

### Kelly’s Journey—A Resident’s Story

Bonnie Tice, Supportive Housing Manager

Just over a year ago, Kelly\* was lost when her caregiver, her beloved grandmother, passed away at a young age. Kelly was pregnant, unsure of her future and considering abortion. After a cousin told her about Michael House, Kelly applied and moved in one week later. It was here that Kelly found the support she needed. She found hope.

A few months later, Kelly and her beautiful baby Sadie moved into their own unit at our new Supportive Housing building. She is now living independently and proactively working towards her goals for the future. Kelly has worked hard on budgeting and has learned so much about attachment parenting. She has come a long way in cultivating strong, healthy relationships and has great supports around her. She is always the first one to reach out to our new residents, helping out in whatever way she can. It was a big accomplishment when she finished high school! She has also been dealing with past trauma in order to move forward in a healthy way.



Kelly has plans to one day attend university. This fall, she and Sadie have travelled around to many United Way events across the city sharing her story of how Michael House helped her turn her life around. The feedback she has received in the community has been tremendous, and her self-confidence is growing as she shares her “success story in progress”.

\* Names changed to protect privacy.

### Angels, Angels Everywhere!

Rosemarie Coombs, Executive Director

During the holiday season, angels are seen everywhere: on top of Christmas trees; in shopping malls; and on greeting cards.



But the angels around us are not always so visible, including those that protect us from above! I can always feel their presence around the newborns that we have the privilege of welcoming at Michael House.

This is one of the reasons that we call our monthly donors our **Michael House Angels**. These individuals and families are the unseen support for our mission. Through their generosity, they extend a message of love and hope, enabling our staff and volunteers to provide a safe haven for our ladies.

Our first full year with the Supportive Housing Program has flown by! Doubling in size has allowed us to help twice as many women and infants and enabled us to provide support to our clients for a longer period of time. Unfortunately, while our programming and budget have doubled, our funding from the community has not. We have an immediate, urgent and ongoing need for support and our Angel Donor Program is the best way to give, as it is our most stable source of funding. Our Angels donate a small amount of money each month, usually in the amount of \$25. It’s easy and convenient, and you can change, suspend or cancel your gift at any time.

If you are a **Michael House Angel**, we extend our gratitude on behalf of the clients, staff and volunteers of Michael House. If you are not a regular donor, would you consider becoming an Angel this Christmas?

Blessings to you and yours this holiday season,

Rosemarie Coombs



YES, I would like to be a

**MICHAEL HOUSE ANGEL**

and give a monthly donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_

on the 1st 15th of each month  
(or the first business day)

with payments beginning \_\_\_\_\_.

YES, I would like to make a

**ONE TIME DONATION**

in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Cash  Cheque enclosed

To make a one-time donation with a credit card,  
please visit our website at  
[www.michaelhouse.ca/make-a-one-time-donation](http://www.michaelhouse.ca/make-a-one-time-donation)



Please return to:

187 Bristol St.  
Guelph, ON  
N1H 3M2

## Measuring our Success: 2016 in Review

Rebecca McEvoy, Development Manager

At Michael House, we know how important transparency and impact are to our donors. That's why we're committed to monitoring the success of our programs and sharing the outcomes of our work.

- 18** Number of women supported by the Residential Program
- 5** Number of newborns born to women in our residence
- 89** Percentage of women who were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless upon admission (16 out of 18)
- 25** Percentage of women who were at risk of homelessness upon discharge (3 out of 12; 2 were later housed)
- 88** Number of families supported monthly through the Aftercare Program

### Thank You to our Volunteers

We are blessed with many talented volunteers who give of their time selflessly in support of our young families. Many of our recent initiatives, from fundraising events to building projects, would not have been possible without their hard work and passion! Our appreciation goes out to those who assist us on an ongoing basis with child minding, painting, landscaping, and maintenance! We have a particular need in 2017 for volunteers interested in event planning and grant writing. If you are interested, please email Sarah Robb at sarah@michaelhouse.ca.

### Mark your 2017 Calendars!

**BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN** Grab an empty baby bottle from your church or office on Mother's Day, fill it with loose change and return it on Father's Day! **May 14 - June 18**

**GOLF TOURNAMENT** Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details about our ever-popular Golf Tournament! **Tuesday, June 13**

## An Update from the Residence

Holly Ziedins, Residential Manager



The house is currently teeming with change; new staff, residents, babies, renovations and personal growth. The women entering the Residential Program face formidable challenges; they may be struggling financially, may battle addictions and face homelessness, or may not have grown up with access to education and life skills training. The need is for much more than a roof over their heads.

As a result, there are many challenges to this work that stretch us daily, as well as complementary gifts for which to be grateful. The new life which surrounds us all brings fresh perspective to our staff: with the arrival of the Christmas season, our abundant privileges are evident.



In the new year, we anticipate providing more in-house programming on the topics of healthy relationships and self-esteem. We would greatly appreciate donations of scrapbooking supplies for our seven ladies. Thank you to our community supports that help to make the Michael House residence a safe place when there may be no other for our ladies. Your support makes all the difference!

### 'Tis the Season for Giving!



Looking for the perfect gift for the hard to shop for person on your list? Consider making a donation in their honour to Michael House! If a donation is received on or before December 20th, we will send a personalized email or card to acknowledge your gift. You can reach our staff by phone at 519-766-7675 or visit [www.michaelhouse.ca/gifts-in-honour-or-memory/](http://www.michaelhouse.ca/gifts-in-honour-or-memory/).



**Michael House Pregnancy Care Centre**

*A Safe Haven For Life*

Charitable Registration # 85990 9137 RR0001

187 Bristol Street  
Guelph, ON N1H 3M2

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office@michaelhouse.ca



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**United Way**  
Guelph Wellington  
Dufferin

By donating you provide us with stable funding so that we can, in turn, provide a stable home for pregnant women & new mothers in our community.	<b>ANGEL PAYMENT METHODS</b>		NAME:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly cheques		DATE:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Debit my bank account *void cheque enclosed <input type="checkbox"/> I agree to the Terms & Conditions found at michaelhouse.ca		ADDRESS:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Charge my credit card		CITY:	
	CARD NUMBER:		POSTAL CODE:	
	EXPIRY DATE:		E-MAIL:	
	SIGNATURE:		TELEPHONE:	