



FSP Newsletter - "ACCESS"

December 2008
Volume 1, Issue 2

FAMILY SERVICES of PEEL

Since 1971

Vision Statement:

"To be the agency of choice, making a positive difference within all communities. This will be achieved by fostering the well being of those we serve."



Maria's Story

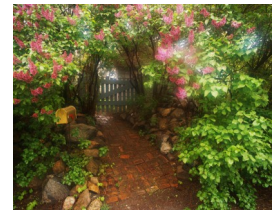
"I'm a 35 year old single woman who has been through tremendous ups and downs with relationships, including being in couple of verbal and physically abusive long term relationships. It took me as much as 6 years to bring myself [to] opening up and talk about what happened to me with anyone besides the police. I thought with time I'll be able to forget and put the past behind me. What I didn't realize that how much I'm hurting myself keeping and holding things inside me.

One day I got tired of being depressed and I felt like if I don't talk to someone I will damage my life and a life time of happiness for myself. I started seeing a counsellor, Michael, who has changed my life and brought me back to my old happy life before those abusive relationships I had.

With his professional experience in VAW (Violence Against Women) program and with his wonderful and helpful advices, I have managed to feel so differently about myself and my life.

I am so grateful for his help and his recommendation for the "New Beginnings" group which helped me a lot. The group and the counsellors in that program also helped me a great deal and I thank them for that.

With Michael's help I have found myself, my path and I found great friends in the "New Beginnings Program for Women". I know many people seek help but what I believe is that talking to a "right counsellor" who will guide you in the "right path" is very important. My family who knows from the beginning that I seek professional help regarding what I went through, also thank Michael for making a big change in me being a woman who in the past always had tears in my eyes which now smiling a lot, feeling happy and trusting myself to make a right choice for my future. *Thank You Michael!*



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Did You Know...

At least 60 cases of elder abuse have been addressed since the introduction of the Peel Elder Abuse Support Program.

Highlights: "Responding to Community"

Family Services of Peel (FSP) has been making a concerted effort to make its services more accessible to the residents of Peel.

Recognizing that transportation can be a considerable barrier to accessing supports, we have moved more services into the community.

Several partnerships have been forged, which facilitate this direction. FSP staff are now located offsite at The Knights Table, Our Place Peel, Peel Senior Link, Regeneration Outreach, and University of Toronto—Mississauga Campus. These partnerships serve to expand our services to the broader

community.

Staff person, Mohamed Bhabha and his team of ten volunteers are vigorously working together to lay the foundation for the soon-to-be successful "Neighbour-to-Neighbour" program, funded through New Horizons. This program consists of a new initiative aimed at helping seniors who are of Muslim faith lead more active lives and to help them participate in their community. Seniors are being encouraged to contribute their skills, experience and wisdom and this involvement will help to reduce the risk of social isolation in their community.

This is just one of many new and creative ideas that we have developed in order to offer our services to Peel residents.

The University of Toronto Mississauga campus (UTM) has been our most recent step to the expansion of Family Services of Peel. As of September 2008, Family Services of Peel has been directly linked to the UTM. We are currently running our services out of an office within their facility.

(Continued on page 2)



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO
MISSISSAUGA

Inclusion

Diversity

Access



FAMILY SERVICES of PEEL
Since 1971



Did you Know...

Between 2003 and 2005, the number of self-identified gay men, lesbians and bisexuals increased 7%.



Did you Know...

74% of adults with a disability are unemployed or under-employed.

We're on the Web!

www.fspeer.org

Highlights (Continued from page 1)

There are four highly trained, qualified and diverse counsellors from FSP connected with this new and exciting community outreach opportunity. Family Services of Peel and the University of Toronto—Mississauga Campus offer students a wide variety of counselling, such as school related stress or interpersonal issues, family problems, grief and much more.

Family Services of Peel, in collaboration with Catholic Family Services of Peel-Dufferin, received a three-year funding grant from The Ontario Trillium Foundation to develop a community-wide support system for men who were abused during childhood. This represents a major collaborative initiative by approximately twenty agencies in the Region of Peel. Family Services of Peel and Catholic Family Services of Peel-Dufferin would like to thank all the members of The Peel Committee on Sexual Assault for their dedication and input. If you have any questions regarding this program, please call us at 905-270-2250 Ext. 251.



Times are Tough and Getting Tougher—We Need Your Help

Our clients tell us that the work we do makes a difference in their lives:

"There is no denying the counsellor's total commitment and genuine caring and respect toward me as a client."

"As an immigrant who has been struggling to a new society, [new] language, ... I did not have high expectations. But at the program (Family Services of Peel), I met someone who, for the first time since I came to Canada listened to me... and cared about me."

These are uncertain times; these are hard times and these are times where community and neighbours and "giving back" are ever more necessary and vital. Homes are being lost, jobs disappear and for many families the threat is at the door. Personal bankruptcies are up and people are struggling with the threat of foreclosure, eviction, abuse and addictions.

More and more, people come to us in times like this looking for solutions, trying to find the power of hope to move forward.

Please support Family Services of Peel through your generous financial donation.

Please submit your donation by either visiting our website at www.fspeer.org or by mail at the following address:

Family Services of Peel

151 City Centre Drive
Suite 501
Mississauga, Ontario
L5B 1M7

Family Services of Peel, as an active member of the Peel Elder Abuse Prevention Network, extends its appreciation to the Zonta Club of Mississauga for its financial support in providing emergency relief for seniors leaving abusive situations. Zonta has supported the Network for the last three years and we are grateful for their ongoing assistance.

A Word from the Executive Director

One of Family Services of Peel's strategic directions relates to increasing our responsiveness to the community. The majority of the agency's services are offered out of its two offices and satellite locations. In reviewing how we could make services more accessible, it was determined that through partnerships, we could locate more services in the community. The partnerships would also enable Peel residents to have access to a broader spectrum of supports.

I am very pleased to report on four new partnerships that successfully meet these goals.

Thomas L. Kennedy Secondary School – Family Services of Peel is providing parenting workshops for families in this school's community. These workshops are free and are held in the school, making the service accessible for parents of students who attend the high school.

Our Place Peel provides short-term shelter accommodations for street-involved youth. Recognizing that youth accessing these services can benefit from counselling support, Family Services of Peel now provides onsite counselling at the shelter.

The Knights Table provides meals and food services to those in need and those affected by poverty in Peel Region. Our partnership with Knights Table enables us to have a staff person onsite who can connect clients with appropriate community resources.

Discussions with the **University of Toronto—Mississauga Campus (UTM)** identified the need for onsite counselling and family life education workshops. As a result, Family Services of Peel has located a staff person at UTM to provide counselling support to students. We are currently in the process of understanding the needs of students with respect to workshops that will enable them to better cope with life challenges.



We look forward to continuing our journey in making our agency's services more relevant and accessible to the people in our community.



Paddy Ramsingh
Executive Director

Did you Know...

1-in-5 (or 42,100) children are living in poverty in Peel.

For every 1,000 Canadians aged 15 years and older, there were 106 incidents of violence in 2004.

Valuing Volunteers

The population of volunteers at Family Services of Peel (FSP) has boomed. We are proud and honored to be well known in the community, Peel Region and throughout the Greater Toronto Area. The support we have received from secondary and post-secondary institutions has been overwhelming and we currently have five post-secondary students working at the agency. Three are from York University, both Sameen Farrukh and Sarah Wright are enrolled as BSWs and Amanda Hignell is enrolled as an MSW. We also have two Sheridan College students both enrolled in their last year of the SSW program, Michael Chip Johnson and Maddy Scrbic. Our students offer FSP a wide variety of skills, knowledge and diversity.

Maddy was born in Mississauga in June 1989 and is of a Slovenian background, although her father was born in Toronto and mother born in France. Her father is a successful graphic arts business owner while her mother works for the University of Toronto—Mississauga Campus as a landscape technician. Maddy attended St. Francis Xavier high school where in grade 12, she decided to pursue some form of social studies. Being the person that she is, Maddy did not want to limit herself and decided to pursue social service work in an effort to work with a larger demographic. After Maddy receives her SSW diploma, she will pursue a future in Human Resources. Maddy describes FSP as a, "Comfortable, friendly environment that works well as a team. There are no bosses here, only friends."

We, at Family Services of Peel, certainly value Maddy's versatility and eagerness to assist others. She's a sweet and caring person and we're delighted to have her as part of our team.



Maddy Scrbic

If you are interested in volunteering, please visit our website at www.fspeel.org or call Human Resources at 905-270-2250.

Mission Statement:

Family Services of Peel works to strengthen and support families and individuals while building healthy communities.

Values:

Person-centred
Inclusion and Access to Services

Dignity and Respect
Excellence

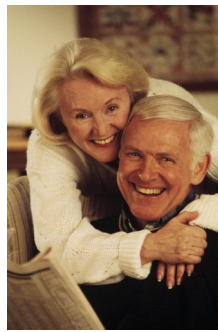
Integrity



FAMILY SERVICES of PEEL

Since 1971

Contact Information



Intake: 905-453-5775

Family Services Of Peel

151 City Centre Drive, Suite 501

Mississauga, ON, L5B 1M7

Phone: 905-270-2250

Fax: 905-270-2869

20 Nelson Street West, Suite 202

Brampton, ON, L6X 2M5

Phone: 905-453-7890

Fax: 905-453-3404

33 King Street West

Bolton, ON, L7E 1C7

Phone: 905-857-1554

We're on the Web in many languages!

www.fspeel.org

A proud member of the United Way



Sharing an Experience

"The faith my counsellor had in me gave me hope and the courage to take steps to move from crack-house to this quiet rooming house."

"I think you are doing incredible work that makes a difference in the lives of those for whom you provide guidance."



Feedback

Give us a call, drop us a line, let us know what you think!

Your comments are important to us. If you'd like to see an article, please contact:

Tom Triantafillou at 905-270-2250 Ext. 251 or ttriantafillou@fspeel.org



Inclusion

Diversity

Access