

Milton Community Resource Centre *Annual General Report*

Belonging

Wellbeing

Engagement

Expression



Welcome

Come In
WE'RE
OPEN

WELCOME

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Every day, hundreds of children find a sense of belonging in one of MCRC's many programs. They build relationships, explore their interests, take risks, laugh, ask questions, make discoveries, innovate, share their ideas, listen to other's ideas, and explore their place in the world. This is grounded on how we view children which aligns with the Ministry of Education's *How Does Learning Happen?* framework: **"Children are competent, capable of complex thinking, curious, and rich in potential,"** (p.6). Our approach ensures that children are viewed through a lens of competency rather than deficiency. We believe this approach enables the type of change that must happen in the field of early learning and child care. As author Karyn Callaghan put it, *"If you believe in children's intelligence, it changes you."* Our view of children is intertwined with our beliefs about teaching and learning and ultimately education as a whole. We believe education should cultivate curiosity and a love for learning.

Our very talented staff embrace MCRC's views and beliefs about children, teaching and learning, in every facet of our organization. Artists and Children Together (ACT) is one example. This collaborative initiative with artists, educators and children helps to illuminate children's competencies, creativity and innovation. We see art as a way that we can better understand children's ideas, questions and theories which is one reason why you won't see any pre-cut or template crafts in our programs. We believe children are more competent and creative than merely following a set of adult directed instructions. We believe in their ability to think and make connections, through a variety of materials, in complex ways. The experiences the Artist and Educators offer stem from believing in children's innate curiosity and a desire to deepen their thinking around something of great fascination to them.

Listening to the voice of children, we believe is an essential practice in viewing children as competent and capable. We want to understand children by listening to them in as many ways as possible. MCRC's Voice of the Child research project done in collaboration with Sheridan College provided an opportunity for our Educators at Bronte Street School to grow in their practice of listening to children, and capturing their ideas through a process called *pedagogical documentation*. Through the project, our Educators gained a deeper understanding of how to build curriculum in collaboration with children, as young as 15 months old, by listening to them and creating a democratic environment where all their "voices" count. Where possible, we want to use what we've heard our children saying to inform our organizational policies and structures so that every part of MCRC feels, to children, like a place where they are valued, heard, respected and belong.

Our vision for the years that lay ahead is that we would continue to be an innovative organization that leads by example in what it means to view children as citizens that are, "Competent, capable of complex thinking, curious and rich in potential," (HDLH, 2014). We want to continue to slow down, reflect, and have conversations together about what it means and feels like to be a *child* at MCRC; to always view our organization from *their* perspective so that we can continue to cultivate their curiosity and love for learning, which we hope will carry them throughout their lives. To that end MCRC's vision is; *A safe, caring community where children and families are valued, grow and succeed.*



Tiffany Stewart
Chair, MCRC Board of Directors



Rebecca Barrows-Vrankulj
Executive Director

2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Chair: Tiffany Stewart
Vice Chair: Grace Mater
Treasurer: Wilfred “Buddy” Edge
Secretary: Bob Pell
Director: Cheryl Hayles
Director: Mike Cluett
Director: Diana Godfrey
Director: Matthew Wiens
Director: Katrina Lemire

2016 SLATE OF BOARD DIRECTORS

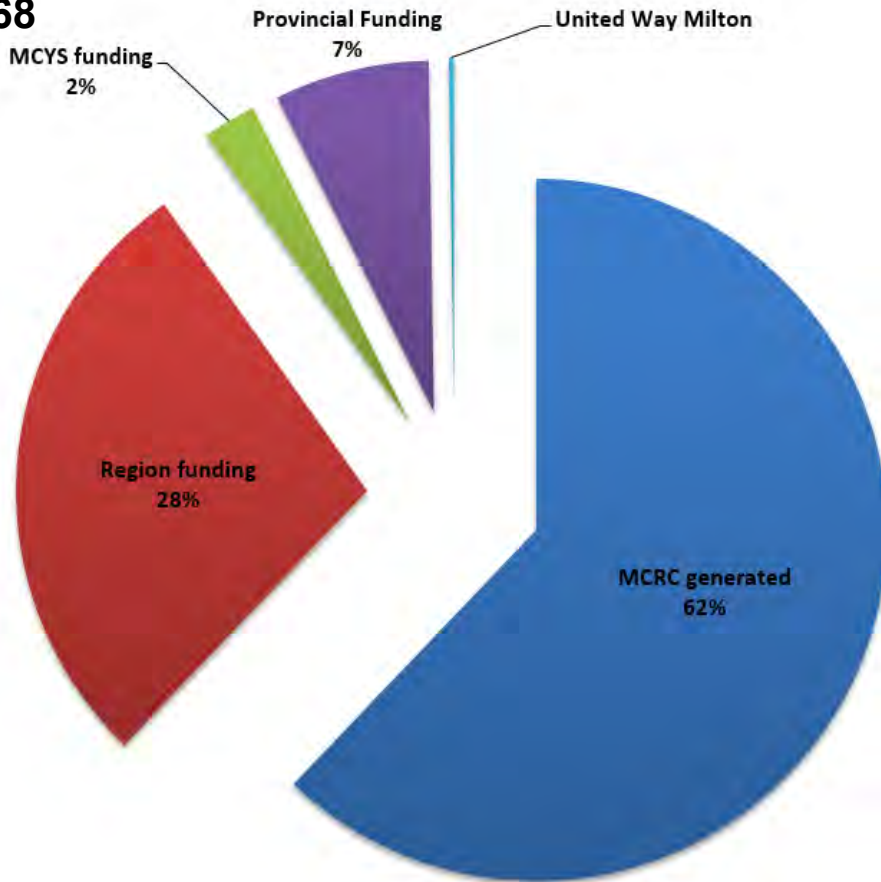


Grace Mater, Director; Buddy Edge, Treasurer; Tiffany Stewart, Chair; Matt Wiens, Director; Cheryl Hayles, Director; Bob Pell, Secretary; Diana Godfrey, Director; Mike Cluett, Director

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2014

MCRC REVENUE

\$6,982,568



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



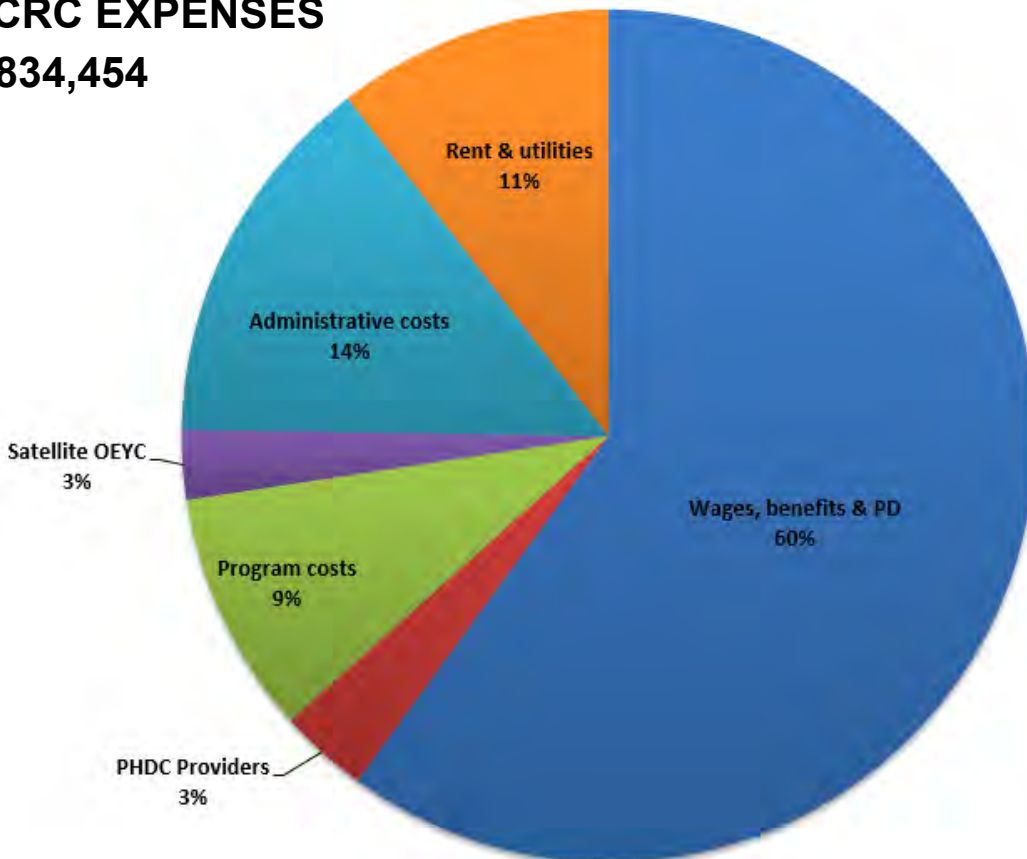
THE ONTARIO
TRILLIUM
FOUNDATION



LA FONDATION
TRILLIUM
DE L'ONTARIO

MCRC EXPENSES

6,834,454



FOUR FOUNDATIONS

Throughout this report you will notice a common thread that weaves through all our stories, updates, and accolades. This year we intentionally highlighted the four foundations taken from: *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years* (2014, Ministry of Education) <https://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/HowLearningHappens.pdf>.

What are the Four Foundations?

The “*How Does Learning Happen?*” document is organized around four foundational conditions that are important for children to grow and flourish, they are; Belonging, Engagement, Expression, and Well-Being.

MCRC has embraced *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years* as a professional learning resource guide for all Home Child Care Providers and Educators to support pedagogy and curriculum/program development in all of our early learning programs. At MCRC we view children and families as capable and competent community members with valuable ideas and perspectives.



The Story behind the Large Columns in The Halton Resource Connection

When the document was introduced in Halton The Halton Resource Connection library staff asked themselves; “How can THRC support the community in this new journey and how do we make this important document visible in the resource library?”

The four foundations sparked an interest with THRC staff to build a foundation just like that of a house. Over the next few weeks the resource library staff had numerous conversations with library members and colleagues engaging them in the thinking process. What transpired was a beautiful visual representation of the four foundations and most importantly the Halton community gained a new understanding of what each of the foundations means gained through a reflective and inclusive process.

If you didn't have an opportunity to view the foundations December 9th at our AGM, please visit The Halton Resource Connection library on the second floor during library hours www.thrc.ca.

ENGAGEMENT

Documenting Families as they Create, Explore and Play Together

In all of MCRC's programs, we create spaces and environments that are inspiring, thoughtfully planned and invite creativity, wonder and exploration. In celebration of our families for National Family Week 2015, we spent time capturing families in our Early Years and Family Resource Programs as they enjoyed playing and exploring together. The purpose of the video was to not only celebrate our families for National Family Week, but to make visible the learning that is happening between children and adults, and the relationships that are being formed between families and with the environment. Our video captures children and family members that are highly engaged as they joyfully play together, pose questions and theories, experiment, create and design ideas, celebrate accomplishments together, and listen and learn from one another. Our video highlights a powerful view of families as described in *How Does Learning Happen?* (2014) which captures our view and hope for the families in our programs. The video was also created into a laminated book for families to enjoy together in program.



Visit: <http://mcrc.on.ca/early-years/about-early-years/> to view the video.



WELL-BEING

Building Employee Foundations Through Fitness

At Milton Community Resource Centre, we believe that the four foundations of How Does Learning Happen are not only essential for the growth of our children but for our employees as well. One of the ways to build these foundations with our employees is to offer health and wellness initiatives, such as Fitness Bursts and a Running Group during business hours that will get them out of their chairs and into a healthy activity. We are all busy and sometimes our health and wellness gets pushed to the bottom of our to-do list. Knowing how hard it is to fit exercise into the daily routine, we came up with 15 minute Fitness Bursts, employee lead activities that are done on the same day once a week and only 15 minutes long. We believe that these activities not only contribute to a healthy life style and a feeling of well-being, they also promote a sense of belonging and camaraderie between the participants. When taking on these new challenges, we are all learning together, supporting and encouraging each other.

This past summer, a Running Group formed where 9 women would gather at lunch to train for running The United Way BIG Red Run in October. The Running Group had a goal; to finish a 5K run and to support this very important agency's campaign event. They were focused and engaged in this activity which gave them a way to express their sense of community spirit and dedication to their own health and well-being.



*Helen Romary, Serena LeChat, Becky Andrade, Denise MacDougal, Claire Kislinsky,
Melanie Cunha, Rebecca Barrows-Vrankulj, Tina Bulicek
missing , Cathie Lipton*

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EXPRESSION

Igniting Ideas: Children, Materials & Possibilities, MCRC's 1st Artists and Children Together Exhibit

Artists and Children Together (ACT) is an innovative initiative that integrates local artists into many of MCRC's early learning and licensed child care programs. Artists and educators work collaboratively to listen deeply to children and offer a variety of materials and experiences that support them in sharing their ideas, feelings, questions and theories in multiple ways. In June 2015, MCRC held its first Artists and Children Together exhibit at The Gallery Upstairs at Harrop Restaurant in Milton, ON. This exhibit, *Igniting Ideas: Children, Materials and Possibilities*, featured the work and experiences of children aged 1-4 years as documented by artists and educators. This exhibit gave visibility to 4 themes that wove themselves through the children's work and experiences in 6 of MCRC's early learning and licensed child care programs. The 4 themes included: *The Language of Water*, *Building Relationships through Materials*, *Mixed Media* and *Discovering Self & Exploring Identity through Materials*. MCRC's view of art, expressed through its ACT initiative, is inspired by Loris Malaguzzi's 'Hundred Languages of Children'. Through ACT, children are given many opportunities to express their thinking and have a voice through a variety of materials. Ongoing Pedagogical Documentation of these experiences, completed by artists and educators, as well as community events such as our 2015 Exhibit, has provided parents and our broader Halton community with the opportunity to hear children's voices as expressed through a variety of materials.



Please visit: <http://mcrc.on.ca/mcrc/what-we-do/> to view the Exhibit video.

EXPRESSION

BELONGING

WE VALUE VOLUNTEERS!

MCRC has reason to celebrate the commitment of volunteers to our programs and services. In the past year, **180** community volunteers and **118** staff contributed over **4300** hours of their time to MCRC. Volunteers worked on committees, planned special and staffed special events, assisted in our many program and the related administrative tasks. During our 2015 National Volunteer Week - Volunteer Appreciation evening, volunteers were invited to drop by to learn how to face paint and juggle in preparation for our upcoming Fun Fair. A fun evening was had by all!



Celebrating Community: MCRC's Infant Food Bank

This has been a year of bringing community together for the Infant Food Bank. We have had many local organizations, companies and individuals come together to support our families through donations and drives. Increased donations enabled us to give families more of what they need on a monthly basis, i.e., a full box of diapers, two cans of formula etc. Many Infant Food Bank recipients have become MCRC volunteers which strengthens and builds a circle of support.

This year we are happy to recognize donors who have contributed \$100 or more to The Infant Food Bank by presenting them with leaves on our Giving Tree. Without this support, we would not be able to successfully stock our shelves and support our families in need.





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 – 2011, the Town of Milton experienced the greatest increase in low income families. The number of low income families grew by 107% compared to 22.5% for all families in Halton Region.³

MCRC INFANT FOOD BANK STATISTICS

MCRC's Infant Food Bank serves an average of 27 to 30 families each month.

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:



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

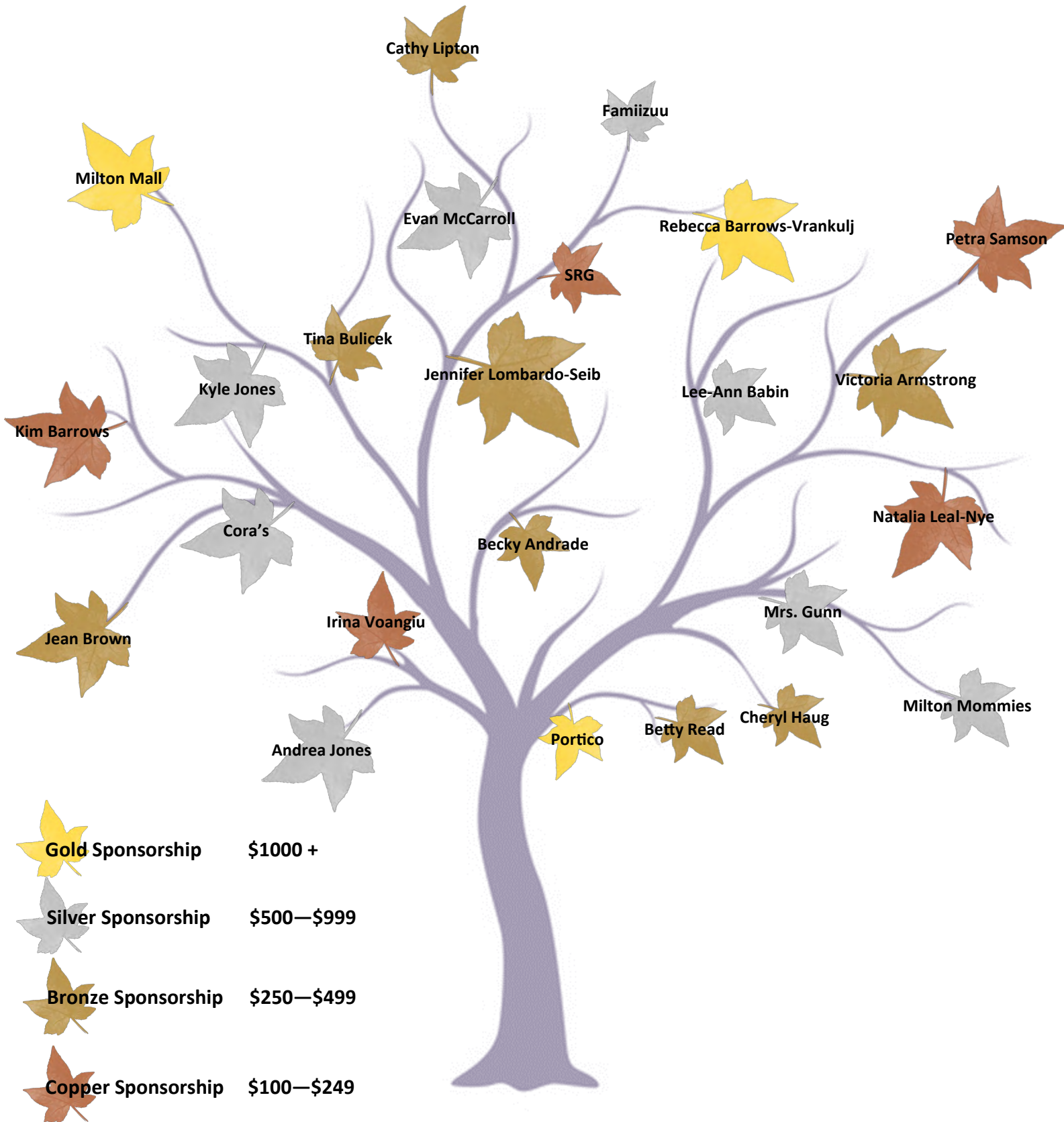
Donate Here

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) (Séguin et al., 2007). (Ontario Association of Food Banks, 2008B). 3) Taken from Low Income Families in 2009, Bulletin. See Chart http://www.cdhalton.ca/pdf/communityiens/Community_Lens_B2.pdf

MCRC GIVING TREE



MCRC is recognizing those of you who gave \$100 or more in donations to the Infant Food Bank in 2015. Donors will be recognized on our MCRC Giving Tree in the form of copper, bronze, silver or gold leaves that represent the size of donation. Big or small, every donation has made a difference to the Infant Food Bank. Thank you to all the individuals, families, organizations, and businesses who continue to help Milton families who need it most.

MCRC STARS

Muhammed Ali—Youth Volunteer

Muhammad Ali is MCRC's Youth Volunteer of the Year 2015. He and his family have lived in Milton for six years. An avid reader and Milton District High School book club member, Muhammad is currently in grade 11 and his long-term goal is to become a computer scientist. In addition to volunteering in The Halton Resource Connection at MCRC and working at Dairy Queen, Muhammad volunteers at Escarpment View Public School on PA days and during school breaks. Muhammad started as a volunteer in The Halton Resource Connection (THRC) in June 2015 and soon made a huge impression on staff. When staff were asked what stands out about Muhammad, they said "he is always so happy and eager to help". He is always offering to help with projects staff are working on and makes suggestions to improve the esthetics including improved sight lines and health and safety. In his first 5 months of volunteering with us he has contributed over 130 volunteer hours. In July 2015 Muhammad took it upon himself to review and familiarize himself with the Ministry of Education's "How Does Learning Happen" document and then was able to support staff in creating a visual representation of the four foundations of learning. This required creative ideas, critical thinking and ongoing collaboration with THRC staff. Thank you for all that you do Muhammad.



Kirsten Grove—Volunteer

Kristen Grove is MCRC's Volunteer of the Year 2015. Kristen and her family moved to Milton in 2013. She has a Criminal Justice degree and prior to moving to Milton worked at a Probation Officer in Virginia. Not long after coming to Milton, Kristen attended a DEIPP clinic at MCRC with her son. She enquired about volunteering with us and started in the Parent Resource Library in February 2014. Kristen is diligent in her work whether it's re-shelving resources or helping with preparations for parenting or summer park programs. She is always conscientious about her schedule and is flexible and willing to take on a variety of tasks. Twice each year Kristen takes on a large inventory project in the library. When staff were asked what stands out about Kristen, they said "she happily takes on the dreaded inventory project". Kristen is tactful and respectful in her approach when parents are in the Parent Resource Library seeking support. She will direct them to a book or resource on the library shelves and then direct further questions to the Parenting Educators. In her role as a volunteer in the Parent Resource Library, Kristen has had the opportunity to review many resources. She has used the knowledge she has gained in the Parent Resource Library to become an advocate for her school aged son. Thank you Kristen for your ongoing volunteer support in our Parent Resource Library.



Deanna Torney—Front Line Staff Star Award

This year's recipient of the Front-line staff Star Award is Deanna Tourney. Deanna is a preschool teacher at Bronte Street School and has been with MCRC since March 25 2013. Deanna has been an active member of MCRC's Asset Building Committee since she started with us. Deanna rarely misses a meeting, she contributes her ideas and experiences, comes prepared, and is always willing to help with special projects. This past year Deanna completed the 'Everyone's An Asset Builder' train the trainer session and has facilitated staff and parent workshops with her colleagues. Deanna was also recently involved in the creation and facilitation of the successful "Mindfulness" lunch and learn sessions for MCRC staff.

In the words of her fellow Asset Building Committee members:

"Deanna is such a committed, genuine, and passionate individual who wears her heart on her sleeve, and takes initiative to create change at MCRC, whether it is in her classroom, on the Asset Building Committee, or by simply sharing her positive spirit. Not only can Deanna be described as a star, but also as a bright ray of sunshine!"

"Deanna is reflective and always open to learning and growing as a professional."

"Deanna always goes above and beyond her responsibilities in the classroom. She continues to grow in the field by attending many Professional Learning sessions and is extremely reliable and flexible. She continues to lend a helping hand to co-workers when needed. "



Petra Samson—Parent & Community Connections Supervisor

This year's Extended Management Team Star Award goes to Petra Samson. Petra has been with MCRC since October 29th, 2007 when she started as one of the first Quality First Consultants. In December 2011, Petra moved on to become Supervisor in Early Years and later, Supervisor of Parent and Community Connections. Petra always gives 100 % in whatever she does. Her passion, creativity and commitment to supporting parents is endless. Petra is often seen in THRC collecting materials, brainstorming, and preparing for her parent workshops. She is also happy to help her colleagues whenever they need her, taking the time to listen, share ideas, and resources. Petra continues to work tirelessly promoting the Infant Food Bank, through creative fundraising and community outreach. This year's Marketplace fundraiser was a huge hit, thanks to Petra and the IFB Committee!

In the words of her colleagues:

"Petra cares deeply about families"

"She is committed to MCRC and the community"

"The needs of families are always the priority of Petra's work"



Ruth Anne Wollaston—Resource Library & Professional Learning Coordinator

Ruth Anne Wollaston has been with MCRC since August 2001. In her current role as Resource Library and Professional Learning Coordinator, she manages the operation of The Halton Resource Connection Library, and develops quality professional learning for the early learning community of Halton to ensure the provision of quality care for children and youth. Ruth Anne is well known and respected within the community due to her support and commitment to the professional learning field. She keeps MCRC/THRC well represented through her participation on external committees and conferences and within the relationships she develops and maintains. Her professionalism and overall dedication are just some of the reasons why she is an integral part of MCRC. Ruth Anne is a strong and valued member of the Extended Management Team and the following statements provided by her colleagues in their nomination of her for the STAR award demonstrate why she shines.

“Ruth Anne truly lives MCRC’s Mission, Vision and Values daily when supporting her staff and members of THRC. She is our THRC, “Pillar” of strength!”

“She is the first person in the office and many times last one to go.”

“If you need someone to bounce ideas off of, she is there.”

“Ruth Anne has developed a strong reputation for being MCRC’s “cheerleader!”

Ruth Anne helps out in any way she can, as a volunteer, participant and promoter. She often supports MCRC by showing up to champion our staff at community events such as this year’s United Way 5K and Curling Event. Ruth Anne is always willing to lend a helping hand and is approachable, friendly, and someone you can always count on. This is why Ruth Anne stands out as our MCRC ROCK-star 2015!



DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS

Family Relationships Matter

“Time spent with family is worth every second!”

In celebration of National Family Week MCRC was thrilled to share Halton’s Our Kids Network “Family Relationships Matter: The First Six Years” video.

“Establishing warm, enduring family relationships when children are in the first six years of life will help them thrive later on.”

The video, focuses on five simple strategies central to positive child development: Express Care; Challenge Growth; Provide Support; Share Power and Expand Possibilities. In the video, seven families show these strategies in their own unique ways.

“There is no right or wrong way, but being intentional about it will build great relationships with children.”



<http://www.ourkidsnetwork.ca/Public/Family-Relationships-Matter>

NEW EVENTS PLAN 2016

MCRC coordinates a variety of fundraising activities and events every year to support our many programs and services. MCRC's Marketing Committee is responsible for evaluating all of these efforts to ensure we are meeting our established goals and criteria. For 2016, the committee recommended a complete review of all activities and events. This thorough process included several consultation sessions with staff who provided feedback, new ideas, and recommendations.

The Marketing Committee has developed the following Fundraising and Events Plan for 2016. If you are surprised a particular event is not listed for 2016, (Trivia Night and Fall Family Festival) please do not be concerned. The event/activity may return another year with some modifications as per staff recommendations.

MCRC Fundraising and Events Plan for 2016

1. Fun Fair

Spring/Summer family event with activities, games, performances, food, and more.

(Saturday June 11, 2016 - NEW LOCATION - 410 Bronte St. S)

2. Youth Dance Parties

Fun and interactive parties, four per school year for youth in grades 5 - 8.

3. Family Dinner Gala and Silent Auction **(New Fundraiser)**

Warm winter event for families to enjoy dinner and activities together at our 410 Bronte St. S location.

4. Wreath Sales **(New Fundraiser)**

Staff and families will have the opportunity to order and purchase decorative wreaths for all occasions.

Additionally, MCRC will no longer be doing monthly Scholastic book orders. However, we will be looking into holding a Scholastic Book Fair in Spring 2016.

If you have any questions or would like to provide your feedback please contact Tina Bulicek at tinab@mcrc.on.ca or call 905-876-1244 ext. 104.

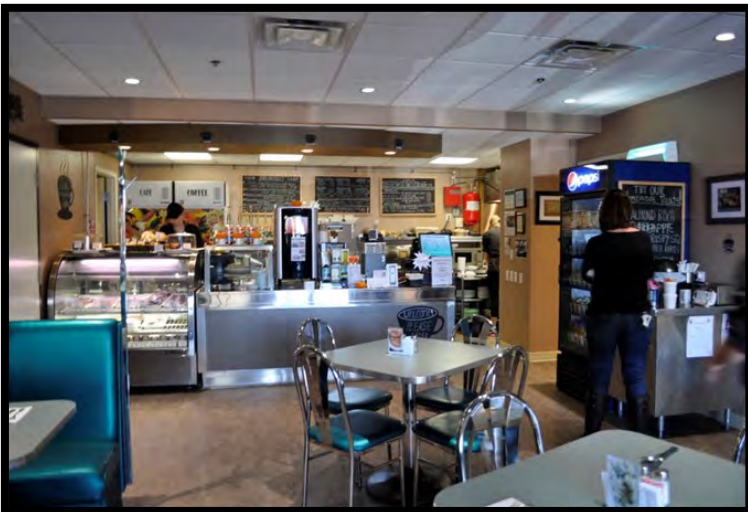
If you are interested in being a part of the planning committees for Fun Fair or for the Family Dinner Gala and Silent Auction please contact Lee-Ann Babin at leeannb@mcrc.on.ca or call 905-876-1244 ext. 216.





Community Living North Halton

A Community Where Everyone Belongs and is Valued



The Lunchbox Cafe is a one of a kind restaurant and training initiative for the amazing clients of Community Living. They provide fresh, healthy food in a friendly atmosphere located at 917 Nipissing Rd. in Milton. The Lunchbox Café also offers catering services for corporate & private events.



Please see the link below to view their promotional video:

<http://clnh.on.ca/lunchbox-cafe/>

Be sure to drop by the café which is open to the public.

Monday – Friday from 7:00 am-5:00 pm.