



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

FOOTPRINTS is a respite-only outreach program for families with children affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). FOOTPRINTS is unique in that it is a volunteer-driven program dedicated to giving the families of children affected by ASD the precious gift of time in a low-cost program that fosters a safe and happy environment for the children.

Under the guidance of qualified Program Consultants, and supported by a Marketing, Fundraising & Admin Consultant, Strategic Consultant and a dedicated Steering Committee, the program trains and utilizes volunteers ranging in age from 16 - 65+ to provide creative, stimulating and skill-appropriate activities for children with ASD. In doing so, FOOTPRINTS provides the parents and siblings of these children with a few precious hours of 'time away' to recharge, attend to household tasks and chores or to simply spend some quality time with each other.

FOOTPRINTS made some great strides forward in 2010 with many milestones reached and accomplishments realized. FOOTPRINTS achieved the following to the benefit of the children and their families:

- 33 children and their families received support from the program.
- 1,995 hours of direct respite care was provided in Pickering and Whitby in 2010.
- 114 Volunteers provided 3651 hours of time to the program (*in direct care, training and program oversight responsibilities*).
- 72 new Volunteers were recruited and trained in 2010.
- A team of 16 walkers participated in the Scotiabank Waterfront Marathon Charity Challenge on September 26, 2010 and raised \$6,340 for FOOTPRINTS.
- Secured funding from Durham Community Foundation, the Harry E. Foster Foundation, Rotary Club of Pickering, the Dunbarton-Fairport UCW and the United Way of Ajax-Pickering-Uxbridge to supplement funding from Ontario Trillium Foundation for program and operating needs.

Our Pickering Consultant, Denise Wilson, welcomed her first child, a girl, in October 2010 and at FOOTPRINTS Whitby, Consultant Emma Gayton welcomed her son in April 2010.

What are families saying about FOOTPRINTS?

“My daughter (non-verbal) squeals with delight when she sees the church (building).”

“FOOTPRINTS has been a blessing to us all.”

“Because my child enjoys this day, it helps her at home. She is quite happy to attend FOOTPRINTS on a Saturday.”