

The
Mark Preece
Family House

Housewarming



**We can't do it
without *You***

When you give to the Mark Preece Family House, your tax-deductible gift helps families at a very difficult time in their lives.

As you know, house operations are financed **ONLY** by fundraising and room rentals. We need your help to keep our room rate affordable.



***Thank you for helping
us to help families.***

**Go online at
www.markpreecehouse.ca
or call 905-529-0770.**

It is a great place to refresh and relax when so worried

By Greg Williams

We, the Williams family, are from all around the world: Switzerland, United Kingdom, Trinidad, as well as Ontario. We have had two occasions to need the services of the Mark Preece Family House this year.

Our father prepared Income Taxes in the spring for his personal clients. While he was at one of their homes, he saw that their newspaper was at the end of the driveway and went to pick it up. Another car in the driveway was reversing out and did not see our Dad and the accident happened.

The ambulance took him to Cambridge Memorial Hospital and he was then airlifted to Hamilton General Hospital. A close friend of the family drove our mother Monica to the hospital where, after about a week, Dad succumbed to his injuries.

Throughout this ordeal, our mother and our sister Michelle stayed at the Mark Preece Family House which felt like a home away from home.



The Williams family: Anthony, Michelle, Diane (Colin's wife) and Greg.

A month to the day after our Dad's passing, our brother Colin, 57, had a hemorrhagic stroke and was taken to Hamilton General. We rallied again to be by our brother's side. After six weeks, Colin is still in hospital making great strides but he still has a long journey ahead. Once again, various family members were able to take advantage of the Mark Preece Family House.

We cannot say enough about how much the House has meant to us during our two stays. It was wonderful to be able to stay there and be so close to the hospital. We were able to walk to the hospital at any time and then come back and have a cup of tea and unwind. In fact, Michelle bought chocolates and treats for the staff and volunteers to recognize and appreciate the people behind the scenes.

continued...

Williams... continued

Everyone is so great. The House is warm, welcoming and clean. It is a great place to refresh and relax when so worried.

It was nice to get to know and interact with the staff and volunteers. They were so helpful and kind and interested in the welfare of the guests' loved ones at the hospital. It was also great to meet and chat with other families and learn about the situations they face.

As our family members have spent a lot of time at the House, we appreciated not having to worry about evening meals and greatly appreciated the meals that are homemade by volunteers of the Thyme4Dinner program.

Our wonderful staff and volunteers

Many staff and volunteers from the beginning are still with us!

I have told you before that we often hear from families not only about the comfort and beauty of the House but about how wonderful our staff and volunteers are.

We celebrated our eighth anniversary in April and I was struck by how many staff and volunteers from the beginning are still with us.

Fully half of existing staff were on board when the House took its first guests on April 6, 2011. A staff member was reminded of her first shift that weekend and how she was very aware of the awesome responsibility of running this wonderful House for all of our important guests.

Many volunteers from 'the beginning of time' are also still with us. They have gone through an expansion, the waxing and waning of fundraising events, and meeting and assisting many of our guests over time.

We try to take the opportunity to thank our dedicated volunteers every day but we make a special effort at a volunteer social held two times a year. This is a laid-back affair usually held at the House. Volunteers gather and catch up with other volunteers with whom



they have become acquainted over the years.

This year, with the help of Broadcast Media students at Mohawk College, we were able to put together a great video on volunteer and donation opportunities at the House.

Producing this in the winter to end all winters was a challenge, but it was worth it. We also participated in a project by Public Relations students at Mohawk who suggested some communications activities.

We love our regular volunteers and are happy to welcome ad hoc volunteers as well, such as the many groups who participate in Thyme4Dinner or done-in-a-day kind of projects. We particularly think Teens in the Kitchen is a great idea for high school students looking for volunteer hours. We encourage them to schedule a time to prepare dinner for our families with their families.

To all of our staff, volunteers and wonderful donors, thank you for all you have done to make this wonderful House such a success.

Pearl Wolfe
Executive Director



Many thanks to the most recent donors to the Adopt-A-Day program:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ardis Archer | Tim Leishman & Eleanor Misener |
| Lesley & Rod Bell Morrison | Mary McCaffery |
| Brian & Eileen Bidulka | Alex McKeeman |
| Meegan Binder | Dave & Shelly Oates |
| Sandy & Jane Craik | Russell Offen |
| East Hamilton Spiritual Church | Gerry & Jane St Germain |
| Joe Gonzales | Elly Smeda |
| Alison Hall | Shelley Thorsen |
| Peggy Leeder | Roxanne Widdicombe |

Our families say thanks...

The staff at your house are amazing and just to come back after a stressful day at the hospital and chat with them and be able to relax in a beautiful room and house was great.

I haven't anything but praise for the Mark Preece House. I was pleasantly surprised at the cleanliness and the staff were wonderful.

Volunteering – a great break from academia

Seeing bright and busy university students who find time to help families facing difficult times is downright inspiring.

Lu Hsi (Ruth) Chen is VP of the Outreach Subcommittee of the World Vision Club at McMaster University, which does good work both globally and locally. The students sponsor a child in Mali by doing fundraisers at school. They also volunteer at both the Mission Services men's shelter and the Mark Preece House.

Ruth says the students love going out into the community and learning about Hamilton – especially because so many of them are from out of town.

Mac students at the House do a variety of tasks including cleaning, grounds maintenance and baking. Housekeeping staff are especially delighted to accept help from these energetic young folks!



Ruth Chen

Ruth is going into her third year of a four-year Health Sciences program. The 20-year-old who hails from Calgary hopes to become a physician or work in the field of health policy.

She says that volunteering their time in the community is a great break for students from the world of academia and studying.

Ruth says the Mac students love coming here – they love the welcoming environment and meeting our guests. Judging by the wonderful interaction that takes place, our guests appreciate seeing these inspiring students too.

Teens in the Kitchen! High school students looking for volunteer hours?

Schedule a time to come as a family to participate in our Thyme4Dinner program.

- Prepare a home-cooked meal for families going through a difficult time
- Spend quality family time together
- Model the importance of doing good for others to your kids



Get in touch for more information or to schedule a time for your family to come and cook dinner for our families. Contact us at 905-529-0770 or email to info@markpreecehouse.ca

23RD ANNUAL

Golf4Life Tournament

IN SUPPORT OF THE MARK PREECE FAMILY HOUSE

The sun shone on us again!

The sun shone and we had another amazing day at the 23rd annual Golf4Life Tournament on June 4 at Flamborough Hills Golf and Country Club.

Thanks to our countless loyal supporters – golfers, sponsors and donors – we were able to net more than \$55,000! Your generous contributions are so very much appreciated.

Thanks to our Golf4Life committee: Kirsan Ashukian, Jane Craik, Lori Gabriel, Michelle Hutton, Doug McDonald, Michael Veri, Donna Waxman, Pearl Wolfe and volunteers Jan Boomgaardt, Natalie Mancini, Jan Milne, Donna Marck, and Pam and Wayne Bigelow. It was another wonderful day for a terrific cause!



It's takes a great team to pull off a great event. Thanks to: Laura Buchner, Jane Craik, Jan Boomgaardt, Pearl Wolfe, Elaine Jongsma, Jan Milne, Lori Gabriel.

Photos by the wonderful Donna Waxman.

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Mark Aboud



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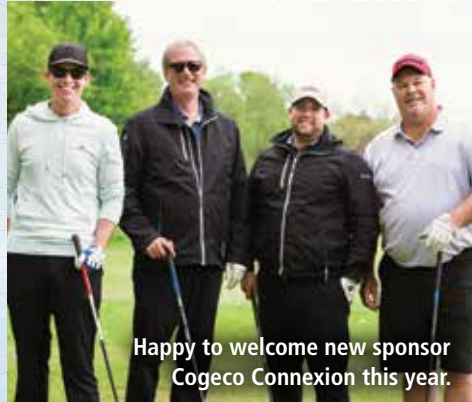
We greatly appreciate the participation of Colliers International as our Platinum sponsor of the day.



Mary Whitfield and friends won the prize for the winning women's team: Nancy Winn, Irene Turpie and Mary. These women have been great supporters of the tournament over the years.



We were delighted to welcome a new sponsor A&B Rail this year.



Happy to welcome new sponsor Cogeco Connexion this year.



Be silly or go home! The Silly Boys always spice up the tournament.

AUCTION AND RAFFLE DONORS

All Seasons Limo

Art Gallery of Hamilton

Arterra Wines Canada

BATL Grounds

The BBQ Gourmet

Craig Brown

Reid Chapman

Susan Clarke

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Mary Lou Emmett

Flamborough Hills Golf & Country Club

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Fortinos Main West

Glendale Golf & Country Club

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Port Dover Golf Club

Pure NV Salon & Spa

Royal Botanical Gardens

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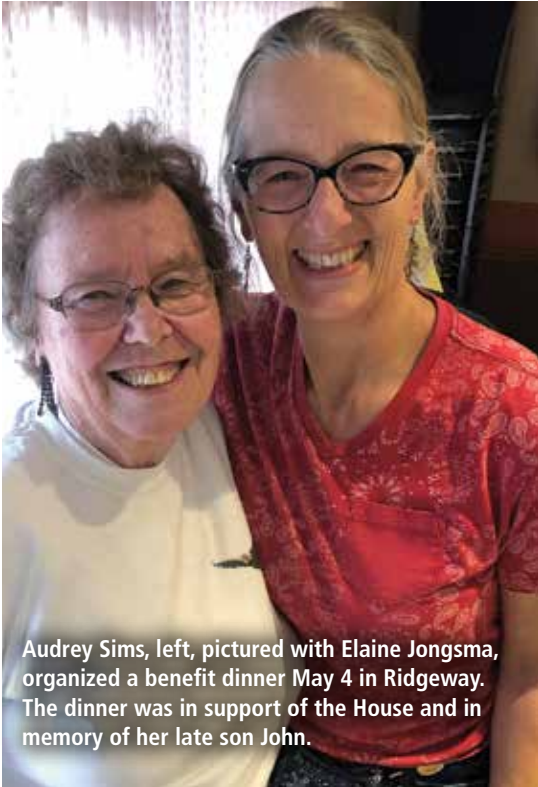
Union Gas Employees

Via Rail

The Vine

Mary Whitfield

Greg Youdon



Audrey Sims, left, pictured with Elaine Jongsma, organized a benefit dinner May 4 in Ridgeway. The dinner was in support of the House and in memory of her late son John.



Great to see our friends from Enbridge who came to plant annuals again at the House. Thanks for your many gifts, which are greatly appreciated.



Bruce McKnight was the lucky winner of our Dream Vacation Raffle for a \$5,000 travel voucher anywhere in the world! Bruce is a member of the Rockton Lions Club, the members of which are great supporters of our Thyme4Dinner program. There were more than 1,000 tickets sold in the raffle. Thanks to everyone for your support and help in this great project!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Seventh Annual

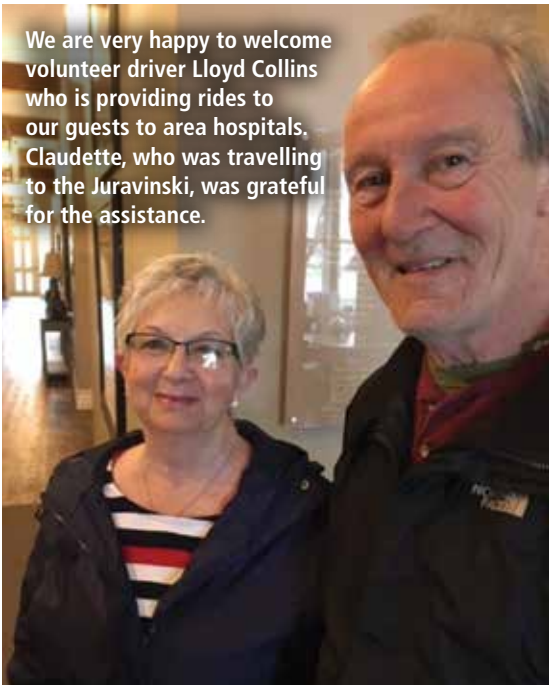
Fall for BEER

craft beer | seasonal fare

Thursday, October 24, 2019
Leander Boat Club,
50 Leander Drive, Hamilton ON

Call 905-529-0770
for information
or tickets

The Mark Preece Family House



We are very happy to welcome volunteer driver Lloyd Collins who is providing rides to our guests to area hospitals. Claudette, who was travelling to the Juravinski, was grateful for the assistance.



We are so delighted to welcome Ryan and Zach from The Gourmet BBQ to Fall for Beer this year!



Jackie Glass, a popular design expert on Cityline, made a visit this spring and is interested in helping the House. She is pictured with Pearl Wolfe, executive director.

Our families say thanks...

The welcome I received at Mark Preece House was beyond anything I could have envisioned. I was treated with respect and compassion and was even given an accessible room to meet my needs. Do you know how wonderful it was to shower every morning in an accessible shower and not have to worry about a bathtub or maybe falling? The home is spotless and beautiful. The Staff are all perfect. Thank you again for wrapping me in a huge hug.

My stay at Mark Preece House was outstanding. Being able to be so close and visit my husband every day was wonderful.



Come for the yoga – stay for the gin! A Ginyasa event was held in the spring with lots of happy attendees who enjoyed both offerings.

Thyme4Dinner

We have had many new Thyme4Dinner providers this winter! Welcome and many thanks to all of the T4D providers.



City of Hamilton Young Professionals Group



Board member Michelle Hutton's family.



Nurses and retired nurses from St. Joseph's ICU came to make dinner for families in March. Many of them had worked with Mark Preece and they were happy to tell families all kinds of great stories.

Our Board of Directors was named at the Annual General Meeting in June:

Jim Murray, Chair
Vince Brown, Vice-Chair
Chris Holtved, Treasurer
Tom Cochren
Tim Craik
Meaghan Drury
Leslie Gauthier
Michelle Hutton
Cheryl Stepan
Andy Vanin
Michael Veri

Our Mission

The Mark Preece Family House provides 24 rooms and many of the comforts of home to out-of-town families of patients being treated in Hamilton hospitals.

You Can Make A Difference

Your organization and special events:

We would be delighted to hear if you have a community event and would be interested in supporting the House through your efforts.

In-Kind Donations:

Do you have resources or donations that could help House operations?

Cheques may be made payable to:

Mark Preece Family House.

General donations as well as special tributes and memorial donations will all help sustain House operations.

To donate online go to:

www.markpreceehouse.ca



Hospital Family Houses of Ontario
Charitable registration
86700 9615 RR001

Mark Preece Family House

191 Barton Street East, Hamilton
Ontario, L8L 2W7

P: 905-529-0770 • F: 905-529-9955

info@markpreceehouse.ca

www.markpreceehouse.ca