

annual report

2006
2007



Durham Family Court Clinic
ASSESSMENT • MEDIATION • COUNSELLING SERVICES



Reflection from the Board Chair and the Executive Director

What can we do now to ensure that the Durham Family Court Clinic remains strong in the future? Clearly, we need to plan for tomorrow. Our vision of the future is built on our mission of 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.

Our foundation is built on the key beliefs of providing excellence to existing clients and providing innovative solutions to serve the community in new and different ways. Our goals are supported by *Seeds of Hope*, the DFCC's charitable campaign, which will continue to be a funding source for services that will meet the needs of the children, youth and families of our community in the years to come. The future is also built on a foundation where confidence is felt by our staff and demonstrated in our program delivery.

This vision is manifested within the multi-faceted programming at the Durham Family Court Clinic, which currently spans six programs touching the lives of approximately 11,000 people over this past fiscal year. Among those we serve, are youth who are in conflict with the law and who struggle with a mental health disorder. These young people receive unique and individualized services, often within the community, through the Intensive Support and Supervision Program.

Youth who have been, or who are at risk of being, sexually exploited will soon be served through a 15-month community based project entitled, '*Working It Back to Me*'. The Violence Prevention Program continues to help support change in school culture in regard to violence and bullying through the delivery of workshops and school assemblies.

The Community Support Team continues to address the challenging needs of high-risk youth during critical times. The Collaborative Day Treatment Program intervenes with young people to help meet their full potential by providing alternative educational opportunities. The Family Mediation and Information Service assists individuals in resolving conflict related to separation and divorce. The Assessment Program continues to serve the judiciary system by

completing court-ordered assessments to assist judges in setting a youth's disposition.

It will take careful planning to ensure that we can continue to serve our community in such dynamic ways in years to come.

In the delivery of multi-faceted programming, strong leadership is vital. We have been most fortunate in the guidance provided by our two Senior Managers. In addition, the support that is supplied by our Administrative Team further enhances the agency's ability to deliver services. From a client's first contact with DFCC, they receive a high level of respect and quality of service. This is achieved by the skills, knowledge, and professionalism that each and every member of the DFCC team shares with each other and with our clients.

Building upon our current strength has been an important component of our long-term planning. We strengthen our foundation by investing in our staff and ensuring they experience a strong and positive environment which helps foster excellence. Thus, fulfilling our responsibility to the future also means identifying, teaching, and developing a new generation who will be the Agency's leaders of tomorrow. It also meant that the expansion of office space was necessary to meet current program needs and prepare for tomorrow.

An important goal as we move forward is to ensure we remain a strong organization. This is the key to serving our clients and ultimately to achieving our mission and to ensuring that our vision for the future remains steadfast and clear. To do this, we must embrace challenges, remain innovative and grow with our community.

We would like our funders, donors, and stakeholders to know that making an investment in the Durham Family Court Clinic is an investment in the healthy future of the community.

Our goal is to serve this generation, while strengthening our foundation for the future.

Bonnie Gagné , MSW, RSW, Acc.FM (OAFM)
Executive Director

Dr. Carla Baetz
Board Chair

Board of Directors 2006-2007

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

Jim Bradfield, Past Chair
Gloria Krampp
Terri McCabe
Laurie Pietras

2006 Annual General Meeting

The DFCC was honoured to have Vernon White, Chief of Police - Durham Regional Police Service as the keynote speaker at our June 15, 2006 AGM. The Chief of Police communicated both his professional experience and visionary approach on the topic of Justice Alternatives. The meeting also included a summary presentation by DFCC staff member Kim Tilden regarding the agency's new Intensive Support and Supervision Program (ISSP). With the event 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 the presentation of the Youth Recognition Awards (see below for details).

2006 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 pieces are edited writings, originally prepared by staff for the 2006 AGM, describing their clients' personal stories and the celebration of these young people's achievements.

Kaitlyn was referred to the DFCC in 2003, and remained involved with the agency until 2005. At the time of her referral, Kaitlyn's history included violence, depression and substance abuse. She had dropped out of school and was estranged from her family.

During her association with the DFCC, Kaitlyn demonstrated the courage and willingness to deal with the issues that prevented her success and worked diligently at realizing her strengths and embracing her weaknesses. For the last two years, she has been involved in a personal relationship which supports her positive growth. She has also reconnected with her family and they are proud of her accomplishments and relieved that she has come to realize her potential.

Kaitlyn achieved first class honours, obtaining a 93% average during the first semester of the 2006 school year and is now pursuing her post-secondary, university education. She intends to use her bursary to help pay for school. Kaitlyn is deserving of this award because she is an inspiration. She is a young woman who has overcome her past to pave the way to a successful future.

Randy has been connected to the Durham Family Court Clinic for a number of years and has had to face several set backs during his time with the agency. His struggles have included changes in family situations, difficulties with schooling and challenges from peers. However, Randy has

been able to persevere, to make notable changes in his beliefs and become an asset to his community.

Although struggles and challenges may still lie ahead, Randy has begun to develop a strong, supportive base which he can grow and continue to learn from. He is an extremely caring young man and can be described as enthusiastic, humorous and reliable. His ongoing commitment to his education, his gains and most of all his life has led Randy to a place where his abilities and strengths are recognized and where his traits and skills define who he now is.

Kelly came to the DFCC in early 2006. Since then, her commitment to improving her overall personal success has been impressive. She is a caring, compassionate and determined young lady who is open to receiving and taking guidance on how she can make better choices for her future. Kelly is an excellent story and poetry writer and takes pride in these accomplishments. She often uses her writings to assist her in expressing her emotions and putting her life experiences into perspective. Furthermore, she has gained valuable insights into her behaviour through discussions with staff about her poetry and stories.

Kelly has endured several life altering situations and experiences and has attained the strength to persevere and grow. She has been able to adapt to changes within her life and continues to move forward, seeing set backs as opportunities to utilize the coping strategies that she has developed. She now also sees adults as a support system that she can confide in during difficult times. Kelly's resilience and persistence has assisted her in this long journey which has now placed her on the right path.



GROWTH

TRANSITION
GROWTH
DEVELOPMENT
CHANGE
RENEWAL

THREE

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 2006-2007 fiscal year includes several accomplishments for *Seeds of Hope*. With the success of the previous year, the campaign helped fund the delivery of the Collaborative Day Treatment Program's new Employability Skills Training program, an initiative which assists vulnerable youth clients. Resource Development also helped to facilitate the creation of new partnership opportunities for this pilot project.

Concluding during this fiscal year was the *Seeds of Hope* managed initiative, '*Reducing the Risk of Internet Luring & Sexual Exploitation of Children*'. Funded by the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of the Attorney General, this project delivered community and professional information sessions and created a new Violence Prevention Program (VPP) workshop entitled, '*Getting the Download*'. Introduced to Durham Region's schools in the Fall of 2006, this new psycho-educational workshop is designed to educate students about the dangers of the internet, while promoting strategies to help protect them from potential victimization. The Violence Prevention Program currently receives annual funding from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and has served almost 6,000 students this past year. The genesis for the very successful Violence Prevention Program comes from a *Seeds of Hope* funded pilot project which was undertaken in 2003.

Another achievement was the approval, in December 2006, of a 15-month project grant to create an innovative community-based program designed to assist youth who are victims, or who are at-risk of being victims, of sexual exploitation. The Government of Ontario through the Ministry of the Attorney General is funding this project over two fiscal years.

Other accomplishments include further development of the Nutrition Program, the continued support from the Sports for Kids Foundation for camp and sports programming, another successful Charity Dinner & Theatre Night at Class Act Dinner Theatre and the continued support of TD Waterhouse as the event's Diamond sponsor. The year also included opportunities to find innovative ways to break down barriers for our youth clients. Among these accomplishments was the Regional Municipality of Durham Region - Durham Transit Commission providing an in-kind grant of transit passes allowing youth the opportunity to access counselling and community based programs. The agency also saw the continued generous 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*. For further details on these and other initiatives, please refer to the Spring 2007 edition of the *You* newsletter by visiting www.dfcc.org - 'Resources'.

Charity Registration: 13019-6306-RR0001

FOUR

development



The Promise of a Brighter Future for our Kids

April 1, 2006 - March 31, 2007

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

CHAMPIONS (\$5000 or greater)

Government of Ontario through the Ministry
of the Attorney General
Regional Municipality of Durham-Durham Region
Transit Commission
Sport for Kids Foundation
TD Waterhouse Canada Inc.

BENEFACTORS (\$1000 - \$4999)

Baagwating Community Association
Class Act Dinner Theatre, Catering & Banquet Halls
Dunbarton-Fairport United Church
Durham Regional Police Services Board
Durham's Child Nutrition Project
Electro Sonic
KX 96 New Country FM
Mackie Harley-Davidson
Metroland, Durham Division
Ministry of Children & Youth Services
(Peterborough Family Resource Centre)
Northminster United Church
Oshawa's Oldies CKDO
Port Oshawa
Print Three
St. George's Anglican Church
The William Frank Hayball Charitable Foundation
Thorsons EVT
Trinity United Church in Bowmanville
United Way of Oshawa-Whitby-Clarington-Brock & Scugog
Veridian Corporation
Whitby Hydro Energy Corporation

SPONSORS (\$500 - \$999)

Bell Canada
Canadian Hydrogen Energy Company Ltd.
Durham Regional Police Service - Food & Toy Drive
New Life Neighbourhood Centre
Ontario Power Generation
Platinum Family Fitness
Raptors Foundation
Regional Municipality of Durham
Rotary Club of Bowmanville
ServiceMaster of Durham
Syvan Developments - Ed & Sylvia Vanhaverbeke
The Fairmont Royal York
Via Rail Canada
Anonymous (1)

CONTRIBUTORS (\$100 - \$499)

Aitchison Law Offices
Anne & Paul Arsenaault
Art Gallery of Ontario

Auracom Internet Services
Avis Oshawa/Ajax
Carla Baetz
Jack Barclay
Bell World/Excell Communications Inc.
Breakfast For Learning - Canadian Living Foundation
Brian Fingold
Canadian Museum of Civilization Corporation
Christ Memorial Anglican Church
John Christakis
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Columbus United Church
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ottawa
Yvonne Davies
Ron Durand
Durham District School Board
Durham Regional Police Association Inc.
Nicole Fogal
Bonnie Gagné
Avery Goldfarb
Bea Hancock
Hardiman Mount & Associates Insurance Brokers Ltd.
Holiday Inn Express, Whitby
Holiday Inn Select, Windsor
Kawartha Lakes Police Services
Carol Kennedy
Knights of Columbus - St. Jude Council No. 06052
Lynn Huizer Consulting
Natalie MacDonald
Newcastle Outback Paintball
Ontario Place Corporation
Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, District 13
Optimist Club of Oshawa Inc.
Oshawa Golf and Curling Club
Radisson Hotel Ottawa, Parliament Hill
Rhythm Dynamix Dance
Royal Ashburn Golf Club
Southport Executive Service Inc.
Sharon Steel
Toronto Blue Jays Baseball Club
Toronto Maple Leafs Hockey Club
Toronto Zoo
The Guitar Shop
Cheryl Tsagarakis
Upstairs @ Loblaws, Bowmanville Market
John Water
Westwind Inn on the Lake
WGW Services
Whitby Chamber of Commerce
Whitby School of Music
White Oaks Conference Resort and Spa
Wild Water Kingdom
Maureen Wilkinson
Worden Insurance Brokers Ltd.
Anonymous (1)

*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*

\$165,090

FIVE

Staff

April 1, 2006 - March 31, 2007

Executive Director

Bonnie Gagné
Vicky Visca*

Clinical Director

Beryl Rick
Bonnie Gagné*

Director of Operations

Diane Shea

Business Manager

Yvonne Davies* (retired)

Administrative Team

Anne Arsenault
Yvonne Davies (Bookkeeper)
Julie Dreger-Jensen
Nicole Fogal (Mediation Admin)
Carol Kennedy

Assessment Service

Bea Hancock
Debbie Salsbury
Kim Tilden
Cheryl Tsagarakis

Resource Development

Natalie MacDonald

Collaborative Day Treatment Program (CDTP)

Lynne Goulborn Paul Paget
Jennifer Matesic Peggy Van Staveren
Diane McVicar*

CDTP - Teachers (DDSB)

Michael Guitard-McDonnell
Anne Henderson, Educational Assistant
Linda Kennedy

CDTP - Placement Students

Matt-trill Chambers, George Brown College
Lori Perry, Trillium College

* Resigned or transferred to another DFCC program during the year.

Community Support Team

Jarek Baginski
Kristy Baynton
Gary Brooks
Derek Forster
Diane McVicar
Debbie Salsbury
Stephanie Turner
Cheryl Tsagarakis

Family Mediation & Information Service

Heather Baker
Warren Briggs
Nicole Fogal
Sal Garofolo
Ayse Hitchins
Alison McArthur
Darlene Murphy
Andra Norberg
Marianna Perz
Tracey Sayer*
Terri Van Exan

Parent Information Sessions

Andra Norberg
Jonathan Paynter

Intensive Support & Supervision Program

Lynne Goulborn
Diane McVicar
Kim Tilden

Violence Prevention Program

Suzanne Dunbar
Laura LeRoux Oloaoye

Auditor

Michael Sullivan, CA

Consulting Psychiatrist

Dr. R. Meen

Consulting Psychologists

Dr. W. Ammons
Dr. P. Marshall
Dr. M. Schwartz
Dr. J. Worling

Other Consultants

R. Johnson, Consulting Principles, Technology
Michael Saini, Ph.D. (Candidate), Programs Evaluation
Paul Andrew Smith R.G.D - Image Design Group,
Marketing & Web

Summer Experience Student

Jessica Arsenault

Services Provided

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

Services Offered on a Referral Basis

Clinical Assessment Services
Collaborative Day Treatment Program
Community Support Team
Intensive Support and Supervision Program

| | 2004 2005 | 2005 2006 | 2006 2007 |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total Cases Served | 716 | 908 | 954 |
| Total # of Children & Youth Served (excludes Mediation) | 446 | 480 | 379 |
| To High Risk Youth/Youth in Conflict with the Law | | | |
| Assessments (Sect. 34/Probation) | 36 | 48 | 49 |
| Collaborative Day Treatment Program | 87 | 59 | 53 |
| Community Support Team | 148 | 166 | 176 |
| Direct Consultation | 103 | 118 | 84 |
| Early Intervention Program | - | 43 | - |
| Intensive Support & Supervision Program | - | - | 8 |
| Gender | | | |
| Male | 69% | 69% | 59% |
| Female | 31% | 31% | 41% |
| Nature of Offences | | | |
| Against persons | 111 | 132 | 143 |
| Sexual offences | 26 | 22 | 29 |
| Against property | 84 | 96 | 94 |
| Provincial & other | 19 | 23 | 34 |
| Breaches | 78 | 152 | 122 |
| Total Number of Offences | 318 | 425 | 422 |
| Students attending Violence Prevention Workshops | - | 6,886 | 5,591 |
| Family Mediation and Information Service | | | |
| New Cases (On & Off Site) | 414 | 580 | 670 |
| Cases Closed | 415 | 575 | 654 |
| Cases mediated | 375 | 533 | 623 |
| Mediation Outcomes | | | |
| Full agreement | 55% | 61% | 59% |
| Partial agreement | 12% | 12% | 13% |
| No agreement | 33% | 26% | 28% |
| % of cases not represented by lawyer | 40% | 29% | 24% |
| % of cases Court action had started | 60% | 69% | 73% |
| Family Law Information Service | | | |
| Telephone inquiries | 1,952 | 2,126 | 1,540 |
| Walk-Ins | 763 | 1,742 | 1,509 |
| Attending Parent Information Sessions | 120 | 153 | 167 |
| Other Assessments | | | |
| Custody & Access | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| Parent Capacity | 27 | 11 | 1 |

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, 2007, are available upon request from the Durham Family Court Clinic.



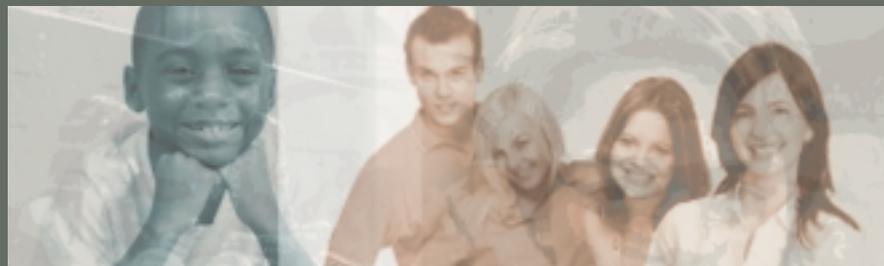
Durham Family Court Clinic
ASSESSMENT • MEDIATION • COUNSELLING SERVICES

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