

2006 Annual Report



www.footprints4autism.org

905-420-0388

1066 Dunbarton Road, Pickering

Mission Statement

FOOTPRINTS is a local, volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the provision of respite care for families with children who have Autism Spectrum Disorders.

The FOOTPRINTS program offers respite, not therapy, in a safe and happy environment. It has been designed solely for the benefit of the afflicted children and for the relief of their families.

March 2005

FOOTPRINTS: Respite Services for families dealing with autism

FOOTPRINTS is a non-profit, social service organization providing respite services for families with children who have Autism Spectrum Disorders.

FOOTPRINTS began offering respite services in 2004 under the supervision of a trained and qualified part-time coordinator. The program focuses on providing safe and easily accessible respite services that meet the needs of the child and families, reducing waitlists for those seeking this

service and fostering a community of volunteers dedicated to providing a happy, safe and fun place for these children.

FOOTPRINTS provides respite, not therapy programs. With approximately one in every 150 children affected by Autism, the need for local respite services is a priority for those within the autism community. In the Durham region, only one other respite program exists and its location in Oshawa, Ontario poses difficulty for many families in

Pickering and Ajax to access its services.

Led by a Steering Committee and supported by a core group of dedicated volunteers, FOOTPRINTS is meeting the needs of families requiring respite services in Durham and surrounding areas.

Steering Committee

Corrine Brook-Allred, Chair

Rev. Glenn Brown

Bev Crane, Secretary

Krista Dunlop

David Green, Treasurer

Farida Hameed

Todd Smith

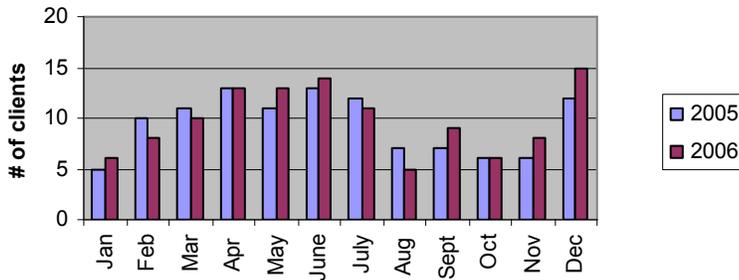
George Tatem

FOOTPRINTS: Providing peace of mind to parents

For many families, raising a child with an autism spectrum disorder means being "on" 24/7. FOOTPRINTS' mission is to provide families with a few hours of respite. It is knowing a difference is being made that drives FOOTPRINTS forward, as stated by one family: *"Being a single mother of 3 boys, 2 who are diagnosed with Autism, FOOTPRINTS allows me peace of mind while running my errands or catching up on laundry, or even spending special time with my eldest son over lunch. I know the boys have fun, burn off steam in a safe, clean environment with well trained, compassionate staff and a Coordinator who is out of this world! FOOTPRINTS is an important part of our family's life and routine."*

Serving the community in 2006

CLIENTS ATTENDING PER MONTH



In 2006, FOOTPRINTS provided respite services to an average of nine (9) clients per month. It is possible that, in any given month, the figures reflect repeat clients—that is, a client who attended more than one session per month.

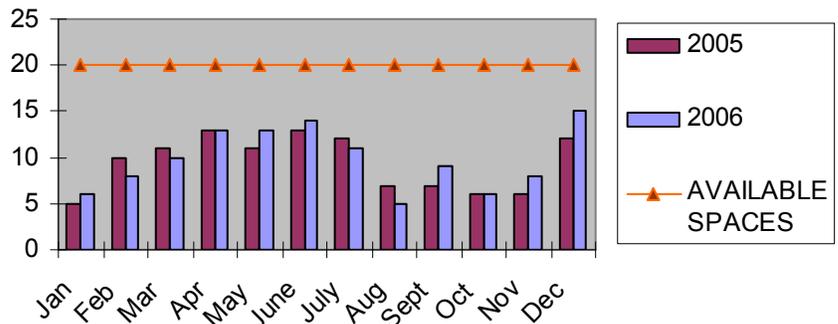
The Program Coordinator and Steering Committee continue to make adjustments in the scheduled times of respite session, to meet the needs of the families who use the service.

Overall, FOOTPRINTS saw a modest increase in respite usage in 2006, as compared to 2005.

All clients are partnered with a dedicated volunteer to monitor and ensure the safety of the client during their respite care session.

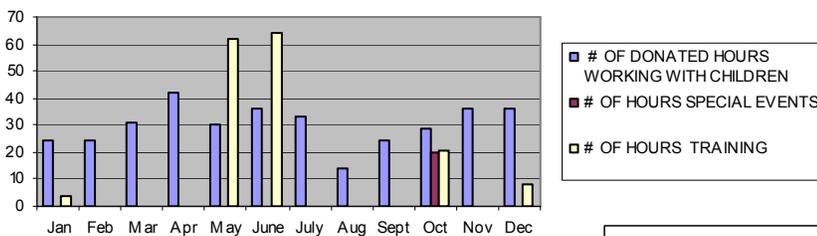
A key goal for the program in 2007 is to increase the number of clients using the service on a regular basis. The Steering Committee will continue to market the program in the local community.

USED vs. AVAILABLE SPACES



Volunteers: Working one-on-one with the kids

2006 DIRECT CARE VOLUNTEER HOURS

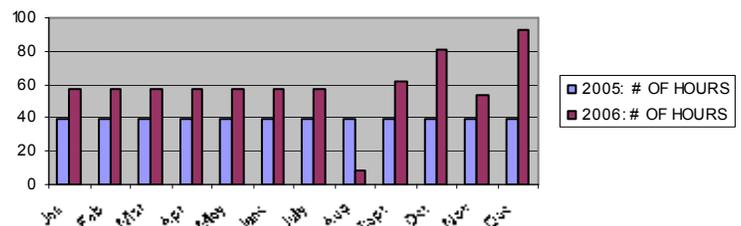


Direct care volunteers are key to FOOTPRINTS ability to provide the respite care to clients. All volunteers undergo training in both Crisis Prevention & Intervention and First-Aid to prepare for their role as a volunteer in the program.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Program Coordinator.

The FOOTPRINTS Steering Committee is made up of a dedicated group of volunteers who are responsible for the goals and outcomes of the program. Led by Chair Corrine Brook-Allred, all the Steering Committee members are dedicated to ensuring that families dealing with autism are able to access needed respite services in the Pickering area.

STEERING COMMITTEE HOURS BY MONTH



MEET KRISTA DUNLOP

Krista Dunlop loves to see the parents of FOOTPRINTS clients waiting to pick up their kids. They are usually waiting because their child is asking for "one more minute, please" with the FOOTPRINTS volunteers and activities.

Krista is dedicated to FOOTPRINTS and what it can mean for families in the area. She serves not only as a Direct Care Volunteer, working one-on-one with the children, but also as a member of the Steering Committee.

"Having the parents tell us how

much their children look forward to their visit and how grateful they are at having some time to run errands or be with their other children, makes all of the work and planning worthwhile."

As an elementary schoolteacher, and a volunteer with the Special Children's Swim Program in Pickering, Krista already had some experience in working with children within the Autism Spectrum. The training FOOTPRINTS provides to all their volunteers enabled her to up-date her skills, and the experience of working with the

program has helped her better understand the needs of the students at her school.

Holding a position on the Steering Committee as well as being a volunteer allows Krista a unique perspective into FOOTPRINTS. She, along with the other Steering Committee members, is looking to grow the program in 2007 and to see that any family who is need of respite care can find it with FOOTPRINTS.

FORE for FOOTPRINTS: Dalar Contracting Ltd.

For their 3rd Annual Golf Tournament, Dalar Contracting Limited of Pickering selected FOOTPRINTS to be their Charity of Choice.

The Tournament was a great success and raised \$10,000 for FOOTPRINTS clients.

Dalar Contracting was established in 1982 and prides itself on being available to

deliver quality buildings, on time and on budget. Dalar is the builder behind Clarington Toyota, Pickering Honda and Parkview BMW, just to name a few of their recent projects.

Thank you to Dalar Contracting Ltd and all the golfers for supporting FOOTPRINTS!



Dennis Large presents the cheque to Corrine Brook-Allred of FOOTPRINTS with Mayor Ryan.

TOM LITTLE & CMCS CONSULTING: Helping FOOTPRINTS along their journey

You may not have met Tom Little but if your child attends the FOOTPRINTS program or if you are a volunteer, you have benefited from Tom's knowledge and dedication to the non-profit sector. Tom and his firm, CMCS Consulting have been working with the FOOTPRINTS Steering Committee since 2005. Originally approached to

assist in preparing its 2006 OTF grant, Tom has been retained by the Steering Committee to help manage the multi-year work plan developed during the grant process and to assist the Steering Committee in creating a sustainable program in the Pickering area.

For more info about CMCS Consulting, log onto www.cmcs.on.ca

Ontario Trillium Foundation: Steps up and supports FOOTPRINTS with long-term funding

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is one of Canada's largest grant-making foundations and distributes \$100 million of government funding each year.



The development of the Strategic Plan was a direct result of OTF Funding received in 2005.

FOOTPRINTS held a public recognition ceremony on October 1, 2006 at Dunbarton-Fairport United Church (home of FOOTPRINTS). Mr. Lloyd White, OTF representative, presented the Steering Committee with a certificate announcing the multi-year funding for the program.

Thank you, Ontario Trillium Foundation, for recognizing the

unique program of FOOTPRINTS and for your on-going financial support.

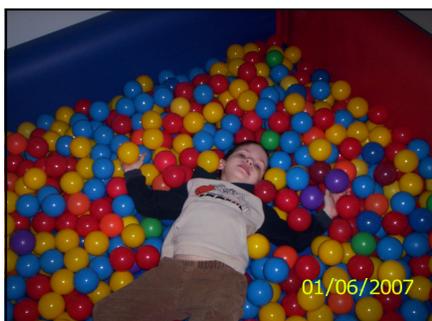


Steering Committee members: Corrine Brook-Allred, Rev. Glenn Brown, Bev Crane, Krista Dunlop, David Green & Co-ordinator, Denise Wilson

On October 1, 2006, the OTF presented FOOTPRINTS with a multi-year grant to facilitate the growth of the program for families dealing with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Pickering.

The multi-year grant of over \$130,000 will allow FOOTPRINTS to implement its

Having Fun at FOOTPRINTS



Looking forward to 2007

The FOOTPRINTS program has grown in huge steps since a small group of people came together in 2003 to address the needs of those living with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Pickering. In 2007, the program will launch a major volunteer recruitment campaign with the goal of doubling the number of volunteers by year-end. In addition, it looks to re-start offering services one-evening per week. Fund development is also a key item in 2007—seeking corporate and private funders who will assist the program with both financial and human resources.

In 2007, FOOTPRINTS is poised to make great strides forward in providing needed respite services to those families dealing children affected by autism.