

Annual Report

LONDON & MIDDLESEX
CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

YEAR IN REVIEW
2010-2011



Children's Aid Society
La Société d'aide à l'enfance
LONDON & MIDDLESEX

www.caslondon.on.ca

Safe Children, Bright Futures



Albert Bannister

Albert Bannister
President



Jane Fitzgerald

Jane Fitzgerald
Executive Director

This year tested our commitment to our mission more than any in recent history. As with many challenges in life, important lessons were learned along the way. Despite unprecedented financial stresses, we found our strength in our commitment to our mission – protecting the well-being of children, particularly those at risk. We learned the importance of our dedicated staff, foster parents and volunteers, and rediscovered their resiliency. They did not waver in ensuring that our community’s children and families continued to be well-served. We were also reminded that child protection and family well-being is not the job of one person or one organization, but of many.

It has also been a year of perseverance and learning for our Board of Directors. At the same time a Provincial Commission was working towards overall sustainability of Child Welfare in Ontario, our Board was working closely with the Ministry to achieve greater financial sustainability for our Society. The strategic plan we introduced last year at this time became the foundation from which all our financial and service decisions were made;

our prudent stewardship, aligned with our commitment to service excellence, moved us much closer to our goal of a responsible balanced budget.

The Board has also initiated a new “community engagement initiative” where Board Members directly and actively seek feedback from the community at-large. A series of focus groups will connect us to a broad representation of community stakeholders who will provide us with a deeper understanding of how our work is perceived and understood. We are looking forward to these dynamic dialogues and promise to report back on what we learn.

Thank you to our funders and donors, to our service and community partners, our volunteers and fosters parents, and to our staff and members of the Board of Directors, for your steadfast commitment to achieving our vision for Safe Children and Bright Futures. Our roots in this community go deep and are strong – this was our most important lesson. This gives us optimism for our future, our children’s future and for our community’s future.



“As a champion for the safety and permanence of every child, our commitment is that every child experience a safe, stable and lifelong family within a supportive community.”

Through the eyes & ears of a child



We provided 865 children with in-care resources and provided prevention services to an additional 2,042 families in the community...representing service to more than 4,000 children and youth

- March 31, 2011

During the past year, we have been on a journey of reflection and review. Our Balanced Scorecard strategic planning process created new opportunities to examine and redevelop our service delivery model – one that consistently places the needs of the child first. We are examining our work processes to create continuity of relationship for children and families and to focus more of our energies on permanency for every child.

We continue to review our service and administrative practices and we embrace every problem we identify as an opportunity to do things better, consistently asking ourselves how our service experience looks, feels and sounds through the eyes and ears of children and youth.

Aligned to our vision and guiding principles, the CAS of London and Middlesex envisions a future where:

fewer children
need to come
into the care of
our agency

when children
do need our
care, their time
with us
is shorter

when children don't
need our direct care
any longer, they are
safe, in a lifelong
caring family,
within a supportive
community

As we continue to implement our Balanced Scorecard strategic plan from a child-centred perspective, we anticipate the results of our prevention efforts will be reflected in declining numbers of children requiring in-care resources in subsequent years.



M
Dr

YURISA
Bursary Recipient

Working towards a Masters
Degree in Communication
and Social Justice

For more information on how to support our Bursary Fund and encourage youth who are living in care of the Children's Aid Society to pursue post-secondary education, call **519 455 9000 x 475** or go to

www.catalogueofhope.com

\$515,250
to **104** youth for
180 bursaries
Now that's amazing!

Making Dreams a Reality Through Education

While many youth were heading off to university and college, Yurisa pursued her passion in musical theatre, spending two years at the Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts in Toronto.

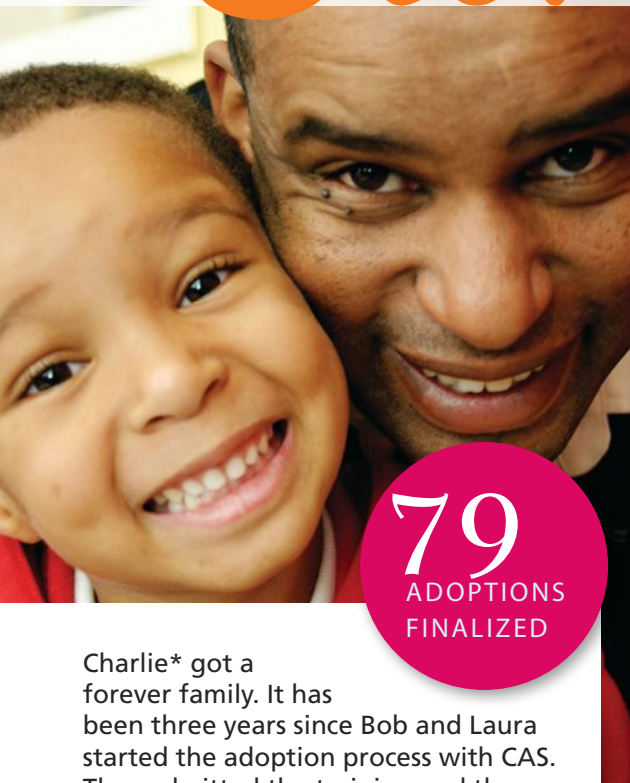
"Moving to Toronto right after high school was very scary. My social worker connected me with a number of resources that supported me during the move. I couldn't have done it without her!

When you're a part of CAS, going to post-secondary school can be very intimidating. At times I felt doubtful, but the financial support and encouragement from CAS made my life much more manageable. I consider myself very lucky."

- Yurisa



THE *Stories* BEHIND THE STATS



79
ADOPTIONS
FINALIZED

Charlie* got a forever family. It has been three years since Bob and Laura started the adoption process with CAS. They admitted the training and the multitude of interviews and assessments appeared onerous as they were going through the process. However, they looked back with understanding as they saw how relevant the steps were to the reality of bringing a 3 year-old into their home.

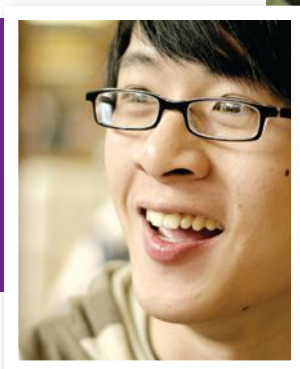


Completed
29,738 drives,
representing more than
2.2 million kilometres

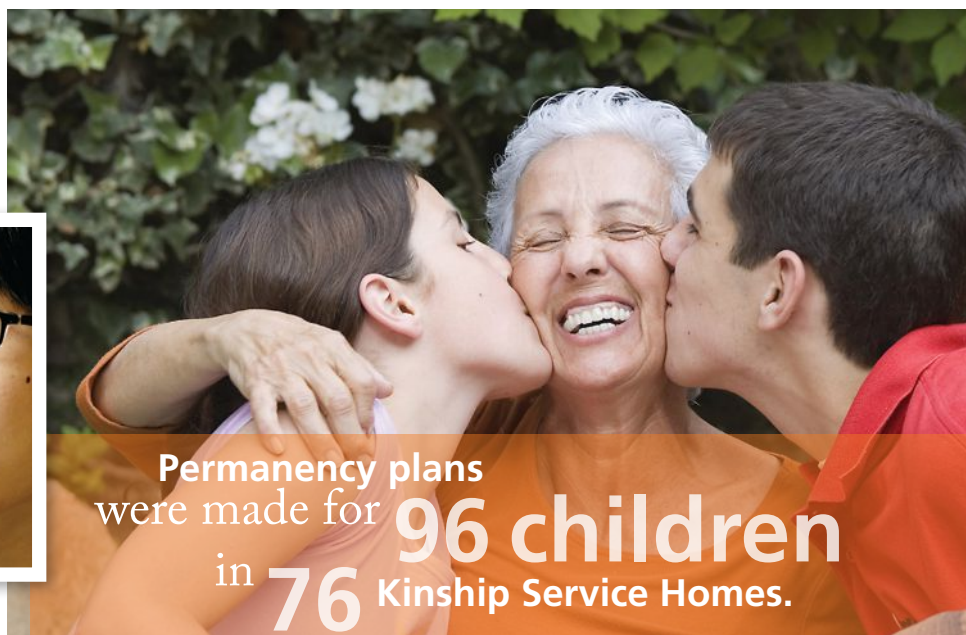
FRANCISCO
Volunteer Driver
for 7 years

"I came to Canada from El Salvador 19 years ago. There is no government agency to protect children in El Salvador, and many whose families can't look after them end up begging for money on the street. My family and friends back home can't believe what an amazing organization I have the privilege of volunteering for here in Canada. I love what I do for the children and their families."

95%
OF OUR CHILDREN AND
YOUTH WITH CROWN
WARD STATUS ARE
ATTENDING SCHOOL ...



...with 91% progressing toward promotion. Joe* now 19, attended very little school during his teens, until he was introduced to Reconnect, an innovative education program. Joe gained some credits for previous learning and within a year he earned 17 more credits. Joe graduated from Wheable Adult Education Centre this year and will attend Fanshawe College in the Fall.



Permanency plans
were made for **96 children**
in **76** Kinship Service Homes.

Margaret* is a 64 year-old grandmother. But to her three grandchildren, ages 8 to 16, she is much, much more. She is all they have. Affected by parental substance addiction, domestic violence and neglect, abandoned by their father and orphaned by a mother lost to cancer in her 30's, Margaret's grandchildren are thriving in her care. And for her efforts, she has the unwavering love and loyalty of her grandchildren. To put it bluntly, this grandma rocks!

* All names are changed to protect confidentiality.

2010-2011 Financial Report

This report includes information on the Ministry of Children and Youth Services Child Welfare Program and the Family Violence Program.

	2010-2011	2009-2010
Income		
Province of Ontario	\$68,356,522	\$64,136,567
Income & expenditure recovery	\$ 2,888,206	\$ 3,111,451
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Total income	\$71,244,728	\$67,248,018

Disbursements

Salaries & benefits	\$29,627,571	\$29,314,732 *
Children's boarding costs	\$29,412,044	\$29,364,331
Client support services	\$ 7,170,359	\$ 8,359,052
Administration	\$ 3,617,746	\$ 3,946,754
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Total disbursements	\$69,827,720	\$70,984,869

*Increase reflects annualized costs of increased staffing to meet caseload requirements.

This is a summary of details in the 2010-2011 Financial Statements audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP.

Board of Directors

Executive Members

Albert Bannister	President
Walter LeGrow	Vice President
Amy Walby	Secretary/Treasurer
Blair Pierce	Member at Large
Piyush Shah	Member at Large

Directors

Paul Caplan	Director
Riley Culhane	Director
Ed DeDecker	Director
Mihad Fahmy	Director
Cathy Hird	Director
Barbara Lent	Director
Dora Tam	Director
Ruth Young	Director

Executive Director

Jane Fitzgerald



"I was a foster child myself, so I am very aware of the role of Children's Aid in the community, and the importance of volunteers to operate their programs. Things have changed so much since I was a kid – there are so many more programs and services available to families now. I love seeing the children interacting with their parents. We work with several families, not always the same ones each week. Over time, you do get to know the families you work with, and you can tell when things are going well, or when they are having a rough day. You almost become like a part of the family."

LINDA
Friendly Visitor Volunteer

"I AM YOUR CHILDREN'S AID."

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BECOMING A VOLUNTEER, A FOSTER OR ADOPTIVE PARENT OR TO MAKE A DONATION CALL 519 455 9000 x 475 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.CASLONDON.ON.CA



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