



Reflections

A Publication From Jewels For Jesus Mission Inc.

September 2011

Volunteers...the life blood of Jewels For Jesus

Jewels For Jesus is like many other non-profit organizations – dependent on the efforts and energy of its many volunteers and supporters. We regularly thank God for His blessings in this area, and want to acknowledge some of the very dedicated folk who serve in this capacity.

Board – The members of the Jewels For Jesus board are a diverse and committed group. With service records ranging from 2 years to 30 years, we are blessed by their faithful leading. Many are adoptive parents, who came to know the work of Jewels as we prayerfully matched their families with little ones in need. Board members meet 8 or 10 times per year, and manage many aspects of the organization. In addition, each board member has a special area of focus, related to their unique gifts and abilities. Together, they comprise a well rounded and caring management team, and we thank God for them!

Students / Care Cupboard Volunteers – If you read the newsletter, you know that we are often introducing a new temporary addition to the staff in the form of a summer student or co-op placement. These amazing young women have blessed our ministry richly. They bring willingness, a strong work ethic and love for their work and the clients, and quickly become part of the team on all levels.

We are also blessed by the services of **Lorna Lebert**, who comes in almost every week to sort clothes for the Care Cupboard. Lorna's life is busy and not without its own challenges, and when she is at Jewels, she brings her full focus to getting through as many bags of donated children's clothing as she can! It is simply amazing to witness the amount of work she can do in less than two hours!

Handyman – **Andy Lodge** has been our "handyman" since 2002. Not only does Andy fix things around here, he also keeps us smiling! Andy has also supported our

Board of Directors

Andrew MacLean
Heinz Haischt
Gord Dueck
David Ellis
Maureen Brown
Joy Rapley

Golf Tournament by rounding up foursomes and donating awesome items for our silent auction – and this year is no exception! When asked how and why he got involved, Andy replied with the following:

"Flattered that I was asked.....thanks.....I don't feel I'm in the same category as some of your more 'direct' volunteers.....I prefer to be very much one of those 'behind the scenes' guys (wa-a-a-a-y behind the scene!).

As well, you and your staff have been quite naughty/negligent in NOT asking me to do stuff, so there's not much to report.

I can say that I got involved by a simple request.....in hindsight it seemed very ask-and-ye-shall-receive-ish.....your former leader (Joan Kosmachuk) attended our church, and asked one day if anyone could help paint at their newly expanded offices.....well.....turns out I know how to paint, so I said I'll help.....and voila.....over the years I've helped a bit.....feast or famine mind you.....sometimes there's quite a few projects/fix-its.....and sometimes not much to do.

But I'm happy to help in this way wherever I can.

Keep up all the good work you do.....and please break something soon!!!! Hahahahahaha"

Bernice Christo – you have surely seen Bernice's name associated with the Golf Tournament this year. Bernice expressed interest in volunteering during a volunteer

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Volunteers, cont'd

fair at Portico church last fall, and her organizational, leadership and management skills have been working in full force as she pulls together all of the pieces of the Golf Tournament. Last year the organization of the tourney was left to our already busy board and staff – making for a very stressful and hectic summer. This year, the planning team is taking care of the details. Bernice shared her reasons for becoming involved:

"For the past couple years an item on my to-do list stated " Volunteer with a Christian Organization" Well this finally happened when I got involved with the Jewels For Jesus Mission approximately one year ago. I have been blessed to meet a very passionate and refreshing group of Christians with whom I interact as a volunteer at the Mission. Currently I am assisting with the planning for the 6th Annual Golf Tournament even though my knowledge of the sport is extremely limited.

Having worked in the financial / insurance industry for my entire career, it's a welcomed change to have this involvement which is so differently oriented. I feel myself more spiritually focused and with a sense of gratitude for being able to make a contribution towards such a worthwhile mission. It's also a learning experience to see how lives can be changed as a result of others who give so willingly of their time and skills. I often ask myself "why did it take you so long to get involved?" But I can really see that every little bit helps and it's never too late!!!"

Jeff Petch – long time supporter and adoptive dad, Jeff, and his wife Elizabeth, have volunteered in a wide

variety of ways over the years. Jeff is lending his expertise and love of golf, once again, to the golf tournament planning team this year.

This is just a sampling of the many people whose volunteer efforts keep the ministry at Jewels For Jesus focused and effective. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our volunteers – you are the life blood of God's work through Jewels For Jesus!

Care Cupboard Christmas Party

The annual Care Cupboard Christmas Party is scheduled for Thursday, December 15th. This yearly bash is not only an opportunity for our Care Cupboard families to relax and have some fun, it's an opportunity for us to share with our families the good news of Christ's birth and why He came.

You can help by:

Donating:

- \$25 grocery gift cards
- new pajamas (sizes 0 to 8)
- new toys (value \$20) for children age 0 – 6 yrs.
- \$10 Zeller's gift cards for children age 7 – 10 yrs.
- items to treat the moms, eg. socks, bath items, candles, gloves and hats, coffee mugs, journals, nice pens/pencils
- items to treat the dads, eg. socks, after shave, gloves and toques, coffee mugs, pens, Tim Hortons gift cards
- gift wrap, very large and small/medium gift bags

Volunteering:

- to wrap gifts prior to the event
- the day of the party (9 a.m. to noon) to help with set up, serving food, supervising crafts and games, interacting with the guests, and cleaning up.

Financial donations, designated for the party, will be used to buy food.

We would also be willing to shop for you.

Let us know if you're available and interested in helping out!



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Needs Corner

- Boys and girls fall and winter clothing sizes 0 – 6X, but particularly boys sizes 5, 6 and 6X
- Diapers, but especially sizes 4, 5 and 6
- Formula
- Wipes

THERE IS STILL TIME TO JOIN THE FUN!!

Jewels For Jesus Golf Tournament

September 24th, 2011

**Richmond Hill Golf Club
8755 Bathurst Street
Richmond Hill
Ontario L4C-0H4**

Phone: 905-889-4653

September 24th, 2011

**Pkg: \$150 per player
(golf, lunch and dinner)**

Dinner only: \$50.

Registration: 12:00 noon

**Complimentary bucket of
balls plus free tips on the
Driving Range from a
CPGA Professional!**

Shotgun Tee Off : 1:30

**Enjoy a complete
program including:**

- 18 holes of golf (including cart)
- Lunch
- Silent Auction
- Dinner and awards presentation

To register now, call: :

- Jewels For Jesus @ 905-821-7494, or
- Go to www.JewelsForJesus.net



New Venue!! Richmond Hill Golf Course -18th Green

www.richmondhillgolf.com

We are excited about the new venue for our upcoming Golf Tournament to be held on **Saturday, September 24th** at the beautiful Richmond Hill Golf Club. We are eagerly looking forward to a great day of golf and we hope you will be able to join us.

Registration begins at 12:00 noon with a shotgun tee off at 1:30 pm. As in past years, we will use **best ball format**.

We hope you will enjoy the fun of participating in our putting competition as well as the exciting raffle at one of the holes.

The cost for this event is only **\$150**. This price includes 18 holes of golf, riding cart, lunch, dinner and various awards.

There will be an awards presentation, silent auction and dinner directly after golf in the Club's dining room.

To help us plan for this event, you can register now by going to www.JewelsForJesus.net.

Dress Code in effect:

- Standard dress code includes a collared shirt, khaki shorts or pants and golf shoes or running shoes
- Blue jeans, T-shirts, tank tops, tracksuits, gym outfits and hard spiked shoes are NOT permitted to be worn on the Course



Strategically Planning for a God-Driven Future

For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jer. 29:11

Jewels For Jesus wants to be the best we can be. As a Christian organization we want to be all God intends for us to be. The people we minister to deserve the best support God's people can offer and this is our humble goal and commitment to those who look to us for help and hope.

Like many organizations, Jewels For Jesus is trying to be proactive and strategic in our ministry. We know the importance of looking back at what we've done and how we've done – program evaluation. We know the importance of being relevant to a world of people with crises and crushed hopes – needs assessment. And we know the importance of making good plans for future ministry so that we can continue and, by God's grace, improve in our efforts to help. Some call this strategic planning. As God's people we think of it equally as strategic listening: as we evaluate, assess and plan we are also praying and listening for God's direction in every step we take.

In late 2010, the board of Jewels For Jesus embarked on an in-depth program evaluation exercise followed by an intense strategic planning focus. One of the earliest steps involved interviews with key supporters and stakeholders, along with board and staff members, people intimately connected to Jewels. They passionately provided feedback on questions about strengths, weaknesses, programs, fundraising, image and more.

Gathering the feedback was valuable and encouraging. Jewels For Jesus has a very positive reputation among those interviewed. There was also a high degree of commonality in many of the responses. A sampling of the feedback about strengths is that 100% of respondents cited the staff, level of service and Christian commitment as key strengths. From a staff perspective, the working environment, that is the level of care and affirmation that is given and received among the team, allows them to serve others in the same way. Under weaknesses, interviewees shared mutual concerns over limited resources – staff and finances.

It was also revealing, during this time of seeing ourselves through the eyes of so many individuals with such varied vantage points, that the majority of our key supporters feel Jewels For Jesus is in need of an updated image that communicates with more clarity who we are and what we do.

The board has spent a great deal of time, since late 2010, in discussions and prayer about this feedback, coupled with their collective insights from many years of experience with Jewels. The board has prayerfully struggled through the idea of an image change through a name change that will better communicate who we are to those who need the help and hope we offer. In the past months we've explored potential new names, logos and images as we continued to prayerfully ask God to show us His best for this place.

The board remains firmly anchored in their passionate commitment to the fact that this is God's place and the foundational Christian truths that guide our decisions and actions must and will remain unchanged. The board is equally committed to ensuring that the quality of ministry remains unchanged. Wanting to keep a connection with our long and cherished history, we have opted to keep the initials of Jewels For Jesus as part of our new name. The tagline developed for the 60th anniversary celebrations – Building Families, Changing Lives – will likely also feature prominently in our new look, as it captures the essence of all that we do. Whether leading a pregnant mom through exploring her options to build her own family or place her child with an adoptive family, or helping an infertile couple's dream come true through adopting, or helping parents clothe, diaper and feed their little ones, or as we educate youth on the value of sexual integrity, we are "building families and changing lives".

These have been challenging months of soul searching and seeking God's face, but they have also been good months as we look to the future with hope and anticipation. We are excited to share our new name and look with you – stay tuned for the unveiling, which is coming soon!

