

YOU make a difference

Dedicated to Fostering a Healthy and Safe Community

Community Demand for New Early Intervention and Violence Prevention Programs Exceed Targets



The Early Intervention Program (EIP) and Violence Prevention Program (VPP) received funding in the Spring of 2005 from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. Programs are free to the community and are designed to provide two distinct services.

The VPP is designed to change school culture about violence and bullying through the presentation of workshops from small groups to assembly size audiences. The EIP is designed to provide support to youth who have been identified as at-risk of violent and offending behaviour and/or victimization. After an intense period of training and program development, both programs were available by June 2005 and as indicated below, demand quickly surpassed the availability of program resources.

The VPP provided its first presentation in Durham Region on June 6, 2005. Initially targeted to serve 400 elementary and high school students for the 2005-2006 school year, the program served 6,886 students by the end of March 2006 (reporting stats from June 6, 2005 to March 31, 2006). During this time, 134 workshops were delivered to the Durham District School Board, 61 to the Durham Catholic District School Board and 4 to the Kawartha Pineridge District

School Board, with a total of 199 workshops being completed. To date, there are 65 workshops booked and 32 schools on a waitlist for presentations beginning in September of 2006. Workshops are presented on a variety of topics based on school needs. The following stats indicate the breakdown in workshop topics presented:

Anger Management: 18%
 Conflict Resolution: 28%
 Bullying: 17%
 Dating Violence: 10%
 Homophobia: 4%
 Sexual Harassment: 6%
 Racism: 4%
 Gang Violence: 13%

The Early Intervention Program (EIP) also had a successful and record breaking year. Originally targeted to serve 30 youth through individualized treatment programs, 43 youth were served (reporting period same as above). Due to the overwhelming demand for EIP and VPP services, the agency has made the difficult decision to suspend the delivery of EIP until further funding is secured. Currently, alternative funding for a similar focused program is being sought to assist youth who are at risk of or have involvement with a gang.

To learn more about VPP, please visit www.dfcc.org and view Agency Programs.

Community Support Team Receives New Funding for Expanding Program

The DFCC's Community Support Team (CST) provides long-term mobile and multi-systemic therapeutic counselling support to youth in conflict with the law. 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.

Due to recent new funding from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Youth Justice Branch, two new positions within the CST have been created allowing for a total of seven clinicians to serve our community.

Another noteworthy announcement is that after 18 years of service, CST member Deb Benner left the agency team to explore new opportunities. As an integral member of the CST, Deb had a particular passion and expertise in assisting youth with serious chronic mental health issues. During last year's farewell party, over 40 friends and colleagues gathered to wish Deb the very best and to thank her for her many years of service.

With the above changes, the DFCC is pleased to welcome Kristy Baynton, Derek Forster and Stephanie Turner to the Community Support Team.

Moving from the Early Intervention Program, we welcome back to the CST Jarek Baginski and also wish the best to Kim Tilden in her new role with the Intensive Support and Supervision Program.

IN THIS ISSUE

- *Message from Executive Director*
- *Message from Board Chair*
- *Service Updates*
- *Seeds of Hope Update*
- *25th Anniversary Celebration*
- *Reducing the Risk*



Durham Family Court Clinic
 ASSESSMENT • COUNSELLING • MEDIATION SERVICES



Vicky Visca,
Executive Director

Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As we prepare this newsletter, I am reminded that the Durham Family Court Clinic's 25th Anniversary celebration officially concluded with our February 16, 2006 Charity Dinner & Theatre night. This sold out event brought together many friends of the DFCC and provided us a wonderful way to end our year long celebration.

As you read this edition of 'You', two natural underlying themes are revealed - that our anniversary year has provided us the opportunity to showcase a strong foundation of service excellence and that the agency is prepared to embark on an exciting and dynamic future. Featured in this edition is our new Intensive Support and Supervision Program (ISSP) and a summary report on our Reducing the Risk of Internet Luring & Sexual Exploitation of Children initiative.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce Bonnie Gagné as the DFCC's Clinical Director. This new senior management role reflects the DFCC's continued investment in providing strong leadership in innovative clinical services to meet the needs of our community.

On a final note, I would like to comment that this newsletter also represents the last major component of our new marketing image to be introduced to our stakeholders and community. In December 2005, the DFCC also launched a new agency website, which provides easy access to information regarding our mission, programs, resources and *Seeds of Hope* campaign. To view our website, please visit www.dfcc.org.

Sincerely,
Vicky Visca

You make a difference

You is a publication of the Durham Family Court Clinic.

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Durham Family Court Clinic
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*The Promise of
a Brighter Future
for our Kids*

2

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The DFCC gratefully acknowledges the Ministry of Children & Youth Services-Youth Justice Services, the Ministry of the Attorney General, the Ministry of Children & Youth-Children Services, 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.

Message from the Board Chair

My Journey with the DFCC

The DFCC is a complex agency providing extensive prevention and intervention services to some of the region's most challenging children, youth and families. From the moment I first stepped into the DFCC, I knew I was in the hands of people who really care. Never have I met such a dedicated and passionate group of individuals giving their 'all' to such a great agency.

I have had the privilege of serving on the Durham Family Court Clinic Board of Directors for the past three years and, as a member of the board, I have been treated with the greatest of respect and appreciation. Best of all, board work has been a great deal of fun! It has truly been an honour and, most often, a delight to be part of the team.

I look forward to serving as Chair for the next two years, a time that will no doubt be a time of change and transition. But I'm not alone. I have a tremendous team of board members and a wonderfully warm staff with whom to share the journey.

As we look towards the future, we are always looking for members bringing a fresh perspective to complement our volunteer Board of Directors. Therefore, we encourage you to consider making a difference in your community by finding out if you would make a good fit with our team. I would be delighted to contact you so that we could discuss in greater detail the joys and challenges of the position. (Please see back cover for related details).

Yours truly,
Dr. Carla Baetz,



Dr. Carla Baetz,
DFCC Board Chair



New model for assessments

To remain responsive to community needs, the agency's assessment model for Section 34's and Parenting Capacity Assessments was changed last year. With the new model, we bid a sad farewell to contract assessors Jennifer Barnett, Derek Forster, Bev LeMay, Andra Norberg, Anne Sheehan and Karyn Dingle the Assessment Manager. To each we wish the very best, knowing that circumstance will likely bring us together again in the future.

Understanding Section 34 's

The following article provides a brief summary of the Section 34 assessments conducted at the DFCC.

The Youth Criminal Justice Act allows for a young person who is in conflict with the law, to have a Section 34 Assessment completed under certain conditions. The

assessment evaluates the mental or physical state of the young person who is before the Court. A Section 34 Assessment, with the consent of the young person and prosecutor, or on application of the young person or prosecutor, or on the court's own motion allows an assessment to be completed for the following reasons:

- i) the youth justice court has reasonable grounds to believe the young person may be suffering from a physical or mental illness or disorder, a psychological disorder, an emotional disturbance, a learning disability or mental disability;
- ii) the young person's history indicates a pattern of repeated findings of guilt under the Young Offenders Act or the Youth Criminal Justice Act; or
- iii) the young person is alleged to have committed a serious, violent offence.

To complete the Section 34 Assessment

requires a team of professionals. At the Durham Family Court Clinic, the assessment team consists of psychologists, psychiatrists, and a social worker. The Young Person will meet with the individual professional to complete the assessment.

The Section 34 Assessment makes recommendations outlining what programs or services could assist the Young Person in dealing with the factors that contributed to the Young Person's criminal behaviour. In addition, the assessment assists the Court in setting sentences that promote rehabilitation and re-integration as well as a sense of responsibility and an acknowledgement of the harm done.

New programs address the unique needs of youth

The Intensive Support and Supervision Program (ISSP) is the newest addition to the Durham Family Court Clinic. A joint proposal by the Durham Family Court Clinic and Peterborough Youth Services received approval by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Youth Justice Branch. The ISSP is an option of the Youth Criminal Justice Act which attempts to address the underlying causes of youth crime.

The ISSP addresses the complex mental health needs of youth in conflict with the law during the period of disposition (sentencing) ordered by the Court. The program provides a clinically-focused, community-based, individualized program

designed to deliver services appropriate to the youth's level of functioning and to target those specific needs that contribute to their offending behaviour. It also facilitates ongoing service delivery to extend beyond Court-sanctioned dispositions for those youth who require such service. A basic premise of the ISSP is that a collaboration of service delivery from various service sectors is required to best meet the needs of these youth.

Services are intended to: reduce the risk of recidivism through targeted and effective rehabilitation and reintegration strategies; provide community safety through monitoring compliance with court orders

and reinforcing accountability; expand the range of appropriate alternatives to custody in Ontario and reduce the use of custody in circumstances where it is not determined to be the most effective measure for the youth and respond to the identified need for intensive support and supervision for youth with mental health and other special needs entering the youth justice system.

The DFCC is pleased to announce Kim Tilden as the ISSP Coordinator. Kim has worked at the DFCC since 2003 as a CST worker.

For further details about ISSP please visit, 'Programs' at www.dfcc.org.

Family Mediation & Information Service Secures another Successful Bid

Recently the DFCC's Family Mediation and Information Service secured its third successful bid with the Ministry of the Attorney General and has now celebrated more than 6 years of continuous service to Durham Region. The service has built a strong reputation in the community and works collaboratively with Court Services, Legal Aid, and the Ministry of the Attorney

General in providing options for separating and divorcing families.

Services available provide an inexpensive, less adversarial, and more child-focused alternative to court for Durham Region's separating and divorcing families. To learn more about our free On-site Family Mediation Service, affordable Offsite

Family Mediation Service, the free Parent Information Program and our Information & Referral Service, please visit www.durham-familymediation.ca

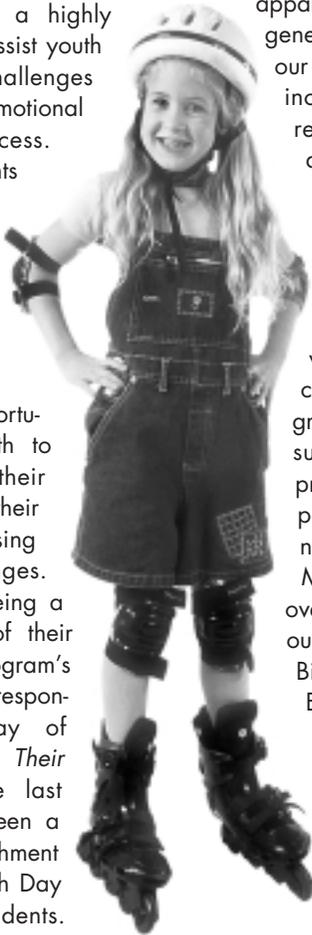
At this time, the DFCC also wishes to thank Elaine Ellison for her dedicated service to the mediation program and wishes her the very best as she pursues new opportunities.



Changing Lives by Connecting Kids to Their Community

The Collaborative Day Treatment Program offers an educational program within a therapeutic setting for Durham Region's youth. On the surface, the program looks like most classroom settings, but is actually a highly specialized program to assist youth who have multiple challenges which limit their social, emotional and academic success. Typically, our young clients have suffered a tremendous feeling of failure in their academic history and truancy levels have been extraordinarily high.

Providing ample opportunities to assist our youth to positively engage in their community is critical to their success and to addressing their unique challenges. However with poverty being a major theme in many of their lives, it becomes the Program's and the *Seeds of Hope's* responsibility to find a way of *Connecting our Kids to Their Community*. Over the last school year there has been a strong sense of accomplishment from the viewpoint of both Day Treatment staff and students. Although there are many important factors which impact this success, it is clear that the regular use of a gym, the chance to book informative guest speakers and provide exciting opportunities for students to participate in various excursions has helped change lives. In all cases, these initiatives provide ample therapeutic opportunities and build a sense of community for our young people, allowing them to be challenged, enthusiastic about life and learning, engaged, aware of other people's needs and points of view as well as hopeful about their own future.



Resource Development completes Marketing and Development Plan

Our three-year Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) grant officially ended in December 2005 and, with this, the completion of many aspects of the agency's Marketing and Development Plan. The most apparent benefit from the Foundation's generous support was the creation of our new communications materials including our brochures, a revamped newsletter and new agency website and new agency and *Seeds of Hope* logos (visit www.dfcc.org to view website and new resources).

Our OTF grant also benefited us in many other substantial ways. It allowed us to invest in capacity building, to take risks, to grow our *Seeds of Hope* campaign, support the creation of new programs, develop new creative partnerships and establish a strong network of Friends to assist us. Many people helped the DFCC over the last three years to achieve our success. In particular, Marie Billinger joined our team as an Event and Volunteer Coordinator for about one year and used her strong event planning skills to help us before moving on to other projects.

For the final year and a half of our grant, the DFCC was lucky enough to have Gwen Humphreys join us. Much of Gwen's time focused on event support and outreach to faith groups in Durham Region. Paul Andrew Smith of IMAGE Design Group also played an important role by helping us create an integrated series of communications materials to better respond to the needs of our donors and clients. The DFCC would also like to acknowledge and thank the Ontario Trillium Foundation, its staff and volunteers for their investment in our *Seeds of Hope* campaign, and to the strengthening of an infrastructure to support future growth. (For related updates, please view the *Seeds of Hope* section of this newsletter).

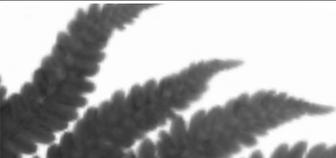
Admin Team Plays Key Role

Over the last year the DFCC has witnessed an amazing amount of change and growth and with this the need to demonstrate responsiveness and adaptation. The DFCC's administrative team has, in many ways, been front and centre in helping to manage the implementation of change to existing service models and programs, the adding of new services, the welcoming and support of new staff and the introduction of new procedures. Over the last year there have also been many upgrades in the area of agency technology. The agency recently purchased and installed new reporting software. Designed to address the specific needs of our clinicians, our Athena software offers the realization of improved efficiencies, but required admin staff to play a significant role in facilitating the transitional phase which required agency wide training and the development and then adjustment of policies and procedures. Along with new software came new hardware in the form of laptops to allow staff the flexibility to record information such as case notes and schedules even while out of the office.

In all cases the admin team played a significant role in moving these initiatives forward. In recognition of this contribution I would like to thank Anne Arsenault, Julie Dreger-Jensen, Carol Kennedy and Nicole Fogal for their continued dedicated support during these very busy times. Furthermore, it must be acknowledged that this very special team has managed to continue to deliver, with excellence, a key service. Typically the first voice heard by our clients over the telephone and the first one to welcome them through our doors, these gatekeepers play a very special role in serving our clients, while accommodating so much change and managing to fulfill those many requests that fall under that very important line on all job descriptions, 'other duties as required'.

Sincerely,
Yvonne Davies
Business Manager

A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE GROWTH



Seeds of Hope

Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Campaign Provides Largest Community Donation

Good fortune smiled brightly on the *Seeds of Hope* campaign when the DFCC was selected as one of Tim Hortons 2005 Smile Cookie campaign recipients. Across Durham Region during a week in September, Tim Hortons franchise owners, staff and patrons extended their generous support to the DFCC and Bereaved Families of Durham Region by selling over 50,000 Smile Cookies.

The results of the campaign were truly amazing, with a donation of \$25,148.50 being presented to the DFCC, a gift that represents the largest community based donation that our *Seeds of Hope* charity campaign has ever received. As substantial as this gift is, Tim Hortons' generous support goes beyond its monetary value. Due to the number of people involved in making the Smile Cookie campaign a success, this initiative provided a powerful affirmation to our young clients that their community cares enough to extend a helping hand.

Part of the proceeds from the Tim Hortons campaign will be used to support the delivery of the Collaborative Day Treatment Program during a time when

funding has been reduced. The impact of Tim Hortons' support will allow us to continue to serve approximately 80 youth during the upcoming school calendar year and will indirectly help us maintain our Nutrition Program.



The Promise
of a Brighter
Future for
Our Kids

DFCC staff celebrate
the results of Tim
Hortons 2005 Smile
Cookie Campaign

After School Group Programs

After-school group programs are *Seeds of Hope* funded initiatives designed to provide intervention counselling and support services to high-risk children and youth as a means to reduce their risk of involvement in criminal activity and/or their victimization. Referral sources include the Durham Children's Aid Society, the Durham District School Board, the Durham Catholic District School Board, Durham Regional Police Services, Frontenac Youth Services, Family Guidance International and many children's mental health agencies. Referrals are screened for appropriateness through interviews with the parents and youth.

Beyond the Bully - Confronting the Conflict

Beyond the Bully was the first After School Group Program offered to help children and youth who have been affected by bullying - an issue which has been identified as a growing problem within our communities. Two groups ran in the Spring of 2005 with funding being provided by the United Way of Ajax - Pickering - Uxbridge and Sears Young Futures. The Beyond the Bully Programs assist children who have been bullied and/or victimized at school, in the community or at home and also those who have bullied and/or acted out in a violent or aggressive manner toward their peers either at school, in the community or at home. The ultimate goal for both groups was to strengthen the ability of at-risk children

and youth to end the cycle of conflict and to equip them with skills and choices to respond to would-be bullying situations in a more meaningful way.

Bridging the Gap

During the summer months, at-risk youth often become disconnected from the needed structure, consistency, therapeutic support and guidance of their programs. In some situations, many of the gains achieved while in treatment and/or care are reversed or sabotaged and their propensity to participate in destructive and risky behaviours increases.

The Bridging the Gap Program offers treatment and support to youth while students are away from regular programming. Two programs were offered during the Summer of 2005. Each session ran for two hours a day, with a total of 20 days of programming being offered. Youth participated in sporting activities, outings and expressive arts activities. Free to our participants, program costs were sponsored by funds raised through our annual charity fundraiser and by the Sport for Kids Foundation (see page 6 for related details).

The program allowed youth to discuss everyday difficulties, stressors and pressures that influence their abilities to make positive choices. All youth indicated on their Participants Satisfaction Survey that, without their attendance to the Bridging the Gap

Program, they would be involved in delinquent activities and risky behaviours. The participants acknowledged that through their experiences with the facilitators many of their preconceptions, anxieties and fears of authority figures were dispelled, giving them the foundation to further challenge their belief systems and possibly invest in positive relationships with adults.

Beyond the Bully - Edited copy from Evaluation Program Report prepared by Karyn Dingle MSW, RSW, Debbie Salsbury, SSW, BA, Kim Tilden, MSW, RSW and Cheryl Tsagarakis BA, RSW.

Bridging the Gap - Edited copy from Program Report prepared by Diane Vanderster and Lynne Goulborn

S'port for Kids Foundation plays leadership role in helping our youth

For the second year in a row, the S'port for Kids Foundation has financially supported the DFCC's Therapeutic Camp Program, as well as various sports and leisure excursions for our young clients. As many of our regular readers know, the DFCC's camp program offers a unique opportunity to involve DFCC youth in an exciting and clinically supervised initiative. Our camp program offers many physically challenging activities that are designed to nurture personal development, interpersonal skills, improve physical and mental health as well as build bridges to return youth to a community from which they have often felt disconnected. Research supports the benefits of participating in such activities as a means to develop healthy attitudes and behaviours and create resilience - a factor which helps children and youth cope with adversity. Over the last year more than 100 youth have benefited from the S'port for Kids Foundation's generous support. Sixteen (16) youth went to camp, 20 youth who were involved in last summer's Bridging the Gap program enjoyed many sports and leisure outings and many Collaborative Day Treatment Program and CST youth were taken, with their counsellors, to various activities including horseback riding, swimming and rope climbing. (See page 5 for further information about Bridging the Gap).

Christmas and Holiday Spirit provide overwhelming support to DFCC youth and their families

No one could have anticipated the extraordinary community response to our call for help. The months of December and January were filled with the hustle and bustle of activity resulting from the generous receipt of community donations to assist our young clients and their families, with DFCC staff working hard to ensure everything was received on time over the holidays. Our young clients' and their families' response was itself heart warming, with letters and phone calls of gratitude being forwarded to the agency.

A combination of Food, Toy and Gift Drives, coupled with financial donations resulted in over 30 DFCC youth clients and/or families receiving gifts to help make the holiday season brighter. In-kind donations were received from the Durham Regional Police Service Food & Toy Drive, Pickering Pentecostal Church, St. Therese Catholic Church and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Two generous financial donations to prepare gift baskets for our

young clients were also made by the parishioners from St. George's Anglican Church. As a longstanding tradition, many DFCC staff also donated to this initiative through payroll deductions. In addition, there were a number of charity events hosted by the community to support *Seeds of Hope* funded programs and services. The DFCC extends its sincere gratitude to Beate Ritchie for hosting a Charity Luncheon and to the Students of Trafalgar Castle School for donating part of the proceeds from their Annual Charity Bazaar.

Although many letters were sent thanking people and organizations for their generous support, the DFCC knows there were many other people who indirectly participated in this special call for help by volunteering or donating through their various



Day Treatment staff prepare to stock Nutrition Program's food pantry and deliver food and gift baskets. All items were donated by the community.

community organizations. With this in mind, the DFCC would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our community, for so generously responding to the needs of our organization and to the many other worthy charities of our community. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

(some donors have requested to remain anonymous)

Microsoft Canada

Microsoft Canada, through their Community Affairs Department, offered not-for-profit organizations the opportunity to receive free software programming. The DFCC was fortunate enough to participate in this initiative and gratefully acknowledges Microsoft Canada's support.

Holmes and Brakel Business Interiors

Holmes and Brakel Business Interiors made a generous donation of retired office furniture to the DFCC mid-last year. Truly this donation could not have come at a better time as the roll-out of new services over the last year has been extraordinary. The DFCC was very fortunate to work with Holmes and Brakel staff who donated time to help us find suitable pieces and generously included the delivery and set-up of the furniture in their donation.

Nutrition Program

Our Nutrition Program continues to grow and stabilize. Over the last year a combination of over 5,000 healthy breakfasts, snacks and lunches have been served to students. Our new Nutrition Coordinator, Jennifer Matesic, has organized the preparation of well balanced and delicious meals and snacks, offering students lots of opportunities to learn about healthy eating habits and providing them great hands-on cooking experience. The program also offers some youth the opportunity to earn a high school credit.

Funding for the Nutrition Program relies heavily on grants and donations. In support of the program, the DFCC has recently received financial support from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to purchase food and we have also received thousands of dollars of in-kind food donations to help stock the pantry shelves. Donors include Kedron United Church, Salvation Army Family Services - Oshawa and Ajax (some donors have asked to remain anonymous).

CAN YOU HELP? Our Nutrition Program is in need of further funding for the purchase of fresh fruit, vegetables, meat and dairy products. If you are interested in supporting this program, please call Resource Development at 905.436.6754.

The William Frank Hayball Charitable Foundation Supports Court Clinic

In mid December 2005, The William Frank Hayball Charitable Foundation presented the DFCC with a donation to support the agency's Art Therapy Program and to purchase clinical assessment tools. The DFCC gratefully acknowledges the Hayball Foundation's continued support to our agency and clients.

City of Oshawa Provides 2nd Municipal Grant

In support of our *Connecting Kids to their Community* initiative, the City of Oshawa provided the DFCC with a Municipal Grant in 2005. Grant dollars are helping to successfully engage youth in various clinically supervised and community based activities and for transportation costs of getting our young clients to and from transitional education and counselling programs.

Optimist Club of Uxbridge Extends Help to Youth

The Optimist Club of Uxbridge extended help to two youth within their community by partnering with the DFCC through our *Connecting Kids to their Community* initiative. This innovative partnership is helping these young people through a challenging time in their lives and allowing them to focus on achieving future success.

Northminster United Church Donates Use of their Gymnasium

Northminster United Church has donated use of their gymnasium to enable DFCC youth to participate in regular sports programming. Staff and students have greatly benefited from this unique partnership and express a sincere thank you to the church.

Toronto Raptors Foundation

The Toronto Raptors Foundation provided a donation of event tickets to allow DFCC youth to travel to Toronto with staff to see a great game in the big city. Thank you to the Foundation for this exciting memory and experience.

25th Anniversary Get Together



In the Fall of 2005, the DFCC hosted a casual evening of celebration at the Sports Garden Café in Whitby. The event was attended by current and former staff, board members, volunteers and service partners. Our celebration offered new and long-time associates the chance to get together for some great laughs and a special trip down memory lane.

L-R: Lynne Goulborn
Laura LeRoux-Olaoye
Peggy Van Stavern



L-R: Gary Brooks
Stephanie Turner
Debbie Salsbury



L-R: Polly Peyman
Natalie MacDonald
Alan Greenway



L-R: Anne Arsenault
Julie Dreger-Jensen
Laura LeRoux-Olaoye

Reducing the Risk...

...of Internet Luring & Sexual Exploitation of Children

The DFCC recently completed our Reducing the Risk of Internet Luring and Sexual Exploitation of Children initiative. Funded by the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of the Attorney

General, our Ontario Victim Services Secretariat project had 3 components. These included 2 free full-day professional workshops, 10 free community workshops and a training program for the DFCC to create a new Violence Prevention Program workshop on Internet Luring. All program training and workshops were done by Dr. Peter Marshall, a well-known psychologist, international speaker and best selling author.

Community Workshop presentations were designed for parents, guardians and concerned citizens. Workshop material focused on recognizing the dangers and risks associated with children using the Internet, and understanding how this exposure can upset and confuse children and even distort their view of healthy relationships. Workshops also focussed on understanding how children can be victimized through the Internet and strategies to help them discuss issues and disclosures.

The following is a summary report of the DFCC's Community Presentation. To access the full report, please visit www.dfcc.org - Current News - 'Reducing the Risk'.

The Internet is a major part of young peoples' lives and social structure. It is also a wonderful tool allowing easy, affordable and almost instantaneous access to an

amazing amount of information. However, the Internet is also almost completely uncensored and unregulated. Unlike libraries, there is no assurance that what is accessed on the Internet is a legitimate or appropriate source of information. The Internet is also a highly commercialized entity, with pornography being the biggest revenue source driving this medium.

Due to this reality, children can easily be exposed to pornography and its harmful impact. Surveys commonly show that over 20% of children and teens have reported that they've accidentally been exposed to this type of material on the Internet. What is critical to understanding the seriousness of children encountering such material is that Internet pornography is often extremely graphic, degrading and violent and can be very upsetting and disturbing to children and teens. In fact, such exposure can potentially cause a perceptual distortion of healthy relationships during a young person's formative years of development. Access to pornography is also of great concern because pedophiles often use it within their luring and grooming process of children and teens. Furthermore, the creation of child pornography is on the rise with many pedophiles creating, trading and selling it to meet their deviant needs. Sadly, there is also a disturbing trend towards victimizing younger children (5 and under),



Dr. Peter Marshall



More than one hundred people attended the April 28th, 2006 Professional Workshop in Lindsay, Ontario

with an increased use of violence towards these young victims.

One of the greatest challenges to protecting children is that parents and caregivers often don't realize the risks and therefore do not take sufficient measures to safeguard children from on-line exposure, victimization or the harmful misconceptions that children and teens may develop about healthy sexual behaviour.

Another significant concern regarding the Internet is that it allows pedophiles - those who are primarily sexually aroused by pre-pubescent children - to organize and form groups that support, advocate and contribute to the luring and sexual exploitation of children. By using group processes that have been effectively used by legitimate interest groups, pedophiles can more effectively define themselves as misunderstood and oppressed people to justify and promote their abnormal impulses, distorted perceptions and actions.

Pedophiles often portray themselves as caring and sensitive friends, progressing slowly towards the suggestion of sexual activity. They will often seek an 'entry point' or subject of discussion, such as sports or music, that allows them to connect to their victim and develop a relationship. Pedophiles will often use pornography to indoctrinate children and teens and try to isolate them from their natural and protective support groups. Complex manipulation is often used to confuse and distort information given to a victim. If a child or teen begins to feel uncomfortable and questions the pedophile's motives, the youngster is often made to feel guilty for mistrusting their 'friend' and may be accused of betraying the relationship.

Signs that an on-line relationship is developing may include: a youngster spending more time using the computer, spending less time with their peers, receiving letters, gifts and/or phone calls from unknown people as well as changes in attitude and behaviour, including being withdrawn.

Although all children and teens are vulnerable to victimization, there are some groups that may be more at risk. These include children who are about 12 years of age and older who are becoming more independent and taking a stronger interest in using Internet technology within their daily social lives through on-line chats, researching school projects, playing games and just surfing the Net. As in real world

situations, children from single-parent families, youth who are introverted, depressed, in protective care and those with learning disabilities may be more at risk. Statistically speaking, females are at greater risk than males.

Clearly, protecting children and teens from adult pornography, pedophiles and child pornography requires the concerted effort of many community partners including the Internet service providers through the provision of innovative safety products and initiatives, government through legislative, judicial and enforcement measures and the community, including schools and families through education and appropriate monitoring. Finally, children and teens themselves have an important role to play.

How to Help Keep Kids Safe:

- Family communication is very important to protecting children and teens.
- Learn the Basics about How the Internet Works
- Teach Children to be Responsible Internet Users
- Establish Safety Rules for Using the Internet
- Monitor and Restrict According to Maturity Level
- Use Filters
- Keep Life Balanced
- Report Concerns to the Authorities
- If Needed, Get Connected to a Counselling Service

To learn more about Internet Safety Issues, Strategies and Products visit these websites:

www.bewebaware.ca

Be Web Aware is a national, bilingual public education program on Internet safety. Its goal is to raise awareness among parents regarding the online safety issues and the need for parental involvement. It also provides practical information and tools to help parents effectively manage Internet use in the home and to teach their kids to be Web savvy.

(© Media Awareness Network, 2006)

www.media-awareness.ca

The Media Awareness Network (MNet) is a Canadian non-profit organization which "focuses its efforts on equipping adults with information and tools to help young people to understand how the media work, how the media may affect their lifestyle choices and the extent to which

they, as consumers and citizens, are being well informed. MNet also provides reference materials for use by adults and youth alike in examining media issues from a variety of perspectives."

(© Media Awareness Network, 2006)

www.opp.ca/crimeprev/english/tip-sheetcol.htm

This O.P.P. website provides a series of crime prevention tip sheets on a range of issues including Internet Safety Tips for Teens and Internet Safety Tips for Parents as well as tip sheets on Bullying and Street Proofing.

www.WiredKids.Org

Wiredkids.org is an American based organization that provides an upbeat approach to basic Internet protection and has a great downloadable booklet at:

www.wiredkids.org/parents/parentingonline

To report concerns and victim issues, contact your local Police and/or visit:

www.Cybertip.ca

Cybertip.ca is Canada's National Tipline for reporting the online sexual exploitation of children. It is a centralized web portal for receiving and addressing reports from the public regarding child pornography, luring, child sex tourism, and children who are exploited through prostitution. Cybertip.ca also provides the public with information, referrals and other resources to help Canadians keep their children safe while on the Internet. Child Find Manitoba's Cybertip.ca operates as one of the organization's core services. Although the majority of Cybertip.ca's reports are provided online, the public is also able to contact the tipline by phone or fax. (website description © Cybertip.ca,). For more information visit: www.cybertip.ca or call toll free: 1.866.658.9022

To view the full version of this report visit www.dfcc.org current news - 'Reducing The Risk'

Funding for this Project is provided by the Government of Ontario, Ministry of the Attorney General, Ontario Victim Services Secretariat Community Projects grant.

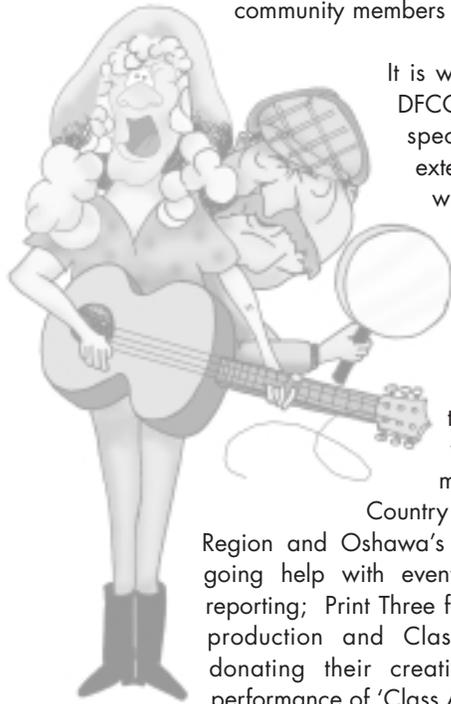
The views and opinions expressed in this publication/website do not necessarily reflect those of the Government of Ontario.



Thank You

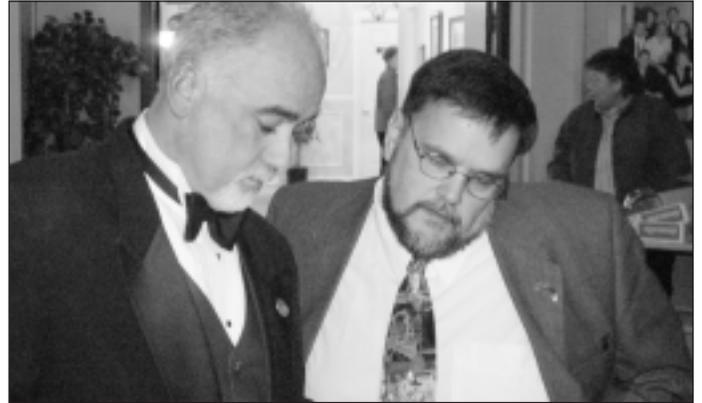
25th Anniversary Charity Dinner & Theatre Night raises almost \$25,000 for the Seeds of Hope campaign and provides a night of laughter for guests

Over 200 people joined the DFCC on February 16, 2006 to help celebrate the agency's 25th anniversary. Rockford and Claudie Varcoe of Class Act Dinner Theatre and their talented group of actors had audience members steadily laughing as they tried to solve the murder mystery show of Class Act Idol. The event also offered a silent auction with many Friends and community members attending this sold out event.



It is with sincere gratitude that the DFCC thanks all of its sponsors. A special thank you is also extended to those who worked with us over many months of planning to make our event a success. These include: TD Waterhouse for their Diamond Level Sponsorship and for the dedicated commitment of their staff in securing their financial support; to our media sponsors KX96 New Country FM, Metroland - Durham Region and Oshawa's Oldies CKDO for their on-going help with event promotion and post-event reporting; Print Three for providing flyer and poster production and Class Act Dinner Theatre for donating their creative talents to provide the performance of 'Class Act Idol' and for playing such an important role in making our event a success.

DFCC staff get ready to welcome guests to the 25th Anniversary celebration



Jim Bradfield, 2005-2006 DFCC Board Chair, discusses event details with Class Act owner Rockford Varcoe

Our sincere thanks is also extended to all our event attendees, including those who purchased corporate tables, to our silent auction donors and purchasers and to our volunteers and staff for working so tirelessly in making the event a great success and so very memorable.



Over 200 guests relax and get ready to enjoy a great night of entertainment



The DFCC Extends our Gratitude to Our Sponsors

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 Syvan Developments Limited • Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association, Durham Secondary

SAPPHIRE SPONSORS

Durham Regional Police Association • Hardiman, Mount & Associates Insurance Brokers Limited
 Holiday Inn Express - Whitby

The DFCC also thanks our Silent Auction and Door Prize Donors for their generous support*

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| Angels & Rainbows | Gotta Hand It 2U Productions | Random House Canada |
| Backwoods Players - The City of Pickering | Harlequin Hair Leaders Inc. | Rhythm Dynamix Dance |
| Bell Canada | Herongate Barn Dinner Theatre | Scotsman Point Resort & Conference Centre
(Buckhorn Lake) |
| Bell World/Excell Communications Inc. | Holiday Inn Express (Whitby) | soulpepper Theatre |
| Bingeman's Big Splash (Kitchener) | Jungle Cat World | Southport Executive Limousine Services |
| Black Creek Pioneer Village | KX 96 New Country FM/Oshawa's Oldies CKDO | Swiss Chalet |
| Borelians Community Theatre (Port Perry) | Laura Secord | Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra & Chamber Choir |
| Boston Pizza, Whitby | Lyndebrook Golf Course | The Guitar Shop |
| Bowmanville Zoo | Mandarin Restaurant, Pickering | The Home Depot |
| CAA South Central Ontario | MarineLand | The Keg |
| Canadian Museum of Civilization (Ottawa Region) | McMichael Canadian Art Collection | The National Ballet of Canada |
| Canadian Tire (Wilson Road) | Melanie Pringle's Restaurant (Whitby) | The Old Spaghetti Factory |
| Canadian War Museum (Ottawa) | Midas | The Waltzing Weasel (Courtice) |
| Cedar Park Resort | Milestone's Empress Walk | Toronto Argonauts |
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| Chartreuse Restaurant (Kleinburg) | Mr. Greenjeans | Toronto Raptors Basketball Club |
| Class Act Dinner Theatre | Muskoka Heritage Place | Toronto Star |
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| Custom Equine Services | Ontario Place | Valentino's Grande Salon |
| Durham Regional Police Services | Ontario Science Centre | VIA Rail Canada |
| d'elegant el Stavros | Oshawa Generals | Westin Harbour Castle Hotel |
| Factory Theatre | Oshawa Little Theatre | Whitby Optical Inc. |
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| Front Porch Bistro (Port Perry) | Oshawa-Durham Symphony Orchestra | YMCA Oshawa |
| Gallery Café and Restaurant | Paramount Canada's Wonderland | Yuk Yuk's (Ottawa) |
| Gananoque Boat Line | Pickering Town Centre | |
| Goodfella's Tap & Grill | Purdy's Chocolates | |
| GoodLife Fitness | Radisson Hotel Parliament Hill | |

*The DFCC regrets any errors or omissions when printing donor names



Call for Volunteer Board Members

The Durham Family Court Clinic is now recruiting volunteers for our Board of Directors. The DFCC has, for over 25 years, served the needs of Durham Region's children, youth and families who appear before the Courts.

In recent years, the DFCC has repositioned its service spectrum to meet increased and more complex community needs.

We are looking for proactive planners and creative thinkers over 18 years of age and residents of the Region of Durham. The Board is

looking for nominations that will reflect the diversity of the Region of Durham. In exchange for your time and talent we can offer you the opportunity to be a part of a growing and dynamic team.

The Board of Directors currently meets once a month for four hours. There is some adhoc committee work. The term of office is two years with an option to renew up to three terms.



For additional information, including a Nomination Form, please visit www.dfcc.org or call 905.436.6754.

We look forward to hearing from you

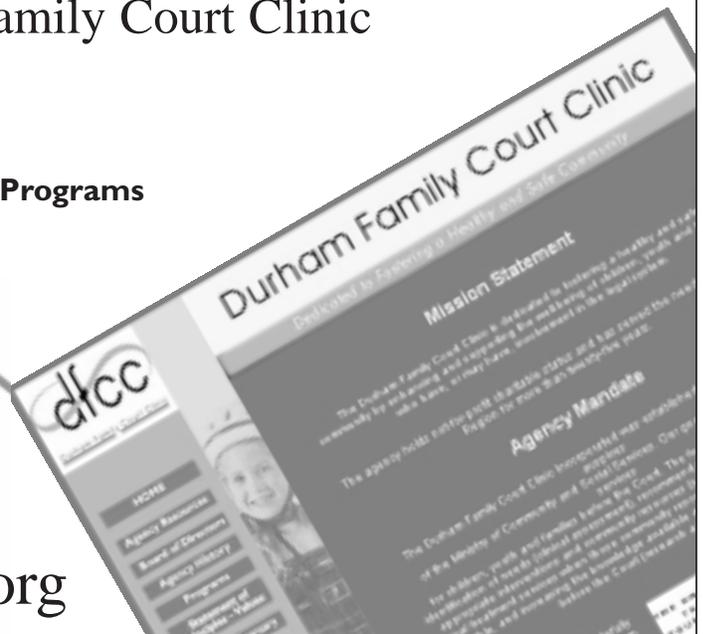
Visit www.dfcc.org

to learn more about the Durham Family Court Clinic

- **Mission, Mandate and Philosophy**
- **History**
- **Assessment, Counselling and Mediation Programs**
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- **Seeds of Hope Charitable Campaign**
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www.dfcc.org



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