



annual
report
2004



seeds
of
hope

Reflection from the Board Chair and the Executive Director

If there is one theme that can characterize the past year at the Durham Family Court Clinic, it would be the ebb and flow of change. This year was not only marked with the change in accountability for young offender services but a change in Executive Directors.

In October of 2003, the agency bid a fond farewell to Sylvia Pivko, former Executive Director of the Durham Family Court Clinic. In addition to her remarkable leadership of the organization, great insight and determination, staff have been left with sentiments of her kindness and professionalism. In her farewell speech, Sylvia noted, "My heart is full with pride about how I feel about the quality of the work of each and every person associated with the DFCC. I feel blessed in terms of having worked with extremely talented people." The torch was then passed on to Vicky Visca in January of 2004 who, like Sylvia, is tremendously grateful and proud to be affiliated with such a unique, talented and dedicated organization.

Young offender services have changed ministries as well this fiscal year. On August 1, 2003, our accountability went from the Ministry of Community, Family & Children's Services to the Ministry of Public Safety and Security. Then, towards the end of the fiscal year, there was an announcement that the new name of the Ministry would be the Ministry of Children and Youth Services effective April 1, 2004. The actual impact of this change is not entirely known, as this new ministry will be responsible for Phase 1 and 2 young offenders. The agency is working hard to keep up with the changes and to ensure that it will be well positioned for future announcements.

The Community Support Team celebrated a milestone this year marking its 15th anniversary. What is truly remarkable is that several of the original staff continue to be on the team - Gary Brooks, Cheryl Tsagarakis, and Deb Benner with Debbie Salisbury not far behind and Kim Tilden the new kid on the block. Happy Anniversary!



Sharon Steel, BA, BPHE, B.ED

The Collaborative Day Treatment Program and Return Ticket Program continue to offer wonderful Section 20 classrooms with emphasis on treatment and education. These programs could not operate without the collaboration of a number of organizations including Durham Probation Services, the Durham District School Board, the Durham Children's Aid Society and Family Guidance International.

Family Mediation and Information Services experienced a stressful period through the summer and fall of 2003 awaiting word from the Ministry of the Attorney General in relation to renewal of a contract for services. The Durham Family Court Clinic was successful in the competition for the contract, thus allowing the continuation of Mediation, Family Law and Information Centre, and Parent Information Programs to continue until 2006. The Durham Family Court Clinic was also successful in developing a contract with the Durham Children's Aid Society to complete parenting capacity assessments. This is a much-needed service in our community and one in which the Durham Family Court Clinic is pleased to offer. Young offender and custody and access assessments have continued to be provided.

The true foundation of the agency rests with the administrative team. With the hard work, organization and endless dedication of each member of the administrative team, the Durham Family Court Clinic has maintained the excellence it has demonstrated over the years. Yvonne Davies, manager of this team, played a key role in our achieving this, while also acting as interim Executive Director and supporting our dedicated Board of Directors.

This past fiscal year has also been a transitional one for the Seeds of Hope Campaign. Through the tireless efforts of Natalie Macdonald and the Resource Development Team, the mandate of the agency is becoming better known in the community. Here's hoping that the 2004/2005 fiscal year will see the fruition of the planted Seeds of Hope - The Promise of a Brighter Future for Our Kids.



Vicky Visca, BA, RSSW, Acc. FM (CAFM)

Seeds of Hope ...

The Promise of a Brighter Future for Our Kids

Last year's Annual General Meeting was a wonderful event. Over 120 community guests and DFCC youth clients listened to Spider Jones, our keynote speaker. Spider, an award-winning journalist in both the fields of music and boxing is a three time former Golden Glove Champion and was inducted into the Canadian Boxing Hall of Fame in 1996. Spider shared a personal life story, which in many ways parallels that of our youth clients. As a child, Spider struggled with emotional and academic hardship and dropped out of school in grade five. As a youth he joined a gang and spent time in detention centres. Against the odds and after years of struggle, Spider transformed a life of self-described despair 'into one that is rich with success'. Spider's secret was finding enough faith and hope in himself and others to risk changing his life. Spider Jones' story truly inspired everyone and affirmed the important role that our supporters play in the lives of our youth clients.



The DFCC is pleased to introduce our new campaign logo. We believe that this image embraces the spirit of the Seeds of Hope - The Promise of a Brighter Future for Our Kids campaign and the essence of what community support offers our families.

Celebrating Our Youth

Each year at our Annual General Meeting, the DFCC presents the Carmen Tardio Bursary to a youth client who has made a significant change in their life. The 2003 recipient for this award was Adrian.

On May 24, 2001 Adrian was referred to the Community Support Team (CST) for counselling. He had been found guilty of several serious offences and was sentenced to an 18-month custodial disposition. Adrian, like many CST youth, demonstrated characteristics of anti-social attitudes, defiance and delinquency. Although only 14 years of age, his belief systems appeared entrenched and his life options limited.

Although secure custody guaranteed his participation in regular therapy, it also subjected him to a constant barrage of criminal ideology. Like many of our young clients, Adrian resisted counselling and the challenge to make a difference in this young man's life was immense.

As a group of counsellors, the CST engages clients in dialogue to explore issues that can be therapeutically significant. The horrific events of 9-11 allowed Adrian to talk about world issues and the hatred and victimization of people in a global context as well as in our communities,

in our homes and in personal relationships. Adrian found the connection and became acutely aware of the impact of his anti-social and delinquent choices on himself and others and with this significant shift in thinking came empathy and compassion.

Adrian was incarcerated for 18 months. The impact of this greatly affected his life as he was isolated from friends and family and found it difficult to find his place in a world when everything was changing around him. Upon discharge from custody, Adrian to his credit, returned home with new found determination to rebuild his relationships with his Grandmother, his Father and his Aunt and to prove to them that their never-ending love and support were not wasted on him.

At the time of our AGM, Adrian was well on his way to achieving his goals. He was completing his Secondary School Diploma and was seeking employment through the Vocational Pathways Program. Today he recognizes that life is about living in the moment and within each moment people make choices which, when pieced together, define their character and their future. Adrian understands the value of time and knows the importance of relationships; a life lesson that often takes years for many of us to integrate.

The Seeds of Hope campaign



The past fiscal year has been very busy and exciting. Our Ontario Trillium Foundation grant has allowed the DFCC to build a new foundation for growth as we expand our Marketing & Development Plan and our Seeds of Hope campaign.

Among our key accomplishments, the DFCC made notable gains in informing the business community about our agency and the campaign. We made over 35 presentations to various community groups, including one to each of our Municipal Councils. We are actively working to develop new partnerships that will enhance service delivery to our traditional client base and help us achieve our goal to annually assist 50 new children, youth and families. To help meet our goals, the DFCC undertook various initiatives, including the hosting an Education Focus Group. Although much more work will need to be done, we embrace what comes in hope of creating The Promise of a Brighter Future for Our Kids.

With regard to providing new campaign-supported services, the CST successfully concluded the Siblings Pilot Project, which was funded through Car Rally's charitable proceeds and a Community Mobilization Program grant from the federal government. Within its first year, this innovative project helped 19 at-risk children and youth, with the service continuing for another year through fundraising efforts. (For a project summary, please refer to page 11 of this report).

Our Trillium grant is also helping us create a more effective communication strategy. As part of this strategy, we have created a wonderful new Seeds of Hope logo and the agency will present other new branding materials next year in celebration of our 25th Anniversary.



The Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, receives annually \$100 million of government funding generated through Ontario's charity casino initiative. The Foundation provides grants to eligible charitable and not-for-profit organizations in the arts, culture, sports, recreation, environment and social service sectors.

The DFCC would like to acknowledge the following individuals and organizations:

A heartfelt thank you to Debbie and Steve Salsbury for being the Route Coordinators for Car Rally 2003. Their creativity and commitment made this charity fundraiser a great success.

The DFCC would also like to thank the following companies for providing the agency with discounts:

Consulting Principles - Durham Family YMCA - Grand & Toy - Staples/Business Depot.



A New Spirit of Community.

The DFCC is a proud member of the Imagine Program.

Charity.ca

Making charitable giving quick and easy.

Visit www.dfcc.org today to make an on-line donation.

The Promise of a Brighter Future for our Kids

April 1, 2003 - March 31, 2004

The Durham Family Court Clinic gratefully acknowledges our supporters' generous financial and in-kind assistance

Champions - \$5000 or greater

The Ontario Trillium Foundation

Benefactors - \$1000 - \$4999

CAW-TCA Canada, Local 222
Community Access Program (in partnership with DREN)
Durham's Child Nutrition Project
Golf Realty Inc.
KX 96 New Country FM
Mackie Harley Davidson

Metroland, Durham Division
Print Three
Sentiments Catering
TD Waterhouse Canada Inc., Discount Brokerage
Tribute Communities, Durham Region
The William Frank Hayball Charitable Foundation

Sponsors - \$500 - \$999

Bell Canada
Detox Environmental Ltd.
Durham Regional Police Services Board
Excel Auto Detailing
Glen Dhu Public School
Hardiman, Mount & Associates Insurance
Brokers Ltd.

McIntosh-Anderson Funeral Home Ltd.
OECTA, Durham Secondary Unit
Ontario Power Generation
Ontario Secondary School Teacher's
Federation, District 13
Optimist Club of Ajax
Optimist Club of Oshawa

Optimist Club of Pickering
Sylvia Pivko
Spirit Sportswear
TD Canada Trust Merchant Services
The Crown & Firkin, Oshawa
The Home Depot, Ajax
Whitby Chamber of Commerce

Contributors - \$100 - \$499

Ajax Public Library
Anderson Legal Services
Jack Barclay
Baseline Community Centre
Deb Benner
Bonded Cleaning Services Ltd.
Helen Brooks
Career School of Hairdressing
C.U.P.E. 3223 (DCAS)
Yvonne Davies
Karyn Dingle
Pierre Duperon
Durham College and The University of
Ontario Institute of Technology

The Durham District School Board
Durham Region Economic Development
and Tourism
Durham Regional Police Association
General Motors of Canada
Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce
IMAGE communication & design
Suzanne Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. C. Kennedy
Natalie MacDonald
Madgett, Roberts, Marlowe, Jackson
& Associates
Dr. Richard Meen
Optimist Club of Brooklin

Paramount Paralegal Services Ltd.
Profile Legal Service Inc.
Regency Process Servers Inc.
Beate Ritchie
Rotary Club of Pickering
Dr. Michael Schwartz
St. Joseph of Arimathea Orthodox Church
Ed Vanhaverbeke
Maureen Wilkinson
Worden Insurance Brokers Ltd.
Dr. James Worling

Friends - \$10 - \$99

A & P, Oshawa
Mr. & Mrs. M. Anderson
Anne Arsenault
B.C. Accounting Services
Roger Barker
Jean Bent
Blacks - Durham Centre
Lisa Burton
The Business Solutions Group
C Prompt Service
Capital Process Services
Judy Cavanualt
Jeff Chernick
Mr. & Mrs T. Chessell
Deborah Clark
R. Coe
M. Colarossi
Wendy Corturillo
Bonnie Cunningham
John Deacon
DMR Bookkeeping Services
Julie Dreger

Durham Catholic District
School Board
Durham Family YMCA
D. Edmunds
Glenn Elliott
Pierre Falzon
Jinna Findlay
Gallery Café & Restaurant
Ted Gauder
Kim Glover
Lynne Goulborn
Susan Green
Penny Grenier
Charlene Gullason
L. Gullason
Pat Hales
Warren Hales
Doreen Haveman
Paula Hemingway
Mr. & Mrs. Hughes
ICY Legal Services
Lori Johnson

Renee Jones
Jason Kay
Doug Kirk
Sharon Krisko
Bill Kwan
Sheila Legen
Bev LeMay
Bev Lepishak
Vic Lewis
Werner Lorenz
J. Lunderville
Esme Lyons
Mary Mayer
Holly MacCleon
Steve MacCleon
Megan McNeen
McRoberts Legal Services Inc.
Laura Nedjeiski
Paul Paget
Paul Pedro
Carson Petrie
Polly Peyman

The Phone Authority
Pickering Audio Visual Inc
A. Piebalgs
Rose Pirone
Pizza Pizza
Bonnie Porter
Dr. Poyner
Cynthia Pride
Linda Raggett
Rita Ramiell
Tracey Sayer
Kel Smith
Marguerite Smith
Ken Spratley
Margot Weir
Cheryl Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. G. Wright
Mr. & Mrs. P. Wright
Diane Vanderster
Masood Vatandoust
Jonny Zuccon

A poem by a young DFCC client who is beginning the journey to renewed Hope.

So Many Questions Why

*What Has Happened to this day Nd' age?
Nobody cares 'bout their education, but what's
minimum wage?
Gangs Nd' crime, what is this all about?
Half the world's population are High School
dropouts.
Turnin' to drugs Nd' things that mess you up.
Come on, keep tryin'; your all is not enough
Murders, its incredibly upsetting
All those who are left behind
Sorrowfully mending
Nd' suicides, how selfish is that?
Leaving those that love you to morn for you,
wishing you would just come back
So many things, they just don't make sense to me.
Is this really what life is supposed to be?*

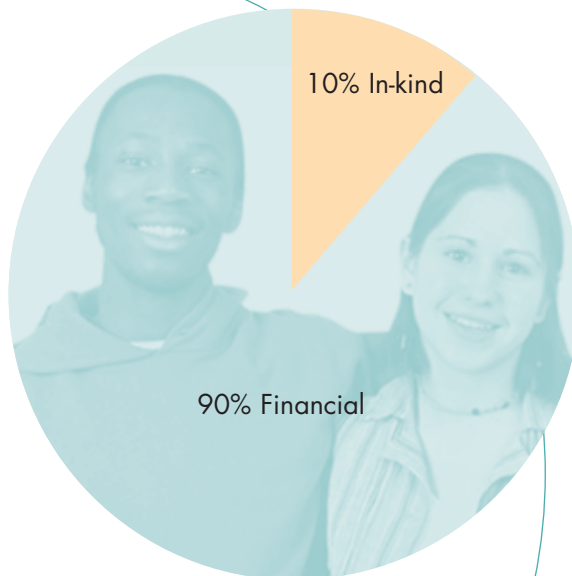
Liya



Total DFCC Fundraising Contributions

Financial & In-Kind**

6



\$116,225

** Does not include prize donations to Car Rally 2003

The DFCC gratefully acknowledges all those who have contributed to our Seeds of Hope campaign through their support and participation in our fundraising activities.

	2001 2002	2002 2003	2003 2004
TOTAL CASES SERVED:	938	866	824
Total # of Children & Youth Served: (not including Mediation)	420	474	828
To High Risk Youth/Young Offenders			
Assessments (Sect. 13/Probation)	32	30	28
Community Support Team	177	170	190
Collaborative Day Treatment Program	63	73	87
Direct Consultation YO	100	109	114
Direct Consultation Non YO	2	36	21
Gender Breakdown/YO & Day Treatment			
Male	71%	70%	64%
Female	29%	30%	36%
Nature of Offences (Young Offenders) (New referrals only)			
Against persons	58	82	57
Sex offences	33	23	9
Against property	67	72	95
Provincial & other	5	11	17
Breaches	59	55	75
Total number of offences	222	243	253
To Separating & Divorcing Families			
Mediation Service:			
Mediation referrals (On & Off site)	365	418	468
Mediation cases closed in the year	377	375	423
Cases mediated	258	317	393
Outcomes:			
Full agreement	56%	56%	58%
Partial agreement	10%	9%	11%
No agreement	34%	35%	23%
% of cases not represented by lawyer	57%	17%	10%
% of cases Court action had started	55%	88%	47%
Information & Referral Service			
Calls	2,730	2,758	2,425
Drop Ins	1,593	727	580
Parent Information Program	165	106	91
Custody&/or Access Assessment Service			
Custody & Access Assessments	15	11	3
% of clients on Legal Aid	35%	0%	33%
To Families involved in the Child Welfare System			
Parenting Capacity Assessments	19	34	22

Services Provided

Board of Directors

Chair Sharon Steel
Vice-Chair Jim Bradfield
Treasurer Michelle Rypstra
Secretary Susan Baird

Members at Large

Larry Ash
Jack Barclay
Carla Baetz
Maggie Poulter*
Beate Ritchie
John Thompson*

Consultants

Computer

Mr. R. Johnston

Legal

Iller Campbell & Associates

Auditor

Michael Sullivan CA

Psychiatry

Dr. R. Meen

Psychology

Dr. W. A. Ammons
Dr. G. Bauberger
Dr. P. Marshall
Dr. M. Schwartz
Dr. J. Worling

Web Consultant

Mr. G. Wright

Volunteers

Committee & Project

Richard Gauder
Sandi Gauder
Ray Gomme
Keith Hales
Joanne Holmes
Linda Laine
Patrica McFarlane
Polly Peyman
Ron Rutherford
Steve Salisbury
Dave Sansom
Richard Szpin
Greg Wright
Lisa Wright

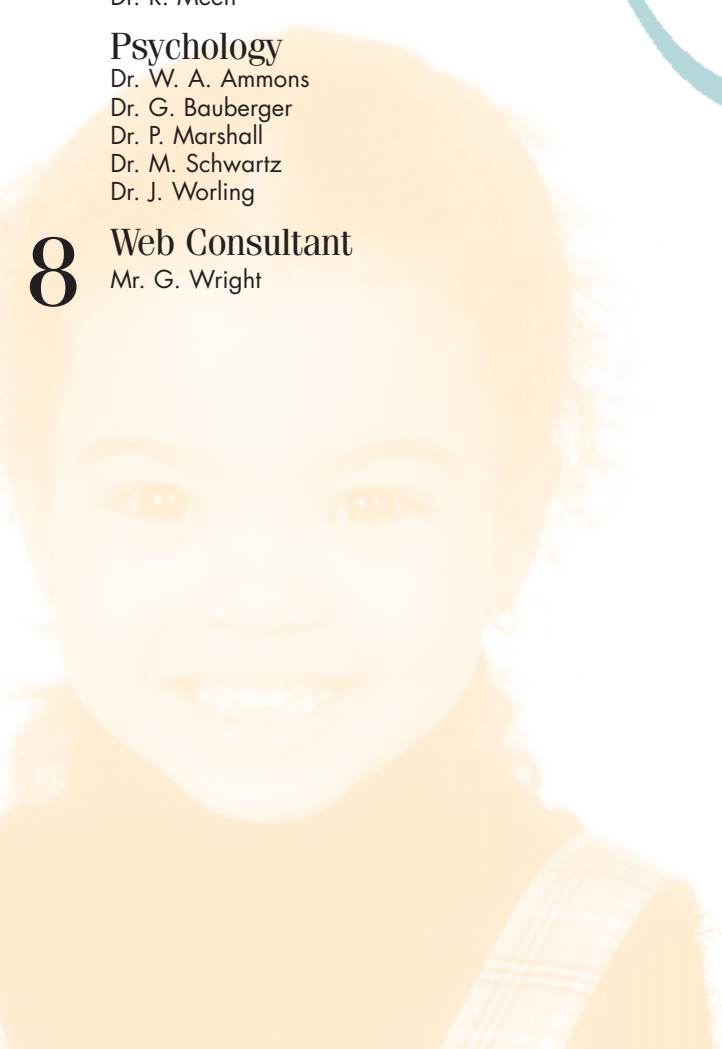
Day of the Event

Kirsten Armburst
Eduardo Bujaidar Bastos
Erin Billinger
Anne Bradfield
Patricia Comm
Shannon Deacon
Rosanna Dias
Kailyn Fullerton
Michael Holmes
Erin Kehoe
Jessie Lusina
Laura Lynch
Jacqueline Marqus
Dallas Marple
Karley Salisbury
Matthew Salisbury
Keri Semenko
John Tsagarakis
Mark White
Victorian Van Stavern

(Total Volunteer Hours 786)

Placement Students

Rhonda Gagnon-Trillium College
Holly Gardner-Durham College
Gay-Marie McPherson-George Brown College
Patty Nichol-Trillium College
Michael Watson-Trillium College
Andre Edmond-Trillium College
Shannon Gow-Summer Student
Jessica Partridge-Summer Student



Staff

Executive Director

Sylvia Pivko*
Vicky Visca

Business Admin Manager

Yvonne Davies

Service Admin Coordinators

Anne Arsenault
Carol Kennedy
Julie Dreger (Receptionist)

Community Support Team

CST Manager

Gary Brooks

CST Team

Jarek Baginski
Deborah Benner
Jonathan Paynter*
Debbie Salisbury
Kim Tilden
Cheryl Tsagarakis

Assessment Manager

Karyn Dingle

Assessment Team

Jennifer Barnett
Derek Forster
Bev LeMay
Andra Norberg
Anne Sheehan

Resource Development

Manager

Natalie MacDonald

Event & Volunteer Coordinator

Marie Billinger*

Collaborative Day Treatment Return Ticket Program

Program Manager

Karen Augustin

Youth & Family Workers

Jarek Baginski*
Kyle Blanchard
Mary Cilia*
Lynne Goulborn
Josanna Melheic
Paul Paget
Linda Raggett
Jennifer Upton
Dianne VanDerster
Peggy Van Staveren

Teachers

Susan Green*
Rich LaFoy
Linda Kennedy
Alex Pankiw*
Jackie Garvey
Ann Henderson-EA

Family Mediation & Info Service

Mediation Coordinator

Tracey Sayer

Info & Referral Coordinator

Elaine Ellison

On Site Mediators

Mary-Ann Cocchetto
Ayse Hitchins
Alison McArthur
Leanne Shafir
Al Wilkinson

Roster Mediators

Heather Baker
Warren Briggs
Karyn Dingle
Rachael Eynon
Sal Garofolo
Valerie Hazlett-Parker
Darlene Murphy
Alison McArthur
Andra Norberg
Marianne Perz
Cathy Salmers
Tracey Sayer
Terri Van Exan

Parent Information Program

Elaine Ellison
Andra Norberg
Jonathan Paynter

*Resigned during the year



Agency Mission

The Durham Family Court Clinic (DFCC) is an innovative community based organization 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, in the legal system.

Issues of domestic violence, poverty, the lack of resources for parents and families are common themes, which

underlie most of our clients' need for service. Children and adolescents seen by the DFCC often have un-addressed mental health and victimization issues as well as educational deficits. Understanding and addressing systemic and underlying issues for youth and their families enable community groups, like the DFCC, to create effective programs and partnerships to promote viable solutions which foster a healthy and safe community.

Services Provided

The DFCC has extensive expertise in issues pertaining to separation and divorce, child welfare, and young offender matters. Assessment, mediation, counselling and psycho-educational programs are provided.

Services Available to the Public:

Family Mediation and Information Services provides separating and divorcing clients with On-site (at Court) or Off-site family mediation, a resource and referral service, and a free Parent Information Program.

Custody and Access Assessments are available directly to the public on a fee-for-service basis for the purpose of providing clinical reports and recommendations to the Court regarding the best interests of the children in separation and divorce matters.

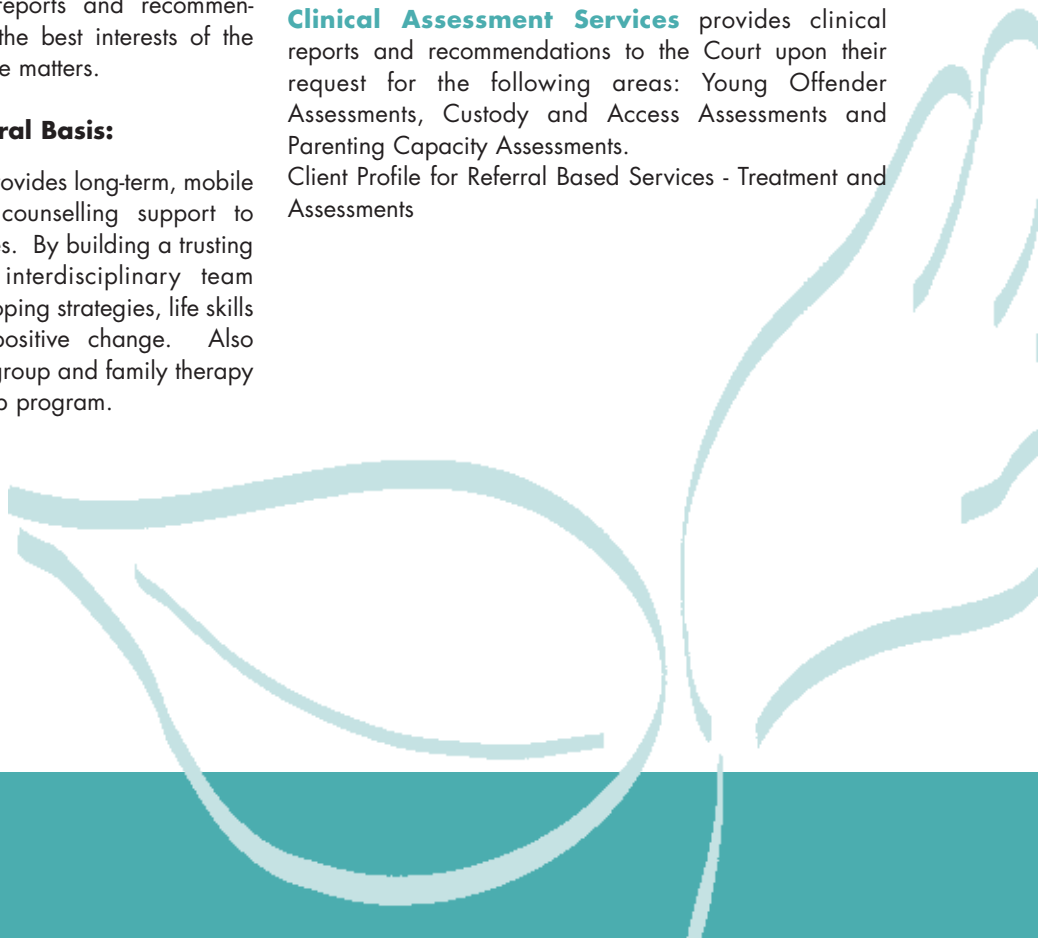
Services Offered on a Referral Basis:

Community Support Team provides long-term, mobile and multi-systemic therapeutic counselling support to Young Offenders and their families. By building a trusting relationship with clients, an interdisciplinary team encourages the development of coping strategies, life skills and self-confidence to direct positive change. Also provided are various individual, group and family therapy programs and a therapeutic camp program.

Collaborative Day Treatment Program provides, in partnership, a therapeutic milieu for youth experiencing chronic difficulty coping in the educational system. Through individualized therapeutic and academic approaches, the program strives to establish a successful learning experience that will promote the youths' knowledge, skills and values and to enhance their life options.

Return Ticket provides, in partnership, fully expelled youth the opportunity to participate in a strict discipline educational program with the intention of reintegrating them into mainstream schooling.

Clinical Assessment Services provides clinical reports and recommendations to the Court upon their request for the following areas: Young Offender Assessments, Custody and Access Assessments and Parenting Capacity Assessments. Client Profile for Referral Based Services - Treatment and Assessments



Campaign Helps At-Risk Families

The Siblings Project

In the Spring of 2003, the DFCC undertook a pilot project entitled 'Reducing Risks & Building Resilience'. This project was made possible through the generous support of a federally funded Community Mobilization Program grant and proceeds from our annual Car Rally. The Siblings Project, as it is commonly called, offers siblings of high-risk young offenders and their families targeted individualized interventions to reduce and/or prevent sibling involvement in criminal activity and or their victimization. Participants received counselling sessions and direct assistance in linking up with community supports and services to help sustain the benefits of the intervention project. At the project's outset, a community Reference Group was formed to provide general advice and guidance to the project.

Over the course of a year, this new innovative service touched the lives of nineteen youth (13 males and 6 females) and thirteen different families with each family presenting many different issues and problems. The majority of the families and youth were quite willing to participate and easily identified their own risk factors.

The Siblings Project was successful in breaking down several significant barriers for clients. These included financial barriers for families who otherwise would not have been able to access such services and supports. Barriers regarding transportation issues were also addressed. Families benefited from the mobility of the service with clients being provided transportation to and from their community related appointments and CST staff traveling throughout Durham Region to meet with youth clients and their families for counselling sessions. As the project targeted high-risk cases and had dedicated funds for treatment, siblings and their families were not put on waiting lists to receive service and therefore could engage in treatment when they were most motivated to do so.

In looking more closely at the results, it is obvious that the Project has helped participating youth and their families make significant gains. For example, of the 64.7% of youth who had numerous behaviour problems at school, 41.4% were able to improve their behaviour in school over the course of the project.

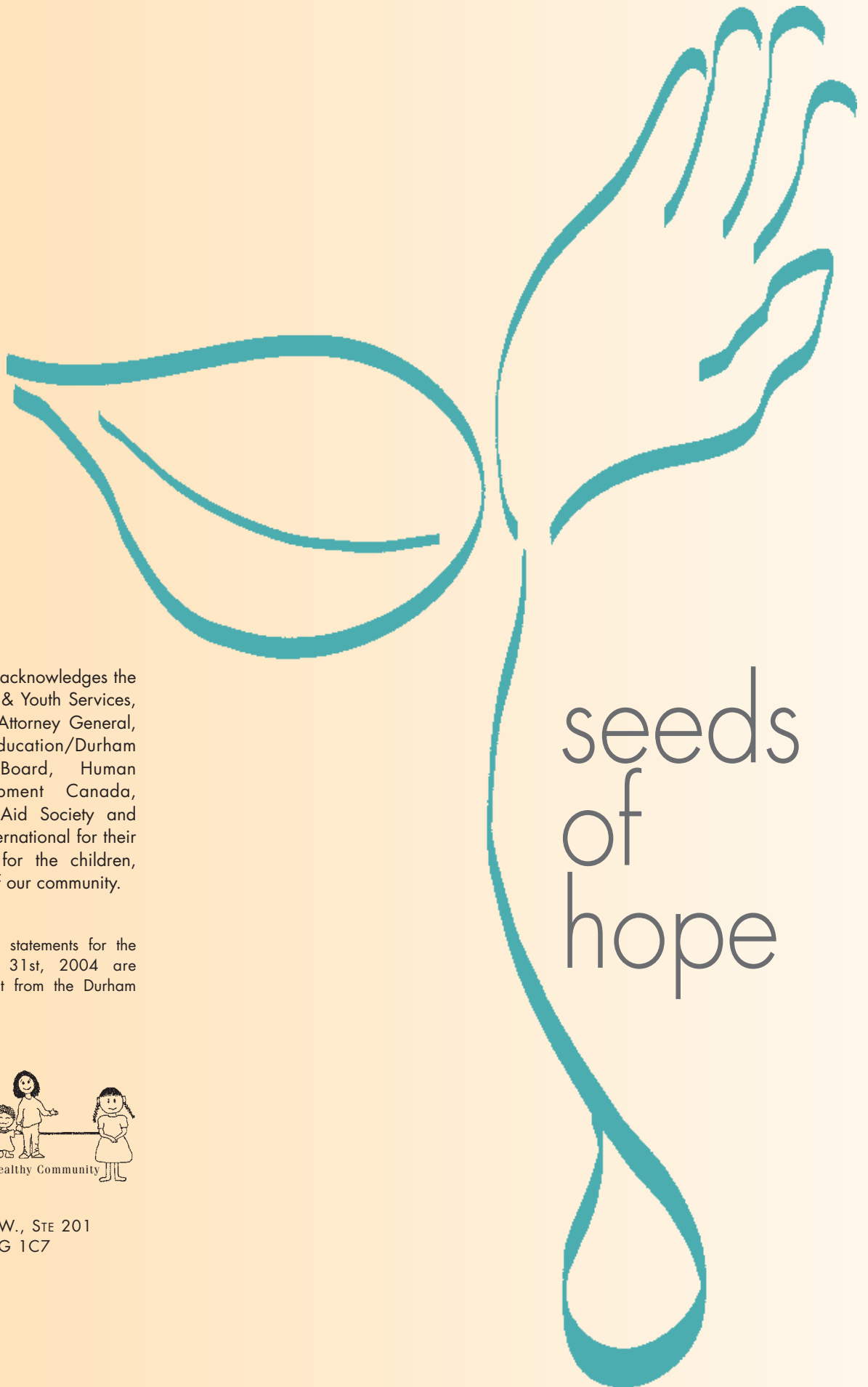
The project was also able to connect 48.2% of youth

and families, who had no previous social service or support agency involvement, to various programs within their communities. Referrals were made to Catholic Family Services, Vocational Pathways, the Whitby Mental Health Centre, and various recreational programs. In this way, the DFCC was able to facilitate and partner effectively with community groups to reduce victimization and improve family functioning.

The DFCC would like to thank all those who participated in the Siblings Reference Group: Kathleen Wilson from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services - Youth Justice Services, Theresa Farrell from the Durham Children's Aid Society, Tracy McMurray from the Town of Ajax - Recreation Services, Yvonne Mulvihill from the Whitby Mental Health Centre, Georgia Jenkins from the Durham District School Board, Faye Cummings from the Durham Catholic District School Board, and Sandi Partridge from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

The Siblings Project will continue for another year due to the generous support of our Car Rally sponsors and donors and the agency's Seeds of Hope campaign. It is only with our community's continued support that the DFCC will be able to provide such innovative services and create community partnerships to help the children, youth and families of our community.





The DFCC gratefully acknowledges the Ministry of Children & Youth Services, the Ministry of the Attorney General, the Ministry of Education/Durham District School Board, Human Resources Development Canada, Durham Children's Aid Society and Family Guidance International for their continuous support for the children, youth and families of our community.

Copies of the audited statements for the year ending March 31st, 2004 are available upon request from the Durham Family Court Clinic.



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FAX: 905.725.0845

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