

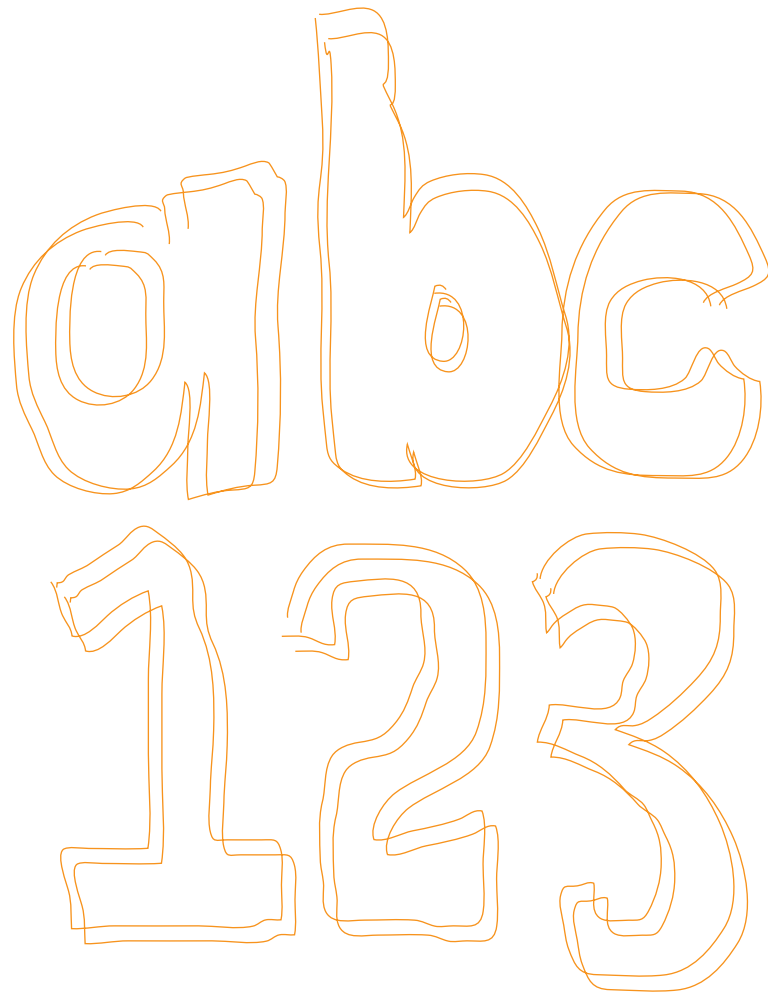


reaching for the rainbow



MERRYMOUNT 2008 ANNUAL REPORT





Merrymount is a caring organization committed to providing support and crisis care for children and families.

We deliver responsive and innovative programs to strengthen children and their families in times of transition.



MERRYMOUNT MENTORS' ROLE WITHIN FAMILY NETWORKS

Family Networks is a new pilot project developed in response to the increasing number of children going into the care of the Children's Aid Society. Family Networks is a resource which helps families stay together during difficult times.

As a partner of Family Networks, Merrymount provides mentors to families. These mentors offer modeling, mentoring and coaching. Our mentors have a wide variety of backgrounds and are able to represent and connect with the communities they serve. The mentors serve as role models and friends while supporting the families as they strive to achieve the goals developed with the Neighbourhood Facilitator.

It is incredibly rewarding to see goals met, as a direct result of the mentors' and the families' hard work. One of the most important roles of our mentors is connecting families to appropriate community services, programs and resources and reducing barriers to participation. Family Networks offer around the clock support in case families need help, not only during day hours, but throughout the evening and night as well.

We are so excited to have this new project as part of our Merrymount programming!

For more information on Family Networks, visit www.familynetworks.ca

ALL KIDS BELONG COMPLETES ITS 10TH YEAR!

This year All Kids Belong completed its 10th year of providing services to children with special needs and their families.

All Kids Belong supports the inclusion of children with physical, emotional, developmental, and behavioural challenges in licensed community child care programs, nursery schools, Ontario Early Years Centres, before and after school programs and accredited recreation programs.

The time has flown by, but over the course of these past ten years we have made, and are very proud of, many wonderful partnerships with child care centres and other agencies that provide services to families in the area. The community has been very receptive to our services and has given us excellent feedback on how best to serve them.

All Kids Belong promotes a community where inclusion is embraced, where all children belong and families are supported in their choices. Inclusion ensures that children are welcome, supported and valued. It means that playing, learning and growing are positive experiences in which children feel that they belong.

In the communities of London/Middlesex and St. Thomas/Elgin we served 489 children and had 92 workshops with 1212 attendees in 2007.

We look forward to continuing to serve the children and families in the communities we serve.

Merrymount will be a recognized and respected leader in the field of crisis support and transition services for children and their families.

EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS

Two new pilot programs have been or are in the process of being launched in the group and clinical program. Invest in Kids has developed The Parenting Partnership, a multi-media parenting program that works with parents from the early pre-natal stage to their child's first birthday. This research based program will begin in early November with training and preparation starting this month. We look forward to being the site for four pilot groups over the next two years.

In our efforts to bring additional evidence based groups to Merrymount,

a second pilot is currently underway. Parenting the School Aged Child, very similar to our popular Parenting Your School Aged Child, developed by Susan McKane. As part of the testing phase, Susan will be providing feedback to the developers and we will also evaluate the "fit" here at Merrymount.

The School Aged Child, part of the Parenting for Life Series is presented by The Psychology Foundation of Canada in partnership with Yorktown Child and Family Centre, Toronto



A BIG THANK YOU TO FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER BOB KAYSER FOR HIS PHOTOGRAPHS

Thank You

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING MERRYMOUNT CHILDREN'S CENTRE.

It is our donors who make a difference and allow Merrymount Children's Centre to continually build on its reputation ...

...as an accredited Children's Mental Health Centre and respected leader in the field of crisis support and transition services for children and their families.

During the **Reach for the Rainbow Campaign** that ended in December 2007, our donors supported renovation projects that made phenomenal changes to our building. We are pleased to report that together our donors made possible:

- Changes to the second floor residential area that gave us more than 1,000 square feet of additional space; renovations included improved living areas for the more than 1,700 children who stay here each year
- More privacy for the children in the residential program and for the staff supervising overnight care
- Modifications to accommodate children with special needs, including brighter, larger hallways and doorways
- A redesigned infant program that is more interactive and self-contained with its own entrance and space
- Larger playrooms with play nooks for toys and games; new comfortable furniture and bright, large bedrooms with new windows that meet new government safety requirements
- The brand new Family Learning Centre that gives families a place to learn parenting skills and everyday tasks such as preparing snacks feeding their infants, playing with their children, helping with school homework, and bed time routines
- 5,000 square feet of renovated space for our expanded parenting, family and children's group programs; these renovations included two additional group meeting rooms that give us more functional room to work with these groups in a comfortable, private and confidential way.
- Our new family library and resource area in the reconfigured lobby
- Enclosed, efficient and friendly new client interview area
- Supervised Access Program Interview Office and a more family friendly area for access visits and exchanges.

We hope that you and all our donors take pride in these accomplishments. The total gifts to Merrymount Children's Centre during Reach for the Rainbow exceeded our goal and raised \$1,217,787.

On behalf of the staff at Merrymount Children's Centre, our board members and the families and children that visit us each year, thank you for making a difference.

REACH FOR THE RAINBOW CAMPAIGN HONOUR ROLL

\$20,000 +

City of London
Allan and Susan Edwards
The R.B. Holmes Family
London Life
Joan and Bill McConnell
McCormick Canada
Ministry of Community and Social Services
TD Canada Trust
Sisters of St. Joseph
The Walter J. Blackburn Foundation
The Wilf and Jean Bell Foundation

\$10,000-\$19,999

Arcangelo Rea Family Foundation
CIBC World Markets Children's Foundation
EllisDon Corporation
Harrison Pensa LLP
John and Arlene Cram Family
Lerners LLP
London Free Press
RBC Foundation
Andy and Helen Spriet
The Richard and Beryl Ivey Fund, a fund within London Community Foundation
The Tom and Sue Allan Family Fund, a fund within London Community Foundation
University Students' Council
Western Fair Association

\$5,000-\$9,999

Jim, Suzanne and Catherine Aziz
Mike Blewett
Dorothy Bullock
Denise Cumming
F.K. Morrow Foundation
Good Foundation Inc.
F. Marcella Grail Chartered Accountant
HONEY Design
Karen and Alan Menkis
Mary and Maurice Pellarin
Cheryl and Rob Ritchie

The Kayser Family Foundation Fund, a fund within London Community Foundation
Joel and Ailene Wittstein

\$1,000-\$4,999

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The Lorraine Ivey Shuttleworth Fund, a fund within London Community Foundation
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\$1-\$999

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Kathie Cunningham
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Around London
Steve Atkinson
Kay Bailey
Barb Beath
Deb Bloomfield
Jayne Borschke
Jack Briglia
Jean and George Brook
Lore Brown
Irene Buckland Foster
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Jonathan and Tanya Izawa
Marian Jenkins
Patti Johnston
Margaret and Doug Jones
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Kiwanis Club of Thames Valley
Jose Klein
Mary Ann Krahn
Shirley Lawrence
Denise Laya
Nina Ley
Nancy Liabotis
Ken Light
Kim Lightbody
Robert and Amanda Litchfield
Betsy Little
Shawna Lockie
Annabelle Logan
Kym Loos
Mario Lucci
Jeff and Marjie Macoun
Doreen Mahoney
Michele Mannering
Kassandra Marriott
Glenn and Sally Matthews

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Ruth Ann and Patrick McConkey
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B.C. McCullough
Judie McDonald
Sylvia McGeein
Cavan and Anne McHenry
S. McKane
Phyllis McLean
Kim McLeod
Melanie Michael
Eleanor Miller
Charles and Kim Miller
Diane Miller
Norman Mitchell
Joy Morin
Kathryn Mrkoci
Jill Mustin-Powell
Alan Nagus
Kathleen Nutt
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Optimist Club of Carling Heights Inc
Optimist Club of East London
Optimist Club of Fanshawe London
Optimist Club of London Inc
Optimist Club of London North
Optimist Club of Middlesex-London
Optimist Club of Oakridge Acres Inc
Optimist Club of Southwest London
Optimist Club of Stoney Ridge
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Maria Park
Claude Pensa
Lori Por
Jill and Steven Powell
Diane Price
Geoff Pulford
Dan Reason
Kristen Ritchie

Robert and Dorathy Ritchie
River East Optimist Club
Robhart Limited
Tom Robson
Margaret Rowden
Susan Ryans
Paulina Rybka
Alison Ryckman
Annette Schoelie
Elizabeth Serpa
Jason Sims
Helen Sleaford
Marilynn Speed
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Jacqueline Valdez
Harry Van Bavel
Ian Wallace
Erika Ward
Sarah Wells
Westminster Park Optimist Club of London
W.R. and Nancy Wightman
Edith Wiley
Wynona Wilson
Donald and Sharon Wilson
Patti Wong
Maggie Young
Terry Zavitz
Wally and Linda Zimmerman

Revenue

GOVERNMENT

\$4,950,000

MERRYMOUNT FOUNDATION

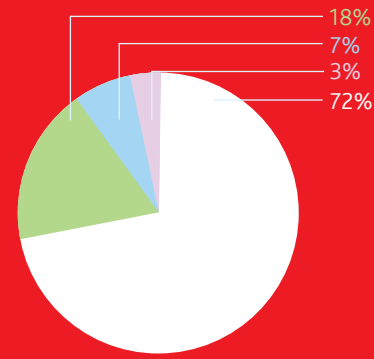
\$1,210,000

CONTRACTED SERVICES

\$485,000

OTHER

\$220,000



Expenditures

SALARIES & BENEFITS

\$5,907,000

PROPERTY

\$370,000

FOOD & PROGRAM

\$227,000

OFFICE & ADMIN

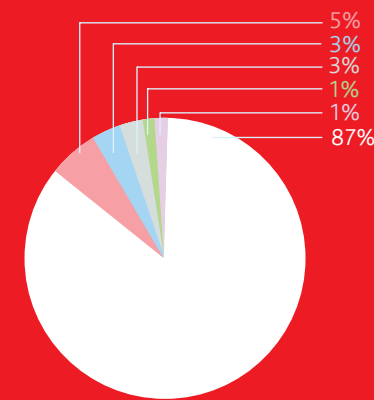
\$190,000

PROF. SERVICES

\$70,000

SPECIALISED SERVICES

\$101,000



Service Statistics

OVERNIGHT CARE

CHILDREN 1,679
FAMILIES 902

FAMILY SUPPORT & CRISIS CARE

CHILDREN 551
FAMILIES 365

YOUNG PARENTS IN SCHOOL

CHILDREN 30
FAMILIES 28

PARENTING GROUPS

OUTREACH 141
ONSITE 3,565

CHILDREN'S GROUPS

OUTREACH 3,573
ONSITE 1,464
CONSULT 4,455

Supervised Access

WOODSTOCK

VISITS 398
EXCHANGES 124

ST. THOMAS

VISITS 735
EXCHANGES 151

LONDON

VISITS 1,539
EXCHANGES 2,081

Ontario Early Years Centre Statistics

VISITS BY PARENTS/CAREGIVERS 7,178
VISITS BY CHILDREN 10,820
PARTICIPANTS IN WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS 1,088

All Kids Belong Statistics

IN THE COMMUNITIES OF LONDON/MIDDLESEX AND ST. THOMAS/ELGIN WE SERVED 489 CHILDREN AND HAD 92 WORKSHOPS WITH 1212 ATTENDEES IN 2007.

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Yasika Jarquin
Jenise Jarvis
Elisa Jones

Yvette Aconito
Faduma Amin
Kari Annett
Kathleen Ashton

STAFF

GOOD BETTER BEST, NEVER LET IT REST, TILL THE GOOD IS BETTER AND THE BETTER IS THE BEST.

Last year was our year of celebration; this year has been one of reflection, assessment and visioning as we look to the future.

Merrymount continues to be a recognized and respected leader, in the field of crisis support and transitional services for children and families. But accessing services in the complex system our community has created has at times led to frustration for families and we at Merrymount have understood and appreciated their dilemmas. Old services, new services, well-funded services, and under funded services too often failed to adequately serve families knocking on the doors of social service agencies, including our own. Thankfully, during this past year we have witnessed outstanding leadership from the Municipal and Provincial governments in helping agencies, such as ours, work together to create a better, more family-centred system.

In that process of integration, we have learned new things about ourselves, especially that rarely do families need the services that we alone provide. We can do more for those who come to us if we work, in an integrated fashion, in partnership with other services within our community.

We have learned that to "do it alone" is not the way to go. Because of the efforts of the Child and Youth Network of the municipality and of "A Shared Responsibility – Ontario's Policy Framework for Child and Youth Mental Health" of the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, we have been reinforced in our belief that change can happen and visions can become reality. In a little while, we will see a mapping of what a family goes through to access our services. As we learn, we will change so that we can play a substantial and meaningful role in an integrated system.

We thank our staff for continuing to learn, to show flexibility, to exhibit patience and concern for all those with whom they work; their work is truly the essence of what we do and their modeling, day after day, a vital element for positive change.

We thank our volunteers for continuing to give their support and important services to our Centre, offered graciously, caringly and freely. And we thank our community for continuing to trust us with families in time of crisis and transition.

Cheryl Ritchie

Cheryl Ritchie
President, Board of Directors

Ailene Wittstein

Ailene Wittstein,
Executive Director

STAFF





BOARD PRESIDENT CHERYL RITCHIE ACCEPTS DONATION OF A VAN-LOAD OF NEW TOYS FROM COMMUNITY MEMBER RENEE HERMANN.

Children at Merrymount can make good use of new or very gently used clothing and toys. From sun block and sand toys in the summer, to hockey sticks and warm pyjamas in the winter, Merrymount has needs year-round. Please attach your name and address to all donations. Cash donations are also very welcome.

WISH LIST

- ❖ Art and craft supplies (markers, pipe cleaners, acrylic paint, paper)
- ❖ Bicycles
- ❖ Booster seats (Evenflo Big Kid Booster Car Seat)
- ❖ Board games
- ❖ Mitts and scarves
- ❖ Shoes & boots
- ❖ Shirts, pants & socks
- ❖ Underwear & Pyjamas
- ❖ Toothbrushes & toothpaste
- ❖ Fall and winter coats
- ❖ Pencils

Save
The
Date

On October 23, 2008 a very special event is planned to benefit Merrymount Children's Centre. Our Comedy Night will bring friends together at a new venue—Bellamere Winery—for dinner, comedy show and live & silent auctions. Proceeds from the event will benefit Merrymount's Overnight Care Program.

THANK YOU TO PRESENTING SPONSOR,
INVESTORS GROUP, FOR ITS CONTINUED SUPPORT



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LONDON, ON N6A 4B3

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F 519.434.6851

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