



CHRISTMAS 2018

“Providing Shelter and Support for Pregnant and Parenting Women in our Community”

‘Tis the Season for Giving!

Greetings Friends of Michael House,

Now that we are well into November and we have had our first snow, I’m turning my eyes to the upcoming season of giving and sharing. At Michael House we begin our Christmas preparations pretty early. As a matter of fact, we are planning for Christmas all year long. Every year we throw a Christmas Party for all of our residents, past and present. In the first year of Michael House’s existence, this party consisted of three women and their babies in the living room of Michael House. Flash forward 15 years later and we are hosting a party, complete with gifts and a turkey dinner, for 100 women and children. My how we have grown. Each child and mom attending receives a gift bag filled with new items that have been collected over the past year. Your generous donations of clothes, toys and household items, all go to the women and children who consider Michael House to be a part of their lives. Thank you, so much.

In 2018, we have had significant financial stressors on our operating budget. The increase in minimum wage and lack of government funding for our summer staffing both had a negative impact on our financial bottom line. Although challenged, we have continued to serve and support our clients.

Last year, we had our first **Christmas Joy Challenge**. The day the campaign started was my first day of work as Executive Director of Michael House. It was like the finish line at a race. There was so much cheering and celebrating as donations came rolling in. I knew that I was going to be working at a fantastic place. With a start like that, how could we not do it again? December 1st we are launching our second **Christmas Joy Challenge**. **Our goal is to raise \$20,000 by December 31st. Generous supporters have challenged everyone to donate and they will double every dollar up to \$20,000.** Their generosity delights us and we anticipate ending the year on a high note!

While not every day at work was like my first day, the decision I made to join Michael House has been affirmed again and again. To be involved in this life changing work is a blessing.

Thank you for all of your support with your gifts, your time and your prayers.

May you and your family enjoy God’s blessings this Christmas and in 2019.

Sincerely,
Beth Harris
Executive Director



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




Please return to:
187 Bristol St.
Guelph, ON
N1H 3M2

Mark your 2019 Calendars!

CELEBRATE SPRING LADIES DAY OUT - Sat. April 6th

An exciting new event with proceeds going to Michael House!

10th Annual GOLF TOURNAMENT - Tues. June 11th

Details on our events, including our **BABY BOTTLE DRIVE**, will be posted online at michaelhouse.ca.

Thank you to all of our volunteers!

Rachel Reich, Student & Volunteer Coordinator

What do 175 children, teens, families, retirees, businesses, civic groups, high school and university students have in common? They believe in volunteering! In addition to our 34 regular volunteers, this fall alone we hosted a myriad of one time volunteer groups; *UofG Project Serve Students, Beyond Borders, United Way Day of Caring* and *UofG Service Learning in Housing* students. They helped with big & small property maintenance jobs including painting two units at Supportive Housing. We have also been blessed to have 10 placement students this year. Given there are not enough hours in the day for staff to do everything that needs to be done, we give our heartfelt thanks to all of our volunteers!

For more information on becoming a Michael House volunteer, please visit our website.

An Update from Supportive Housing

Sarah Robb, Supportive Housing Manager

Andrea* has spoken at numerous United Way campaigns this fall, as well as, at our recent Angel Appreciation evening. She shares about her childhood, a journey faced with multiple barriers & challenges. Andrea was struggling with her mental health and caring for a daughter with a disability when she reached out to Michael House in Spring 2017. She has now been living in our Supportive Housing program for a year & a half. We are so proud of the progress she has made. She has advocated for herself & her daughters' needs, attended multiple programs focusing on parenting & regularly accesses services that support her own mental health. Andrea has shown incredible growth & beams with pride whenever she returns from a speaking engagement. She has told me that sharing her story has been a source of self-care and healing. The past year had its own challenges for Andrea and her children, but every day she is taking steps to overcome & work at changing her & her daughters' lives for the better. Her determination & drive inspire me! I can't wait to see what the next year will bring.

**names changed to protect privacy*

It's Not Just a House, It's a Home

Amy Alberts, Residential Manager

The Michael House Residential Program is currently providing a home for six families. Here is one mother's story of how Michael House helped keep her family together.

"Finding out at 18 that I was going to be a mom was a lot to take in. After having Jamie*, my life took a flip for the worse. Children's Aid took her out of my care & placed her with my sister. I fell away from God & lost a lot of friends & family, as well as, my self-respect. In July 2017, I found out that I was expecting my second child. It felt like a second chance at being a mom. I moved to Michael House with my two week old daughter. The support this 'family' gave us was beyond what anyone had ever done for me. Jamie being with my truly amazing sister & visiting us every Saturday has made my vision & pathway easier to connect with God. Emma* & I could not be where we are today without the love, kindness & respectful family at Michael House. Thank you for everything all of you have done for us."



An Aftercare Success Story

Bonnie Tice, Aftercare Manager

Karly* was in trouble with the law as a teen. She had her first child at 16, which wasn't unusual in her family which she describes as "dysfunctional & full of addicts". Living on her own at 17 with a baby, she didn't see a future for herself at all. When at 19 she had her second child, something began to change in Karly. A desire to live for her kids was rising up in her. She started making changes.

Now in her mid-20's, Karly is finishing up an advanced college degree in finance. She is in a stable, loving relationship, caring for her three children, putting them first, as she juggles being a mother, partner & student. She keeps a clean townhome & cares for her father. Pondering the obstacles she has overcome, Karly beams when asked about her future now. She is immensely thankful for the role Michael House played in helping her to turn her life around.

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519-766-7675

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www.michaelhouse.ca
Charitable Registration # 85990 9137 RR0001



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.	Angel Payment Methods		Name:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly cheques <input type="checkbox"/> Debit my bank account *void cheque enclosed <input type="checkbox"/> Charge my credit card		Date:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> I agree to the Terms & Conditions found at michaelhouse.ca		Address:	
	Card Number:		City:	
	Expiry Date:		Postal Code:	
	Signature:		E-Mail:	
			Telephone:	