

YOU make a difference

Dedicated to Fostering a Healthy and Safe Community

Durham Youth Gang Strategy



Durham Family Court Clinic and the Murray McKinnon Foundation receive funding under the National Crime Prevention Strategy to develop and implement the Durham Youth Gang Strategy (DYGS).

Background

In April 2006, as a result of the collaboration with MCYS, DRPS and other community stakeholders, a proposal was submitted to the National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC) to fund a project to address the growing concern of gang activity in Durham Region.

In July of 2007, approval was received by Durham Family Court Clinic in partnership with Murray McKinnon Foundation to work collaboratively with the community to address this growing concern.

In January of 2008, the Minister of Public Safety and Security, Stockwell Day, announced an investment in crime prevention projects in Ontario. Durham Family Court Clinic and Murray McKinnon Foundation are proud to be one of 18 recipients of this funding initiative.

This Federally funded project supports youth who are involved, or at risk of becoming involved in gang activity. The project implements therapeutic interventions for youth and

assists parents in dealing with the youth's choices and behaviours related to gang involvement.

The project will enhance the capacity of Durham Region's diverse community to decrease risk factors and increase protective factors related to the fear of crime and victimization.

Moving Forward

In April 2008, the Durham Youth Gang Strategy received approval from NCPC to move forward from the development stage to implementation and both DFCC and MMF are accepting referrals now.

Program Goals and Overview

- Reduce risk factors and increase protective factors associated with youth violence and gang membership
- Provide one to one support to youth who are: at risk of becoming involved, are involved, or are wishing to exit gang activity
- Build greater knowledge for parents, schools, and the broader community on youth gang activity

The program focuses on:

- Youth 12 - 18 yrs of age residing in Durham Region

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Youth and Gangs Forum for Service Providers

On February 6, 2008, MCYS Youth Justice Services, Durham Family Court Clinic, Murray McKinnon Foundation and Durham Regional Police Services hosted a forum to over 200 service providers in the Durham Region.

Detective Supervisor, Tony Moreno of the LAPD spoke on Street Gangs: History to Present Day; Officer/Staff Safety & Self Management; and Developing Expertise.

Sergeant Steven Jones, Gang Enforcement Unity & Public Order Unit DRPS, gave an enlightening view of the local scene, spoke on Developing Information / Investigation and also presented with Tony Moreno on Gang Communication.

Christina Louise Logue, R.N., Coordinator of Youth Intervention and Diversion, Criminal Investigation Division, Ottawa Police Service, National Coordinator Youth Services, RCMP, talked about Youth Involvement in Gangs and the DFCC and Murray McKinnon Foundation spoke on the Durham Youth Gang Strategy.

The next forum is scheduled for October 8, 2008, TOSCA Banquet & Conference Centre. Registration to attend will open soon. Watch for more information at www.dfcc.org or www.murraymckinnon.ca.

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Durham Family Court Clinic
ASSESSMENT • COUNSELLING • MEDIATION SERVICES

You make a difference

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*The Promise of
a Brighter Future
for our Kids*

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

Board of Directors

DFCC is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and seeks proactive planners and creative thinkers who are over the age of eighteen, who live and/or work in Durham Region and seek to be a part of a growing and dynamic team.

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For additional information regarding upcoming volunteer board positions, please visit www.dfcc.org or call 905.436.6754.

Message from the Executive Director

In the fall of 2007 the staff of Durham Family Court Clinic came together and set the future organizational goal of 'being a leading edge service provider' in the delivery of our programs and services. The commitment to this goal is evident every day by the innovative methods that DFCC staff work together and with our youth clients and families.

Another progressive step has been the partnership with the Murray McKinnon Foundation in the development and delivery of the new Durham Youth Gang Strategy (DYGS) project funded by the National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC). The project was approved for implementation in April 2008 and we are now accepting youth in Durham Region who are at risk of becoming involved or are involved in gang activity into this intensive intervention program.

It became even more evident how important the DYGS project is to our community after the first Youth and Gangs Forum for Service Providers, held in February 2008. Allowing for 250 attendees, shortly after the fall announcement, a wait list was being generated. Read more about DYGS and the Youth and Gangs Forum in this issue of YOU. The next forum is scheduled for October 8, 2008.

We are embarking on very exciting future at DFCC.

Diane Shea
Executive Director

DFCC Youth Workers to receive Special Award

Jennifer Matesic and Paul Paget, two of DFCC Youth Workers in the Collaborative Day Treatment Program, have been selected in the category of Special Award for the Certificate of Recognition, from the Council for Exceptional Children - Durham Chapter #534.

Both Jennifer and Paul work in one of our classrooms that is partnered with the Durham Board of Education - Grove School, they were nominated by Michael

Guitard-McDonnell, Grove Teacher, DFCC staff and students.

"On a daily basis, Paul takes the time to work with each student on an individual basis. Breaks are often spent updating each other about the students as the day goes on," wrote Michael Guitard-McDonnell.

"In consultation with our educational team, Jen coordinates the nutrition program and blends the academic needs of our students. They (the students) are taught a Food and Nutrition credit, or perhaps supervised employability skills opportunity," wrote Mr. Guitard-McDonnell.



"Ask her about her program and you will see her glow and feel the energy and passion in her voice. She frequently talks of how this treatment opportunity allows her to help students overcome barriers and cross bridges on their road of growth. Jen delivers a truly blended program, both educationally and treatment."

In addition to Michael's nomination letter and staff endorsement; four students wrote letters of support, here are four of those letters.

"I believe that Jen Matesic deserves this

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Assessment

Creating a foundation of change for sexually exploited youth

The Working it Back to Me program (WIB) was a DFCC special project developed after a needs assessment confirmed the urgency for a community based program designed to assist youth who are victims, and/or are at-risk of being victims, of sexual exploitation.

Wrapping up at the end of March 2008, it was designed to support and educate youth at risk of sexual exploitation, through the delivery of an integrated series of free psycho-educational workshops.

The following are observations shared with

Innovation - Working It Back to Me

DFCC by educators who thought that there were important tangible gains made by their students.

One student covered his face with his ball cap and often kept his head down at the beginning of the sessions. He now makes eye contact and became a contributing group member. At the end, his ball cap was tipped back and he is alert and making eye contact.

Another student was able to share his experience with rehab and the criminal justice system in an appropriate way. He said he wished he had learned about these topics much earlier.

A number of students have expressed that

they wished they had this program when they were much younger. They think they might have made different decisions had they had this experience earlier.

This pilot project was highly successful in addressing the gap in available community-based resources that focus on assisting youth involved in the sex trade.

We have merely scratched the surface. The innovative mobile service provided workshops to over 400 youth, 12-18 years of age, who were at-risk.

Counselling

To stay current with local needs and issues, DFCC staff participate in various community based committees. These include, but are not limited to: Talking about Mental Health Illness Coalition (TAMI), the Placement Planning Committee (PPC) with Durham Children's Aid Society, the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD), the Durham District School Board's Attendance

Connected to the Community

Committee, The Arson Prevention Program for Children (TAPP-C) and the Substance Abuse Council for Youth in Durham Region (SACY).

In brief, SACY is made up of community members from different agencies and organizations from across Durham Region including school boards, police services,

mental health and addiction agencies and regional government. SACY is committed to helping youth and parents to be informed about substance abuse problems. SACY meets on a monthly basis to discuss concerns that arise in Durham Region regarding substance use and youth.

Mediation

Since 1999, Durham Family Court Clinic (DFCC) has provided Family Mediation and Information Services to the Durham community and will continue to do so until 2011 thanks to a successful bid to the Ministry of the Attorney General.

"We are very pleased with the outcome and will continue to help our clients find a common ground," said Diane Shea, Executive Director.

Family mediation can address: parenting issues (custody and access), child support, property division and spousal/partner support.

Mediation services are offered both on-site, which is a free service available to clients on their court date at the Family Court in

Services Continue

Oshawa; and off-site, fee based service offered at the DFCC office. User fees are set by the Ministry of the Attorney General on a sliding scale making mediation affordable for everyone.

In addition to family mediation, free Parent Information Sessions are offered in the Durham Region for adults who are experiencing separation or divorce. A social worker runs each session and is available to answer your questions.

During these sessions parents learn more about:

- How separation affects children and adults.
- Other ways to solve problems without going to court.

- Co-parenting for separated parents.
- Parenting Plans.
- Individualized family mediation services.
- What is available in the community to assist you - including counselling, legal and mediation services?

If you would like to attend a Parent Information Session please book ahead at 905.579.1988.

If you believe that mediation would be helpful in your situation, or would like more information contact the Family Mediation and Information Service at 905.436.6754 ext. 239.



Help Support the Seeds of Hope

Food for Collaborative Day Treatment Programs

Our kids were coming to school without breakfast or a lunch in hand so in 1999 a nutritional program was established within the Collaborative Day Treatment Program and our youth are now provided with a hot lunch, a nutritious breakfast and two snacks each day. Beyond meeting the basic nutritional needs of many of the youth, a cooking program was established which also enables our youth the opportunity to earn a high school credit. This provides an excellent opportunity for assisting our youth to develop personal skills and enhanced therapeutic development as well as nutritional awareness and better health. A well-supplied program also improves youth attendance.

Community Support Team - Client Food Program
The Community Support Team provides

mobile counselling services, often meeting youth clients within a broader community setting rather than in a traditional office setting. Beyond providing a needed meal, food also helps to provide a more relaxed environment conducive to the therapeutic process.

YOU can help by donating non-perishable food items/food vouchers or gift cards/funds to purchase food.

Attendance Initiative & Moral Assets - AIM
This Collaborative Day Treatment Program encourages youth to increase their attendance record, reach personal development goals and demonstrate moral assets. Tangible rewards are beneficial to advancing the development of these attributes. Rewards include special monthly lunches and weekly bonuses.

In-kind donations or dollars for youth focuses incentives may include:

- Gift cards/certificates for lunches
- Gift cards for movies, CDs
- Make-up, hair accessories
- School supplies
- Theatre movie passes

Your own fundraiser

Perhaps your group would like to put on your own fundraiser on our behalf. Some suggestions are; marathon events, pledge events, car washes, youth focused information forums, theme days, bake sales, craft sales, musical performances, read-a-thons, a food drive or some other event your group would enjoy doing.

If your group would like to hold a fundraising event to support our Seeds of Hope campaign, or you would like to donate to any of the above programs please call Resource Development at 905.436.6754 ext. 233.

DYGS ... from page 1

- Supporting not only youth at risk but also their families
- Supporting schools and their communities
- Building on gang intervention awareness through information sessions and forums

Durham Family Court Clinic will service youth referred from: Durham Safe Schools programs, self referral, families, Durham Regional Police Service and other community organizations that work with youth.

Murray McKinnon Foundation will service youth referred from: Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Probation Services-Ajax and Oshawa

Potential Risk Factors

Participants in the program may experience various risk factors such as:

- Limited Education and Employment
- Victimization (with and without violence)
- Anger and Aggression
- Alcohol and Drug Use
- Trauma
- Emotional Disconnection
- Anti-Social Attitudes
- Poor Self Esteem
- Limited Community Connection

DYGS Intervention Plan

Participants will complete individual and/or group counselling. Utilizing evidence based programming and best practices in the delivery of:

- Substance Abuse and Criminality
- Anger Management
- Give Peace A Chance
- Substance Education
- Victim Impact
- Young Men's Work
- Cognitive Behaviour Approach
- Brief Solution Focused Approach
- Motivational Interviewing Techniques
- Narrative Therapy Approach
- Clinical Supervision (provided by Durham Family Court Clinic)

Information Sessions

Durham Youth Gang Strategy will be presenting parent/community information sessions in the Durham Region.

The goal of these sessions is to provide:

- Accurate awareness of gang knowledge and trends
- Tools / warning signs that a child may be involved in gang activity
- What parents can do to support their children

- A knowledge of other prevention and intervention strategies that are available within the region

Program Evaluation

The program will include evidence-based evaluation and reporting that will contribute to the development and sharing of knowledge in this field.

Program Partners

The following is a list of service providers supporting the DYGS initiative:

- National Crime Prevention Centre (Government of Canada)
- Durham Regional Police Services
- Durham District School Board
- Durham District Catholic School Board
- Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board
- Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board
- Ministry of Children and Youth Services
- Regional Municipality of Durham





The Promise
of a Brighter
Future for
Our Kids

Seeds of Hope

Thank you to our Supporters

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

Sponsor & Donor News

Durham Family Court Clinic provides many important services including a multi-systemic counselling service and a therapeutic based educational program for youth who are referred to our agency. Under the *umbrella Seeds of Hope The Promise of a Brighter Future for Our Kids*, the DFCC assists high-risk youth establish the necessary building blocks to improve their life opportunities and reduce their risk of victimization and/or being in conflict with the law.

Community donations support several innovative initiatives including employability skills training, nutritional program, a therapeutic based camp program and various educational, sports and leisure opportunities which promote the positive engagement of our youth within their community. Transportation to attend class and therapy sessions; and a summer day camp are also supported by Seeds of Hope.

Ready for Back-to-School

Starting a new school year is stressful in the best of circumstances - worrying about not having school supplies doesn't help the situation. DFCC is very thankful to Dunbarton-Fairport United Church and their Operation Back Pack program, volunteers and supporters for their continued support providing items to assist the students in our Collaborative Day Treatment Program, youth clients involved in various agency treatment programs as well as some of our clients' siblings with back to school supplies.

Holiday Wishes

We are very fortunate to live in a caring, supportive community. Once again our annual Christmas Gift and Food Drive was an

overwhelming success. Donations helped make the holidays brighter for over 30 youth clients and 50 of their family members.

DFCC gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the following who donated to our 2007 Christmas Gift and Food Drive. We also thank everyone who made donations and volunteered to these community projects: Dunbarton-Fairport United Church, Durham Regional Police Services - Food and Toy Drive, Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce Christmas Wine and Cheese Food Drive, Trinity United Church, Bowmanville.

We would also like to thank the employees of the Ministry of Revenue Tax Integrity Unit for supporting our 2007 Christmas Gift and Toy Drive. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by the youth and families we serve.

Nutrition Program

During this school year, our projected goal is to serve a combined total of approximately 10,000 breakfasts, snacks and lunches to students. It is through the ongoing support from the community that not only assists us in addressing some of the immediate nutritional needs of our students, but also some of the underlying challenges that have limited their social, emotional and academic success.

With the introduction of meals and snacks, we have seen many program related gains, including improved student attendance and behaviours. As well, meal preparation is often done with the help of the students, allowing them to learn valuable skills and gain confidence. The program also offers some youth the opportunity to earn a high school credit and employability skills training.

The Nutrition Program exists due to the generosity of our donors. We would like to thank the Salvation Army Family Services, Whitby, for their continued support and the ongoing in-kind donations from New Life Neighbourhood Centre. The program also receives financial support from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (Peterborough Family Resource Centre), Durham Child's Nutrition Program, the Baagwating Community Association and Breakfast for Learning - the Canadian Living Foundation.

Again this year, we would like to thank Beate Ritchie and her Charity luncheon guests for their support.



Every day our clients demonstrate the strength and courage to overcome adversity and, because of this, it has been an honour for us to serve the children, youth and families of our community for more than 25 years.

Youth giving back

For a third year in a row, students from Trafalgar Castle School donated a portion for their Charity Bazaar proceeds to Seeds of Hope. Students volunteer each year, making this event a wonderful success in order to help various charities.

Hitting the greens for DFCC

The Seeds of Hope campaign was one of the recipients of the St. George's Anglican Church Alex Mines Charity Golf Tournament. We would like to thank the committee members and volunteers for all their hard work and to the congregation for their continued support.

Connecting Kids to Their Community

Investors Group Financial Services and The William Frank Hayball Charitable Foundation both generously donated funds this past year to Connecting Kids to Their Community - one of the initiatives supported by the Seeds of Hope campaign.

Sport News

Assistance from the S'port for Kids Foundation supports our Seeds of Hope and it's Connecting Kids to Their Community and Counselling initiatives allowing some of Durham Region's most vulnerable and at-risk youth the opportunity to access both group and individual sports programming opportunities.

In 2007, eight boys attended the Ontario Camp Leadership Centre at Bark Lake in Irondale, for two nights/three days.

The excursion encompassed intense individual and group therapy (leadership, social skills, relational skills, social competence, development of trust, independence and teamwork, social identity).

The three days were packed with daily and evening activities which included:

Theme Days

High Ropes and Challenge Course

Rock/cave climbing

Archery
Beach Initiatives and Volleyball
Kayaking
Canoeing
Swimming
Ecological Adventures
Hike and Canoe Tripping
Canoe Races
Adventure Race
Survival Skills
Camp Craft Hiking and Environmentalism
Night Hikes
Night Games Camp fires and fire safety
Talent shows
Cooking over an open fire
Leadership sessions
Lots of sports and other activities

Each evening, group therapy sessions were held analyzing the day in context of group cohesion and individual growth. These were very intense and insightful sessions.

Each participant worked with their respective therapists - review goals, growth, relational issues, response to stress, comfort zones, etc.

Keeping the body strong

Northminster United Church continues to offer their gymnasium allowing our youth and staff to organize sport activities.

Collaborative Day Program Treatment visits Rogers Centre

Thanks to a generous gift from Parmalat Canada of 12 Toronto Maple Leaf tickets, our youth were treated to a very memorable experience of an early season home game.

Award ... from page 2

award because she is a great person to talk to. I love talking to Jen because she's a great listener. I also love working in the kitchen with her she always makes it lots of fun. Jen is also very funny. If I'm frustrated with my work she's always willing to compromise like if I wanna work on something else or change subjects she's usually fine with it because she understands. Jen also cares a lot about what we do outside of school and she worry's about us because she told all of us that. I think Jen deserves to win this award because she really cares about all of us like were her own kids."

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"I'm nominating this reward to Jen because she's a good person in all. She is a good listener. She always likes to compromise things around the classroom. She also tries to change an action that we may try or do. She is also a bomb cooker. I would hire her in my kitchen if I could. She is also an easy

going person and straight forward all the time. I just think she should get an award for all the hard work that she has done in this school. So to this point I nominate Jen Matesic."

"I nominate Paul Paget for this 'special award' because of what he brings to the classroom which is making schoofun and exciting to come to. I never used to like school until I started working with Paul. He is always happy and cheerful which makes him easy to approach. He is always there when you need a shoulder to lean on. He is more than just a teacher he is also a really good friend."

"Paul is a CYW working in the classroom and happens to be the first person I think of when I use the sentence; "the 'it' guy". He's so easy to relate to most of the time. He is very creative, and frequently organizes group activity. He's the guy that tends to

make everything okay and it worth coming here. The groups he comes up with express that well. He is very health conscious, and uses that to promote healthy relations in the class. He also uses humour to be upbeat and positive. All in all a very stable and reliable person; he's a great CYW. He's very personal, with everything he does. He takes a lot of interest in the people around him. More than once he's asked me what I thought or what my hobbies were. He has great people skills. I really like Paul, as a person. I believe he should get this award."

Thank You

3rd Annual Charity Dinner & Theatre Night raises almost \$30,000 in support of Seeds of Hope

On March 26, 2008, the DFCC held its 3rd Annual Charity Dinner & Theatre Night at Class Act Dinner Theatre in Whitby. The place was packed!

Over 195 DFCC supporters gathered for a night of good food, camaraderie and laughter. The night featured the comedy "The Foreigner" a play written by Larry Shue and Directed by Glenn Ottaway. Actually laughter is an understatement - not long after the curtain went up sides were splitting and eyes tearing. You couldn't speak. It was a true testament to Class Act's comedic talent. We would like to thank everyone who attended. It truly was a community event.

In addition to the play and fabulous dinner, guests were entertained with a live auction and had the opportunity to bid on various silent auction items. Rocky acted as Master of Ceremonies and kept those bids going up during the live auction.

All the proceeds from this event go directly in our Seeds of Hope campaign. Funds raised through Seeds of Hope assist vulnerable children and youth establish the necessary building blocks to improve their life opportunities. Seed of Hope supports various charitable activities including our Connecting Kids to Counselling and Connecting Kids to Their Community initiatives.



Paul Koukofikas, Business Development Manager from TD Waterhouse, enjoys a laugh with Caroline Smaglinskie, Vice-Chair DFCC Board of Directors.

Police Chief Mike Ewels, pictured with Carla Baetz, Chair DFCC Board of Directors and Diane Shea, Executive Director



We would like to thank TD Waterhouse, our Diamond Sponsor, for their continued support and commitment to DFCC. To our media sponsors; CKDO - Oshawa's Oldies 107.7 FM/1580 AM, KX 96 New Country FM and Metroland Durham Region Media Group thank you for your support before and post event. And thank you to our print sponsor, Print Three and to IMAGE Design Group, for our posters and invitations.

Thank you to our Ruby Sponsors: Bell Canada, Mackie Harley-Davidson, Whitby Hydro and Veridian for your sponsorship; our Emerald Sponsors: Ontario Power Generation and Syvan Developments Limited; and to our Sapphire Sponsors: Durham Regional Police Association and Durham Regional Police Services Board. We are very fortunate to live and work in such a caring community.

And to all our guests - thank you for spending an evening celebrating Durham Family Court Clinic and supporting The Seed of Hope Campaign. See you all next year!



Donate on-line by visiting Durham Family Court Clinic at
www.dfcc.org
and Help Plant the Seeds of Hope



Thank You

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A Special thank you to Sara and Mark Veenstra for capturing the event on film.



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