

# Volunteer Newsletter

The Children's Aid Society of Ottawa

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## Words of Wisdom:

*One day an elephant saw a hummingbird lying on its back with its tiny feet up in the air. "What are you doing?" asked the elephant. The hummingbird replied, "I heard that the sky might fall today, and so I am ready to help hold it up, should it fall." The elephant laughed cruelly. "Do you really think," he said, "that those tiny feet could help hold up the sky?" The hummingbird kept his feet up in the air, intent on his purpose, as he replied, "Not alone. But each must do what he can. And this is what I can do."*

**--Chinese Parable**

On behalf of the children/youth, families and staff of The Children's Aid Society of Ottawa we want to say –

**Thank You!**

**We very much appreciate your time, energy and work.**



## Child Access Program

Since the spring of 2012, the Child Access Program has kept on growing and without any doubt our current **49 volunteers** are an integral part to the success of the program. Since that time, we have had two training sessions for new volunteers. We trained a total of **23 new volunteers**. Twenty-four of the volunteers are now matched with assignments, 15 are job shadowing and the remainder are used on an on-call basis. This allows us to increase our capacity to provide service to more families. From April to the present time, our volunteers have provided over **1219 hours of service, an average of 203 hours a month**.

This year we are honouring the following volunteers for their milestone years of service:

- Cheryl Villeneuve - Child Access Program – 5 years
- Camille Beaufort, Child Access Program – 10 years

***Volunteers, a precious resource we can not afford to lose.***

**-- Denise Penn**



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## **In this issue...**

Words of Wisdom .....	1
Child Access Program .....	1
Drive Program .....	2
Headstart Program .....	2
Tutor /Mentor Program .....	3
Holiday Gift Program .....	4
A Few More Words .....	4

## Drive Program

Since April 2012, our Drive Desk has been buzzing like a little bumble bee. In May 2012, we coordinated approximately 58 drives for 65 children covering 3385 kms a day. Today, we are currently coordinating approximately **120 drives for 145 children** covering **4320 kms a day**. This is an approximate daily increase of 62 drives, 80 children and 935 kms. Due to this increase, we have recruited **8 new volunteer drivers**.



We are now in the process of changing our dispatching system from a semi-manual format to an all-inclusive electronic format. We are well aware that in the next couple of months there will be some growing pains. We ask for your patience and perseverance during this time of transition. Thank you ahead of time for your cooperation.

Let us honour the volunteer drivers listed below who have met their milestone years of service:

- Peter Jamieson – Volunteer Driver – 5 years
- Jean-Guy Martel – Volunteer Driver – 5 years
- Ray Doxtater – Volunteer Driver – 5 years

*In a child's darkest hours, you shine a beam of light. When a family is in the time of greatest need, you are there to help. A smile, a hand, a few hours' time - such precious gifts given by you, our Volunteer Driver.*

## Headstart Program

Since April 2012, the Headstart Nursery School has undergone a lot of changes. As of September 4th, 2012, the Headstart Program now offers a full day of care and learning to children who have open protection files. The program is now operating from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There are 26 children participating in the Program -- 10 toddlers (18-30 months) and 16 pre-schoolers (30 months-3.8 years). The program is bilingual. Although change always creates extra work, the Headstart team and our 20 volunteers have been very supportive of the new direction we have taken and we are excited about supporting the children and families we work with.

Honouring our Headstart volunteer who has met his 5 year milestone is:

- Shawn Fillion – Headstart Nursery School – 5 years



*I believe in the spirit of sharing and I believe we are what we are because of those around us. I am what I am because of other people and they are what they are because of me being around. One hand cannot clap on it's own but it needs the other hand to make a clap. Many hands make light work. - Maasai tribal sayings*

## Tutor/Mentor Program

Since April, we have done a lot to help support our volunteer tutor/mentors. We are now pleased to introduce three key individuals -- two resource teachers and a resource mentor volunteer.

Mary Beth Nolan has accepted the role of Resource Elementary Teacher Volunteer supporting all the volunteer tutors who are matched with children from kindergarten to grade 8. Elyse Ford has accepted the role of Resource High School Teacher Volunteer supporting all the volunteer tutors who are matched with youth from grades 9 to 12. Tamy Zubyk has accepted the role of Resource Mentor Volunteer supporting all the volunteer tutor/mentors who need support around children/youth struggling with behavioural management, social and life skills. We had a total of 26 volunteers participating in three workshops that have been delivered since April 2012:



- Literacy and numeracy – “Much more than reading, writing and arithmetic”;
- Supporting our kids during the summer; and
- “What If...”.

**Twenty-seven volunteer tutor/mentors** participated in our “Relationship, Expectation and Boundaries” mandatory workshop. Since April 2012, we have recruited **21 new volunteer tutor/mentors** and had **23 new matches** supporting our children and youth.

We wish to honour the volunteer tutor/mentors who have met their milestone years of service:

- Marie-Claude Bouchard - Tutor/Mentor – 5 years
- Gracia Agostinho - Tutor/Mentor -- 5 years
- Moyra Deans - Tutor/Mentor – 5 years
- Amy Falkner - Tutor/Mentor – 5 years
- MaryBeth Nolan - Tutor/Mentor – 10 years
- Marilyn Smith - Tutor/Mentor – 10 years
- Tamara Taub - Tutor/Mentor -- 10 years

*"Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass...it's about learning how to dance in the rain!"*

- Vivian Greene



## Holiday Gift Program

**Y**es, it's true! The holidays are coming fast! Renée Campbell has been working hard to get everything ready for our amazing Holiday Gift Program. Every year, the CAS runs an in-house toy drive as well as a Family Sponsorship Program. Last year, we received over 9,000 donations of toys and 140 families received a family sponsorship. We are very fortunate to receive such an outstanding amount of support from our community. This year is no different than other years. Renée is looking for volunteers who can give their time to help out with this program. The job description includes: screening and organizing toys, helping workers with their selections, helping to unload bags when donations are delivered and -- most of all -- have fun with an amazing group of volunteers. Volunteers must be available for half or full days between December 10<sup>th</sup> to December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012. If you are interested in participating in this wonderful program, please contact Renée Campbell at renee.campbell@casott.on.ca or by phone at 613-747-7800 x: 2747.



Let us honour the following volunteers who have met their milestone years of service:

- Denise Daoust - Holiday Gift Program – 5 years
- Pierre Daoust - Holiday Gift Program – 5 years
- Bill Leshien - Holiday Gift Program -- 20 years

*It wasn't the reward that mattered or the recognition you might harvest. It was your depth of commitment, your quality of service, the product of your devotion -- these were the things that counted in life. When you gave purely, the honor in giving, and that was honor enough.*

--Captain Scott O'Grady

## A Few More Words

**F**all is in the air, changes within our Volunteer Services are happening:

- We said farewell to Leanne O'Hara and Tarrah Pugh at the Drive Desk.
- Tarrah gave birth to a beautiful baby boy in September.
- We welcome Rick Foucher to the Drive Desk.
- We also welcome Keith Davis who will be providing a couple of hours a week at the Drive Desk.

The Volunteer Service Team enjoys working and meeting all of the volunteers. Our doors are always open. Please come by to meet us if you have a chance. Volunteers play such an important supporting role for the children, youth and families that the Children's Aid Society works with. Thank You!!!

*There is no "I" in Team but there is a "u" in volunteer! - And - There is no "I" in Team, but we sure are glad there is "u" in our volunteers! -- Debbie Weir*

