

## 2007 Annual Report



[www.footprints4autism.org](http://www.footprints4autism.org)

905-420-0388

1066 Dunbarton Road, Pickering

### ***Mission Statement***

**FOOTPRINTS is a local, volunteer-driven, not-for-profit program dedicated to the provision of respite care for families with children age 13 years and under who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders.**

### **Steering Committee**

Corrine Brook-Allred, Chair

Rev. Glenn Brown

Bev Crane, Vice-Chair

David Green, Treasurer

Jim Hinnecke, Secretary

Todd Smith

George Tatem

Ellen Thomson

### **Consultants**

Denise Wilson  
Program

Lisa Uesson  
Program (Supplementary)

Heather Johnson  
Marketing & Admin

Tom Little  
Strategic Planning

## **Taking Big Steps Forward in 2007**

If you could sum up a year's worth of accomplishments in a few words, you might say "it was a very good year" for FOOTPRINTS. The program, operating since 2004, completed its first year of operation under its 5-year Strategic Plan, created in 2006 and implemented in 2007. The plan, financially supported by a 5-year grant from The Ontario Trillium Foundation and monitored by CMCS Consultants, is the 'blue-print' for the program and ensures everyone involved is striving for the same targets and goals.

Key achievements in 2007 include:

- Raising the capacity to four (4) children per session from three (3) in 2006
- Moving to a full-day program on Saturdays in January 2007. This proved very popular with families with over 80% of the children enrolled for the full 5-hour Saturday sessions

- Shifting the weekday program from Wednesday evenings to Friday evenings as of May 2007
- Recruiting 13 new volunteers into the program from May to December; a total of 31 volunteers from the community gave their time to the children in 2007
- Established working relationships with two large local organizations serving children with ASD—Christian Horizons and Community Living Oshawa Clarington
- Creating comprehensive policies to guide the program for all volunteers

In all, FOOTPRINTS met or exceeded the goals it set out for itself in 2007. To all the Child Support Volunteers, Steering Committee Members, and Community organizations who gave of their time, their knowledge, and their resources to FOOTPRINTS in 2007—THANK YOU!

## **FOOTPRINTS @ Autism Support Group CHAT-West**

FOOTPRINTS is pleased to announce its partnership with Autism Ontario Durham Region for the provision of Child Support Services during the monthly Support Group meetings of Autism Ontario Durham Region are held at Dunbarton-Fairport United Church.

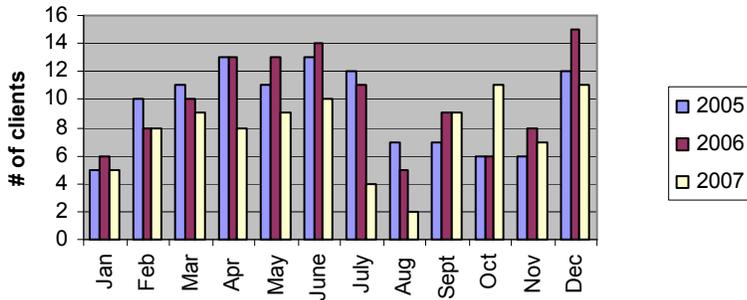
Starting in January 2008, FOOTPRINTS will provide its respite program for up to five (5) children whose parents and/or guardians wish to attend the Wednesday night meetings. Pre-registration with FOOTPRINTS is required and respite will be provided at the standard \$5/hour fee. For those ASD children with siblings, babysitting services are also available.

For more info, go to [www.autismontario.com/durham](http://www.autismontario.com/durham)



## Serving the community in 2007

**CLIENTS ATTENDING PER MONTH**



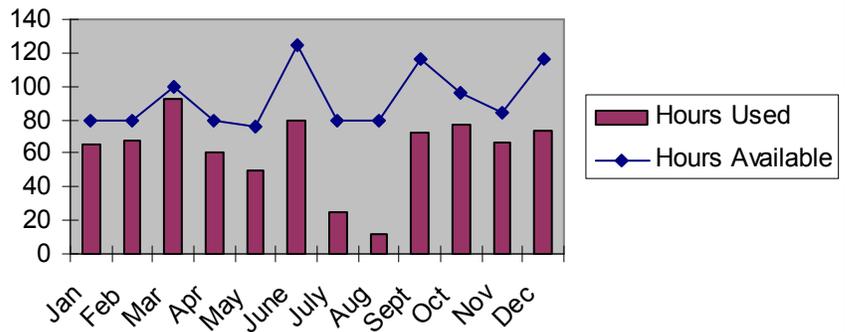
In 2007, FOOTPRINTS provided respite services to an average of seven (7) clients per month. It is possible that, in any given month, the figures reflect repeat clients—that is, a client who attended more than one session per month.

In addition, 80% of the children who attended the Saturday sessions stayed for the full five-hour session, providing families with an extended break from their care giving duties.

In total, FOOTPRINTS made 899 hours of respite care available in 2007. Net of cancellations and no shows, FOOTPRINTS provided 741 hours of relief to families.

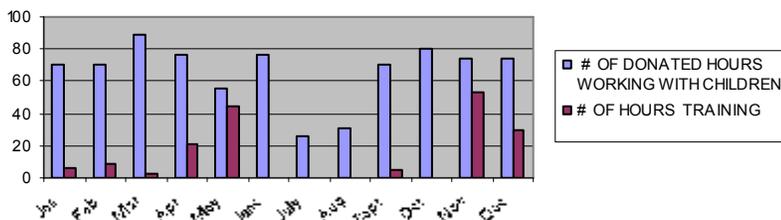
A key goal for the program in 2008 is to increase the number of clients using the service on a regular basis. To meet this goal, the total number of children per session will be increased from four (4) to five (5) mid-2008. Promotion of the program within the community will also be increased.

**2007: Hours used vs Hours available**



## Volunteers: Working one-on-one with the kids

**2007: Child Support Volunteers Hours by Month**

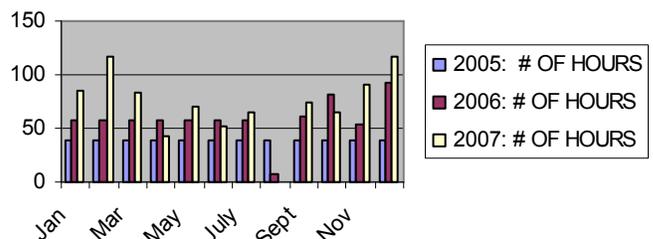


In 2007, FOOTPRINTS set a goal of doubling the number of Child Support Volunteers actively involved in the program. A total of 31 volunteers from the community gave their time to assist the children on a one-to-one basis.

In 2007, their contribution amounted to 789 hours, with 12 volunteers giving an additional 80 hours for training purposes.

The FOOTPRINTS Steering Committee is made up of a dedicated group of volunteers who are responsible for the goals and outcomes of the program. In 2007, the Steering Committee created a Fund Development Committee responsible for the program's long-term financial viability. In addition, the Steering Committee completed a comprehensive set of policies to guide the program in areas of volunteer management and working with vulnerable persons.

**STEERING COMMITTEE HOURS BY MONTH**



## What People are Saying about FOOTPRINTS

FOOTPRINTS strives to provide respite care in a safe and happy environment that encourages the children to want to return. Here is what our families and volunteers are saying about FOOTPRINTS:

“My child gets quality respite and interaction with other children and I get all my errands completed—a win/win situation.”

“I really feel that Denise and her volunteer staff ‘get it’. They ride the waves of many diagnoses and make life more enjoyable for the kids. It’s fun for my son, not respite at all.”

“The parents seem to appreciate the service which makes me feel like I’m contributing to the community and really helping those who need this type of service.”

“FOOTPRINTS gives the children a chance to interact with others in a small group. It also gives them a change away from the home. It also gives the parents a break so the parent can better deal with the everyday issues their child has”

”Very grateful to Dunbarton-Fairport Church for providing the space for the program.”

“The benefit is the break it gives me so I can de-stress and better handle my son’s needs.”

“My daughter talks about FOOTPRINTS with the family and tells stories about the friends she’s made there.”

As the program moves into its fourth year, it will continue to aim high in providing quality respite care for families in need of such services in Durham Region.

For more information about the program, call 905-420-0388.

## Meet Heather Johnson: Marketing & Admin Consultant

Heather Johnson has been working with FOOTPRINTS as the Marketing & Administration Consultant since 2007. Prior to this, she used her fund development and volunteer management skills as a volunteer for the organization. For the past eight (8) years, Heather has worked in the not-for-profit sector in a variety of roles, most recently as Coordinator, Volunteer Program and Administration Services for Hope Air.

As a volunteer herself, she has served in many roles, including Chair of the Official Board and President of the Congregation for Dunbarton-Fairport United Church and as a member of the Conference Planning Committee for the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

You can reach Heather at 905-420-0388 ex. 2 or via e-mail at [heather@footprints4autism.org](mailto:heather@footprints4autism.org)



Heather Johnson started with FOOTPRINTS in May 2007.

## FOOTPRINTS receives support from Investors Group



In 2007, FOOTPRINTS received financial support from Investors Group through Volunteer John Jamieson. Mr. Jamieson, a long-time volunteer with the program, is an Investors Group Consultant in Pickering and applied for a grant through the company’s Community Investment program. Investors Group is committed to supporting the

volunteer efforts of its employees. The Investors Group Grants Committee made a \$1000 donation to FOOTPRINTS to recognize John’s volunteer work with the children.

Many thanks to John and Investors Group for their support of FOOTPRINTS. To learn more about Investors Group, call John at 905-831-0034.

## Give Families with ASD Children the Gift of Time

FOOTPRINTS is able to provide families with ASD Children a very precious gift—the gift of time. Time is a precious resource and having even a few hours' break can make the world of difference for a parent caring for an ASD child. Would we be able to do it without You? Not a chance!

The reality is that one in every 150 children is being diagnosed with Autism or one of its related disorders. Funding (in Ontario) for families with children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum

Disorders currently stops at age 6—just when a child is moving into the school system. The need for quality, affordable respite care for ASD children is needed in the Durham area. And we need You to make it possible.

Consider volunteering for FOOTPRINTS. Volunteers are asked to provide a minimum of 5-hours per month to work one-on-one with a child. Volunteers commit to a one-year term and all necessary training is provided. This is a great opportunity for students

looking to secure their required 40-volunteer hours for high school graduation.

Not able to volunteer but still want to help? FOOTPRINTS will gladly accept donations of new arts and craft materials, art smocks, dress-up clothing and costumes as well as children's books and children's music CD's in good condition.

To make a donation to the program, or for information on volunteering, please contact Heather Johnson at 905-420-0388 ex. 2 or via e-mail at [heather@footprints4autism.org](mailto:heather@footprints4autism.org).

## Having Fun at FOOTPRINTS



## Looking forward to 2008

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 2008, the program will begin to implement its Expansion Plan, with the goal of increasing capacity increasing program availability and investigating the feasibility of establishing a satellite location. Fund development will continue to be key in 2008—seeking corporate and private funders who will assist the program with both financial and human resources.

In 2008, FOOTPRINTS is poised to continue to make great strides forward in providing needed respite services to those families dealing with children affected by autism.