

NEWLETTER Summer 2007

Dear Friends,

I cannot believe that another year has passed! We have sent out the tax receipts and thank you s to all those who have helped us this past year. You will notice that we now have our logo on a letterhead!

Thanks to Brian D.-thanks Brian! I have to thank ALL the volunteers who have prepared meals, given time, money and food!

Especially the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary who worked in the Madoc Foundation for 9 of its 10 years of operation! We thank you Sisters and all the volunteers who have worked with you! As of last summer, the Sisters are unable to help at the Madoc foundations. We and the Youth miss YOU and hopefully in the future we will have your presence again. Until last month April, Madoc has been open every school day from 11:00am until 1:30 pm as well as monthly for coffee houses! We are going to offer the youth and entrepreneurial education day and include them in more fund raising events! Madoc Foundation even had a float in the Christmas Parade and featured a

Nativity Scene in the window! We need more volunteers and are always eager to receive financial help! Many thanks to the Benefactors of this location especially our landlord Ron B., the CWL, The Thrift Shop, Home Hardware, Subway, Mr. Convenience, One Stop Butchers-thanks Tim-, the TWO LOONS and Darryl and Carol Anne K.! GOD BLESS you! I want to create a "list" I guess you could call it an honor roll where we will remember all those who have helped in any location in any way! We encourage the Youth to be thankful, for their food and to remember the people who have made Foundations possible in their community. Madoc has a large number of youth contacts, for the little store front location that it is. The Madoc FFF celebrated its 10th anniversary on Dec. 8th 2006! Knowing that the average number of meals per day is between 30 and 40 and sometimes as high as 50, I cannot fathom the number of times the soup bowls have been used! As many of you know, one of our Founding Board Members Troy Thompson lived there for the first two years!!

Without that first generous step, none of this would have happened! Thanks Troy! People still come back from years ago! Young adults now with families or in university and they still are grateful! Some tell us now of just how much it changed their lives and kept them out of trouble! Many also acknowledge how Providence was at work with them! I was told by one of the volunteers in Madoc, that a lady came in who said that she knew we fed teens but she had a hungry 4 year old in her car would we share with her? OF COURSE! A few minutes later a young man just signing up for adult ed came in and then an older gentleman...at first they said they weren't hungry but of course the volunteer knew they were and they left with heaping plates! In this Foundation there are many youth coming who are having difficulties at school, some with the law, and many who do not have the best home life and some who have no home and are on a friends couch. The volunteers encourage the Youth with their school work, encourage them to stay out of trouble and offer unconditional love and as well as the listening ear.

When I interviewed the youth and asked why they came to Foundations, many said the food, many more said because of the love they felt! One small secondary

student said he liked it because no one bullied any one there.

My heart cannot say thank you enough to the volunteers. God bless you!

Last spring we offered a FREE Retreat to our Volunteers. This was held at the old convent at St. Michaels in Belleville and our presenter was Fr. Joseph MacDonald who himself has worked with street people in Toronto most of his missionary life and also started a Charity

www.poverellocharities.ca

I am hoping that this day of Reflection for Volunteers can become an annual event.

Also, we are hoping that this news letter will be the first of a series of NEWSLETTERS! Communication once a year is not enough!

In our upcoming letters we will have little reports from our various locations. I am reporting on all the locations in this first letter and we will post this on our WEBSITE!

www.sandamianofoundation.ca

Yes we now have a website! Thanks to the contributions of the **ALVA FOUNDATION** we were able to create a website, update our Policies and Procedures Manual, create Volunteer Handbooks, stream line our forms, organize our ten years of history in a locking file cabinet and much more!

THANKS to the **NCC Corporation** we were able to open a location in

BELLEVILLE! This location is just starting out with baby steps! Already we have helped at least thirty different youth and young adults with food and even clothing! And in one instance by networking with a local church representative one young man had a safe place to sleep for 3 days instead of on the ground under trees. IF you can help please let us know the needs are great! WE MUST be OPEN more hours!! Currently we are only open Tuesdays after school 2:30 til 4:30 and Thursdays 7 pm til 10 pm. Many thanks to the Kennedy family for all their hard work cleaning, painting and setting the place up! AND also Tim H. and Chris S.! I cannot forget Chad D. painting and Stephen D. bringing us much needed water!! Also the good people who donated tables, chairs, pool table, crock pot, ping pong table, fridge and freezer!!! Please pray for this location! I met one young lad in front of this store front who was hoping the little sign saying Foundations opening soon was the same as the location in Madoc! He had grown up in Madoc and often visited Foundations. He had gotten into some trouble with drugs and the law and spent some time away. Now he was free of his addiction seeking work and offered to help us when we were open! _!

BELLEVILLE LOCATION needs

more volunteers and funding to expand our hours and programs!

What about TWEED? The Foundations in Tweed is operating in St. John's United Church Basement after school two days a week while the building where our store front will be undergoes a major renovation! Thank you St. Johns! Tweed is another area where youth are always hungry! AND always looking for safe places of fellowship! Much thanks to the Municipality of Tweed, the Youth Action Committee, Robert C. our landlord and the McGlaughlin Auto Club for their support and donations!! We have a stove thanks Tim and Elizabeth! We have tables and chairs and cupboard thanks to awesome volunteer Gloria Brown and we have a refrigerator! We have had harmonica lessons thanks to Gord S. and sports and games nights thanks to Lisa L. and now the YFC are having something in our location for older teens once a week, thanks Chris B! We need it all!

Last year, **thanks to the support of Pastor Greg Dyson** of the Lions Den in Springfield Mass and his visit with an amazing Drama Team TNT, we were able to give some drama presentations regarding the danger of drugs at Monkfest, and schools in Tweed, Madoc and Trenton! www.lionsden.org At one of the Elementary Schools in Tweed, the auditorium held about

120 youth grades 6,7 and 8. To my surprise when the questions were asked "how many here know people who abuse drugs and alcohol and how many here have been frightened by what they have seen?" Approximately 85 % or more raised their hands!! I think that even the teachers were surprised at the numbers! Another thing that Foundations does is discourage Drug Use and educate youth and children about the HIGH RISK of even one use! WE all know that the "target customers" of the DRUG DEALING ADULTS are OUR CHILDREN!! I was fortunate to attend the first ever National Catholic YOUTH Conference the beginning of last year and I learned a lot about drugs and media and the effects on our YOUTH!

Unfortunately many of the teens and children we see in Foundations live with parents who do drugs and in some cases grow drugs! We have to start younger and younger to educate and protect our children! In Tweed we have children who are as young as 7 yrs old who come for something to eat and to play games after school. We will need different programs for different ages soon in this town. Please pray that our permanent location is ready soon! Thank you!
What about **TRENTON!!!** GOD bless Murray Black! Not only is he on our Board of Directors but he is

the Director of the Local Foundation! Much thanks also to Chad D, Wayne B., Mary Ellen S., Tim H. and Jim P.! These volunteers make it happen! Jim has set up drum pads and is teaching the youth how to drum! Murray is always singing and showing guitar chords on Friday nights and recently we had someone donate a piano!! It sounds great needless to say Trenton has a small stage and music is a big thing there! Trenton is open Thursdays after school from 2:30 til 4:30, Fridays from 7pm until 10 pm or so and Sunday afternoons. On occasions, the social justice group from St. Pauls Secondary School, or YFC Campus Life use the facility. On Sundays St. Peters Folk group meets and practices before 5 pm Mass, on Fridays always soup and coffee and unplugged music, on Thursdays always soup and coffee and juice as well as games and conversation and prayer! Most of the Youth on Thursday come from St. Peters Elementary School as well as some youth from St. Pauls Secondary and Trenton Secondary. Youth from St. Peters are learning about service and St. Francis! Many of these youth, then go with us to St. Peters 4:30 pm Mass! Several have started helping during Liturgies and others have taken it upon themselves to tidy the books and lift the kneelers! Some of these young people don't get to Church

on the weekends. We generally have from 10 to 20 youth on Thursdays.

We have a little sharing circle after we've eaten. Last week there was a new lad there. It was his first visit and he is in grade 8. He asked for prayers drug addicts and especially for his mom who is addicted to cocaine. ☹️ I thanked him for sharing and said we would pray for him too because that must be hard and he agreed. The needs are great everywhere! I am sure Murray will tell us some of the stories that have made foundations a life saver and how Any night he s there how hungry children come in! Fridays are consistently busy there are 20 to 40 youth! Once again thanks to St. Peters for past support and the KOC as well as Ebenezer Christian Reform Church, the Lions and Lioness and a 'private family foundation' for helping with our rent!! **WE NEED pledges for TRENTON desperately right now!**

Can you help?

THANK YOU to the GLEANERS FOOD BANK for helping us feed all these youth!!!!

St. Francis House, had several visitors and guests in the little Prayer Cabin and MONKFEST was successful in 2006 and 2007! Over 200 Youth attended and over 20 BANDS!! Including Critical Mass! Thanks to David Wang from this group, for the article on

Monkfest that he featured in his column in the Catholic Register which is a National News Paper, in2006! Many thanks to TAS, Santa Maria foods, the OPP, Dave Rogers and St. John's Ambulance, UCB, MIX 97, Chisolm Mills, HUGHES ELECTRIC, Madoc Madoc Timbermart and **HARMONY MUSIC!!!** The sound was great! Thanks to our sound guys! Chris Burke, Joe Kennedy, Brent Kelly and Murray Black! This year our sound man **Peter Hone** and his crew did an amazing job as well as **Alex Jeffrey** lighting and **Ken McDavitt** who created DVD's! WE had two stages one more of an acoustic solo area as well as the loud full band area! Many of the Bands liked it and have said they will bring their families next year! Can't forget the Freemans! Always helping! AND the Anchor of Hope who promoted Life and sold FOOD to raise \$\$for their organization in 2006! This year the funds were for Monkfest and Foundations and we covered our costs! Another very popular part of the Monkfest experience is the STATIONS for the NATIONS!! A prayer walk that follows the traditional "way of the cross" BUT adds a prayer focus on urgent needs of the world and from all the world. There are 14 Stations and there are 7 Continents. We endeavor to have representation of all the continents on this walk.

THANKS to the SHOMY Youth Group in Madoc who did amazing stations this year!

This event has had many many positive human encounters amongst the Youth, the BANDS and the VOLUNTEERS. I am so grateful for the volunteers these last two years! Jen, Ed, Tricia, Ian, Joy, Chris, Jen, Tenzin, Daniel, Al Jacquie, Amanda, Stefanie, Gudrun and the YOUTH helpers!!

There are many more people that I could name and would like to thank but then this letter would be a book!

Please forgive me if you don't see your name here and it should be! AND let me know that you would like to be included in our Honour Roll OR if you prefer to remain anonymous.

AND last but not least, let us not forget that the SDF also helped sponsor the Centre Hastings SKATEPARK! What the people have done to fund raise for this park is amazing!! The SDF is the Registered Charity Incorporation that could issue tax receipts. The Skatepark falls under the SDF corporate objectives by providing a "safe place" for Youth to gather in a "peaceful" and safe setting! Also away from the worries of the world! SPORT is such a wonderful thing for people especially YOUTH AND there is NO GRAFFITTI! Remember the Foundations Code of Conduct, really it is our code of honour "Respect yourself,

Respect others and Respect the Place". Much thanks to Carman and Jane Donato for their great Foundation support in Madoc and also for spear heading this much needed project! Also much thanks to Judy S. from the Skate Park committee and Sharon at our accountants Kerry Soden and Co. for all their hard work!!!

ALSO much thanks to all those people who have done all the little things whose names I do not know!

As for me, I am working at various jobs, BUT trust me there is not a day goes by that I do not spend time working with Foundations stuff! I am always thinking and seeking ways to help the mission of the San Damiano Foundation! After God and family and employment responsibilities, my time is devoted to the development of Foundations! I know that Murray Black our Board Member and Trenton Director and all the other volunteers work equally hard!! We do our best and God does the rest.

The SDF Head Quarters is an office here at our farm, St. Francis House, so I can work at home such as I am today, creating this newsletter! I do my best with all of the administrative stuff! I have learned a lot and there is much more to learn! Foundations

started little but is growing and experiencing growing pains ☺
NOW, I must learn how to find more funding!

WE were very fortunate last summer to get funding for two student placements! Thanks to Alex F. who helped in Trenton and Kendal! Kendal is going to St. Pauls in Ottawa and was hired in the placement role of Assistant to the President of the Foundation. We worked together! It was great! Kendal organized a great deal of necessary structure we now need. WE need to give Foundations a firm Foundation! I am also happy to say that Kendal agreed to join the San Damiano Foundation as a Member of our Board! Kendal brings us the energy of youth and understands the passion of the mission of the SDF. Kendal had an idea about summer camps with the help of University Students at St. Francis House! *If we could build a building and have separate facilities we could allow Youth who live in towns, the opportunity to experience the healing peace of nature and the country side!* Last fall I applied for funding for an INTERNSHIP Program with a Government Grant organization. Our application was approved and we were able to receive funding to hire a college graduate for 6 months! What a help!! Welcome Jennifer Burke and many thanks to FUTURES DEVELOPMENT CORP. in Bancroft!

So in closing I have to thank all of you once more and again enlist your help! *If you can help us in any way that would be awesome!*

Do you know someone that is good at doing "funding applications"?

The labourer is worthy of their wage and we need to be able to provide some income to qualified location managers so that we will have people that can afford to work full time at this Youth Outreach.

There is lots to do! Organizing the volunteers, the local finances, the foods, the resources and bringing in speakers and programs!

Do you know someone who has taken a social worker course, or youth worker course and needs experience or placement?

Do you know someone who loves crafts or games and has some time to be available to spend sometime with youth? Come into the locations when they are open and share with some youth?

Lastly we always need funding for operational expenses; Rents, Insurance, Telephones, Heat/Hydro, Office Expenses etc. IF you have any fundraising ideas please call me!

THERE is no other Place on the Street like Foundations that I know of!

Every town should have one!

Take care and may God bless each and every one of you!

Colleen MacAlister
San Damiano Foundation Inc.