



Serving our community for over 97 years

2010/11 Halton CAS Board of Directors/Officers
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2011 Annual Report

Mission Statement

"In partnership with families and the community, the Halton Children's Aid Society's mission is to protect children and enable them to grow and realize their potential within a safe and nurturing environment."

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Message from the Board President and Executive Director

The fiscal year 2010/11 was a year of re-building and re-investing in service to support better outcomes for children, youth and families. Our funding stabilized and demand for service declined in the early part of the year, affording the opportunity to re-evaluate and enhance our service delivery model.

Our newly named Children and Youth Services Department re-organized to support positive outcomes for children and youth. We added resources to assist with clinical decisions, permanency, giving our youth a voice and strengthening our foster care system.

The Community Protection Department enhanced their clinical decision-making capacity with the implementation of a clinical consultation team. This team provides leadership in case conferencing and directing clinical support to children in their parent's home.

Other additional staffing included a seasonal holiday event coordinator, an IT analyst and a management secretary. The Our Kids Network increased secretarial support and, through the successful application of a Trillium grant, hired a communications manager. In total, we added close to the equivalent of 15 full-time staff—with the majority employed to enhance direct service delivery. After downsizing last fiscal year, it felt good to re-invest in staffing that will move forward positive outcomes for children, youth and families.

We have been working with communications consultants to develop a Halton "I Am Your Children's Aid Campaign" and to write real stories for our website. Thanks to everyone who participated in the interviews and focus groups. You should look forward to seeing a revitalized version of our website in the near future.

With over 72% of our children in care over the age of 13, supporting our youth to achieve their educational goals is paramount, as education is a key to their future success. Partnerships with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and the Ministry of Education have eased the transition from secondary to post secondary educational opportunities. Access to funding has improved and, with the continued support of the Children's Aid Foundation of Halton, more of our young adults are taking advantage of post secondary opportunities. Last year, the Foundation awarded \$140,000 to 32 deserving young adults. Supporting our youth emerging into adulthood remains a priority, as 27% of our youth are aged 18 and over.

There are many challenges ahead as we continue to advocate for extended service for the youth of our region. We know the government and, in particular the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare, has listened to some of our concerns about our youth, and we anxiously await details about future policy changes that will assist with permanency for all children and help our youth beyond 16 years.

A special thanks to those who help meet our vision:

- Staff (134) for working with 4,715 children and youth.
- Volunteers (127) for working 13,624 hours.
- Foster families (75) for opening their doors and hearts to 195 children and youth in care.
- The Children's Aid Foundation of Halton's volunteer Board for raising \$74,000 to send youth onto post secondary education and grow into independence, and support children and youth in after school programming, seasonal celebrations and summer camp.

As a community, we are collectively responsible to ensure that the children and youth in the Halton region grow and realize their potential within safe and nurturing environments. The investments made in the Agency are a clear reflection of how serious the Halton community takes this responsibility. The investments are, in fact, a direct investment in the families of Halton. We look forward to building on this momentum by continuing, in the months ahead, to further enhancing our partnerships with Halton families and our community partners.

Sincerely,
Scott Waterhouse, President / Nancy MacGillivray, Executive Director

Vision Statement

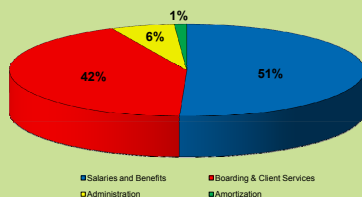
"Helping Children, Youth and Families Thrive."

Financial Report and Service Statistics

Funding Model

- CAS's currently receive over 95% of their operational funding from the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS).
- This funding is augmented through funding from the Halton Children's Aid Foundation, Federal Child Tax Credits and recovery of costs from other sources.
- MCYS requires quarterly financial and service reporting to ensure the Society is within spending and service limits.
- MCYS provides funding based on historical expenditure levels with volume sensitivity in a number of service areas. This funding model is currently under review by the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare, with changes expected to be implemented over the next three years.
- Bridging the Gap funding flows through the Region of Halton to provide supports to youth who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, and is completely separate from the Child Welfare funding and programs.
- The Our Kids Network (OKN) is a Halton-wide partnership of organizations and agencies serving children and youth. Funding from the Protocol Partners and the MCYS is a fixed amount on an annual basis. The OKN also pursues grants that will enhance specific initiatives, usually given for a two- to three-year period.

ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES



Financial Report

Revenue	FY 2010/11	FY 2009/10
Province of Ontario	\$16,827,837	\$16,387,356
Other	\$ 1,336,225	\$ 1,476,637
Total	\$18,164,092	\$17,863,993
Expenses		
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 9,224,614	\$ 9,602,487
Boarding and Client Services	\$ 7,715,605	\$ 7,842,696
Administration	\$ 1,058,489	\$ 969,400
Amortization	\$ 205,928	\$ 206,537
Total	\$18,204,636	\$18,621,120
Excess of Expenses over Revenue	\$ 40,544	\$ 757,127

Service Statistics

	FY 2010/11	FY 2009/10
Total Children and Youth Served	4,715	5,310
Number of Requests for Service	3,342	3,652
Number of Investigations	1,847	2,146
Percentage of Families being Investigated Requiring Ongoing Services	13.4%	16.5%
Number of Families Receiving Ongoing Services	233	317
Average Number of Children in Care	195	223
Number of Children Placed in Permanent Adoptive Homes	18	19
Young Adults (aged 18-21) Supported when Transitioning into Independence	54	51
Number of Foster Homes Available	75	76
Number of Families Referred to Community Programs:		
- Woodview	38	24
- ROCK/Compass	30	12
- Halton Women's Place	64	91
Number of Enrollments in Kumon Program	110	51
Number of Youth in Care Awarded Bursaries	32	23
Total Amount of Bursary Dollars Awarded	\$140,000	\$124,000

MARIAN
Accomplished Athlete
Full Scholarship Winner
Miss Eboness
Talented Singer
Two Master's Degrees
Linguist and Speech Therapist
Happily Married
Abused Child

"I Am Your Children's Aid."

"Nothing I've accomplished—none of it—would ever have happened had it not been for God, Children's Aid, and the foster family who accepted me as one of their own. They will have a place in my heart, and at my table, forever."

Volunteer Services

Without our Volunteers, the Halton Children's Aid Society couldn't support the children, youth and families who need our help. Volunteers play an important role in the services Halton CAS provides. Their contribution is invaluable and provides a vital link between the CAS and the communities we serve. We support, facilitate and value the efforts of all volunteers.

Our programs include—Adoption Disclosure, Board Committee Members, Donations, Drivers, Food for Life Program, Kumon, Life Start Kits, Mentors—Special Friends, One-to-One Tutors, Promotion/Publicity, Seasonal Gift Giving, Special Events/Fundraising, Summer Camp, and Tutors.



	FY 2010/11	FY 2009/10
Number of Active Volunteers	127	120
Hours of Service Contributed	13,624	19,990
Kilometers Driven	375,516	370,000
Number of Official Agency/Foundation Fundraising/Public Awareness Events Participated in	4	4
Amount Raised through Fundraising	Over \$270,000	Over \$240,000
How many lives of children/youth have our volunteers touched?	Over 500	Over 500

Impact of Volunteers

(excerpt from *PARTicle* written by Melanie McDonald, MSW)

Some benefits of using volunteers in the Child Welfare system include:

- Volunteers can provide children and families with instrumental emotional and practical support.
- Volunteers can free up Child Welfare practitioners' time and can save Agency resources.
- Volunteers are often viewed as a "peer", which enables clients to feel comfortable and gain trust rapidly.

Foster Parents Association

Although the Foster Parents Association (FPA) currently has only two executives—Priscilla Nesbitt (President) and Steve Cranna (Vice President), a number of sub-committee's were formed, which were a great addition.

Training and advocacy continue to be a focus for the Association. Our Advocacy Program continues to run successfully and has five Committee members—Adrian Peter, Jennifer Peter Manikam, Marcia Martin, Barb Cranna, and Priscilla Nesbitt. The Association has renewed its membership with the Legal Defense Fund, offered by the United Foster Parent of Canada Corporation, which offsets any legal costs resulting from allegations against foster families.

Activities for the 2010/11 year included: purchasing gift cards; planning a Summer Bash; distributing several newsletters and raising over \$4,000 at the silent auction held in conjunction with the Foster Parent Appreciation dinner.

We continue to work in collaboration with the Halton Children's Aid Society and are pleased with the change in the relief policy and training policy. We truly feel a part of the Halton CAS team!



I began volunteering in the Family Visiting Program, but I was looking for more direct interaction with the children. Children's Aid was very accommodating, and switched into the role of Homework Helper, working with a boy who is now 13 years old. Over time we just bonded, and as he started to require rides to soccer games and practices, my involvement shifted to my current role as a Friendly Visitor. He has become like a "little brother" to me, and I love every minute of my volunteer time spent with him!

Ontario Association of
GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR CHILDREN'S AID. GO TO USEYOURVOICE.CA Children's Aid Societies

Children's Aid Foundation of Halton

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Children's Aid Foundation of Halton (CAFH), we would like to thank everyone at the Halton Children's Aid Society for your diligent work on behalf of the children, youth and families who need your assistance in this community.



Members of the CAFH strive to raise funds to support vital programs that enhance the tremendous care that is provided by the staff, volunteers and foster parents of the Halton CAS. We are passionate about our work because we believe very strongly in yours, in the mission of the Society and the values you work by. Together we are raising awareness and providing opportunities for children and youth to thrive.

Thank you for your role in creating a community that is nurturing, compassionate and strong.

Chris Barrett
President, CAFH Board of Directors

Tina Blatchford
Executive Director, CAFH

Working to Make Positive Differences in the Lives of Children and Youth

The Halton Children's Aid Society delivers community-based Child Welfare services to children, youth and families in the Halton Region. A volunteer Board of Directors provides governance to the 134 employees who provide the following services.

Protection Services—investigates allegations of all forms of maltreatment against children and youth, and makes every effort to protect children/youth from being harmed. The primary focus is to ensure the safety and well-being of children/youth. We believe in early intervention and provide 65% of our services co-located with community partners.

Children and Youth Services—most children and youth remain in the care of their families. In some circumstances, where there is neglect or abuse, children/youth come into care, i.e., kin care, foster homes and group care. When in care, they have a Children and Youth Services Worker who supports them and develops a permanency plan, which often includes planning to return home.

Resource and Adoption Services—Resource Workers locate appropriate placements for children and youth. Both Resource and Adoption Workers develop permanent homes for children and youth.

Support Services—we created a Clinical Consultation Team, which consists of six staff, who provide support to children, youth and families and strive to keep them in their own homes. They support children/youth in foster homes, group care, visiting and returning home, and education programs.

Community Capacity Programs—respond to the needs of children, youth and families by:

- **Bridging Families**—in collaboration with Halton Women's Place, women and children living in family violence are provided assistance and support. Individual and group services are offered.
- **Linking Families**—in collaboration with Woodview Children's Centre, families struggling with the care of adolescents are provided timely, in home, intensive counselling to prevent their youth from leaving their care. Groups for parents are offered on an ongoing basis.
- **Compass**—in collaboration with the Reach Out Centre for Kids (ROCK), families are provided intensive, in home counselling to help address adult mental health problems and skill development to improve their parenting abilities.

Our Kids Network

Our Kids Network (OKN) is a Halton-wide partnership of organizations and agencies serving children and youth. Focused on child development from pregnancy to 18 years, OKN provides leadership for planning, integrating and aligning services and support so all children thrive. Halton Children's Aid Society, a key partner and supporter, provides administrative infrastructure and actively participates in the work of the OKN on all levels.



In 2010, OKN produced a report, *How Well Did We Do? Evaluating Our Progress*, detailing the extensive evaluation of a six-year pilot initiative and comparing results from 2004 to 2010. The report showed that significant progress has been made in moving towards service integration. Participation and collaboration increased and new partnerships were established. The Acton, Aldershot and Milton Neighbourhood Hubs expanded programs, formed new community partnerships and saw increased participation from the community. Two new staff members were welcomed—Elaine Szwarc, program administrator and Beth Williams, marketing and communications manager.

With the six-year pilot initiative completed, OKN will sustain the momentum with a five-year strategic plan to continue to ensure sustainable resources, build capacity through research and knowledge mobilization and meet new challenges.

YouthSAID

The Halton Children's Aid Society is interested in learning how we can enhance our services for our youth in care. The YouthSAID networking group—made up of representatives from our own youth in care—is designed to give our youth the opportunity to speak freely on any issues or concerns. Along with voicing their issues and concerns, we encourage their ideas on how potential changes can be incorporated. YouthSAID is not only about advocating, but is a networking group that is run **for** youth **by** youth.

YouthSAID has been up and running since April 2010. Meetings are held on a bi-monthly basis and there are currently ten youth in care involved, but more youth are always welcome to join the meetings.

What has YouthSAID been up to?

- Attended Annual MPP Briefing Day to present their thoughts and concerns directly to Halton's MPPs.
- Involved in Grand River Zone activities, such as snow tubing and an overnight camping retreat.
- Participate on the Crown Ward Educational Championship Team (CWECT) and assisting in planning a one-day conference to showcase the results of the CWECT team's work.
- Participate in the OACAS provincial level advocacy group.

Future Plans for YouthSAID

- A new YouthSAID website is currently under construction.
- Kevin Flynn, MPP for Oakville is attending one of our summer meetings.
- Halton will host the next Grand River Zone retreat.
- Volunteering and participating at the 2011 TigerTel Charity Dragon Boat races.

Why Should Youth Become Involved with YouthSAID?

Youth will clearly benefit from being a part of the YouthSAID Networking Group by:

- having an opportunity to meet other youth in care who share similar experiences;
- learning leadership and advocacy skills, which they will be able to include on their resume;
- contributing to their volunteer hours that are required to graduate high school;
- gaining opportunities to take part in larger, interagency meetings and events; and
- influencing the service that is provided to youth.

Bridging the Gap

Bridging the Gap strives to provide readily and easily accessible support for youth between the ages of 16-24, residing in the Halton Region, who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Bridging the Gap is committed to fostering a youth-directed, strength-based approach to assisting youth in achieving their goals. Bridging the Gap fosters partnerships with service providers in the Halton Region to maintain a positive, reputable, and constructive approach in our service to youth.



Our services include outreach services, a host home program and transitional housing program for youth.

Outreach Services—in 2010, Bridging the Gap served 300 youth through outreach services across Halton. An additional 157 youth received partial service such as information and referrals to community programs.

Host Homes—the Host Home program had nine homes available in Halton during 2010. There were 16 youth placed in the homes for a total of 1,283 days served. Georgetown Host Homes have been well utilized as there is no other emergency housing or affordable housing options in the community.

Bridge House Transitional Housing—Bridging the Gap's Transitional Youth Housing program opened a new home in Milton in September 2010 and has served five youth. Bridge House Burlington has also served five youth, with two youth having been residents for almost two years.