

WHAT A KID NEEDS...



Children's artwork provided by Loretto Catholic Elementary School. Cover Art: Mara



FACS
Family and Children's
Services Niagara

2010 - 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Our Path Forward

A Message from the Board President and Executive Director

Caring. Respectful. Collaborative. Integrity. Accountable. These are the values we embrace and that form the foundation of our strategic plan. They shape our delivery of child protection and community services to families, children and individuals in Niagara as well as our interactions with the community and each other.

This is a very exciting time for our organization as we put our strategic plan into action. The pillars of our plan include: serving the community collaboratively; organizational health, accountability and governance; awareness and advocacy.

This past year we continued to focus on admission prevention, helping families keep their children safely at home whenever possible; adoption and other means of permanence for children, and improved educational outcomes and support to youth. Our Family Counselling Centre also received outstanding accreditation results for their excellent work.

We are actively participating in the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare. We invited and worked with our Ministry on a very positive financial and service review and were successful in recovering some deficit funding to bring our child welfare budget to a more appropriate level for service delivery.

Congratulations to *Our Wish* campaign team who surpassed their \$1 million goal for the expansion and addition of a Family Centre at our Niagara Falls location. Many thanks to the community for your generous support in building a more positive environment for our families in Niagara Falls and Fort Erie.

In the year ahead, we look forward to the continued participation of our community, board and staff in realizing Our Vision... a community where children, youth, adults and families achieve their full potential in a safe and supportive environment.

Wade Stayzer
President, Board of Directors

Chris Steven
Executive Director



Chris celebrates McHappy Day with Staff

Board of Directors 2010 - 2011

President • Wade C. Stayzer

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(resigned July 2010)

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(appointed September 2010)

Brian Eckhardt

Paul Graham

Mary Iannazzo

Marie McKee

James Mackay

Stanleigh Palka

Frank Parkhouse

Sean Worthington



Wade and son Jacob

Protecting Children : Partners in Protection

To better support women and families in the care of their children, we value our partnerships with Gillian's Place, Women's Place Niagara South, the Niagara Native Women's Chapter and the Coalition to End Violence Against Women. Efforts continue to enhance French Language Services to the Francophone community, and we are working with the Multicultural Centre to support new Canadians.

Leading a community table, we are examining the establishment of a Youth Mental Health Court and advocating for children's mental health services with several other community tables. We are working with the Child Advocacy Centre to expand outreach and support to child victims, and involved in community efforts to manage High Risk Offenders.

Our Educational Consultants are presenting at an international conference in Ottawa, directed at enhancing educational outcomes for kids in care and provincially, we are providing leadership to other children's aid societies on Substance Abuse Risk Management in child welfare through community partnerships.



John Beaucage, (second from left) Aboriginal Advisor to the Minister visits the Tree of Peace at FACS with Chris and leaders from our Aboriginal community

Fostering : Collaboration Means Better Outcomes for Kids

Collaboration is a key value with FACS and the foster parenting community. When we all work together there are better outcomes for the children and youth we serve. Effective communication within our agency, and partnerships with community organizations help support our foster families and the children in their homes.

Together with Pathstone Mental Health, we created 16 workshops for foster parents, providing practical information and strategies to support children with mental health concerns. Bethesda, Niagara Regional Police, the Family Counselling Centre and partnerships with other community agencies provided education, training and relationship building within our community.

For 2010-11 there was a monthly average of 541 children in care. Many more children are served in their own homes as staff support families to prevent their children from coming into care, or strive for kinship arrangements with extended family and community. We have 183 active foster homes in Niagara and are actively recruiting more families, exploring technology and social media to generate more interest in fostering.

The foster parent association, FACS Foundation and the agency support foster parents and children through holiday celebrations, and special events such as our annual foster family recognition dinner. Bursaries are granted to youth graduating high school and those pursuing post secondary education.

Regional Adolescent Centre

The Regional Adolescent Centre provides care to youth with complex needs that can not be met in a regular foster home setting. The Centre provides youth with a safe living environment, supported by staff 24 hours a day; until they are able to return home, transition into a foster home or into their community.

This year staff provided supervision, support and a structured program to 56 youth, as well as an on-site classroom for those children unable to return to their community schools.

The Centre was the grateful recipient of a large donation of new sports equipment from Canadian Tire's JumpStart program and ice skates from PenFinancial. This helped promote positive physical activities with our staff and youth.

Support to Youth : New Outlooks and Beginnings

Last year we supported 94 youth with the critical transition from living in foster care to living on their own. We help these young people find housing, develop financial literacy, set goals and plan for the future. Individual and group service provide youth with support, new skills and knowledge as they embark on life on their own. Cooking is a favourite group activity along with visits to the Native Friendship Centre. Youth say "I've learned a lot, I'm better at dealing with issues, I'm more respectful and grown up, I've made friends " Many youth expressed more confidence in the areas of financial literacy, employment readiness, post secondary education and relationships.



Kim congratulates Michelle, a bursary recipient

Adoption : Every Child Needs Permanence

Our continued emphasis on permanence for all children resulted in more than 30 children placed on adoption probation this past year, with 19 of these adoptions finalized by March 31, 2011.

A number of older children, sibling sets and special needs children were also placed this year. A family of four siblings and another sibling set of seven all found permanent families. The children stay connected, celebrating birthdays and special occasions together, thanks to the commitment of their families. A four-year-old boy who is deaf and blind now thrives in the care of his new family, who was drawn to him when they saw him on the AdoptOntario website.

Children make tremendous gains when they find permanence. We are committed to finding and supporting permanent homes for any child who needs a family.

Family Counselling Centre



Plant closures, unemployment and financial hardship increase stress for both individuals and families. The Family Counselling Centre addresses anxiety, depression, grief, loss, parenting issues and marital/family discord through our core counselling and employee assistance programs.

Our **Niagara Falls Walk-In Clinic** located at 5017 Victoria Avenue provides counselling to persons on a first come, first served basis, at no cost to the client.

The **Child Advocacy Counsellor** counsels children who have been physically or sexually abused, and supports their caregivers. Service is provided at 8 Forster Street in St. Catharines and various sites throughout the region.

Caring Dads addresses men who have, or are at risk to abuse and/or neglect their children. The program makes men more knowledgeable about child development and more aware of their child's needs.

Our **Adult Protection Services Worker** program provides direct support to 130 developmentally disabled adults who are either moving towards, or living independently in the community.

Partner Assault Response challenges participants to examine their belief systems, acquire an understanding of abuse and an awareness of the impact their behaviour has on their partners and children. 127 individuals enrolled in the program and 96 partners were supported with safety planning and resources.

The **Side By Side** and **For Me and My Mom** programs assisted 204 abused women and 157 children who have been exposed to family violence.

Family Group Conferencing brings together children, family members, friends and service providers to agree on a plan in the best interest of the child/children. This past year, 217 people participated in 13 conferences - planning for 16 children.

Foster and Kinship Support Services offers a 10-week psycho-educational group and a monthly support group for caregivers of children with, or suspected of having, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

Some programs are fully funded; others have fees geared to income, some have United Way support.

For more information call (905) 937-7731 extension 3345 or visit our website at www.fccniagara.on.ca



Community Programs: Open to Everyone in Niagara

Ontario Early Years Centres
A Place For Parents And Their Children.



Ontario Early Years Programs

These Centres are neighborhood hubs, with interactive learning opportunities for parents, caregivers and guardians with children up to age 6. A place to ask questions, seek resources, visit with early years

professionals, and other parents and caregivers.

We nurture early literacy, numeracy, creativity and social skills development and a chance to network in a safe non-judgmental environment. Promoting healthy child development and positive parenting skills, we lend resources, offer workshops and referrals to other services. The team of registered ECE staff leads the Interactive Play Programs, Grow and Learn Together series, Infant Massage, Roots of Empathy and school readiness program, School's Cool.

Our Main Site at 12 Young Street in Welland is a bilingual program. We provide services at our 4 Satellites in Fenwick (1), Grimsby (2) and at Centre de santé (1).

The Early Years Mobile Program offers Interactive Play at 5 locations in the Welland, Pelham and Thorold area. Interactive early learning and literacy programs are offered September - June at: the Welland-Pelham YMCA, Church of the Nazarene in Thorold, the Fonthill Public Library, Princess Elizabeth School and Centre de santé in Welland.

The Early Years Toy Lending Library travels to 13 locations across Niagara, including the 4 OEYC Main Hub Sites (Welland, Niagara Falls, St. Catharines and Port Colborne), Centre de santé, OEYC-Erie/Lincoln: Beamsville 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, the Welland-Pelham YMCA and YMCA St. Catharines-Bunting satellite.

All programs and services are free of charge. We served: 2,754 children last year. Make the most of your child's early years. Call (905) 734-3563 to find Early Years services in your neighbourhood.



Early Learning & Parenting Program
and
West Niagara Resource Consultants

West Niagara Resource Consultants

Consulting with childcare and Ontario Early Years Centres in West Niagara, we assist children to age 6, who have or may have a developmental delay. Regular visits allow us to monitor a child's developmental progress and needs, facilitate referrals to community services and support children's transition to school. In

2010, the two West Niagara Resource Consultants supported 62 families and 68 children at 19 locations.

Early Learning & Parenting Programs and Childcare Centres

We served 410 children in 2010, including many with special needs. Our Early Learning and Parenting Programs include transportation, parent groups, and accept children as young as 18 to 24 months. Our Childcare Centres accept children of varying ages. We prepare children to start school and help parents with parenting skills and in caring for their children. Developmental screening ensures children have reached appropriate milestones and assists with referrals to community services. Childcare 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

We continue to be impacted by changes in the childcare sector and the Ministry of Education's full day learning or Early Learning Programs.

*location change planned September 2011



Kids at Loretto Catholic Elementary School raise funds for FACS

collaborative... team work, brainstorming

Volunteer Services : Passion. Action. Impact.

Our 275 volunteers enthusiastically embrace this motto. Our 37 special friend/mentors, 24 evening receptionists, 35 tutors and more than 100 drivers contributed 50,300 hours this past year, with our drivers exceeding 2.1 million kms.

Classroom assistants at our Early Years and Parenting programs, toy-cleaners, and clerical volunteers also supported our efforts with some reaching 25 years of volunteer service. Help us help kids – join our team!

FACS in the Community ... proud to be a part of...

- Dragon Boat Festival
- Gillian's Place Golf Tournament
- BEC Breakfast
- YWCA Women of Distinction
- Pathstone Mental Health Hope Awards Dinner
- FACS Family Day Free Skates
- McHappy Days
- Aboriginal Education Day
- Brock Social Justice Forum
- Neighbours, Friends and Family
(to end violence against women)



FACS Staff enjoy the Dragon Boat Festival

Foundation Highlights

A tremendous year for FACS Foundation as *Our Wish* campaign team surpassed our \$1 million goal to expand FACS Niagara Falls location and add a Family Centre Addition. More than \$1.4 million has been raised to support this \$3.4 million project which has also received federal and provincial infrastructure funding. A major donation from the McCall MacBain Foundation earned naming rights to the facility which will be known as the Shelley MacBain Centre of Family and Children's Services.



Local school children and officials break ground at FACS Niagara Falls site

The Foundation also provided a summer camp experience to 313 local kids in need at a cost of \$96,000 and granted a further \$47,500 to provide opportunities for 23 young people in, or formerly in foster care to attend post secondary education and job skills training. We also supported our youth programs, recreation, special outings and events, holiday assistance to needy families, adoption efforts and other enrichments and enhancements to assist FACS in their important work with children, youth, families and adults in the community.

2010-11 Foundation Board of Directors:

Mary Iannazzo, Anne Kemp, Chris Rupp, Dave Demoe, Susan Graham, Mike Boucher, Chris Steven. Manager: Ann Godfrey

Our Wish Campaign Leadership:

Honorary Chair: Dr. Robin Williams

Co-chairs: Ann-Louise Branscombe, Anne Kemp and Janie Palmer

To donate, volunteer or to support events such as our Gala or Golf Tournament – please call (905) 937-7731 or visit www.facsniagara.on.ca. Ask us about making a bequest, planned or estate gift – your legacy to Niagara's children

integrity... when my worker says she is going to be there for me, she is there.
She doesn't judge and she is honest with me.

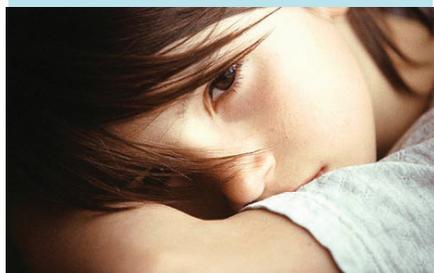
Child Protection Services

Family and Children's Services Niagara received 5,028 referrals and provided child protection services to 3,779 families.

79% of referrals were related to concerns for the safety and well-being of a child

16% were requests for agency assistance for records checks, adoption disclosure or assistance to other societies

3% were requests for counselling and pregnancy planning for women at risk



Reasons for Child Protection Referrals 2010-2011

Caregiver Capacity—including caregiver addictions, and mental health
1,210

Domestic Violence and Emotional Harm
997

Physical/ Sexual Harm
862

Harm due to Neglect—including lack of supervision
680

Inability to Manage Child Behaviour/ Abandonment Risk
221

Total Protection Referrals
3,970

Services Provided

Approximately 76% of the child protection referrals that FACS received were opened for investigation; 22% of completed investigations were transferred to ongoing service. Nearly 68% of ongoing service openings were related to diminished caregiver capacity, or domestic violence.

On March 31st, 2011- 200 children were living with appropriate kin, preventing their admission to foster care.

Investigations.....	3,515
Ongoing Service.....	1,567
Kinship Service.....	348

In Care Services

On March 31st, 2011 there were 539 children in the care of the society.

33% were in the temporary care of the society.

51% were wards of the crown, 70% of those wards had access with their parents.

16% were former crown wards, aged 18 to 21, making the transition from foster care to living on their own.

Children in Care (as at March 31st, 2011)

Ages

Under 2 years.....	62
2 - 6 years.....	75
7 - 11 years.....	61
12 - 16 years.....	211
17 years and older.....	130

Living Arrangements

Foster Home.....	313
Group Home.....	71
Adoptions Pending.....	36
Kinship In Care.....	11
Living Independently.....	90
Other (e.g., home visits, hospital, youth facility).....	18

Family Counselling Centre & Community Programs

Core Counselling.....	1,426 individuals, couples & families
Child Witness/Family Violence.....	204 mothers, 157 children
Partner Assault Response.....	127 men, 96 partners served
Caring Dads.....	22 men, 46 children impacted
Family Group Conferencing.....	217 participants, 13 conferences
Adult Protection Service Worker.....	130 vulnerable adults
Walk In Clinic.....	210 people served
Child Advocacy Counsellor.....	49 families served, 100 people
Foster and Kinship Support.....	23 caregivers, impacting 63 children

accountable... my worker took time away from her family to drive me 11 hours to a drug treatment program

2010 - 2011 Financial Report (unaudited)

This is a summary of details of 2010 -11
Financial statements to be audited by Durward Jones Barkwell

REVENUE – CHILD WELFARE	
Province of Ontario	\$42,606,230
Other Income & Expenditure Recovery	\$2,687,444
Total Income	\$45,293,674
EXPENDITURES – CHILD WELFARE	
Salaries & Benefits	\$22,181,704
Children's Boarding Costs	\$14,204,009
Client Support Services	\$3,753,822
Administration	\$3,718,956
Total Disbursements	\$43,858,491
CHILD WELFARE EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE	\$1,435,183
OTHER PROGRAMS EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE	(\$5,256)
OPERATING FUND BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	(\$2,970,089)
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditure	\$1,429,927
Capital Purchases and Transfers	(\$888,703)
OPERATING FUND BALANCE, END OF YEAR	(\$2,428,865)
PRIVATE & CAPITAL FUND BALANCE, END OF YEAR	\$7,909,473
TOTAL FUND BALANCE, END OF YEAR	\$5,480,608

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.



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