

Mission Statement

To protect and enhance the lives of children through strengthening families in partnership with our community.

Vision Statement

Our vision is to develop, through collaboration, a community where all children grow up with a sense of belonging, in a safe and nurturing environment.

Values Statement

Children and families are our priorities.

We value:

- Integrity: we are guided by what is ethical.
- Diversity: we respect all individuals' unique differences.
- Dignity: we respect the inherent worth of each individual.

Slogan

Caring for children...a community responsibility.

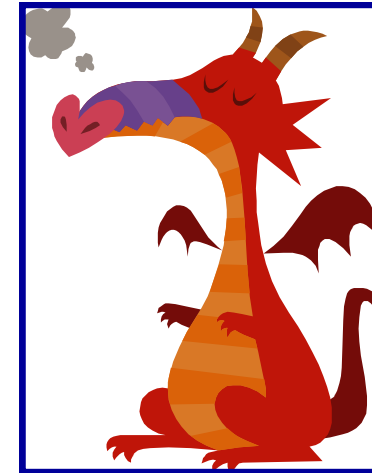


The Children's Aid Society
of the District of Thunder Bay
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The Children's Aid Society
of the District of Thunder Bay

41st Annual Report 2008-2009



The Dragon

I saw a dragon.
The dragon saw me.
I started to run and he ate me.

Dragons are orange and red
Roar and are meat eaters
A dragon likes to stalk his prey
Going fast and munching along the way.
On and off they hunt and hunt and
Now dragons are extinct.

Seth W., Grade 3
McKenzie School, ON

Message from the President & Executive Director...

The Children's Aid Society of the District of Thunder Bay celebrates its 41st year of helping children and families. Child welfare is a vital service that provides critical support for children and families. Ontario laws prescribe our mandate, but mostly we deal in hope.

Hope, because that is what child welfare is. We work with some difficult situations and equally challenging behaviours, but it is our hope that carries us through. It is our beliefs that make the task easier and it is this spirit that lifts individuals to accomplish great things. Although hope is prevalent throughout, the reality is that there are many other things to do in a year.

It has been a year of reviews, financial issues, letters and report to write and read and meetings, we can not forget the meetings. Throughout the year, we have been encouraged and at times, not so much! We make progress on several days and sometimes seem to give back those hard fought victories the very next day! There are days of joy and unfortunately days of sorrow and pain, and of course you do not get to pick which comes next. And, we move on, helping others because we believe it is good and decent work.

The days could all blend together and become quite numbing if it were not for the people we serve and the great stories they create. As an agency we are encouraged and lifted by the decisions that many of the children we work with make. Many, despite significant odds against them, make remarkable decisions and show incredible resolve and resilience.

Of particular importance to the fabric of the agency are the accomplishments of children. By their very nature, children experience challenges as they learn on a daily basis to master new skills. These challenges provide the basis for the successful movement to adult hood. Child welfare exists to assist and protect children from the harsh realities of the limitations of their care givers. Sadly, children come to our attention, often after the impact of the circumstances they had no part in creating collide with their young lives. Despite a variety of obstacles that fate has placed in front of the young people their achievements are inspiring.

Each of us experience challenges, rarely does life go as we have planned. For children in the care of the agency, these challenges are larger, more immediate, and often involve tremendous upset to significant and critical relationships. The pain of their loss can only be imagined, and yet they demonstrate hope. Hope, that life can be better, hope that they will not be defeated by negativity.

Staff Recognition Program

Our Staff Recognition Program acknowledges and honours our employees who have given many years of dedicated service. The program is our way of saying thank you—thank you for your devotion, thank you for your dedication, thank you for your commitment to helping children and families in our community.

Congratulations and thanks to our employees who have achieved the following years of service to June 30th, 2009:

30 Years

Janet Holomego

20 Years

Tony DeAgazio
Wanda MacArthur
Teri-Ann Hardy-Martyn
Penny Cutler
Fiona Karlstedt

15 Years

Cathy Quinte

10 Years

Trevor Clifford
Penny Linkewich
Charmaine Cades

5 Years

Tara Tesolin	Pam Poliquin
Silvio Pucci	Patricia Maxton
Kristi Almond	Lori Western

Board of Directors

Officers

Jennifer Carey — President
Nancy Ringham — Past President
Jane Petrone — Vice President
Elizabeth Madigan — Secretary
John Lockyer — Treasurer

Directors

Janine Black
Ted Hanley
Annette Hodgson
Lynn Hurrell
Mara Izzo
Aimee Jaun
Dyann “Bert” Kreps
Lorna MacAskill
John Read
David Tranter

Ad Hoc Member

Joan Schultz



There are several examples of young people who have overcome obstacles to achieve success to figuratively stand and proclaim that the challenges they face will make them stronger and not define their limits.

A few examples of the strength of our children and youth are:

Rudy, age 18, a bright and articulate young woman who sets her goals and then works to accomplish them. She is also a Clark Bursary winner, an award offered to Crown Wards through the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies.

Seth, age 8, whose creativity resulted in his poem being published in Creative Communications' spring 2009 hard bound anthology *A Celebration of Poets*.

Dakota, age 15, a student and responsible and caring young person, received the Ontario Principals' Leadership Award at his Grade 8 graduation and recently participated in the Ontario Education Leadership Conference.

Joshua, age 13, who used his artistic talent to demonstrate his perspective on caring, and presented it to the agency. Joshua's artwork now resides in the foyer of the agency.

Clearly, it is evident that these young people have chosen to act with courage and not let the negatives weigh upon them. They have chosen to become a more successful person and I suspect they are unaware that they are an inspiration for others because they demonstrate what is possible, and what could be. For their efforts and the efforts of other children in care, we thank them for their gift of hope.

Of course their successes come with support from others and so it is with our agency. We would like to thank the Board of Directors for their faith in the agency; the staff, foster parents and volunteers who provide the meaning to the words dignity and respect; our community partners who continue to support the agency and the people we serve; and, our funders, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and the City of Thunder Bay.

In the words of Forest Witcraft:

"100 years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was, how big my house was, or the kind of car I drove, but the world maybe a little better because I was important in the life of a child."

At this time of our Annual General Meeting we remember that it also works the other way... we are a better agency having been involved in the lives of children.

Jennifer Carey
President Board of Directors

Rob Richardson, MSW
Executive Directors

The People We Served

Children & Families Assisted by the Society...

Child Welfare Services

... children and families assisted by the Society

	2008/09	2007/08
Investigations & Protection Services		
Inquiries	359	459
Reports Received Not Investigated	1,382	1,329
Cases Opened for Investigation	777	779
Ongoing Protection Cases at Year End	272	258
New Investigations on Ongoing Protection Cases	65	64
Kinship Services		
Kinship Families at Year End	25	30
Kinship Placements at Year End	32	37
Kinship Homestudies Initiated but not completed	13	7
Kinship Homestudies Completed	16	22
Other Child Welfare Services		
Adoption Services (includes post adoption & adoption cases served)	175	209

Caring for Children

...living arrangements for children in care on March 31st

	2008/09	2007/08
Foster Homes - Regular/Special/Treatment	155	161
Group Homes - Purchased/Society Operated	6	6
OPR	6	9
Special Arrangements - Independent Living/ECM	55	39
Other Placements - Free Homes/Institutions/AWOL	6	9
<u>Adoption Homes</u>		
Probation	13	16
Finalized with Subsidy	16	11
Foster Homes Open at March 31st	175	184

Financial Report

Combined Balance Sheet

as at March 31, 2009

	2009	2008
Assets		
Cash	372,298	392,144
Accounts Receivable	167,784	163,158
Due from Province of Ontario	99,376	198,500
Prepaid Expenses	23,359	25,229
Residential and Office Facilities	1,549,668	1,553,469
	<u>\$2,212,485</u>	<u>\$2,332,500</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts Payable	1,124,998	1,217,599
Unexpended Program Funds	122,358	64,524
Deferred Revenue	0	3,000
Mortgage Payable	1,241,620	1,327,014
	<u>2,488,976</u>	<u>2,612,137</u>
Accumulated Deficit	(622,777)	(541,184)
Non-Statutory Fund	38,238	35,092
Invested in Capital Assets	308,048	226,455
	<u>\$2,212,485</u>	<u>\$2,332,500</u>

Combined Statement of Operations & Accumulated Deficit

as at March 31, 2009

Operating Revenue		
Province of Ontario	15,100,406	14,844,290
Other	1,243,710	1,220,960
	<u>\$16,344,116</u>	<u>\$16,065,250</u>
Operating Expenditures		
Salaries & Benefits	8,782,471	8,840,025
Direct Client	5,938,566	6,076,327
Service Support	1,623,079	1,508,314
	<u>\$16,344,116</u>	<u>\$16,424,666</u>
Deficit for the Year	0	(359,416)
Accumulated Deficit, Beginning of Year	(541,184)	(154,284)
Investment in Capital Assets	(81,593)	(27,484)
Accumulated Deficit, End of Year	<u>(\$622,777)</u>	<u>(\$541,184)</u>

Note: The above financial information is summarized from statements examined by our Auditor, Grant Thornton LLP. The Auditor's Report and financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2009 may be examined at the Society's office at any time.