



Haldimand-Norfolk
REACH

supporting children, families, communities

REACHING OUT

RESOURCE, EDUCATION AND COUNSELLING HELP

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SUMMER 2008

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President's Message

This past year, the board was involved in several key opportunities designed to ensure strong governance for H-N REACH in the years ahead. We approved a new, multi year strategic plan, refined ends policies, supported a management restructuring and marketing plan and revised value statements related to our services. We continued to nurture relationships with our key funders, local mayors, and community leaders to help position the organization as a leader and partner in a constantly changing environment.

In fiscal 2007-08, the organization experienced growth in several service areas, was able to develop five new programs and contributed to the advancement of dozens of community development initiatives. The diversity and flexibility of this organization are definite assets that have helped us to deal with these priorities in a positive light, and take a firm stand on important issues.

On a personal note, I would like thank the membership of H-N REACH for allowing me the opportunity to serve as President of the board of directors for the last three years. It has been a rewarding experience to be involved in such a great organization in this capacity. I look forward to passing the torch to Lisa Wallace, your next President, and continuing to serve on the board in a different role for years to come.

On behalf of the board, I would like to thank our Executive Director, management and staff for their hard work and dedication over the last year. Their daily efforts have a tremendous impact on the lives of children and families of our communities.

Thanks are also due to the volunteer members of the board, who are committed to ensuring the highest standards of governance and supporting our Executive Director, management and staff as they provide much needed quality services to the children, youth, individuals and families in our communities.

Please join me in welcoming our newest board members, Rita Taylor, Susan Renton and Mark Soppit and help me bid a fond farewell and thank you to Kate Bedding, Rita Collver and Al Madil, who retired this year from our board after many years of outstanding service. We don't always have the same faces at the table from year-to-year, but our commitment to the agency and to the children and families of Haldimand and Norfolk remains the same.

Kevin Lacroix, P.Eng., M.B.A.
President
Board of Directors

Art for the Very Young

If you are interested in introducing your young child to art and the benefits this can bring, you can now visit the Ontario Early Years Centre, a Division of H-N REACH.

The Ontario Early Years Centres of Haldimand-Norfolk and Haldimand Art Works are working together to offer "Art For the Very Young" in Haldimand - thanks to a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

This child-centred program offers a variety of art projects and activities with a strong emphasis on supporting children's creativity. Here, children lead with their ideas and imagination. Working with instructor Cally Phillips, it's a great opportunity for young children to learn, explore, problem-solve and have a lot of fun! During last year's pilot project, the

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Artist, Cally Phillips shares the art of making paper during a class at the Ontario Early Years Centre.

Executive Director's Message

At this year's Annual General Meeting, I had the chance to reflect on the remarkable highlights of the past year. H-N REACH is now in its 27th year of providing community-based services in Haldimand and Norfolk. We have expanded several of our existing programs and developed five new services and



Staff and volunteers graciously accept a Certificate of Membership at the Annual General Meeting from Mr. Keith Powell, Executive Director & CEO of Community Living Ontario. H-N REACH was recognized for their innovative work in helping people with developmental disabilities and was accepted as an Associate Member in Community Living Ontario.

networks to meet important needs in our local communities. We have continued our work with local, regional and provincial partners to increase awareness and advocate for improved services and supports that make a real difference in people's lives.

None of this would have been possible without the efforts of our entire team at H-N REACH. I am continually impressed and humbled by the efforts of our staff in taking our values, directions and plans and making them come to life for the children, youth, individuals and families we serve.

H-N REACH's efforts continue to be supported by our community leaders and partners who share our values and work with us to achieve common goals. We value these partnerships and welcome the opportunity for ongoing collaboration.

I am also proud to recognize the leadership role of our Board in this work, who has laid the groundwork to guide H-N REACH in the future with a new strategic plan. The plan identifies seven key directions to strive toward and maintain excellence in the areas of:

- appropriate, effective and responsive services;
- healthy work environment for employees and volunteers;
- excellence in both governance and operations;
- and, leadership in community education and advocacy.

The combination of past leadership and fresh enthusiasm from our newest Board members and all of our dedicated volunteers is certainly a winning combination that will benefit H-N REACH in the future - thank you for your contributions of time and talent.

As you read the stories in this newsletter, you will see that these are times of significant development for the organization in response to the needs of our community. I hope you will be as proud of our accomplishments as I am and continue to support our work in the years to come.

Leo Massi
Executive Director

Value Statements About Services

We respect children, families and communities.

We provide services that support human rights (such as health, safety and freedom from abuse) of children, families and communities.

We support children, youth, adults and families in exercising their rights as citizens.

Our services are flexible and based on individual needs and goals.

We will ensure that children, families and communities are partners in service planning.

Our programs work together to provide coordinated and responsive services.

We will enhance services by working in partnership with other community service providers.

Our services are based on best practices, professional ethics and standards, and ongoing quality improvement.

Contact Information

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Name it to Change It

Do you have a personal story to share about bullying? Then the Anti-Bullying Committee wants to hear from you.

The Name It To Change It Community Anti-Bullying Committee, made up of 30 representatives from community agencies, as well as interested citizens, recently launched its enhanced anti-bullying project, with a \$63,900 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

"The only way to deal with bullying is to first recognize it as a problem and then to stand up against bullying," said MPP Toby Barrett, who officially announced the grant on May 2, 2008. "I commend the Name It To Change It Committee for doing just that!"

The Name It To Change It project will raise awareness of anti-bullying practices in Haldimand and Norfolk through a media campaign, community safety surveys and an annual youth forum. The project is being coordinated by Deborah Ellis, who has a strong background in working with children throughout the world who have experienced conflict and oppression.

The Committee meets regularly to examine the problem of bullying and plan and coordinate strategies to bring about community responses to the problem. It recently held "Bullying Unplugged", a Youth Festival for Hagersville. During this event, students and staff came together to talk about bullying and its impacts. They then developed actions to address the problem in their own school communities.



"Working as a Team to Stand up to Bullying" Present at the official launch of the **Name It to Change It Anti-Bullying Campaign** were: Scot Cooper, Chair of the Committee, Deb Ellis, Community Coordinator, Paul Brown from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Mayor of Haldimand County, Marie Trainer and her granddaughter Hope, Toby Barrett, MPP for Haldimand and Norfolk, Trish Kings from the Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk Roman Catholic School Board, Mona Altonenen, Public Health Unit, Constance Harvey, Committee member and Councillor Heidy VanDyk from the County of Norfolk.

Another major project is to gather stories from young people who have, or are experiencing bullying. These stories will be published in a book for young people by Canadian publisher Fitzhenry and Whiteside in the fall of 2009 and distributed all over North America with proceeds donated to Name It to Change It and Streetkids International.

"We want to hear from those who have been bullied by adults, by other kids, by family members, and by strangers, and we also want to hear from those who have been involved in doing the bullying. We also want to hear from bystanders, too – those who acted, and those who didn't. We want to know what has happened to

them, what they did about it, how they felt about it, what they learned from it", explains Deborah Ellis, who will be editing the submissions. "Tell us about your life, so that others can learn".

The deadline for your story is January 31, 2009. Stories can be submitted anonymously or with your name and photograph attached. Those wishing to be interviewed about their experiences can do so confidentially by contacting Deborah Ellis, Name It To Change It Community Coordinator c/o H-N REACH, 1-800-265-8087 x 260 or by email at dellis@hnreach.on.ca.

"Art for the very young" continued

program was enthusiastically and repeatedly attended by 150 families

But why arts education for the very young? In the groundbreaking study by Margaret McCain and Dr. Fraser Mustard, *The Early Years - Reversing the Real Brain Drain*, the value of rich learning in the very early years was a central finding. Arts education has a significant impact on children's future success

in school, work and life. The Government of Ontario notes, for example, "that arts education supports higher academic achievement and measurable gains in student motivation and reduced dropout rates".

Until November 2008, Ontario Early Years Centres and satellites throughout Haldimand will offer this exciting program. For more information, please contact the **Ontario Early Years Centres at 905-765-1661**.

Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) Celebrates 5 years at H-N REACH

In May, 2003, H-N REACH welcomed CAPC to its family of programs. Since then, CAPC has offered programs to ensure healthy birth outcomes and promote positive parenting in Haldimand and Norfolk counties. CAPC now offers:

Healthy Moms Eating Well for 2

A prenatal nutrition program that supports pregnant women with nutrition information, food gift certificates for milk products, fruits, and vegetables, and prenatal vitamins.

Teen Resource Program

Support services to pregnant and parenting teens through individual visits and teen groups. The services available include prenatal classes, nutrition, parenting, labour and delivery information, smoking cessation counseling as well as anger/stress management classes.

Parenting Programs

CAPC offers a variety of parent groups including COPE, Beyond The Basics, The Toddler Years, Right From The Start, and Moms Talk.

School's Cool

School readiness program to help children ages 3 to 5 prepare for junior and senior kindergarten. By taking a School's Cool course children develop self-help skills, have the required language and reasoning skills to enter kindergarten, gain self-confidence and an excitement about learning.

Roots of Empathy

Roots of Empathy is an award winning program that has shown dramatic effects in reducing levels of aggression among school children. An infant and their caregiver attend a school classroom for frequent visits to allow students to witness the baby's development and bond with the infant. During each visit, a classroom facilitator discusses topics with the children in order to achieve the following goals:

- Foster the development of empathy;
- Reduce the levels of bullying, aggression and violence;
- Increase pro-social behaviours;
- Increase knowledge of human development, learning and infant safety;
- And, prepare students for responsible citizenship and responsive parenting.

H-N REACH has trained a number of employees as classroom facilitators for Roots of Empathy and programs are offered across Haldimand and Norfolk. Last year, CAPC facilitated a successful program with grade one students at Dunnville Central School.

Raising the Bar on Quality Child Care in Haldimand and Norfolk

This process focuses on increasing the quality of early learning and care for children, provided by licensed early learning and care operators.

Raising the Bar includes the establishment of community quality standards in three broad categories: Quality Assurance, Best Practices and Professional Development. Child care operators are encouraged to "Raise the Bar" through an accreditation process that is overseen by a Peer Review Committee.

McKinnon Park Child Care Centre, H-N REACH School Age Program and Ready, Set, School, all programs of H-N REACH, have joined with many other licensed early learning and care centres in Haldimand and Norfolk Counties to "Raise the Bar" on Quality. In January 2008, H-N REACH joined several other agencies across the province to implement "Raising the Bar for Licensed Home Child Care". In addition, H-N REACH staff will provide and promote training, support and guidance for other caregivers who choose to follow a self-study guide called "I Care for Kids, I Care for Quality."

All this has been made possible through funding from Best Start to the Ontario Early Years Centre, a Division of H-N REACH. The Ontario Early Years Centre will be offering training and organizing monthly sessions to help early learning and care providers prepare for this accreditation process.

For more information, please contact Kathy Wardell at 519-429-2875 Ext 250.

Working Together for Children's Literacy

Are your children ready for kindergarten?

H-N REACH is pleased to announce the new Early Literacy Team, which focuses on making sure that every child is ready for kindergarten. This team, which was brought together by staff from the Ontario Early Year's Centre and the H-N Preschool Speech and Language Program, will create new program ideas, improve on those that already exist and promote the positive attitude that is so necessary for learning to happen.

Early successes of this team include developing workshops, Literacy Suitcases full of useful and fun learning materials, and holding a forum called "Sowing the Seeds, Harvesting Readers" at the Greens of Renton. Interest during the day led to a commitment by participants to continue to work together to help children in our community.

Members now include both school boards, both county libraries, the Early Years team, the Health Unit, Fanshawe College, Adult Literacy Council, Six Nations, New Credit, home child care, licensed child care, interested parents and Best Start.

H-N REACH Staff Recognized at First Early Childhood Education Awards Banquet

On April 24th, members of the H-N REACH staff were recognized for their work at the first Early Childhood Education Awards Banquet. The event was successfully organized by the sub-committee of the Childcare Supervisors Network. 150 people who work in the field were on hand to celebrate individual contributions and milestones achieved in early education in Haldimand and Norfolk counties.

Seven awards were given for innovation, team player, children's champion, professionalism and the extra mile, Fanshawe ECE alumni and Mohawk ECE alumni. Three H-N REACH staff Lisa Chapman, Classroom Facilitator, Family Early Intervention Program, Lifeskills Aid, Youth Services won the Children's Champion Award; Ashley Topp, ECE Teacher, Ready, Set, School, won the Extra Mile Award; and Angela Crooks, Program

Leader, Ready, Set, School, Facilitator, Ontario Early Years Centre was the recipient of the Professionalism Award.

Author Deb Ellis, who was the keynote speaker for the evening, commented on the importance of investing in young children, crucial for laying a foundation for lifelong learning. She said it was important to put money and resources into children when they are young. "When a child is not cared for it shows."

Congratulations to our staff and organizers for your commitment to our children's well-being and to all of our partners who work tirelessly to pave a pathway for lifelong learning.

Parents as Partners

Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders, brings Parents As Partners Project to Haldimand & Norfolk



Research shows that children with autism or learning disabilities can be better supported the earlier they are identified. Thanks to the efforts of H-N REACH's early years' initiatives, and those of our partners, more children are being identified with special needs before they start school. The parents of these children will need to understand how to support their child when navigating the service system and how to advocate for the supports and services that they will need for their child when the time comes for them to make the transition from home or care to elementary school.

This year, several community agencies came together to provide workshops where parents can learn the "jargon" and understand their role and responsibilities within the special education system. With funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Parents as Partners Project will deliver another series of six workshops, which include:

1. Getting Ready for School: Planning for Kindergarten
2. Strategies for Effective Partnerships: Communicating for Success
3. The Kindergarten Program: Supporting Students with Special Needs
4. Introduction to Special Education
5. Introduction to the Individual Education Plan (IEP)
6. Developing Effective Individual Education Plans

For more information on these workshops, please call Lisa Hill at 519-587-3215, ext. 255 or check out the website of the Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders, Parents as Partners Website at www.parents-as-partners.ca.

The Haldimand Norfolk Workshops are a Partnership of The Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders (OAFCCD), Haldimand and Norfolk Preschool Speech and Language Program, Lansdowne Children's Centre, H-N REACH, Brant Haldimand-Norfolk Catholic District School Board and the Grand Erie District School Board.

REACHing out through Arson Prevention (TAPP-C)

Any fire behavior in children/youth is very concerning and if not addressed, may lead to serious consequences. Property damage, serious injury and death are preventable consequences of fire involved behaviours.

The Arson Prevention Program for Children (TAPP-C) brings together Fire Service and mental health clinicians to work with children, teens and their families to eliminate dangerous fire-related behaviors. This voluntary program was first developed in the 1990's by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and the Office of the Fire Marshal of Ontario and was adopted locally by Haldimand-Norfolk REACH and Norfolk and Haldimand Fire Services in April 1, 2005.

Since that time, our local program has responded to more than 50 referrals with support from our partners that include the Haldimand-Norfolk Children's Aid Society, Ontario Provincial Police, Probation, Grand Erie District School Board, Brant Haldimand-Norfolk Catholic District School Board, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and Office of the Fire Marshal, Haldimand and Norfolk Fire Services.

If you know of a child/youth who has engaged in fire behavior, please consider making a referral to the TAPP-C program, by calling 1-800-265-8087 and asking for "The Arson Prevention Program for Children".



A fundraising barbeque was held at the Great Canadian Superstore in Simcoe for the TAPP-C Program on June 14, 2008. A total of \$365 was raised that will go toward marketing materials for the program. In this photo: Sharon Labonte-Jaques from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Deb Young, Director of Services, Child, Family and Adult Intervention at H-N REACH, Michael Carbone, Clinical Therapist at H-N REACH, and Ken Sheridan, Fire Safety Education Officer with the Norfolk Fire Service.

Emergent Curriculum

Licensed Early Learning and Care

Imagine a place where children are excited about learning and explore topics that interest them. Now imagine teachers as guiding discovery, instead of delivering "one-size-fits-all" lesson plans. Well check out your local H-N REACH Licensed Early Learning and Care Centres.

Emergent Curriculum is a new approach being used at McKinnon Park Child Care Centre and Ready, Set, School. Teachers offer activities that arise from children's interests, actions or serendipitous events. They then respond by providing materials or guiding the children's discussions to include related activities that focus on literacy, mathematics, art and other creative play. Learning moments are documented and shared with the children and their parents.

According to Wendy Carron, Director of Early Childhood Services at H-N REACH, "Children learn by doing. The whole world can be a learning tool for a child who naturally wants to explore and find out more about the world around them."

Research has proven that by using emergent curriculum, children learn more, become more self-directed in their learning as they feel valued and rewarded for their efforts. In this process, children develop increased decision-making skills important in later school and life success.

H-N REACH is proud to offer this and other leading edge approaches in early education, so that your child can reach their full potential.

REPORT ON

Continuous Quality Improvement

In our ongoing commitment to offer quality services, H-N REACH undertakes an extensive process each year, to gather feedback from the people participating in our programs and from our community partners. This feedback is used to plan new programs or improve existing services.

Here are the highlights about what we learned from the people we serve and our community partners over the last year

People who used our services told us:

- there is a high level of satisfaction across all programs;
- people feel respected, supported and listened to by our staff;
- our staff are respectful, knowledgeable and professional;
- they were appreciative of the advocacy services provided by staff, especially with regard to other systems, e.g., school boards etc.;
- they were provided with good information and resources;
- and, there were some concerns expressed with lack of awareness of some programs

Our community partners told us that H-N REACH services are respectful, accessible, responsive and timely, and well coordinated. Our partners also indicated that H-N REACH works together well with the people involved in offering services and responds to concerns and problems in a respectful and timely way.

A few concerns were expressed about the waiting lists for some services that impacted the timeliness of interventions. Partners also expressed some concerns related to the sharing of information about people who are involved in multiple programs at H-N REACH.

Based on feedback from our partners, people involved in services and our own staff and Board, we will be responding with the following actions over the next year:

- Ongoing implementation of our marketing strategy, and branding programs with our new logo, to increase awareness of all the programs and services we offer.
- Designing a new, comprehensive and user friendly website to provide current and meaningful information to the community.

- Continuing to develop several new and positive partnerships, such as the ones created with both Boards of Education over the past year to assist in ongoing communication and advocacy efforts to benefit the people participating in our services.
- Developing a service coordination model, both internally and externally, to ensure that people involved in several different programs at H-N REACH, have their services coordinated in the most effective manner.
- Individual programs review systems to improve the amount of feedback we receive to ensure we are responsive to any concerns.
- And, ongoing work to ensure efficiencies and effective utilization of all programs to minimize waiting times for those programs that are in higher demand.

Thanks to everyone who participated in providing us with feedback during this quality improvement process.

REACHing out to Simcoe – New Satellite Office

This summer, H-N REACH will be opening a new satellite office in downtown Simcoe. The office will be located at 41-43 Kent Street North, with access to public parking. Family Services Counselling, Child Clinical Counselling and other H-N REACH programs will be offered in this new location.

H-N REACH is pleased to continue our on-going partnership with Dalhousie Place and welcomes the addition of Regional Support Associates from Woodstock General Hospital, who will be using the space for specialized clinical services.



Haldimand-Norfolk
REACH

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News from Contact HN

Seniors Partnership Project

Contact HN is pleased to be involved with the Seniors Partnership Project of Haldimand and Norfolk. This project brings together providers of seniors' and adult developmental services from Haldimand and Norfolk to address areas of interest for both sectors.

Recently, project members launched the lookahead.ca website. This website is designed to assist individuals who have a developmental disability and their families in "looking ahead" to future post-employment financial and retirement planning. The site was launched with an Art Auction in April 2008. The Auction which show-

cased art created by local partnerships of artists and individuals with a developmental disability was highly successful and well-attended. Details from this event and the history of the Seniors Partnership Project are available on lookahead.ca.

Contact Haldimand-Norfolk is the single point of access, or "gateway" to Ministry of Children and Youth Services and Ministry of Community and Social Services funded children's mental health and children's and adult's developmental services in Haldimand-Norfolk. This includes services provided by Bethesda, Haldimand-Norfolk REACH, Community Living Access Support

Services, Community Living Haldimand, Norfolk Association for Community Living, Regional Support Associates and Twin Lakes Clinical Services. Contact HN's Resource Coordinators are available to provide information about these, and other community services; as well as providing referral to specific programs.

For more information about this, or other programs, please contact our Resource Coordinators at 1-800-265-8087: Amy Marlatt, ext. 364; Bob Jauniaux, ext. 244; Terri Culp, ext. 242; or Tina Pinkett, ext. 233.

Bramble Kids' Retreat

Bramble Kids' Retreat is a respite home, located in Townsend, that supports children and youth who are medically fragile or technologically dependent, in need of regular nursing support.

When Charlotte Fisher was asked if she was interested in taking her son, Michael, to Bramble Kids, she was reluctant. The thought of leaving her young child who required complex care with strangers was out of the question. But after hearing constant praise about the program, she eventually agreed to pay Bramble Kids a visit. She writes:

"Immediately when I set foot in the home, it was very apparent that this was exactly what it was, "a home". Photographs of smiling children in sight, colorful pieces of artwork hung on the walls and on the fridge, and toys throughout the house. This was in complete contrast to my expectations. The staff had this unique ability to address my questions and concerns before I

could even ask them. Shortly after my visit we made arrangements for Michael to begin visiting.

The warmth I felt from visiting Bramble Kids' Retreat is second only to the tenderness and proficiency exhibited regularly by the staff. They recognize that each child is unique and this attitude is implemented in their interactions with the children. Activities are based on the child's desire or developmental abilities. Fun is mandatory.

Michael has developed some solid bonds with the staff and peers in a very safe and loving "home" environment. Bramble Kids' Retreat has enabled my husband and me to take some time for ourselves, which strengthens us to meet our son's daily needs. We are

able to enjoy our respite when we see that Michael is enjoying his visits - it is like leaving him with family. Our community is enriched to have services like this made available through REACH. I was happy that I had the courage to "let go" and trust in Bramble Kids' Retreat - Michael and I have both benefitted from this program."

Paul Found, Bramble Kids' Supervisor agrees. "Charlotte's apprehension is typical and understandable of parents visiting Bramble for the first time. All of our programming efforts are designed to create a warm place that is a respite for parents and a fun place for kids to play and make friends with other kids. Michael has now become part of our "family". I would invite parents who have children who are medically fragile or technologically dependent to ask for a referral by calling CONTACT at 1-800-265-8087 and visit our home."

Support Groups

FASD Caregiver Support Group of Haldimand-Norfolk

The Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Support Group meets the first Tuesday of each month between September and June. Meetings are held from 7 pm to 9 pm at Haldimand-Norfolk REACH, 101 Nanticoke Creek Parkway in Townsend.

The group's goals are to establish a safe environment to discuss experiences of living with an individual with FASD and reduce isolation by facilitating caregiver connections. The group assists members in becoming good advocates, developing skills to assist in understanding and managing the needs of an individual with FASD and providing a forum for resource sharing and discussion.

For more information, contact Tina Pinkett at 519-429-2875 or 1-866-463-2759, ext. 231, or at tpinkett@hnreach.on.ca.

ASD Siblings Workshops

Workshops for brothers and sisters of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are being planned with the goal of developing new friendships through games, activities, crafts, snacks and learning about ASD. Meeting times will be determined by the interested families and could occur during the PDD Family Support Group or one Saturday afternoon per month at a location to be determined. If you are interest in learning more about this workshop series, please contact Debi Arsenault at 519-587-2441 ext 354 or by email at darsenault@hnreach.on.ca.

Autism Spectrum Disorder – Behaviour Support Program

The Autism Spectrum Disorder – Behaviour Support Program received funding in December 2006 to assist youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) acquire new skills to assist them in the transition from elementary to high school. The program provides coaching to individuals and small groups to work toward goals that they have set for themselves.



Individual coaching sessions have covered many topics. To date, youth have expressed interest in learning more about autism, brainstorming solutions to social and sensory issues, and building conversation skills to enhance ability to develop friendships. They have also received coaching about “fitting in” with peers, increasing their organizational skills so that they can complete their homework and get ready for school, more independently.

Over the past year, groups of young people with autism have been given help to further build social skills, such as initiating and maintaining conversations and developing friendships. After the one-on-one coaching sessions, youth are matched in pairs who share similar goals. This has been both a success and fun for the youth who, as an example, honed their social skills that would be needed at the high school cafeteria, by eating in a restaurant where they waited in line, ordered and ate their lunch, and learned to make comments about the surroundings.

Throughout the program, families have received information about ASD and its impact on behaviour. Parents learn more about how to improve sibling relationships, enhance communication with their child and assist their child to learn independence and life skills.

More programs are being planned for the upcoming year. Youth with ASD interested in participating one evening per month to develop friendships and build social skills through games, activities, snack preparation and conversations should call Debi Arsenault at 519-587-2441 ext 354 or email her at: darsenault@hnreach.on.ca.

H-N REACH Needs You to Volunteer!

I am

kind, caring, patient, playful

Therefore I am....

interested in being a "Special Friend"

Support a child through a meaningful relationship.

By volunteering at H-N REACH, you can gain job related skills, have fun and make a difference.

H-N REACH is currently on the look out for:

- A maintenance person to restore toys, do odd jobs, and keep outdoor play areas in good repair;
- Special Event Helpers to support events hosted by H-N REACH;
- Drivers to take children and adults to appointments;
- And people to accompany a medically fragile child on a volunteer drive.

To find out more about these and other rewarding volunteer positions, contact Diane Corbett at 519-587-2441 ext. 252.



Elizabeth Manley, Olympic Silver Medalist, shares a moment to congratulate retiring volunteer Board President, Kevin Lacroix. Ms. Manley was the keynote speaker at the conference Courage to Tell, which focused on the importance of providing mental health and wellness programs. Kevin is just one of the many volunteers who help H-N REACH to support children, families and communities in Haldimand-Norfolk.

Membership and Donation Form 2008 – 2009

- YES**, I would like to become a member of Haldimand-Norfolk REACH for **\$5**
- YES**, I would like to support the work of Haldimand-Norfolk REACH by making a donation of **\$10 \$25 \$50 \$_____**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Cheques made payable to:

Haldimand-Norfolk REACH, Box 5054, 101 Nanticoke Creek Parkway, Townsend, Ontario, N0A 1S0

A charitable receipt is provided for all donations of \$10 or more.

H-N REACH Staff Directory – 08

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CALEDONIA 905-765-1661

Stayzer-Minor, Tracy, Facilitator

West, Tammy, Facilitator 223

DUNNVILLE 905-701-9572 (Ready Set School)

Crooks, Angela, Facilitator/Ready Set School Program Leader

MCKINNON PARK CHILD CARE CENTRE

905-765-1975

Carron, Wendy, Director of Services, Early Childhood
Forbes, Jackie, Supervisor

UNION HOUSE

519-426-7604

Gammon, Kathy, Interim Manager

CRISIS LINE: 1-866-32-REACH (1-866-327-3224)
Crisis Pager Number: 905-540-2718

