

# City of Refuge

Summer 2002

A Voice from the Street

Vol. 1 - Issue 1

## Companions & Contracts: Making Changes One Step at a Time

By the time Ted was 13 years old, he thought his best option in life was to join a gang. Over two decades later he has experienced many "options" including sleeping on bridge girders in the Rosedale Ravine, doing crack for days on end, sleeping in a different church basement every night of the week, numbing the pain with alcohol, going in and out of hostels (some crowded & some not), and dealing large amounts of dope.

Over the last few years, Ted has come to a place where he wants to try some different options. He wants to make some changes. He would like to find stable permanent housing. He would like to be able to have ten dollars in his pocket and not spend it on drugs or give it to friends to do the same. He would like to find healthy pastimes.

Where can he start? Well, Ted has been part of the Sanctuary community for many years. When he began coming in for a meal, he was surprised that people asked him "How is your day going?" and "How have you been since we last saw you?". He was struck by how much they cared. Over the years, Ted has gotten to know several staff members and been able to share his struggles with a few of them. Given all of the hard things he has endured, it is understandable that Ted finds trusting people a real challenge. At this point, he isn't prepared to see a therapist, but he is willing for friends from Sanctuary to come alongside him.

In the last year, Ted has embarked on a more formal arrangement to help him to work towards change. With a staff member, he has identified his goals, and

together they work out manageable steps to get there as well as the consequences for falling down. They have put these together in a simple contract. For example, Ted wants accountability for how he spends money. (Growing up, banks were for robbing and money for spending since tomorrow was too uncertain.)

He now has a joint account with a staff member and has set limits on how much money he can access. He is required to provide receipts for all his spending, and has decided that, if he blows it, he will lose (for a time) certain privileges he enjoys at Sanctuary.

Erinn Oxford, the staff member who pioneered this form of rehabilitation, maintains contracts with up to four people at a time. As you can imagine, this type of support is very time intensive.

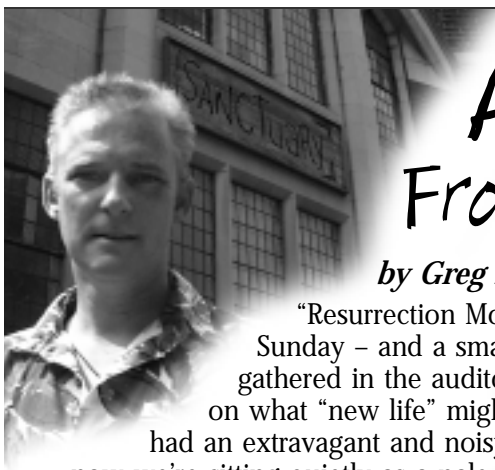
Erinn typically meets with people

at least twice a week for a check-in time, as well as spending additional time assisting the individuals with others involved in their recovery (e.g. counsellor, doctor, housing worker). According to Erinn, "Everything we do, we do together." She emphasizes that each community member sets their own goals, and that every contract is different.

When asked what is unique about this approach, Erinn identifies the intensive one-on-one format, the member-directed goal setting, the wholistic approach (includes physical, emotional and spiritual aspects) and the consistency of relationship. She explains, "The one thing that doesn't change is my commitment to that relationship. I won't cut off the relationship, no matter where that person is at." ■



*Erinn Oxford (right) with a community member*



# A View From Here

by Greg Paul, Director

"Resurrection Morning" – Easter Sunday – and a small group has gathered in the auditorium to reflect on what "new life" might mean. We've had an extravagant and noisy brunch, and now we're sitting quietly as a pale sun fumbles through tall windows and dapples us with gentle light. Easter seems to have grown more potent each year at Sanctuary.

Into this attentive silence she speaks, softly and with little inflection: "I have come to believe that resurrection is possible."

For me, she means. Resurrection is possible for me. For a woman in her forties who has stock-piled a lifetime of reasons why God must be dead, absent, incompetent or malicious. Who has heard too often just why she must be excluded from a grace that seems improbable anyway. Resurrection is possible – for a person who had a normal life, whatever "normal" means, before losing her job, her condo, her possessions, her cats and, almost, her sanity.

"Normal" now means sharing an average-sized bedroom – no door – with five others, and considering herself privileged because she's not out in the main room where sixty-some bunk together in the basement of a church. It means receiving welfare, a repugnant

thought, but not receiving enough to actually buy the food she needs herself. "Normal" means trying to look for a job, but having to "volunteer" at local charities in order to get the workfare subsidy that will allow her to buy bus tickets. It means repeating to herself, "Why am I here? I am not like these others ..." and then discovering that, in many ways, she is! Discovering she actually likes and cares about people she might never have given the time of day to back when "normal" was normal! People who are addicted and luckless and mentally scattered ... and homeless. People who tripped and fell, and are now facing a long, slippery climb without a rope or safety net.

Resurrection is what snatches you out of the grave after you've been there a while. It's the power of God that blows the stone door off the tomb and animates a corpse still stiff with rigor mortis. This particular resurrection begins when he dynamites her assumptions and reveals that this improbable grace is not only real, it's for her. The place she's forced to turn to for food turns out to feel like home, and "volunteer" hours spent in the kitchen there provide the affirmation and inspiration needed for a new career.

Some six weeks after Resurrection Morning, that new life is still flowing. She's got an apartment of her own, and a job! A place where she loves and is beloved! And an impossible, up-from-the-grave conviction: Jesus is for her. Forever.

*"I want to know Christ, and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead ..."*

The Apostle Paul, Phil. 3:10,11 ■

## Breaking N•E•W•S

Paul Baetz



We're delighted to have welcomed Paul Baetz as a staff member in January. Paul has been a member of the Sanctuary community for a number of years, active both on street outreach teams and as an important part of the Sanctuary church. He has worked for The Dam Youth Drop-in in Streetsville, the YMCA, Stonegate

Ministries (all geared toward youth at risk), and the Good Shepherd Hostel. Paul did a field placement with us in 1998/99 on his way to completing his Masters of Divinity degree at Wycliffe College. His main work is in the areas of street outreach and drop-ins. Paul was commissioned to this work by the church at Sanctuary, where he preaches periodically.

## Steve Martin in "Faith Today"

Recently our own Steve Martin was featured on the cover of "Faith Today" magazine. An indepth article discussed how Steve and his wife Crystal, reach out to bikers through their ministry called "Peacemakers".



Steve and Crystal have started the summer bike season. From now until September, most weekends will be filled with their ministry to the "ABATE Motorcycle Association" where Steve serves as chaplain. During such events the Martins interact with other bikers including those from outlaw groups. Please pray for their safety, their ability to minister effectively, and enjoyment of the freedom of the road.

If you would like a copy of the Faith Today issue, contact Steve at [stephenm@sanctuaryministries.on.ca](mailto:stephenm@sanctuaryministries.on.ca).

# Faces of Our Community

## Kate Jones

Kathryn, Kat, Kathy – whatever name tag you hang on her, Kate Jones is a beloved and instantly recognizable member of the Sanctuary community. She began coming around about the same time that the name went on the building, almost ten years ago, and she's been a fixture ever since. Kate has cooked in the kitchen, done our bookkeeping, inspired us in worship and led us in prayer, conducted Bible studies and participated in a host of other activities.



Kate is also a long-serving member of our Board of Directors, and functions as our financial manager. She's far from being a mere "bean counter", though. Kate is famous for her huge and tender heart. Through the years, she has been like a mother or a big sister to a number of our younger street friends, faithfully supporting them through addiction, court dates and incarceration, pregnancy and Children's Aid actions, suicide attempts, rehabilitation and more. And she has juggled all this while maintaining her own bookkeeping business!

## Bayview Glen Church

Partnerships are essential if we are to care well for those in our community. One such partnership is with Bayview Glen Church in Thornhill, Ont.



Small groups from this large church come on Saturday mornings to help with the Breakfast Club. Arriving at 7:00 a.m. these folks work hard over the next 3 hours preparing and cleaning up breakfast for more than 100 people. Eager to be used in this way they bring a tremendous gift to our community. Not only do they convey the message that there are people who care, but they powerfully demonstrate the servant heart of Jesus. Last year the CAPS group donated their expertise, materials and labour to improve the entrance, stairways and main floor auditorium of Sanctuary. There was much celebration as everyone worked together. As well, others from Bayview Glen participate in prayer walks following maps outlining the various needs in the area and our outreach activities.

We are grateful for the ways that our partnership with Bayview Glen has strengthened Sanctuary's ministry.

## Paul Mackle

It's hard to remember a time when Paul Mackle hasn't been around. For years, he faithfully prepared the food for the weekday drop-ins, stretching the food to feed everyone on a very limited budget. His consistent willingness to be involved in meal preparation has inspired others to share this role which has freed Paul up to pursue other interests. However, he still performs the essential task of making sure the coffee's perking! Paul has

a real love and care for the people in the community. He also has a real love of hiking and canoeing. In his new initiative called "**Street To Trail**", Paul is seeking to make it possible for



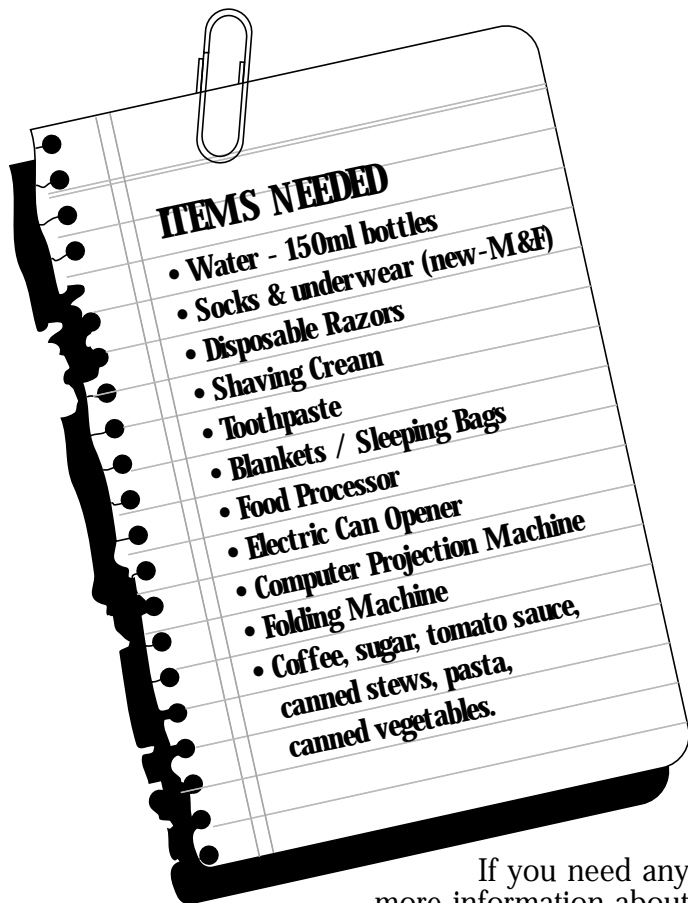
*Paul Mackle - third from right*

people to get away from the City to experience nature. For more information leave a message for Paul (416) 922-0628 ext. 10. As Paul has seen the growth and changes that have taken place in Sanctuary over the years, so too, we at Sanctuary have witnessed the growth and changes that have taken place in Paul. And that's exciting!

## Aileen Fisher

Aileen's first introduction to Sanctuary was through her daughter, Helyn. Recently retired, and looking for ways to invest her new-found free time, Aileen joined us on Wednesdays to help with lunch preparations. That was 4 years ago. She still comes faithfully each week. What started as involvement with food preparation has extended far beyond that. As Aileen has come to understand and embrace the intent of our drop-ins, she has invested herself in building relationships with many of the folks who also come faithfully each week. She has patiently coached students who come to assist with cooking and is always eager to share with them what Sanctuary has come to mean to her. Her maturity and willingness to listen have endeared her to many.





If you need any more information about these items or to arrange pick up, please give us a call at 416-922-0628 Linda @ ext.10 or Kathy @ ext. 11.

## Yes, I want to partner with you.

- ☐ My church/workplace should hear about Sanctuary.
- ☐ I would like to participate in a **street orientation**.
- ☐ I commit to **pray** for the Sanctuary community.
- ☐ I want to **financially support** your ministry:
  - ☐ where most needed
  - ☐ Staff Name \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ Street Outreach
  - ☐ Meal Programs
  - ☐ Health Care
- ☐ Tell me how I can support Sanctuary on a **monthly basis**.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_

Email.: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make donations payable to: **Sanctuary Ministries of Toronto**

## NEW & Noteworthy

**Red Rain**, the rhythm'n'blues band which was the "seed" of Sanctuary, is planning on recording its first full length CD since 1995. They have a great opportunity to work on this project with Doug Romanow, a Juno-nominated producer who played with the band briefly many years ago. If you are interested in learning more, or in supporting this project, please contact Greg at 416-922-0628, ext. 13, or [gregp@sanctuaryministries.on.ca](mailto:gregp@sanctuaryministries.on.ca).

### NEXT Community Concert October 4, 2002

We at Sanctuary have much to celebrate including the blessings of a welcoming building and a diverse community with many different gifts. So, on June 14th, we gathered for a big party, complete with singing, dancing, storytelling and photography. We would love you to come and be a part of these regular celebrations. It is also an opportunity for us to say thank you for your prayer and financial support. **Our next evening will be Friday, October 4 @ 8:00 p.m.**

**BARRIER FREE ACCESS IN PROGRESS** – The Trillium Foundation has agreed to give Sanctuary \$202,800 in funding over the next four years! This summer we will begin renovations to make the building accessible (a wheelchair elevator and a barrier-free washroom). Next year, we will receive seed money for two new direct service positions related to employment and the arts. Trillium has also provided us with three years of arts programming funding.

(Sanctuary gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, which receives annually \$100 million in government funding generated through Ontario's charity casino initiative.)



A first century church leader was accused of hiding away great stores of wealth. When asked to reveal it he brought hundreds of blind, crippled and very poor people to his accuser. Today this city has many people whose only handicap is poverty and yet we fail to see their value.

If we believe that we are all created in God's image then we must look for it in every individual.

**Mustard Tree** is a new initiative at Sanctuary. Its goal is to create a supportive environment for those with barriers to meaningful work. Why? So they can discover who God has created them to be. Why? So we can see His face.

For more information on Mustard Tree contact Wayne Rumsby at [wayne@sanctuaryministries.on.ca](mailto:wayne@sanctuaryministries.on.ca)

# [SANCTUARY]

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