

Agency Update

Covid-19

Before Covid-19 pandemic became a reality, many of us couldn't have even imagined being in a world-wide pandemic or the immense impact it would have on us. Rose of Durham, along with the rest of our community, struggled to make sense of what was happening those first few weeks back in March.

During an unprecedented and difficult time, Rose of Durham has been able to remain strong. Our solid team supported one another, and most importantly continued providing exemplary service to our young families, with our vision and mission always on the forefront leading us along the way.

As Covid was upon us, our counselling team quickly rallied to plan our service delivery. For everyone's safety, face to face counselling was forced to stop but our dedicated counsellors started to check in with all of our clients by telephone, offering individual

support to our young families. Our young parents were in great need and quickly adapted to our new format; making telephonic counselling and support a great success. Clients are engaged and are receiving the support they need as anxiety levels are at an all time high.

As many of you know, Rose of Durham delivers many programs and parenting groups throughout the year. Covid has prevented us from doing anything on-site, but that didn't stop our counsellors who were able to adapt our programs into a virtual format. It was a large undertaking, but all the hard work was well worth it. Since April of this year, we have delivered a virtual Nobody's Perfect, Early Connections, and What a Difference a Dad Makes; all well attended and much needed by our families. We have also been creative in adapting some of our social drop-in programs. We need to keep our singing voices in good

shape for this, and the children loved seeing their friends again!

Covid has been particularly hard on our clients who are amongst the most vulnerable, and as such we have had to ensure essential supplies are available. Although for safety reasons our donation "Share and Care" room remains closed, with the hard work of our counsellors and office manager we have been able to ensure that no family is going without.

As we begin to look at re-opening, we are taking a slow and cautious approach to doing so. We are anxious to welcome everyone back to The Rose, but everyone's safety and health is paramount as we do so. Thank you to all for your continued support during these difficult times.

Anna Aitchison
General Manager

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

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To enquire about board nominations please contact the General Manager.

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



Our Vision
STRONGER FAMILIES
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ROSE
GARDEN

Victorian Tea and Gift Basket Draw

Our 26th annual Victorian Tea was a success once again thanks to the generosity of our private and corporate donors, and the support of all the guests who attended. Our goal was to raise over \$20,000 to support our programs and services, while ensuring our guests had a memorable and fun evening, and we're happy to say we surpassed our goal! Thank you again to everyone who contributed. We greatly appreciate your continued support.

Mark your calendars for this year's event scheduled for November 17. Please note: due to Covid-19 we may not be able to have our fundraiser in person. We are busy exploring different options for our annual event. Stay tuned. Please follow us on social media for details.

Christmas at The Rose

Christmas at The Rose is always a very busy and heartwarming time thanks to the outstanding generosity of our community. We're always amazed by the amount of people and groups that help to ensure the young families we serve have a special Christmas. This past Christmas we were able to provide Christmas gift hampers to 100 families, dinner hampers to 13 families, a generous amount of gift cards to each young parent that attended our Christmas party, as well as a toy from Santa for each child! In addition to all of this, 20 groups and individuals also participated in our annual layette drive and donated a very generous amount of baby items to be included in the layettes we provide to young parents upon the birth of their baby. A huge THANK YOU to all of our amazing donors for making all of this happen!

Holiday Vendor Market

Our holiday vendor market took place on Saturday, November 23 and featured a growing number of vendors and crafters, all of whom donated a portion of their sales to the agency. Thank you to everyone who participated as well as to all who attended the event. Your generosity and support helped to make the event a success!

Mother's Day



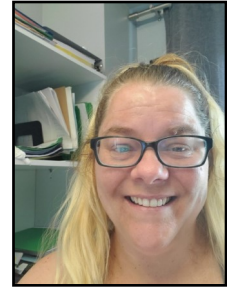
Even though our office was closed during Mother's Day due to COVID-19, thanks to the generosity of our community we were still able to make Mother's Day special for the young mothers of Rose of Durham. This photo shows the beautiful cards, along with the gift cards we were able to provide thanks to a very generous donation from Community Care Midwives. The Mothers were very touched by this nice surprise. Thank you for helping us make this happen!

hope 🌹 promise 🌹 new life

Staff Spotlight



In January 2019, after many years of serving our community through a treatment agency and a school, our newest Counsellor Kat joined the Rose of Durham team. Kat is a dynamic, organized, deeply compassionate and highly effective counsellor. As a team we often forget that she is our “newbie”, probably because she has fit in so well with the agency and its commitment, and has brought so much of herself to the work we do. An overdue welcome to Kat (Katherine) Stork – with a name like that where else could she work?



Please help us to reduce our costs (and save the trees!) by signing up to receive our newsletter via email instead of paper. If interested, please email deneen.nolte@roseofdurham.com.

Stories From the Heart

I became involved with the Rose of Durham after attending a presentation on parenting at the H. Shelter. I connected with the Counsellor and she completed an intake and then registered me for services. I was 21 years old when I found out I was pregnant. Having been in the country for only 1 year I was very worried about being a young parent with little to no family support. Being pregnant was not a part of my plan and I was embarrassed to tell my family as they had high expectations of me. I came from a solid background and attended the best school on my Caribbean island so the goal was to gain my independence by relocating here, work, save and start a career where I can support myself. After becoming pregnant “I became a shell of myself” I avoided telling my extended family. The father of my baby abandoned the relationship. When my son was born he was transferred to Sick Kids hospital due to medical complications and he stayed and received treatment for 6 weeks, during which time I started looking for stable housing. After staying with cousins for 5 months with my son the relationship between myself and my cousin broke down, it was recommended by my Children’s Aid worker that I go to a shelter as the conditions at my current place were abusive. I spent 10 months at the shelter and during this time I was still working on my resident status and was unable to work, finding a place on my own with a baby and no partner support was difficult. During this time my Rose of Durham Counsellor was able to educate me on parenting, provide weekly check-ins and supportive counselling, provide diapers, wipes and clothing for my baby and she signed me up for programs where I was able to meet and interact with other young moms. She also encouraged me in being an advocate for myself and my son. By the time my son was 24 months old I was able to receive Rent Geared to Income housing which provided me with an apartment that has accessibility accommodations for my son. I got my drivers license and started a new job with a non-profit organization. My family was able to visit with me and spent time bonding with my son. I am now registered and will be starting college in September to complete my Law Clerk Diploma, oh and I cannot forget, I was able to save enough from my job to buy myself a car so that I can now drive myself and my son to Sick Kids for his monthly appointments.

The essential services we provide are made possible due to the support of our community. Sincere thanks to:

The Ontario Power Generators Employee and Pensioners' Charity Trust, Mark Davis, Jeremy Storry, Cardinal Thomas Collings-Archbishop of Toronto, FlexoPartners Inc., Ground Effects Ltd., Ontario Motor Sales, Robert Weindorfer, St. Mary of the People CWL, Kinsmen and Kinnette Club of Pickering, AirlQ Inc., St. Joseph's CWL, Unifor Family Auxiliary #27, Edith McDermott, Al and Elaine Francis, Town Brewery, McDougall Insurance Brokers Ltd., Enbridge Pipelines Inc., FST, Charles and Virginia Bacon, Fran Musial, Renee Robitaille, Gregory and Marisa Basista, Elie Alhage, Kingsview United Church Women, Tiffany Bond, Patricia Jardin, Lyndall McDonnell, Nancy Pope, Wandalee Dawson, Fostering Family Relations Inc., Ron Dancey, Buffalo Wild Wings, David Gonzalez, Faith United Church Women, Golden Eagle Wings Ministries, North Oshawa Lions Club, Betty Larocque, Janice Ormiston, Lori Anne Turner, St. John the Evangelist CWL, Telus, Fiona Chapman, Shanondoa Nicholson, Natalie and Craig MacDonald, Mary Borg, Natividad Nash, Garry and Elsa King, Shaun and Antoinette Malone, Jonathan and Anne Mitchell, Nancy Draper, Patricia Startek, Joan Blair, Monica Winger, Brian Reel, Leila Wellington, Theresa Baron, Ken Waugh, Jason Fleischmann, King Street Community Church, Daughters of Isabella International Circle, RCM Technologies Canada Corp.

A special thank you to the Knights of Columbus Father John T. Bolger Council 6161 for raising \$4,867.00 by running a Baby Bottle Boomerang on our behalf!

A special thank you as well to all the people who supported the Durham Community Foundation Walk for Your Cause!



Msgr. Gerard Breen Council 8309—\$1000
St. Isaac Jogues Council 11098—\$1,777
St. Joseph Council 9989—\$654
St. Therese Council 11709—\$749

St. Joseph's Council 6361—\$400
Fr. John T. Bolger Council 6161—\$4867
St. Mary of the People Council 8611—\$1,000
St. Leo's Council 11528—\$500

We also gratefully recognize funding provided by:

- ⇒ Fan's Convenience and Rosswell Convenience in Courtice for continuing to sell Nevada tickets on our behalf funding our Christmas and Mother's Day celebrations
- ⇒ Peterborough Child and Family Centres for funding our student nutrition program
- ⇒ Durham Children's Aid Society for continuing to support our What a Difference a Dad Makes program
- ⇒ Lowes Canada for their funding and support in the plan to build our playground
- ⇒ Durham Region for their social investment in the work we do
- ⇒ Durham Community Foundation Endowment for funding crock pot cooking and coordinating the Walk for Your Cause
- ⇒ Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth Durham Region for providing funding for training and development opportunities for staff
- ⇒ William F. Hayball Foundation for continuing to fund our Mommy & Me peer support group
- ⇒ CHUM Charitable Foundation for funding our Christmas party

Please note that this newsletter acknowledges donations received from August 2019 to April 2020