

# Helping families stay together



Merrymount helps children by supporting their families in times of crisis and transition. Round-the-clock programs provide a place for children to stay when there is a crisis, and our education and prevention programs support more than 7,000 families each year. The work we do is guided by our vision, mission and values.

### OUR VISION

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

### OUR MISSION

Merrymount is a caring organization committed to providing around the clock support and crisis care for children and families. We deliver responsive and innovative services and programs to strengthen children and their families in times of transition.

### OUR VALUES

Compassion

Keeping children and families together when possible

Safe environment

Unique, customized solutions

Consultative

Proactive partnerships

Professional



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## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Henry David Thoreau once said, "Could a greater miracle take place than for us to look through each other's eyes for an instant?" Every day, every week, every month we witness such miracles. Over the past year, three of our miracles stood out, warrant sharing, and deserve our thanks.

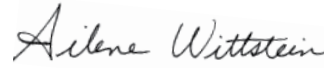
A month ago I received a phone call from our Program Supervisor at the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Helen Lowe. She told us she was going to announce her retirement soon. Although we have been honoured to work with many Program Supervisors over the years, Helen has stood out. At the beginning of her years with us, Helen struggled to understand us, but as she became involved with us, she took us to new heights of understanding about our own strengths and potential. She helped us clarify, even to ourselves, what we are and what we are not. Helen empowered us to return to our roots of what we do best and showed us a way to fit within the system of Children and Family Services. Thank you, Helen.

For many years we have been grateful to be an agency of choice for students participating in practicums from many disciplines. This year was no exception. Our Bachelor of Social Work student, Alicia Farr, happened also to be a photographer. At the end of her term, she honoured us with not only some of her photography but notes that opened our eyes to what these experiences have meant to our students and to us. One photograph was taken on her family's farm. Alicia chose it as a representation of Merrymount because she felt that "Merrymount offers many services and touches so many lives, yet it is still holistic and grassroots in nature. Like the wheat stalk, it is made up of many little bits, coming together to make a whole." Alicia felt that another photograph, "taken after one of the notorious 'Lambton County' Lake streamers had brought cloudbursts and tornado warnings," highlighted the beauty after

the storm, and that Merrymount is the same. "Beauty after crisis, Merrymount after the storm." Thank you, Alicia, and our many students that learned from us as we learned from you.

And finally, we'd like to recognize the miracles delivered by our friends at CIBC. Shawn McConville is Managing Director of CIBC Wood Gundy, but even more importantly, he is a member of both our Operations and Foundation Board of Directors. His associate, Allison Gryspeerdt, is Senior Manager of CIBC Children's Foundation. How do we even begin to say thank you for their generous donation which will support a bed for a year in our Crisis Residential/Respite Program? Shawn and Allison understood that although there is no place like home, when children can't go home, there's no place like Merrymount. Thank you, Shawn and Allison.

I share these stories to illustrate the Chinese proverb: "Tell me and I'll forget, show me and I may remember, involve me and I'll understand." These are just three stories of people who have become involved in the work of Merrymount, of people who now understand the critical importance of what we do in our community. We look forward to the year ahead, to continue to involve others in our work, and to inspire – and be inspired by – the next miracle.



Ailene Wittstein  
Executive Director



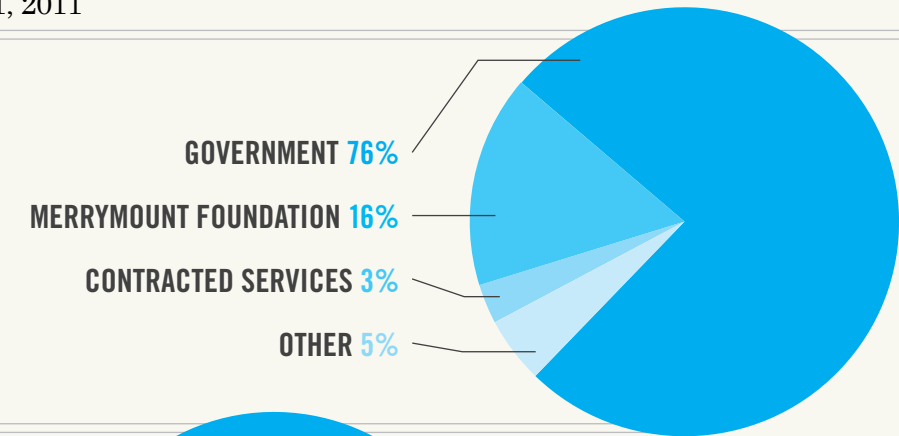
## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In the 2010-11 year, we spent \$6,893,137 on programming and services for our families. Merrymount is a not-for-profit, registered charitable organization. Programs and operations receive support through individual donors, corporations, local businesses, foundations, associations and government. We depend on the generosity of the community to help maintain our unique, around-the-clock, seven-day-a-week programming, parent education and children's groups – each critical to our mission. The response of community members over the years has enabled Merrymount to continually help improve the lives of children and build a brighter future for families. We are also very grateful for the 100% funding support our All Kids Belong, Supervised Access and Ontario Early Years Centre programs receive from the Cities of London and St. Thomas, the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

### MERRYMOUNT CHILDREN'S CENTRE FINANCIAL DATA YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2011

#### REVENUE

<b>GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>5,198,871</b>	<b>76%</b>
<b>MERRYMOUNT FOUNDATION</b>	<b>1,113,154</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>CONTRACTED SERVICES</b>	<b>219,017</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>362,095</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>6,893,137</b>	<b>100%</b>



#### EXPENDITURES

<b>SALARIES AND BENEFITS</b>	<b>5,931,285</b>	<b>86%</b>
<b>PROPERTY</b>	<b>361,244</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>FOOD AND PROGRAM</b>	<b>250,620</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>OFFICE AND ADMIN</b>	<b>177,698</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>PROFESSIONAL SERVICES</b>	<b>97,290</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>SPECIALIZED SERVICES</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>1%</b>



## THANK YOU TO THE DONORS WHO SO GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED MERRYMOUNT IN 2010-2011. YOUR GIFTS HELPED CHANGE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

#### MAJOR GIFTS

CIBC Children's Foundation, CIBC Miracle Day  
London Community Foundation  
TD Bank Financial Group  
The Sisters of St. Joseph  
Clint Wilson  
Wilf and Jean Bell Foundation  
Richard & Shelley Baker Family Foundation  
The Lawson Foundation  
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And three donors who wish to remain anonymous.

*While every attempt has been made to ensure accuracy, we apologize for any errors or omissions. Please let us know of any changes.*

# There's no place like home...

but when children can't be at home,  
there's no place like Merrymount.



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Merrymount is an accredited children's mental health centre. (Children's Mental Health Ontario)

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