

# HELP WANTED



WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE.

Find out more...

- be a foster parent
- volunteer
- membership
- board of directors
- make a donation

Join us in our wish for all kids!

(905) 937-7731  
www.facsniagara.on.ca

## STATS & NUMBERS



- On March 31, 2009 there were 518 children in foster care.
- A further 180 children were placed with appropriate kin, preventing their admission to foster care.
- 196 foster families were approved and available to care for children.
- 56% of the children in care were wards of the crown, 77% of those had access to their parents.
- 32% were in the temporary care of the agency.
- 12% were former crown wards aged 18-21 making the transition from foster care to living on their own.
- Life skills and support were provided to 159 youth leaving care.

Children in Care by Living Arrangements (as at March 31 <sup>st</sup> )		
	2007-2008	2008-2009
Foster Homes	329	336
Adoption	29	31
Kinship In Care	11	9
Group Homes	65	65
Independent Living	22	15
Other*	66	62
<b>Total</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>518</b>

\*e.g., home visits, hospital, youth facility

Children in Care by Age (as at March 31 <sup>st</sup> )		
	2007-2008	2008-2009
Under 2 years	52	54
2 - 3 years	39	35
4 - 6 years	39	35
7 - 8 years	21	27
9 - 11 years	63	57
12 - 13 years	73	62
14 - 16 years	142	145
17 years +	93	103
<b>Total</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>518</b>

## VOLUNTEERS

Despite hard times, our volunteers continued to give of their time and talent – driving more than 1.7 million km and giving 32,308 hours of their time. Our tutors helped 42 children build self-esteem and confidence in completing their homework. Evening receptionists greeted and assisted everyone that came through our doors. Special Friends and Mentors provided hours of fun and friendship to our children. Some volunteers have been with us for 35 years! For more information on how you can make a difference, contact our Volunteer Department.

### 2008/2009 Child Protection Services

- FACS Niagara received 5,070 referrals and provided protection services to 4,438 families.

Services Provided	2008-2009
Referrals Received	5,070
Investigations	3,331
Ongoing Service	1,272
Kinship Service	339
Children in Care	767
Court Appearances	1,668

- 82% of the referrals received were related to concerns for child safety and wellbeing as shown below.

Reasons for Child Protection Referrals	Total Referrals 2008-2009
Caregiver Capacity <i>includes caregiver addictions, mental health</i>	1,259
Physical/ Sexual Harm	959
Domestic Violence and Emotional Harm	949
Harm due to Neglect <i>includes lack of supervision</i>	714
Inability to Manage Child Behaviour/ Abandonment Risk	253
<b>Total Protection Referrals</b>	<b>4,134</b>

- 16% of the remaining referrals were requests for agency assistance regarding records checks, adoption disclosures, and assistance to other societies.
- 3% of the referrals received were requests for counselling. Most of these involved pregnancy planning for women at risk, pregnant teens, and women with addictions or mental health problems.
- Approximately 81% of all child protection referrals were opened for investigation with 18% requiring ongoing service.
- Nearly 75% of all ongoing service openings were related to either diminished caregiver capacity, or the risk of emotional harm due to domestic violence.

### Family Counselling Centre Community Programs 2008-09

Program	People Served
CORE Counselling	1492 Individuals
Child Witness to Violence	326 Mothers
	248 Children
Partner Assault Response	100 Men
	84 Partners
Caring Dads	35 Men
	78 Children
Family Group Conferencing	277 Participants
Adult Protection Support Worker	133 Vulnerable Adults

## FACS NIAGARA FOUNDATION

FACS Foundation continues to evolve. While summer camp and bursary support remain the cornerstone of our efforts, we continue to expand to more areas of support. Helping youth make a successful transition to independent living through life skills, care packages, start-up allowances and holiday meal get-togethers.

Special grants to help kids nurture a love for music, sports or dance; cribs and car seats for newborns, special outings and activities, playground upgrades, Aboriginal and Francophone books & games, foster parent appreciation event, infant clothing and blankets, backpacks and school supplies.

We helped provide summer camp to 453 children and awarded \$47,000 to 20 promising youth to assist with post-secondary education. We also funded the RESP/tutoring research program for children in foster care. And in the coming year, we are planning a \$2.4 million Family Centre addition to our new location in Niagara Falls.



Our annual golf tournament has raised more than \$100,000 since 2006 and our Fall Gala has now raised more than \$300,000!

No one is more deeply impacted by hard economic times than children and families in need. We are truly grateful that those who are able to give, continue to do so – helping those most in need.

2008 Foundation Board of Directors: Anne Kemp, president; Mary Iannazzo, vice president; Chris Rupp, secretary; Bill Charron (retired), Chris Steven, Mike Boucher, David Demoe, Gino Paolone

To make a donation, support our events or learn more about how you can help – call (905) 937-7731 ext 3304.

Create a legacy of caring – consider a bequest or major gift to FACS Foundation.



Telephone - All Locations : 905.937.7731 or Toll Free : 1.888.937.7731  
All Faxes : 905.646.7085  
All Mail : P.O. Box 24028, St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 7P7  
Email : info@facsniagara.on.ca  
Website : www.facsniagara.on.ca

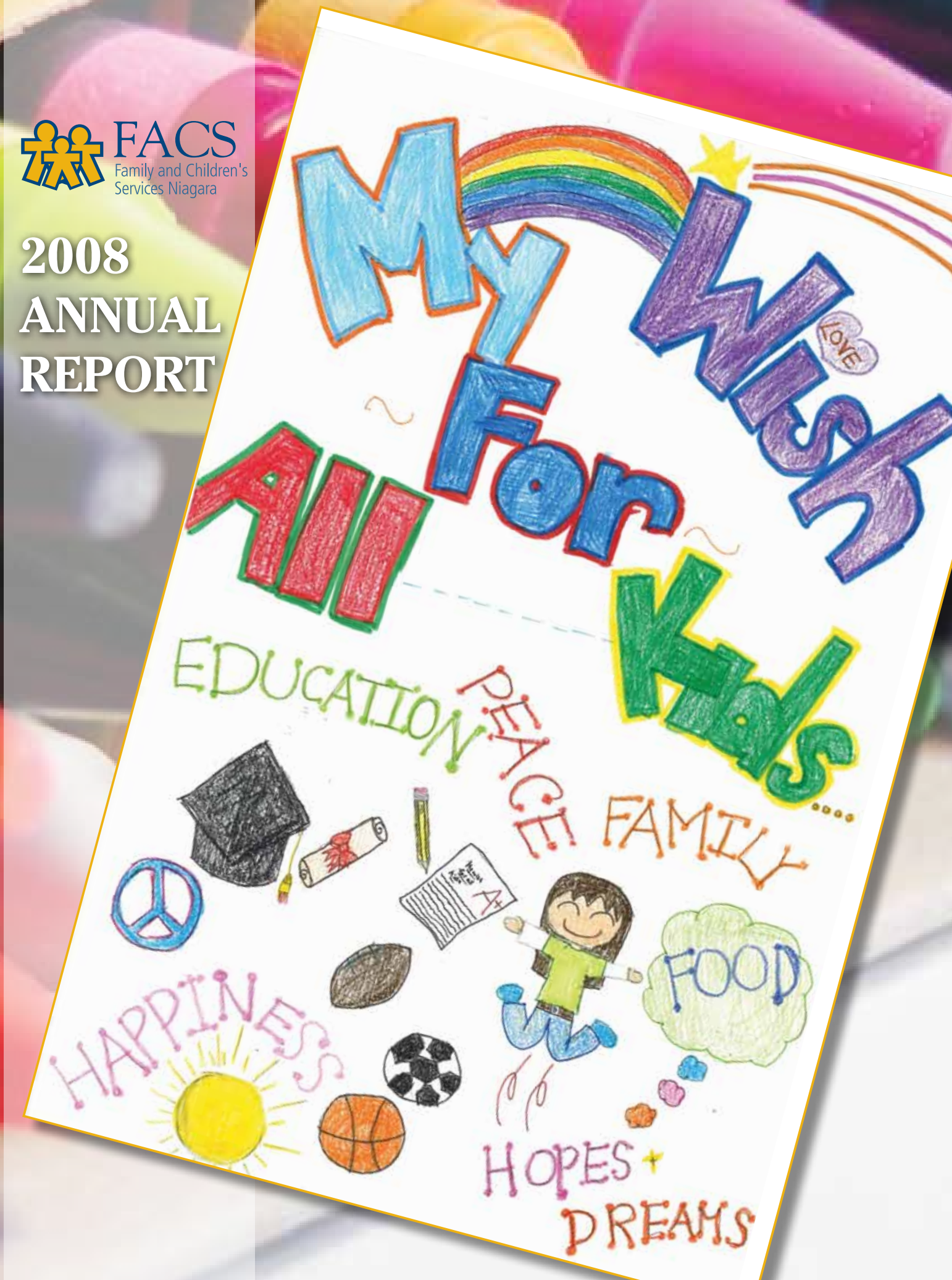
82 HANNOVER DRIVE  
ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO L2W 1A4

654 SOUTH PELHAM ROAD  
WELLAND, ONTARIO L3C 3C8

7900 CANADIAN DRIVE  
NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO L2E 6S5



## 2008 ANNUAL REPORT





# COMMUNITY

Connection, Collaboration, Compassion  
A Message from the President  
and the Executive Director

The cover of this report was created by 13-year-old Ruby, a student at James Morden Public School in Niagara Falls. Ruby's "wish for all kids" is: education, peace, family, food, hopes, dreams and happiness. That is our wish for all children too.

This has been a time of transition for FACS Niagara. We welcomed a new executive director, continued to implement child welfare's transformation agenda and undertook an exciting strategic planning process.

Recognizing the importance of contributing to the social health and well-being of our community - our work with children, youth and families is enriched by strong relationships within the community. As a regional service provider, we are diligent about connecting with individual communities and seeking opportunities to collaborate.

Transformation is all about improved outcomes for children and youth; their safety, permanence and well-being. It is a return to focusing on families' strengths, working with the extended family and community networks to provide support and assistance with families' practical problems and challenges.

The top three factors leading to the need for child protection services are: poverty, violence against women, adult mental illness and addiction. Ensuring the safety, permanence and well-being of children and youth means targeting these and other problems facing their parents and caregivers, and working with our community partners to provide comprehensive and focused services with compassion.



Catherine & friends from James Morden Public School

Supporting families and children is not limited to our child protection role. We offer many community programs, including our Family Counselling Centre with a range of services to strengthen families and individuals challenged by personal loss, intellectual limitations, family violence and the impact of hard economic times.

From the care and development of children in our early years programs to the support we provide to intellectually challenged adults, FACS is proud to provide services to all residents of Niagara. Most services are no or low cost, making help accessible to families of all financial circumstances, especially during these trying economic times.

What does the future hold? An exciting strategic plan built on advice gathered from community and agency stakeholders. Look for our new directions in the Fall of 2009 when we share our plan. An expansion to our new Niagara Falls location at 7900 Canadian Drive. Our Family Centre Addition will accommodate counselling, life skills, parent education, family visits, play areas and community meeting rooms. All to better serve the Niagara Falls and Fort Erie communities.

It is all about community and it is about our collective "wish for all kids." We want to acknowledge the work, leadership and governance provided by our board of directors - your community representatives. Our board, our staff, foster parents, volunteers, donors and you... together we can make wishes come true.

Chris Steven  
Executive Director

Catherine Mindorff  
President

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### 2008 - 2009

President · Catherine M. Mindorff  
Past President · Larry J. Kent  
Vice President · Wade C. Stayzer  
Treasurer · Joseph E. McLaughlin  
Secretary · Michael Boucher

Sharifa Al-Harazi  
Christine Bartlett  
Blair Campbell  
Cynthia J. Dunne  
Sandra Felton  
Mary Iannazzo  
Eric Kelly Maidens  
Tammy L. Morden  
Brian O'Neill  
Stanleigh Palka  
Frank Parkhouse  
Thomas Bielby, resigned Sept/08  
Holly Catalfamo, resigned Oct/08

Executive Director · Chris Steven

## 2008 - 2009 FINANCIAL REPORT

This report includes child welfare and all other programs

<b>REVENUE - CHILD WELFARE</b>	
Province of Ontario	\$ 38,246,396
Income and Expenditure Recovery	\$ 2,259,825
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 40,506,221</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES - CHILD WELFARE</b>	
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 20,187,012
Children's Boarding Costs	\$ 13,200,401
Client Support Services	\$ 3,208,457
Administration	\$ 3,292,466
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 39,888,336</b>
<b>CHILD WELFARE EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$ 617,885</b>
<b>OTHER PROGRAMS EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	
<b>Fund Balance, beginning of year</b>	<b>(\$ 1,410,285)</b>
Excess (Deficiency) of revenue over expenditure	\$ 1,032,857
Funding Adjustments	\$ 103,895
Capital Purchases and Transfers	(\$ 770,506)
<b>Fund Balance, end of year</b>	<b>(\$ 1,044,039)</b>

This is a summary of details of 2008-2009 Audited Statements prepared by Durward Jones Barkwell

## Our Wish for All Kids....

# SAFETY

### CHILD PROTECTION AND FAMILY SERVICES

Critical to our success in protecting children is building strong community relationships. With four international ports of entry, we work closely with Canada Border Services and Canada Citizenship and Immigration to assist children who present at our borders with immigration issues.

As key partners, FACS and the Niagara Regional Police welcomed the opening of the Child Advocacy Centre this year - "a safe place for children to tell their stories," and the culmination of years of interdisciplinary collaboration.

Together with Niagara Public Health and Gillian's Place we look forward in 2009, to a joint response to child protection concerns involving infants, and collaborative services to victims of domestic violence.

In 2008, FACS and Niagara's Aboriginal community began to research and develop new ways to provide child protection services to Aboriginal children and their families that reflect and respect their culture, heritage and tradition. We are also working with the Francophone community to develop our capacity to provide French language services to families in Niagara.



FACS Staff learn more about Aboriginal Culture.

PHOTO: FORT ERIE TIMES, MATT DAY

The province's Differential Response model promotes informal supports and community services for families, focuses on family strengths and promotes long term and permanent homes for children. FACS now has a family/group decision-making process with our Family Counselling Centre, a child protection mediation program with the Hamilton Mediation Centre and kinship care and kinship service programs that support extended family in caring for children in need.

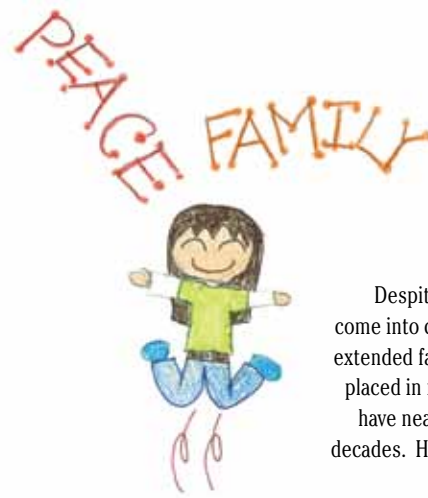
Research is key to improving our response to children at risk and families in need. In partnership with the University of Ottawa, we have undertaken a project to improve the academic success of children in care. FACS also participated in the Canadian Incidence Study on Child Abuse and Neglect, deepening our understanding of child maltreatment.

Economic and social changes in Niagara have resulted in a higher incidence of child protection concerns and families in need of protective services. FACS is committed to protecting children and putting their best interests first by engaging parents, extended family and community networks in safeguarding our community's children. It's a responsibility we all share.

## Our Wish for All Kids...

# PERMANENCE

### FOSTER CARE, REGIONAL ADOLESCENT CENTRE AND ADOPTION



Despite our best efforts to keep kids at home, sometimes they do need to come into care. When this happens, we work hard to place children with "kin," extended family members and members of their community. Most children are placed in regular foster homes trained, approved and supported by FACS. We have nearly 200 foster families, some have been with us for more than three decades. Homes for teens and for children of all cultures are urgently needed.

Some children require more support than a regular foster home can provide. Our Regional Adolescent Centre assists youth in crisis with a successful transition back into their family, foster care or the community. The addition of a social worker working exclusively with youth at the centre allows for more individual attention, programming and goal setting for the youth. Youth enjoyed many special outings and activities this year including growing their own vegetable garden.

When children are not able to return home, permanence is paramount. Every child needs a family of their own. Our adoption team placed 36 children this year and is finding homes for harder to place children. Adoption support groups are very successful. Twenty-two families and their children attended our family barbeque at year-end. Adoption is not just for babies - many older children are in need of homes.

## Our Wish for All Kids... WELL BEING

### SERVICES TO YOUTH

Growing up in care is not easy.

Most youth will transition to independent living in the community without the benefit of the safety net of parents. Without support, they are at risk for poverty, homelessness and other problems. With support, we believe the sky's the limit!

We are now able to store furniture and donated household items for youth moving out on their own. This year our youth hosted an inspiring empowerment session with former youth-in-care and gold medal athlete, Nick Ugoaloh.

This year we enhanced our New Outlooks and Beginnings Program to better support youth and increase their chances of success on their own. Additional staff provided more one-to-one support, established an alumni group for older youth and initiated "Home for the Holidays," a series of holiday meals and gatherings that give youth a place to come home to.

Home for the Holidays

Gold Medalist & former Youth in Care, Nick (L) inspires other youth.

## Our Wish for All Kids...

# SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES

### COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Supporting children, families and individuals makes Niagara a stronger community. In addition to our child protection services, we are proud to deliver the following community programs to all residents of Niagara.



## ONTARIO EARLY YEARS PROGRAMS

Our Early Years sites are vital community hubs, offering interactive learning opportunities for parents, caregivers and guardians with children up to 6 years of age.

We nurture early literacy, numeracy, creativity and social skills development; provide opportunities to network, meet and talk in a safe non-judgmental environment. We promote healthy child development and positive parenting skills.

We offer resources, workshops and referrals to other services. The ECE team leads the Grow and Learn Together series, Infant Massage, Roots of Empathy program and school readiness program, "School's Cool." All programs and services are free of charge.

Our Main Site at 12 Young Street in Welland is bilingual. Our 5 satellite locations: Fenwick (1), Grimsby (3) and Centre de santé, a Francophone program (1).

The Mobile Resource Program offers the early learning and literacy programs at the Welland-Pelham YMCA, Church of the Nazarene in Thorold and the Fonthill Public Library. Infant Massage classes are available at the Welland-Pelham YMCA site.

The Toy Lending Library visits the 4 OEYC Sites (Welland, Niagara Falls, St. Catharines and Port Colborne), Centre de santé, OEYC-Erie/Lincoln: Lincoln Satellite Site, Bethlehem Early Learning Centre in St. Catharines, Fort Erie Aboriginal Head Start Program, the Fenwick and Grimsby Satellite Sites, Cornerstone Community Church in Virgil and the Welland-Pelham YMCA.

Call (905) 734-3563 to access Early Years services in your neighbourhood.

## EARLY LEARNING & PARENTING PROGRAMS AND CHILD CARE CENTRES

Last year we served 265 children, many with special needs. We provide transportation, parent programming, and accept children as young as 18 to 24 months. We prepare children to enter school and support parents in building their parenting skills and caring for their children. Developmental screening ensures children have reached appropriate milestones and assists with referrals to other community services. Our child care centres serve children of varying ages. Child-care subsidies may be available through the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Children's Services Division.

Call the location in your area to register your child:  
Bunting: Ina Grafton Gage, 413 Linwell Road, St. Catharines (905) 937-0170  
Central: Connaught School, 28 Prince Street, St. Catharines (905) 687-7393  
Western Hill: Edith Cavell School, 1 Monck Street, St. Catharines (905) 684-6288

FACS Niagara gratefully acknowledges the support of our various funders: Ministry of Children & Youth Services, Ministry of Community & Social Services, Ministry of the Attorney General, The Niagara Region, \*United Way (\*Family Counselling Centre) and Our Generous Donors.