



annual
report
2008
2009

Durham Family Court Clinic
ASSESSMENT • MEDIATION • COUNSELLING SERVICES



Reflection from the Board Chair and the Executive Director



Mission Statement

The Durham Family Court Clinic is an innovative, progressive charitable organization that is dedicated to fostering a healthy and safe community by enhancing and supporting the well-being of children, youth and families who have, or may have, involvement with the legal system.

The past year has seen Durham Family Court Clinic (DFCC) continue in its evolution to stay current with our communities' needs and to be increasingly competent and productive in providing service. We have come a long way, but there are miles yet to go. As we begin our 30th year, our journey will continue in an informed and directed manner, with our foremost goal being to maintain our relevance to the changing needs of the community.

A significant component of our *Moving Forward Strategy* has been to increase the use of objective data within our decision making processes, most notably in two critical areas. The first is in the systematic method used to recruit and select new staff, and the second is in determining the allocation of resources to the services DFCC provides. Both initiatives produced the results we intended. Our new staff members are demonstrably compatible with the needs of DFCC and the work culture we are creating. Similarly, a task tracking analysis conducted in 2008, produced objective data upon which we based our strategies to allocate resources in an effort to achieve greater effectiveness in everything we do.

These two initiatives, along with others, form the foundation upon which we will build our longer range goal of being recognized as a leading edge service provider. Over time, this goal will be achieved as a result of validated excellence in service delivery. In this regard, we have

started the introduction of what will be our service delivery axiom; namely, that our interventions are competent, effective, relevant, and able to stand up to quantitative scrutiny.

Our gangs program serves as an illustration of the evaluation principles to which we want to hold all our programs. Our long term goal is to go beyond our current standards and evaluations, and take what are already respectable successes to new heights that meet the criteria for peer-reviewed publications.

This is an exciting challenge and one which we are fully capable of achieving. Not only have we put in place the prerequisite foundation, but we also know the necessary steps to achieve the service delivery standard of excellence that we are pursuing.

Our goals for the coming years pertain to building the expertise of all our staff and ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of what everyone does. To this end, we will develop objective methods to survey our community to ensure the relevance of our services. Last but by no means least, we will embrace the empirical practice model, whereby service delivery is research-driven, effective and measurable, which will enable us to set priorities and allocate resources to meet the dynamically changing needs of our community.

Shelley Dagherne
Board Chair

Diane Shea
Executive Director

Board of Directors 2008-2009

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Reneé John
Sonia James*

• Resigned during term



2006
20072007
20082008
2009**Total Cases Served**

1,002 1,001* 957

Total Number of Children & Youth Served

379 390 386

(excluding workshops)

At Risk Youth/Young Persons in Conflict with the Law

Youth Assessments (Court Ordered)

49 56 32

Collaborative Day Treatment Program

53 51 53

Community Support Team

176 169 165

Intensive Support & Supervision Program

8 20 23

Durham Youth Strategy

- 23 26

Direct Consultation

40 - -

Gender

Male

59% 80% 81%

Female

41% 20% 19%

Nature of Offences

Against Persons

143 135 145

Sexual Offences

29 53 30

Against Property

94 118 108

Provincial & Other

34 30 17

Breach of Probation

122 135 82

Total Number of Offences

422 471 382

School Based and Other Workshops

Violence Prevention Program

5,591 10,385 6,381

Treatment Groups

44 52 56

Working It Back To Me (time limited project)

- 483 934

Mediation and Other Assessments

Child Protection Alternative Dispute Resolution

- 5 9

Family Mediation and Information Service

Total New Cases

670 666 639

Total Cases Mediated

623 623 606

Family Mediation Outcomes

Full Agreement

59% 63% 63%

Partial Agreement

13% 17% 15%

No agreement

28% 20% 22%

% of Cases Without Legal Council

24% 32% 30%

% of Cases Court Action Had Started

73%* 81% 77%

Family Law Information Service (Located at Family Court)

Telephone Inquiries

1,540 1,835 2,170

In Person Inquiries

1,509 1,114 796

Attendees at Parent Information Sessions

167 206 191

Other Assessments

Custody & Access

1 4 3

Parent Capacity

1 1 -

Arson Prevention Program for Children (TAPP-C) Assessments

7 6 7

* revision to 2007/2008 Annual Report



Seeds of Hope

Funds raised through the *Seeds of Hope* fundraising campaign assist our youth establish the necessary building blocks to improve their life opportunities. *Seeds of Hope* funds support our charitable activities of *Connecting Kids to Counseling* and *Connecting Kids to Their Community*.

The Promise of a Brighter Future for Our Kids is overwhelmingly supported by the generosity of our donors, funders and stakeholders. Each year *Seeds of Hope* receives the financial and in-kind donations needed to assist the nutrition program, sports and recreation programs, holiday support, student transportation and therapeutic camps to name a few.

During 2008/2009 DFCC was extremely fortunate to have the ongoing support of the many organizations and individuals as names on this Annual Report. The staff and youth are very grateful for opportunities that otherwise may not have been available. Opportunities such as attending the Lakeridge Extreme Sports Camp, attending Toronto Maple Leafs hockey games and live theatre - *WE WILL ROCK YOU*.

This is how our Donors, Sponsors and Stakeholders have impacted our Youth.

"When I first started going to this school I had 11.5 credits from the past 4 years of high school and my attendance was low. After 3 months here, I have brought myself up to 20.5 credits and my attendance was 90% last month."

"The staff here made it easy and comfortable for me to return to school after missing sometime and really helped me obtain my goal for this year. Actually, I did a little better than I planned, and the trips to the YMCA for gym have brought my physical fitness back up to where I feel healthiest."

"Not to mention the other bonus' this school has offered such as the extreme sports fitness camp, daily meals are both healthy and delicious. I feel like this program has helped me in a lot of ways; like when I first came here I had trouble controlling my anger. My Youth Worker and the rest of them have helped me to think outside the box by sitting down with me and talking about what is bothering me instead of hitting people and walls. They have also helped me with my self-esteem and being confident in myself. They told me as long as you try, you will succeed. I never was good at math, now I find it easier."



We gratefully acknowledge the following organizations and individuals for their generous financial and in-kind donations

April 1, 2008 - March 31, 2009

CHAMPIONS (\$5000 or greater)

Parmalat Canada Ltd.
Rogers TV Durham
S'port for Kids Foundation
TD Waterhouse Canada Inc.

BENEFACTORS (\$1000 - \$4999)

Baagwating Community Association
Beate Ritchie, Holiday Luncheon Event
Central East Nutrition Program
Class Act Dinner Theatre
Detox Environmental Ltd.
Durham Regional Police Services Board
KX 96 New Country FM
Northminster United Church
Oshawa's Oldies CKDO 1580
Print Three
Service MasterClean of Durham
St. Vincent's Outlook for the Needy
The William Frank Hayball Charitable Foundation
Veridian Corporation

SPONSORS (\$500 - \$999)

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Barclay
Bell Canada
Durham Regional Police Service Food & Toy Drive
Ministry of Children's Youth Services -
Peterborough Family Resource Centre
Mirvish Productions
Salvation Army Family Services - Whitby
ServiceMaster OF Durham
Syvan Developments Ltd.
Via Rail Canada
Whitby Hydro Energy Corporation

CONTRIBUTORS (\$100 - \$499)

Doug Ankenmann
Anne Arsenault
Carla Baetz
Trevor Bardens
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Ruth Bridge
Mike Brown
Robert Camozzi
Canadian Museum of Civilization Corporation
Julie Cashin-Oster

Susan Cheehan
Mr. & Mrs. Conway
Country Roads Photography
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Royal Ashburn Golf Club
Royal Ontario Museum
Salvation Army Family Services - Whitby
Diane Shea
Sullivan & Co. Professional Corporation
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Toronto Argonauts Football Club
Toronto Maple Leafs Hockey Club
Trinity United Church in Bowmanville
United Way of Oshawa-Whitby-Clarington
Maureen Wilkinson
Worden Insurance Brokers Ltd.
The VanStaveren Family
Visual Arts Centre of Clarington

We take great care to accurately record all donations and regret any errors or omissions.

Charity Registration: 13019-6306-RR0001



Executive Director

Diane Shea

Clinical Director

Beryl Rick*

Program Directors

Vickie Jennings

David Millar

Manager, Finance & Administration

Gillian James

Resource Development

Julie Cashin-Oster

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Carol Kennedy*

Nicole Fogal

Collaborative Day Treatment Program (CDTP)

Lynne Goulborn

Paul Paget

Jennifer Matesic

Peggy VanStaveren

Community Support Team (CST)

Beverly Baafi

Sean Hill

Jarek Baginski

Shawn Sharkey

Kristy Baynton*

Vanessa Blouin

Andre Chor

Durham Youth Gang Strategy (DYGS)

Andrea Misner

Intensive Support & Intervention Program (ISSP)

Jennifer Mingori - Budai

Mark Veenstra

Violence Prevention Program (VPP)

Suzanne Dunbar*

Barbara Kennedy

Laura Olaoye

Working It Back to Me*

Judy Bodner

Barbara Kennedy

Durham District School Board - Grove School

Michael Guitard-McDonnell

Ann Henderson

Linda Kennedy

Mediation

Heather Baker

Seema Jain

Warren Briggs

Alison McArthur

Nicole Fogal

Darlene Murphy

Sal Garofolo

Andra Norberg

Christine Glynn

Terri Van Exan

Ayse Hitchins

Family Mediation Consultants

Valerie Hazlett Parker, L.L.B.

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Sophie Hills, L.L.B.

Gregory Price, L.L.B.

Ron Kaufman, L.L.B.

Robert Snell, L.L.B.

Sharon Moote, L.L.B.

Clayton Spencer, L.L.B.

Clinical Consultants

Dr. Peter Marshall, Psychologist

Dr. Richard Meen, Psychiatrist

Dr. James Worling, Psychologist

Jennifer Barnett, MSW

Research & Evaluation

Dr. Michael Sani

Students

Laura Hewitt

Ashley Robichaud

Amber Gilbert

Shayna Wood

Claire Hooper

Auditor

Sullivan & Co. (Professional Corporation)

* Resigned during the year or program ended

Services Provided

Durham Family Court Clinic has extensive experience in issues pertaining to separation, divorce, child welfare, at-risk youth and youth in conflict with the law. Assessment, mediation and counseling are the core services provided.

Serving thousands of children, youth and families each year our work often puts the agency front and centre with issues of domestic violence, poverty, addiction and children's mental health issues.

Services Available to the Public

- Durham Youth Gang Strategy
- Family Mediation and Information Service On-site (at Family Court) Mediation, Off-site Mediation,
- Free Parent Information Sessions,
- The Family Law Information Centre (at Family Court)
- Violence Prevention Program (school based workshops)

Services Available on a Referral Basis

- Child Protection Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Clinical Assessments (Court Ordered)
- Collaborative Day Treatment Program
- Community Support Team
- Intensive Support and Supervision Program



2008-2009 Youth Recognition Awards

Tonya entered our program in 2005, after a school absence of three years (on and off). Tonya has had many obstacles to overcome in her life but has always been able to utilize the staff in the program to help her deal with each situation. We have seen her become increasingly better able to manage her challenges in a mature, pro-social and positive way.

This year, Tonya has made many positive changes in order to commit to her own success. She has recognized that this is a place where she can learn and grow. Her attendance has been exemplary; she participates willingly in all aspects of the program and by the end of June will achieve 15.5 credits this school year.

As a result of the positive changes Tonya has made, she is transitioning to a new and exciting phase in her life.

Will entered our program in November 2007, after a school absence of nearly two years. From the beginning, Will had very clear goals and a determination to move forward. He worked diligently on his academics throughout last year. Will also participated in the opportunity to develop his employability skills by obtaining certification in Standard First Aid.

For the first semester of the 2008/09 school year, Will returned to our program to complete the credits necessary for graduation. Will was a reliable, hard-working student, receiving excellent reviews and grades. With the completion of his co-op placement he was offered an apprenticeship and has obtained certification in Clean Air Emissions testing and will receive his OSSD.

Will has many skills, strengths, and abilities that will assist him on his path to success.

Dylan entered the program in January after several stressful placements at other educational settings. He was placed in the Food and Nutrition Program shortly after entry and has excelled in that environment. Dylan has developed into a creative, responsive individual who has displayed great resiliency and patience. He has been reliable, responsible and hard working while in the Nutrition Program and can regularly be seen dressed in chef uniform, promoting the successes of the kitchen and presenting himself as an ambassador of the entire program.

Dylan has taken full advantage of the program and continues to thrive and build trusting, respectful relationships with others. Dylan's gains have directly affected his self-esteem and self-confidence, making it possible for him to risk seizing offered opportunities to further his development.

Adam was a youth heading down a negative path and was not attending school.

At the beginning of Adam's involvement with the program he avoided his responsibilities and relied on his mother to stay out of trouble when he did not meet the expectations placed on him. Over time Adam's approach to his involvement with our program changed and he has since made incredible progress.

Adam now has a full-time job and is reportedly dedicated and hard working. He is a reliable and responsible youth who has a caring nature and is a good role model. Adam has worked hard to stay out of trouble, making many positive choices.

Brad has done extremely well over the past 15 months. When beginning the program, he had been out of school for about a year after being expelled and was just starting to attend a new school. He completed a year successfully and was able to return to his home school this past February. He continues to do well there with passing grades and consistent attendance. He has one year left to graduate and is starting to look at his long-term goals and options. Brad has shown a great improvement in his decision-making skills and an increased awareness toward the priorities in his life.

Chrystal began working with our program when she was experiencing difficulties and emotional issues generated by many stresses and had not been enrolled in school for a year and a half. Chrystal engaged and participated well in counselling and has demonstrated remarkable control over previous emotional difficulties.

Chrystal now attends school and in June will have earned 10 credits. She has strong academic abilities and this is evidenced through her marks which are all above 80%. Chrystal has ambitions to attend post secondary school in 2010 and work in the field of social services. She also works part time. Chrystal has been a pleasure to work with and always projects herself well in the community. She will certainly be a positive role model for young women when she begins her work in the field of social services.

We are also proud to acknowledge our 2007/2008 Youth Award recipients: Jasmine, Erik and Tony.



We gratefully acknowledge our funding partners, special granting bodies, donors and community for their generous and continuous support in promoting the well-being of the children, youth and families of Durham Region.

DFCC funding partners include:

Durham District School Board
Durham Children's Aid Society
Government of Canada
Ministry of Children & Youth Services
Ministry of the Attorney General

Copies of the statements for the year ending March 31, 2009, are available upon request from the Durham Family Court Clinic.



Durham Family Court Clinic
ASSESSMENT • MEDIATION • COUNSELLING SERVICES

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***To learn more about the Durham Family Court Clinic,
please visit www.dfcc.org***

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