

# It shouldn't hurt to be a child



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# mmunicate

## **PARC Wins Provincial Award**

By Margaret Leitenberger, Long-Term Care Services

The following is an excerpt of a speech given by Margaret Leitenberger on the occasion of the presentation of the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies' Outstanding Achievement Award for Community Services to PARC (the Pape Adolescent Resource Centre).

In 1985 the Pape Adolescent Resource Centre was set up to serve the young people in the care of the Children's Aid Society of Toronto, the Catholic Children's Aid Society and Jewish Family & Child Services, who were transitioning from care to independence. The target age group was 15 to 21 years.

The project started with a grant from the Ministry, a house from the Children's Aid Foundation, a small coterie of child and youth staff, ideas for supporting youth through their transitional tasks and the vision of its team leader Fay Martin.

PARC, as it is affectionately referred to, is still in the three-storey house on Pape Avenue, but this house is much bigger than the

sum of its "rooms". We say this because the PARC "house" has become the metaphor for this strong and vibrant community that supports its young people on their road to young adulthood.

This community is made up of young people in care, youth alumni, staff and volunteers, shareholders and stakeholders. And the "rooms" in the "house" have come to represent its principal program thrusts: in personal development, community development, education, housing and employment.

Over the years PARC has taken its early ideas for supporting its young people and transformed them into a way of "doing business" that is very respectful and inclusive of their gifts and talents, their challenges and foibles. Primarily, PARC has asked its young people to invest in themselves.

While some young people may seek the services of only one "room", such as education, when asking for a summer job or help with a resume, there are many others who visit all the rooms in the house. Both loose and intense alliances are welcome, but the invitation is there for all to make maximum use of the opportunities that abound within its walls.

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## Child Poverty, Inequality Up in Toronto Since 1995, Study Finds

Toronto Campaign 2000 – a coalition seeking implementation of the federal



resolution to end child poverty by the year 2000 – released their latest report card on child poverty on June 30, revealing one in three Toronto children are poor despite economic growth, declining welfare rolls and more jobs in Toronto and Ontario.

The child poverty rate in Toronto, at 33.5 per cent, is higher in 2000 than in 1995. The number of poor children (174,050) has increased by 21,800 children since 1995. Yet economic growth has been strong. By the year 2000, employment income in Toronto (after adjusting for inflation) is up 27 per cent since 1995.

“What is clear by the year 2000,” says Bruce Rivers, executive director, Children’s Aid Society of Toronto, “is that economic growth alone has not been enough to have the desired effect of substantially reducing child poverty. We see it everyday - children are being left behind.”

### Economic disparity is greatest in Toronto

The gap between those families at the top of the income ladder and those at the bottom is greatest in Toronto. The top 10 per cent of families have average incomes 27 times that of the bottom 10 per cent of families.

The poor are getting poorer. The total median income (the point where half are above and half are below) of poor families actually declined in real dollars since 1995 in Toronto and in Ontario. The income of poor lone-parent families fell to \$13,100 in Toronto. For poor two-parent families it fell to \$14,040. Yet in

Toronto, the rental cost for a two-bedroom apartment is about \$12,360.

“We have to face facts. Families and children are suffering on incomes this low. It’s a constant struggle, and sometimes an impossible one, to simply pay rent and buy basic food and clothing,” says parent activist Beverley Halls.

Lower-income families tend to rely more on government transfers such as Employment Insurance and social assistance. These transfers have declined considerably since 1995 because of economic growth, tightened eligibility and cuts to benefits. Minimum wages remain frozen since 1995. Inflation has eroded the real earnings of those at or near the minimum wage by one-fifth. And there is reduced access to important supports such as child care and adult education.

### Seeking solutions to child poverty

The federal government will increase the Canada Child Tax Benefit by up to \$3,243 per child by 2007. It has begun funding the Early Childhood Development Initiative. And it announced this year it would create a national child care program.

“The child tax benefit is having an anti-poverty impact,” says Colin Hughes, community worker, Children’s Aid Society of Toronto, and author of *To 2000 and Beyond: Report Card on Child Poverty in Toronto*. “However, the amount of the child benefit needs to be raised faster. To benefit all poor children, the practice of deducting the child care benefit from welfare should end. The provincial and federal governments need to ensure that other income and employment policies contribute to an adequate income floor.”

Good quality child care is a critical anti-poverty tool. It enables parents to train and work, and so increase their earnings and improve their child’s home environment. It also provides children with a good start in life, which reduces the likelihood for a future of poverty. Despite this, Toronto has

lost 1,616 child care subsidies due to provincial funding reductions – and hundreds more subsidies are at risk.

“Child care is essential to get and keep families working, and to the well-being of this city” noted Jane Mercer, Toronto Coalition for Better Child Care. “Our City Council has to find a way to prevent the loss of more child care subsidies and to preserve our system. It’s also essential that the Ontario government make new investments in child care.”

Campaign 2000 urges a comprehensive mix of income security, early childhood education and care, housing and employment policies to eliminate child poverty. Campaign 2000 is a national, non-partisan coalition of over 85 national, provincial and community partners. Community partners in Toronto include the Children’s Aid Society of Toronto, the Toronto Coalition for Better Child Care and the Family Service Association of Toronto.

## Research Profile – Robert Ferguson

By Dr. Deborah Goodman, Quality and Systems Support

Robert Ferguson, B.Sc., MSW, is a well-known senior children’s service worker at the CAS of Toronto. He joined the Society in 1989 in “outside residential services,” now known as long-term care. Research and evaluation have always been areas of interest to Robert. Prior to his entry into the child welfare field, Robert was a research assistant for the Hamilton Program for Schizophrenia. There he focused on examining the brain for the locale of auditory hallucinations.

Since 2001, Robert has been involved with two of Dr. Christine Wekerle’s (CAMH) studies. Currently, he is front-line site support for “Mapping Adolescent Pathways” and a co-investigator with the “Youth Relationship Project.” Robert says, “Being site support and part of these research projects is wonderful. To be able to do state-of-the-art research, to be part of ground-breaking studies and work with committed, knowledgeable people is a great way to work.”

**Congratulations, Robert, on your important contribution to social work knowledge and for showing that front-line work and research do mix!**



Homeowners or landlords interested in renting to young adults 16 years of age and older please contact **Elizabeth Fast, One Stop Housing Worker at the Pape Adolescent Resource Centre at 416-462-1010.**

## Turning 21

By Kara Campbell, Communications

The CAS of Toronto held its seventh annual youth recognition night on Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at the Delta Chelsea Hotel in honour of the 90 young men and women who are turning 21 this year and leaving the Society's care. This coming-of-age celebration is an opportunity for the Society to celebrate the accomplishments of youth who have grown up as wards of the Crown or the Society. The celebration included a three-course meal, graduation ceremony, award presentations and entertainment.



Two grads, Shawn Russell and Bill Gray, enjoy the festivities!

It is not uncommon for youth who grew up in the care of the Agency to go on to post-secondary education. The Society and the Children's Aid Foundation believe it is the right of every child and youth to be educated to his or her fullest potential. In fact, the Foundation has supported more than 260 youth in their pursuit of post-secondary education during the last eight years. Since the beginning of this fund more than \$1 million

has been given to former youth in care who had no other means of financial support. This year, 21 youth who are leaving the Society's care are pursuing post-secondary education with wide-ranging interests including police, law, film, chiropody, hospitality, plumbing and forestry, to name just a few.

During the evening Kevin Drynan, Toronto CAS board president, called on the youth to consider their role as ambassadors of the Society. "Many people don't know what the Society does or the differences we can make. I can't think of a better way for people to learn about us than through you. I see you as ambassadors of the Society and I hope when you have the opportunity you will educate others about children's aid."

The stars of the night, the youth themselves, took the opportunity to publicly thank the staff, foster parents and volunteers of the Society for their encouragement and support, as well as to give best wishes to their peers. "Without you all I wouldn't be the person I am today," wrote one youth that night on a free-flowing expression board.

Youth recognition night is graciously funded by the Children's Aid Foundation – a registered charity that raises funds for the prevention of child abuse and neglect. For more information on how you can make a donation to the Foundation, which funds several special events for children and youth served by the Toronto CAS, call 416-923-0924.

### YOUR RESUMÉ SAYS A LOT OF GREAT THINGS ABOUT YOU. INCLUDING THAT YOU'D MAKE AN AMAZING FOSTER PARENT.

If you have professional experience working with children and youth – teaching, social work, CYW, etc. – you know that your skills, training, and devotion can make a profound, lasting difference in the lives of children. And becoming a Homes For Kids foster parent lets you make that difference in a uniquely rewarding way.

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Homes For Kids is a network of children's service agencies dedicated to providing the best foster homes for children in need of care. [www.homesforkids.ca](http://www.homesforkids.ca)

## Attention Community Service Professionals!

The Children's Aid Society of Toronto is pleased to invite you and your staff to attend one of several FREE workshops about child abuse and neglect, the role of the Society, and the responsibility of professionals to keep kids safe.

The workshop covers basic information that would be particularly helpful to new staff. In addition to the presentation there will be a video about the Society and time for questions.

**All workshops will take place in downtown Toronto at 34 Isabella Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor training room.**

**Wednesday,  
September 17, 2003**

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Wednesday,  
October 15, 2003**

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Wednesday,  
November 12, 2003**

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Wednesday,  
December 10, 2003**

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**To reserve a spot at an upcoming session, call communications at 416-924-4646.**

## Book a speaker!

**Confused about the role of the CAS of Toronto in your community? Not sure when to report child abuse or neglect suspicions?**

Get the answers to these and many more questions by booking someone from our speakers bureau to visit your group.

**Just call communications at 416-924-4646.**

This service is free and available to groups in Toronto, Etobicoke, Scarborough and North York.

## Message from the Executive Director, Bruce Rivers



The following is an excerpt of remarks made at the Society's Annual Meeting, June 12, 2003.

When I step back and reflect on the things that set this organization and its people apart - be it our strength in the child welfare sector, the vision, the effective board governance or the history of program success...behind each of these is a powerful organizational culture grounded in service and operating principles which have been passed along and carefully developed over the years. It's a culture which keeps you connected not only in the immediate, but as many of our alumni can attest to, - for a lifetime.

First and foremost there are the children and youth...their stories and life circumstances both haunt and inspire us. At the end of the day there is no question that their safety and welfare must come first. While the pendulum typically swings back and forth in terms of how best to achieve this, their safety is clearly at the heart of all that we do and the decisions we take on a day-to-day basis. This Agency's culture is one of a steady hand, clearly in touch with its core protection mandate. We understand that child welfare is a risky and controversial business. Predicting which parents will abuse or neglect their children is not an exact science. We rely on a breadth of knowledge, some tools and a lot of experience in coming to some of the toughest decisions one could ever imagine making - decisions that affect the futures of those children and families for whom we care so deeply. When all is said and done, the primacy of the child's safety is key. This is our most important operating and service principle.

Teamwork and collegiality is entrenched in our culture. Working with issues of physical and sexual abuse, poverty, addictions, mental illness

and violence colours one's world in a very unusual way. To bring balance to what can become both distorted and distressing for the individual, our organization works hard to create a culture of openness and support. We stand behind and beside our workforce when times are tough and when there are things to celebrate.

Fostering a learning environment where the stakes are so high takes both courage and stamina. Our culture is one that encourages questioning and curiosity. Searching for new solutions and pushing the policy and practice envelope to create better outcomes for our clients is a constant, as is making better use of resources that have been and will always be in short supply. Our culture is one of foresight and anticipation, encouraging solutions to help prevent family breakdown and the establishment of lasting relationships for the kids when they can't remain safely at home.

We value our past and the people who comprise it. We are proud of our diversity and speak out on matters that are important to the welfare of children in the Toronto community. It has been a real privilege to serve as your Executive Director for the past year and even more so to be affiliated with the calibre of individuals who comprise our culture today. You are clear in your vision and prepared to act on your conviction...one couldn't ask for more. Thank you.

*cover story cont. ...*

PARC's value base underpins all that it does:

- it values and promotes relationships and being connected;
- it values the in-care experiences of youth and believes these experiences - some good and some not so good - can strengthen rather than weaken;
- it values the young people giving voice to these experiences to self-heal and to teach others;
- it values work and responsibility;
- it values education;
- it values advocacy and the principle of "giving back".

Just as this value base is integral to PARC, so, too, is its culture: one of hope and possibility, ambition and opportunity, providing one is prepared to work and stay focused and accept help when needed.

In "giving back" it has reached out to younger youth in our care with its leadership and mentoring and tutoring, and to youth in child welfare care in countries like Hungary, Jamaica and Japan.

Its advocacy efforts have resulted in recognition from the Royal Commission on Education, with

improved Extended Care and Maintenance eligibility and funding, agency literacy initiatives and post-secondary supports.

From its early days PARC has tackled literacy issues and nurtured educational dreams. As far back as 1986, PARC staff were advocating with its parent agencies for Board policy on education, capitalizing on Foundation-funded projects for specific literacy programs and pressing for post-secondary funding supports.

PARC's work has been honoured by the Laidlaw Foundation as a "best practice" model for youth preparation for independence, by the City of Toronto for its youth housing model, and by the National Foster Parent Association for its services to youth. Its work team has been acknowledged by a School of Social Work professor as an exemplar of team-work.

But perhaps the finest tribute to the work of



Image courtesy of [www.parcyouth.com](http://www.parcyouth.com).

PARC comes from the youth themselves. In a recent youth-in-care focus group, the youth shared the following, and I quote:

"The fact that it is in a house gives you a sense of family that many of us do not have...we eat together and gain comfort from each other."

## Communicate

Communicate is produced by the Communications Department of the Children's Aid Society of Toronto.

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## Ninth Annual Toronto CAS Golf Day

By Kim Miller, Volunteer Co-ordinator



### Fore the love of Golf!

An unprecedented number of people (152 to be exact) showed up to show off their driving and putting skills on a sunny June 16 at the Society's annual Golf Day at Annandale Golf and Country Club. Not all skills were golf related. Some people had better skill in the fashion department than in the pitching and putting department, while others showed off their driving skills –



Suzanne LeRoy and Ian Rice show off their driving skills.

power cart driving that is. However, fun was one thing everyone had in common. It was great to hear such gales of laughter and whoops for a well-played shot throughout the course.

Thanks to the organizing committee (Melanie Persaud, Kim Miller, Irv Kidekel and Peter Marshall) as well as to all the branch representatives. This day would not be possible without them. Looking forward to seeing everyone next year!

### CAS OF TORONTO GOLF DAY AWARD WINNERS

#### Winning Team:

Robert Ferguson  
Bob Hanrahan  
Brian Barron  
Richard Kwan

#### Longest Drive (Men):

Richard Neary

#### Longest Drive (Women):

Ann Lebovic

#### Closest To The Pin:

Jim Glynn

#### Most Honest Team:

Pat Sisson  
Severina Volpe  
Kym Tvrdon  
Janis Baker



From left to right, Sharron Richards, Melanie Persaud, Kim Miller and Steve Burnet, take time to pose before putting.

## Chill – Winter memories to keep you cool this summer

By Kim Dorion, Life Co-ordinator



The first ever Chill program – a not-for-profit, learn-to-snowboard program for youth who would not otherwise have the opportunity to snowboard – was kicked off when 16 youth and three chaperones from the CAS of Toronto headed north to Snow Valley.

Chill provides everything that youth need for a six-week snowboarding experience, including head-to-toe gear, lift tickets, bus transportation and lessons once a week. For some it was the first time to experience not only snowboarding, but

also sitting around the fire at the lodge and making new friends. All the youth learned to snowboard thanks to the instructors, volunteers and the youth who stuck with it.

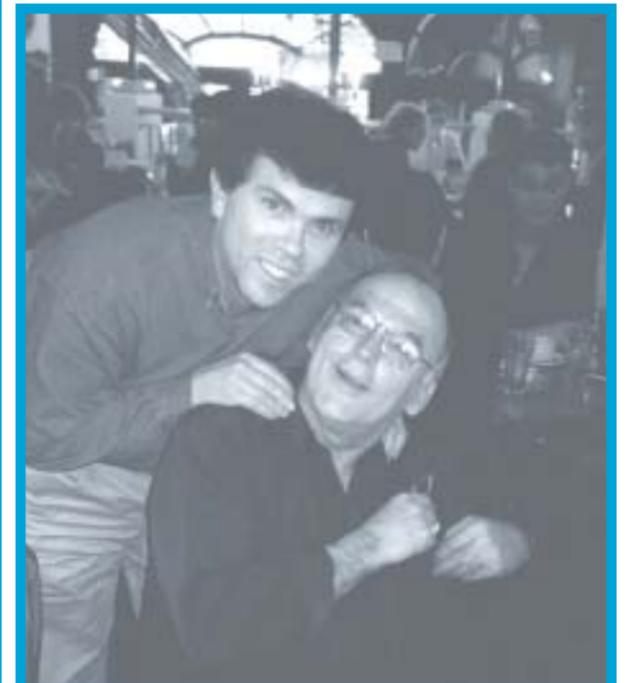
Each week there was a word of the week such as patience, perseverance, courage and respect, to name a few. Each group came up with a song, poem, examples and nominees who demonstrated these qualities. At the end of the program a party was held to celebrate everyone's achievements.

As one youth wrote in a thank-you letter: "Something that I learned during this trip was that great things are accomplished with slow movement, and nothing is accomplished by standing still. Truly successful people in life are givers and forgivers. Thank you so much for everything."

## Bill Morgan Retires

Colleagues of Bill Morgan hosted a retirement dinner for the child and youth worker on April 14 at Pappas Grill on the Danforth.

### BILL SERVED THE AGENCY FOR MORE THAN 22 YEARS!



Shown here: Terry Carter gives Bill a congratulatory pat on the back.

Photo submitted by Ferdinand Herrera.

### SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

Burton Snowboards  
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Mitsubishi Motors  
SoBe Drinks  
Cliff Bars



Chill program participants take a break before hitting the slopes.

## Research Highlights

By Dr. Deborah Goodman, Quality and Systems Support



### ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT

#### Maltreated Adolescent Pathways, Centre of Excellence in Child Welfare at the University of Toronto

- A pilot study to develop, design and measure the impact of maltreatment on adolescent functioning; and a survey study looking at risk and resilience dimensions and child abuse and neglect history.
- Principal investigator: Dr. Christine Wekerle, Canadian Association for Mental Health (CAMH).
- Associates: Drs. Nico Trocme, Harriet MacMillan (University of Toronto).
- CAS of Toronto participants: Robert Ferguson, Heidi Kiang, Nancy McLaren, Dan Cadman and Franz Noritz.

#### Youth Relationship Project (YRP)

- A pilot and feasibility study to evaluate use of 18-week, co-ed, structured groups with CAS of Toronto youth to resolve issues of violence.
- Principal investigators: Dr. Christine Wekerle (CAMH) and Adam Dursley (CAS of Toronto).

#### Better Beginnings – Better Futures Study

- Researchers from Queen's, Guelph and Wilfrid Laurier universities joined together to conduct a longitudinal study that started in 1994. The study examines community-based, early intervention prevention strategies for children and their families living in eight disadvantaged neighbourhoods across Ontario. Two areas specific to Toronto that the CAS of Toronto provides data for are Highfield/Rexdale area and Regent Park.

#### The Somali Partnership Project – Year

- Sharron Richards (CAS of Toronto) and three Somali community service agencies oversee the study, which evaluates the impact on bridging CAS of Toronto services to the Somali community.

#### Positive Parenting Project

- Study evaluates the clinical group work method used with parents who have a history of family maltreatment to try to prevent future violence.

- Principal investigators: Corrie Tuyl, Winnifred Plumber (CAS of Toronto), the Toronto Catholic CAS and the John Howard Society (JHS).

#### Youthdale Retrospective Study on Admissions to Treatment Centres: 1991-2000

- Retrospective exploratory study that groups the 1991-2000 secure treatment population at Youthdale into three groups: crown ward, temporary care and no CAS involvement. It then analyses the file data on a number of dimensions: psychiatric history, psychiatric rating scale, child and adolescent functional assessment scale course on the unit, and treatment outcomes; and statistically looks at trends over time.
- Principal investigators: Drs. Andrew Bennett, Sylvia Kemenoff and Nathan Scarff (Youthdale).

#### Homes for Kids

- Seven CASs in south-central Ontario have a partnership to develop and retain 100 new foster beds. Assistance in the development of indicators and measurement of outcome data will be provided through monthly meetings with Toronto Catholic CAS and Homes for Kids.

#### Youth Anger Program

- This joint project with JHS and CAS of Toronto received its \$50,000 funding through the National Crime Prevention Centre. Five groups of crown wards will be formed: one group ages 7-12, mixed gender; two groups ages 13-16, same gender; two groups ages 17-21, same gender. Funding March 2003 –2004; groups to commence in Fall 2003.
- Principal investigators: Mary Roberts (JHS), Mary Hutchings (CAS of Toronto) and Irwin Elman (Pape Adolescent Resource Centre).

## STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

#### Tanya Corovic-Intake, CAS of Toronto

- 2003 York MSW – study on “Impact of Repeated Exposure to Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect on Child Welfare Workers.” Will use a focus group of mixed workers.

#### Deena Huen-Yeun Supervisor, Peel CAS

- 2003 York MSW – study on “The Systemic Factors that Same Sex Adoptive Couples Face in the Adoption Process.” Three to five couples interviewed.

#### Ian Rice -Placement Resource, CAS of Toronto

- 2003 York MSW – study on the “Diversity Experience of Children in Care: Foster Parents’ Perspective.” Will use a focus group.

## Research Grant Announcement

By Dr. Deborah Goodman, Quality and Systems Support



The CAS of Toronto along with its research partners – Aisling Discoveries Child & Family Centre, Catholic Toronto Children's Aid Society, East York/East Toronto First Duty Second-Dawes Sites, Jewish Family and Child

Service, Lakeshore Area Multiservices Project, and Native Child and Family Services of Toronto – are thrilled to announce their 2003 research submission was awarded one of four national Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare (CECW) grants of \$25,000. CAS of Toronto staff member Sharron Richards is the Principal Investigator.

The study, *Evaluating the Effectiveness of Beyond the Basics Parenting Groups for Parents/Caregivers of Young Children with Child Welfare*, will examine an important yet under-studied area in child welfare: which parenting education interventions that increase parenting behaviours and decrease child maltreatment are the most effective with high-risk parents of young children, and what gains are maintained over time?

*Beyond the Basics* is a 10-week, co-led, mixed-gender parenting group that will be offered at five sites (Scarborough, North York, Etobicoke, East York and Native) in fall 2003 and spring 2004. It is designed for parents with children under six years old who are involved with the child welfare system. The study will evaluate the effectiveness of the *Beyond the Basics* group intervention (treatment groups) and compare results to parents who do not take a parenting course (control groups). This project exemplifies how community agencies and academic settings can collaborate to evaluate key child welfare intervention knowledge and develop the field's research capacity.

**Congratulations to everyone associated with the *Beyond the Basics* project - well done!**

# CAS of Toronto Staff Celebrate!

## BBQ in High Park

By Alan Choi, Children's Service Worker



The 2003 CUPE 2316's annual BBQ went ahead this year after a break in 2002. The June 22 event was well attended by members and their friends and family. The fun went from 1pm to 5pm with lots of volunteers helping. At the fun station, Tamara Yearwood and Aubrey Gonsalvez entertained the children with games. Over at the face painting area, Bev Newman and Wilma Cannon (with her children as helpers!) decorated faces. Paula Dixon ran a very well received craft station and Gina, Karen, Eileen and Alan were busy feeding hungry people at the food station. During all of this, Ami, who has helped with photography before, documented all of the fun times. Molly Barnes, Sean Martin, Alex Benn and Valarie Hartling helped set up the tables for the BBQ and Valarie and Tamara were great to provide the prizes.

Thanks to all of the other members (too numerous to mention) who also helped with the clean up!

See you all next year and we're looking forward to a possible boat cruise later in the summer.

## Volunteer Recognition 2003



Three generations of members of the Etobicoke Auxiliary pose for a photo at Volunteer Recognition held April 26, 2003. From sitting bottom right to left - Patti Franklin, Carole Moffatt, Christopher Franklin, Midge Armstrong, Carole Fordyce. Standing from right to left - May Orszulik, Mike Franklin, Liz Bedwell, Enid McDowell-Hall, Nora Tetsull, Mary Greco.

## Long-Term Care Services



**TEAM KARMA** (Angela Lawson, Mary Hutchings, Rory Gleason, Colleen Parten and Alex Benn) was the winner of the **Long Term Care Bowling Tournament** held April 1 at Bowlerama. Ferdinand Herrera had the highest individual score.

Featured from left to right are some of the other bowling enthusiasts clowning around: Maria Beck, Kevin Yarde, Paul Singh and Rosaria Cuiuri. Photo submitted by Ferdinand Herrera.

## Thank You

### Window Washer Extraordinaire



You may not know him by name, but he has been a fixture at many of the Toronto CAS branches for 49 years. Who is he? Hans Mrowinski – window washer extraordinaire. For practically half a century he has been scaling the exteriors of Agency offices to keep our windows sparkling clean. “If my health stays good, I plan to be around for a long time,” says Mrowinski. Bruce Rivers thanked Mrowinski on behalf of the Agency for a “fantastic job” and presented him with a Toronto CAS watch as a token of our appreciation. “There always has been very friendly staff here, and now to get a watch – this is great,” added Mrowinski.

## Toronto East Tea



Queenie Broaderip and Jenniffer Kay hosted a high tea at the Toronto East branch on April 10<sup>th</sup>. The tea was a refreshing, civilized break in the midst of an otherwise usual hectic day. All reports from the tea were that the attendance was outstanding and all had lots of fun. From left to right: Queenie Broaderip, Franz Noritz, Corrie Tuyl, Shaju Mathew, Tania D'Alonzo, Patricia Martino, Winnifred Plummer having a tealightful time! Photo submitted by Pat Chiappetta.

# Children's Aid Foundation

## Laying the Foundation for Success

By Pat Kemp, Children's Aid Foundation

**E**ducation is one of the most effective ways to end the destructive cycle of poverty and abuse that characterizes the lives of too many children. The Foundation aims to ensure that every child in the care of a children's aid society gets the support necessary for academic success.

### SUN LIFE STAY IN SCHOOL AWARD

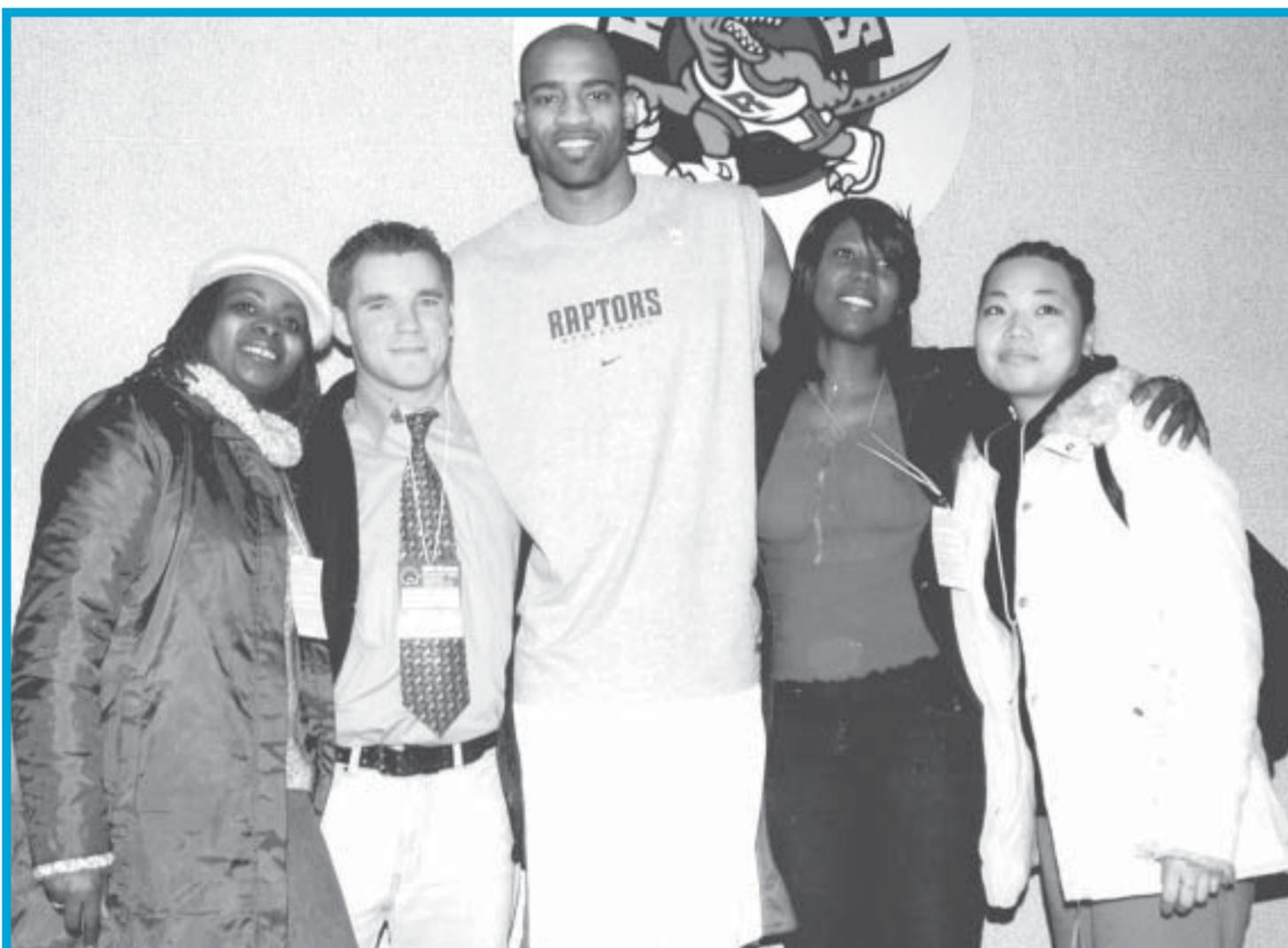
The Sun Life Stay in School Awards program encourages both elementary and high school students' commitment to education and gives them a head start in saving for post-secondary studies. This year the Foundation received 28 deserving applications. Fifteen awards are available. Each recipient will receive a \$200 Canada Savings Bond and \$50 cash.

### POST-SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIPS

The Foundation also received 80 scholarship applications. Forty scholarships are available for the 2002-2003 academic year, some with specific criteria such as athletic ability, the arts, journalism, business and social work, and others general and open to all. The calibre of applications is high, and with double the number of contenders, the award committee has a challenging task ahead.

The Award Committee, ably chaired by Gordon Kirke from the Foundation Board, includes a mix of professionals with expertise in the areas of education and child welfare, as well as two former youth in care who have successfully graduated from post-secondary programs with assistance from the Foundation (both of whom happen to be lawyers!). We are also fortunate to have the expertise of Maggie Leitenberger, Manager, Long Term Care, and Irwin Elman, Supervisor of PARC, who between them know all (or at least most) of the applicants very well. Maggie and Irwin act in an advisory capacity to the committee and we couldn't make such tough decisions without their input.

The Foundation wishes there were scholarships for every applicant. Fortunately, everyone who applies will receive a bursary in the amount of \$1,500 to \$3,000 as well as any scholarship they may be awarded. Stay tuned for the winners in the next edition of Communicate. If you are interested in making a donation to the Foundation, call 416-923-0924 or visit [www.cafdn.org](http://www.cafdn.org).



Winners of the Vince Carter "Believing in Your Dreams Scholarships, 2002-2003" with Vince Carter at a Toronto Raptors Game at the Air Canada Centre.

416-923-0924  
[www.cafdn.org](http://www.cafdn.org)