



## In Their Own Words: Interview with a Young Parent

**1. Why did you start coming to Rose of Durham?** I grew up with Children's Aid in my life so I did not have a big support system. I had no idea what I was getting into so I googled resources in the community. Rose of Durham was one of the first to come up, and it was the best search I have ever done.

**2. How old were you when you found out you were expecting?** I had just turned 18.

**3. How did you feel?** There wasn't one particular emotion. It was everything. I sat in front of the clinic for 2 hours and cried, but then decided I was going to make the best of my situation.

**4. What supports did you have in place?** Next to nothing!

**5. How has your life changed?** Drastically!! The past two years have been a whirlwind. I have had to sacrifice everything from sleep to going to the bathroom alone. Privacy is no longer an option. It forced me to grow up. You can no longer be a carefree person as there is a little person who depends on you. I have also become a motivational speaker for the John Howard Society. I talk about the realities of being a teen parent, which I believe sends a stronger message to the students we talk to and makes a difference.

**6. What challenges have you faced?** What haven't I faced. My body is not the same. After Ariyah was born it was hard for me to come to terms with my weight gain and body image. I am a single mom so I have to be everything to Ariyah, her father, when he found I was pregnant wasn't ready for the responsibility, so this is a one woman show.

**7. How do you think society views you as a parent?** I feel that because I am young and alone that I am judged in an unfavorable way. They assume that I am a high school drop out, little do they know that I'm on the honor roll.

**8. What programs at Rose of Durham did you attend and why?** Prenatal classes—I wanted to get as much information as possible. Teen Parent School—it was convenient to attend with my daughter and complete my credits. Mommy and Me—so my child can interact with other children and begin to build her social relationship skills. Counselling—which helps me to get things off my chest in a positive way and find solutions.

**9. How did these programs help in your role as a parent?** I was able to get advice from other moms and I was able to speak to my counsellor for information and resources. From the first day that I came to Rose of Durham I felt more confident and knowledgeable.

**10. How did your involvement with the Rose of Durham help you as an individual?** I was given encouragement to be my best in every aspect of my life. As a woman, mother, and student. The words of wisdom I have received have given me the strength to go a long way on my journey.

**11. In your view, what is your greatest success?** My daughter.

**12. Did Rose of Durham contribute to your success?** In every way shape and form. I can tell the staff are genuine and love what they do.

**13. What are your future goals and how can Rose of Durham support you?** To graduate high school and become a 911 dispatcher. Rose of Durham can continue to do what they do, I am where I am because of them.

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



Almost every day people call the Rose of Durham looking to volunteer and to give back to the community. One such person is Nancy, a volunteer who has jumped in with both feet. Nancy is also one of those people who has a contact for everything—an invaluable resource for a charity with limited funds!

On a return flight from Florida, Nancy struck a conversation with her seatmate Michael, who works for Malvern Contract Interiors Ltd. Nancy quickly discovered that Malvern Contract specialized in flooring and she knew that the Rose of Durham really needed new flooring that was clean and safe for the program room. Well, thanks to Nancy by the time the plane landed, Michael was eager to help. He soon visited the office to determine the need and agreed to provide free flooring and labour to complete the job.

The Rose of Durham would like to say thank-you to Santa (Michael) and his elves (Jeff & Jenn) who truly made a difference this holiday season.

Before



After



hope 🍀 promise 🍀 new life



# 20th Annual Victorian Tea Fundraiser!



**\$20,000 raised for the Rose of Durham**

All the baskets were gorgeous! Thank you to all our wonderful donors and volunteers who make this evening possible every year. We are truly blessed to have such amazing people supporting us. There are just some of our happy winners.



Rose of Durham is currently looking for board members and committee volunteers. If you or someone you know, supports our mission, and would like to make a difference in the lives of young parents across Durham Region. Email [jchappelle@roseofdurham.com](mailto:jchappelle@roseofdurham.com) for more information.

The essential services we provide are made possible due to the support of our community. Sincere thanks to: Enbridge Pipelines Inc., Ms. Kim H Murray, The Ontario Trillium Foundation, Peterborough Family Resource Centre, The Little Grape that Could, Durham Children's Aid Society, Ladie's Auxiliary Royal Canadian Legion Branch 43, Mrs. Patricia Jardin, Holy Cross Catholic Women's League, Paul Chamois.



St. Leo's Church Baby Bottle Boomerang Campaign raised \$1642.50.

Healthy Meat's in memory of Helen Ferry.

**"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give" ~ Sir Winston Churchill**



St. Mary of the People Council—8611—\$1,000



## CHRISTMAS CHEER!

We also want to gratefully acknowledge everyone who helped make Christmas special for our families, as a result of so many groups, individuals, and schools, we sponsored **75** families with Christmas Hampers and will be able to continue celebrating every birth in 2015 with a Layette.



**Family Sponsors:** RCM Technologies (Pickering), Chantal and Lara Duncan, Betty Larocque and family, DiLlisi & Baston Farrow Families.

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**Toys:** Toronto Fire House, Durham Regional Police, Chum CP24 Christmas Wish, St. Vincent De Paul, Marcia Rodriguez



Please note that the Winter newsletter acknowledges donations received from August to October 2014.

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