



**Better
Together**
Capital Campaign

building on
the strengths
of children
and families



family & children's services
of the waterloo region
FOUNDATION



Better Together

A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TO RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR FAMILY CENTRE SERVING WATERLOO REGION

“FINDING THE WAY FORWARD WITH OUR COMMUNITY TO PROTECT CHILDREN, TO SUPPORT ALL CHILDREN AND STRENGTHEN FAMILIES AND TO DEVELOP A CARING ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN.”

– Mission Statement, Family and Children’s Services of the Waterloo Region

In 2001, Family and Children’s Services of the Waterloo Region joined together with families and community partners, to talk about building a united, well connected community for children and families, where kids are safe, healthy and loved. It was a vision we shared in 2001, and it is a vision we still share today.

Back then, we realized the importance of good connections; that all of us have a desire to build strong relationships with each other, form partnerships and even jointly share premises, in order to reduce service duplication and fill in service gaps.

Today, those connections are even more important, not only because of the financial benefits that come with sharing space and collaborating on programs and services, but most importantly because it is better for children and families.

Achieving positive outcomes for our children and youth is a priority in our community. We know that children and families benefit when they can access programs and supports in one place – a place where they can be connected, involved, and, most importantly, feel safe and cared for.

Our Family Centre can be that place.

Shawn struggled with balancing a demanding work schedule, mounting financial pressures, and his role as a single father of Ava and Cassidy.

Against the odds, and without any family support, sometimes it seemed an impossible hill to climb, but he was committed to ‘keeping it together’ for his daughters.

WORKING TOGETHER, UNDER ONE ROOF.

At the Family Centre, Family and Children's Services and all of our community partners will be able to pool our resources, and work together to plan and deliver programs and services to help us build on the strengths of children and families.

THIS COMMUNITY HUB WILL BE A PLACE WHERE FAMILIES CAN EASILY ACCESS SERVICES THAT CAN BE CUSTOMIZED FOR THEIR NEEDS. THERE WILL BE ENHANCED CO-ORDINATION AND A RANGE OF SERVICES AND PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES, SUCH AS:

- Educational supports that kids need to become more successful in school, despite the significant challenges many of them are facing in their lives
- Peer mentoring for youth at risk
- Life skills and financial literacy for teens
- A range of sexual abuse treatment groups for children and youth
- Recreational activities such as basketball and floor hockey for children and youth

Single mom **Pitina** was at the end of her rope and even began to wonder if the increasingly difficult relationship with her eight year old could be salvaged.

With your help we can break the cycle.





PROGRAMS THAT BENEFIT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES INCLUDING:

- *Project Photo*, a photography program for youth
- *Girl Talk* for adolescents
- *SAVVY*, a group for adolescents that promotes healthy dating and positive relationships
- *Partners for Healthy Relationships and Women Moving Forward*. Services to adults who have experienced domestic violence
- *Make The Connection* and *Play and Learn* provide opportunities for parents to interact with their children in positive, fun ways to strengthen their relationships and help kids grow and develop
- *Incredible Kids* provides youth with the confidence and skills to grow up with hope and with resiliency, to become successful adults
- *SMILES*, a program for children living with parents or siblings with diagnosed mental health issues
- Partnering with CAMH and Kinbridge, *Strengthening Families for the Future*, helps parents prevent the future risk of substance abuse in their children

The time to build is now!

The Family Centre has received a \$5.3 Million grant from the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario to build the \$8 Million Family Centre by March 2011. Your contribution to the *Better Together Capital Campaign* will help us raise the remaining \$2.5 Million we need to make our vision a reality.

Ways to Help

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

Family and Children's Services is a registered charitable organization and all donations to the campaign will receive the appropriate recognition and a receipt for income tax purposes.

Donations can be made in many ways:

- Gifts of cash
- Gifts-in-kind
- Pledges of up to five years
- Gifts of appreciated securities. (Capital gains are eliminated when transferring securities to a charitable organization.)
- Tribute gifts

The 60,000 square foot (5,545 sq metres) Family Centre will provide space for volunteer and training services, a family visiting centre, classrooms, a gymnasium, life skills, and a community kitchen. In addition, it will provide much-needed community space, with flexible hours, for a variety of group rooms and program space for all of our community partners in Education, Health, Recreation, Mental Health and Addiction Services.

THIS IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR BOTH SERVICE PROVIDERS AND FAMILIES TO COME TOGETHER.





It's not a hand out you're giving,
it's a hand up.

To learn more about the Family Centre, visit
theFamilyCentre.ca

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Shawn's FCS worker enrolled the family in the **Strengthening Families for the Future** program. The family worked together to build strengths and resiliency, creating an even stronger bond that would help them see through any rough times as a family. This past Christmas their worker also arrived with a holiday basket brimming with gifts, including one for Shawn!

Through programming available at FCS, **Pitina** and her daughter spent time together, laughed, and got to know each other all over again. They left with the important tools necessary to help them to communicate and understand each other. Recently Pitina's FCS worker received a letter thanking him for giving her the opportunity to re-connect with her daughter.



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