



Michael House

Pregnancy Care Centre



A Safe Haven for Life

Volume 17

May 2010

Spring Events

RIDE for LIFE

Saturday June 12th,
8:30AM-1:30 PM
Lakeside Church
7564 Conservation Rd

1st Annual GOLF Tournament & Dinner

at the CUTTEN CLUB
Monday, June 28th

AGM & Pie Social

Thursday September 16th
For details stay tuned to
our website at
michaelhouse.ca
or call 519-766-7675

Baby Bottle Drive

Our bottles were sent out
to many generous local
churches in Guelph, Elora,
Erin and Rockwood and are
also available at Curves. If
you would still like a bottle
or bottles, give us a call at
519-766-7675. Bottles can
be returned to your
church/business on
Father's Day (June 20th).

While at JL's Home
Hardware, check out the
EXTRA LARGE baby
bottles at the front. All
donations placed in the
bottles will go toward
our Baby Bottle drive!

"What is it that Michael House does exactly?"



Hello Everyone!

In the past few months I have been asked,
"What is it that Michael House does exactly?"

I think that some of these inquiries have been
from visitors who have noticed that
sometimes we have toddlers and "older"
women living at the house. (By older women,
we mean not teenagers.)

Although our primary mandate continues to
be younger women that are pregnant, we do
help women that already have children and
need some immediate help. These women
may have suddenly found themselves without
housing and also need some support around

parenting. If we have the space we will help women regardless of age. We often get calls from
Social Services agencies telling us that a woman has just given birth, that she has no support in the
community and that unless she finds a supportive place to live with her infant, the baby will go into
foster care. We feel it would be very difficult for the mother to learn how to parent if separated
from her child, not to mention the issues around bonding and attachment. These stays with us are
usually short term until the new mother can get her feet back on the ground and get the support
she needs, unlike our pregnant teen mothers who tend to stay with us during their pregnancy and
for a while after the baby is born.

We are happy to be able to be flexible. We continue to assess each referral on individual needs.
Each woman that comes through our doors is treated with respect and plans her stay with us to
meet goals she establishes and works on. We are seeing some amazing things happen at our
home. We see families reunited, young women stepping up to the plate to be great mothers,
relationships in the community being built and young women supporting each other at the house
and in the community as well.

We are having a wonderful spring, and I am not only
speaking of the weather! Currently we have four
beautiful children at the residence, by the time you
receive this newsletter we may be at five! Our
Fashion Show was a huge success and we are looking
forward to our Annual Ride for Life and our Golf
Tournament. We have two wonderful students
working for us this summer. Our Baby Bottles are out
in the community and we are hoping they all return
with a blessing towards our programs.

Thank you all for your ongoing support, prayers and
donations,

Rosemarie Coombs
Executive Director



Annie's Story: "I know that Michael House helped me to get where I am now."

I was living with a friend in Hamilton when I became pregnant. The Baby's Father left me and I had no support from any of my family members. I had no money, no savings and no support in Hamilton. I had been in the care of Family and Children's Services in Guelph when I was underage. I phoned my former Family and Child Services worker and she connected me to Michael House.

My goal for after the Baby was born was to go back to school. I knew I needed housing and supports to help me meet this goal. I was told that Michael House would get me the supports I needed.

At Michael House I was encouraged to go out into the community and connect with resources that could support me. Michael House gave me the knowledge of what I would need when I was out living on my own.

I was also taught "how to be a Mom". I was able to develop routines and learn how to interact with a newborn. I had 24 hour support once the baby was born and that was extremely helpful.

When it was time to move, Michael House gave me help with furniture and the moving process. I have continued to stay connected with Michael House thru the Aftercare Program. I am in my second year of college now. I know that Michael House helped me to get where I am now.



Photo courtesy mdphotography



Welcome back from maternity leave Sarah Sytsma!
And congratulations to Amy Wilson.
Sarah and Amy will be sharing the role of Program
Manager at the Michael House residence.

DID YOU KNOW??

AT MICHAEL HOUSE THIS WEEK ALONE, OUR RESIDENT MOMS WILL:

- **Change 245 diapers.**
- **Prepare 235 bottles. (56 of them during the night!)**
- **Wash 112 baby outfits.**
- **Learn to create a safe and secure environment for their children.**
- **Have caring, trained support 24 hours a day.**

On behalf of the more than 70 safe, warm, clean ,well-fed babies who have lived at Michael House (and their Moms) THANK YOU for all you do!

JOIN US FOR OUR...



FIRST ANNUAL
Michael House
 Pregnancy Care Centre
Golf Tournament
 & Dinner
 Held at the Cutten Club
MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2010

Our newest addition to Michael House's fundraising events, this tournament is for everyone: men, women, duffers and pros! The format for the tournament includes a four person scramble, 18 holes and a shotgun start. The day begins at 11:30am with a putting contest and golfer registration, leading to a 1:00pm golf shotgun start and ending in a delicious hip of beef dinner buffet and prize giveaways. The tournament also includes several contests such as Hole-in-One, Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin and a Putting Contest. The participation fee is \$175, which includes golf, cart, lunch and dinner. Or \$50 if you would just like to join us for the dinner.

Play at one of the finest golf courses in Ontario:



Don't miss out on a day filled with fun, food and friendly rivalry!

Contact Angela Smith by phone at 519-766-7675 or by e-mail at office@michaelhouse.ca for more information or to register.



A Special **Note of Thanks** to everyone who came out and supported our 2010 Fashion Show. Thanks to you we were able to raise over \$8000 for Michael House!. Proceeds will be going to support our residential and aftercare programs.

Please check out our wonderful sponsors on page 4!



Join us at 8:30am (7:30am Ironbutt) for our June 12th, 2010 **Ride for Life** at Lakeside Church. Cruise along paved back roads and enjoy Ontario's country scenery with us. Draw your poker cards at three different pit stops along the 3 hour route. Then join us for lunch, prizes and a silent auction back at Lakeside. Choose to be a Beginner, Intermediate or Ironbutt rider. \$25 to register (\$30 at door) plus \$10 per passenger but **free** if you bring in \$100 or more in pledges!

Forms online at michaelhouse.ca or call 519-766-7675

Formula for a "Safe Haven for Life"

Our baby bottle drive has begun!
 If you have already picked up a bottle remember that small change means changed lives!

Every donation counts!!

Just put your change, cash or cheque into the bottle, fill out the card and bring it back to the church or business where you picked it up by Father's Day.

If you would still like to get Involved in this great fundraiser, give us a call at 519-766-7675.



Business Office:

1 Taggart St.
 PO Box 24045
 Guelph, ON N1E 6V8
 Phone: 519-766-7675
 Fax: 519-766-1713

E-mail:

office@michaelhouse.ca

www.michaelhouse.ca

Charitable registration #: 8599 09137 RR00011



Providing Shelter and Support to Pregnant and Parenting Young Women in Our Community.

Board of Directors:

- Sue Woodward, *President*
- Albert Gostick, *Vice President*
- Bev Leighton, *Treasurer*
- Graham Smith, *Secretary*
- Patricia Grierson
- Cam Guthrie
- Dr. Jane Hosdil
- Jeff Obbema
- Nicole Mailloux

Executive Director:

Rosemarie Coombs

Development Manager:

Angela Smith

Office Manager:

Diane Tyler

Program Managers:

Sarah Sytsma & Amy Wilson

House Manager/After Care

Manager: Beth Harris

Our vision

A nurturing community for those facing crisis pregnancies

Our Mission:

Drawing on Christian values, Michael House will provide to women in Guelph and area who need it, the offer of shelter during pregnancy, childbirth and the initial post-partum period, and will seek to help such women to make healthy, informed decisions for their own lives and those of their children.

Our Objectives

- We will attain our mission by:
- Offering a caring home within which to provide for the emotional, physical and spiritual needs of women experiencing crisis pregnancy.
 - Providing access to educational and support services.
 - Providing access to life skills training.
 - Advocating on behalf of our clients.
 - Liaising with other charitable, non-profit community and government agencies or organizations to improve the quality of life of young women at risk of crisis pregnancy by referral to, or creation of supportive services.

Our 4th Annual Charity Fashion Show and Mother's Day Marketplace was a great success.

Thank you to all of our guests and these generous sponsors!



HARRY KIHNS INSURANCE



Bag it!

- Three Sisters around a Greek Table**
 - Three Charming Girls, available at Sussman's 5th Avenue Jewelry**
 - Rejuvenation Spa**
 - Moksha Yoga**
 - Tattle Tails**
 - Grand Gourmet**
- And thank you to our wonderful artists for their beautiful artwork, especially **Christine Pearson, Daisy Kurp and Marilyn Clarke** and to all those that donated to our silent auction.

Thank you to all of our supporters, including:

- Hammond Power Solutions
- Ward Heating Products
- Danby Products
- Guelph Hydro
- J L's Home Hardware
- Tambro Construction
- Lex Scientific
- Our Partner Churches
- Our Michael House ANGELS

We would like to gratefully acknowledge grants from the following foundations:

- RBC Foundation
- Guelph and District Real Estate Board
- The Raftis Family Fund
- The Hylcan Foundation
- C.B. Powell Foundation
- The Sifton Family Foundation
- The City of Guelph
- The United Way of Guelph Wellington

Praise and Prayer

We Praise God for:

- The safe delivery of all the babies born to Michael House residents this year, especially new baby boy D born last week to C and both doing well.
- The mothers who have regained custody of their children while at Michael House, including E. regaining custody of baby boy D and continuing to make good progress.

- An excellent and profitable Fashion Show and all those who worked hard to produce it.
- A good response so far to the annual Baby Bottle Drive.
- New staff and volunteers.
- All our supporters, especially our monthly "Angels".

We Pray for:

- Healthy pregnancies and deliveries for our current residents still expecting.

- The residents currently preparing to move into the community with their babies.
- The upcoming Bike Rally (June 12th) and Golf Tournament (June 28th) fundraisers.