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President's Message

Greetings to all, and welcome to our annual elections and appreciation night.

Tonight is a very special time here at the mission as we re- elect board members and extend our gratitude to our current board members, volunteer staff and friends. The evening promises to be a memorable one.

We all know that without your generosity the Amherstburg Food and Fellowship Mission would not be able to continue assisting those who are less fortunate. Your love and loyalty to this cause has touched so many lives that words cannot express our appreciation. Therefore we would like to invite all of our past and present sponsors to join us in a fun filled night and see how your kindness has helped those in need.

It seems that every year my message starts with the theme that the one consistent thing is change. We have worked diligently to network, pursue partnerships and develop and modify programs to meet the needs of our community with the resources available to us.

In partnership with the Essex County Courts System, Amherstburg Food and Fellowship Mission provides a placement for both young offenders and school students, who in order to graduate, need to perform 40 hours of volunteer work. We work closely with social services to secure a "workplace like" environment for their clients who have to meet certain participation requirements to continue to receive their welfare benefits.

We have responded to our funders' requirements and made changes in reporting to assure that we are accountable and transparent in utilization of public funds.

Many exciting things have happened since our last Annual General Meeting but we continue to face many challenges. People in Amherstburg and the surrounding communities are finding it difficult to make ends meet as a result of increases in their daily cost of living. We are currently serving between 40 to 50 well balanced hot lunches each Monday to Saturday, many of them to children. There has also been an increase in the number of students dropping by for an "after school snack".

As a result of many fundraising events over the past few years, we were recently able to have a new floor installed in the Mission. This was long overdue and everyone who uses our services appreciates our "new look".

Thanks to a private donation, we were able to have a special air conditioning unit installed in the kitchen. During the hot weather it was very difficult for our volunteers to work in the excessive heat.

We recently had a donation of 4 new computer monitors to replace our existing ones. Another donor donated four new speakers. They were a welcome addition for the many students who do not have a computer at home to do school projects, etc. Our computers are also used to create resumes to help those seeking employment.

The number of food baskets we distribute continues to increase.

We find people are visiting the Mission, as much for the fellowship as for the food, and we are only able to continue to offer our services thanks to the generous support of many individuals and businesses in and around our community.

Amherstburg Food & Fellowship Mission provides much more than food. We provide a comfortable environment for people to socialize. Whether someone is laid-off or for any other reason, we give them the support they require to participate in the community with the dignity that each of us deserve. We provide help, guidance and comfort during difficult times.

Tim McAllister, President

~ PEOPLE helping PEOPLE ~