

Growing to Serve!

Dear Community Friends,



Over the past twenty five years God has led faithful people to defining moments of commitment such as starting up, growing and sustaining the work of Open Arms Mission. In the early years, the food bank served about 80 families a month, now in 2011, the food bank is serving more than 450 families a month. Open Arms Mission manages and operates the *Mission Center* on Fifth Street; *Redeemed Goods* on Crowland Avenue and *Redeemed Lives* on Forks Road. Today, we find ourselves at another dynamic moment of commitment that will take some of us *beyond our belief*, with an opportunity for property acquisition that will be a defining moment for us in 2011.

The Ministry and Operational Vision of OAM is rooted and most clearly defined in Matthew chapter 25. We know our future must maintain uncompromised commitment to the Gospel as we continue to define relevantly righteous services and be a vital care agent in the Niagara Region.

Our "Growing to Serve" expansion project is not just about property and buildings, nor is it just a journey to "a place". This venture is about people, community restoration and being relevant now and in the future.

The "Growing to Serve" project has been a prayer of the Board of Directors and on the study and work agenda for several years. Our ministry vision is not just a "bright idea"; it was born and nurtured in the soul of our leadership team. It has been affirmed by the Board of Directors and is now being put on paper so it may be shared and communicated to faithful supporters and friends of Open Arms Mission. It is an expression of hope for many people. A Property and Facility Use study is in process so our board can work with appropriate county boards for approvals. We are prayerfully implementing a capital campaign, through which, we believe God will help us discover and develop resources needed to fulfill His purposes. A Capital Campaign Steering Team is in place and is planning a campaign that is fiscally responsible, reasonable, and visionary. This capital campaign is a vital part of achieving our vision. We plan to pay down the property cost of \$580,000 as well as develop and renovate the property and buildings for maximum effectiveness. We know that new people will come with needs and opportunities—this will cost money. We have a million dollars of ministry and service needs at our doorstep. This is an incredible opportunity to be seized and a new, community focused, potential to be realized. We promise you we will do everything possible to make it a dynamic experience for Open Arms Mission and our community as we unite in this common purpose.

This letter of introduction is a call for you to share in the vision of the Board of Directors and Executive Leadership. We are in the process of defining and clarifying our ministry action plan for the next ten years and beyond. Just as ministry vision has established the mission impact of OAM at 2011, ***the future is established by the vision we embrace today.*** We are asking you to speak into our work by sharing any ideas you have to promote our ministry vision. We value your love, encouragement and support as we set forward. We ask you to imagine how we can love more people in the way of Jesus.

Throughout March and April you will be receiving more information on specifics of our project and ways in which you can participate in defining and achieving our vision. It is an exciting time to be part of Open Arms Mission as we discover and invest in what God is doing in our community.

In Christ's Love

Jerry Vanderklok, Executive Director

- Board of Directors -

Todd Dixon, Mark Garner, Gordon Pilkington, Carman Saltarelli, Bill Hlywka, Pete Bokma,
Phil Miller, Gerry Moore, Jerry Vanderklok, Executive Director

