Grow a Row. Watch for information locally.

FOOD 4 All Warehouse has a New Home

Thanks to an on-going partnership with Northumberland County, the FOOD for All Warehouse has taken up a new home in the new County facility. This is exciting and timely, as the space available in Colborne has been outgrown.

The warehouse continues to source new product for the community. Over the past two years, two major suppliers of food product closed their doors: Kraft in Cobourg and Quaker Oats in Trenton. In order to fill this void, the warehouse has relied on Alternative Processing Systems (APS) in Toronto who supply reclamation product. This past year, 40 trips were made to APS and an excess of 400 pallets of product picked up for distribution locally. Trenton Cold Storage has also been a major source of frozen food products. Some of the product went directly back to the warehouse in Colborne and other frozen product was shared with Kawartha Food Share in Peterborough. The warehouse continues to be a hub for the Ontario Food Bank Association, which ships

product regularly for local distribution.
2009 Summary

- Overall 21,700 cases or just over 477,000 pounds of food were shipped to member groups.
- This is an increase of just over 7% compared to distribution in 2008.
- Shipments to food banks and faith-based groups showed increases of 21% and 13% respectively.

Product distributed:

- 46% to food banks
- 24% to faith based group
- 18% to community groups
- 11% to school programs

Since opening in 2004, over 91,000 cases, or just more than 2 million pounds, of food have been distributed to 160+ local members.

The **FOOD 4 All Warehouse** supports Food Security thanks to the partnership of United Way and Northumberland County.

FOOD 4 All Warehouse New Location

The warehouse is now located at
600 William Street, Cobourg
(former site of Kraft Research Building)

Hours: Mon—Fri 9 AM—1 PM

Phone: 905-373-8566

Call Rob O’Neil,
Warehouse Manager



Dial 211

With the introduction of 211, finding information became a little easier. 211 is a free 3 digit phone number that helps people find information twenty four hours a day, seven days a week.

- government programs
- locate a food bank
- find help for an elderly parent
- financial assistance

Each call is answered live by a trained person. This service is provided free of charge thanks to the generous support of the Province of Ontario, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Northumberland United Way, and Community Connections Collingwood.

Advocacy—Share the Message!

NPRAC has been busy sharing the message of poverty in our community. The first newsletter was a huge success and was distributed electronically and in hard copy to a number of members in the community. The committee chair attended the Family Literacy Day event held by the education subcommittee and made a presentation about the relationship between literacy levels and poverty. The chair also attended the Northumberland Children’s Services Committee strategic planning session on behalf of NPRAC. The committee is planning a Fall Awareness/ Advocacy event to further spread the message and educate the public on the issues surrounding poverty in Northumberland County.

Basic Income Security (BIS)

The Western Northumberland Information Fair has been scheduled for April 29, 2010 from 2pm to 7pm. It will be held at the Town Park Recreation Centre (62 McCaul Street) in Port Hope. There will be child minding services, refreshments and transportation available to and from the event. Come find out what services are available to you in your community!

The BIS committee has met with MPP Lou Rinaldi to “Do the Math”. This tool examines what it is like to be a single person living on social assistance and whether the funding they receive is enough to live with health and dignity. BIS will continue to advocate that low-income

individuals and families do not have enough money for the basic needs such as food, clothing, transportation, recreation and so on. There was discussion about the need to increase awareness and education about local poverty in the community at large.

The BIS committee is also joining with Mental Health Service Providers in Northumberland County to focus on issues surrounding education, stigmatism and inclusion, as well as poverty, mental health and addictions for those in need in our community.

Economic Development

The economic subcommittee has recently met with OPSEU regarding the organization of an economic summit in Northumberland to discuss current and future issues affecting the economy and residents in Northumberland County.

Affordable Housing

The Affordable Housing Sub Committee has reviewed three successful housing applications from Greenwood Towers Coalition, the Help Centre

and Northumberland Services for Women submitted to the Homeless Partnership Strategy (HPS). HPS provides federal funding to community-based projects to help prevent or reduce homelessness.

The County has announced that there has been an application for an additional 48 units from Cobourg to Campbellford that have been sent to the Ministry of Housing for consideration for funding under the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program, now it its second wave. As well, Habitat for Humanity Northumberland has received funding through the Homeownership Component for a further 3 units under homeownership. These 3 homes were constructed in 2009 and now have families living within the dwellings.

Recreation

Helping Everyone Access Recreation Together (HEART) ensures all people in Northumberland have the opportunity to participate in recreation activities without barriers. For upcoming activities and information, visit www.joininnorthumberland.ca

Do the Math! (<http://dothemath.thestop.org>) **Rent? Utilities? Groceries? - Which can you do without?**

Transportation

The Northumberland Transportation Initiative provided 443 one-way trips in 2009, based on a schedule of 2 days a week.

With successful grant funding from Ontario Trillium Foundation, Northumberland Community Futures Development Corporation and the Northumberland United Way, NTI is pleased to announce the purchase of their new van! They can accommodate six walk ons or four walk ons and two wheel chairs. Currently the committee is planning an expansion of the service to 4 days, possibility 5 days per week for the Cramahe & Alnwick/Haldimand Route. To help NTI decide which days to expand the service, a community survey is available for people to fill out, available @ www.visitcramahe.ca under "what's new". The survey is open until April 30th.

Food Access

The new Northumberland Gardening Network is currently planning the 1st annual "Wacky Container Edible Garden" contest! Participants can plant edible flower plants, vegetable plants and herbs in different containers, the wackier the better. The contest is to encourage everyone to embrace the benefits and joys of gardening. All community groups are being challenged to enter the contest. Winners of Wacky Container Edible Garden contest will be announced at the 100 Mile Diet in Grafton on September 12th, 2010. For more information call Patricia Stuckless at 905-885-9100 ext 218.

The FAN committee has new Salvation Army Good Food Box Program (GFB) promotional materials. Keep an eye out for the colorful playful characters on the new posters and portable wallet cards that will list specific locations for ordering the GFB in your local community.

Education

On January 27, to celebrate Family Literacy Day, The Education Sub Committee hosted a panel discussion: "Improving Literacy Levels in Children and Youth ." Representatives from the local school boards, the YMCA Early Years program, the libraries, and the Learning Disabilities Association highlighted programming offered by their organizations to help youth overcome the barriers presented to learning by poverty. The committee would like to thank everyone involved who made this day a success – the presenters, the organizers and the community members and representatives who came out for the afternoon. Thank You!

In partnership with other community agencies, the committee is currently working to address a variety of literacy concerns within the community including the need to offer medical and financial literacy training and the need to provide access to a variety of literacy training programs for children and adults.

NPRAC Supporters

Northumberland Community Legal Centre



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POVERTY REDUCTION
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NPRAC Background and Milestones

- Started in December 2007
- A Community Action Day in April 2008—80 community stakeholders together identified key areas of focus for Action
- *Making a Difference: How to Reduce Poverty in Northumberland County* paper released in Fall 2009
- Past events hosted by members, partners and sub-committees
 - Literacy Day 2009, 2010
 - Community Forum with Dr. Gina Brown, epidemiologist with McMaster University, author of extensive research on the cost of a "life without purpose" used to assess the costs of poverty
 - Information Fair 2008, 2009, 2010 ...



Need a bike helmet?

Cobourg and District Safety Council have generously partnered with HEART to ensure that no one is without a helmet. If you need assistance, please contact Health for Life at 1-877-349-9902.



Northumberland Poverty Reduction Action Committee

Northumberland Community Legal Centre
Northumberland United Way
Northumberland County Community and Social Services
Northumberland Child Development Centre
Northumberland Coalition Against Poverty
Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board
The Help Centre
Northumberland Community Futures Development Corporation
Northumberland Labour Council
Fleming College, Cobourg Campus, Academic Upgrading
Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit
Habitat for Humanity Northumberland
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Port Hope Community Health Centre
Ministry of Community and Social Services (Ontario Disability Support Program)
Northumberland Transportation Initiative
H.E.A.R.T. (Helping Everyone Access Recreation Together)
F.A.N. (Food Access Northumberland)
Affordable Housing Action Committee (Northumberland)
Beginnings Pregnancy Care
The Honourable Christine Stewart, P.C.
Carolyn Rienstra
Cathy Borowec
Doug Bates
Rev. Phyllis Dietrich
Gerald Gray

Helpful Resources

Tamarac —an Institute for Community Engagement has a number of interesting and useful resources. See:

http://tamarackcommunity.ca/downloads/vc/Indicators_Comm_Action_Perf.pdf

http://tamarackcommunity.ca/downloads/vc/Measure_Less_Poverty_in_Communities.pdf

Or this Healthy Communities Handbook:

http://www.ontarioplanners.on.ca/pdf/Healthy_Communities_Handbook.pdf

Also at the Canadian Institute of Wellbeing—

<http://www.ciw.ca/en/TheCanadianIndexOfWellbeing.aspx>

NPRAC Guiding Principles

- To take collective action in multiple sectors and by multiple methods, to reduce poverty in our county;
- To take the “poverty reduction” message out to all sectors and asking that it be part of all discussions;
- To support the work being done by others in the seven action areas;
- To share information and make linkages among those working on poverty reduction and with groups working in the seven action areas;
- To identify areas where poverty reduction work is not being done and to “light the fire” to get the work started.



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CONTACT US

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