

PROJECT MARANATHA FOR YOUTH (Hamilton/Halton)
("Maranatha" means "Come Lord" in the Aramaic language)

Fr. Michael McHugh and a few laypersons from Hamilton and Burlington founded this organization in 1980. The aim of the charity was to help teenage boys who could benefit from a summer away from home by providing a summer camp experience involving a combination of work and leisure activities. Over the course of several years the participants worked with adult volunteers to construct a cordwood log cabin in Rockwood, Ontario. Eventually Project Maranatha for Youth purchased and later sold its own farm property in Flamborough.

The camps program continued until the early 1990's when it was decided to change the focus of the program. Thereafter scholarships in recognition of "Christian Leadership" were provided to high school students to assist with their post secondary education. Some students were also provided assistance through bursaries based on family need. Various other worthwhile Christian youth projects were also sponsored from time to time, many focused on Christian Leadership and Pro-Life objectives.

In the Fall of 2004 the president of Project Maranatha for Youth (Bob Van de Vrande) was approached with an idea to establish a maternity home. This was immediately recognized as an ideal opportunity to continue and expand Project Maranatha for Youth's original mandate to assist youth. Several additional members of the Project Maranatha for Youth Board (Richard Cooper, Linda Poxon) were invited to join the discussions for establishing the maternity home.

Project Maranatha for Youth had accumulated enough funds over the years that it was able to purchase a house for the use of Shifra Homes Inc. and Project Maranatha for Youth entered into a Joint Venture with Shifra Homes Inc. to operate the residence in Burlington. Project Maranatha for Youth supplies to the Joint Venture the physical home, and Shifra Homes Inc. operates and manages the day to day operations of the residence, and conducts, on behalf of both entities, the fundraising activities necessary to support the continued operation of the residence. Both organizations contribute to the costs of operating the residence. Project Maranatha for Youth directs Shifra Homes Inc. to apply the proceeds from the receipted donations to the day to day operating costs of the residence. Project Maranatha for Youth is a registered charity, and Shifra Homes Inc. has applied for, but not yet obtained, charitable status. "

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