

Kingston Community Chaplaincy

Spring –Summer 2013 Newsletter

From the Chairperson of the Board of Directors.



One of the best pieces of advice for men and women returning to society after a period of imprisonment is 'be prepared for change'. While prison is a place of dull inertia and mind-numbing repetition occasionally punctuated by extreme and often violent change, the community beyond the walls flows like a river in flood; challenging at first but not so difficult to keep your head above water once you get used to it. The ongoing challenge of accompanying those transitioning from prison to life on the outside has kept our staff and a host of volunteers busy. Our Chaplain, David Hale, has brought exceptional compassion and commitment to his role. Given the ongoing developments with corrections, we are fortunate to have someone who can understand how confusing the justice system can be for our clients and has the experience to help them navigate their way to renewed life. Until earlier this year, KCC also had the benefit of the organization skill and fundraising acumen of Carla Kennedy. Her work touched every aspect of our service and she will be much missed.

No organization can thrive without the support of the community in which it works. I am happy to report that support for our work has never been greater. From participating in monthly Welcome Weekends to our 2012 Gala at Edith Rankin Memorial Church, I believe our partners realize the very tangible impact they can have on our client's lives. In addition our active volunteers, many organizations and individuals provide regular financial contributions which have been vital to sustaining the viability our work and to meet the needs of a growing number of clients. This base of support became all the more important when we were informed that our contract to provide Community Chaplaincy service was not going to be renewed by the Correctional Service of Canada due to austerity measures in their latest budget. As a result our core funding disappeared as of April 1st, 2013. Our efforts to keep our service available in a

meaningful way to the men and women behind bars has taken on a new sense of urgency. On Friday June 14th, KCC will be hosting another Gala Event at Edith Rankin Memorial Church. It will be a great opportunity for people to learn about the challenges facing our clients and about the many ways that ordinary Kingstonsians can make a positive impact on the lives of some of the most marginalized of people. Recognized as a leading edge in accompaniment for clients and restorative justice, KCC hopes to broaden its base of support so that our vital service can be sustained as a truly community based initiative.

Prior to the Gala, KCC will hold its AGM and welcome several new members to our Board of Directors. It is with a sense of renewal that we move forward, but without your good will and financial support we will not be able to meet the challenges of change for Community Chaplaincy and for the men and women we accompany beyond the walls. (John Rives, Chairperson.)

[A Daily Prayer for Justice and Mercy.](#)

"Jesus, united with the Father and the Holy Spirit, give us your compassion for those in prison. Mend in mercy the broken in mind and memory. Soften the hard of heart, the captives of anger. Free the innocent; parole the trustworthy. Awaken the repentance that restores hope. May prisoners' families persevere in their love.

Jesus, heal the victims of crime. They live with the scars. Lift to eternal peace those who die. Grant victims' families the forgiveness that heals. Give wisdom to lawmakers and to those who judge. Instill prudence and patience in those who guard. Make those in prison ministry bearers of your light, for all of us are in need of your mercy! Amen."

This prayer expresses the heart of Kingston Community Chaplaincy and it is our hope that we will continue to be a beacon of light for those we serve. If you believe in compassionate care for those who are wounded by crime, consider partnering with us. We cannot serve this community without your moral and financial support.

24K CLUB

In order to establish a solid financial base for the programs and operations of Kingston Community Chaplaincy, a new challenge has been issued: **Donate \$1000 in 2013 and become a member of the 24K Club!**

With an additional \$24,000, KCC will be able to secure the employment of the Community Chaplain. The position of our Community Chaplain make the ministry of KCC possible. A guaranteed operating base will also ensure that the work continues uninterrupted because of a lack of funding.

We still need to raise funds for existing programs and new avenues of ministry in 2013. Tax receipts will be issued upon receipt of your donation .

Get involved! Partner up with your church, community group or family members and help KCC extend a even more effective outreach to those individuals and families affected by incarceration!

For more information on how to become a 24K Member, make a donation; or receive help from KCC –

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Editorial.

As you read in our Chairperson's report, as of the end of April, we are no longer receiving any financial assistance from the Corrections Services of Canada. As a result, more than ever we need your financial support. The loss of Carla Kennedy, means that board members have taken on many of her responsibilities. As I write this I have to say that Carla's responsibilities were indeed daunting and I must on behalf of the Board of Directors say a big Thank You to Carla for all the work she did for Kingston Community Chaplaincy. You are dearly missed.

Needless to say that when we learned that we no longer had the financial support of Corrections Canada, The Board of Directors of Kingston Community Chaplaincy remained undaunted and decided that we would continue the ministry to all of the folks we work with.

We count on your prayers and support so that this important ministry will be ongoing to the folks who

are in need of our services. Please, more than ever we need your support.

(Patrick Callaghan, Editor)



June 14, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Edith Rankin Memorial United Church, 4080 Bath Rd., we will be having a Kingston Community Chaplaincy Event. Our guest speaker will be Justin Piché. His topic is More Austere Prison Conditions: Why we should all care.

Because of changes for the folks at Portsmouth House, in that they are not allowed to go beyond certain boundaries, one of which is highway 401 our venue for our monthly Welcome Weekend pot luck dinners have been moved to "Vinnie's". That is the St. Vincent de Paul Society's building at 85 Stephen Street here in Kingston. "Vinnie's" also offers daily lunch and supper to those in need and as well have a warehouse where folks can get used clothing. It's all free.



Over the past year, you, our benefactors and volunteers have been so generous to the work of Kingston Community Chaplaincy and the people we work with. There are no words that express our gratitude for your continued support and generosity except "Thank You".