



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

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

FOOTPRINTS 4 Autism is a respite-only outreach program for families with children who have been diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum. FOOTPRINTS 4 Autism is unique for it is a volunteer-driven program dedicated to giving the families of children affected by Autism 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/Supervisors, and supported by an Operations Manager, a Strategic Consultant and a dedicated Steering Committee, the program trains and utilizes volunteers ranging in age from 14 – 75+ to provide creative, stimulating, and skill-appropriate activities for children on the Autism Spectrum. 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.

Securing long-term sources of funding continues to be a critical issue for FOOTPRINTS 4 Autism. In October 2014 we held our first community fundraising awareness event – The Mad Hatter's Tea Party, at Dunbarton-Fairport United Church. We are hoping to hold the same event in 2015 at St. Mark's United Church. In November 2014, Step Up for Autism, a fundraiser co-sponsored by Dunbarton Fairport United Church and Friends InDeed was held. Going forward we will be pursuing more opportunities for third party fundraiser/awareness events engaging community members.

Heading into 2015 we are faced with the reality that we need to expand our program. As of January 1st we have 7 families on our waitlist for our Whitby respite session. This is enough to run another program at St. Mark's. In addition to expanding our Whitby program we have seen a need to start a program in Clarington that would serve families living in the east end of Durham Region.

We are very grateful to the United Church Mission Outreach Ministry and Social issues Project for accepting our 2015 grant application and for their continued faith in our services.

Continuing to offer outstanding programming, FOOTPRINTS 4 Autism realized the following targets to the benefit of the children and their families:

- 40 children and their families received support from the program
- 3182 hours of direct respite care was provided in Pickering and Whitby in 2014
 - 2200 hours at FOOTPRINTS Pickering
 - 982 hours at FOOTPRINTS Whitby
- 190 Child Support Volunteers provided 3500 hours of time to the program (*in direct care, training and program oversight responsibilities*)

- 55 new Child Support Volunteers were recruited and trained in 2014
 - A total of 310 hours were spent in training all volunteers
- 11 Steering Committee volunteers gave 810 hours of time to program operations and management
- Camp Great Strides 2014 – Investors Group, Pickering returned as our lead sponsor
- Camp Great Strides 2014 Expansion – funding from Unity for Autism allowed us to add 2 more summer camps and hold our first Christmas Break Camp at St. Mark's
- Recipient of \$14,900 in funding from the United Way of Durham Region
- Received funding for our Volunteer Training Program again in 2014 from Baagwatting Community Association
- Secured funding from the Andrews Foundation, Harry E. Foster Charitable Foundation, Durham Community Foundation, the Rotary Club of Pickering, the Dunbarton-Fairport UCW and the Christian Education Committee (CE), St. Mark's UCW, the CAW Family Auxiliary #27 for program and operating needs, Faith United Church, Progress Club Durham South

FOOTPRINTS Staff (as of January 01, 2015)

- Julie Cashin-Oster: Operations Manager, Fund Development/Marketing
- Nicole Santorufo: Program Consultant/Supervisor, Pickering (Main contact and double Saturday sessions)
- Savannah Eberth: Program Consultant/Supervisor, Pickering (Alternate Saturday mornings)
- Michelle Lounsbury: Program Consultant/Supervisor, Whitby
- Michele Boothe: Program Consultant/Supervisor, Pickering (Friday night sessions)
- Tom Little: Strategic Consultant

FOOTPRINTS Steering Committee (as of January 01, 2015)

- Corrine Brook-Allred: Chair
- Bev Crane: Vice-Chair
- David Green: Treasurer
- Sandra Halls: Secretary
- Ellen Thomson: Events/Fund Development
- Sharon Buchanan: HR – Operations Manager
- Sandra Chase: Support Treasurer (member, St. Mark's United)
- Sandy MacKenzie: Fund Development (member, St. Mark's United)
- Patricia Moore: HR – Program Consultants and Alternate Consultants
- Lynn Ikeda: Assistant Treasurer

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."