

43rd Annual Report



2010-2011

Message from the President & the Executive Director

The Annual meeting report is a time to remember the good times, and a time to reflect on the challenges faced this past year.

The Children's Aid Society of the District of Thunder Bay has a special bond with families and children throughout our community and we are proud of the work done by those associated with the agency who help build that bond.

Our children in care continue to be a source of tremendous pride. The resilience and determination that they demonstrate is quite remarkable and very inspiring. Whether the achievement is an academic award, athletic excellence, or other worthy skills, young people are excellent reminders of the importance of the work we do. We take heart from the child in care who in her early years struggled against herself and her workers and now is so confident that she can educate others. The process to understand her needs was a long one which involved many advocates both within and outside the agency. The path was challenging and we are proud of the bright and articulate young woman who emerged.

Her accomplishment illustrates the potential that exists in all of our children in care. It demonstrates that if supported in the long term, young people will blossom into thoughtful and responsible young adults. The wait may sometimes be long but with consistent and patient support provided by many people in the circle of support, the spirit of our young people rises to the top.

The foundation of those success stories is the foster parents. They are the supports and advocates of our children. Some of our caregivers have different ideas than we do on how the task needs to be accomplished and the timeframe for doing it. At times the discussions become vocal when the opinions differ on what to do and how to help. But these disputes are important because in these moments we understand how much all parties care and how committed they are to helping a child grow. The key theme is we keep trying, we keep moving forward with the Vision that we can create a community where all children grow up with a sense of belonging, in a safe and nurturing environment. Foster parents are integral to the agency reaching for our Vision, their caring and compassion create opportunities for children and youth.

Our agency continues to be a provincial leader in providing care in agency foster homes. Throughout the province many agencies purchase service for children from for profit organizations. Our service model speaks to the hard work of the staff who identify, train and support foster parents. It is also a testament to the agency's beliefs and our Foster Family Association for their continued commitment to children and families.

An excellent example of the level of commitment by our foster families is illustrated by the story of a 12 year old girl who moves into a foster home. She goes on to graduate from university some 10 years later. She moves through the difficult and challenging years of adolescence adapting to life in foster care, a feat of no small proportion made easier by the support of her foster family. Ultimately she graduates to become a bright young professional in the community who will be a resource and inspiration to others. The foster family, of course, attends the graduation of their foster daughter and after the ceremonies involves the birth family in a celebration of their child's success. The ultimate goal of the agency is to provide safe and nurturing environments for children and this is an inspiring example of that commitment.

The files of the Children's Aid Society are filled with many such similar stories. Despite the many successes, we understand that the work we do is powerful and it impacts people in different ways. We understand that there are different points of view and respect those different opinions. However, we strive to provide our service in a manner which exemplifies our commitment to treat all people with respect.

Such treatment is not possible without the continued professionalism of managers and staff who work with diminishing community resources to meet the needs of our consumers. Despite the best efforts of our community partners, waiting lists continue to grow and services are in short supply. We thank community service partners for their continued work to make more out of less.

We thank our funders. However, the ongoing need of our funders to demonstrate accountability has lead to a seemingly endless demand for paperwork. The balance between accountability and sustainability continues to be a source of concern, it is a challenge that staff face on a daily basis. The consequence of this dilemma is less time with children and families. We respect the needs of our funders, but look forward to the continued discussion on how to meet both the needs of the taxpayers who ultimately provide funds for child protection and the service providers who strive to meet the growing demands for services.

Oversight of the agency is done by a group of voluntary Board members, a determined group of community members who provide the agency with wisdom and support. Their role is not an easy one as they ultimately are responsible to balance resources and needs.

As is the case each and every year the successes outweigh the concerns and the agency continues to strive to "protect and enhance the lives of children through strengthening families in partnership with our community".

On behalf of everyone at The Children's Aid Society of the District of Thunder Bay, we wish you a very safe and happy summer.

Mara Izzo
President, Board of Directors

Rob Richardson, MSW
Executive Director

The People We Served

Child Welfare Services as at March 31, 2011

Children and Families Assisted by the Society

	2010/11	2009/10
Investigations & Protection Services		
Inquiries	330	356
Reports Received Not Investigated	1,178	1,263
Cases Opened for Investigation	666	690
Ongoing Protection Cases at Year End	326	286
New Investigations on Ongoing Protection Cases	70	60
Kinship Services		
Kinship Families at Year End	34	31
Kinship Placements at Year End	43	42
Kinship Home Studies initiated but not completed	11	6
Kinship Home Studies completed	18	12
Other Child Welfare Services		
Adoption Services (includes post adoption & adoption cases served)	170	182
Caring for Children		
Living Arrangements for Children in Care		
Foster Homes - Regular/Special/Treatment	187	164
Group Homes - Purchased/Society Operated	6	6
OPR	8	5
Special Arrangements - Independent Living/ECM	46	51
Other Placements - Free Homes/Institutions	8	9
<u>Adoption Homes</u>		
Probation	12	7
Finalized with Subsidy	24	23
Foster Homes Open at March 31st	168	162

Financial Report

Combined Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2011

	2011	2010
Assets		
Cash	826,681	560,654
Accounts Receivable	222,832	143,126
Due from Province of Ontario	139,291	78,203
Prepaid Expenses	22,336	43,953
Residential and Office Facilities	1,408,614	1,458,416
	<u>\$2,619,754</u>	<u>\$2,284,352</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts Payable	1,445,373	1,152,387
Unexpended Program Funds	395,836	254,099
Mortgage Payable	1,050,529	1,149,682
	<u>2,891,738</u>	<u>2,556,168</u>
Accumulated Deficit	(672,814)	(623,463)
Non-Statutory Fund	42,745	42,913
Invested in Capital Assets	358,085	308,734
	<u>\$2,619,754</u>	<u>\$2,284,352</u>

Combined Statement of Operations & Accumulated Deficit as at March 31, 2011

Operating Revenue		
Province of Ontario	16,592,162	15,531,838
Other	1,646,675	1,386,807
	<u>\$18,238,837</u>	<u>\$16,918,645</u>
Operating Expenditures		
Salaries & Benefits	9,636,094	8,986,276
Direct Client	6,846,000	6,239,605
Service Support	1,756,743	1,692,764
	<u>\$18,238,837</u>	<u>\$16,918,645</u>
Deficit for the Year	<u>0</u>	<u>0</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, 2011 may be examined at the Society's office at any time.

Board of Directors

Officers

Mara Izzo — President

Jennifer Carey — Past President

Dyann “Bert” Kreps — Vice President

David Tranter — Treasurer

Directors

Janine Black

Elizabeth Hamilton

Ted Hanley

Lynn Hurrell

Aimee Jaun

Lorna MacAskill

Jane Petrone

Nancy Ringham

Tannis Smith



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, 2011:

30 Years

Marilyn DeCal Sinclair
Claudia Shlapski

25 Years

Nancy Colledanchise
Heather Hyslop
Susan Jones
Shelley Oleksuk

20 Years

Jackie Dubois Jan Lang
Cori Mayer
Laura Ritson Lori Roulston
Paivi Sorvisto Eileen West

15 Years

Shirley Evans-Downey
Barb Novak
Rob Richardson

10 Years

B.J. Baskin
Amy Moro
Chantal Morrison-Lambert

5 Years

Susie Romeo
Heather Desando

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

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