

2005 Annual Report

The logo for FOOTPRINTS features the word "FOOTPRINTS" in a light blue, sans-serif font. Above the letter "O" in "FOOT", there is a stylized graphic of a foot stepping forward, with a blue footprint and a darker blue outline of the foot.

dfunitedfootprints@rogers.com

Mission Statement

FOOTPRINTS is a local, volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the provision of respite care for families with children who have Autism, Asperger's Syndrome or Pervasive Development Disorder.

The FOOTPRINTS program offers respite, not therapy, in a safe and happy environment. It has been designed solely for the benefit of the afflicted children and for the relief of their families.

March 2005

**FOOTPRINTS
1066 Dunbarton Rd.
Pickering, ON
905-839-7271**

FOOTPRINTS: Respite Services for families dealing with autism

FOOTPRINTS is a non-profit, social service organization providing respite services for families with children who have Autism, Asperger's Syndrome or Pervasive Development Disorder living in Pickering, Ajax, Uxbridge and Scarborough. Partnering with similar organizations in the Durham area such as Kerry's Place and the Autism Society Ontario, FOOTPRINTS began offering respite services in 2004 under the supervision of a trained and qualified

part-time coordinator. The program focuses on providing safe and easily accessible respite services that meet the needs of the child and families, reducing waitlists for those seeking this service and fostering a community of volunteers dedicated to providing a happy, safe and fun place for these children.

FOOTPRINTS provides respite, not therapy programs. With approximately one in every 200 children affected by Autism, the need for local respite services

is a priority for those within the autism community. In the Durham region, only one other respite program exists and its location in Oshawa, Ontario poses difficulty for many families in Pickering and Ajax to access its services.

Led by a Steering Committee and supported by a core group of dedicated volunteers, FOOTPRINTS is meeting the needs of families requiring respite services in Durham and surrounding areas.

MEET THE PROGRAM CO-ORDINATOR: Denise Wilson

Denise Wilson has been employed at FOOTPRINTS since November 2004. She is a qualified Crisis Prevention and Intervention Instructor, is certified in Emergency First Aid and CPR and is also qualified as a Child

Youth Worker.

After earning her diploma in Community Social Service Work, Denise is continuing her education at Trent University, working towards a BA in psychology.

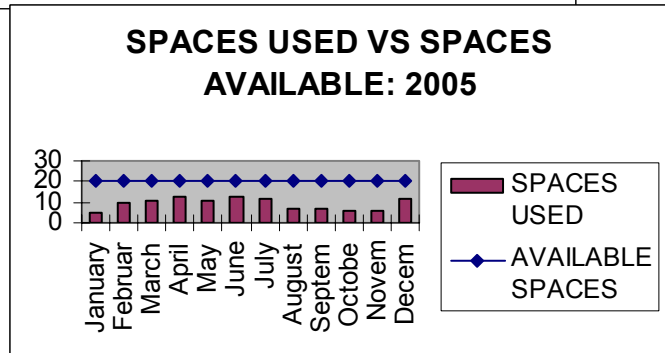
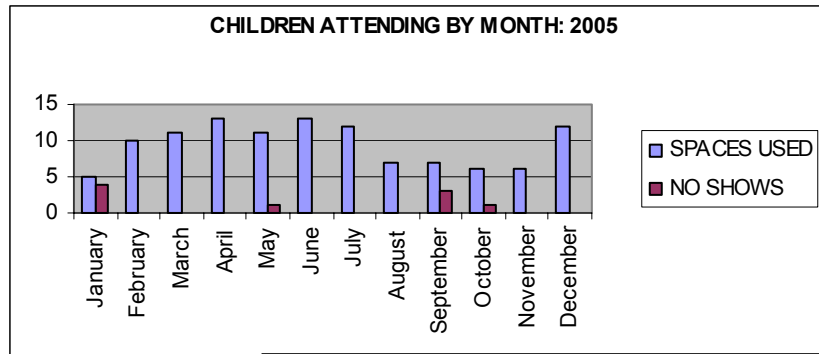
She has developed an *Introduction to Autism* course that she presents to all new FOOTPRINTS volunteers. Feel free to contact Denise for more info about the FOOTPRINTS program

Serving the community in 2005

In 2005, FOOTPRINTS provided respite services to an average of eight (8) families per month. Families consider FOOTPRINTS to be a program that meets its goals of providing relief to parents while ensuring the children who attend are “safe, happy and want to return”.

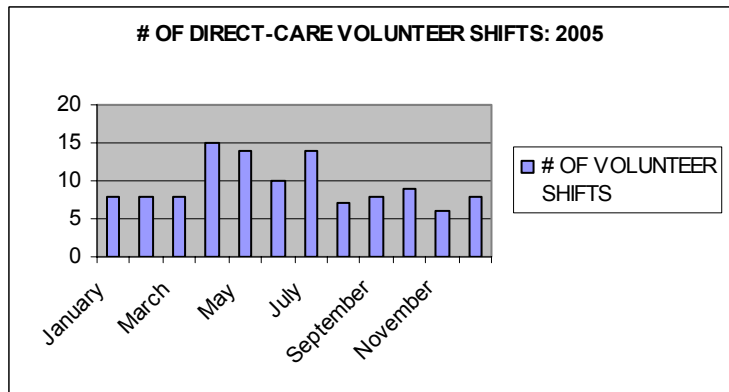
Adjustments have been made over the past year in the scheduled times of respite session, especially extending the Saturday session by one hour, and this has proved to be very helpful to families.

In 2006, the Steering Committee is committed to “marketing” the program within the local community and to increase the number of families served per month.



Volunteers: Working one-on-one with the kids

Volunteers are key to FOOTPRINTS ability to provide respite services to families in need. A core group of volunteers underwent training in both Crisis Prevention & Intervention and First-Aid to help them prepare for their role in the respite program. Volunteers are asked to provide a minimum of one-shift per month to the program and are matched by the program coordinator to the child they will support.



Impact of Respite Care for Local Families

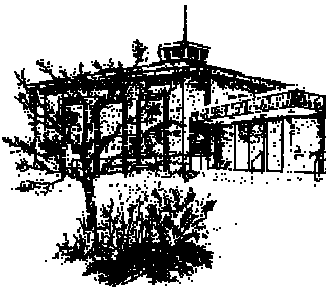
For many families, raising a child with an autism spectrum disorder means being “on” 24/7. FOOTPRINTS mission is to provide families with a few hours of respite, allowing for family time or simply providing some “me” time for parents.

The impact FOOTPRINTS has had on families is typical of the following : “With a special needs child, it becomes difficult to find a baby-sitter. Thanks to FOOTPRINTS, my wife and I are able to have a few hours to run errands, shop or just have precious time on our own. [Our

child] loves FOOTPRINTS. It provides a safe, loving environment to play with others. It allows [our child] an environment in which to generalize the skills [our child] has learned at home in her therapy program.”

THANKS FOR FUNDING FOOTPRINTS!

On behalf of the children and families to whom FOOTPRINTS provides respite services, a very big THANK YOU to all our supporters in 2005! It the generosity of those who believe in FOOTPRINTS that allows us to provide a safe and happy environment for children affected with autism spectrum disorders.



Foundation grant (see article below). In addition to Trillium, the United Way of Ajax-Pickering-Uxbridge provided funding to assist in offsetting operating costs. Barbara Famin of this branch has also offered the Steering Committee invaluable support and advise since the programs inception

United Church has embraced FOOTPRINTS, donating the physical space for the program; in addition, congregation members serve on the Steering Committee and as child-care volunteers.

FOOTPRINTS would also like to thank The Georgina Foundation for funding the purchase of a two-way radio and the UCW of Dunbarton-Fairport for providing funding for program materials.

In 2005, FOOTPRINTS was the recipient of an Ontario Trillium

The congregation of

Dunbarton-Fairport



United Way of Ajax • Pickering • Uxbridge

Ontario Trillium Foundation Supports FOOTPRINTS

In early 2005, FOOTPRINTS submitted a grant application to The Ontario Trillium Foundation. The purpose of the grant was two-fold: to replace the rooftop furnace unit in the respite space for FOOTPRINTS and monies to hire an outside consulting firm to assist in the creation of a four-year Strategic Plan.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation approved the application and in August 2005 a celebration was held at Dunbarton-Fairport United Church (home of FOOTPRINTS) as a representative from Trillium presented FOOTPRINTS Steering Committee Chair, Corrine Brook-Allred with the requested

funding!

A huge thank you to Trillium for their support in FOOTPRINTS!



Looking forward to 2006

In 2006, FOOTPRINTS will be implementing the recommendations and suggestions of CMCS Consulting. CMCS was retained by the organization to create a future plan for FOOTPRINTS that incorporated two key elements. The plan describes FOOTPRINTS four (4) years in

the future (i.e. in 2010) and lays out the steps needed to make that vision a reality. In the process, it explores a range of issues including program, children served, staffing, facilities, finance and governance.

The CMCS plan will also be used as a basis for future funding requests.

In 2006, FOOTPRINTS is poised to make great strides forward in providing needed respite services to those families dealing with children affected by autism.