



OCT  
2015

# Newsletter

Catholic  
Children's Aid Society  
of Hamilton



Catholique  
Société d'aide à l'enfance  
de Hamilton

## Thank you Ersilia DiNardo

Ersilia DiNardo found her life's calling helping vulnerable children and their families. "I felt a deep connection to social justice and wanted to work in a child-focused, faith-based environment," said Ersilia, who started her career as a social worker with the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton, moving into leadership roles and becoming Executive Director in 2007. Ersilia retired on June 30 after 30 years with the agency.

Her contributions have been recognized by everyone from children and families served by the agency to Pope Benedict XVI, who in 2011 granted Ersilia the honour of Dame of St. Gregory the Great for her dedication and commitment to the Hamilton Diocese and community. This past year, the agency, under Ersilia's leadership, was recognized by the Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School

Board with the Award of Distinguished Service to Catholic Education.

While Ersilia will miss her life's work, she says the time is right for retirement. "We have a very dedicated, hard-working team that's passionate about the work they do. The agency is bigger than just one person." Her retirement plans include spending more time with family, travelling and catching up on her reading.

Ersilia's many contributions include promoting the importance of timely, clinically-based work with families. She achieved a strong community-based service model which resulted in many successful partnerships and enhanced service to families and committed to actively building capacity for the provision of French language services. Ersilia supported kinship relationships for children and

youth as a permanency option long before Kinship Care and Kinship Services became part of the provincial model for child welfare services in 2006. Ersilia has long championed positive educational outcomes and prior to government support for post-secondary education, was instrumental in the agency financially supporting all post-secondary education expenses for young people in the Society's care.

"On behalf of the Board of Directors, the staff, resource parents and volunteers of CCAS of Hamilton I would like to thank Ersilia for everything she has done over the past 30 years," said Giulia Gambacorta, President of the agency's Board of Directors. "We wish her every blessing in her future endeavors and a happy and rewarding retirement."





# Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton Announces New Executive Director



ROCCO GIZZARELLI  
Executive Director

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton (CCASH) I am pleased to announce the appointment of Rocco Gizzarelli as Executive Director effective July 1, 2015. Mr. Gizzarelli succeeds Ersilia DiNardo who is retired on July 1, 2015 and who has served as Executive Director for the past 8 years.

Mr. Gizzarelli has been an employee of CCASH for the past 29 years and has held positions of Child Protection Worker, Supervisor, and since 2001, Director of Service. Mr. Gizzarelli has been a strong advocate for children, youth and families within the agency as well as at the regional and provincial levels. He has been actively involved in the Hamilton community fostering and developing collaborative partnerships with a number of diverse agencies to help facilitate better outcomes for the children and families we serve. He is recognized for his leadership in implementing many initiatives and programs such as addressing the needs

of homeless youth, implementation of a French Language services model in the Hamilton-Niagara child welfare agencies, and child welfare partnerships with the Hamilton Family Health Team, the Violence Against Women sector and Hamilton Police Services. Mr. Gizzarelli brings grounding and understanding of our Catholic Faith and knows the important role it plays in the lives of our children, youth and families.

Mr. Gizzarelli has been a strong community leader throughout his time with CCASH. He has demonstrated this leadership through his participation on a number of provincial child welfare initiatives and community boards. Most recently he has been a member of the Provincial French Language Advisory Committee; Child Protection Information Network (CPIN) Advisory Committee and Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS) Education Committee. In 2010, he was the Project Chair and contributing author of the OACAS paper, *An Analysis of the Children in Care Standards and the Relevant Foster Care Licensing Regulations in Achieving Better Outcomes for Children*. Mr. Gizzarelli was also instrumental in the redevelopment of sexual abuse treatment programs while serving as a Board Member and Chair of the Board of Directors for Thrive, Child and Youth Trauma Programs. He was recognized for his contribution to the work of Thrive with the Leader for Kids Award in 2012.

A native of Hamilton, Mr. Gizzarelli holds a Master of Social Work degree from York University and a Bachelor of Social Work from McMaster University, where he has also served as a sessional faculty member.

Rocco is a dedicated and committed social worker who brings years of experience and knowledge to the role of Executive Director. Rocco is committed to our faith based practice, ensuring the children, youth and families we serve will continue to receive the highest quality of evidence based services we can offer, and the Society's to continuing on the path as set out in the organization's Strategic Plan, fulfilling our Vision of "Safe and Thriving Children. Empowered Families. Strong Communities."

Please join me in congratulating Rocco on his appointment.

Giulia Gambacorta  
Board President



## Kinship Program

Home is where the heart is. But what happens when children and youth must leave their homes because their parents are unable to care for them? The child welfare system sees significant value in keeping children and youth connected to their family, friends and community whenever possible by placing them with kin.

Kin are people with close ties to the child. Over the years the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton has seen grandparents, aunts and uncles open their homes to children and youth as well as church congregation members, godparents, family friends, teachers and school support staff. Their willingness to help means that children and youth can stay in their community with people they know and trust while their parents work through their challenges

The Kinship Program was formalized by the provincial government in 2006 as a caregiving option for children and youth at risk of neglect or abuse. Extended

family or community caregivers are thoroughly screened to ensure a safe and nurturing home environment will be provided. They receive support and guidance by agency kinship workers to assist with their new responsibilities.

Adoption or legal custody by kin is possible when children or youth are unable to return to their birth parents.

"It's much, much less intrusive for kids when someone from their network of family, friends or community steps in to help," said Susan Clowes-Chisholm, Manager of Service for the CCAS of Hamilton. "The child welfare system didn't invent this model of care. It has been around for generations. "

Kinship worker Madeline Kingdon's job includes identifying kin who can provide loving, safe homes. Madeline recently placed a young boy with his grandparents because the birth mother struggled with addiction and couldn't care for him.

The boy -- once undernourished and experiencing a variety of health issues -- is now thriving. "He feels at home with his grandparents and is very well cared for," said Madeline.

The boy is also able to maintain a relationship with his mother, who is working on making positive changes and visits him at the grandparents' home. Benefits of kinship programming can include easier and more frequent contact with birth parents.

Other benefits include a greater chance of siblings being placed in the same home. Kinship programming can mean timelier placement with permanent or long-term families when necessary.

"We feel very positive about kin and the role that they can play in providing children with love and stability," said Elizabeth Minard, Supervisor of Kinship Programs. "These relationships play a huge role in reducing stress for children maintaining family and community ties."



# Fostering – Do You Have Room in Your Heart and Home for One More

Lori Sajder knows more than most people about the positive impact foster parents can have on a child's life. Forty-five years ago she was placed in a foster home herself after being born to a teenage mother who was unable to raise her. Lori was soon adopted into a loving home but she never forgot the fact that there was a family there to nurture her in those first crucial days of her life.

Today, Lori is a mom to four biological children ranging in age from seven to nineteen. She's also a foster mother who, along with her husband, Steve, has cared for almost 50 children placed with the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton (CCASH) over the past 11 years. "Someone was there to take care of me when I was a baby and things turned out well for me," says Lori, who is motivated to do the same for the dozens of foster children — most of them infants and toddlers — who have been welcomed into her Hamilton home. Some of these children have stayed with her for just a few weeks, others for a couple of years. In all cases, Lori says her goal remains the same: "We want to give these kids the best start possible so they can flourish when they move back in with their birth parents. Sometimes people think that being a foster parent is about saving kids, but these children don't need to be 'saved.' What they need is a support system. And that's what foster parents can provide."

There is always a big need in Hamilton for the kind of support families such as the Sajders are able to offer. In particular there is always a need for homes who will care for our adolescent children. Currently, there are 292 foster children

in the care of the CCASH, yet there are only 87 foster homes offering a safe and secure place for these children. This is a decrease from the 100-120 foster homes that have traditionally been available in the past.

"Hamilton is a community with a lot of poverty and substance abuse issues and, as a result, we have many children in these situations who need to be in a safe environment," says CCASH resource supervisor Marden Hewitt. "Anyone who cares for children — and who cares for positive outcomes for the children of our community — can consider becoming a foster parent. We at CCASH try to emphasize from the moment a prospective foster parent gets in touch with us, that we are in this together and want to work with them as a team to ensure the very best interests of the child in care. When a child is placed in your home, you are never alone and you will have lots of information and support from our agency."

Hewitt says she has witnessed time and again the positive impact foster parents can make in a child's life. "They can thrive when they are given care, nurturin, structure and routines, and when they realize someone is there for them," she says. "As a foster parent, you aren't required to make a lifetime commitment, but a lot of foster parents will say they often feel a connection with these children that can last a lifetime. And even when the child goes back to their birth family, they often remember the foster parents as they get older and they will often come back and say 'thank you.' "

People are motivated to become foster

parents for all sorts of reasons, explains Hewitt. They may feel a calling to give back to their community in a meaningful way, or feel driven by their faith to make a difference in the life of a child. Some, like Sajder, remember how others helped them when they were young. "The bottom line is they want to help; they want to make a difference in the life of a child."

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## Fostering Continued

Some foster parents cannot have biological children and want to experience the joys and challenges of family life. That was the case for Danielle Withers and her husband Craig, both in their 40s, who recently became foster parents. Danielle says completing the CCASH's mandatory and intensive PRIDE (Parenting Resources Information Development Education) training program for three hours a week over a period of three months convinced her that fostering was right for her and her husband. "The program really prepares you for what to expect from fostering — the challenges as well as the rewards," she says. "Learning about the different scenarios these kids have had to deal with...well, my heart went out to them and I felt I needed to give them a home and that they would be secure in my home." The couple became foster parents to a 15-year-old girl last year whose mother struggles with mental health issues and whose father had been abusive. "She plays on the rugby team, is very diligent about school and is well behaved and very sweet," says Danielle. "She loves music and is a typical teen who likes to sleep in on the weekends."

In fact, their first fostering experience has gone so well that Danielle and Craig recently welcomed a second foster child, a teen boy. While many foster parents are interested in taking in young children, this couple prefers the challenge of teenagers. "They are at an age when they are starting to become their own people and that makes them very interesting," says Danielle, who acknowledges that some prospective foster parents may be wary of the challenges of helping to raise children from troubled homes. But she points out

the CCASH provides plenty of support and her experience thus far has been very positive. "You don't know how it will be until you give it a try — and it's worth giving it a try because you really can make a difference as a foster parent. I've seen that already with the two kids who have come to my home and I feel very fortunate to have them."

Children come into care for a variety of reasons. Sometimes their birth parents have substance abuse and/or mental health issues. Some children have witnessed domestic violence. About 10% of children have been subject to abuse themselves and another 10% have been abandoned. In the case of children 12 and older, almost 20% come into care because of parent-child conflict. While the vast majority — about 90% — are eventually returned to their families. "We know that there are various reasons why a parent may experience certain difficulties at a point in their life and need assistance. We work to provide that assistance and when they are ready it's in the best interests of the child to be returned to their family," says Hewitt.

She acknowledges that returning children to their families is often difficult for foster parents. "A common worry foster parent applicants express is 'how do you say goodbye to a child you've grown attached to?'" One thing that helps, she says, is for foster parents to recognize that they are offering temporary assistance, as foster care is not meant to be a long-term solution.

Lori has had to say a lot of goodbyes over her years as a foster parent. She knows how hard it can be to separate from a child you've grown attached to.

"Each time a child moves it can feel like you lose a little piece of your heart. But in some cases they are being adopted by families who have waited years to have a child. Sometimes when they go back to their families you do worry if they are okay, but in most cases that's where they want to be — with their families," she says.

Sometimes foster parents are able to meet with and share information with birth families about the care of the child they are fostering. This helps keep the parents apprised of how their child is doing and maintains a connection between the child and their birth parents. For example, Lori meets the birth mother of one young girl she is currently caring for once a week at a local pool where they all swim together. "The times I've worked with birth families has been a positive experience," she says, noting, "I tell birth parents I am here to help them until they are ready to care for their child again. I tell them I want to co-parent with them. These children are physically in my care, but emotionally they are in the care of their birth parents." It's important, she says, for foster parents to try not to be judgmental about the challenges a birth family may be facing. "They may be struggling with mental health issues or the challenges of living in poverty — it's not that they don't love their kids, it's that they are currently unable to cope. To a young child, no matter what they've gone through prior to coming to your home, they want to be with their family."

In addition to offering the PRIDE training program, support from CCASH includes ensuring a child is a good match for you and your family in terms of age, gender and any behavioral or special issues.

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# Adoption

## – One Way That God Creates Families

When Neli adopted her six-year-old son Jaxon through the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton (CCASH) three years ago, the bond between the two of them was immediate and strong. So much so that Jaxon, then in Grade 1, would cling to her desperately when she dropped him off at school. "He would freak out and not want me to leave him," Neli recalls. After speaking to his teacher, Neli discovered that Jaxon's birth mother had often forgot him at school, neglecting to pick him up at the end of the day.

Instead of engaging in a battle of wills to force her son to go to school, Neli hit upon an ingenious solution. She asked Jaxon's teacher to move his desk close to the classroom window and she parked her car in the parking lot directly outside that window, telling Jaxon she would sit in the car for as long as it took — days, if necessary — for him to know she was there if he needed her. Throughout the first day Jaxon would reassure himself by periodically looking up from his desk at her through the classroom

window. Even though it was the middle of winter and cold in her car, Neli was determined to reassure her son that she would be a constant and permanent presence in his life. She read a book and waited out the school day.

On the second day Jaxon came out to her car. Neli rolled down the window and Jaxon said, "It's okay, mommy. You can go home now. I know you are coming back."

Neli, 35, who works as a food and beverage director in Toronto, and her husband John, also 35, who works in the IT industry in Mississauga, have since adopted two more children who had become crown wards through CCASH — a then four-year-old boy and two year-old girl who are biological siblings. These adoptions meant life for this Hamilton couple has changed dramatically, becoming richer and more filled with love than they could have ever imagined. Adoption was the right choice for them because they wanted to create a family that would be permanent, as opposed to the more temporary nature of foster

care. "These kids aren't used to permanency," says Neli. "We remind them that there is nothing they can do that would ever make us give them back. It's a constant reinforcement each and every day."

Neli and John,

who have been married eight years, longed for a family but struggled with infertility. After adopting Jaxon, Neli became pregnant with twins but suffered the heartbreak of losing one of those twins at 12 weeks and another, a daughter, born premature at 25 weeks, who died three days later. "If I hadn't had Jaxon, I don't know what I would have done," she says of that difficult time. "He pulled me out of my funk and gave me a reason to get up everyday. He was amazing at my daughter's funeral — he felt the loss too because he thought he was going to have a sister. He put his hand in mine and said, 'It's okay mommy. It's okay.' And he was only seven."

While the majority of children who come into the care of the CCASH are eventually reunited with their birth families, about 25-35 children who become crown wards are available for adoption through CCASH each year, according to Laurie Gorchinsky, the agency's supervisor of adoption services. Most are six years old or younger, although there is also a need for permanent homes for older children. "Every child wants someone they belong to for life," she says. Deanne Smiley, a CCASH adoption worker, agrees. "For children who are adopted, it means they belong somewhere. They don't have to move into another foster home again. It means they have people they can count on and they don't have to worry about the future," she says. "For many of these children, especially the ones who are older, there is a lot of limbo in their lives — they aren't sure who loves them or where they are going to live — there's so much uncertainty. Adoption puts all that to rest."

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## Adoption Continued

There are many reasons people choose to adopt through CCASH, explains Laurie. Some, have difficulty conceiving or have secondary infertility (they aren't able to have more than one biological child). Some foster parents choose to adopt after becoming connected to a child they are caring for. Others have a child in their life — perhaps a grandchild or niece or nephew — whose biological parents are unable to provide the necessary care and they want to raise the child. Others already have several biological children but feel called to care for additional children.

The CCASH supports these families with a skilled and experienced adoption team that offers a range of services intended to provide prospective adoptive parents with information, guidance and support. This includes an intensive PRIDE (Parenting Resources Information Development Education) training program for three hours a week over a period of three months, a SAFE home study process, assistance in creating a suitable match and post placement counselling and support. Sometimes subsidies are available to assist with the additional financial costs of caring for these children.

Some children who become available for adoption may have risk factors where the long term impact is unknown — such as prenatal exposure to alcohol — or other medical issues that require extra care. “We always have a need for people who are open to adopting children who may not fit into that box of the ‘perfect’ child,” says the CCASH’s Deanne. While it isn’t always easy to find adoptive parents who are willing to care for these more challenging children, there are times when the right person steps forward. She points to the

example of a seven-year-old girl who had significant developmental delays and medical issues. “We were struggling to find a family who was able to take on the challenge of caring for her.” Then a previous teacher of this girl — a couple who had a number biological children — came forward to adopt her. “This child is now thriving in that home,” says Deanne. “This really does make me believe in divine intervention and the idea that there is a match for every child.”

Neli certainly believes her family found the right match with the three children she and her husband have adopted. She still remembers the first day she met Jaxon, at the home of his foster parents. “I wanted to be a mother more than anything else and when he opened the door and I saw him for the first time, it felt exactly like a doctor handing me a newborn baby. This was my kid.”

Of course, there were some adjustments along the way. Jaxon was anxious at first and missed his foster parents, whom he’d grown attached to. In addition to experiencing separation anxiety when he went to school, he had difficulty sleeping at night and Neli would sleep beside him on the floor. “Once he got into a routine where he felt safe and secure, things were fine. Today he sleeps like a rock,” she says.

In some CCASH adoption cases, birth families are invited to partner in the adoption process by sharing their stories and information, meeting adoptive families and engaging in open arrangements that may include the non-identifying exchange of letters and photos, or other direct contact between the two families. Jaxon’s birth

mother had him at age 15 and, with very little family support, was unable to care for him. “We got to meet her and came to understand that she had had a hard life and no one had really looked out for her,” says Neli. Today, the relationship between Jaxon and his birth mother is limited to the occasional exchange of letters.

About a year and a half after adopting Jaxon, the couple was anxious to expand their family — and Jaxon wanted a sibling — so they adopted a sibling pair, Ryan and Aubrie, now six and three, who had both been in foster care. Once again, they experienced some challenges as the children adjusted to their new life. Ryan became extremely attached to Neli. “If he couldn’t see me at all times he would experience the fear that I would go away,” she recalls, noting that she took some time off work to stay home with him until he started Grade 1. Aubrie was very attached to her foster parents and missed them. The little girl had no trouble falling asleep at night but because Neli had looked forward to cuddling a toddler, she made a point of rocking Aubrie in her lap and singing to her for 20 minutes every night before putting her to sleep in her crib. “It was wonderful to have that cuddling time — it really was more for me but it was good for her too,” she says. Neli describes her husband John as a “very easygoing guy” who “loves kids and always wanted to be a dad.” Although he lives with MS and isn’t able to be as active with his children as he would like, he coaches from the sidelines as they kick a ball around playing soccer and also spends time teaching them how to use various tools to build things in the garage.



## Adoption Continued

Neli notes that while many prospective adoptive parents will consider international adoption in the hope of raising a child from birth, she encourages them to also think about local adoption. "If you look in your own backyard you will see that there are plenty of children who need someone." She also wants to allay concerns adoptive parents may have about adopting children who are older. "People sometimes fear that they won't be able to bond with an older child and they worry about what the child may have experienced in the past. But I urge people not to overlook these older children. It can be ten times more rewarding when an older child accepts you," she says. "It's the best feeling ever when your child makes a conscious choice to love you and accept you as their parents, even though they've been removed from the only life they've known. The first time they say 'I love you' and wrap their arms around you, well it's just incredible."

"If a family thinks adoption may be a possibility for them, we encourage them to explore that possibility more fully by contacting us," says Laurie of CCASH. "We will support and educate them all along the way. We suggest coming to an information night as a good way to start finding out more."

## Fostering Continued

"No one can do this job on their own," says Hewitt, explaining that workers are available to assist foster parents in all kinds of ways, whether by addressing a particular behavioral issue or setting up medical appointments for a child. The agency is also currently in the process of developing a foster parent mentoring program so that foster parents who have dealt with particular challenges can be on call to advise and support each other. Foster parents also receive remuneration from CCASH to cover the additional household expense of having a child in their home. Additional expenses related to recreational activities, school supplies and clothing are also covered by the agency.

Under the guidelines of the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, foster families can care for up to four children in their home at a time (in the case of infants and toddlers, only two children under age two may be placed in any one foster home). Some foster parents are able to manage multiple children in their home. Hewitt points to one foster family that only takes in adolescent girls. "They have three girls in high school, all of whom made the honour roll even though when they were first placed in the home they weren't doing as well in school as they could have been. They've been provided with a lot of love and support." But she adds there is no obligation for foster parents to care for more children than they can handle. "A lot of people think if you foster you have to take on more than one child but that isn't true. If you can care for even one child it can make an

incredible difference in that child's life," she says. There are also opportunities for families to have significant yet more limited involvement by providing relief care to long-term foster parents on weekends or during holiday time in the summer. Offering relief care is also a good way for those interested in helping children and their families gain some experience of what it would be like to become a foster parent.

For Lori and her family, fostering has been a life changing experience, one that has not only had a positive impact on the many foster children she has cared for, but also on her four biological children. Although it's been challenging at times for them to share their parents' attention and energy with the other children who have come into their home, Lori believes her kids are stronger for the experience of being part of a foster family. "It's made them more empathetic — and they don't take for granted the things they have in life, especially the stability of a loving family environment."

Lori often speaks to prospective foster parents at information nights hosted by CCASH and her message is always the same: "I tell people that we aren't any different from any other busy family and we didn't go into this with any special background in child psychology," she says. "What motivates us to foster is a love of kids and a concern for their wellbeing. Your house may already seem busy and full, but often you'll find there is room in your heart to care for one more child."



## Report from the **President**



GIULIA GAMBACORTA  
President

The past year has been one of many accomplishments at the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton. This report will highlight a sample of these accomplishments brought about through the work of our dedicated staff in fulfilling our mission.

Building on our strategic priority, "parents are the best parents they can be", the work of Protection Services enabled over 90% of our children and youth to remain safe within their families while support was provided to their parents. This resulted in a small percentage of youth needing alternate caregivers.

Our active kinship program enabled children and youth to remain within their communities and sustain important relationships. During the past year 132 children and youth were cared for by a trusted member of their family, church or community circle.

In helping children and youth achieve permanency, 29 adoptions were finalized and 18 custody orders were completed.

During the past year we reinforced the critical role our resource families play in providing a safe and nurturing environment for children in care through the "Strengthening the Child Caregiver's Team" project. This project brought staff and resource parents together, reaffirming and enhancing their partnership in meeting the needs of children in care.

Preparing our young people for adulthood and enabling them to become contributing members of our community is an ongoing organizational priority. We completed a review of our programs to ensure our young people are successfully transitioning from foster care to adulthood.

Recommendations from this review guided the further development of some of our programs, including teaching life skills in areas such as financial management, meal preparation and health care. We continue to offer a weekly drop-in program for young adults who are living independently; providing them with an opportunity to come together, share a meal, reflect spiritually and support each other in their life's journey.

We proudly supported more than 20 young people in the Society's care who continue their education in post secondary programs and skills training.

In striving for service excellence we measured our progress and results in several different ways, including through the voices of the children, youth and families we serve. We sought feedback regarding their experiences with the agency, which tells us how we are doing in achieving our goals, particularly the "Brighter Futures" outcomes. Through our Balanced Scorecard, we monitored specific performance and outcome measures for each



## Financial Report 2014/2015

of the strategic priorities, including provincial Performance Indicators.

Our commitment to accountability and transparency included preparing for public reporting of provincial performance indicators which will lead to community members becoming more knowledgeable about the work that we do.

Our Information Technology strategy resulted in the successful implementation of several systems and processes building on our objective of access from anywhere, at any time, from any device.

We celebrated the CCASH Team, recognizing the value of one and the power of many when aligned on purpose.

"It takes a community to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children" is one of the agency's guiding beliefs. Community partnerships were evident in the majority of our services and programs during the past year, from the Leadership Development camp for youth in partnership with CYO, to protection workers located at Hamilton Police Services, Child Abuse Branch, twelve Equal Opportunities schools of the HWDCSB, two French Catholic schools of the Centre De Santé Communautaire Hamilton/Niagara and two Family Health Teams. We firmly believe that a community based service model supports the best possible outcomes for the people we serve.

Our strong community ties were evident in the work of the Board of Directors which ensured the

perspective and needs of our community were clearly reflected in decision making and policy direction. The Board's dedication to its community exemplifies a core strength of the Ontario child welfare system - the local governance model.

Our friends and supporters made possible many value-added programs and services. This included a memorable camp experience for 205 children whose families were receiving protection services, post-secondary educational costs for young people in care, responding to families' emergency needs and providing sacramental and graduation gifts. As well, 446 families and young people received Christmas hampers. Parents and youth were supported in pursuing their educational goals through our bursary and scholarship program.

Our caring community expressed their commitment to the Society's work by participating in our annual Serendipity Auction and Peder Larsen Golf Tournament through corporate sponsorships, generous gifts, organizing third party events and by providing many in-kind donations.

The gift of time was evident in the unique and invaluable role of volunteers who support the Society's work.

The leadership of Bishop Crosby within the Diocese of Hamilton, his ongoing support of our work and his spiritual guidance nurtured and enriched our faith based work.

Much has been achieved together and we look to the future with hope.

REVENUES	2014/2015
Province of Ontario Allocation	25,067,522
Other Revenue	1,734,869
	<b>26,802,391</b>
Salaries & Wages	11,602,090
Benefits	3,290,204
Travel	795,512
Training & Recruitment	105,522
Building Occupancy	421,680
Professional Services - Non Client Related	159,493
Program Expenses	347,894
Boarding Rate Payments	6,957,516
Professional Services - Client Related	441,099
Client Personal Needs	865,341
Health and Related	509,497
Financial Assistance Provided	25,794
Promotion/Publicity	64,037
Office Administration	110,578
Targeted Subsidy	205,200
Miscellaneous	306,356
Technology	279,799
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>26,487,612</b>
<b>Excess Revenue over Expenditures before Amort.</b>	<b>314,779</b>
Amortization	116,874
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expense</b>	<b>197,905</b>



## 26<sup>th</sup> Annual CCASH Serendipity Auction

# *Christmas in* **CANDY LAND**

The Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton cordially invites you to attend our 26th annual Serendipity Auction "Christmas in Candy Land"

**Thursday, November 19, 2015**

Carmen's Banquet Centre  
1520 Stone Church Road East

Reception and Silent Auction Bidding begins at 6:30 p.m.

All proceeds to benefit the CCASH Youth Opportunities Fund that helps our agency as we carry out our work to help create opportunities for our children and youth that will enrich their lives and help them reach their full potential.

**Tickets are \$85 each or a table of 10 for \$800.**

To reserve your table, please contact Lisa Hostein at 905-525-2012 ext. 3256.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. For sponsorship information please contact Lisa Hostein at 905-525-2012 ext. 3256.



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Special thanks to our 2015 Presenting Sponsor, Crystal Homes

