

Advocate is a noun *and* a verb.

As children's advocate, we do our best to ensure that all of the children of York Region have the nurturing, healthy and loving home to which every child is entitled.

We protect the most vulnerable children, building stronger families and, when all else has failed, acting as parent. We build diversity and inclusivity into everything we do. We partner with teachers and others to ensure they respond when they see signs of neglect or abuse. And we are working to bring our standards into line with the rest of the community with respect to when a child is ready to be independent. In other words, 24, not 18.

We also actively advocate for the future. With our partners in serving children and families, we are speaking up to ensure that funding for these services in York Region is equivalent to funding enjoyed by other regions.

By advocating for York Region, we believe we're becoming better advocates for children.



York Region
Children's Aid Society

YORK REGION CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

Incorporated as Children and
Family Services for York Region

Kennedy Place

16915 Leslie Street

Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 9A1

905.895.2318

1.800.718.3850

www.YorkCAS.org

Inquiries: inquiries@YorkCAS.org

Foster Care: fostering@YorkCAS.org

Adoption: adoption@YorkCAS.org

Employment: human.resources@YorkCAS.org

Volunteer: volunteering@YorkCAS.org

Community Outreach: outreach@YorkCAS.org

This painting was made by foster child Pavena who is 9-years-old. She says her family likes to climb trees.

Annual Report
2008 • 2009



Denise Bilsland
President,
Board of Directors,
York Region
Children's Aid
Society

You don't need an excuse to recognize achievement – it's something we should do all year around.

But, truth told, every year end, as we review our successes and our statistics, we are particularly awed and amazed at the ways hundreds of people come together to strengthen and support the children of York Region. They do it in little ways – like the volunteer who drives a child to a piano lesson – and in big ways – like the foster parents who take children into their homes and the frontline workers who pack up their cars every holiday season with gifts for their families, provided, in turn, by our wonderful donors who, this year, gave \$700,000 in cash and in-kind donations to the Holiday Heroes program.

And they do it again and again. This year, for the 15th year, The Children's Aid Foundation of York Region has enriched the lives of our most vulnerable children. Every year, the Foundation makes it possible for many of our young adults to benefit from post-secondary education. It's a far-reaching contribution to the lifelong well-being of young people about to make their own way in the world.

This year, too, our frontline workers and supervisors visited close to 200 schools in York Region to talk to teachers and school administrators about the work of the Children's Aid Society. Teachers are an important frontline defense against child abuse and neglect and we are grateful for their partnership and support.

Our School Outreach was just one example of the ways we're reaching out to partners, creating important relationships that will allow us to be more responsive to our community. As promised when we initiated our Transformation Agenda, we are intent on being both more diverse and more inclusive. To that end, we have built our internal capacity for diversity and outreach programs.

As part of the Transformation Agenda, we have also doubled our high risk infant team, established kinship services and care to keep at-risk children with friends and family and, finally, we have created a serious occurrence team.

As the year drew to a close, we have also had the opportunity to recognize the contribution of five people who, after service on the Board of Directors and its committees, are retiring this year. Our collective thanks to Charmaine Johnson, Ingrid LeClaire, Wendy Poole, Jane Weir and Donna Whitney.

We also thank the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and its regional office staff for partnership and support.

Looking forward, we are emphasizing our role as advocates for York Region in order to correct the unfortunate state of underfunding for our children's services. Together with other organizations serving children and families, we are working to ensure that, in the future, York Region will not receive just 40 cents for these services compared to every dollar that goes to other areas of the province.

All in all, 2008.2009 was a year of positive changes, small and large. Our Board initiated the Circle of Friends donation program. Perhaps most symbolic is our aptly-named Small Changes program, initiated by our workers and staff. A staff-giving program, it provides funds so that our children enjoy the essential extras that add richness and normalcy to the lives of the children we serve. Graduation dresses, class trips, hockey, music lessons – the things that other children – their peers and friends – enjoy as a matter of course.

It is in this kind of achievement we find a reason not only to applaud and celebrate the year just ended but a reason to hope for a better future.



Patrick Lake
Executive Director,
York Region
Children's Aid Society

Denise Bilsland
President,
Board of Directors

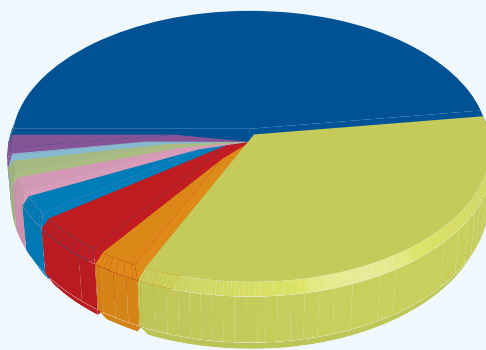
Patrick Lake
Executive Director

Changes large and small

Financials

Operating Revenue:	Actual
Provincial Grant	43,560,271
Income & Recoveries	1,743,128
TOTAL REVENUES	45,303,399
Expense:	
Salaries & Wages	17,619,602
Benefits	3,940,930
Travel	1,502,880
Training & Recruitment	65,994
Building Occupancy	858,456
Professional Services - Non Client	522,849
Boarding Rate Payments	15,899,492
Professional Services - Client	1,182,074
Client Personal Needs	1,297,378
Medical & Related	689,959
Financial Assistance	12,316
Promotion & Publicity	57,505
Office Administration	586,201
Misc	162,839
Mortgage Interest	226,072
Net Amortization of Capital Assets	368,451
Information and Technology	413,317
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	45,406,315
EXCESS OF (EXPENSES OVER REVENUES)/ REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	(102,916)

Expenditures by Key Categories *



1. Excludes Restricted Funds.
*Amounts may not add due to rounding

For a copy of the Audited Financial Statements, please contact the York Region Children's Aid Society.

Extended Care and Maintenance

Pulling through to become your own person

Ariel and Sandra

Ariel has the kind of resume that would be impressive for any 18-year-old and the kind of smile you remember forever.



Sandra and Ariel

While still in high school, she was Youth Leader Corps Volunteer of the Year for the YMCA of Greater Toronto.

She was an ambassador for Reach for the Rainbow, a national organization which pioneered the integration of children and youth with disabilities into the mainstream of society through summer camp programs.

And she's just successfully finished the first year of a college accounting program while living in residence.

Ariel is also a lifelong ward of the York Region Children's Aid Society and a

person with spina bifida.

Three months after her birth, Ariel – who says she “wasn't even supposed to live” – was released from hospital into the loving arms of the foster parent she still calls Mom.

Now, at 18, she's one of the York CAS young adults benefiting from ECM – extended care and maintenance. The program has allowed her to go to college and live in residence. The Children's Aid Foundation of York Region supplied the 90-pound girl with a scooter to get around as well as an educational bursary. On weekends, she goes back to her foster home where, she says, she can be with her family and the food is better.

Sandra, who's been her caseworker for a decade, says Ariel is “an inspiration to us all”. For her part, Ariel says Sandra “has always been there when I needed her”, citing Sandra's “creativity” in ensuring that Ariel has what she needs.

In her future, Ariel sees work as an accountant, her own apartment and, she says with a big grin and a glance at her Mom and Sandra, “I'm working on learning to drive!”

Stephanie and Laura

Stephanie is the poster child for Extended Care and Maintenance (ECM).

Placed in the care of her grandparents at five, she lived with them until she began running away. At 13 she was placed in a foster home and then a group home. Her pattern was, she says, destructive. She would get into fights, harm herself, skip school and continually run away.

In fact, she ran away for the last time just days before her 18th birthday, even then, as she describes it, “the worst of the worst”.

Then, everything changed.

“When I turned 18, I wanted to grow up. I didn't want to be a group home case my whole life.”

That was just two-and-a-half years ago.

Since then, she has gone back to high school and graduated with honours and two regional math awards to her credit. After acceptances from four colleges, she's settled on a one-year program that will give her the skills to become a 911 Emergency Services operator.

“If it wasn't for ECM,” she says, “I probably wouldn't have finished high school and I certainly wouldn't be going to college. I didn't have the skills or experience to get a job that would let me save enough money to go to school.” ECM takes over when provincial support for children in care ends at 18. Stephanie has also received an educational bursary from the Children's Aid Foundation of York Region.

Stephanie also appreciates her worker, Laura, and her grandparents with whom she now lives. “I'm lucky to have them. Laura is always there for me, even when she's not on the clock, she goes that extra mile. And I plan to take care of my grandparents for the rest of their lives.”

This Stephanie is very different than the rebellious girl Laura took on six years ago.

“There were times we didn't know if she was alive or dead,” Laura says. “But beyond that attitude, she was always a likeable kid.” Though Laura has gone on to a different job in the agency, she's kept Stephanie's file. “I love working with older teens and young adults. You get to see them going through that final change, getting ready to become their own person. We provide resources and help here and there, but Stephanie pulled herself through.”



Stephanie and Laura

08-09 Board of Directors

Officers

- Denise Bilsland, *President*
- Jane Weir, *Vice President*
- Donna Whitney, *Treasurer*
- Ingrid LeClaire, *Corporate Secretary*

Directors

- Bradley Black
- Brandy Elliot
- Charmaine Johnson
- Scott Miller
- Janice Morgante
- Rev. M.J. Perry
- Brock Philp
- Wendy Poole
- Melissa Spellen
- Tammy Ward

08-09 Service Statistics

*2008-09 numbers reflect modified data collection software and data clean up.

Children In Care

April 1	474
Admissions to Care	142
Children Served	616
Discharges from care	152
March 31	464
Average Children In Care	470

Placement - March 31

Foster Care (Regular/Special/Treatment)	204
Independent Living	17
Extended Care & Maintenance	62
Outside Paid Residential/Foster Home	125
Free Institution/Home/Kinship	17
Adoption Probation	11
Kinship in Care	30

Protection Services

April 1	1,206*
Families Opened	4,287
Families Served	5,238
Families Closed	3,704

March 31	1,189
Average Protection Caseload	1,166
New Report Received/No Investigation Required	3,542
Inquiries	1,016

Homestudies

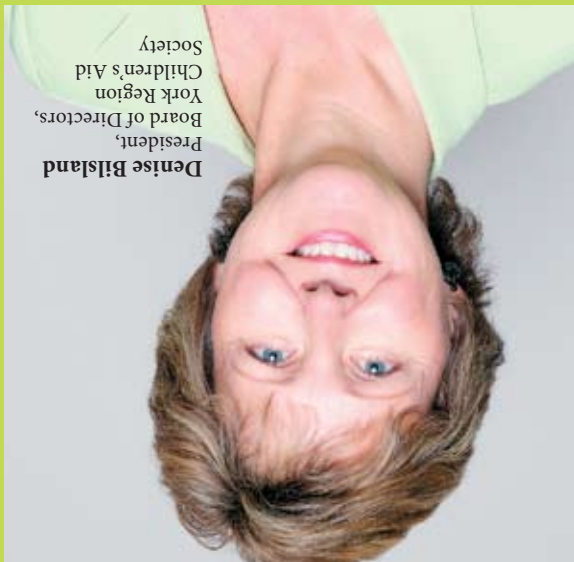
Foster Homestudies Completed	55
Adoption Homestudies Completed	50

Foster Homes

April 1	140
Approved Foster Homes	22
Closed Foster Homes	20
March 31	141

Adoption Homes

April 1	43
Approved Adoption Homes	24
Closed Adoption Homes	19
March 31	48



Denise Bilsland
President,
Board of Directors,
York Region
Children's Aid
Society

You don't need an excuse to recognize achievement – it's something we should do all year around. But, truth told, every year end, as we review our successes and our statistics, we are particularly awed and amazed at the ways hundreds of people come together to strengthen and support the children of York Region. They do it in little ways – like the volunteer who drives a child to a piano lesson – and in big ways – like the foster parents who take children into their homes and the frontline workers who pack up their cars every holiday season with gifts for their families, provided, in turn, by our wonderful donors who, this year, gave \$700,000 in cash and in-kind donations to the Holiday Heroes program. And they do it again and again. This year, for the 15th year, The Children's Aid Foundation of York Region has enriched the lives of our most vulnerable children. Every year, the Foundation makes it possible for many of our young adults to benefit from post-secondary education. It's a far-reaching contribution to the lifelong well-being of young people about to make their own way in the world. This year, too, our frontline workers and supervisors visited close to 200 schools in York Region to talk to teachers and school administrators about the work of the Children's Aid Society. Teachers are an important frontline defense against child abuse and neglect and we are grateful for their partnership and support. Our School Outreach was just one example of the ways we're reaching out to partners, creating important relationships that will allow us to be more responsive to our community. As promised when we initiated our Transformation Agenda, we are intent on being both more diverse and more inclusive. To that end, we have built our internal capacity for diversity and outreach programs. As part of the Transformation Agenda, we have also doubled our high risk infant team, established kinship services and care to keep at-risk children with friends and family and, finally, we have created a serious occurrence team.

Advocate is a noun *and* a verb.

As children's advocate, we do our best to ensure that all of the children of York Region have the nurturing, healthy and loving home to which every child is entitled.

We protect the most vulnerable children, building stronger families and, when all else has failed, acting as parent. We build diversity and inclusivity into everything we do. We partner with teachers and others to ensure they respond when they see signs of neglect or abuse. And we are working to bring our standards into line with the rest of the community with respect to when a child is ready to be independent. In other words, 24, not 18.

We also actively advocate for the future. With our partners in serving children and families, we are speaking up to ensure that funding for these services in York Region is equivalent to funding enjoyed by other regions.

By advocating for York Region, we believe we're becoming better advocates for children.



York Region
Children's Aid Society

YORK REGION CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

Incorporated as Children and Family Services for York Region
Kennedy Place
16915 Leslie Street
Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 9A1
905.895.2318
1.800.718.3850
www.YorkCAS.org

Inquiries: inquiries@YorkCAS.org
Foster Care: fostering@YorkCAS.org
Adoption: adoption@YorkCAS.org
Employment: human.resources@YorkCAS.org
Volunteer: volunteering@YorkCAS.org
Community Outreach: outreach@YorkCAS.org

This painting was made by foster child Pavena who is 9-years-old. She says her family likes to climb trees.

Annual Report
2008 • 2009

AR EN 2009 07



Patrick Lake
Executive Director,
York Region
Children's Aid Society

As the year drew to a close, we have also had the opportunity to recognize the contribution of five people who, after service on the Board of Directors and its committees, are retiring this year. Our collective thanks to Charmaine Johnson, Ingrid LeClair, Wendy Poole, Jane Weir and Donna Whitney. We also thank the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and its regional office staff for partnership and support. Looking forward, we are emphasizing our role as advocates for York Region in order to correct the unfortunate state of underfunding for our children's services. Together with other organizations serving children and families, we are working to ensure that, in the future, York Region will not receive just 40 cents for these services compared to every dollar that goes to other areas of the province. All in all, 2008, 2009 was a year of positive changes, small and large. Our Board initiated the Circle of Friends donation program. Perhaps most symbolic is our aptly-named Small Changes program, initiated by our workers and staff. A staff-giving program, it provides funds so that our children enjoy the essential extras that add richness and normalcy to the lives of the children we serve. Graduation dresses, class trips, hockey, music lessons – the things that other children – their peers and friends – enjoy as a matter of course. It is in this kind of achievement we find a reason not only to applaud and celebrate the year just ended but a reason to hope for a better future.

Denise Bilsland
President,
Board of Directors

Patrick Lake
Executive Director