Message from the Board Chair

My sister sent me an email today. She tagged the following quote: “Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.” Arthur Robert Ashe Jr.

I rejoiced to have this new motto to share. The simplicity and directness of this resonates with me. And saves me hundreds of words.

At the recent Premier’s Breakfast, both Premier Stelmach and our Honorary Chair Marie Stelmach spoke with their customary warmth and honesty about the value of giving to your community and the value of supporting families in need. They spoke from the heart as parents, as community members and as government leaders. Good leaders have the ability to show us how we have the capacity to do so much if we look around, find what needs to get done and just begin. I added, with thanks to them and the many supporters present, that our government, corporations and individuals represented there were all stepping up to the challenge and finding their path to support us at the Kottage and other agencies. We spoke of each of us fitting our unique skills, resources and personalities to our own roles in providing that support in the best way we can. I note that our staff, volunteers and board of directors all go above and beyond by delivering their best to the Kottage all year.

At Kids Kottage, we play to our strengths – we use our community-based model to be open and accessible to families, to care for their children while we support parents in identifying their problems and to see them through the steps in that plan. We know that doing what we do best generates good outcomes for the families we help. Myself and our board will work hard to maintain that model and to provide the Kottage the resources needed to continue to play that vital role.

As Christmas approaches, I appreciate those who step away from the rush and the shopping mall to lend their hands to help others in need. Many make time to give to agencies who need drivers, collect donations, provide meals and deliver baskets of dinners and gifts. We appreciate everyone who volunteers, matches donations or calls in to our Radiothon in December every year. We appreciate those individuals who do what they can by attending our events, volunteering with us or supporting us financially. We celebrate those companies that adopt a corporate motto of helping through their donations and their efforts on behalf of others. Many use the gift-giving of the holidays to find new ways to give to those truly in need.

Whichever works for you, I hope you will do over the upcoming holiday season and beyond.

Arthur Ashe said all that though, didn’t he?

Patricia Hebert
Kids Kottage Board Chair

www.kidskottage.org
Soon, we will celebrate Christmas 2010 at Kids Kottage. Cheryl will begin baking cookies for the children to decorate at the Christmas party. Staff have their heads together planning the activities and the music and how and when Santa will arrive and what he will bring. Glo and her volunteers will be filling Santa’s Christmas list for the children participating in the FASD respite program. Participants in the Basic Shelf Food security program will share their favourite Christmas goodie recipes and maybe even try some.

Kids Kottage reminds me in so many ways of the wonderful Christmas Story I love so well. People at the time of the first Christmas just like people today were worried, frightened, troubled and often unable to make ends meet. And those who were poor, just like today, were the most vulnerable. Poor people were overwhelmed and isolated. Mary and Joseph were not well-to-do people. They set out to arrive in Bethlehem to be counted. That was the requirement no matter what their personal circumstances at the time. They did not make prior arrangements for a place to stay in Bethlehem for they had no family there nor could they have afforded to send a messenger ahead if they had. They travelled by foot and donkey; one could ride, while the other walked. Mary was pregnant and soon to deliver her first child. Never having delivered a baby before, one can assume she was nervous and afraid. Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem and not surprisingly were unable to find a place to stay. The town was full; they had a dire need and had nowhere to turn.

Finally, to their relief one inn keeper was moved by their plight and offered his stable. Not what they expected or might have desired but that stable at that time was everything to Mary and Joseph in their moment of distress.

And so, Jesus Christ was born. Two years later, the Bible tells us, Joseph’s little family was living in a house in Bethlehem; they had moved forward from their time of crisis.

I often think upon that innkeeper in Bethlehem so long ago and breath my own thanks for his help to a poor couple in a crisis. And when I think of the innkeeper, I am reminded of the role of Kids Kottage in our community today. Emergency childcare and respite for those who cannot carry on.

Please make Kids Kottage part of your Christmas celebration this year. The need for our “inn” is great and we need your help.

To all of you who support the work of Kids Kottage in the many ways that you do, best wishes for a Blessed Christmas and New Year!

Lori Reiter
Executive Director

Brownlee LLP - Kids Kottage Promoters Extraordinaire!

Once again the generous law office of Brownlee LLP has extended their hand to educate their clients about Kids Kottage and the work we do with vulnerable families. They have produced a 2011 calendar sporting our very own artwork produced by some of our precious little guests who have had a stay with us! Then they donated 600 extra calendars for us to give to the guests who participated in the Premier’s Breakfast on October 19th! We are so very thankful for the wonderful support of everyone at Brownlee LLP!
Guardian Angels

- author unknown

When Angels sense you need them
And Angels always do
They come, unseen, from everywhere
To help and comfort you.
They hover close beside you
Till all your cares are gone
Till they can see you’re ready
Once again to carry on.
Then some of them may fly away
And take their gentle touch
To other hearts that need the love
Of Angels very much.
But one, at least, stays with you
As your constant friend and guide
For Guardian Angels never leave,
They’re always at your side

BECOME A Kids Kottage GUARDIAN ANGEL

Do you want to become a Guardian Angel and Make Monthly Donations?
Contact Pam Miller at 780-443-2545 or email to pmiller@kidskottage.org

Help keep children SAFE & STRENGTHEN families.

A Christmas craft to do with your kids!

String of Paper Gingerbread Men and Women

Make a string of paper gingerbread men and women to decorate a room. These simple-to-make strings make a great Christmas or Winter decoration. You can drape the strings across rooms, over windows and around the tree.

Supplies needed:
- Brown grocery bag or brown/tan construction paper
- Crayons or markers
- Scissors
- Glue, tape, or staples
- A long piece of green or brown yarn or string

Draw a gingerbread man or woman on a piece of construction paper. Make sure to draw a rectangle on the top of the head (your gingerbread person will hang from this rectangle, which will be folded over).

Cut out the gingerbread people. Draw a face, clothes, etc. Fold the rectangle at the top of the head over.

Attach the gingerbread person to a long string using tape, glue, or staples. Make more gingerbread people and attach them to the string.
Donors from July 1 to September 30, 2010

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Thursday, December 16, 2010

Call (780) 944-HOPE(4673)
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