



Newsletter- November 2008

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harmonyforyouth.org

November 2008

Christmas Time is Here!

Can you believe how fast this year is going? Christmas is such a busy time for "paying it forward". The kids will get very busy, (especially the ones who have not yet paid it forward-everyone knows Christmas Carols) We have numerous events, concerts and carols coming up. Please ensure you check out the web-site to stay on top of the activities. www.harmonyforyouth.org.

Bell Choir

Thanks to the Trillium Foundation, the bells are here!!! 15 youth will be invited to participate in this choir. It is imperative that they are at each rehearsal and the assigned concerts. Each child will have a note, or two. If they are not there, none of the kids can play. It is really a team oriented choir. Permission forms must be returned ASAP, so if your child cannot participate that we can invite others.

Carol-o-grams

Carol-o-grams are now for sale. These are a wonderful gift for those "hard-to buy" for people. For \$10.00 (local) and (\$15 out of town) you can send your friends and families. We will require all students participate in this pay it forward program, as well as require a great many volunteers to drive the kids to caroling. It is a great way to help get into that Christmas spirit. If you know of any person that is a "shut-in" and would like to receive a carol-o-gram, please forward this information to Joanne. We do not charge for shut-in's. We just want to share the season with them. Carol-o-grams begin the first week in December.

Christmas Hampers and Gifts

Every year Harmony tries to help out our Harmony families. We are accepting names of families that would benefit from our hampers. Names will be accepted until November 15th. We are also asking families that have much to help with families that are in need. Anyone can sponsor a child, and purchase a gift for them. All names are with-held, only the sex and age of the child are provided.

Families could also help in our **food drive** that will commence all month of November and December. Grocery coupons are all very important. This helps families purchase milk, eggs, and meat. Consider when you go grocery shopping to purchase a \$5.00 food voucher for families in need. Please give generously.

Christmas Open House

Our annual Christmas open house is scheduled for Friday November 14th at 7:00 p.m. All families, are strongly encouraged to attend. Please mark this date on your calendar. The kids will be in their programs and performing

Program Cancellation Reminder

As Always

All Harmony functions that must be cancelled on short notice are announced on the FOX radio and our answering machine. Please listen in if the weather looks like our plans may have to change. We do not want anyone to take unnecessary risks due to the weather.

or providing tasting treats etc. to our guests. We are looking for donations for our silent auction. If you have a talent and would like to donate some time to help keep programs going, please see Joanne. Our silent auction is a great part of the wine and cheese evening.

Christmas party

Our Annual Christmas party for all students and their friends and families is scheduled for Dec. 7th at Stokes By the Bay. The cost is \$12.00 per adult and \$10.00 for students. (all ages) if you cannot afford to attend this event please see Joanne. We do not want anyone to miss this due to financial reasons, and sponsorship is available to assist families. Please mark this date, there will be a special guest!!!!

Uniforms

Harmony used to carry the uniforms, but unfortunately we had over 300 taken, and never returned. Now, you must go to Art Wear plus to order your shirts. Art wear is located on Queen street. We strongly encourage all students to purchase a shirt for the Christmas season. The white t-shirts cost \$12.50. All students need a shirt and must wear black pants, socks and shoes. Only the t-shirt must be purchased from our supplier.

Family Night

Is such a huge success! If you would like to help out please contact Denise Laanstra. Don't forget for \$5.00 you get a delicious dinner with your friends, every Tuesday evening!

December programming

Many of the programs are suspended for the month of December except instrumental programs. Choir, and general programs are suspended due to the large volume of concerts. We really rely on the concerts as a major part of our funding. Since donations to Harmony are down by 40% we especially need everyone's full

support on our Christmas concerts. As we are facing an economic downturn we need to work harder to ensure that the financial turn of the economy does not affect our programs. Please check the web-site weekly for changes and additions. Often we are given additional concerts over this season. Your help with this is greatly appreciated.!

Christmas Float

Our Christmas Float is going to be massive this year. We have special help from some wonderful volunteers. We are hoping that everyone participates in the building of the Christmas Float and parade. Mark December 6th on your calendar.

Building

As many are aware, our building needs some major repairs, primarily the replacement of our two boiler systems. We will be selling for the next two months name plaques for a special wall plate to hang in our foyer. This plaque will name the generous benefactors who were instrumental in the solidification of the Harmony Center.

This makes a great Christmas present for someone who has everything. A legacy given to the youth of our community!!! There will be three levels and only room for 50 names.

The gift levels are;

Gold; \$1000.00 (20 places)

Silver; \$500 (15 places)

Bronze \$100 (15 places)

The unveiling of this plaque will be at our Annual Open house in November. Please find attached the form for your family gift.

Haunted House

Our Haunted House was a great success, and we could not have done it without the tireless work of all the volunteers and students who donated hours and hours. Thanks to all who helped, you are the makers of miracles and the silent angels who help our youth. Thank you!

Board Of Directors

Every year the Board of Directors has an election by the general assembly for the new board. Our election is held at the Annual General Meeting, scheduled for January 24th, 2009. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Board of Directors, or know of someone who would be interested applications for the Board are available at the front desk. The board governs Harmony, and protects the mission and mandate of the organization. Our board members are a critical and exceedingly important part of our organization. So many of us do not realize their vital role, that often goes unrecognized. These special people guard your child's programs. Take time over the holidays and say a special thank you to these amazing folks. Now we are needing to think of individuals that will continue to do this very important job. Please take time and think of individuals that will protect and guard this wonderful organization.

Chicago

Just a friendly reminder to all the folks involved in the trip

to Chicago. Please get on your passport, and keep up with those fund-raisers!!! Doug's Dough will begin this month. Get those sticky fingers orders in!!!

Clean Up the Center

With all the exciting events coming up, new bell choir, open house etc. we need to get the center cleaned up. The yard needs work, there is some brut strength to move the old piano and the vending machine, and empty out the small rooms in the basement. (trucks) We need lots of kids, and lots of dad's. We hope to paint the downstairs room, and we need this all done as soon as possible. We have clean the harmony center November 1st from 9-3. Even if you don't have a truck, or brut strength but know of someone who does, perhaps you can suggest they might help. We need to get things cleaned up for Christmas, and next Saturday is the day. Bring your rakes, and gloves and let's get our center spic and span!!

Rick Scott

Many older members will remember Rick Scott, but for those who don't know who he is, Rick is a multi award winning children's entertainer, and a dear friend of Harmony's. Canada Eh, is Rick's song, he gave us permission to use it, (what a nice guy eh?) Anyway, Rick and his wife Valley will be returning to do school performances as well as a few concerts with the Harmony kids April 21-26th. If you would like your school to have Rick perform, please contact Anita Trussler. With all the rehearsals coming up, we will also be including a rehearsal to sing with Rick beginning in January. (We certainly have an exciting year!)

Fraser Institute

Harmony has been short-listed for being one of Canada's top ten charities by the Fraser Institute. We will be going to Toronto on November 19th for an awards ceremony at the Four Seasons for a possible award. This is quite an honor for us making the top twenty. The "Donner Awards" nominees will be announced in the media on September 3rd. Check out the local and national media!!

Bake Sale – November 27th

Our monthly bake sales will take place November 27th at Shopper's Mitton St. Please mark this date on your calendar.

Student Auction

We are changing the student auction this year. The kids will be getting in small groups and selling their services. If you would like to have your yard cleaned up, please call the office and we will assign a group to come and clean-up your yard. If you know of an individual that would like their yard cleaned up, but can't we also add our Pay it forward clean-up's to the kids schedules. Let us know if there is someone in need, and we will pay it forward.

Wish List, please help!!!

Food Drive; Non-perishables	Volunteer drivers for fall clean-up
Volunteer drivers for carol-o-grams	Grocery coupons
Painter to pain downstairs room	Muscles; clean up our center
Engineer or architect to find out if we can tear down a wall	
Board members for 2009 year	Volunteers to decorate center
Christmas gifts for families less fortunate	
Donations for silent auction; November 14 th	
Board members for 2009 year	

November 4: Polish Night - sausages, perogies and veggies
November 11: Chinese Night - chicken balls, rice and stir fry
November 18: Taco Night - tacos and nachos
November 25: Ham, Scalloped potatoes and veggies
December 2: Christmas Turkey Dinner

Donations needed:

paper plates and bowls, plastic silverware and cups
frozen veggies, ground beef, perogies, ham, potatoes, Cheese, rice, desserts
juice
dish soap

Bully Busters Update

The Bully Busters program has been spending the past month meeting with school administrators, parent councils and community groups in an effort to book our program throughout Lambton County. We are currently working with Lakeroad School, Devine Street School, Lansdowne Memorial School and Scouts Canada. We have also received requests from various workplace organizations for an adult-focused anti-bullying program. Please share information about our program with families, schools and community groups in your area. If you would like information packages forwarded to an organization or family, contact Anita Trusler at atrusler@cogeco.ca. You can also access information regarding the Bully Busters program on Harmony's website, under the link for programs.

In Harmony's efforts to create safe environments for community youth, the Harmony Haven project was developed. It is similar to the former 'Block Parent' program, wherein volunteers who place Harmony Haven signs in their front window offer a safe refuge for children in need. We are currently working with community Police to develop safeguards and policies for this program. If you are interested in introducing the Harmony Haven program in your neighborhood, please contact Harmony for more information. We are currently seeking neighborhoods to pilot this program in.

Bully Busters looks forward to meeting our community partners at Harmony's upcoming Open House. Information packages and program displays will be presented at the Open House...drop by and introduce yourself!



SARNIA Pay it Forward

Timetable

Date	Time	Location	Event / Contact Person
<p><u>Please Note; Check the web-site for Changes.</u> <u>There are FREQUENT additions during this busy time of year!!!</u></p>			
November			
November 1	7-10	Harmony Center	Cafe
November 1	9-3	Harmony Center	Clean-up Center
November 4	5-6	Harmony Center	Family Night dinner
November 5	All day	Harmony Center	Sticky finger orders due
November 7	7-10	Harmony Center	Cafe
November 8	7-10	Harmony Center	Cafe
November 8	10	670 Cardiff Dr.	Leaf raking pay it forward
November 8	9-1	All over	Leaf raking, pay it forward
November 12	6-7	Harmony Center	Executive Meeting
November 11	All day	Everywhere	Remembrance day
November 11	5-6	Harmony Center	Family Night Dinner
November 14	7-11	Harmony Center	Harmony Annual Open House
November 18	5-6	Harmony Center	Family Night Dinner
November 19	12	Toronto	Fraser Institute Awards
November 20	All day	Everywhere	National Child Day
November 21	To be announced	To be announced	Jingle Bell Walk
November 21	7-10	Harmony Center	Cafe
November 22	11-12	Shoppers Brights Grove	Carols for Grand Opening
November 25	5-6	Harmony Center	Family night (dinner)
November 26	7	Fairwinds Lodge (Murphy Rd.)	Christmas Concert
November 28	9-4	Harmony Center	PD day activities
November 28	7-10	Harmony Center	Cafe

November 28	10:45-2:30	Lochiel Kiwanis Center	Christmas Concert (Grandpa's Christmas)
November 29	7-10	Harmony Center	Cafe

December

December 1	7:00	St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (Christina St.)	Christmas Concert
December 2	5-6	Harmony Center	Family Night
December 5	6-8	Canatara Animal Farm	Christmas on the Farm Concert
December 5	All day	International volunteer day	Celebrate volunteers

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December 6	All day	Harmony center	Christmas Parade (Build float and be in parade)
December 7	2-4	Stokes By the Bay	Harmony's Christmas Party
December 12	7-10	Harmony Center	Cafe
December 13	9-9	All over	Carol-o-grams
December 13	7	Trinity Anglican Church	Christmas Concert
December 16	5-6	Harmony Center	Family Night
December 18	9-12	Shoppers Mitton St.	Christmas Bake Sale
December 19		Last day, Center Closed for Holidays	

January

January 5	All day	Harmony Center	Programs begin for new year
January 6	5-6	Harmony Center	Family Night Dinner
January 9	7-19	Harmony Center	Cafe
January 13	5-6	Harmony Center	Family Night Dinner
January 16	7-10	Harmony Center	Cafe
January 20	5-6	Harmony Center	Family night Dinner
January 23	7-10	Harmony Center	Cafe
January 27	5-6	Harmony Center	Family night Dinner
January 29	9-12	Shopper's Mitton St.,	Bake Sale
January 30	7-10	Harmony Center	Cafe

Legacy Commemoration Plaque

Become a legacy Benefactor.

Our goal \$20,000

Replace our boilers in our building.

Please fill in the form below and return with your donation.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Inscription: _____

Donation Amount: Bronze (\$100)
 Silver (\$500)
 Gold (\$1000)