

A young child with light brown hair, wearing a blue and white plaid shirt, is the central focus of the image. The child is holding a long, green plant stem with both hands, looking up at it with a focused expression. The background shows a dining room with wooden tables and chairs, and a window looking out onto a street. In the foreground, there are several colorful flowers, including yellow and red daisies and blue flowers, on a wooden table.

Milton Community Resource Centre Annual General Report 2013

All photos in this report are from our Artists and Children Together (ACT) program. Read more about our program on our website and visit our blog!

A Message from the Board Chair and Executive Director

The 2012/13 calendar marked another successful year for MCRC where our services and supports were clearly guided by our Mission Statement; “The creative and innovative leadership of MCRC with the Halton community will develop and deliver services to inspire and support children, their families and professionals.” MCRC has a rich history of providing quality early learning and care programs and services in our community. We are a multi-site, multi-service not-for-profit organization governed by a voluntary Board of Directors and we operate within an open and transparent business process.

Over the past year there have been changes to provincial ministry auspices and government policies that will have a significant impact on child care and Ontario Early Years services. The Ministry of Education released their Ontario Early Years Policy Framework which outlines the province’s commitment to effectively manage a transformation of the way programs and services are delivered, which will lead to better outcomes for children and a more seamless system for parents. MCRC has been and will continue to be involved in key provincial and local discussions which allow us to stay current of the transformation efforts and where we can contribute our knowledge and expertise in the field of early learning and care.

MCRC has had several key achievements, innovations and significant growth in the many programs and services we provide to the Milton and surrounding communities. Social Media and an on-line presence has been a focus of our work this year and we have launched a new Facebook page, Twitter feed, blog and two fresh new websites for MCRC and THRC. In just a year our Facebook page went from fewer than 200 followers to well over 600 and it continues to grow. Recent analytics suggest that each of our daily posts reach an average of 300 people. Be sure to check out our page where we highlight current events, research, and community and program information. Our new websites; mrc.on.ca and thrc.on.ca have been designed to be engaging, informative and easy to use. As a component of the new on-line focus, we created and implemented our Ontario Early Years Centre (OEYC) and Family Resource Program (FRP) on-line registration system where parents now can register in the comforts of their own home and avoid the 6:00 a.m. Saturday line up in the hopes of securing a spot in their favourite program. Community professionals can also find ease of registration with our new The Halton Resource Connection (THRC) on-line registration and database system.

As an organization, MCRC wants the best outcomes for the children and families we serve and as an employer, it is our priority that staff are well supported, treated fairly and have an enriched opportunity for growth. We feel very responsible for the appropriate balance of these important outcomes. This year MCRC was recognized by STRIDE as a 2013 Outstanding Employer. Also, we are the recipients of the 2013 Reader’s Choice Diamond Award for the Best Summer Camp in Milton and we won 2 Platinum awards for Best Day Care and Best Learning Centre.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the MCRC family - the Board of Directors, 115 exceptional staff and 362 amazing volunteers who provided 4495 hours of their time to our organization. Together, we all work towards MCRC’s vision of “A safe, caring community where children and families are valued, grow and succeed.”

Sincerely,



Tiffany Stewart
Chair, MCRC Board of Directors



Rebecca Barrows-Vrankulj
Executive Director, MCRC

Board of Directors

Chair: Tiffany Stewart

Vice Chair: Grace Mater

Treasurer: Wilfred "Buddy" Edge

Secretary: Bob Pell

Director: Cheryl Hayles

Director: Mike Cluett

Director: Diana Godfrey



MCRC Staff

Executive Director

Rebecca Barrows-Vrankulj

Extended Management

Ashley Green

Becky Weber

Betty Read

Cheryl Haug

Grace Fialho

Helen Romary

Hollie Manson

Jean Brown

Kate Sherwood

Lee-Ann Babin

Maria Evans

Megan Lantz

Melanie Cunha

Melissa Brownlee

Natalia Leal-Nye

Petra Samson

Ruth Anne Wollaston

Sarah Farrugia

Serena LeChat

Sherry Standish

Tina Bulicek

Victoria Armstrong

Front Line Staff

Aleksandra Dhyaneswar

Amanda Conteduca

Amanda Finch

Anazenska Fuentes

Andrea DeBartolo

Anne Wassenich

Balveen Mahal

Barbara Harrison

Bibi Khan

Bola Ogunleye

Bonnie Brooks

Bradley Kranstz

Bronwyn Lewis

Carmela Palmieri

Cassandra Bordignon

Cassandra Di Vizio-Mendes

Catherine Hayward

Cathy Lipton

Cathy Smith

Corin Charles

Cynthia Faucher

Daniella Rinella

Danielle Whiteside

David Giroux

Deanna Torney

Denise MacDougall

Eliza Marasigan

Erin Relf

Eva Boctor

Farhana Mohamed

Frances Killingbeck

Holly Marcella

Inderpreet Kaur

Irina Boangiu

Jennifer Boyer

Jennifer Davero

Jennifer Lee

Jowita Gancarz

Karen Sickinger

Karin Villeneuve

Kathleen Ryan

Kathy Page

Katie Gumbrell

Katie McDonald

Katie Richardson

Kelsey Bolt

Kerry Ann Gardener

Kim Barrows

MCRC Staff

Kim McMahon

Kim Parker

Leleka Haughton
Lindsay Boyce
Lisa Feraday
Luisa Castro
Mallory Brown
Meagan Confiant
Meghan Pugh
Nancy Gourlay
Nancy Tattersall
Nicole Bedford
Niza Chaudhry
Norma Smith
Noura Latif
Oprah Coley-Brown
Pat Douglas

Kristin Hogan

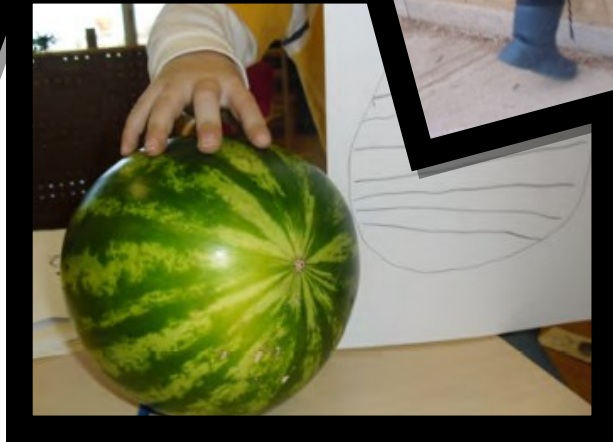
Kyle Jones

Patsy Mallais
Pauline Bishop
Prabhjot Kaur
Rizwana Ahmed
Ryan Good
Sabah Majid
Sara Ward
Sarah Naim
Shannon Baker
Sharon Campbell-Springstead
Sheena Niyamuddin
Shereen Parvez
Shivana Radhakishun

Shiyama Sivayogalingam

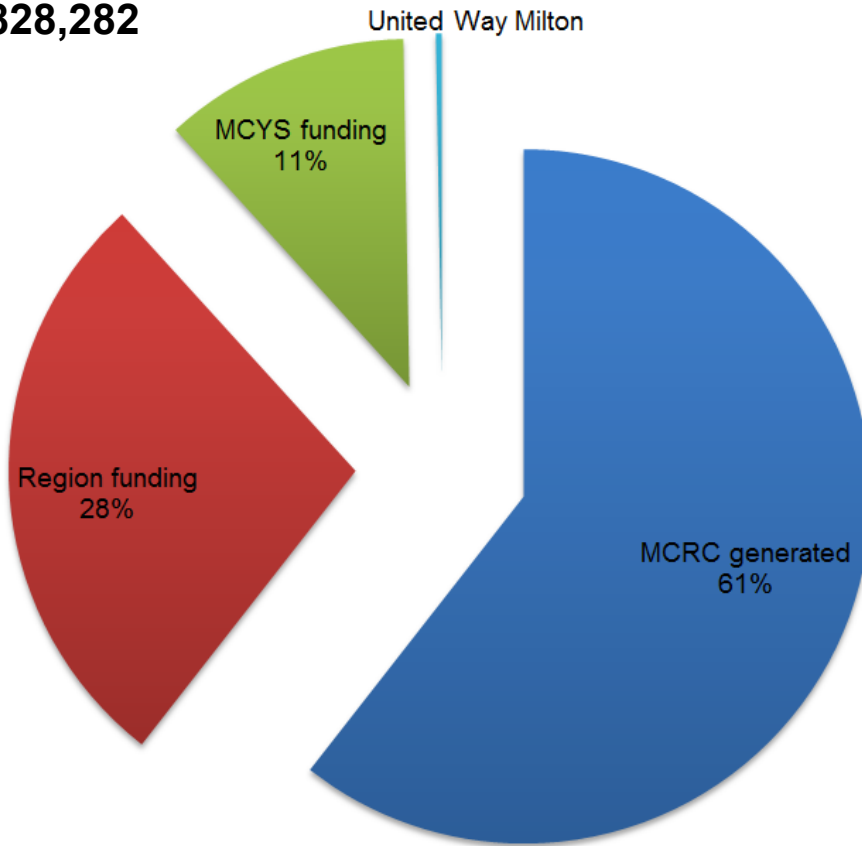
Shweta Garrett
Simona Fedoran
Stephany Freire
Steven Campbell
Sucharita Kirtikar
Sue Yatiwelle
Susan Moniz
Tanya Bangaroo
Thushari Rajapakse
Wenday Pavao-Terlizzi
Zenab Karimjee

Leanne
John-
ston



MCRC REVENUE

\$5,828,282

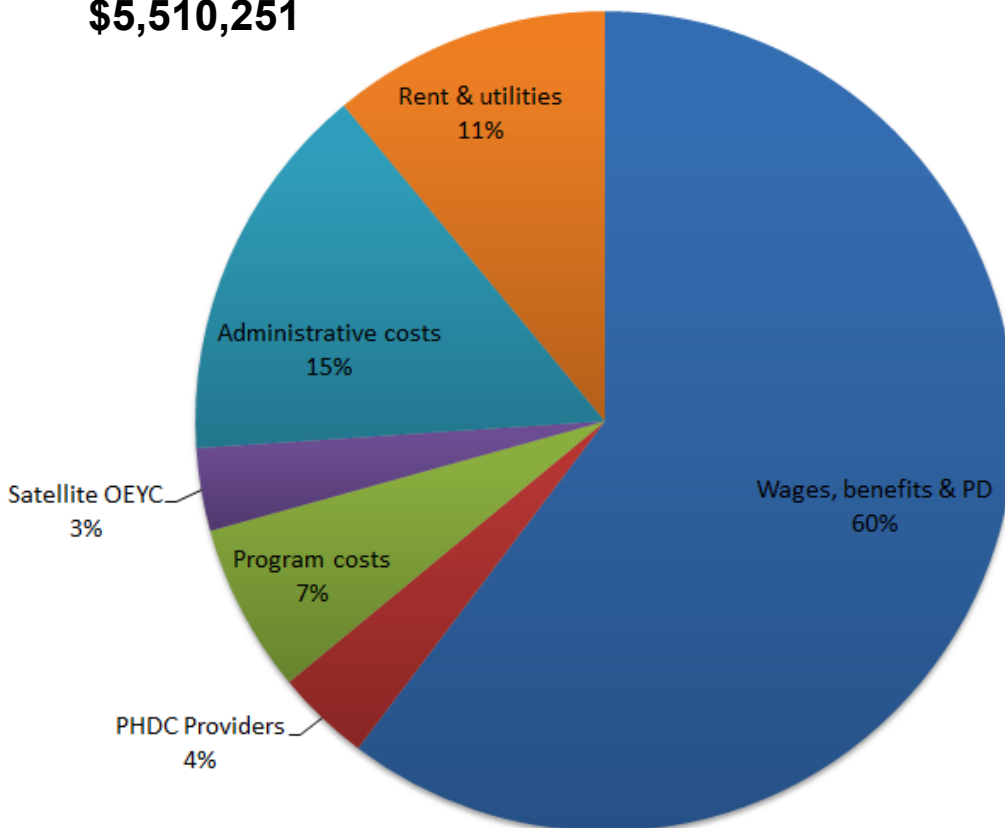


MCRC would like to thank the following funders for their on-going support:



MCRC EXPENSES

\$5,510,251



THE ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION



LA FONDATION TRILLIUM DE L'ONTARIO

Jennifer Davero-Quality First

Jennifer Davero RECE started at MCRC in July 2008 as the supervisor of Bronte Street School. In January 2009 Jennifer was hired as a Parent and Provider Consultant for the Child Care Directory and Information Line with The Halton Resource Connection where she continued to support families in their search for child care options. This led Jennifer to her current role as a Quality First Consultant. As a Quality First Consultant Jennifer supports the Oakville YMCA preschool and school age programs through visits and observations. Her sensitive and empathetic approach has supported the programs in moving successfully through the Quality First model. Jennifer's creativity and enthusiasm is evident in everything she does, and when she sets her mind to something watch out, there's no stopping her! From creating the now annual MCRC Halloween Party, to her work on the Social Committee, Jennifer looks for ways of ensuring that staff at MCRC feel appreciated and valued for everything they do. Her work on staff appreciation day, treat days and the wonderful Holiday Party, Jennifer's kind and caring approach is always present. Thank you Jennifer for all you do in helping keep MCRC a fun and exciting place to work!



Maria Evans-Operations Coordinator

Maria Evans has been with MCRC since 2002 and has developed a strong reputation for team spirit and overall dedication to MCRC programs and staff. Over the years she has held the positions of; Parent and Provider consultant, Child Care Registry Coordinator, Child Care Directory and Information Line Coordinator, and she became MCRC's first and only Operations Coordinator in 2010, a position that she has held ever since. We are not sure how we survived before Maria took on this position and it is not unusual for there to be a line-up outside her door first thing in the morning with staff needing assistance with something that "is not working". Over the past two years Maria has successfully managed capital projects that have seen significant renovations, updates and expansion within our locations. Her positive attitude and friendly personality makes her a great contact for the many contractors, building maintenance workers and staff who rely on her support, organizational and problem solving abilities. Maria is a strong advocate, mentor and coach for her staff team who are often treated to her homemade lasagna at their staff meetings. She is the certified management co-chair of the workplace Health and Safety Committee. Maria and her family are a tremendous support to all of MCRC's fundraising events. Every year, Maria is recognized for securing

the most financial support to our events through obtaining sponsors and gift prizes. Maria is a strong and valued member of the Extended Management Team. Three statements provided by her colleagues in their nomination of Maria for the STAR award sum it up best..."She listens to others and "makes" things happen", "Maria embodies inclusion, she always makes sure that everyone around her feels valued and part of the team and process", "She wants the best for the organization but also wants a "good deal".



Martha Alvarado-Volunteer

Martha Alvarado is MCRC's volunteer of the year 2013. She has only been volunteering with MCRC since May 2013 and has made quite an impression on the staff she works with. Martha is always smiling and truly enjoys her volunteer work in the Halton Resource Connection library often staying later than scheduled in order to complete tasks. Martha goes above and beyond as a volunteer greeting THRC members, supporting them with their questions and making suggestions to staff with ideas that support the library. In the summer, Martha also volunteered in MCRC's Family Resource Program, "Math and Me" which children attend on their own. The first afternoon of this program was challenging as a number of the children were unhappy about being away from their parent or caregiver. Martha was a great help to staff in comforting, settling and redirecting the children. Her warm and caring nature is also very much appreciated when she supports staff with the Kids Konnection program on Tuesday mornings. Martha's willingness to assist in a variety of programs demonstrates her extraordinary commitment to MCRC's programs and services.



Readers Choice Diamond Award MCRC School Age Camps

MCRC runs licensed camp programs for children in JK through to Grade 6 for PA Days, Winter Break, March Break and Summer Break. Our camps offer children a safe and caring setting where they have the opportunity to explore and investigate their environment, their community and build relationships with those around them to construct new knowledge and ideas. MCRC strives to incorporate experiences, special visitors and field trips that are based on the interests of the children inviting them to engage and explore. With a wide variety of education and experience including Early Childhood Education, Primary Education Studies and Recreation and Leisure, our camp staff are able to build strong relationships with the children and families, and to provide an enriched camp experience.

The combination of dedicated, experienced staff and child centred programming was recognized by Milton with MCRC receiving the **2013 READERS CHOICE DIAMOND AWARD FOR BEST SUMMER CAMP!**



Development Assets

Developmental Assets® (DA) are experiences and qualities that all children and young people need to thrive. Based on extensive research, the Search Institute www.search-institute.org/developmental-assets has identified 40 Developmental Assets®; from support and empowerment to positive values and identity. MCRC has embraced this framework and is committed to building assets in all of our children and youth.

It is important to MCRC that we are intentional *Asset Builders* through all of our contacts with children, parents and staff. This important work is woven into the fabric of our organization and can be seen in action through the many programs and services we provide.

OUR STAFF

Two MCRC staff have been through extensive DA training as part of the Halton DA Trainers group. This year alone they provided six community training sessions as well as two 3 hour, *Everyone's An Asset Builder* sessions for new MCRC staff, totaling 55 staff in attendance.

One of the fundamental ways in which MCRC ensures that DA is strongly embedded in the work that we do is through the internal DA staff committee. This group of individuals come together once a month to plan and implement various DA information opportunities. They increase awareness of DA through Facebook and blog posts, on-site information monitors, posters and planned events and activities. Our Facebook posts have been very popular as we continue to highlight one to two Assets per month.

MCRC is one of three organizations piloting the Halton Our Kids Network's Asset Building Toolkit which aims to inspire, guide and support the work that we do with children, youth, and families. We value our staff and want to make sure we provide every opportunity for them to fully understand their role as an asset builder and to also support the development of their assets too! This toolkit ensures that an organization has all the necessary policies, procedures and staff supports to truly facilitate the building of assets.

OUR PARENTS

In October of this year, the members of the DA Committee in coordination with our Early Years staff hosted an *Introduction to Developmental Assets* workshop for parents. It was a very successful evening and parents left the session wanting more! One parent said she was interested in attending this workshop after reading our DA posts on Facebook.

OUR YOUTH

At MCRC we acknowledge that youth have valuable ideas and opinions, and can make a difference in their community. The youth at our monthly Grade five to Grade eight dance raised \$69.00 from the sale of glow bracelets which went directly to purchasing diapers, baby food, and formula for our Infant Food Bank. Each participating youth signed a mural we have proudly posted at our main location. We have also begun to develop a meaningful relationship with the Milton Youth Advisory Committee (MYAC) where their ideas, connections and collaboration will be sought around fundraising efforts targeted at increasing awareness and support of MCRC's Infant Food Bank.

MCRC hosted its first Bring Your Grade Nine to Work Day this year which highlighted our curriculum approach where children learn through play. The "Come and Play for the Day" event was attended by four students who visited our many child care locations and through the use of cameras, video cameras, or sketch/note pads they documented their observations. After they completed their visits it was time to "play" and be creative with the media and materials. Wow! We were truly inspired by their creations! Some used art to express their view and some used technology. All of the documentation was thoughtful and reflective of what they saw and experienced at MCRC. A video produced by one of the students will be soon be highlighted on our Facebook page.

At MCRC, we believe that the healthy development of our children and youth is a shared responsibility. The Developmental Asset framework is grounded in research showing that children with more assets are more likely to develop positively. Whether through the many programs we provide for children and their families, our youth dances, professional development opportunities or working with youth volunteers, our work focuses on promoting healthy, positive development and strengthening children and youth through asset building.



MCRC INFANT FOOD BANK FACT SHEET

41% OF CANADIANS KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAVE USED A FOOD BANK.



POVERTY AFFECTS 3 MILLION CANADIANS. 1 IN 5 ARE CHILDREN.

For children, particularly younger children, living in poverty increases their risk for mortality and morbidity.¹

AFTER BIRTH, A CHILD'S BRAIN

GROWS AS MUCH IN THE FIRST YEAR AS IT WILL GROW DURING THE REST OF LIFE.



POOR NUTRITION

DURING THIS PERIOD CAN HAVE PERMANENT NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON HEALTHY BRAIN DEVELOPMENT.²

HALTON STATISTICS

Data from the Canadian Community Health Survey shows that in 2007 approximately 6,300 Halton households experienced food insecurity. In 2008, it was reported that for each month about 2,100 Halton households accessed one of the major food banks in the Region.

MILTON STATISTICS

Between 2006 – 2009, the Town of Milton experienced the greatest increase in low income families. The number of low income families grew by 74% compared to 35% for all families.³

MCRC INFANT FOOD BANK STATISTICS

In 2012 we served a total of 77 families who visited the Infant Food Bank 353 times.

The amount of supplies we can give a family is dependent on our donated supplies.

100% of donated dollars to MCRC's Infant Food Bank are used to purchase needed supplies.

ON AVERAGE, FAMILIES NEED PER MONTH:



BASED ON CURRENT DONATIONS WE ARE ONLY ABLE TO GIVE 28% OF WHAT A FAMILY NEEDS:



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Go to: **WWW.MCRC.ON.CA** Direct your donation to the Infant Food Bank



Call us at (905) 876-1244 ext 210 and book the Infant Food Bank Donation Container for your event. Drop-off money or supply donations (diapers, cereal, jar food) to the Infant Food Bank at: 410 Bronte Street S, Milton ON.

1) http://kidshealth.org/parent/pregnancy_newborn/growth/failure_thrive.html#cat20052 2) (Seguin et al., 2007). (Ontario Association of Food Banks, 2008). 3) Taken from Low Income Families in 2009, Bulletin #82 See Chart http://www.cdhalton.ca/pdf/communitylens/Community_Lens_82.pdf