



*Pentecost 2016 Celebrating Nineteen Years Of Community Ministry*

# Boarding Homes Ministry

*My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings and in quiet resting places. Isaiah 32:18 NRSV*

**The prophet lifts up a vision of God's realm. A place of holy communion will spread peace, security and deep rest.**

**Communities that live and breathe God's ethic will restore, heal, and bless as they fashion a truly humane dwelling.**

**Holy community will be a habitation of genuine welcome.**



*You shall go out in joy. The trees of the wood shall clap their hands and the mountains shall skip.*

Isaiah (55:12) sees creation dance for joy! The Spirit "reimagines" and provides new eyes.

How would you define beauty? Is it flawless? Where can God's people see blessing? Could the Spirit's blessing rise from places where life just barely clings on? Is much of the beauty of this world passed over? Could mountains, and the earth's fragile ones, skip in the company of Spirit?

Message from Ms. Kim Oliver  
Chair of the Board of Directors

We are now in our twentieth year of providing visits into Boarding Homes. *Amazing!*

These communities glorify God and celebrate the lives of the brave and gifted residents.

The faithful generosity of our donors makes this possible. Without your help these communities could not exist. Please remember our teams of church visitors and all the residents at this time of Pentecost as we rejoice in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

*"Be a blessing wherever you go!" Resident*

Now this is a grand commission! Be a blessing. Spread love. Spread *life*. Spread joyful hospitality. This holy calling is a thing of great joy. Trusting in Spirit:  
*"Be a blessing wherever you go!"*

**Could your church sponsor a Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving meal, or Summer BBQ? Celebrations draw friends closer to God and each other.**

**Our New Address:** Boarding Homes Ministry, Suite 200, 73 Simcoe St., Toronto, Ontario, M5J1W9  
Rev. Rodger Hunter, Chaplain, 416-992-4987, bhmin@sympatico.ca, www.boardinghomesministry.ca



# Boarding Homes Ministry

**BHM bears witness to Isaiah's vision. It promotes gentle care as our communions gather in compassion and gentleness, kindness and lavish welcome.**

**Together With Our Donors  
BHM Nurtures Christian community**

***"They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord" Isaiah 11:9***

**God is glorified. God is praised.  
The Spirit's presence is celebrated.  
Our donors are vital partners in worship.**

*And Still in towns and cities:  
"Hospitality is hard to find" Resident*

**The lament of this resident cuts into one's heart. Swirling, glowering stereotypes can tear apart spiritual community.**

**Society and Church are invited to love.  
And still, hospitality can be scarce.**

**"Sometimes you look for company,  
and it is hard to find." A Resident's Sadness**

**God desires that people live in peaceful habitations, secure and restful.  
You have a role. You are God's instrument of peacemaking. Therefore, advocate. Insist that workplaces, churches and families be places of healing. Create places of welcome for those gifted, beautiful, strong, brave and gracious people who experience mental illness. We need them.**

**Build on Isaiah's vision for godly union.**

**"Perhaps life is all about celebrating God and people." [Resident]**



**A cliché, to be sure, tired and weary. But in this case true. A resident blossomed by poking up through cement-like slabs of cold rejection. Societies brand some people as weeds. They may get rooted out. They may even get trod on. And these wonderful plants (blessed gifts of the Creator) are seldom talked to!**

**In boarding homes communities our delight is to notice, converse with them, and rejoice over spiritual and social blossoming. Flowers -- have a name.**

***"This is rest: give rest to the weary." Isaiah 28:12  
The gifted, beautiful people who experience mental health issues need better care. Injustice drains energy. It drains the heart. Poor housing with little privacy and supervision creates an exhausting atmosphere which is the opposite of healing. BHM can faithfully visit month by month and speak of God as our ultimate place of rest but more is needed. Speak up in churches, businesses and families. Advocate! Change is needed. Let the Spirit move in truth, justice and love. This is your rest: give rest to the weary.***

**Boarding Homes Ministry nurtures Christian community by linking residents of homes with church visitors. See our website for more information on our ministry and ways to get creatively involved. [boardinghomesministry.ca](http://boardinghomesministry.ca)**