



Easter & Spring 2015

Henry U. passed away on December 12, 2014 at 60 years of age. Henry lived with mental illness and addictions most of his life, **“yet despite his struggles he revealed a sensitive gentle spirit, humble heart and genuine concern for others”** as shared in his obituary. Henry’s sister Elvera wrote to us in January to share, on behalf her mother, brother, sister and their families, their profound gratitude for the support and services Henry received from Wesley Day Centre. Due to the fact he did not have his own personal phone, Henry would often phone from Wesley Day Centre to arrange cherished family visits.

“We want to thank you for helping us keep in touch with him in this way and also for the other services you did for him and for others in need,” wrote Elvera.

Dear Friends,

As we anticipate the new life of spring and Easter, I am reminded of how love and hope can take root and grow in our lives despite great sadness and pain. I wanted to share Henry’s story with you and thank you for your past charitable support. While Henry struggled and experienced great challenges in life, it is with your help that we were able to offer meals, a phone and a stable, safe place for him to access community supports. For his family, this critical connection was invaluable and a life-line to their brother and son, whom they deeply loved.

As Anita, Henry’s sister, wrote in Henry’s life story for his funeral, Henry’s life was much more than his mental illness. He worked for a time at General Motors and at Hildebrandt Ironworks, and enjoyed working out at the gym and karate. He completed two years at Brock University in an English program, with the hopes of one day becoming a writer. He would often send to his family books he enjoyed, as well as letters and poems.

As a **valued donor**, you played a significant part in bringing love and hope into Henry’s life and enabling him to connect with his family. It is only with help from donors like you that our staff and volunteers can provide the much needed compassionate support to marginalized and vulnerable men, women, children, youth and seniors, every step of the way.

This year, Wesley Urban Ministries is proud to be celebrating our 60th anniversary! What began as a senior's outreach tea in the basement of Wesley United Church has since grown significantly in response to current research in best practices, preventative approaches to poverty, and the overwhelming need throughout the Hamilton community.

In an effort to honour our anniversary as well as the individuals, like Henry, that we support every day, I invite you to make a donation this spring and Easter. I can assure you that your donation will directly impact the lives of marginalized and vulnerable individuals in our community. Learn more about our financial statistics, including our low fundraising expenses of just 3%, in the 2013/2014 Annual Report available at <http://wesley.ca/publications/annual-reports/>

Here's how your spring donation will make a difference! You can make a donation securely online at <http://wesley.ca/donate/>

- A \$50 Donation = provides 20 hot lunches and the availability of the phone, showers, laundry facilities and access to community supports
- A \$100 Donation = provides 4 life skills workshops on budgeting, cooking, cleaning and time management for at-risk youth
- A \$500 Donation = provides the participation of 5 children in March Break and Summer Camps with games, crafts, leadership development and fun
- A \$1,000 Donation = provides 1 individual with weekly critical interventions, recreational activities and harm reduction supports

Thank you greatly for considering my invitation and I wish you love, hope and much happiness this spring!

Sincerely,



Daljit Garry
Executive Director

P.S. At Henry's funeral Anita shared that when Henry was in more stable condition, she and her brother Vic would travel to Hamilton and they would go for walks at Bayfront Park or visit the local Tim Hortons. She recalls their last Hamilton visit where Henry, **"enjoyed rollkuchen (a fried pastry) and arbuse (watermelon), a Mennonite favourite dish in our family. On our last visit, we brought him some from mom, made fresh the morning of our visit. Despite his illness and the marginal life he lived, Henry cared about others, and knew we cared about him. The last thing he said to me when we visited him, was 'I love you Anita.' The last thing I said to him was 'I love you Henry.'"**

Thank you for helping to make this last Hamilton visit between Henry and his family possible!