



 **HOPE** *for*  
**CHILDREN**  
FOUNDATION

**Our Children, Our Hope**  
Annual Report 2008-2009

# Message from the President



We live in challenging times. For those who are experiencing family upheaval, uncertainty about the future can be overwhelming. Social stressors such as the current economic recession, lack of affordable daycare and housing, as well as youth underemployment have forced many families into poverty. The needs of the children

and youth we serve are becoming increasingly complex and the pressure on social services is growing.

In the midst of these challenges, I continue to be inspired by the stories of hope I hear from staff, volunteers and families. The Hope for Children Foundation provides much needed support and encouragement to vulnerable children and youth. Staff, volunteers, funders and donors all make this possible.

I'd like to introduce you to some of the children and youth we have helped through the Hope for Children Foundation.

- » Eric is one of our many youth who have chosen to give back to their community after receiving help and support from the Hope for Children Foundation. He is looking forward to starting his career as a teacher

next fall. In the meantime, he is busy working and tutoring other foster children in his family.

- » David has been able to find his true calling through the support and encouragement he has received through the Pape Adolescent Resource Centre and the Hope for Children Foundation's Scholarship Program.
- » Jacqueline is on the road to her chosen career with the support of the Education Advocacy Program.

Read more about these remarkable young people in this year's report.

**This past year we have been able to offer hope and encouragement to many families in need. Direct support was given to:**

- » 198 families through Emergency Grants to meet critical needs.
- » 83 youth received scholarships for post-secondary education.
- » 822 families received Christmas presents and support through our Adopt-a-Family program.
- » 400 families and 200 youth received Christmas food vouchers.

- » 48 children benefitted from Sacramental Preparation grants or spiritual development care packages.
- » 209 children participated in a summer camp experience.
- » Over 100 youth received help transitioning from foster care to independent living through the services of PARC (Pape Adolescent Resource Centre).
- » 53 youth received Start-up Kits to support their transition to independent living.
- » 51 children received special recognition awards for academic excellence.

We all wish for better economic times, especially for those who have suffered recent setbacks. In these times, I am especially grateful for the steadfast support of our donors, volunteers, staff and Board members, who continue to give hope to the children and youth in our community who are in need of protection.

Sincerely,

Peter Barnicke  
President

## VISION

The Hope for Children Foundation supports brighter futures for children and youth in need of protection, to strengthen their families, and to help them realize their hopes, dreams and potential.

## MISSION

The Hope for Children Foundation raises funds to support programs that strive to create strong and healthy futures for children, youth and families served by the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto.

## WE VALUE:

- » Empowerment
- » Independence and Self-sufficiency
- » Self-worth and Confidence
- » Positive Outcomes for Individuals and Communities

## Board of Directors

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## Staff

Mary L. Bowyer, CFRE  
**Executive Director**

Seta Ghougassian  
**Senior Development Officer**

Patricia Ward  
**Community Development Officer**

Stephanie Baker  
**Development Assistant**

### Some of our Board members pictured below, L-R:

Dan Bain, Franca Bianchini, Edward J. Mooney, Mary Hatch, Beverly Williams, Eric Leopold, and Peter Barnicke.



# Emergency & Enhancement Grants

## Helping families when they need it most

The Catholic Children's Aid Society (CCAS) served more than 22,000 children and youth last year. A great number of its cases involved families who live in poverty and depend on the Hope for Children Foundation's Emergency Grants Program to assist them with critical needs, as well as funding for educational and extra-curricular programs:

## The Summer Camp Program—Learning about life and gaining confidence:

"My sister Ashley and I were nervous about going to Camp Steptones. We didn't know what it was all about. On our way to catch the camp bus, I kept asking my mom, "Why do I have to go?"

The first couple of days I was homesick. But then I really started to enjoy myself. I loved swimming and canoeing, playing games at night like Flashlight Tag, doing arts and crafts. I even made friends. My favourite activity was jumping off the dock into the lake. By the time I got off the bus on the way home, the first thing I said was, "Mommy, it was so wonderful! Can I go back next year?"

— Chantel

## Born to dance:

"Robin loves to dance! She is always moving to music and gets so excited about performing. Recently I lost my job and I could no longer afford to register Robin in the dance classes she loves. But with a grant from the Hope for Children Foundation, Robin has been able to re-join her friends in dance class and experience the joy of practicing and performing again. Thank you for giving Robin this wonderful opportunity."

— Robin's mother



# Emergency & Enhancement Grants (cont'd)

## Open hands, open heart

"My son Kevin was born four months ago with a large hole in his heart. It has been so hard getting to the many doctor's appointments he has needed. And on top of that, Kevin and I have been living in a shelter because I am afraid of my husband's violent temper.

With a grant from the Hope for Children Foundation I was able to purchase a TTC Metro pass to take Kevin to all his appointments. Kevin recently underwent open heart surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children, and I was so grateful to be able to visit him every day. I now use the Metro pass to take Kevin to his follow-up appointments. Thank you for helping me take care of my little boy!"

— Kevin's mother

## From offside to onside

"Daniel has always had trouble socializing with other children. His father and I try to reinforce positive behaviour, but he often gets discouraged about not having friends. After he was diagnosed with ADHD, we began to understand him better. Daniel loves hockey but was unable to participate in organized sports because of the cost involved. His father was recently laid off from his job, and my part-time salary is barely enough to cover basic expenses.

With help from the Hope for Children Foundation, Daniel has been able to realize his dream of playing on a hockey team. He's really good at it and gets lots of praise, so his self-esteem has improved. I'm so grateful that he can participate in a team sport and build his social skills. And Daniel is thrilled that he got his dream opportunity —to play goalie!"

— Daniel's mother

To support our  
Emergency Grants Program,  
please visit us online:  
[www.hopeforchildren.ca](http://www.hopeforchildren.ca)



# Scholarship Program

## From student to teacher:

“Getting a scholarship from the Hope for Children Foundation has allowed me to realize my dream of becoming a teacher. I recently graduated from teacher’s college and look forward to being in the classroom. The Hope for Children Foundation has always been there to support my hopes and dreams. It’s given me so much, from summer camp experiences, music lessons, to scholarships for university, and now I can give back. I currently tutor the other foster children in my family. I love working with children and have found my passion in teaching.”

— Eric  
HFC Scholarship Recipient

# Education Advocacy

## Giving direction to achieve dreams

“After high school it was really overwhelming to think about all the possible choices for college and university. With the help of CCAS’s Education Advocate, Luz Bascunan, I was able to focus on how to be successful. Luz helped me examine the options available. She did the research on which programs would be best for me, while considering my abilities and interests. I also heard how other students were handling the pressure of making such an importance choice, and that it was normal to feel this pressure. I am now majoring in Communications at McMaster University and I love both the academic and social life there. Thanks to Luz, I know where I’m headed! I’m hoping to have a career in fashion, focusing on communications and public relations.”

— Jacqueline  
HFC Scholarship Recipient

Since 1986, the Hope for Children Foundation has awarded more than \$1.2 million in scholarships and special achievement grants. For more information about our Scholarship Program or to donate, please contact us at 416-395-1634.



2008 Scholarship Recipients

# Pape Adolescent Resource Centre (PARC)

## Building foundations for youth to transition to independence

By age 18, when our youth are expected to leave foster care, many are not ready for independence. Some are still in high school or preparing to begin their post-secondary education and are expected to continue their education while living on their own with little financial, family or social support. With your help, we're able to assist youth in becoming successful:

"With the help of CCAS and PARC, I've learned to make the most of being out on my own. The activities and educational events at PARC prepared me to tackle my studies and direct my dreams.

I was worried about going back to school—I doubted my ability to achieve good grades and handle the work load. In the first three months of the Pre-Health & Science Program, it was really difficult to get back into the routine of academic studies, especially doing homework. My brain really had to get used to being in school again.

After that little bump in the road, I became quite successful! In fact, my biology teacher became very fond of me. I ended up receiving the highest mark of the class—96%. Another favourite class was Physics.

I dedicated myself to reading the textbooks, doing my homework and participating in class. In the first semester, I was a straight-A student. These marks really inspired me to continue on, and gave me confidence in my academic skills. I came to realize that I could do really well in school.

In the end, I finished the Pre-Health & Science program again with almost all A's. This September I am entering a program directly related to my career choice. I was accepted into the Paramedic program.

Once I become a Paramedic, I plan to take an Aero-Medical course to become a Flight Paramedic. I want to work as a Paramedic in a helicopter.

Thank you to all my friends at CCAS, the Foundation and PARC for making my dream career possible!"

— David  
CCAS and PARC Youth



PARC is a home away from home, with workers to assist and guide us through our joys and sorrows, our hopes and dreams. Without PARC, I am not sure where some of us would be.

— CCAS and PARC Youth

“ As co-chair of EPP for several years, I truly enjoyed the energy and enthusiasm of our staff in raising funds to support our children.

I really believe that when you create opportunities for socializing and fun, you invite more participation. The wide variety of EPP events throughout the year are a testament to our staff's commitment.

— Nadia Theiner  
Child Protection / Children's  
Services Worker

## Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon

This event really puts the fun in fundraising! It engages the CCAS/Hope for Children communities, staff, volunteers and friends to join together in the walk/run to support services for children and youth. Last year we raised more than \$30,000, surpassing our goal by 50%!

We thank our corporate partners for supporting our team in 2008:

- » Morneau Sobeco
- » Via Rail

## Employee Pledge Plan (EPP)

Our Employee Pledge Plan (EPP) Committee—a joint initiative between the Hope for Children Foundation and CCAS Employees—organized various fundraising events to support child abuse prevention programs, such as summer camp, college and university scholarships, as well as emergency grants for families in crisis.

Last year's successful campaign generated a significant increase in new EPP members, bringing total staff pledges to \$50,000. That's amazing!



“ Last year's Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon was an amazing demonstration of the connection between CCAS and the Hope for Children Foundation. So many staff participated in raising funds for the Foundation, and brought their friends and families too.

— Nadia Theiner  
Child Protection / Children's Services Worker

# Christmas Wishes

## Making the holidays happy: Heart to Hand

A committed group of volunteers works with CCAS staff year-round to identify families in need of groceries and other necessities. It's a big task, working with CCAS staff to identify families, determining their needs, mobilizing members to purchase the items and drop them off so they can be packaged and delivered to the family directly.

At Christmas, this group sponsored 300 families with gift certificates for groceries, non-perishable food items, and family gifts including warm clothing. Each year, Heart to Hand members include more schools and community organizations in their Christmas program. Thanks to their outreach, several elementary schools are now "adopting" CCAS families during the holiday season.

In addition to the annual holiday programs, Heart to Hand also coordinates fundraising drives for diapers, school supplies, household items and toys.

Since 2001, the program has helped more than 2,000 children and 900 families served by the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto. Their mission is simply to 'give from their hearts into the hands of families in need.'

## Telling Our Stories Online

### Our new website helps users connect with children and youth

The Foundation's new website was a major accomplishment this year. Truly a team effort, the website tells the stories of our children, families, donors and volunteers in an engaging way. Not only does the site expand how we interact with each other, it also provides a forum for all members of our community to share news and information and actively support the various programs and services that help our children and youth. A major donation from the Joan and Clifford Hatch Foundation made the purchase of electronic tools possible.

Visit [www.hopeforchildren.ca](http://www.hopeforchildren.ca) today and learn how your donation dollars make a difference to our families.

Heart to Hand volunteers—a group of more than 120 neighbourhood women who make it their business every week to assist those less fortunate—received recognition at CCAS's Annual General Meeting this year. Pictured here are volunteers Carol Mueller and Annie Cowie with CCAS's Executive Director, Mary A. McConville.



# Summary of Financial Statements as at March 31, 2009

Revenue	General	Restricted	Endowment	Total
Donations	\$383,581	\$304,441	\$11,820	\$699,842
Fundraising and other	\$431,226	\$13,895	-\$102,233	\$342,888
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$814,807</b>	<b>\$318,336</b>	<b>-\$90,413</b>	<b>\$1,042,730</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Grants in aid	\$496,374	\$190,347	\$0	\$686,721
Fundraising, transfers out(in) and other costs	\$21,110	\$51,341	\$21,571	\$94,022
Excess (deficiencies)	\$297,323	\$76,648	-\$111,984	\$261,987
Fund Balances (beginning of year)	-\$5,974	\$297,653	\$539,283	\$842,910
Net Administrative	-\$220,071	\$0	\$0	-\$220,071
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$83,226</b>	<b>\$374,301</b>	<b>\$427,299</b>	<b>\$884,826</b>
<b>Administrative Expenses 2008-09</b>				
Administration	-\$385,071			
Less grant from CCAS	165,000			
<b>Net Administrative</b>	<b>-220,071</b>			

## Externally Endowed Scholarship Funds

With the generous support of our donors, the Hope for Children Foundation has established a number of endowed scholarships at the institutions listed below. Many of these funds have been matched by the Ontario Trust for Student Support (OTSS).

### St. Mike's College, University of Toronto

Matthew O'Brien Memorial Scholarship	\$312,202
Odette Catholic Children's Aid Bursary	\$374,045
Marianna Korman Scholarship	\$53,923

### Ryerson University

Simon Fiandaca Memorial Scholarship	\$70,982
Maeve's Scholarship	\$17,745

### George Brown College

Koehler Family Scholarship	\$315,000
Maurice Conway Memorial Scholarship	\$233,455
Marianna Korman Scholarship	\$31,165
Simon Fiandaca Memorial Scholarship	\$103,885

### McLaughlin College, York University

Social Justice Award	\$24,844
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**Total externally endowed capital (unaudited) \$1,537,192**



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FOUNDATION

[www.hopeforchildren.ca](http://www.hopeforchildren.ca)

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