



ANNUAL REPORT

2010/2011



Durham Family Court Clinic
ASSESSMENT • COUNSELLING • MEDIATION SERVICES

MISSION

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.

MANDATE AND PHILOSOPHY

To provide a spectrum of counselling, assessment and mediation services to meet the individualized needs of the clients we serve within our community.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year we continued as a strong team committed to meeting the needs of our clients and the community to assist youth and families as they faced multiple challenges. Our staff of passionate, respectful, and highly-trained individuals use evidence-based methods and best practices to counsel, advocate and intervene for positive change. We are very proud of every gain we make and thank our staff for their dedication to the DFCC mission of enhancing and supporting the well-being of children, youth and families.

We are extremely fortunate to be involved with community committees and partnerships that impact positively on the services we provide to youth and families. Of significance is the Durham Youth Gang Strategy (DYGS). In partnership with Murray McKinnon Foundation (MMF), the mandate is to provide interventions for young people who are at risk of gang involvement or are involved in gangs. Federal program funding was scheduled to end March 31, 2011 and we were faced with an ethical and financial challenge, as there were many youth involved with DYGS who were making significant progress towards a brighter future and needed this program.

Fortunately, advocacy works. With the support of our project partners, our community, Durham Region political representatives and positive program evaluation results, we are able to continue the DYGS program for 2011-2012. We remain committed to addressing youth gang involvement. The campaign for sustainable funding for this important initiative will continue.

We strongly believe that working in collaboration with our community is how we can make the most difference for those in need of specialized services. In 2010-2011 DFCC was awarded a grant through the Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services, Safer and Vital Communities for the development and delivery of a specialized group for parents of adolescents who sexually offend. DFCC counsellors have been working closely with Thistletown Regional Centre for Children and Adolescents for training that will increase our capacity to meet the needs of families in Durham Region.

We continue to be committed to a program evaluation standard that will provide evidence that our programs and interventions are competent, effective, relevant and able to stand up to quantitative scrutiny. In 2010-2011 DFCC was awarded a grant from the Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health that is meant to support increased internal capacity to consistently plan and conduct effective program evaluations.

Our team is strong and connections with partners and community agencies remain solid, transparent and collaborative. We continue to be inspired by the courage of the families we work with and the positive changes we witness.

Mike Brown, Chair

Diane Shea, Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010 – 2011

Mike Brown, Chair

Jack Barclay, Vice Chair

Bob Baker, 2nd Vice Chair

Andrea Finkeldey, Secretary

Glenn Semple, Treasurer

Trevor Bardens

Paul Koukofikas

Oudit Rai

Sharon Stewart

*"The workers are
compassionate and
empathetic and truly
love what they do,
and it shows."*

YOUTH RECOGNITION 2010 – 2011 THE POWER OF RESILIENCE

Recipients of the YOUTH RECOGNITION AWARD are those who have demonstrated *courage* and *resilience* on their journey to many accomplishments. The road to a *brighter future* can often become discouraging and overwhelming.

We are honoured to give special recognition to six youth who have taken incredible risks in the face of adversity and made significant changes that will have a lasting positive impact on their futures. Congratulations Cody H, Cody T, Jason, Jordan, Michelle, and Samantha – we are proud of your efforts and choices – we are inspired by your determination and celebrate your future.

"Success is difficult to measure globally, and therefore must be recognized in a relative and subjective way. Success for one individual will look vastly different from the success of another. However, certain characteristics convey a message of success - resiliency, hope and determination."

Sean Hill, CST

Our award recipients all possess a hopeful and determined outlook on life and embody the concept of resiliency – they refuse to let challenges and tragedies define their future. Their capacity to manage incredibly difficult circumstances is remarkable and evident in their inner strength and motivation to continue making positive changes. Gains such as improving family relationships, attending school, obtaining employment, improving health and finding a loving and stable home for young family members are small examples of the commitment these young people have made towards their very promising futures.



"I would never have found the confidence and resiliency to soldier on the way I did and achieve the goals that a few years back, I thought were unattainable for a statistic like myself."

SEEDS OF HOPE

The Promise of a Brighter Future for our Youth

It would not be possible to deliver on such a statement without the overwhelming generosity of our sponsors, donors, friends and volunteers. Your charitable investment in the *Seeds of Hope* campaign through in-kind donations of food and supplies, financial support, charity event sponsorship and volunteer time all make a difference in providing hope and opportunity for vulnerable youth and their families.

We are truly grateful for your tremendous support. Our youth and families have great resilience but there are times when tragedy and circumstances make it necessary for them to reach out to those they trust for help.

You have given in so many ways, all of which open doors for a brighter future. Overnight therapeutic camp experiences in summer and winter, transportation to school and community activities, crisis response, daily nutrition, summer school, creative art therapy, warm winter clothing and school supplies are just some of the many ways your donation to *Seeds of Hope* benefits youth and families.

Your support is significant when families have urgent needs which are not being met. Thanks to you we were able to continue to make a difference to families in a number of ways:

- Nutritious lunches and snacks for youth in our programs
- Emergency food supplies for families
- Emergency shelter for homeless youth
- Shelter and community connections for families in need
- School supplies and backpacks
- Food and gifts for families at Christmas
- Assistance with unexpected education costs
- Emergency medical needs

Supporting the DFCC annual charitable event CANVAS is one of the many ways you can make a difference. In its second year, CANVAS is proving to be a unique event that not only raises much needed financial support, but also recognizes and highlights the amazing artistic talent of our young people.

Emerging youth artists make a commitment to participate in a unique creative arts program where they have a wonderful opportunity to be mentored by local artists through our partnership with Art with a Heart Inc. Each youth "gives back" by donating one or more of their final pieces to the charity event.

The artwork is truly inspiring and deserving of the accolades of those who have attended CANVAS and purchased pieces in support of *Seeds of Hope*.



"It is the personalized engagement with the youth that seems to be the key ingredient for success of the Durham Youth Gang Strategy."

THANK YOU

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

April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011

CHAMPIONS (\$5,000 +)

Feed the Need in Durham
Rogers Television
TD Waterhouse Inc.

BENEFACTORS (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Aftershock Creative Inc.
Breakfast for Learning - Ontario
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Barclay
Canadian Auto Workers Union - Local 222
Durham Regional Police Services Board
Mr. John Salter
Syvan Developments Limited
The William Hayball Foundation

SPONSORS (\$500 - \$999)

Baagwating Community Association
Durham College
Durham's Child Nutrition Program
Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario -
Durham Local
Jolera Inc.
Oakwood Contracting Inc.
Ontario Power Generation
Veridian Connections

"This program (ISSP) should be declared quintessential for all youth who are living on their own or appointed counselling otherwise."

CONTRIBUTORS (\$100 - \$499)

Ms. Jane Allen
Avanti Trattoria
Mr. Fred Bird
Brooklin Duplicate Bridge Club
Canadian Museum
of Civilization Corporation
Carruther's Creek Golf & Country Club
Mr. Dan Cronin
Ms. Trish Cronin
Deer Creek Golf Club
Durham Region Police Association
Enterphase Child & Family Services
Ms. Nikki Fairman
Fairmont Royal York
Heritage House Catering
Mr. Sean Hill
Images 21 Inc.
Ms. Gillian James
Ms. Jennifer James Sorzano
Ms. Vickie Jennings
Ms. Audrey Lee
Ms. Natalie MacDonald
Dr. Peter Marshall
Nicely Done
Ms. Kelly O'Brien
Ontario Place
Ms. Lisa Marie Procter
Mr. Jeff Salter
Shaw Festival Theatre
Ms. Diane Shea
Sullivan & Co. Professional Corporation
Mr. Joe Tilley
Mr. Tyler Tilley
Toronto Zoo
United Steelworkers Union – Local 6571
University of Ontario Institute of Technology
Whitby/Oshawa PC Association
Worden Insurance and Financial Services Ltd.



EMPLOYEES AND PROGRAMS – APRIL 1, 2010 – MARCH 31, 2011

Diane Shea, Executive Director | Vickie Jennings, Program Director | David Millar, Program Director | Gillian James, Director, Finance and Administration

Administration/Fundraising

The Administrative team provides essential support for DFCC programs and fundraising activities that assist in responding to youth and family emergency needs and to enhance programming.

Sandi Burden Jennifer James Sorzano
Julie Dreger-Jensen Galina Vrabie
Nikki Fairman Ruby Zinsmeister*
Nicole Fogal*

Assessment Program – Youth and Family

A comprehensive process and final report that provides guidance from social work and mental health professionals on the current status and on-going recommendations for a young person or family before the court.

Kristy Baynton Stacey Rennehan
Karyn Dingle Cathy Sorichetti*
Bea Hancock Kim Tilden
Heather Ratych Mark Veenstra

Collaborative Day Treatment Program (CDTP)

In partnership the Durham District School Board (Grove School), a therapeutic educational program for youth experiencing difficulty in the traditional education system. Individualized therapeutic and academic approaches are used to provide a successful learning experience that promotes student knowledge, skills and values to enhance their life options.

Jacque Coleridge* Paul Paget
Lynne Goulborn Peggy VanStaveren
Claire Hooper Natalie Musial

Durham District School Board

Alan Bailey, Teacher
Michael Guitard-McDonnell, Teacher*
Ann Henderson, Educational Assistant
Darren Kelly, Teacher (Supply)*
Linda Kennedy, Teacher

Community Support Team (CST)

A team of counsellors provides one-on-one mobile, systematic individual/family counselling and a therapeutic overnight camp program for youth in conflict with the law. Jointly with the youth and their family (as appropriate) the team employs strategies and interventions to reduce risk of reoffending, strengthen coping strategies, life skills and self-confidence to direct positive change.

Jarek Baginski
Vanessa Blouin
Andre Chor
Beverly Grant
Sean Hill
Jennifer Matesic
Shawn Sharkey*

Durham Youth Gang Strategy (DYGS)

DYGS is a collaborative partnership between Durham Family Court Clinic and Murray McKinnon Foundation (MMF). This community-based program is designed to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors associated with youth gang violence through one-on-one support and counselling.

Mike Jackowski (MMF)
Wayne McKoy
Andrea Misner

Intensive Support and Supervision Program (ISSP)

ISSP is an alternative to custody program providing intensive community-based counselling to stabilize mental health needs, and reduce other factors that are contributing to offending behaviour. Long term mental health services are established to sustain the positive change gained through involvement with ISSP.

Jennifer Mingori-Budai*
Mark Veenstra

Violence Prevention Program (VPP)

The VPP program promotes the message of violence-alternative solutions to students and teachers at schools throughout Durham Region. The goal is to improve/change attitudes related to violence and bullying through interactive workshops on a variety of topics

Linda Chapman
Laura Olaoye*

Family Mediation and Information Services

Family mediation is a voluntary, impartial, non-adversarial process to assist couples resolve conflicts due to separation/divorce. Mediation promotes communication and cooperation with the guidance of an experienced Mediator and benefits children and other family members by reducing conflict.

Heather Baker
Warren Briggs
Sal Garofalo
Christine Glynn
Bea Hancock
Ayse Hitchins
Seema Jain
Darlene Murphy
Andra Norberg
Robin Scott*
Terri Van Exan
Donna Wilson*
Paula Woods*

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

In collaboration with Blue Hills Child and Family Centre and Durham Children's Aid Society, DFCC provides Child Protection Mediation and ADR conferences (Durham Project) to assist in resolving issues related to plans of care for children.

Darlene Murphy

CONSULTANTS AND STUDENTS

Clinical Consultants

Dr. Peter Marshall, Psychologist
Dr. Richard Meen, Psychiatrist
Dr. James Worling, Psychologist

Family Mediation and/or Durham Project Consultants

Valerie Hazlett Parker, LL.B.
Sophie Hills, LL.B.
Ron Kaufman, LL.B.
Charlie Morrison, LL.B.
Sharon Moote, LL.B.
Paul Nicholson, LL.B.
Helen Nolan, LL.B.
Gregory Price, LL.B.
Robert Snell, LL.B.
Clayton Spencer, LL.B.

Research and Program Evaluation

Dr. Michael Saini

Students and Interns

Amber Andreola, triOS College
Stephanie DiMassa, UOIT
Dana Dudulski, Durham College
Sergio James, McMaster University
Mark Ljucjanov, UOIT
Natalie Musial, Centennial College
Tina Robb, University of Toronto
Fatimah Shiah, UOIT
Mary Louise Tselos,
Family Mediation Intern
Tammy Ternawski, Durham College
Selvin Wright, Durham College

Auditor

Sullivan & Co. (Professional Corporation)

*on leave or resigned

SERVICE STATISTICS

TOTAL NEW CASES

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN & YOUTH INVOLVED

(excludes children of separating/divorcing couples)

Youth At Risk or in Conflict with the Law

	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011
Collaborative Day Treatment Program	53	47	74
Community Support Team	165	124	95
Durham Youth Gang Strategy	26	69	56
Intensive Support & Supervision Program	23	22	12
Youth Assessments (Court Ordered)	32	39	38

Gender

Male	81%	84%	85%
Female	19%	16%	15%

Nature of Youth Offences

Against Persons	38%	36%	33%
Against Property	28%	17%	12%
Sexual Offences	8%	12%	18%
Provincial & Other	5%	7%	3%
Breach of Probation	21%	28%	34%

SCHOOL BASED WORKSHOPS AND GROUPS

Total Number of Participants

Violence Prevention Program	6,381	12,599	8,335
Treatment Groups	56	77	179
Working It Back To Me (time-limited project)	934		

MEDIATION AND OTHER ASSESMENTS

Alternative Dispute Resolution	9	14	8
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Family Mediation & Information Service

Total New Cases	639	649	696
Total Cases Mediated	606	578	510

Family Mediation Outcomes

Full agreement	63%	67%	68%
Partial agreement	15%	10%	14%
No agreement	22%	23%	18%
% of cases without legal counsel	30%	27%	38%
% of cases involved with Courts	77%	75%	95%

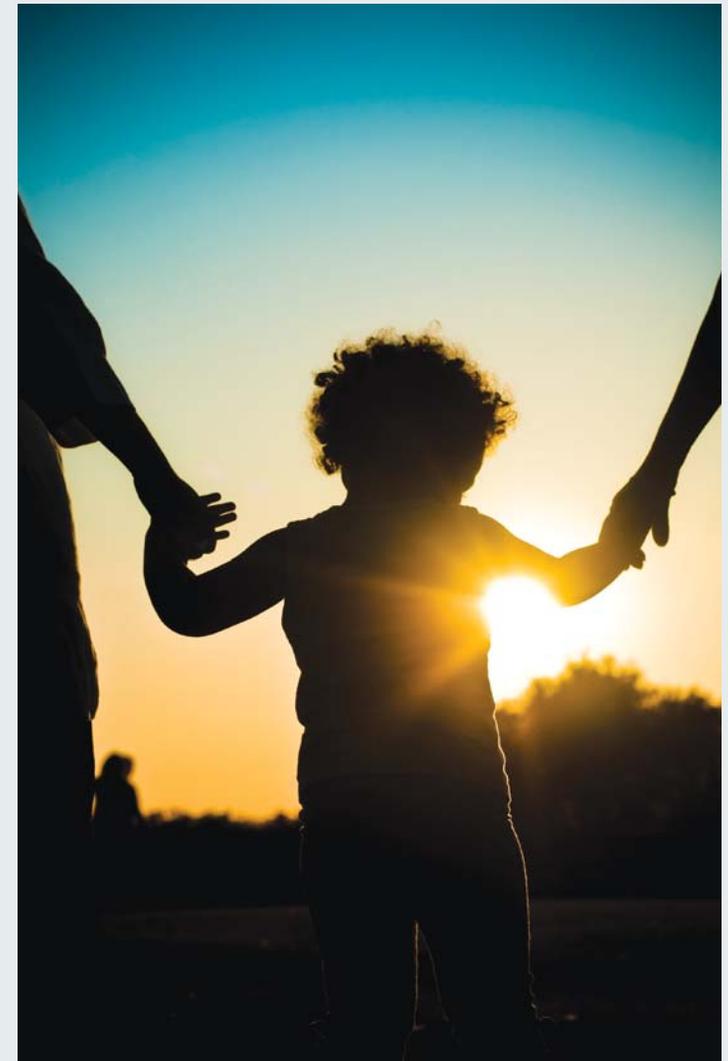
Family Law & Information Centre (located at Family Court)

Telephone Inquiries	2,170	2,040	2,110
In Person Inquires	796	796	1,203
Attendees at Parent Information Sessions	191	147	171

Other Assessments

Custody & Access and Parenting Capacity	3	2	-
Arson Prevention Program for Children (TAPP-C) Assessments	7	8	5

"There is not a day that goes by when I don't think about my CST counsellor and how much she helped me accomplish my goals and put me where I am today."





We believe that;

every person has the right to live in a safe, healthy, caring society, free from violence, discrimination, abuse, crime, poverty and fear.

When you need support, you can trust that DFCC services are professional, respectful and non-judgmental. Services may include the following:

- Counselling
- Mediation
- Assessment
- Therapeutic Academic Classes
- Violence Prevention Strategies
- Parenting Resources
- Conflict Resolution
- Crisis Intervention
- Life Skills Development
- Psychological/Psychiatric Consultation

Durham Family Court Clinic is grateful to our funding partners, special granting bodies, donors and community partners for their generous and continuous support in promoting the well-being of children, youth and families of Durham Region.

DFCC program funding and community partners include:

- Blue Hills Child and Family Centre
- Durham District School Board
- Durham District Catholic School Board
- Durham Children's Aid Society
- Government of Canada
- Ministry of Children & Youth Services
- Ministry of the Attorney General
- Murray McKinnon Foundation
- Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health

Financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2011 are available upon request.

"If I could, I would stay here until Grade 12. Better than any other school I've been to."



44 Richmond Street West, Suite 201
Oshawa, Ontario L1G 1C7

Tel: 905.436.6754
Fax: 905.725.0845

dfcc@dfcc.org
www.dfcc.org

