



**Children's**  
TREATMENT CENTRE  
OF CHATHAM-KENT

Celebrating Abilities, Developing Potential

**Children's**  
TREATMENT CENTRE *Foundation*  
OF CHATHAM-KENT



# 20142015

*annual report*

WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR COMMUNITY'S CHILDREN

## MESSAGE FROM THE CENTRE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It has been an exciting year to work together with our staff and community in support of children and families. With the release of the Ontario “Special Needs Strategy”, funded service provider agencies have received collective direction from the Ministries of Health, Education, Children and Youth Services, and Community and Social Services to work together to establish strong service coordination and improved service experience and outcomes for integrated rehabilitation services. We are fortunate to work with committed local partners to design improvements and enhancements to our current local models.

In addition, here at the Centre, we served more children and youth this year than ever before due to a greatly appreciated funding increase from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, and a new operating fund commitment from the Children’s Treatment Centre Foundation of Chatham Kent.



### The positive impact of our successful year can be noted in the following highlights for 2014/15:



*Sincerely,*  
Donna Litwin-Makey,  
Centre Executive Director

## MESSAGE FROM THE CENTRE CHAIR

As Chair of the Board of the Children’s Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent , I would like to start my comments by saying that I am one of the proudest people in the community. From the top down, our staff plays a key role in the lives of children with challenges from their earliest days until they venture out into society as adults. Every year, more than 2,700 unique children and youth are helped by our therapists. Each of them takes very seriously her or his responsibility to share their skills and passion with these children and their families. From our Board, I wish to sincerely thank each of you.

Over the past few years, the Centre has significantly enhanced programs and community outreach. To support this expansion, we’ve taken steps to ensure a strong service framework and to develop appropriate infrastructure. This includes advancing our capital building case “Securing our Children’s Future” to ensure adequate space for clients, families and staff, as well as upgrading our Information Technology infrastructure.

We welcomed a visit last year from the (then) new Executive Director of the Ontario Association of Children’s Rehabilitation Services (OACRS), Jennifer Churchill. Her enthusiasm, experience and commitment to bring all Ontario children’s treatment centres (CTCs) together to help develop sound public policy and ensure adequate government funding is encouraging and appreciated.

OACRS supports a functional rehabilitation model based on the changing “life of a child”. With their encouragement, all CTCs will be looking at how to take down silos and become more efficient in our service delivery. The goal is to make it easier for families to navigate resources as the child ages and develops in order to make transitions more seamless.

With this in mind, this Children’s Treatment Centre is proud to be the lead agency for Service Coordination in the Chatham-Kent “Special Needs Strategy” where a child’s school needs, community needs and home needs are developed into one service plan. Families of children and youth with multiple and/or complex special needs will benefit from the added support provided by coordinated service planning, with a streamlined and more effective approach for families.

Our mission statement is not just written on every meeting agenda as a watermark, it is there to guide us in every decision we make. Our children deserve the very best because they are: “Amazing kids today...enriching our community tomorrow.”

*Sincerely,*  
Mary Genge,  
Chair, Centre Board of Directors



## MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION CHAIR

Change...This word can have so many different meanings. One definition describes change as “making or becoming different”. To some, change is viewed as a break in tradition.

dream, and at the same time continue to improve our skill-set and talent within the foundation, both to the board and staff to be able to compete in the ever-changing world we live in.

Finally, as we bid 2014 farewell, we commence on a new chapter, dare I say “change”; we are excited and deeply committed to facing the upcoming challenges head on. I’m confident that under the direction of our dedicated and highly competent board of directors and staff, we will embrace change and meet the upcoming challenges with great success for us, and the Children’s Centre that we serve.

To others, change is seen as an opportunity to explore new experiences and challenges. In this era of fundraising we need to be bold, daring and different. Our new direction requires strong leadership, creativity, innovation and enthusiasm in order to achieve success. We must continue to

*Sincerely,*  
Michael Grail  
Foundation Chair



## STAFF YEARS OF SERVICE MILESTONES



## MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Throughout 2014 and early 2015, the Children's Treatment Centre Foundation of Chatham-Kent continued to grow in awareness and effectiveness. Enhanced focus and effort by staff and directors alike on issues of structure and sustainability have delivered not only immediate improvement but have highlighted areas where further work can only strengthen our clarity and purpose.

### Areas of focus over the past many months have included:

More disciplined financial processes and improved financial reporting;

Revisiting and revising our original bylaws to ensure currency and accountability;

Strengthening our understanding of director and staff competencies and recruitment;

Identifying policy gaps and requirements for more effective governance.

While this activity was taking place, staff and volunteers planned and executed what was perhaps the most popular Festival of Giving event in our community to date ... "Wild, Wild West!" Now entering its fifteenth year and hosted and coordinated by the Foundation, the Festival of Giving has successfully raised more than \$2.5 million dollars for several leading Chatham-Kent charities. It has become a premier event unrivalled in neighbouring cities such as Windsor and Sarnia. With growth has come complexity, particularly in risk management, and the committee continues to take a leadership role in addressing any challenges that arise. Enabling 1,100 guests to enjoy themselves, support great causes and get home safely is our primary goal.

In addition, Foundation staff and volunteers introduced two new fundraising events that sparked the interest and imagination of our Chatham-Kent community. First, with the leadership of the Chatham-Kent Cycling Group and financial support of sponsors TekSavvy Solutions, CK Public Health Unit and Campbell Toyota, the first annual CK Cycling Festival occurred in June 2014 and raised more than \$10,000 for the Centre's adapted bicycle program. Then, in February 2015, our first ever Dining in the Dark event was held, raising awareness of sensory-related disabilities and therapy programs offered, and delivering almost \$8,000 for the Foundation's Urgent Needs Campaign. Plans are to repeat both successful events.

Inevitably, as any charitable organization will experience as it evolves, key personnel will join and leave. This past year the Foundation said goodbye to Candice Jeffrey, who over her four years as communications and fundraising assistant, had made a huge impact with her bubbly positive personality and strong skill set, especially in the areas of event planning and social media. But with that departure, we were fortunate to have Shelby Sanchuk agree to join us, first as a maternity leave backfill and more recently full-time, and in a very short time period has impressed staff, volunteers and donors with her abilities and enthusiasm. We look forward to seeing her continued contribution.

*Sincerely,*  
Art Stirling  
Foundation Executive Director

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### "Target Word" Program

Target Word is a program geared toward parents of late-talkers that focuses on interactions between parents and their children, the content of these interactions, and helping parents interact with their child in a way that will encourage their child to use more language, increase vocabulary and their overall communication skills. The program features five group sessions for parents, and three individual sessions of videotaped interactions between parent and child. The videotaped sessions are for the purpose of altering the parents' perspective on how they interact with their child, and to help monitor the child's progress throughout the program.

A late-talker is described as a child between 18-30 months who understands language well, but is not using as many words as expected for their age. The cause of delayed speech is often addressed by simple changes in the way parents interact with their child, such as using more simple vocabulary repeatedly, getting down to the child's level, or participating more in play interactions with the child. The Centre is the only facility in Chatham-Kent to offer Target Word, and the program has had an extremely positive impact on participants since its beginning.

### "Freedom Riders" Adapted Bicycle Program

With the assistance of a Ronald McDonald House Children's Charities grant, the Centre's Freedom Riders adapted bicycle loan program was started in 2008 with the mandate of inspiring physical activity and inclusion of children. Knowing how quickly children grow up, and the associated costs of some bicycles, the Centre's Freedom Riders program loans out customized bicycles to clients, ages 3-19, allowing children of all ages and abilities to ride a bike.

The bikes are loaned to clients for home use for the summer months. Through a partnership with the Lambton Kent District School Board and the St. Clair Catholic School Board and the School Health Support Services Physiotherapists, the Centre's Freedom Riders program is utilized year-round by clients. This past school year, 23 clients had access to a bike while at school.

It is Sydney's love for exercise that brought her to begin participating in the Freedom Riders program. Since joining the program last summer, Syd has experienced tremendous growth in physiotherapy and her bike riding abilities! Syd and her family are thrilled about and excited for her to ride around all summer with her cousins.



## SPECIAL EVENTS FROM THE PAST YEAR...

### 1st Annual Chatham-Kent Cycling Festival

The first-ever Chatham-Kent Cycling Festival pedalled off the grounds of Chatham's Memorial Arena on June 21, 2014. Attracting more than 200 participants and volunteers, the Festival featured an 8 km Family Fun Ride, 50km and 100km distance rides throughout south Chatham-Kent, in addition to a Bicycle Safety Rodeo, several local vendors and a BBQ. Organized by the C-K Cycling Group with support from the Foundation, and sponsored by TekSavvy, CK Public Health and Campbell Toyota, proceeds from the Festival supported the Centre's "Freedom Riders" Adapted Bike Program. The program loans customized bicycles to clients who have physical or developmental challenges. With the \$10,128 raised from the Festival, two new adapted bikes were purchased and a maintenance fund was established for the 13 adapted bicycles already in the Centre's fleet.



### "Wild, Wild West!" Festival of Giving 2015

On April 18, 1,100 of Chatham-Kent's finest cowboys and cowgirls gathered at the John D. Bradley Convention Centre for the 14th annual Festival of Giving. Hosted and coordinated by the Foundation, this year's Festival was filled with jaw-dropping rodeo-style entertainment, never-before-seen auction items, and all the sights, sounds and tastes of the Old Wild West. After the dust settled, \$275,000 was raised in support of local children's charities and food banks. The Festival of Giving remains a premiere fundraising event in southwestern Ontario, and we are thrilled to have the continued support of sponsors and citizens in our community.

*Photo Courtesy of The Chatham Daily News*



### Dining in the Dark

Held in January 2015, the Foundation's Dining in the Dark event brought to Chatham for the first time a unique culinary experience that took guests on a journey of taste, touch, and smell... all in the dark! The event raised \$7,840 for phase two of the Foundation's Urgent Needs Campaign, while also raising awareness for children with sensory challenges who attend therapy at the Centre. The evening featured a silent auction, a performance by the Centre's Black Light Troupe, and challenged guests' senses with a spirit tasting, tarot card reader, a touch station, and of course, dining blindfolded.

*Photo Courtesy of The Chatham Daily News*



### Greening of the Centre

During 2014, the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation provided \$2,500 to the Foundation to use toward planting Carolinian trees, native grasses and shrubs, around the Centre property, particularly in the new playground area and at the building's front entrance. On two separate occasions, community volunteers assisted to make this happen. Last year, representatives of Dillon Consulting, Hydro One and the Chatham Horticultural Society trimmed existing shrubs, cleaned existing flower beds and planted sycamore and tulip trees in the playground area. This spring, a Helping Hands in Action group from Union Gas completed the work, planting new beds, replacing deceased shrubs and spreading mulch and crushed tile. It is very gratifying when a plan comes together, but the Foundation couldn't accomplish these tasks without the great support of volunteer groups in our community.



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### Myranda Tetzlaff, Transition Facilitator/Respite Coordinator

Myranda Tetzlaff of Wheatley did not realize her vocation for Social Work until taking her first social work class while pursuing her undergraduate degree, originally in psychology, at the University of Windsor. Following her undergrad in Social Work, Myranda completed her Bachelor of Education and was hired on at the Centre shortly right after graduating in 2010. Starting as a Social Worker, providing counseling to Centre clients, Myranda's role has since progressed to Transition Facilitator/Respite Coordinator.

Myranda, the Centre's Jill of all trades, works with Life Links, Respite, Kids Are Kids Disability Awareness Program, counseling services, transition facilitation, and Self Discovery. Self Discovery, created by Myranda and Diana Weaver, provides direct services to youth (ages 12-21) for the purpose of assisting them with reaching their goals for independence. These goals can range from independently accessing resources within their community, preparation and employment support, or planning for college or university.

Myranda feels fortunate to be afforded the opportunity to be involved with clients and their families as clients transition from childhood to adulthood, and to play a part in guiding her clients toward reaching their goals. Myranda's passion is evident in her everyday work, and her enthusiasm when discussing her clients and their successes. Thank you Myranda for your incredible work and dedication to the Children's Treatment Centre and our families.



### Cathy Smith, Support Services Clinical Assistant



Cathy Smith was born and raised in Toronto and made the move to Chatham in 1974 to be closer to family. Leaving a receptionist role at a publishing company, Cathy started work at the Southwest Regional Centre. In 1980, Cathy was hired on at the then Kent-County Children's Treatment Centre as a therapist assistant, and in her 35 years of service, Cathy's position at the Centre has evolved into the dynamic, all-encompassing support services role she holds today.

Cathy is proud to look back and see the tremendous service enhancements and technological advancements the Centre has experienced since she first began working here. With 35 years of service, Cathy is the longest-serving staff member. Retiring this upcoming November, she is looking forward to spending more time with her two grandsons and travelling.

Cathy states, "I still love my job, I love what I do. You have to love your job a whole lot to stay as long as I have." Cathy is always going out of her way to help out our staff, and there is never a question that she won't have an answer for. The staff, clients and families praise Cathy for her endless patience, incredible sense of humour and infectious laugh, and will always value her as an esteemed member of the family.

### Alvilda Douglas, Audiologist

Before coming to the Centre in 2009, audiologist Alvilda Douglas lived in Ottawa, North Bay, Nova Scotia and Yellowknife. Interested in a job that involved helping people and continuous learning, Alvilda switched occupations from teaching piano to audiology. At the Centre, Alvilda delivers Audiology services to clients ranging from two weeks to 90 years old, providing hearing tests, hearing aids, as well as counselling and education in support of clients experiencing hearing loss.

Alvilda is excited about the continuous innovation the Centre's audiology program experiences, as well as the notable integration the audiology department has made with other services throughout the Centre and other community members.

What Alvilda likes most about her role in Audiology is that she gets to see and serve clients of all ages. She loves making the sessions fun for the children and having them leave with a enjoyable, positive experience, as well as meeting the elderly clients and hearing their life stories and perspectives. It is the dedicated and enthusiastic staff members like Alvilda who make the Centre the friendly and flourishing facility that the clients and their families enjoy coming to.



## TILBURY YOUTH RECEIVES OACRS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Ontario Association of Children's Rehabilitation offers the OACRS Scholarship Award Program in recognition of students who have been served by an Ontario children's treatment centre and who are pursuing a post-secondary education or career goal.

We are thrilled to recognize Brianna Atkinson as a recipient of this year's OACRS Scholarship Award! This Tilbury District High School graduate has immersed herself in volunteer work throughout Chatham-Kent in helping out with her high school's yearbook committee as an editor and photographer, volunteering as an administrative assistant at a nurse's office, and working as a canvasser for both the Heart and Stroke Run and the Terry Fox Run.

Brianna will be heading to St. Clair College's Chatham campus this September to complete their Office Administration Executive program. This year and a half long program will equip Brianna with all of the knowledge and skills needed to pursue her desired career as an Administration Executive in an accounting or medical office. Brianna has always admired the fundamental role that office administration plays in any organization, and the extent to which employees depend on their office personnel.

Brianna also enjoys travelling, reading, painting and writing, and is considering pursuing an education and career in journalism later on. It is her hard work and perseverance that makes Brianna Atkinson incredibly deserving of this year's OACRS Scholarship Award. Congratulations Brianna!



## CELEBRATING OUR 2015 HALL OF FAME RECIPIENT

The Hall of Fame Award is presented to an individual who serves as a role model for youth who are working toward independence and participation in the community. The award serves to highlight that our youth develop their strengths to become strong citizens, have a positive impact and make a difference in our community.

We would like to recognize and congratulate 19-year-old Becci Smith on receiving this year's Children's Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent's Hall of Fame award. It is Becci's relentless hard work, motivation and beaming positivity that earns her this honour, and we could not be more proud of Becci and her achievements.

Becci is an exceptionally selfless, outgoing and diversified individual. This UCC graduate has long been an incredibly involved resident of Chatham-Kent through her volunteer work at her church, the UCC Friendship Games, Prom Committee, providing tutoring services to children in elementary schools, and her job at Cooper Farm Fresh Market.

As she is finishing up her second year of Indigenous Social Work at Laurentian University, Becci expresses her interest in a career in Social Work, specifically in working with parents of children with disabilities. Becci wants to be in a role where she can help people and make a difference. Centre staff members recognize that social work is the perfect path for Becci and her strengths, and are looking forward to seeing her excel in this role following school.

Becci was involved with the Centre's Self Discovery program with the intention of utilizing the program as an aid for going away to university. Centre staff members describe Becci as an extremely motivated, independent and intuitive individual, especially in reaching the goals she had set for herself. Becci and Self Discovery staff noted that there is a lot of planning and considerations involved with choosing a school, especially in terms of wheelchair accessibility, but Becci confronted every challenge with independence and ease.

Future goals of Becci's include graduating and traveling. There is no doubt that an outgoing and positive individual like Becci has a tremendous amount of successes ahead of her. It is her passion and motivation that makes Becci an excellent role model for the youth and citizens of Chatham-Kent, and there is no one more deserving of this year's Hall of Fame award than Becci Smith.



## FOUNDATION CELEBRATES ITS DONORS

While every donation is important and valued, the Children's Treatment Centre Foundation of Chatham-Kent would like to take this opportunity to celebrate those donors during 2014-2015 that contributed \$500 or more to our Centre and its programs.

### General Operations/Designated Gifts

Chatham-Kent Community Foundation – Carlo Corsini Fund  
TORBSA Buying Group Canada  
Sertoma Foundation of Canada (audiology, speech therapy)  
RBC Foundation (Kids Are Kids program)  
Tim Hortons - Chatham Restaurant Owners (sledge hockey)  
TD Securities Underwriting Hope Fund (adapted sailing)

### "Child's Play" Playground Campaign

Kruger Energy  
Dillon Consulting Limited  
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

### "Chatham-Kent Cycling Festival" for Adapted Bicycle Program

TekSavvy Solutions Inc.  
Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit  
Campbell Toyota  
Union Gas Limited

### "CK Kids Can't Wait!!" Urgent Needs Campaign (Phase 2)

Rexall Foundation  
Canada Post Community Foundation  
Sertoma Foundation of Canada  
Bothwell Firefighters Association  
South Kent Wind Community Benefit Fund  
Unity for Autism  
Industrial Alliance Canada  
Adam Geluk – In Memory of Anneke  
J.V. Laken  
Dover Kinsmen/Kinettes  
In Memory of Theresa Deschamps  
Dowler-Karn Limited  
GDF Suez Canada  
Nature's Finest  
RBC Royal Bank  
Entegrus  
Sun Life Financial (Blenheim)

### "Children's Chrysalis Endowment Fund"

Tim Hortons - Chatham Restaurant Owners  
Mike & Paula Grail / Tim Hortons Employees  
Festival of Giving '14

### Festival of Giving Individual Donors

While corporate sponsors are recognized in event promotion, several individuals donate more than \$500 personally to the success of the Festival of Giving.

Stephen & Karen Andari  
John Paul Andre  
George & Sharon Bossy  
TJ Brodie  
Darrin & Christine Canniff  
Beth & Doug Cummings  
Carlo, Lise & Andriano Corsini  
Greg & Kelly Hetherington  
Mike Kilby  
Joy Kilby  
Don Leonard  
Wendie & Duane Lumley  
Kyle & Jennifer Muise  
Clancy O'Hara  
Chris & Kim Shaw  
Shawn Suisham  
Michele Thébèau & Dave Barnier  
Dan & Daunne Tuckwell  
Don & Daylene Turner  
The Wagenaar Family



**Our Vision...** Amazing Kids Today...Enriching Our Community Tomorrow.

**Our Mission...** Delivering specialized therapy and innovative programs to help children reach their unique potential.

**Our Values...** Family & Community | Partnerships | Compassion  
Expertise | Integrity | Accountability & Results | Safety

### Our Board of Directors:

Mary Genge, Chair  
Daryl Burgess, Vice Chair  
Kevin Allman, Treasurer  
Beth Cummings  
Renee Zarebski  
Mary Lou Martin  
Claudette Meriano  
Shawn Moynihan  
Paula Ceccacci  
Donna Litwin-Makey, Executive Director  
Art Stirling, Foundation Executive Director (ex-officio)

### Our Management Team:

Donna Litwin-Makey, Executive Director  
Marnie Ball, Client Support Team Leader  
Cindy Gillett, Human Resources Co-ordinator  
Theresa Lowe, Finance Manager  
Amelia Morrison, Service Manager  
Sandra DeKok, Service Manager  
Mary Ann MacKew, Service Manager  
Judith Brisbin, Clinical Quality Co-ordinator  
Dr. Wendy Edwards, Medical Director

[www.childrenstreatment-ck.com](http://www.childrenstreatment-ck.com)

### Our Staff:

Alison Munro	Katie McCall
Alvida Douglas	Kelly Moniz
Ann McKenzie	Laura Burritt
Barb Chapple	Laura Gillett
Cathy Smith	Lauren McFadden
Chelsea Mailing	Lindsay Knight
Cheryl-Lynn DeGraaf	Lorne Haskell
Craig Lane	Melissa Gillett
Crystal Ryan	Myranda Tetzlaff
Crystal Gagnon	Mumbi Johnson
Diane Fahey	Pamela Trudell
Diana Weaver	Pantea Rickwood
Erica Sterling	Rachelle Regnier
Elita Tavares	Sandra Spagnoli
Elsbeth Young	Sarah Reed
Emilee Gagnier	Shauna Jackson
Heather Sarson	Sheila McLaren
Janice Seney	Sheryl Langille
Jen Blokzyl	Silvia Croitoru
Jenn Thomas	Tiffany Irwin
Jenny Saunders	Tina Jamieson
Joe Silveira	Tracy Koehler-Massender
Kate Randall	



### Our Mission...

To raise awareness of the Children's Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent in the community and, by doing so, raise the necessary funds to enhance its long-term financial sustainability, ensuring children and youth from across the region continue to receive the therapy services they require.

### Our Core Values...

We value respect, commitment, passion, integrity, stewardship and accountability.

[www.childrenstreatmentfoundation-ck.com](http://www.childrenstreatmentfoundation-ck.com)

### Our Board of Directors:

Michael Grail, Chair  
Adam Vandermeij, Vice Chair (resigned during year)  
Chris Tuckwell, Treasurer  
Tracy Buljite (joined during year)  
Cheryl Alward  
Darrin Canniff  
Tom Curtin (resigned during year)  
Mike Genge  
Greg Hetherington  
Jim McLandress (resigned during year)  
Sarah Regnier  
Nicole Stallaert  
Bruce Walker (resigned during year)  
Donna Litwin-Makey, Centre Executive Director (ex-officio)

### Our Staff:

Art Stirling, Executive Director  
Shelby Sanchuk, Communications & Fundraising Assistant

While our goal is accuracy, it is possible for a name to be missed. Our sincere apologies in advance.

Charitable Registration # 82482 8354 RR0001



AMAZING KIDS TODAY...  
ENRICHING OUR COMMUNITY TOMORROW.



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Audited financial statements for both the Centre and Foundation are available upon request.



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Foundation of Chatham-Kent'



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