

DURHAM CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

SUMMER 2010

A PUBLICATION OF DURHAM CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

PATSY CLARKE
Foster Parent



"I Am Your Children's Aid."

"I really am blessed. Helping others is my passion and my purpose. I have worked with so many children and they all just want to belong and be a part of a family. I always put myself in their place and they know that. The children know that I always try to understand their struggles, and that I will do my best to help them solve their own problems."

WE COULD ALL LEARN A FEW LIFE LESSONS FROM PATSY CLARKE

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

- Winston Churchill

If he had known her, Churchill could have been speaking about Patsy Clarke when he said that. Patsy really does see opportunity everywhere, and she instills that in her children. No matter what challenges life throws her way, Patsy sees an educational experience.

Patsy and Hugh Clarke have been fostering children and youth in the care of Durham CAS for eight years. But fostering was not the beginning of helping others for them. Helping others is Patsy's passion and her purpose. Patsy says she feels blessed, particularly for her very supportive husband, who has happily joined her on this journey.

The Clarkes began fostering when friends from church (already foster parents for CAS) asked if they would like to offer relief foster care for them. *(Some of our foster homes provide relief for other foster homes as needed).*

The Clarkes began doing relief for one foster home, and have grown to offer temporary care to dozens of children and youth. Along the way, they became a full time regular foster home, and Patsy is working on graduating to a treatment foster home.

In addition to raising their own daughters, Laura and Tammy, Patsy also works full-time in the financial sector, commuting daily to downtown Toronto. Adding the demanding duties of caring for even more children is just another opportunity for Patsy.

Patsy was raised by her mother in a busy home with two siblings and many other "foster" children. Continuing the legacy of helping children was only natural for Patsy. Patsy has extensive education and experience with children with special needs, and she has also travelled to Africa on several missions.

Keeping busy is one thing that Patsy says is essential in her success with children. The family is always doing something: swimming, skating, going on picnics, playing outside, and visiting their large, close-knit family. Being busy and involved is important for all children and youth; they want family and they want to belong.

Cindy Forbes is Patsy's CAS worker, she agrees that being busy and involved are key to her success. Cindy raves about how involved Patsy and Hugh are with the children – not only do they get the children involved in activities, they get right in and play with them.

A sense of belonging and participation are crucial for all children, regardless of age.

While many foster homes specialize in infants or young children, the Clarkes are open to all ages, and indeed have had some great success with older youth.

Patsy's philosophy is basically the same no matter how old the child. Of course she recognizes all the hormones and other challenges of the teen years, but she still firmly believes that whether 7 or 17, every child wants to belong, and they want someone to believe in them.

Currently, the Clarkes are planning the bittersweet transition of Chanelle, who at 17 is a talented artist. The day after her eighteenth birthday, Chanelle will be moving to Sault Ste. Marie to begin her post secondary education at Algoma University. The whole family is excited as they prepare for this new challenge – *or opportunity as Patsy surely sees it.* They are confident in Chanelle's ability to succeed in whatever she chooses for her future. This success is no doubt due in part to the influence that the Clarkes have had on her. The Clarkes have given Chanelle far more than a house; they are her family forever, no matter what she ends up doing or where she is living.

When Chanelle speaks about her time with the Clarkes, she is not at all shy about saying that they changed her life.

CONT'D, SEE "PATSY"



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VISION
BUILDING HOPE AND OPPORTUNITIES WITH
CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES.

MISSION
WORKING WITH FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY TO KEEP
CHILDREN AND YOUTH SAFE FROM HARM AND CREATE
STABILITY AND PERMANENCE IN THEIR LIVES.

PATSY CLARKE, CONT'D

While she has great affection for Hugh or "Popi" as she calls him (even she admits that he spoils her a bit), Chanelle has boundless admiration and love for the whole family. She says that she is a different person because of them. They taught her to care about herself, to value her accomplishments and strive to achieve success in whatever she wants from life.

When Patsy speaks of "her children" she really means all the children, she doesn't distinguish between her biological children and her foster children. They are all part of the family – with all the privileges and responsibility that come with it. One of the biggest responsibilities that Patsy demands of her children is the truth. She is willing to discuss anything with her children, and she is happy to help them cope with and learn from their struggles; but above of all she says that she cannot abide by lying. She feels that trust is fundamental and if she can't trust someone, it is impossible to build a strong relationship.

Of course Patsy doesn't sugarcoat her fostering experience. She knows that parenting is the most challenging job anyone will ever have. Success is not defined by the absence of conflict; but by how one handles conflict. And by all accounts Patsy succeeds with flying colours.

On dealing with conflict, Patsy says that keeping calm is crucial to resolving conflict and that she always tries to see things from the other person's point of view.

She remembers when she was young, and that she knows they are learning and gaining their independence, so being empathetic and being open to discussion can avert many potential battles.

Cindy also speaks of Patsy's unique success in dealing with conflict. She says that the children and youth do get into trouble, but Patsy deals with it in such a constructive and positive way that the children want to come to her. She doesn't tell the kids what to do; she talks with them and guides them.



Chanelle and Patsy

Patsy encourages independence and problem solving; she leads them to think for themselves. As Cindy says, "for Patsy, it's all about life lessons."

One feels honoured to meet Patsy; she truly is an awe-inspiring woman. Patsy and Hugh have given so much more than food and shelter to their many children – they have given them confidence, wisdom, courage, love and empathy. What more could one want from a family.

Have you ever thought about fostering?

If so, please give us a call.

We need homes for children and youth in our care. In particular, we need homes for older youth. Many homes specialize in infants or toddlers, but we are always searching for families for teens.

If you are up to the challenge, there are children and youth who need you.

905.433.1551



DO MORE WITH LESS

HOW DO WE PROVIDE QUALITY SERVICES WITH INCREASINGLY STRETCHED RESOURCES?

The recession has been declared officially over, but families and Children's Aid Societies are suffering the fallout. Durham CAS is among several Societies that are in financial crisis. While we recognize that everyone has a role to play in our economic recovery, the financial crisis in child welfare is due to many factors that were predictable and preventable. The funding framework under which CASs are funded, is inequitable and outdated, and is implemented unevenly, frequently without rationale.

The government has traditionally under-budgeted CASs, and balanced the funding at year-end as needed, an essential element of child protection services which has now been withdrawn.

This year, we implemented a number of cost containment strategies to reduce the approximately \$4.2 million deficit we incurred due to underfunding by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. Ultimately, we, along with 37 other CASs across Ontario, appealed the 2009/2010 funding allocation.

Children in care costs

Average cost per case: **\$5,388**

Average funding per case: **\$4,686**

Boarding costs

Average cost per case: **\$123/day**

Average funding per case: **\$117/day**

After that process, we received \$142,000 due to a mathematical error by the Ministry. None of our concerns raised in the appeal was addressed.

Staff Reductions

Because of this financial crisis we were forced to eliminate 31 staff positions at the beginning of this fiscal year. We had to take this truly unfortunate and drastic step because of historic and continued underfunding of our agency.

We didn't take this course of action without exhausting all of our options.

Cuts were made in the areas of administrative support in addition to some service positions.

This is a sad day for the state of child welfare in Durham Region.

*- Paul Martin, President,
Board of Directors*

While most positions were not direct services, these reductions place additional pressure on our services, and impede our ability to comply with Ministry requirements.

Any cuts, particularly if we are unable to maintain our current level of service, will increase demand on other community service providers (such as education, policing and mental health). This pressure will contribute to the erosion of our community's social safety net.

Even with staff cuts, we are carrying a \$2.8 million deficit into 2010/2011; and we are projecting an *additional* \$2.5 million deficit for this fiscal year.

This problem will only compound if the Ontario government does not recognize the true cost of child welfare services.

Every position at this agency plays a vital role in carrying out our mission.

*- Wanda Secord,
Executive Director*

If we are forced to make further cuts, some of the services that may be lost would be those that help families before they reach a crisis: programs that help families before a serious incident that would require more intrusive intervention, programs that are more cost effective than more invasive action and programs that keep children with their families.

Judicial Review

We are continuing to raise the issue with the government. As part of this effort, we have joined ten other CASs in taking the unprecedented step in applying for a Judicial Review of our funding allocation. In this legal procedure, the court reviews a government decision to ensure that they have complied with the law in reaching the decision.

This will be a lengthy process, and we hope that it will result in the Ministry reviewing the budget process giving full consideration to our concerns, and ultimately, children, youth and families will receive the supports they need and deserve.

Current Situation

The funding framework is based on historical expenditures, is not reflective of increased legislative demands, and is applied inconsistently. Where inefficiencies exist, they can be attributed to over-regulation and the lack of investments in provincial infrastructure.

CAS cost increases since 2003 have grown at a slower pace than overall provincial expenditures yet we receive a smaller portion of the provincial budget than in 2003/2004.

One significant investment that has contributed to increased costs is the Transformation Agenda (TA). These new mandated approaches, while less intrusive, are more labour intensive. The associated costs were anticipated and necessary.

New approaches are effective, yet there is no funding to ensure the continuation of these programs. In fact, the funds to support the TA were cut by more than 50% in 2009/2010.

A significant portion of our budget is Outside Paid Resources (OPR: group homes); especially those providing the highly specialized care for children with especially complex needs.

Current Situation, cont'd

The government oversees the licensing and sets the fees of OPRs but does not cover that cost in our funding. As a result, we have a growing deficit in this area (the average cost of OPRs has increased 21.6% over the past year).

There is no jurisdiction in North America that is more cost-effective than Ontario.

- MCYS's Child Welfare Program Evaluation Report (2003)

This is an ongoing matter, and we continue to work closely with other CASs, our community partners and government representatives to ensure that we continue to provide quality child welfare services.

ONCE BRUISES ARE GONE, A CHILD IS NOT HEALED

If a family is in the early stages of crisis we want to help them as soon as possible. With funding being progressively cut, CASs will be forced to cut services. The first to go will be those that help families early. We will be forced to deal only with the most severe cases – cases that may not have escalated, if we had had proper services in place to help earlier.

If we can't help families early, there may be more problems in the future – problems that will be more complex and more costly.

The list of the effects of child abuse is extensive. There are many potential physical and psychological effects, including chronic behavioural and emotional problems, and even permanent neurological damage.

Education

There is a direct connection between a child who has suffered abuse or neglect and school performance. If a child is being abused or if basic needs are not being met – not only are the capacity to focus and cognitive ability impaired, but he or she may not even be physically able to participate.

Abused children often display the following:

- Below average language and math capabilities
- increased disciplinary problems
- little interest in future educational opportunities
- reduced belief in the ability to achieve goals



These behaviors in turn increase the risk of long-term decreased productivity, long-term economic dependence and difficulty in maintaining healthy relationships.

Healthcare

In addition to the immediate physical effects of abuse and neglect, there are many potential long-term physical, emotional and psychological impacts. There can be a very complex and intertwined web of health problems that will last a lifetime.

Abuse and neglect can lead to additional physical complications, including:

- low birth weight or other birth anomalies
- permanent neurological damage
- serious sleep disturbances
- hormonal disturbances

The health costs associated with child abuse is estimated to be \$222 million each year -- including immediate cost for care of the child, persistent child health care and long-term care into adulthood. ⁽¹⁾

Living in an abusive household can alter a child's cognitive development leading to health problems and learning difficulties. Additionally, neglectful and abusive parents are less likely to provide an intellectually stimulating environment, read with their child, participate in the school community or supervise homework.

Academic failure is associated with antisocial behavior and quitting school.

Children in the care of Ontario's CASs are unlikely to finish high school if they do not have ongoing, concentrated support throughout their school careers.

In 2008, 82% of children in care were assessed as 'special needs,' 40% were progressing slowly and 49% exhibited behavioural problems.

Of youth in care, only 42% are successfully completing high school (compared to 75% of the general population) and only 21% are pursuing a post-secondary education (versus 40%).

(Source: Gateway to Success, 2008, prepared by the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies)

Community and the Economy

Children who suffered abuse and neglect grow up and become our friends, neighbours and colleagues.

In the workplace, when people are suffering from problems associated with childhood abuse, there may be increased absenteeism, decreased quality or quantity of work, or increased criminal behaviour.

In Canada 32% of the non-abused population hold professional or managerial positions versus 25% for those who suffered childhood abuse. The annual cost of lost earnings was determined to be \$11 billion due to childhood abuse. ⁽²⁾

Those impacted by childhood abuse are also more likely to be unemployed, and reliant on social assistance and other community services such as assisted housing, mental health services and addiction counseling.

Policing and the Courts

There are both short and long term impacts on the police and court system. A child who is suffering physically, emotionally and/or psychologically may demonstrate the following:

- high levels of anger and aggression
- delinquency and prostitution
- early use of drugs/alcohol and substance abuse (or other addictions)
- perpetrating intimate partner violence in adolescence and/or adulthood
- being an adult victim of an assaultive partner

This is of course costly, but also devastating for all involved. We cannot afford to lose services that reach families at risk early or that offer more customized approaches.

If we are forced to cut services, there will be children who 'fall between the cracks.'

If we don't reach these children early, other sectors will feel increased pressure; not only in a short-term capacity (with more challenging behaviours and impaired performance), but in the long-term as the impact is carried onto all parts of a person's life.

Perhaps the greatest tragedy is if a victim grows up unable to properly care for his or her own child, thus perpetuating the cycle.



During the 2008/2009 fiscal year, Durham CAS:

- cared for 1,220 children in care
- responded to 12,794 inquiries
- investigated 4,180 reports of child abuse
- finalized 34 adoptions
- served 5,397 families
- facilitated 6,787 visits in the Family Access Centre.

There are currently 879 children and youth in the care of the Society.

WENDY'S STORY

Hi, my name is Wendy. I just got back from vacation with my family. It was so much fun. We went to Disney and Universal Studios, then we went on a cruise for seven days and stopped at Haiti, Mexico, Grand Cayman, and Jamaica! I know what you're thinking... 'wow must be nice,' right? Trust me, if there is anyone in the world that can appreciate this kind of thing entirely, it's me.

Five years ago, I was living at home with a single mom and my little sister, still just a baby. At that time, I couldn't see ten years into the future, and if I tried, I saw myself doing some sort of hard labor job to help bring income in. Sounds cliché I know, but it was my reality. When my mom developed a substance abuse problem, things looked even more bleak. How could I ever dream of moving out, going to college or university to get an education for a job that I always dreamed of, if I had to stay home to take care of my sister, or pay for rent or groceries?

After a while, the Durham Children's Aid Society stepped in and placed my sister and me in a home. Well, I guess you could call it a home, but I think more of it as the house I was placed in for two years of my life. My mom never objected, taking on the consequences of her actions. Because of this, Children's Aid has always been very supportive of our relationship and has helped my mom as much as they could with her problem, and with transportation to our visits.

I started rebelling to some extent. When it became evident that my mother's problem was not going to be solved in time, my little sister was put up for adoption. My worker and the countless people at CAS whom I have grown fond of over the years were heartbroken to see it work out this way, and were all very understanding and comforting to both my mom and me.

As you can assume I was very, very close with my sister at this point.

Caring for her as if I was her mother, clinging to the only thing I had in a house that was not my home, that brought me comfort. I was told that I may only get to see her once or twice a year.

I remember coming home from camp that summer to find a small photo album sitting on the kitchen table. I opened it up to see the picture inside; it was a beautiful family with a son and a dog.



Frank, Anna, Wendy and Children's Service Worker Omah Levere.

The first caption read "mom." Tears began to well up in my eyes. This was my little sister's new family...and I wouldn't be part of it. I got to meet them that night. Little did I know how much they were really about to do for me.

Losing my little sister was the final blow to my frail spirit. My mother's use was getting out of control, and though she loved me, she couldn't knock the habit. I missed her, and my sister, and I didn't feel like a proper member of a family where I lived. I started doing some things that were not very smart. I self harmed, and did other things that did not foster a healthy living experience. I went into some kind of emotional coma, and even the excitement of Christmas couldn't fully drag me out of my loss-induced stupor. Something else did though.

Right after Christmas I got to see my little sister and her new family. They showered me with gifts and kindness that I could not explain, or even properly take in. That day we went skating, and saw Disney on Ice. At dinner, when I thought that they had done more than enough for someone they didn't even know, they brought out a beach bag, and a card that asked if I would like to attend their family vacation with them that coming March.

Words cannot describe... I was told I would get to see my sister maybe once or twice a year. But I live with her now, and her adoptive family. Anna and Frank are amazing people, and I am truly blessed to have them as my family. They have helped me through multiple crashes in my life, including my issues of self harm.

Five years later, I am part of a family, and I get to watch my little sister grow up. My mother has been clean for over a year now. And finally, I am attending Seneca College for that job I dreamed of as a child.

I have learned to appreciate the little things. Any act of kindness shows me that I can still have hope; that tomorrow may not be as bleak as it seems.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO VOLUNTEER?

Carol Martel is a special friend in so many ways... to so many people. Besides doing dozens of different tasks for Durham CAS (from helping with events to running our 'Neat Repeats' clothing depot), Carol is also a 'Special Friend' for a very special young man.

One of the roles that our volunteers perform is 'Special Friend.' This program matches volunteers with a child or youth who is receiving service from the Society, or with a parent to provide support, positive role modeling, encouragement and guidance by spending time with them and sharing their experiences. Most significantly, these volunteers give something very precious: time.

A few months ago, volunteer coordinator, Dawn Ashford presented Carol with a possible Special Friend assignment – a 17 year old youth named Steven. It turned out that Carol already knew Steven, having supervised visits with his family when he was four years old, and she was thrilled to spend some more time with him.

Now 17, Steven is preparing to move out on his own, like all of our youth in care do. As we all know, this can be an incredibly daunting prospect, even for the fortunate among us who have both the emotional and financial support of family. But it can be especially challenging for youth in care. We try to do everything we can to help prepare young people on this journey, but we can never truly and completely replace that family network.

Steven's foster family – with whom he has lived since pre-school – has done an amazing job helping him grow into a funny, determined young man. They have provided support and love in so many ways, and Carol is able to provide a helping hand to this busy family.

When starting out on the brink of adulthood, we all need a little help, everything from help finding a home and a job to learning all the life skills that many of us take for granted. That's where Carol comes in.

Carol has been helping Steven learn new skills – including household tasks, like cooking and doing laundry, as well as getting more

Steven's CAS worker, Marcia Copeland raves about the impression that Carol is making on Steven. She says that this experience has bolstered Steven's confidence and his faith in his own abilities. Marcia firmly believes that this is an invaluable experience for Steven.

Recently, Steven joined Carol in our Life Skills centre to cook his



familiar with services in the community such as public transportation and banking. She even helped him write his resume. But it's not all work – sometimes they just hang out, watching movies or listening to music.

In her characteristically modest manner, Carol speaks of this assignment as just one more simple thing she can do, but she's careful not to diminish what that these 'little gestures' mean to Steven.

first ever meal: 'healthy (sloppy) joes'... the first recipe in the cookbook that Carol is making for Steven. Amid the chatter and laughter, you could see that Carol was enjoying her time helping Steven.

Carol also put some deft sleuthing skills to work for Steven when she discovered that he had once had a bank account, but it had been closed when the bank branch moved.

Through a previous teacher (the account was a school project) and the bank, Carol was able to get the account number, and discovered that there had been a small amount of money in it – but it was lost when the bank declared it a dormant account. So, Carol and Steven went to the new branch to re-open the account – and Carol even talked the bank manger into giving Steven back the lost money.

Steven is also learning to navigate the sometimes daunting world of public transit and public libraries. Grasping the details of these and many other services in the community can be frustrating at the best of times, but Carol has been making all of these new experiences easy -- and fun -- for Steven.

When speaking of their time together, Carol always mentions Steven's

laughter, whether she's talking about cooking, hanging out at the mall, watching movies or listening to music. You can hear the affection Carol has for Steven, especially when she says that he is "such a sweetheart." You can tell that this isn't just an 'assignment' ... it truly is a 'special friendship.'

With Carol's help there's no end to what Steven may conquer.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE OUR CHILDREN'S LIVES BETTER

Volunteers have always played an important role at Durham CAS. Many of our programs would not function without the skill and commitment of volunteers. Their service complements and enhances the services provided by our staff.

Volunteers have a wide range of skills. Some work directly with children, others help at events, help with committees or assist the Durham Children's Aid Foundation

Volunteers offer a great deal of personal experience and knowledge that is invaluable to the agency and our clients.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Special Friend
- Tutor
- Driver
- Board and committee member
- Event volunteer

Please call us if you would like to offer some of your time to make a difference in a child's life.



Please join us at our



DURHAM
Children's Aid Society

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, September 16, 2010 - 6:00 p.m.

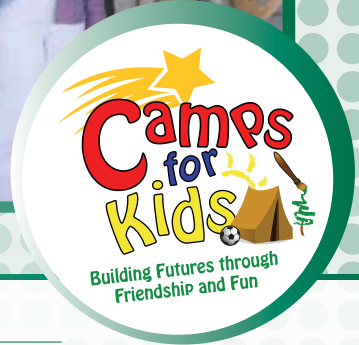
1320 Airport Boulevard, Oshawa

In addition to electing new members to our Board of Directors, we are very proud to be presenting bursaries to several youth who are pursuing a post-secondary education.



RBC CAMPS FOR KIDS CAMPAIGN

On May 17, 2010, the Durham Children's Aid Foundation launched its second annual *Camps for Kids Campaign* once again in partnership with local personal and commercial banking divisions of RBC Royal Bank. The goal was to raise \$40,000 over the course of seven weeks, to ensure none of the 380 anticipated day and overnight campers is left behind. This year, we were pleased to have RBC Dominion Securities and Mary Roy Re/Max join us in our campaign. With this added support, we raised an amazing \$44,000.



5TH ANNUAL FORE THE FUTURE CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC



Mario Tamburini, Jeannot LaMarre, Pickering Mayor Dave Ryan, Regional Chair, Roger Anderson

The Foundation's fifth annual charity golf classic took place on Tuesday, June 22, 2010. The tournament's four-year streak of perfectly sunny weather came to an end this year, but it certainly did not dampen the spirits of those who participated in this consistently sold out event. Once again held at Wooden Sticks in Uxbridge, golfers enjoyed one of the best courses in Canada in comfortably warm weather, intermixed with periods of "refreshing" precipitation. In the end, a total of approximately \$53,000 was raised.

Special thanks to our Scholarship Sponsors, RBC Royal Bank and Flaherty Dow Elliot & McCarthy; our Apprentice Sponsor, Scotiabank National Mortgage Sales, and our Printing Sponsor, Warren's Printing Place Inc., as well as to our many other corporate and individual supporters.

ONE-OF-A-KIND BIRDHOUSE AUCTION

Our Annual Durham Children's Aid Foundation Bird House Auction is an event where local artists flock together and create one-of-a-kind birdhouses. Built by local carpenter and craftsman Ron Marsh, the birdhouses were displayed and auctioned off on Mother's Day weekend (May 6, 7 and 8) in Port Perry. Over \$2,000 was raised.

Organized by Foundation Trustee and Prince Albert resident Laura Francis, the event not only raises much needed funds, but serves as a reminder of the power of the creative spirit and how helping those most in need can be rewarding and inspiring.





SCOTIABANK TORONTO WATERFRONT MARATHON

Preparations for the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon are well underway for the September 26 event. Durham Children's Aid Foundation will be partnering once again with the Children's Aid Foundation in Toronto and surrounding regions to build on last year's fundraising success. With a 5km run/walk, half marathon or marathon, there is an event for everyone.

Please visit www.durhamcaf.ca for information on how you can support Team Durham by either joining the team or sponsoring an individual. If you decide to join the team, your registration is paid for, provided you bring in pledges. Every participant receives many free gifts, including technical t-shirts, training programs and a JJ bear. Don't miss this opportunity.




THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

The success of these events and the generosity of the community have allowed the Foundation to keep pace with the growing need for its support. We are pleased to announce that this year we have allocated a record 35 bursaries to youth pursuing post secondary education. This is an incredible achievement on behalf of our youth, considering that in 2006, a total of 9 youth applied for and received a post secondary education bursary.

The success of the Foundation's major gifts program has also seen the number of community sponsored bursaries grow from just one in 2004, to 17 in 2010 thanks to the generosity of individuals and organizations such as: RBC Royal Bank, RBC Foundation, The Yellow Bus Foundation, Scotiabank, Flaherty Dow Elliott & McCarthy, Freedom '55' Financial, Baagwating Community Association, Tim and Linda Rider, Auto Workers Community Credit Union, the family and friends of the late Renee Greffe, and Marianne Miller and Rory Brush.

To find out more as to how you can help a youth pursue their post secondary education dream, call Joan Montgomery at 905-433-1551, ext. 2379.

OUR FOUNDATION REORGANIZES



With the implementation of cost containment measures by the Durham Children's Aid Society, the staff support to the Foundation has been reorganized. In April 2010, Joan Montgomery stepped into the new role of Foundation Manager. Joan has been with the organization for over two years. During this period of time, she was instrumental in developing a successful fund development program that has embraced new initiatives (including the Hearts of Durham and *Camps for Kids* partnerships) as well as helping to build on existing programs/initiatives (such as the Fore the Future Charity Golf Classic).

Please join us in wishing Joan and our Board of Trustees, all the very best in their efforts to ensure that no child is left behind. Our thanks also to the Society, who have offered Shane Vieira's invaluable time and expertise to help us during this critical transition period.

Stay tuned for details on our strategic planning process, which aims at enhancing the Foundation's vision and operational capacity.

WHO AM I?

When I was a child, my parents would take my sister and me on road trips, and to pass the time, we would play a game that we came to call, Who Am I?

The object of the game was simple: you had a person, place or thing in your mind, and the goal was to ask the proper questions in order to reveal the answer. With the right questions, the game would be over in a few short minutes. The wrong sort of questions, though, could lead you down a perilous path and you could be guessing for hours. The game kept us amused, made every trip seem shorter than it was and, most importantly, gave us the opportunity, as a family, to be playful with one another, something a lot of kids my age didn't get the chance to do with their parents.

These days, with my life busy with career, family and social obligations, I often wondered why my mother had us play that game so many years ago. Partially, I believe, it was to pass the time, but mostly, it was to keep us from doing what a lot of kids will do when they are forced into a confined space: get in fights and start poking fingers at each other over the smallest of perceived slights.

This year, our Foundation found itself in a similar spot. (No! Not forced into the backseat of a brown Pontiac Parisienne, which - if you must know - reeked of mustard and bologna sandwiches).

But we were forced into a difficult situation by the recession and some changes in the administration of the Foundation. This has had consequences for us that went far beyond our imaginations and put us in a position that none of us could have imagined: possible extinction.

But instead of pointing fingers and blaming those around us, we made a decision, one similar to the one my parents made each and every time we got into that car and headed out on a long journey. We decided to play 'Who am I?' and define who we are as a foundation. And guess what?

We are the Durham Children's Aid Foundation. By trade, we are lawyers, financial analysts, writers, bankers, managers, administrators and accountants. In spirit, we are activists, optimists, innovators and proud partners of the people we serve.

We are committed to bringing people and financial resources together to improve the quality of life for children and youth at risk and help them reach their full potential.

My name is Laura Francis. I serve as a trustee on the board of the Durham Children's Aid Foundation. And it is my honour.



OUR MISSION

WE ARE COMMITTED TO BRINGING PEOPLE AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES TOGETHER TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH, AND TO HELP THEM REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

Thank you for your support!

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr. Other: _____

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Please accept my donation of \$ _____

Cheque or money order payable to Durham Children's Aid Foundation

Please charge the above amount to my credit card. (please complete credit card information below)

Credit Card information: Visa  MasterCard 

Name on Card: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

Income Tax Receipts issued for donations of \$25.00 & above.



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