

Bethany Ann Davidson
240 Cayley St.
Goderich, On N7A 2A7
(519)955-6536
bethanyann davidson@gmail.com
www.bethanyann.ca



WorldRooted: the Art Project for People at Seven Shores Community Café

Exhibition supports Adventure 4 Change, International Association for
Refugees Canada, Reception House Waterloo Region

October 15, 2019
Waterloo, Ontario

Bethany Ann Davidson, founder of *WorldRooted: the Art Project for People*, is currently exhibiting her work at Seven Shores Community Café, 10 Regina St., Waterloo. 25% of every sale supports Adventure 4 Change, Reception House Waterloo Region or International Association for Refugees Canada; each piece is dedicated to a member of the newcomer community, largely from Sunnydale.

The exhibition concludes with an open house on Saturday, October 26, 2019 from 6:00-9:00pm. The counter will be open and WorldRooted items will be available to purchase. The artist and community leaders will be present, and live music will enhance this informal meet and greet.

Says Davidson, "Steve and Deb Tulloch are longtime friends of mine and two of eight co-owners of Seven Shores. They led me to the good people at Adventure 4 Change, Reception House and IAFR. WorldRooted strives to shine a light on the good work being done and initiate meaningful connections across the human family. I am honoured to partner with the courageous community of Sunnydale and these charity leaders who help to shape a future of freedom for all."

Linda Kruger – Community Resource Coordinator at Sunnydale Community Centre, a House of Friendship Neighbourhood Program – says, "Sunnydale is a warm, welcoming and culturally diverse community which is home to many new immigrant families, a large number of children and youth and many families living on a limited income. Partnerships are critical to what happens here – beginning with the residents, who first got the ball rolling in the mid-1990s when the crime rate was high, the community was under-serviced and people isolated themselves in their homes. Residents formed their community association and reached out to community partners, including Adventure 4 Change in 2008, which helps to engage, empower and equip those who live here."

Jeremy Horne, founder of Adventure 4 Change, reports complications have arisen because of the success of A4C's efforts: "How to safely shuttle children to drop-in after sunset in the middle of winter? What's proper protocol for notifying parents when their teen has earned their first paycheque? 40 kids barely fit in the Hub during a typical youth event – now they want to bring more friends! Several churches have graciously offered their facilities for summer-camp use; will this multi-faith community know it's for everyone? It all takes money: are grantors still excited to invest in a household name?"

--more--

Increasing community capacity for newcomers and nurturing their sense of wellness are key elements of WorldRooted partnerships: last year, Reception House Waterloo Region welcomed 318 government-funded refugees from 12 countries and 13 distinct linguistic groups. It provided ongoing support to 1,170 families new to Canada, from documentation and healthcare to life skills and youth connection, across all aspects of community life.

Kathie Must, Reception House's Manager of Philanthropy, emphasizes, "We have approximately 250 volunteers: local families who partner with newcomer families, women who volunteer as part of English Outreach to reduce the isolation so many newcomer women experience plus help build English skills. As an organization we have an amazing team – many with lived experience – but the community is such a vital part of our work."

Sharon Schmidt, Kitchener-Waterloo Representative of International Association for Refugees Canada, expounds: "Refugees often find themselves viewed only as people in need, confined to the receiving end of impersonal services meant to keep them alive. As necessary as such services are, they can be quite dehumanizing as they undermine dignity and hope. Recovery work seeks to strengthen community, faith, emotional well-being and personal capacity. It includes getting behind the ideas and solutions of refugees themselves, recognizing the important contributions they offer in finding solutions to their displacement. This is IAFR's strategic part in seeking the welfare and protection of forcibly displaced people in the world today."

Open Homes is one key mission of IAFR, providing refugee claimants temporary housing through the hospitality of its members, including Steve and Deb Tulloch.

"The eight of us at Seven Shores are pretty intimately involved with new Canadians – mostly refugees," says Steve. "We would like to think about ways that our space could be more beneficial to that population. Our home has been a gathering place for an artist-activist community in this region, and the café is a place where we will host them. Space where food is prepared and shared, where people feel safe to have good conversations, where people sense that they belong, that this is where people are nurtured – all of that flows very much out of my sense of how I think the Creator wants us to live in the world; and the café is, to me, a great place to do that."

Thanks to the New Leaf Podcast, June 28, 2016, for the quote from Steve.

WorldRooted: the Art Project for People was founded by Bethany Ann Davidson of God-erich in 2018. Through special-event exhibitions, the WorldRooted tribe has grown to include more than 20 caring creatives; plus selected small businesses, key charities and former refugees. Private collectors invest in the artists who pay it forward, raising awareness and thousands for humanitarian and conservation work.

###