



www.facswaterloo.org

family & children's services of
the waterloo region foundation



VOICE OF HOPE



200 Ardelt Avenue, Kitchener, ON N2C 2L9, (519) 576-0540



Life Adventures Fund

FCS Foundation is proud to announce the launch of a new fund to ensure every child is able to fully participate this summer.

For many children leaving abusive and neglectful situations or living at home where parents are struggling financially, all the little 'extras' that make childhood special are beyond their reach. The chance to play hockey, learn an instrument, or go to summer camp are just not an option. In fact, summer vacation may be a time of boredom and stress for both parent and child.

Nobody chooses to be a foster child...

Two-year-old Sarah and five-year-old Emily found themselves on the Norgate's doorstep after their previous foster placement had broken down. When little Emily first padded timidly through the door, she quickly sized up Bill Norgate and said, "you're my forever Daddy". These were haunting words from a child desperate to belong.

In the eight years since that day, the Norgate's have worked hard to ensure that Emily and Sarah thrive in their home. It hasn't always been easy. In their young lives, the girls had already faced unimaginable heartbreaks. Their confidence and self-worth were seriously eroded, and the loss of family and identity left them searching for a sense of belonging. It would take some time before the Norgate's caring and support could help them move past some of those hardships.

Today Annette Norgate keeps the girls on a steady schedule; school, homework, and extra-curricular activities when possible. With two children of their own, the Norgates are vigilant in ensuring that all the children have the same opportunities. This means that, in the struggle to provide the necessities, many of the extras have to take a backseat to higher priority needs. Things such as school trips, music lessons, and summer camp—opportunities important in the journey towards healthy and productive lives—are only available when extra support is accessible through Family & Children's Services. And the summers are especially critical because, without the structure of school, boredom and frustration can quickly set in. When the funding is available, Annette seeks out quality summer experiences that cater to each of the girls very different interests, abilities, and needs to continue their learning over the critical summer months.

"Sarah has a real talent for science," she says with pride. For five days last summer, Sarah had a chance to nurture that innovation and imagination at the University of Waterloo's Engineering Science Quest program. At the end of each day

Sarah would come home bursting with enthusiasm over the day's discoveries. "I felt like I was going though it with her. She was endlessly teaching us things like how electricity works. I always knew she was brilliant," Annette says, her voice framed in pride, "now she knows it too!"

Ensuring these opportunities will continue to be available for the 550 children in our care as well as the children in our 1000 ongoing service families was the motivation behind Family & Children's Services Foundation Board of Directors decision to create the **Life Adventures Fund**. This new fund aims to provide children with summer camp experiences enabling children to expand their horizons...

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A Message from the Executive Director

Every parent knows how important it is to provide children with opportunities. We also know how costly it can be as well! We have all been through the scrums to get our kids enrolled for minor sports or swimming lessons. Who hasn't cheered at the sideline of the soccer field, or been up at the crack of dawn for hockey practices? Many parents double up as the volunteers who coach the teams, or lead the Scouts or Guides. And we have all done the driving routine after school: Suzie to dancing, Tom to judo, grab a take-out for supper. In the summer, the adventure of going to camp... Opportunities to develop talents, skills, appreciation, leadership help

children succeed and give them strengths they will draw on for the rest of their lives.

For some families whose income may be very limited, providing their children with opportunities such as these can be a major challenge or beyond reach entirely. *Many of the families served by Family and Children's Services face this reality. Even for children who are living in the agency's foster families, the funding made available to the agency for sporting, recreational and cultural opportunities will not stretch to provide as much as one opportunity per child per year.*

That's where the Foundation comes in and makes a big difference. Donations raised by

the Foundation help provide the children we serve with opportunities that would otherwise be beyond their reach. That's how Billy got his skates and hockey gear, how Anita did go to summer camp, how Terry took grade 6 piano and passed, how Francis learned to act in a theatre group, how Mike is now making his way through University. Your donations open the door to opportunities for children, and provide avenues into brighter futures.

*Peter Ringrose, Executive Director
Family & Children's Services*

Fall 2003 Foundation Grants

This community's continued support allows the Foundation to grant money to fund agency initiatives each spring and fall; providing more services to families, youth, and children. Due to the success of our signature fundraiser, CHYM FM Tree of Hope, the Foundation was able to increase the number of approved grants by 20% allowing for such essential programs or projects as:



A new pilot project to provide the necessary funds for families to attend counselling, that they otherwise would not be able to pay for themselves. This counselling has been recommended by the Courts with the intent to keep families together and fewer children coming into the care of the Agency.



A new program for young girls in care of the agency, to focus on self-image and decision-making skills, and the importance of developing satisfactory peer relationships.



The Parent—Teen Mediation Program to provide counselling for families that are at risk of having a teen removed from the home. The program has been very successful at keeping families together and reducing the number of youth coming into the agencies care.



New sports equipment and resource materials were provided for the Foster Home Support and Blairview School Programs. These programs run on a very small budget, working with special needs children living in foster homes.



A Holiday Party for youth who do not have a family to spend the holidays with. Over 65 youth attended this very special dinner.

Spring grant applications are due in May, and we expect up to 16 youth to apply for scholarships. This will be the highest number of youth the agency has seen applying for scholarships! We also expect a number of requests for new programs that will encourage younger children to develop new skills and provide incentives to continue their education.

In the meantime, thank you for helping to create a community where all children can grow up being *safe, healthy, and loved*.



Life Adventuershship cards available April 22 to May 2

Thank you to Book Express (Cambridge Town Centre), Book Works (Southworks Outlet Mall), Jack Astors (Kitchener), Philthy McNasty's (Waterloo), and Montana's (Cambridge & Kitchener) for providing Life Adventuershship cards for their patrons enabling children from this community an opportunity for an adventure, whether it be day camp, art lessons or sports camp. Please visit one of the locations to purchase your Adventuershship card—designed by local artist Sue Wicks—today!

Champions!



Virginia Mawer (right) and Pat Henderson (left) present Kevin Grondinger from CitiFinancial with the Diamond Family Member Award at the Breakfast of Champions, held Feb. 6. CitiFinancial's \$11,000 + donation was designated to scholarships for youth in care pursuing post-secondary education.

Foundation Manager Jim Phillips (right) accepts the CHYM FM *Brightest Star* winning donation from Steve Philpott of H.L. Staebler Insurance Company. This year's prize was an exciting 7-day trip to Punta Cana.



Congratulations!

The Family & Children's Services Foundation would like to congratulate our supporters who received awards recognizing their commitment to making the Waterloo Region a better place to live.



First we would like to applaud **96.7 CHYM FM** (photo: CHYM GM, Gavin Tucker) who received the first ever *Valerie Corcoran Media Award* at the 2003 Philanthropy Awards. **MURRAY HAASE** also came out a winner, receiving the *Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser Award* at the same event.

Finally, we would like to congratulate **PROVIDER TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS INC.** on winning the Bell Business President's Award presented by the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce.

FACS Adopts New Values on Diversity



Over the last few months two very exciting initiatives have come to fruition here at FACS. Both have resulted in the publication of materials respecting *Diversity*. The documents have already been distributed to Staff and Board Members and are currently in the process of distributing the information to our Volunteers and our Foster Parents.

In and around the Agency you will notice new posters; the Agency policy in respect to *Diversity* and a *Sexual Orientation* poster. Additional copies of the *Values that*

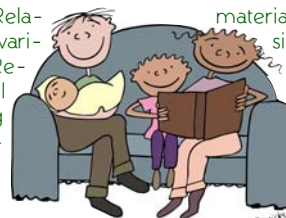
Guide our Work booklet, along with our *Diversity Newsletter* and our *Policy* poster may be obtained by contacting our Human Resources Department at 200 Ardel by phone or email; hrstaff@facswaterloo.org.

The *Diversity* working group has been examining how we interface with the multicultural fabric of our community to increase our understanding of differences. Relationships are developing with various cultural groups in the Region, which we anticipate will make for improved working relationships and understanding.

The *Sexual Orientation Task Force* has produced the *Values that Guide our Work* document. This establishes our commitment to *diversity* to staff, clients, foster caregivers, volunteers, students and our community.

We have also embarked on a training program that will address *Cultural Competence* for all staff in the Agency. It is our hope that this material will open the door to further discussion about how we engage with our community and how relationships can and will be strengthened.

Steve Pawelko, Manager of Human Resources.



Thank You! Thank You! THANK YOU!

Thanks to COLUMBIA SPORTS WEAR for 600 pairs of Sorrell boots. That is a lot of warm, dry feet for the children in our community!

A special thank you to all companies and individuals (over 120 in total) who made the Holiday Season extra special for more than 200 families, which included over 500 children, through the ADOPT A FAMILY HOLIDAY PROGRAM. A big THANK YOU also goes to BARBARA HULL, our dedicated volunteer that organizes the program for the entire region.



F&CS was just one of the recipients of toys collected by the WATERLOO KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Council 5135. Thanks to JIM LEHMAN who coordinated the toy drive.

THANK YOU to SCHNEIDERS EMPLOYEE GROUP and all other companies and individuals who donated toys over the Holiday Season.

Thank you to all the FANS of the WATERLOO SISKINS and KITCHENER RANGERS for making their TEDDY BEAR TOSS a huge success and helping to put smiles on many children's faces over the Holiday Season.

THANK YOU to all our retailers who supported Deck the Walls. Congratulations to A&W at the Cambridge Centre for selling the most trees.

Thank you to CAMBRIDGE TOWEL & BEDDING for donating \$440 worth of towels to our Youth Services Christmas Party. All youth attending the party received a brand new towel.



Thank you to EXTRA SELF STORAGE LTD. for donating a storage locker to store seasonal in kind donations from the community.


Thanks to DAWN PADDISON & KERRY MARKADIES for lending their talents to the Fundraising & Communications department.

ADOPT A FAMILY HOLIDAY PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Staff Lines at Toyota Motor Manufacturing Adopt 12 Families during Holiday Season.

When Jennifer Duguid and Patty Demers spoke with their fellow Assembly Team Members about supporting a family in need over the Holiday Season, their teams each adopted a family. Word quickly spread through the plant about how much fun they were having shopping for the children from their modest Santa wish lists, and the momentum grew. "The response was incredible," Jennifer said, "other teams joined in and together we adopted a total of twelve families—that's 44 family members!" Even more teams came on board donating food vouchers for holiday dinners and Toyota Motor Manufacturing

Company stepped up with a \$1,000 donation to the program. "This kind of enthusiasm has ensured a warm & happy Holiday Season for many families in the Cambridge community," say Peter Ringrose, Executive Director.

F&CS serves over 1000 needy families at any given time who would benefit from the Adopt-A-Family Holiday Program. Please call 579-1329 x 3943 for more information about how your workplace or family can make a memorable holiday season for a family in need. 

Calendar of Events

- ◆ *April 22—May 2*
Life Adventures cards campaign
 - ◆ *May 13-14*
Mother's Day Gift Wrapping
Foster Parent Association
The Bay, Conestoga Mall
 - ◆ *Thurs. May 20, 7-9 pm*
Special Events 101
Volunteering and Organizing (Workshop) Learn how to plan your own third party fundraising or awareness raising event! Call 576- 1329 ext 3411 to register.
 - ◆ *Thursday, June 24*
Family & Children's Services
Annual General Meeting
Holiday Inn, Kitchener
 - ◆ *Sat. June 26 & Sun. June 27*
KW Multi-Cultural Festival
Victoria Park, Kitchener
 - ◆ *Tuesday, July 6, 13, 20, 27*
Tooney Tuesdays
Kitchener City Hall
Free family entertainment
 - ◆ *Saturday, August 21 & 22*
Kids Park
Victoria Park, Kitchener
- Visit www.facswaterloo.org for more details on these events and more.

In Memory

This past Christmas, Walter Roth wanted to find a special way to honour the memory of his mother, Caecilia. Because of his mother's passion for children and their welfare, Walter decided to designate his gift to the new SMILE MAKER FUND; a fund to address the small, but immediate needs of children living at home. Smile making opportunities include: new school supplies, dance lessons, or a new winter coat. Walter's generosity will ensure that five children this year will benefit from the memory of his lovely mother.

The SMILE MAKER FUND will be made available for our kids this spring and we can't wait to update you in the fall on the many wonderful SMILE MAKING opportunities that will be taking place!

Thank you to the people who gave generously in memory of ISABELLE PRITCHARD, RAY TALOR, SCOTT BRANDON, GERTRUDE LAU-TENSCHLAGER, LORRAINE BECKMAN and SHELEE LYNN LAROCKE.



FCS Children's Wish List

You can help us help children, youth and families in our community. Currently we have a need for:

- electrical outlet covers, child safe cupboard locks, door knob covers, smoke alarms, baby gates, toilet locks, blind break away cords
- lice shampoo & spray
- Clorox Wipes, household cleaning products, laundry detergent
- diapers, baby wipes, formula
- bedding, tupperware, storage bins
- first aid kits, band aids
- personal hygiene products (feminine hygiene, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, soap)
- Materna vitamins, Iron pills
- craft supplies, crayons
- food vouchers, bus tickets
- Zellers or Walmart gift certificates



*continued from page 1...*and build confidence, life skills, and self-esteem.

...they face challenges each day that our children couldn't imagine...

For many children who have faced a lifetime of abuse or neglect, they may never know a world outside the city or have the opportunity to discover a new talent or skill, or even just to have a break from reality. Children escaping these situations rarely have the chance to just be children. Many of our children have experienced rejection and isolation. They have not experienced the joy of being a valued member of a group. Some have never even had a best friend. Camp offers a place of belonging—where they feel like they are part of something special.

With our Life Adventures Fund, the Foundation hopes to provide opportunities for children to learn about responsibility, leadership, and turn the learning experiences into an adventure providing the opportunity to explore their horizons and enrich their lives.

"These kids deserve an opportunity to experience these things," says Annette. "At home, they don't get to participate. Even worse, they have the deck stacked against them. They have to deal with society's idea of what a 'foster kid' is; at school, on the playgrounds. People can be cruel. They deserve a chance to be treated like everyone else. To just be a kid. These camps are their place for that. It's where the playing field is *levelled*."

For children such as Sarah and Emily, foster parents like the Norgates 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. In addition to Emily and Sarah's long-term placements, the Norgates have seen over thirty of this community's most vulnerable children pass through their doors. The Norgates are doing their part for

the children—let's do ours.

...you have the power to make a difference in their lives.

By making a small investment in this community's vulnerable children today, you can give a child happier 'todays' and brighter 'tomorrows'. Call 576-0540 ext. 3145 to hear more about the Life Adventures Fund.

NOTE: All names have been changed to protect confidentiality.

"No matter what the background of a child, camp opens doors, exposing children to possibilities and opportunities they might never know could be theirs."

Michael Eisner, Disney CEO

FCS Foundation Board of Directors:

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Voice of Hope is published twice a year by FCS Foundation. We welcome your letters, ideas, and contributions. Please contact: Tracy Glidden at 576-1329 x 3943 if you wish to be removed from our mailing list.



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

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

I would like to direct my gift to another fund within the foundation

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> FCS Children's Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Foster Care Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better Futures Endowment Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Moving Forward Fund (<i>funding the Sexual Abuse Treatment Program</i>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption Services Fund | |

- \$350 (average cost of camp)
- \$100
- \$50
- \$25
- other \$ _____

Method of Payment:

Please find my cheque enclosed.

Please charge to my:

VISA MC AMEX

Please make cheques payable to FCS Foundation.

- I would like my gift to be made anonymously.
- My employer has a matching gift program & I will inform my Human Resources Department of my gift.

Card #: _____

Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____