



*Respite in a safe and happy environment for children
diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder*

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

FOOTPRINTS 4 Autism is a respite-only outreach program for families with children affected by an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). FOOTPRINTS 4 Autism is unique for it is a volunteer-driven program dedicated to giving the families of children affected by an ASD the precious gift of time in a low-cost program that fosters a safe and happy environment for the children. FOOTPRINTS 4 Autism was established in 2004 as an outreach ministry of Dunbarton-Fairport United. In 2009, the program expanded to a second location at St. Mark's United Church in Whitby.

Under the guidance of qualified Program Consultants, and supported by an Operations Manager, a Strategic Consultant and a dedicated Steering Committee, the program trains and utilizes volunteers ranging in age from 16 – 75+ to provide creative, stimulating, and skill-appropriate activities for children with an ASD. In doing so, FOOTPRINTS 4 Autism provides the parents and siblings of these children with a few precious hours of 'time away' to recharge, attend to household tasks, or to simply spend some quality time with each other.

FOOTPRINTS 4 Autism continued to provide outstanding programming – during weekend respite care; two Summer Camps and one Christmas Break Camp. Our Whitby program successfully expanded to four Saturdays per month. There were a few changes in 2013, one being the resignation of Heather Johnson, Marketing & Fundraising Consultant and the addition of Michele Boothe as the Pickering Friday Night Program Consultant. Another change was the addition of the tag line "4 Autism" to our logo. This change reflects our website domain name and adds clarity to our brand.

Financially, 2013 was a tough year for FOOTPRINTS 4 Autism. Due to a significant decline in community donations we were at a \$10,000 deficit in September. However, through due-diligence and perseverance we successfully secured supplementary funding sources.

We are very grateful to the United Church Mission Outreach Ministry and Social issues Project for accepting our grant application and generously supporting FOOTPRINTS 4 Autism going forward.

FOOTPRINTS 4 Autism realized the following targets to the benefit of the children and their families:

- 33 children and their families received support from the program
- 2435.5 hours of direct respite care was provided in Pickering and Whitby in 2013
 - 1621 hours at FOOTPRINTS Pickering
 - 817.5 hours at FOOTPRINTS Whitby
- 158 Child Support Volunteers provided 3622 hours of time to the program (*in direct care, training and program oversight responsibilities*)

- 48 new Child Support Volunteers were recruited and trained in 2013
 - A total of 540 hours were spent in training all volunteers
- 11 Steering Committee volunteers gave 576 hours of time to program operations and management
- Investors Group Pickering Region returned as the Lead Sponsor of *Camp Great Strides* and provided funding for three summer camps (2 in Pickering, 1 in Whitby). Camps ran for 5 days/3 hours per day; instead of for 3 days/5 hours per day. This change was welcomed and well-received by parents.
- A team of 6 walkers participated in the Scotiabank Waterfront Marathon Charity Challenge on October 20, 2013, raising \$4,465 for FOOTPRINTS.
- Recipient of \$14,900 in funding from the United Way of Durham Region.
- Secured funding from the Andrews Foundation, Baagwating Community Association, Durham Community Foundation, the Rotary Club of Pickering, Unity for Autism, the Dunbarton-Fairport UCW and the Christian Education Committee (CE), as well as the CAW Family Auxiliary #27 for program and operating needs.
- On December 30, 2013 FOOTPRINTS 4 Autism received a substantial new toy donation from 11 year old Alex Thorne, Pickering. Alex is the Chief Play Officer for Toys R Us Canada.

FOOTPRINTS Consultants (as of January 01, 2014)

- Julie Cashin-Oster: Operations Manager, Fund Development/Marketing
- Allyson Young: FOOTPRINTS 4 Autism Pickering (Main contact and Saturday shifts)
- Michelle Lounsbury: FOOTPRINTS 4 Autism Whitby
- Michele Boothe: FOOTPRINTS 4 Autism Pickering (Friday nights)
- Tom Little: Strategic Consultant

FOOTPRINTS Steering Committee (as of January 01, 2014)

- Corrine Brook-Allred: Chair
- Bev Crane: Vice-Chair
- Sharon Buchanan: HR – Operations Manager
- Sandra Chase: Support Treasurer (member, St. Mark's United)
- Linda Clark: HR – Program Consultants and Alternate Consultants
- David Green: Treasurer
- Sandra Halls: Secretary
- Sandy MacKenzie: Fund Development (member, St. Mark's United)
- Ellen Thomson: Marathon Committee

What are families saying about FOOTPRINTS?

"Many people do not understand the extreme behaviours that come with autism...this is why we were so happy to be able to receive affordable and high quality respite help from FOOTPRINTS 4 Autism. This gives us a feeling of a 'normal life' and my daughter love going to FOOTPRINTS and is able to participate in activities that she enjoys."

"I always feel that my child is safe with FOOTPRINTS. I can go about my chores and not stress if my little one is safe."