



## Media Release

### MCLAUGHLIN STREET OPEN HOUSE

NIAGARA REGION, September 29, 2010 – Children at the McLaughlin Street community in Welland had a fabulous summer this year, thanks to a partnership between Faith Tabernacle Church, Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) and the Resource Association For Teens (The RAFT). The program was also supported by funding through Canadian Tire Acceptance and the Niagara Prosperity Initiative. Funded by Niagara Region, the Niagara Prosperity Initiative is a partnership among the private, voluntary and public sectors established to leverage existing resources and to develop new resources to address poverty at the neighbourhood level. This Saturday, October 2, McLaughlin will celebrate the end of the season and welcome fall/winter programs with an open house from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the Community House at 205 McLaughlin Street in Welland.

“We are delighted that Faith Tabernacle Church provides activities in our McLaughlin Street Community”, said Lora Beckwith, NRH General Manager, “The quality and quantity of programs are far beyond our expectations. In fact, they’ve been such a success that Faith Tabernacle has become an integral part of the McLaughlin community”.

Faith Tabernacle chose to focus on McLaughlin Street because “we wanted the opportunity to bring a fresh vision for the future to the community”, said Betty Boyd, Director of Community Services at Faith Tabernacle. The Church initially partnered with the RAFT to host a Community Block Party, but soon wanted to expand and offer a wider range of activities to a greater number of tenants. This summer, in partnership with NRH and the RAFT, children were treated to a variety of exciting experiences and learning opportunities. Daily Activities for kids up to Grade 8 included Mad Science, a Reptile Show, Judo demonstrations, visiting an Egg Farm, Butterfly Conservatory, sports, arts and crafts.

Mike Lethby, Executive Director at The RAFT commented that, “I’ve witnessed real growth in the community in the last few years. Part of that growth has been the partnerships and friendships that have formed between the street and the larger community.”

Faith Tabernacle has been offering children’s programs in Welland since 1996 and has evolved to include adult programming. Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) administers affordable housing on behalf of Niagara Region. The RAFT provides shelter and support to homeless and at risk youth in Niagara.

**For more information, contact:**

Betty Boyd  
Faith Tabernacle Church  
905-735-6811

Mike Lethby  
The RAFT  
905-984-4361 ext. 201

Wendy Thompson  
Niagara Regional Housing  
682-9201 ext. 3937.