

BOARD MEMBERS

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Vineland: Maarten Van den Beukel 905-646-2795
Fenwick: Peter Bosman 905-643-2205

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Lindsay shredding paper as a home business. (If you are interested in utilizing her services call Peace Haven)

GIVE A GIFT BASKET FOR MOTHERS' DAY!

Looking for that special gift? Let us help you. Why not give a basket overflowing with delicious goodies and at the same time support Peace Haven? Prices are from \$35.00 to \$55.00. To find out more, email **Eve Vandenberg** at pandevdb@aol.com or call her at **519.647.3665**.

OUR SERVICES

- Respite care to relieve the family, either in-home or outside the home for shorter or longer periods of time.
- Make available information for referrals to agencies that offer appropriate services.
- Encourage "Care & Share" Groups.
- Assist with devotions/Bible Study programs.
- Help with transportation.
- Assist with recreational activities such as shopping, skating, swimming, bowling, board games, crafts, etc.
- Provide short periods of Sunday relief, invitations for home visits, evenings or weekends.
- Occasional weekend relief.
- Relief for special events, such as weddings, out of town trips, family vacations, etc.
- Camping and vacation experiences.

OUR MISSION

To serve individuals and families with special needs.

ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION

Peace Haven's Board is made up of deacon representatives from Brantford, Dundas, Fenwick, Hamilton, St. George and Vineland, in addition to a number of concerned parents and others.

DONOR/MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: (Please Print) _____ Date: _____

Home Address: _____

Business Name/Address: _____

Tel. _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

CONTRIBUTION PLAN

- One-time Donation Amount: _____
- Post-Dated Cheques Amount: _____
- Monthly Automatic Chequing (fill in below) Amount: _____

Annual Membership - Payment of annual membership dues entitles the donor to all voting rights and privileges according to the By-Laws and Policies of Peace Haven.

- Individual: \$15.00 monthly or \$180.00 annually Amount: _____
- Family: \$20.00 monthly or \$240.00 annually Amount: _____
- Other (Specify) Amount: _____

AUTOMATIC CHEQUING

I hereby authorize Peace Haven, Free Reformed Association, to draw from my account on the 16th day of each month for payment until further notice.

In the amount of _____ / per month.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please enclose or attach your first cheque marked VOID across its face. With this authorization and from the information recorded on this personal cheque, we will process all future monthly donations automatically. No further cheques are required. This authorization may be cancelled at any time followed by written notice.

Note New Address!

Please make all cheques payable to PEACE HAVEN
 Mail to: Ryk Naves, Treasurer; 1058 Botanical Drive, Burlington, ON L7T 1V2
 Tel. 905 526-9703; Email: rnaves@sympatico.ca
 Charitable Registration Number: 123858458



PEACE HAVEN NEWS

Volume 3, No. 1
 Spring/Summer 2009

Free Reformed Association
 Serving Families and Individuals
 with Special Needs

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:10

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Advance Notice Annual Meeting 2009

Thursday, October 29, 2009

D.V. at 8:00 pm

Free Reformed Church of Hamilton

1114 Old Mohawk Rd.,
 Ancaster, Ontario

Dr. David Murray, professor at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan, has graciously consented to be our speaker. A sermon on CD, by Dr. Muray, entitled, "Why God Makes Disabilities" was circulated when Peace Haven was first instituted and was an inspiration and blessing.

For more information contact:

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Frederika Pronk, Secretary

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Ezekiel 34: 26 "And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing."

As we near the completion of our first year of operating the Peace Haven home in Brantford, it is good to reflect on the many blessings that God has showered down upon both the home and the Association. God has been faithful and good to us in providing a beautiful and comfortable place in Brantford. Margaret Heemskerck, our director, has done much work leading, training and guiding the staff that we have been able to hire throughout this first year of operation. We have quite a number of qualified and very able staff members working in the home - some of them working only a few hours a week and others working much more than that. Many volunteers, some young and some old, have made visits and have participated in activities in various ways with the three residents: Connie, Lindsay and Varick. There has been interaction between Peace Haven's families, friends and supporters. New friendships have developed and existing ones were strengthened. We have also been blessed with willing hearts to support this home, enabling us to meet our financial obligations.

As we continue to operate Peace Haven Home, we are also exploring various avenues and ways to help other individuals with special needs in our community, as well as supporting their families in as many ways as we can. As we become aware of needs we can see that there is still much more that we need to do. We have monthly board meetings, not only to discuss how things are going in the home, but also to lay out our future goals for the Peace Haven Association. The meetings have been very worthwhile and we have learned a lot from our residents, our director and from each other.

We may be encouraged when we look back at what the Lord has given to us, and we have reason for much hope for the future. If each one of us looks for ways to help in whatever our hands find to do, this work will continue and will expand to support those in need. Let us use our gifts as an opportunity to "do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith". Let us bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. May we all continue to support this work financially, and more importantly with our prayers, that the Lord will continue to cause showers of blessing to come down in His season, in the hearts and lives of those supported by Peace Haven, as well as in the hearts and lives of each one of us.

Paul Vandenberg



Peace Haven 1ST ANNUAL PIG ROAST

Saturday, July 11, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Rehoboth Christian School

Come and enjoy pork, condiments, hot dogs, beverages, and dessert! We're hoping for a turnout of 400-500 persons
Admission by Donation • Bring your family and friends!

COORDINATOR'S REPORT



As we near the one year anniversary of Peace Haven Home, I had the opportunity to reflect on all the exciting events that have taken place since the day Connie,

Lindsay and Varick moved in. Last year at this time I had so many questions such as: Will the persons living at the home adjust well to their new space and their new housemates? Will we have enough staff and volunteers to support and guide these young people in the many roles they want to have? Will the families be satisfied with the supports their child is receiving? Will the church community continue to support the home and the Association in all of its activities and goals? How can we educate the church community about the needs of families which have a child with a disability?

As a director (and the staff would agree with me) we can say that through the grace of God the home has been such a blessing for those who live there. Not only is it a beautiful home in a good neighbourhood (thanks to all the Board members, families, and volunteers who helped with the renovations, painting, decorating, etc.) but it really feels like a home! The bedrooms are a personal reflection of the residents, the activities they participate in are what they would like to do (at least most of the time), there is much care and love in the supports they receive, and we have seen positive and exciting personal growth in

the staff as well as the individuals living at Peace Haven.

We have held several special events over this past year including: birthday parties, family/staff dinners, a Christmas dinner, and an afternoon Christmas social with the grade 6 girls from Rehoboth Christian School (where they sang Christmas carols, played their recorders and shared gifts, fun and games with us at the home - it was a wonderful afternoon!). The ladies participated in the Annual General Meeting of Peace Haven, attended many choir concerts, and to their delight, were witnesses to their pastor, Rev. Schouls' wedding - certainly a highlight for them!

Over the past year the ladies started several new jobs such as housecleaning, assisting with maintaining the Grace FRC sanctuary, paper shredding and working at the Dunn Centre Employment Services (two days a week). Varick has started grade 9 this past September and we pray that when he recuperates from his injury he will be able to go back to school again. He continues to be our "sunshine" as he generously gives us his beautiful smile - especially when Connie gives him his daily "kiss" or when Lindsay makes him laugh with her comical nose trick by tweaking her nose with her finger and making a funny sound! Sarah joins us on Tuesday evenings as we go bowling at Echo Bowling Lanes with others in the community, and Thursday nights are filled with praise, singing and fellowship at the Friendship Club. Other nights we either go

shopping, have family and friends come to visit, or spend quiet times at home. We hope to start swimming and attending a fitness program in the spring time at the Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre. If anyone would care to join us, we'd love to hear from you!

We have just increased our staff to accommodate some changes in our team. Rebecca, Shannon, and Melanie are each expecting their first baby this year (we're so excited!) while several other staff members have increased work loads in other areas in their life, which means they needed to cut back on their hours at Peace Haven. We are thankful that God has provided us with capable and loving staff that want to develop their skills in this field and are committed members of the Peace Haven team.

A big "Thank you" to the staff who help the girls to keep the home clean, organized, running smoothly and a fun place to be! Thank you also to the special volunteers (Rachel, Kelly-Ann and Breanne) who come out every Monday evening to run an Arts and Crafts session/ Games evening, and to Mina for coming every Tuesday afternoon to teach Connie in Pre-Confession class instruction, and to all the Young People who join us Wednesday evenings at the house for fun and laughter and social times!

We cherish the cards and visits from you, and invite you to come out to see us anytime. Just give us a call!

Margaret Heemskerck

FROM THE BOARD

God Heals Disabilities

The father of a young man with developmental disabilities in our church community had obtained some information about Peace Haven and wondered if his son would some day be living in a home like that. He and his wife had done everything they could for their precious son. When he could, he took him to the Free Reformed Church of Mitchell, Ontario where his son had been baptized. Together he and his wife had designed and made a bed with protective netting so that when a seizure came, his son would not fall and injure himself, as he had done many times. The seizures began to be more frequent and more severe. It was hard to watch the effects of the seizures, now so severe. The boy was tormented and so was his father who dearly loved his son. "Lord, how long must he suffer? Lord, please take him Home." A very short time later the boy suffered a seizure from which he did not recover and the Lord did take Him to a place where there are no more seizures, no more disabilities and no more suffering the effects of sin.

A few years ago, when Peace Haven was first organized, a sermon on CD was circulated entitled, "Why God Makes Disabilities" by Dr. David Murray, now professor at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary. God had made Jared, the name of this boy, with disabilities, but He also gave healing. Perfect healing takes place when He takes His disabled children to their eternal Home. "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies" (Ps.103:2-4).

Jared Meinen was born on November 26, 1992 and he died on January 21, 2009. His funeral was conducted by pastor Joel Overduin, and it was very special. Hundreds of people came (over 500 signed the register) to pay their last respects, showing love and sympathy for the family at a funeral home in Mitchell,

Ontario. Recently, Peace Haven received a stack of envelopes from this funeral home with donations totalling well over two thousand dollars in memory of Jared Meinen. What a wonderful way of showing that God cares for those who have disabilities!

"Let God be praised with reverence deep... He hears the needy when they cry; He saves their souls when death draws nigh. This God is our salvation." (Psalter 420:5)

On behalf of the Board,
Fredericka (Ricky) Pronk
Secretary

Below are excerpts from a testimony by the family at Jared's funeral.

"A Gift From Above For Us to Love"

Jared held a special place in the heart of many people but especially his family. We remember a cute, cuddly little brother, one we loved to have snuggled close to us. As he got older and needed more space, mom and dad designed a bigger area that was soft and comfortable for Jared. We loved to stretch out beside him and he enjoyed it too; he would roll over as if to cuddle closer and feel the love.

He loved music. He loved listening to mom playing the piano. When he heard music he would rock in his chair, responding in his own way to the beauty [of the sound] around him. Sometimes Dad would take him upstairs into church...as we sang or celebrated a special occasion. He had his ways of showing what he liked. Those who knew him well recognized these ways. He would bite the spoon that tasted sweet and hum as if to enjoy the taste longer...

As the family got bigger, there were weddings and little ones born, nieces and nephews... Jared had a special place in their hearts too... The more activity

the better. He showed his excitement by bouncing with their energy. We noted too, that he would be calm when one of his nieces or nephews sat on his wheelchair for a ride. Jared loved going outside, feeling the warmth of the sun on his face... He loved the warm water in the pool at Spruce Lodge. Mom and Dad cherished Jared and showed him the love they felt by caring tenderly for him.

Our lives were touched by many of the wonderful, caring people who worked with Jared at home and at the various schools he went to. [Various agencies]... offered him a variety of stimulating activities...[and] new ways of communication. There was a button that could be pushed to say "Good Morning". Once the recording was changed to say, "Hi Mom, how are you?" These are words that every mom loves to hear...

Mom and Dad did everything to make Jared as comfortable as he could be... They loved and nurtured him with the excellence of a parents' love and as a family we appreciate Mom and Dad's example to us. Jared's memory will always be near and dear to our hearts, because God blessed us with an abundance of love that we as a family could lavish on him, and God also returned that love through the support and love we experienced from others.

Jared was our gift, a gift from above. And now he has been returned to our Father in heaven where we know he is being well cared for... Saying goodbye is hard but we may hold on to the promises of joy in heaven. This is our comfort, as we remember Jared, a gift from above for us to love.