

Treasures (cont)

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swered. For these vulnerable children, foster parents like the Chalmers make an immeasurable difference in their lives. They help ease the hurts and the fears, and share what it's like to be cared for and loved. They are doing their part—let's do ours.

Each day Family and Children's Services is surrounded with tiny stories of triumph; stories of children and youth who have had the courage to move out of the shadows of unendurable pasts like Karen, Shawn, Spencer, and little Henri. None of these children ever aspired to be extraordinary; in fact, many just want to be "normal".

The FCS Foundation Board of Directors want to ensure that every child has the opportunity to discover a new talent or skill. This was the motivation behind the creation of **The Life Adventures Fund**. This Fund aims to provide children with summer camp experiences, enabling them to expand their horizons, build confidence, life skills, and their self-esteem.

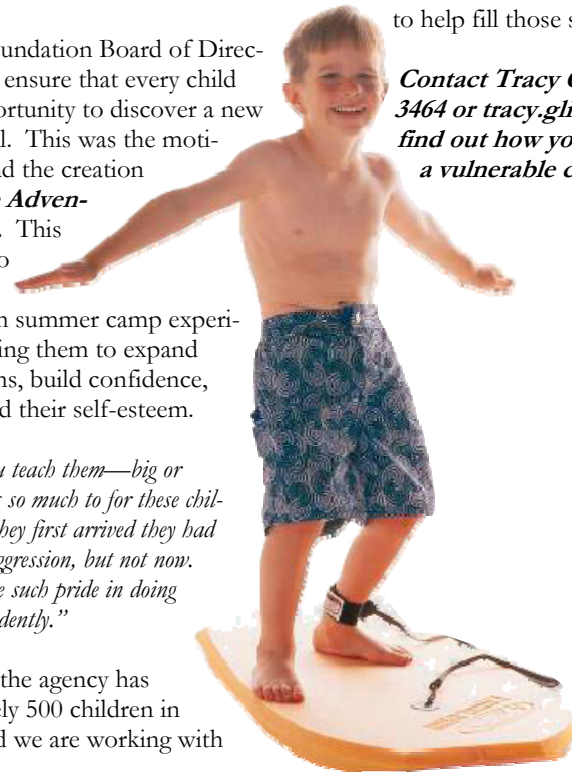
"Anything you teach them—big or small—means so much to for these children. When they first arrived they had trouble with aggression, but not now. Now they have such pride in doing things independently."

At any time the agency has approximately 500 children in our care, and we are working with

an additional 1,200 families in the community. Although we receive a small amount of funding for children in care to attend camp, it is simply not enough to fulfill the number of requests put forward—and **there is no recreational funding for the children we are involved with in the community.**

Please join us in ensuring every child is able to fully participate this summer. You can help us to continue to provide these Life Adventures to children at risk of abuse or neglect from this community—children who need it most. Donate to the Life Adventures Campaign, volunteer at one of our summer events, or host a camp supply drive to help fill those suitcases!

Contact Tracy Glidden at (519) 576-1329 x 3464 or tracy.glidden@facswaterloo.org to find out how you can make an investment in a vulnerable child's life today!



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VOICE OF HOPE

family & children's services of the waterloo region foundation

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Giving Children Back their Childhood

"All my foster children have a special place in my heart, but the one I remember most was Henri..."*

Henri arrived at Mimi and Paul Chalmers' door at six month's old. Perhaps it was his big brown eyes or his infectious giggle...or perhaps it was the full body cast little Henri donned on their first meeting that burned this foster child in Mimi's mind and heart forever.

In addition to the broken femur that was treated with the cast, physicians found six other little fractured bones and ribs that had been untreated. A sad chronicle of abuse at only six-months old.

Henri's would be one of many heart-wrenching stories for Mimi and her family—but more importantly, because of this community's support, it would be one of the many triumphs, too!

Mimi and her family decided to begin fostering after experiencing tragedy themselves. At age 10, their beautiful son Christopher was diagnosed with cancer. Less than a year later, Christopher would lose his fight to the terrible disease. His parents and his younger sister and brother, Timothy and Katie, felt the loss of his bright light deeply.

They had decided to adopt but found the need for safe and loving foster homes too great and chose to provide shelter to many children instead of just one.

In their six years of fostering they have provided a safe and loving home for twenty-one of this community's abused and neglected children. The ages range from babies such as Henri, right through to teenagers. Timothy and Katie enjoy their role as foster siblings and take their job as role models very seriously. They consider themselves the lucky ones, having an opportunity that most other children their age wouldn't—22 brothers and sisters!



Today, the family is providing a home for three siblings, ten year-old Karen*, seven year old Shawn*, and six-year old Spencer*.

The trio have been with the family now four years, although Shawn had been in their home for two years on a separate occasion. Mimi glows when she speaks of them and their accomplishments to date.

"Karen is our intellect. She has these amazing inquisitive turquoise eyes. Shawn is the sensitive one. He is happy but serious, and is so in tune with the feelings of those around him. And Spencer...well, Spence is the clown. Always laughing and joking.

Their friendly manner and hearts of gold always surprise me after all that they have been through before they

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Tax receipts will be issued for donations over \$15.

Yes, I would like to help give a child a Life Adventure!

- \$320 (average cost of camp)
- \$100
- \$50
- \$25
- other \$ _____

I wish to make a monthly gift of \$15.00 to ensure a child from this community can attend camp this summer. I have enclosed a void cheque or my credit card information.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Method of Payment:

- Please find my cheque enclosed.
- Please charge to my:
VISA MC AMEX

Card #: _____

Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

Please make cheques payable to FCS Foundation.

To find out about the foundations other funds or to donate on-line visit us at www.facswaterloo.org

I would like my gift to be made anonymously.

My employer has a matching gift program & I will them of my gift.

Charitable Registration Number: 885346817RR0001

Annual Golf Tournament gets a FACE LIFT! *New name...New location and date...Same goal...*

The Annual "Chip in Fore Kids Golf Tournament", is scheduled for Saturday, September 6th, 2008, at the New Dundee Golf and Country Club.

The 5th Annual FCS golf tournament raises funds to help FCS Foundation provide opportunities for children, youth and parents to participate in programs that assist in their development of support, skills and peer relationships.

Some of our programs that help children, youth & families in your community include:

Make the Connection Infant/Toddler is an interactive program for parent(s) and their baby/toddler.

Play and Learn has a child care program and parenting component for children 3-5.

Incredible Kids is a great place for kids 7-11 to make some meaningful friendships.

Going Beyond is an adventure based program designed to get youth 12-17 participating in physical activities.

To register, volunteer or donate a prize, contact Kim Henry, Family & Children's Services Foundation, (519) 576-1329 x 3943, kim.henry@facswaterloo.org

A special THANK YOU goes out to Ted Couch of Couch & Company Electrical Contracting Design for his many years of supporting the Annual Golf Tournament!



3rd annual Hot Shots Street Hockey Tournament

On Saturday, May 31st the 3rd annual **Hot Shots Street Hockey Tournament** in support of Family and Children's Services Foundation will be held at Conestoga College. This exciting event, presented in partnership with the Waterloo Region Record, raises much needed funds to provide camp and recreational opportunities for abused and neglected children.

But you don't have to play to enjoy the day!

This one-day tournament features family fun, prizes, and Canada's favourite pastime — hockey.

Guests are invited to check out the BBQ, children's street fair, and exciting silent

Presented by

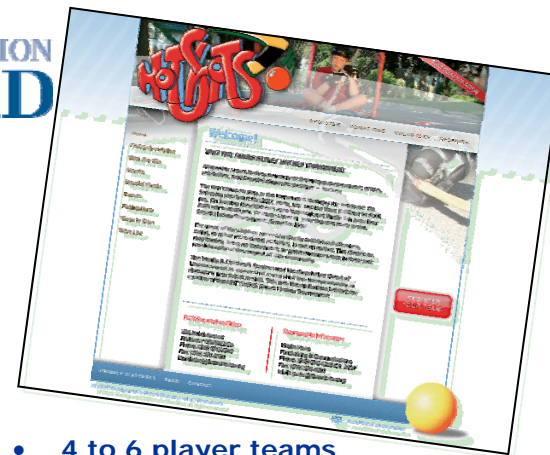
**WATERLOO REGION
RECORD**

auction. Or just come out to cheer on your favorite team in the tournament.

Everyone will have the opportunity to "cherry pick" one-of-a-kind items or experiences at the silent auction. Light-hearted competition is always a part of the fun, and revenues from the auction alone will help us fulfill the camping dreams of many local children!

"We hope to have the parking lots of Conestoga College filled to the brim on the 31st," says Foundation Executive Director, Jim Phillips. "With this community's help, no child will have to miss out on the simple joys of childhood, like going to camp or being part of a team."

To register a team or donate a prize, contact Kim Henry, Family & Children's Services Foundation, (519) 576-1329 x 3943, kim.henry@facswaterloo.org



- 4 to 6 player teams
- 20 minute games
- Multiple rinks
- All skill levels
- Adult and Youth Divisions
- Silent Auction and Raffle
- Free T-Shirts
- Free Lunch
- Great Food!
- Family Fun including bouncy castle, obstacle course, and 9-hole mini putt!



2008 Kitchener Rangers Signed Jersey Raffle

Don't miss out on this exciting autographed piece of hockey history!

Raffle tickets for the signed Kitchener Rangers Jersey will be available at the Fairview Park Shopping Centre, Community Centre Booth on Thursday May 22nd and Friday May 23rd. Or you can order yours by calling 519.576.1329 ext 3464!



Special thanks to the members of the Ya-Ya team who hosted the first ever Family Fun Fest in St. Agatha. The fun-filled day raised awareness as well as over \$11,000 for the Better Futures Fund and the FCS Pregnancy Fund.

Way to go gals!

UP COMING EVENTS - mark your calendars!

Life Adventure Cards: Local Montana's restaurants from May 5 – May 19

Hot Shots Street Hockey: VIP Tournament May 7th, Duke St. between Queen St. and Frederick St. from 11am – 2pm.

Full Tournament May 31st, Conestoga College Gym and Parking Lot 8am - 6pm. To register a team or volunteer call 519-576-1329 x 3943

Annual General Meeting: Transylvania Club, June 19, 5:00 – 7:00pm

KW Multi-Cultural Festival: Victoria Park, Kitchener, June 21& 22 Noon- 8:00pm

Tooney Tuesdays: Kitchener City Hall, July 8, 15, 22, 29, from 6:30-7:45pm

Kidspark: Victoria Park, Kitchener August 17 from 11:00am – 5:00pm

Chip in Fore Kids Annual Golf Tournament: Sept 6th, New Dundee Golf Course. Call 576-1329 x.3943 for more information

Visit our website to find out more about these events at www.facswaterloo.org

Volunteer Refs Wanted!



APPLY ON-LINE TO VOLUNTEER www.hotshotstournament.com

Volunteer Refs are needed for this amazing, fun tournament. Ref experience not necessary, but knowledge of hockey required.

Why Volunteer?

- If you are a student, use it towards your 40 hours and to gain experience.
- To help a good cause.
- To have fun and get a cool free t-shirt!

For more information contact: Tracy
519 576 1329 ext 3464
tracy.glidden@facswaterloo.org

Thank you, Thank you, THANK YOU!

Country Boy Restaurant—A BIG thank you to Terry Voucaridis of Country Boy Restaurant and KOOL FM for an amazing awareness and fundraising event on February 14th. Almost \$1200 was raised and the public was educated on the need for Foster Parents in our region.

In Memory of **Patricia Chambers**—Patricia Chambers was dedicated and proud to be a Volunteer Driver for the last 6 years. Patricia passed away in December. She will be greatly missed by staff and children she drove here at the agency. Thank you to the many friends and family who made a gift to the Foundation in her memory.

Thank you to those who gave in memory of **Madalyn Bryson and Coleen Hurlbut-Clayton** and in Honour of the **Tomchick Family**.

Family Day. The first Ontario Family Day took place Feb 18th and it was a fun-filled, busy day for FCS – from one end of the region to the other. While our Foster Parent Recruitment Team was busy unveiling the new rink board at **Cambridge Ice Centre** (thank you to **Family Investment Planning Inc.** for sponsoring a free family skate) – the **Family Fun Fest** was taking place in St. Agatha. A third party fundraiser, the Family Fun Fest was truly fun for the whole family while helping raise funds and awareness on behalf of Family & Children's Services.

A **BIG** thank you to the **Bloomington United Church** for taking on the challenge of creating emergency kits for children of all ages coming into care throughout the year.

Thank yous for clothing donations out to **Please Mum**, Fairview Park, **Bootlegger**, Cambridge Centre and to the ladies of the **Sunrise Sewing Circle from the Church of God in Christ** for the handmade quilts and pyjamas....always something our kids need!

Special thanks to Tim Wideman, Diane Balmer and the **Charcoal Group of Restaurants** for hosting our 6th annual Breakfast of Champions.

Thank you to the following for bringing in wish list items, clothing, toys, stuffed animals and handmade teddy bears for children involved with FCS: **Maria Di Renzo, Jane Blandford, Tammy Nolan, Lindsay Klassen, Penningtons, Bonnie Henhoeffer, Christina Seifried, Jenifer Silva, Melissa Mortimer, Mike Ferrera, St. Peter's Lutheran Church and St. John's Lutheran Church and Owl Child Care Services.**

Thanks to **CIG Employee Association** and **St. John School** for designating their Dress Down Day collections to FCS Foundation.

Thank you to **Library Services** for sending books for our Reading Incentive Program.

Thanks to **Theatre & Company** and **KW Skating Club** for sending tickets for families to enjoy time together at special events in the community.

Thanks to all the staff, family and friends who made gifts to the Foundation **honouring Mary Vanderschaaf's retirement** and many years of service to children and families in our community.

Treasures (cont)

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came to us. They are such thoughtful and affectionate children."

Mimi says that the key to success is understanding, believing in them, and the supports the children receive through the agency and funded by the Foundation.

"The camps provided through the FCS McQuarrie Program as well as day camps in the community are essential to these children's healthy development. Each child has their own unique personality and talent, and different camp experiences give them the opportunity to experiment, grow, and discover these.

"The camp experience lasts so much longer than just the week. First we have the planning, which happens several months before. Then we pack the week before which is a great opportunity to build decision-making skills. Then it's a sleepless night before we drive them to camp, followed by excited chatter about what they hope to do and friends they hope to make. Finally, the pictures and crafts are placed in their Life Books to be treasured for a life time!"

It really does take a village to raise these special children. Foster parents, their workers, supports through Family and Children's Services, and of course, the donors who give to the much needed programs that all three have participated in: Play therapy, Music therapy, tutoring, and camp—just to name a few!

"One day I hope they will receive a scholarship through the Foundation, too!"

Karen has expressed an interest in teaching, Shawn is keenly interested in art, and precocious Spencer would like to be a police officer.

"They may change their minds about their future careers, but as long as the encouragement and support is available to them, I don't believe they will change their minds about pursuing post secondary education," says Mimi.

This year we anticipate 400 camp requests. Without this community's support, these requests may go un-

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