

annual report

2007
2008



dfcc
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, not-for-profit, charitable, progressive 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.



As we reflect upon last year and into the next, three common themes emerge - Innovation, Transformation and Rebirth.

In line with the DFCC mission and goal to be a leading edge service provider - in partnership with the Murray McKinnon Foundation, we are breaking new ground with the Durham Youth Gang Strategy (DYGS). The primary goal being: reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors associated with youth violence and gang activity in Durham Region.

Being proactive most always produces positive outcomes. The DYGS program clearly demonstrates this, as does our *Working It Back to Me* project. This innovative time-limited project designed to support and educate youth at risk of sexual exploitation, through the delivery of an integrated series of free psycho-educational workshops. Wrapping up at the end of March 2008, it is clear that we have merely scratched the surface. *Working It Back to Me* was highly successful in helping to address a gap in available community-based resources that focus on assisting these at-risk youth.

Sustainability is a true testament to success. Since 1999, DFCC has provided Family Mediation and Information Services to the Durham Region community and will continue

to do so until 2011 as a result of our successful bid to the Ministry of the Attorney General for the provision of Family Mediation and Information Services.

DFCC best practices include a client-focused, comprehensive, multi-disciplinary, community-based approach. The organization's delivery of high quality service is reflected by our professional environment. Part of our transformation and rebirth this past year has been the ability to recruit highly qualified individuals to join the DFCC team

As we move forward, we will continue to provide an environment that is respectful and supportive; use evidence based practices; and will be innovative when it comes to increasing public awareness about social problems as we address client needs and community safety.

We do not work in isolation, collaborative partnerships are vital to our mission of fostering a healthy and safe community and supporting the well-being of children, youth and families. We are extremely grateful to our funders, donors and stakeholders for their continued support and confidence in the work we do.

Dr. Carla Baetz
Board Chair

Diane Shea
Executive Director

Board of Directors 2007-2008

Carla Baetz, Chair
Caroline Smaglinski, Vice-Chair
Jeff Salter, Treasurer
Shelley Dagonne, Secretary

Jim Bradfield, Past Chair
Jack Barclay
Trevor Bardens
Mark Brown

Sonia James
Renée John
Denise Byers*
Dan Walters*

• Resigned during term



The Promise of a Brighter Future for our Kids

April 1, 2007 - March 31, 2008

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

CHAMPIONS (\$5000 or greater)

Ministry of the Attorney General - Ontario Victim Services Secretariat
S'port for Kids Foundation
TD Waterhouse Canada Inc.
Class Act Dinner Theatre

BENEFACTORS (\$1000 - \$4999)

Baagwating Community Association
Jack Barclay
Bell Canada
Dunbarton-Fairport United Church
Durham's Nutrition Project
Durham Regional Police Services Board
Investors Group Financial Services Inc.
KX 96 New Country FM
Mackie Moving Systems
Metroland, Durham Region
New Life Neighbourhood
Northminster United Church
Parmalat Canada
Print Three
Synder Construction
The William Frank Hayball Charitable Foundation
CKDO 1580 All Oshawa's Oldies
Veridian Corporation
Whitby Hydro Energy Corporation

SPONSORS (\$500 - \$999)

Durham Regional Police Service - Food & Toy Drive
Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario - Durham Teachers
Natalie MacDonald
Ontario Power Generation
Salvation Army Family Services - Whitby
ServiceMaster Durham
Syvan Developments - Ed & Sylvia Vanhaverbeke
Thorsons Marketing Associates Canada Inc.
Via Rail Canada

CONTRIBUTORS (\$100 - \$499)

Anne Arsenault
Art Gallery of Ontario
Carla Baetz
Back Seat Drivers Auxiliary
Black Creek Pioneer Village
Canadian Museum of Civilization
C.K. Collision Centre
CN Tower
Country Roads Photography
Yvonne Davies
Durham District School Board
Frame By Design
Bonnie Gagne
Gather
Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce
Glass Slipper
Bea Hancock
Herbron Christian Reformed Church
Holiday Inn Express, Whitby
Carol Kennedy
Lafontaine
Ontario Place Corporation
Ontario Science Centre
Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation
Oshawa Golf and Curling Club
Paramount Canada's Wonderland
Radisson Hotel Ottawa, Parliament Hill
Beate Ritchie
Regional CAP Program
Royal Ashburn Golf Club
Diane Shea
Spirit Sportswear
Tax Role Integrity Unit
Trinity United Church, Bowmanville
Toronto Maple Leafs Hockey Club
Toronto Argonaut Football Club
Toronto Zoo
Whitby Chamber of Commerce
Whitby Optical
Wild Water Kingdom
Worden Insurance Brokers Ltd.
Yoga on the Go

*The DFCC expresses sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed to our *Seeds of Hope* campaign through direct support, participation in our fundraising activities, volunteering and/or by hosting third party charity fundraisers. We also gratefully acknowledge the support received from our Nevada locations. The agency takes great care to accurately record all donations and regrets any errors or omissions.

*83% of contributions are financial. The market value of prize and auction donations are not included in campaign totals.

Total Seeds of Hope Fundraising Contributions

Financial & In-Kind*

\$136,000

Staff

April 1, 2007 - March 31, 2008

Executive Director

Bonnie Gagne*

Diane Shea

Clinical Director

Beryl Rick

Director of Operations

Diane Shea*

Resource Development

Julie Cashin-Oster

Natalie McDonald*

Manager, Finance & Administration

Gillian James

Administrative Team

Anne Arsenault

Yvonne Davies

Julie Dreger-Jensen

Carol Kennedy

Assessments

Bea Hancock

Collaborative Day Treatment Program (CDTP)

Lynne Goulborn

Paul Paget

Jennifer Matesic

Peggy VanStaveren

Community Support Team

Andre Chor

Sean Hill

Beverly Baafi

Diane McVicar

Jarek Baginski

Debbie Salsbury*

Kristy Baynton

Shawn Sharkey

Vanessa Blouin

Stephanie Turner*

Gary Brooks*

Cheryl Tсарarakis*

Derek Forster*

Durham Youth Gang Strategy (DYGS)

Andrea Misner

Michael Jackowski

Intensive Support & Intervention Program (ISSP)

Kim Tilden*

Mark Veenstra

Jennifer Mingori

Diane McVicar

Violence Prevention Program (VPP)

Suzanne Dunbar

Laura LeRoux Olaoye

Working It Back to Me

Anna Aitchison*

Judy Bodner

Barbara Kennedy

DDSB - Grove School

Michael Guitard-McDonnell

Ann Henderson

Linda Kennedy

Family Mediation & Information Services

Greg Ambrozic

Ayse Hitchins

Heather Baker

Alison McArthur

Warren Briggs

Darlene Murphy

Karyn Dingle

Andra Norberg

Sal Garofolo

Seema Jain

Christine Glenn

Terri Van Exan

Nicole Fogal

Students

Kristy Hazelton

Laura Hewitt

Karl Pannike

Lisa Orviss

Auditor

Michael Sullivan, CA

Consultants

Dr. R. Meen, Psychiatrist

Dr. P. Marshall, Psychologist

Dr. J. Worling, Psychologist

Dr. M. Saini, Programs Evaluator

*Resigned or transferred to another DFCC program during the year

Services DFCC provides assessment, counselling, mediation and psycho-educational programs and has extensive expertise with matters pertaining to child welfare, youth in conflict with the law and family mediation. Children and youth seen by the DFCC often have unaddressed mental health and victimization issues. Understanding and addressing systemic and underlying issues for youth and their families enables community groups, like the DFCC, to create effective programs and partnerships to promote viable solutions which foster a healthy and safe community.

DFCC was incorporated in 1980. Charitable endeavours are carried out through the *Seeds of Hope*

campaign and supports various initiatives including *Connecting Kids to Counselling* and *Connecting Kids to Their Community* initiatives.

Services Available to the Public

Family Mediation and Information Service

Violence Prevention Program

Durham Youth Gang Strategy

Services Offered on a Referral Basis

Clinical Assessments

Collaborative Day Treatment Program

Community Support Team

Intensive Support and Supervision Program



2007 Annual General Meeting

It was truly an honour to have the Honourable Madam Justice Scott as our keynote speaker at our Annual General Meeting on June 12, 2007. Madam Justice Scott, currently presides over family, civil and criminal cases in Oshawa and Whitby. Justice Scott's address, "Protecting Children and Families by Community Service Partnerships", brought to light that peer abuse is more widespread, accepted, expected; it is often physical, sometimes violent. How technology - cell phones, text messaging, emails and internet chat rooms, has created a world where children cannot run from their peers' denigrating behaviours and they can not hide.

Reflecting on Justice Scott's message, it is becoming more evident that as agencies dealing with children, we have to be responsible for coming together providing early intervention to children and youth who are at risk of victimization, and/or, violent and offending behaviour.

The meeting also included a presentation by Darlene Murphy, Coordinator of the DFCC's Family Mediation and Information Service. The event was well-attended by community stakeholders and guests. The AGM provided a wonderful forum to recognize our Donors, Sponsors, Board of Directors and Staff. A special highlight on the agenda was a presentation of the Youth Recognition Awards (see below for details).

2007 Youth Recognition Award

The Youth Recognition Award is presented to current and/or former DFCC youth clients who demonstrate leadership and perseverance in overcoming adversity. The following (edited) nominations were submitted by staff for the 2007 AGM.

Deborah arrived at the Durham Family Court Clinic in December 2002. Deborah worked with DFCC over the course of three and a half years, she took on the challenge of looking at some of the issues that contributed to her behaviours. Deborah has been praised for working diligently to improve her opportunities.

Deborah has improved relationships with her family. Deborah's mother is proud of her accomplishments and is relieved that she is coming to realize her potential. Deborah is presently working and was recently presented with a customer service award.

Deborah has been able to earn her G1 license and has nearly completed all of the requirements of driving school. She looks forward to increased independence and has started looking into securing her own residence.

Deborah has been attending school and was named Student of the Month. On her most recent report mid-term report card, she earned an 88% average. Deborah has been accepted into the Co-op Program and is interested in pursuing Post-Secondary Education in Early Childhood Education. Deborah was also recently recruited by one of her teachers for a summer job at a camp - an opportunity that she is seriously considering.

Deborah is deserving of this award because she has remained committed to discovering her potential and developing her character. She is a vibrant, dedicated, inspiring young woman who has demonstrated the utmost courage and determination in continuing her journey of self-discovery.

Mike has been attending DFCC since early October 2006. When we first met Mike he was very quiet, reserved young man. Unfortunately, he was often a target of other students. Since arriving Mike has made significant gains with his peer and adult relationships at school. He has become a leader through his knack with computers. Members of the DFCC program look to him for assistance with technological problems. Mike has gained the respect of other students who once targeted him by staying true to himself. He is not afraid to state his opinions, positions, or other interests even if they are in conflict with the group. Mike has formed genuine relationships with staff, and will use humour and mature conversation to relate to them.

These gains are even more significant given Mike's difficult history. Mike has been a regular participant in our group co-op initiative. We feel Mike is a deserving candidate of our 2007 Youth Recognition Award and believe this acknowledgement of his accomplishments will be very meaningful to him



Seeds of Hope

Funds raised through the Seeds of Hope fundraising campaign assist vulnerable children and youth establish the necessary building blocks to improve their life opportunities. Seeds of Hope supports various charitable activities including Connecting Kids to Counselling and Connecting Kids to Their Community initiatives.

The Promise of a Brighter Future for Our Kids is confirmed - once again, by the generosity of our community and funders to DFCC's *Seeds of Hope Campaign*.

In the 2007-08 fiscal year the agency saw continued support by individuals and groups who made the DFCC the charitable recipient of their community fundraisers, including support for our *Back to School Drive* and our *Christmas Food and Gift Drive*. There was also further development of the Nutrition Program; continued support from the S'port for Kids Foundation for camp and sports programming; and, another

successful Charity Dinner & Theatre Night at Class Act Dinner Theatre, with ongoing support from TD Waterhouse as the event's Diamond Sponsor.

Wrapping up March 31, 2008, the *Working It Back to Me* program project, funded for 15 months by the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of the Attorney General, Ontario Victim Services Secretariat was very successful in filling a service gap for youth at risk of sexual exploitation. WIB consisted of a series of psycho educational workshops that were delivered at any agency/organization requesting supportive services. These workshops explored avenues to strengthen positive decision-making and encourage youth to minimize their risk by helping them develop strategies to reduce ongoing victimization and assist them in constructing positive opportunities for change. Upon completion of the final report, it is evident that we have merely scratched the surface.

As part of the federal government's investment in Ontario crime prevention projects, Durham Family Court Clinic in partnership with the Murray McKinnon Foundation received funding to March 31, 2011, for the implementation of the Durham Youth Gang Strategy (DYGS). It is expected that each year this project will reach approximately 75 youth aged 12 to 18 in Durham Region for individual counseling, over 1,500 youth through violence prevention workshops in schools, 200 parents and guardians and over 500 community service providers through information sessions and forums.

The project consists of multiple community partners through the Project Advisory Committee, including Durham Regional Police Services, Region of Durham, Department of Social Services, and the Youth Justice Services Division of the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and the Durham District School Boards.

For further details on these and other initiatives, please refer to the Spring 2008 edition of the You newsletter.

	2005 2006	2006 2007	2007 2008
Total Cases Served	908	1,002*	1,033
Total # of Children & Youth Served (excl. Mediation & VPP)	480	379	367
High Risk Youth/Youth in Conflict with the Law			
Assessments (Section 34)	48	49	56
Beyond the Bullying Group	-	-	17
Collaborative Day Treatment Program	59	53	51
Community Support Team	166	176	169
Early Intervention Program	43	-	-
Intensive Support & Supervision Program	-	8	20
Treatment Groups/Direct Consultation	118	84	52
Gender/YP & Day Treatment			
Male	69%	59%	80%
Female	31%	41%	20%
Nature of Offences (Young Persons in Conflict with the Law - New referrals only)			
Against persons	132	143	135
Sexual offences	22	29	53
Against property	96	94	118
Provincial & other	23	34	30
Breaches	152	122	135
Total Number of Offences	425	422	471
Students at Violence Prevention Workshops	6,886	5,591	10,385
Family Mediation and Information Service			
New Cases (On & Off Site)	580	670	666
Cases Closed in the year	575	654	659
Cases mediated	533	623	623
Mediation Outcomes			
Full agreement	61%	59%	63%
Partial agreement	12%	13%	17%
No agreement	26%	28%	20%
% of cases not represented by lawyer	29%	24%	32%
% of cases Court action had started	69%	73%*	81%
Family Law Information Service			
Calls	2,126	1,540	1835
Drop-Ins	1,742	1,509	1,114
Parent Information Sessions	153	167	206
Other Assessments			
Custody & Access	0	1	4
Parent Capacity	11	1	1
TAPP-C*	6	7	6

*revision to 2006/2007 Annual Report



Agency Mission

The Durham Family Court Clinic is an innovative, not-for-profit, charitable, progressive 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.

Durham Family Court Clinic gratefully acknowledges 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:

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

Copies of the audited statements for the year ending March 31, 2008, are available upon request from the Durham Family Court Clinic.



Durham Family Court Clinic

44 RICHMOND STREET W., STE 201
OSHAWA, ONTARIO L1G 1C7

TEL: 905.436.6754
FAX: 905.725.0845

dfcc@dfcc.org
www.dfcc.org



INNOVATION

TRANSFORMATION

REBIRTH

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