



brighter futures

Catholic
Children's Aid Society
of Hamilton



Société d'aide à l'enfance
catholique
de Hamilton



New Child, Youth and Family Services Act increases age of protection from 16 to 18 years

On January 1, 2018, the Province of Ontario will be increasing the age of protection from 16 to 18 years, which means that our agency will be able to work with children and their families until they turn 18 to ensure their safety and well-being.

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services, led by Minister Michael Coteau, is making this change as part of a larger overhaul of the legislation that governs child protection in Ontario. The new Child, Youth and Family Services Act (CYFSA), to be proclaimed in the spring 2018, puts young people at the centre of decisions about their care, supports more accountable, responsive and accessible child and youth services and strengthens oversight for children's aid societies and licensed residential services.

By increasing the age of protection to 18, it is estimated that an additional 1,600 youth across the province will have access to protection services within the first full year of implementation of the Act.

According to Rocco Gizzarelli, Executive Director for the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton, "By increasing the age of protection to include all children under the age of

18 years, 16- and 17-year-olds who are in need of protection will be eligible for the full range of child protection services which will give them a better opportunity to get the support they need, reach their full potential, and have better outcomes as they transition to adulthood"

WE ARE SWITCHING TO AN ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER!

We want to save costs AND improve our ability to keep you informed about issues impacting children in Hamilton.

Please give us your email address so we can keep in touch with you, at:

WWW.HAMILTONCCAS.ON.CA

Peder Larsen Golf Tournament

Our annual Peder Larsen Care Beyond Belief Golf Tournament raised \$37,000 in support of our programs and clients! We are so grateful to everyone who came to Copetown Woods Golf Course on a beautiful sunny day to play golf and to bid on some magnificent silent auction items.

Pictured here is Carol Larsen – Peder Larsen's wife – with her daughter Amanda and granddaughter Penny Ruth. Carol ensures that the



tournament retains Peder's spirit of care and compassion. He was a strong supporter of our work, and so we are thrilled that so many others have stepped up to show Care Beyond Belief.

Special thanks to our presenting sponsor, Bergman Preyra LLP, and especially to Ron, Ian and Al Preyra. Thanks also to the many other groups and individuals who contributed.

Check our website and our Facebook and Twitter accounts for an announcement about the the date and location of next year's tournament! Find us at www.hamiltonccas.on.ca and @HamiltonCCAS.

Join us for our Annual Serendipity Auction

You won't want to miss our annual Serendipity Auction, as we bring the fantasy and glamour of The Nutcracker to this year's event.

Enjoy good food and conversation, and have the chance to win some incredible silent auction items. But most importantly, your involvement will support the children, youth and families that Hamilton CCAS serves.

Tickets are \$95 each, or \$900 for a table of ten. Contact Lisa Hostein at 905-525-2012 x. 3256 or lisa.hostein@hamiltonccas.on.ca to reserve your ticket or table.

Special thanks to our Presenting Sponsor, the Diocese of Hamilton. And thanks also to the many other individuals and companies that have shown their support.



THANK YOU SO MUCH to a generous community

Fall is the season when Hamilton CCAS asks the community to provide support for its clients and programs. And the community responds with generosity and kindness!

We are grateful to all our sponsors, donors, participants, and volunteers for their contributions towards the welfare of children, youth, and families in our community.

Help children, youth, & families to celebrate the holidays with a Christmas Hamper

Every year, we find out what items the families and youth in our care would like to receive for Christmas, and we match them with an individual or a group from the community who puts together a personalized Christmas Hamper. Our

clients enjoy the gifts they receive, and they also appreciate the love and compassion that goes into each Hamper.

Please consider putting together a Hamper, or contributing toys and gift cards that can be included in a Hamper.

Contact Lisa at 905-525-2012 x. 3256 or at lisa.hostein@hamiltonccas.on.ca



OCTOBER IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

SPEAK UP FOR KIDS

Children's Aid Can Help

October was Child Abuse Prevention Month across the province, and even though the month is over, we still need to remain vigilant to protect children.

There are 5 types of child abuse:

- Neglect
- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Exposure to intimate partner violence
- Sexual abuse

Neglect can be caused by the inability of parents or caregivers to meet a child's basic needs, including food, shelter, clothing, education, supervision, medical care, and safe surroundings.

Dress Purple Day on October 24 was the focal point for the month's activities. Students and staff in three-quarters of schools in the English and French Catholic school boards in Hamilton dressed in purple to show their support. Curriculum-based materials ensured that Dress Purple Day was a learning opportunity for all.

Many of our foster families dressed purple, including the family pictured here showing off their Child Abuse Prevention Month t-shirts at Thanksgiving dinner. Even City Hall was dressed in purple on the evening of the 24th, in a show of support from our municipal government.

Thanks to everyone who spoke up for kids during October. If you suspect that a child or youth is a victim of abuse, call us at 905-525-2012 (after-hours 905-522-8053). We'll assess the concern to determine what's needed.



Ici on parle français!

Until recently, Francophones faced significant language barriers to access child welfare services in Hamilton. Hamilton is one of 25 Ontario cities with a high percentage of Francophones - over 9,000 according to the most recent census. Hamilton CCAS made the decision to boost bilingualism at the agency and make greater efforts to reach out to French schools and organizations in their own language, all with the goal of making it easier for Francophones to access our services.

We formed a partnership with the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton, Family and Children's Services Niagara, two French-language school boards, and a francophone community health centre to improve the delivery of French language services for francophone children and their families in the Hamilton-Niagara region. With funding from the Canada-Ontario Agreement and the Trillium Foundation, this partnership led to the development of:

- a 1-800 number for French language services
- child protection worker program in French schools

- an enhanced effort to recruit French-language staff, foster parents and volunteers

More recently, we expanded our partnership to include children's aid societies in London-Middlesex, Windsor-Essex, and Chatham-Kent, working together to recruit French-speaking staff. Funding from the Canada-Ontario Agreement made this possible.

Our Board of Directors is actively engaged in this work with a designated French Language Services representative.

Our next step is to apply for designation under the French Language Services Act of Ontario, which will acknowledge our ongoing commitment to provide French-language service on an active, permanent basis.

To access French-language child welfare services in Hamilton and Niagara, call 1-855-550-3571 during regular business hours.

CONTACT US

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our mission

Guided by Catholic values
and teachings we serve
children and youth within the
Hamilton community by
protecting their safety and
well-being, strengthening
their families and nurturing
lifelong relationships.



our vision

Safe and Thriving
Children and Youth

Empowered Families

Stronger Communities



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Message from the Executive Director

ROCCO GIZZARELLI

Greetings! Like so many organizations today, the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton is undergoing significant change. As you read on the cover of this newsletter, our protection mandate for children is changing to include 16- and 17-year-olds. We're happy about this increase, as it's clearly in the best interests of our children and youth. Research indicates that older youth who have been abused or neglected have an increased risk of experiencing homelessness, mental health issues, substance use, human trafficking and decreased employment prospects. We will now be able to do more to support them.

We will also be launching the Child Protection Information Network (CPIN) — a province-wide, information system that will link all of Ontario's CASs. Preparing for CPIN has involved many hours of careful planning, which is spanning all areas of the organization for implementation April 2018.

Fortunately, what doesn't change is the generosity and support of this community. As you saw in the centre pages of this newsletter, our fundraising events continue to dazzle in both execution and results. And our Christmas Hamper program succeeds in bringing the generosity of Christmas into homes that might otherwise struggle to find something to celebrate. On behalf of our clients, thank you for your kindness.



Please include me among your family of supporters!

Here is my gift of

- ☐ \$35
☐ \$50
☐ \$75
☐ \$100
☐ Other \$ _____

OR

I would like to
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Giving Program
with a donation of
\$ _____/month.

Please include a
void cheque or
complete credit card
information top right.

Please make cheque payable to:

Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton

OR payment by ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX

Card No. _____

Expiry _____

Signature _____

Please complete the following and return this form in the
envelope provided.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Donate online at www.hamiltonccas.on.ca

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