



2017 Annual Report

As we head into our fourteenth year of operations, on behalf of the children and families we serve, thank you. Thank you to our church families for your continued support and faith in our programs.

Highlights from 2017

Camp Great Strides – this was our second year offering full day Summer and Christmas Break Camp. Majority of the children attended full day. As we can't predict attendance, we do our best when scheduling. We appreciate the flexibility of both Dunbarton-Fairport and St. Mark's accommodating our camps. Due to poor volunteer sign-up in 2016 we cancelled our Christmas Break Camp at St. Mark's and were unable to run a full camp at Dunbarton-Fairport due to lack of participants. This year we opted for one camp running for seven days at St. Mark's. December 27-29 camp ran at 50% and January 2-5 camp was completely booked, however ran at 95% do to illness. Camps ran with three paid consultants: Camp Coordinator, Camp Counselor and Camp Assistant. There was sufficient volunteer coverage. Families were very happy with camp this year.

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. In its fourth year running at the Pickering Library and third year at the Whitby Library, the potential of this program is evident. We will be looking at further development in 2018. We are very grateful to the individual donors supporting this program, as well as, the Town of Whitby and the Durham Community Foundation.

Due to diligent grant research and writing, FOOTPRINTS experienced a slight increase in foundation funding for 2017. Although nothing is guaranteed from one year to the next 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 2017

Our waitlist continued to grow in 2017. As of December 2017, 12 families are waiting for a permanent respite spot in Whitby (9 last year at this time). We have been given the go ahead from St. Mark's to offer bi-monthly Saturday afternoon sessions, as we do at Dunbarton-Fairport, to alleviate the waitlist. In Pickering, we have three families on the wait list. Our biggest challenge in 2017 has been recruiting volunteers for Whitby. Recruitment of families and volunteers is a continued priority in 2017. In addition to respite volunteers, we are also actively recruiting Steering Committee Volunteers.

2017 by the Numbers

- 66 children and their families received support from the program
- 2184 hours of direct respite care was provided in Pickering and Whitby in 2017
- 179 Child Support Volunteers provided 3963.5 hours of time to the program
- 47 new Child Support Volunteers were recruited and trained in 2017
- 418 hours were spent in training volunteers
- 9 Steering Committee volunteers gave 645 hours of time to program operations and management

"We love our Program Coordinators and Volunteers! They are willing to listen and meet the needs of our children. They are flexible, reliable and caring. There are no judgements at FOOTPRINTS. Children and families are allowed to be who they are".

Kara - Parent