

What an incredible year 2016 was for FOOTPRINTS 4 Autism. As we head into our twelfth year of operations, on behalf of the children and families we serve, thank you. Thank you for your continued support and faith in our programs.

Highlights from 2016

Camp Great Strides – FOOTPRINTS received an increase in camp funding from Unity For Autism allowing us to expand our camps from half-day to offering a full-day option. For the first time FOOTPRINTS offered available camp spots (after offered to our families) out to the Durham Community. This was very well received.

Together We ‘Hang’ – (started in 2015) Run as a weekly after school drop-in, TWH is a social program for youth on the autism spectrum and their peers. We once again received a grant from the Durham Community Foundation to run the program again at the Pickering Library from February – August 2016. Proving to be a very popular program, FOOTPRINTS received a Community Grant from the Town of Whitby and ran TWH from September – December at the Whitby Public Library. We are very grateful to the Pickering and Whitby Libraries for the space and their programming contributions.

Due to diligent grant research and writing, FOOTPRINTS experienced a higher increase in foundation funding for 2016. Although nothing is guaranteed from year to year, we are confident that as we continue to meet the needs of families living with Autism we will open new avenues to funding.

Challenges in 2016

Our waitlist at our Whitby program, continued to grow in 2016. At the end of 2016, nine families are waiting for a permanent weekend respite spot. We have been given the go ahead from St. Mark’s to offer a bi-monthly Saturday afternoon sessions, as we do at Dunbarton-Fairport, to alleviate the waitlist. Our challenge over the last six-months has been recruiting volunteers. In Pickering, 2016 saw a number of children age out of the program. Recruitment of families and volunteers will be a priority in 2017.

2016 by the Numbers*

FOOTPRINTS Pickering Friday Night

- 232 hours of respite care, 446 volunteer hours
- 36 volunteers throughout the year
- 14 new volunteers in 2016
- 19 active volunteers end of 2016
- 222 hours of volunteer training

FOOTPRINTS Pickering Saturday

- 1706 hours of respite care, 2612 volunteer hours
- 87 volunteers throughout the year
- 44 new volunteers in 2016
- 70 active volunteers end of 2016
- 260 hours of volunteer training

FOOTPRINTS Whitby

- 827 hours of respite care, 850 volunteer hours
- 64 volunteers throughout the year
- 19 new volunteers in 2016
- 41 active volunteers end of 2016
- 112 hours of volunteer training