



In Their Own Words: Interview with a Young Parent

1. Why did you start coming to Rose of Durham? I knew that I was going to need help. I looked at my options and community resources and went from there.

2. How old were you when you found out you were expecting? I was 21.

3. How did you feel? I was excited but worried about miscarriage due to my medical history. Other than that I was jumping for joy.

4. What supports did you have in place? My mom and grandparents were my biggest support, along with some of my extended family. I was involved with the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program. I attended drop in at the YMCA and my LEAP (Learning Earning and Parenting through Ontario works) worker was awesome. I also went to the Pregnancy Help Centre, and of course Rose of Durham. As soon as I found out I was pregnant I called multiple agencies.

5. How has your life changed? I have gained patience. I play with my child and try not be as serious or uptight. Since I had Keagan, I have gone back to school and I am more goal focussed now. I am looking at the bigger picture for the future.

6. What challenges have you faced? The father of my child has been my biggest challenge so far due to lack of involvement and support.

7. How do you think society views you as a parent? Everyone says I am doing a wonderful job with Keagan. He is polite, well mannered and has come so far considering he was a premature baby. A lot of people look down on teen parents but I believe that people should be judged by how they conduct themselves.

8. What programs at Rose of Durham did you attend and why? I attended prenatal classes. Nobody's Perfect (a parenting program) to gain more information on premature babies. Mommy and Me (a social peer support group) to provide Keagan the opportunity to socialize. I also attend annual events such as Women's Health Day, Epic Parenting, and the Christmas Party each year. I also attend the summer program excursions.

9. How did these programs help in your role as a parent? They increased my knowledge and the socialization skills will be useful within certain transitions for Keagan such as school.

10. How did your involvement with the Rose of Durham help you as an individual? I have been supported with everything. The Rose of Durham is my go to agency. I like the fact that I am contacted regularly to check in and asked if I would like to attend programs. The staff seem to really care and are very friendly.

11. In your view, what is your greatest success? My Son. He is my pride and joy. I never thought what I do would have such an impact on both our lives.

12. Did Rose of Durham contribute to your success? Yes! The smallest things go a long way in moving someone forward in life. Help with toys and equipment and even a new snowsuit.

13. What are your future goals and how can Rose of Durham support you? My future goal is to finish my nursing diploma (currently enrolled at Durham College) and continue to seek and access the help and support available to me.

Rose Garden is a quarterly publication produced by Rose of Durham.

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Rose of Durham is funded through the generous support of individuals and organizations. Major contributors include:



Our Vision

A community that accepts, encourages, and empowers young parents.



The Power of Partnerships



SERVICE Above Self

As an Executive Director of a charitable organization, I recently joined Rotary to provide representation for community organizations like my own and to promote the use of funds locally to impact the

community. In addition to the tremendous work they do globally, Rotary is 1.2 million neighbours, friends, colleagues, and community leaders who come together to create positive, lasting change in our communities and around the world. The value system that a Rotarian holds are similar and inline with those of this Agency. Since joining Rotary, I have made new friends, promoted our agency, and have seen the impact they can have on the community.

The Rotary Literacy Committee provides books to Rose of Durham so that every child born to a Rose of Durham client has a book to promote literacy. In addition the Literacy Committee donated a bookshelf and library of books to be borrowed, returned, or kept. Through this partnership every family who spent their Christmas Holidays in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of Lakeridge Oshawa in 2013 was visited by Mrs. Claus and received a copy of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' along with other goodies.

In addition, Rotary has shown support for our organization by sponsoring our Annual Victorian Tea, and working closely with us on a new fundraising endeavour to be launched in January of 2015.



Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Jason Barker. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of it.

hope 🍷 promise 🍷 new life



Holiday Hope Hampers 2014!!!!



Yes, we know it's only September, but that's not early to start planning for the 2014 Holiday Hope Hampers.

In 2013 this program with the assistance of Dear Santa Durham (more on that later) Rose of Durham and Santa's helpers were able to ensure that 35 families in need within our community, had a Merry Christmas.

The toys, gift cards, groceries and other requested items provided by a caring community, along with an army of donors makes celebrating the Holidays a little less stressful when your biggest worries are related to living in poverty, obtaining your next meal, and where you are going to lay your head.

While the program will not formally begin until later this fall, please consider becoming — or repeating — as a donor.

If you are interested, please call the office at 905-432-3622 and put your name on the list.

You will be contacted in early November and provided with your family profile and wish list. In order to protect the privacy of our clients, all hampers are delivered by our staff, and a thank you card is written by the client and sent to the donor by our staff.

How else can you support this great cause, and have fun? Why not



participate in the Dear Santa Holiday Hunt???

Last year 19

teams of four scoured Durham Region, seeking out treasures for the holiday. It was a community scavenger hunt that found Christmas for plenty of families.

The teams visited various sponsoring locations across Durham, in a race against the clock, and partook in some wacky activities, from singing Christmas carols to strangers in a restaurant, to making a human pyramid outside the Abilities Centre in Whitby, all while helping to fill Santa's sack for families in need.

After hours on the roads everyone gathered at the Centennial Building, and enjoyed an evening of dinner, prizes, music and dancing.

All in the support of **Rose of Durham.**

Planning for this year's hunt is already underway. This year's event will be held on **Saturday, December 13 (Save the Date) at The Whitby Yacht Club 702 Gordon Street.** Keep an eye out on our webpage

www.roseofdurham.com and of course join or visit the Dear Santa Durham Facebook page **https://www.facebook.com/dearsantadurham**

for more information and to take a peek at some of the fun we all had last year. Tickets are \$60 each. Tickets will be available for purchase online and in person.

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Excitement is building as we plan this year's Victorian Tea, our 21st Annual! Our goal this year is to raise \$23,000 while also ensuring our guests have a memorable and fun evening. This is only possible through the generosity of our private and corporate donors and the support of our Victorian Tea guests.

What a wonderful evening out. You can Christmas shop among the available baskets while enjoying handmade sandwiches, sweets and some delectable teas. Back by popular demand our wine bar!

All this while supporting an essential community service for young parents and their babies. Who knew giving back could be so much fun? HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Back this year: Honey & Tea Café presents a variety of flavoured teas—www.honeyandteacafe.com

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

**Victorian Tea & Gift Basket Draw
November 18, 2014**

Doors Open at 6 PM

Event Begins Promptly at 7 PM

LVIV Hall

St. George's Ukrainian Catholic Hall

38 Lviv Blvd. Oshawa

(Simcoe & Bloor)

Call 905-432-3622 to Order Tickets

\$25 Each

The essential services we provide are made possible due to the support of our community. Sincere thanks to: Daughters of Isabella (St. Bernadettes), Revival Tabernacle, Lori Anne Turner & Frank Faniculli, Golden Jubilee IODE, Westminster U.C.W., St. Leo the Great CWL, Brian Van Noord, Mjeas Jewellers Inc., Oeata Durham Secondary, Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School, CAW Family Auxiliary 27, David and Marilyn Lambert, Mr. & Mrs. Bonk, William and Brenda Heard, Rotary Club of Oshawa, Michael and Pauline Crosby, Madeleine Remiz, and Brian Reel for his continued monthly support.



“We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give” ~ Sir Winston Churchill



St. Francis of Assisi Council 11268—\$268
Holy Redeemer Council 11729—\$334.05
St. Joseph Council 10018—\$250

Conseil Notre Dame 8549—\$250
St. Leo's Council 11528—\$850
Penny Legion Council 8309—\$1,000

We also gratefully recognize funding provided by:

- ⇒ HRDSC for their grant to support the hiring of our Resource Development Coordinator for the summer of 2014
- ⇒ The Regional Municipality of Durham for their support of our Young Parent Resource Room
- ⇒ Durham Children's Aid Society for funding the annual Epic Parenting Forum

Please note that the Fall newsletter acknowledges donations received from May to July 2014.

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Rose of Durham
YOUNG PARENTS SUPPORT SERVICES