

2008 Annual Report



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

Krista Dunlop

David Green, Treasurer

Jim Hinnecke, Secretary

Todd Smith

George Tatem

Ellen Thomson

Consultants

Denise Wilson
Program

Emma Gayton
Amanda Kennedy
Lisa Uesson
Angela Clarke
Program (Supplementary)

Heather Johnson
Marketing & Admin

Tom Little
Strategic Planning

VOLUNTEERING HAS IMPACT BEYOND JUST CARING FOR KIDS

“I’ve been changed” says FOOTPRINTS Volunteer

What makes a person volunteer their time to care for someone else’s child? And more importantly, what makes a person give up time on a Saturday to care for a child affected by ASD who may be having a bad day? One FOOTPRINTS volunteer told us this inspiring story about the impact volunteering has had on them:

“Every individual I have worked with has changed me. I think differently about communication. I think differently about how people experience the world, and about how I do. I have more patience for people and NO patience for people who assume the worst of a bad behaviour without even asking a question about why it might have arisen. I’ve wanted to go after the System with a bat and knock some sense into a System that would abandon individuals (with ASD) because the bill (to care for them) is too large. I’ve seen some individuals

hit milestones and talk more, look at you more and interact more and it blows me away. Some of our individuals are difficult and some are not and I’m glad to have had any and all of them touch my life.”

WOW! Sign me up! The unique feature of FOOTPRINTS is that we are a volunteer-driven program dedicated to giving the families of children affected by ASD the precious gift of time every week. Our Volunteers make this gift possible every week—giving of their time to help others.

In 2008, FOOTPRINTS welcomed 26 new volunteers to the program, bringing our total number of volunteers to 48! Volunteers provided over 1,400 hours of time in direct care, training and program oversight responsibilities.

For all our Volunteers who give of their time for the benefit of the children—
THANK YOU!

FOOTPRINTS HELPS FAMILIES SUCCEED!

“I wanted to be a part of it” says Steering Committee Chair

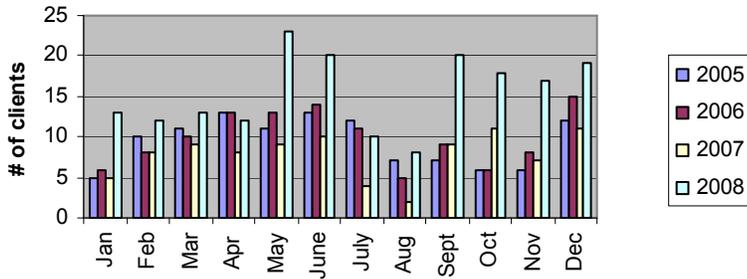
When you meet Corrine Brook-Allred, Chair, FOOTPRINTS Steering Committee, you have met a woman with a mission! Chair since April 2004, Corrine became more aware of the 24/7 parenting job involved in raising a child affected by ASD in 2003. The statistics of failed marriages and the tremendous financial burden placed on families is overwhelming. As Corrine

says, “If a short respite could help these families, I wanted to be a part of it. It has been a rewarding journey to see how FOOTPRINTS has grown to where we are today, in both families served and hours of respite provided.”



Serving the community in 2008

CLIENTS ATTENDING PER MONTH



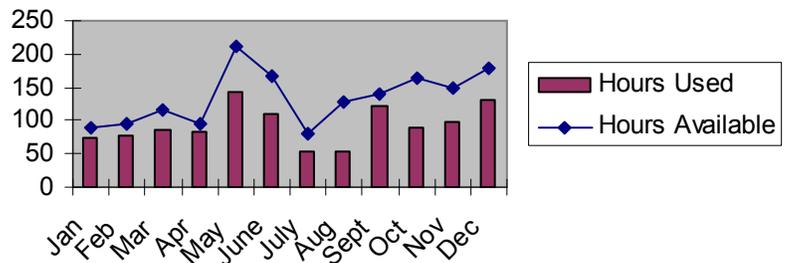
In 2008, FOOTPRINTS provided respite services for a total of 30 children, many of whom returned month after month. A maximum of 10 children per week can be served at one of two weekly sessions.

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 1,120 hours of respite care available in 84 sessions in 2008. This is a 25% increase over 2007!

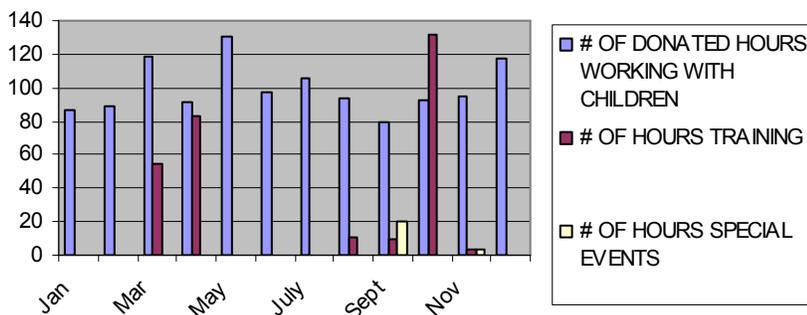
A key goal for the program in 2009 is to ensure the program is being utilized to capacity. To achieve this, an increase, focused marketing program will be implemented to encourage families to participate in the respite program on a regular basis.

2008: HOURS USED VERSUS HOURS AVAILABLE



Volunteers: Working one-on-one with the kids

2008: Child Support Volunteer Hours by Month



In 2008, FOOTPRINTS set a goal of increasing the pool of Child Support Volunteers actively involved in the program. A total of 40 volunteers from the community gave their time to assist the children on a one-to-one basis.

In 2008, their direct care contribution amounted to 1,195 hours, with additional 293 hours for training purposes. Every FOOTPRINTS volunteer gave an average of 31 hours of time in 2008

“When you are trying to find respite services as a parent, you need to be 100% confident in who is providing the care. You also want to know that the people who work with your child are passionate, caring people who accept children with autism. The FOOTPRINTS program has exceeded our expectations.”

-Gary, whose son attends FOOTPRINTS

THANKS FOR HELPING MOVE FOOTPRINTS FORWARD!

2008 saw FOOTPRINTS put considerable effort into establishing long-term relationships with local businesses, social service agencies and like-minded organizations for the benefit of the children and their families who utilize the program. Our heartfelt thanks to all our supporters and partners— with your help and support FOOTPRINTS is making great strides forward!



Heartfelt thanks to John Jamieson and Investors Group for their on-going support of FOOTPRINTS.

To learn more about Investors Group, call John at 905-831-0034.



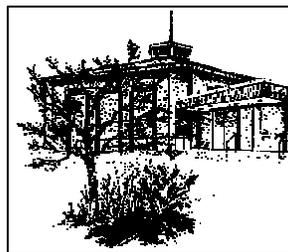
In 2008, Mr. Don Terry and his team stepped forward to support FOOTPRINTS' program expansion with a donation. Many thanks to Don, Leslee and OPG for their support of families affected by ASD in Pickering.



For 2009, the Durham Community Foundation is providing seed money for a pilot FOOTPRINTS program in Whitby. On behalf of the families— THANK YOU!



The Pickering Rotary Club is making possible the revision and re-launch of the FOOTPRINTS website. This will allow the site to be more 'user friendly' for all visitors. Thank you, Rotary Club, for funding this project!



Dunbarton-Fairport United Church is the host for the FOOTPRINTS program. In 2008, the Congregation and the United Church Women (UCW), along with proceeds from their Annual Golf Tournament, provided FOOTPRINTS with in-kind and monetary support.



The Ontario Trillium Foundation continues to support FOOTPRINTS with program and operating funding. With OTF support, FOOTPRINTS grows better each year!

RESPONDING TO THE NEED

“It has been rewarding to see the respite program become a reality.”

When Bev Crane responded to a request for volunteers back in the spring of 2004, she thought her experience as an RN working in Paediatrics might be of use. And the need for autism respite for families was a reality—she knew this from her time working at the Rouge Valley Health System.

Bev has been involved in all aspects of the program—from the development of the Volunteer

Policy and Procedure Manual to using her expertise in workload management to help FOOTPRINTS demonstrate the effectiveness of the program to others. As Bev says, “I have been able to use my skills and education to participate in the development of FOOTPRINTS. It has been rewarding to see the respite program become a reality from just an idea to a weekly program serving children and their families.”



Bev Crane

HOW YOU CAN HELP

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? The answer is—NO!

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 region. And we need you to make it possible.

How can you help? Volunteer! 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, dress-up clothing and costumes, as well as monetary donations*, to purchase much needed items for the program.

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.

**monetary donations may be eligible for a charitable tax receipt as per CRA regulations*

HAVING FUN AT FOOTPRINTS!



Looking forward to 2009

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 2009, the program will focus on maximizing the potential of the program housed at Dunbarton-Fairport United Church in Pickering and will pilot a program in one other location in Durham region. Fund development will continue to be key in 2009—seeking corporate and private funders who will assist the program with both financial and human resources.

In 2009, FOOTPRINTS is poised to continue to make great strides forward in providing needed respite services to those families dealing with children affected by autism.