

The Vision of NeighbourLink Chatham-Kent:

to respond with compassion to our neighbours in need by linking them to existing services, to volunteers from our member churches to ensure specific, practical and timely help is provided.

Member Churches

- Bethel Tabernacle, Wallaceburg
- Blenheim Christian Reformed Church
- Calvary Christian Reformed Church, Chatham
- Chatham Christian Centre
- Dresden Christian Reformed Church
- Emmanuel Baptist Church, Chatham
- Evangel Community Church, Chatham
- Faith Baptist Church, Wallaceburg
- Free Reformed Church, Chatham
- First Baptist Church, Wallaceburg
- First Christian Reformed Church, Chatham
- First Reformed Church, Chatham
- Grace Christian Reformed Church, Chatham
- Gregory Drive Alliance, Chatham
- Praise Fellowship, Chatham
- Shiloh Ministries, Wallaceburg
- St. James Anglican, Wallaceburg
- St. Joseph's Parish, Chatham
- St. Paul's Congregational Church, Chatham
- Trinity Associate Reformed Presbyterian, Chatham
- Thamesville United Church
- Trinity Christian Centre, Dresden
- The Gathering Place, Wallaceburg
- Voice of Triumph, Chatham
- Wallaceburg Christian Reformed Church
- Wheatley Baptist Church

Agency Relations

- World Vision
 - Operation Manna
 - Loads of Love
 - United Way of Chatham Kent
- Member Agencies*
- Food Link
- Community Family Fun Day*
- Community Cooking Clubs*
- Community Gardens*
- Food Banks*
- Soup Kitchens*
- Prosperity Roundtable
 - Cultural Coalition—Immigrants
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - ISARC (Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition)
 - Chatham and Wallaceburg Service Providers
 - Wrap-Around Shalem Mental Health Network

Tough times for many in Chatham-Kent

There are tough times for many in Chatham-Kent. The NeighbourLink network is growing as more churches work together, across denominational lines to meet the needs in a coordinated way. Our ministry is growing because Christians are seeking a way to meet the serious needs in our community.

The Harvest Field is ripe ... Get Connected...

NeighbourLink Chatham-Kent

519 352-5647

Spring 2012

519 352-5647



NeighbourLink

NeighbourLink Chatham - Kent

Helping Churches Help People in Need



NeighbourLink

Chatham-Kent

Box 1342, Chatham, ON N7L 5L9

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“Under His direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”

Ephesians 4:16

WE HAVE MOVED!!

God has opened the door for a new location right in the centre of Chatham 40 Centre Square, Thank you to a wonderful, kind and giving group of Christian business men that have made that possible.

We are so grateful to “Loads of Love” for the years we spent together at our former location, for the wonderful cooperation in ministry, the relationships built and for the continued challenge of working together in service to Chatham-Kent.



We also acknowledge the help we received from Maple City Business Solutions with the use of a cube van for our move and the ongoing technical support they provide.



We are thanking God for the growth and ministry expansion that required us to relocate.

A NeighbourLink Story

Mrs B is a widow in her mid 50's. She has no biological family support, or friends that are capable of helping her. Her boy friend is a long-time alcoholic. He frequently beat her when he was drunk. He often stole her money and sold her belongings to buy alcohol. On more than one occasion he threatened to kill her, and has tried to strangle her.

She befriended a couple from one of our **NeighbourLink churches**. Her new lady friend took photos of the bruises and encouraged Mrs B to call the police, throw the boy friend out, or move, or all of the above. Mrs. B felt incapacitated to act for fear of repercussions, and the dread of being alone. After several months of encouragement she agreed that she should move.

Mrs B's new friends developed a plan to ensure her safety from the boy friend. They found her a safe place to live in a peaceful neighbourhood, recruited 5 male and 4 female **volunteers from a NeighbourLink church**, and collected boxes after renting a moving truck. Early one January morning they descended upon the house before the boy friend knew what hit him. Less than five hours later Mrs B and all her worldly possessions were packed, loaded in trucks and cars, moved to the new safe location. Everything was unloaded, bed assembled, furniture in place, clothes hanging in the closets, boxes ready to unpack, moving van returned and paid for— and all the volunteers back to their own business. One neighbour stayed to help her unpack.

The following Sunday Mrs B was in church thanking those who helped her. Five days after the move Mrs B has most of her boxes unpacked, her new home organized, and 2 of our **NeighbourLink church volunteers** cleaning up her short list of odd jobs. She's looking forward to a brighter future. She told her new friends, "All I ever wanted was to be happy".

Upcoming / Ongoing fundraising events:

- * **Church Rep Meeting**—Thursday, May 10th—Location TBA
- * **Chilled Cork Restaurant** (at Retro Suites) 22 William Street, Chatham
Enjoy **Breakfast any day**, or **Weekend Brunch** and mention NeighbourLink to your server to have 10% of your food order donated to us!
- * **"We are Christ" Day**— Saturday, June 23rd in Dresden. Mark this date on your calendars. ** *Volunteers are needed for this event!*

Thank you for supporting NeighbourLink!

Backyard Mission Trips 2012 ... your help is needed

- NeighbourLink member churches are looking for local 1 or 2 day outdoor repair / maintenance projects in our community
- If you know a person or family we may be able to share Jesus' love with, please contact the NeighbourLink office for eligibility criteria and details.

For more information :

- * Check our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/neighbourlinkck/>
- * Contact the NeighbourLink office at 519 352-5647

A NeighbourLink Story

A man from the community walked into one of our member churches the night of a bible study

He was in a fragile condition and needed some help. The group was small and listened to his story. His story was relayed to the pastor and he soon met with him to again tell his story. The church wrapped themselves around him.

He needed housing, furniture and many other things. NeighbourLink gave some direction on housing, a referral for furniture from Loads of Love. A NeighbourLink volunteer provided his truck to deliver the items and a friend to support him as he needed.

This man did have a church background, and he is now coming back to church and other functions that will provide him a support system, love and fellowship.

Thank you

- *To all the many volunteers, and individual, business and corporate donors* who have been part of our recent fundraising projects. We would not be able to reach out to our community without you!

Congratulations

- *To Mr. Jim Paddon* from St. Joseph's Catholic Church. He is the new Ontario President for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Two of his goals are to look at, and implement ways of systemic change to help those in need.

Opportunities for service

- **Community Family Fun Day!**
- **Community Gardens**
- **Backyard Missions Trip or Short-term projects**
- **Community Kitchens**
- **Habitat for Humanity**
- **Food Drive** for local food banks
- **Loads of Love**—volunteers needed (front office staff, showroom staff, cashiers, donations sorter, furniture pick-up & delivery, bicycle repair, computer repair, providing lunch for volunteers, person skilled with electronics, antique buff, and more!)
- **Fundraising**—Car Wash, Yard Sale, Spaghetti Dinner, Christian Concert, etc. We'll be happy to work with you!
- **Committee members**—to serve in various NeighbourLink areas



**Thank you to all our volunteers for your continued service!
We couldn't be His hands and feet without you!**