



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

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

FOOTPRINTS is a respite-only outreach program for families with children affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). FOOTPRINTS is unique for 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. FOOTPRINTS 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, and supported by a Marketing & Fundraising Consultant, a Strategic Consultant and a dedicated Steering Committee, the program trains and utilizes volunteers ranging in age from 16 - 75+ 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, or to simply spend some quality time with each other.

In 2012, a new position was created to help support FOOTPRINTS, that of Operations Manager. This new role, filled by Julie Cashin-Oster, will oversee the implementation of the strategic and operational work plans as approved by the Steering Committee.

FOOTPRINTS made some great strides forward in 2012 with many milestones reached and accomplishments realized. FOOTPRINTS achieved the following to the benefit of the children and their families:

- 34 children and their families received support from the program.
- 2,433 hours of direct respite care was provided in Pickering and Whitby in 2012.
 - 1,944 hours at FOOTPRINTS Pickering
 - 489 hours at FOOTPRINTS Whitby
- 118 Child Support Volunteers provided 3,657 hours of time to the program (*in direct care, training and program oversight responsibilities*).
- 64 new Child Support Volunteers were recruited and trained in 2012.
 - A total of 775.5 hours were spent in training by all 118 volunteers
- 11 Steering Committee volunteers gave 715.5 hours of time to program operations and management
- Investors Group Pickering Region returned as the Lead Sponsor of *Camp Great Strides* and provided funding for three summer camps (2 in Pickering, 1 in Whitby)
- A team of 18 walkers participated in the Scotiabank Waterfront Marathon Charity Challenge on October 14, 2012 (in the pouring rain), raising over \$5,440 for FOOTPRINTS.
- Recipient of \$14,900 in funding from the United Way of Durham Region.

- Secured funding from the Andrews Foundation, Durham Community Foundation, Greenshield Canada, the Rotary Club of Pickering, the Dunbarton-Fairport UCW and the Christian Education Committee (CE), as well as the CAW Family Auxiliary #27 for program and operating needs.

FOOTPRINTS Consultants (as of January 17, 2013)

- Allyson Young: FOOTPRINTS Pickering
- Michelle Lounsbury: FOOTPRINTS Whitby
- Heather Johnson: Marketing & Fundraising
- Julie Cashin-Oster: Operations Manager
- Tom Little: Strategic Consultant

FOOTPRINTS Steering Committee (as of January 17, 2013)

- Corrine Brook-Allred: Chair
- Bev Crane: Vice-Chair
- Sharon Buchanan: HR - Program Consultants
- Sandra Chase: Support Treasurer (member, St. Mark's United)
- Linda Clark: HR - Marketing & Fundraising Consultant
- David Green: Treasurer
- Sandra Halls: Secretary
- Sandy MacKenzie: Fund Development (member, St. Mark's United)
- Ellen Thomson: Marathon Committee

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.”