

November 2024



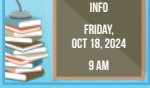
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Durham Family Resources

FAMILY *focus*

SO THAT ALL PEOPLE ENJOY A FULL AND MEANINGFUL LIFE
WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

Save the Date! Our Much Anticipated Stories by the Fire Returns this December!

Leaves are falling, there is a crunching under your feet and a crispness to the air, which can only mean one thing, Stories by the Fire is just around the corner.

This will be our tenth annual Stories by the Fire, and we are presently busy at work to bring you this wonderful event you have come to expect over the years. After a few years of virtual gatherings, returning to our in-person experience last year made for a truly brilliant night and this year we will keep that magic happening. This will be an evening filled with fantastic stories, wonderful music, great company, and full of good cheer.

We are always reminded of the power of storytelling and the lasting impact it leaves on the listener as well as the storyteller. The stories become the threads that are woven into the fabric of what we do. They are expressions of real experiences and connections. They are a reflection of what has been made possible and the vision of the families with whom we partner. Each thread creates a masterful picture of lives being well lived and legacies being left for other families and our entire community.

When families and communities come together to exchange stories and ideas, potential unfolds to shape perspectives, strengthen bonds, and inspire change. We are committed to working towards changing the hearts and minds in our broader community in part through the sharing of these tales of what is possible, and our Stories by the Fire event is the perfect occasion to do just that.

The evening will begin at 7pm and run until about 9pm, and will include festive nibbles and celebratory beverages following the presentation. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Stories by the Fire

Returns on Wednesday, December 11th @ 7:00pm
Robert McLaughlin Art Gallery at 72 Queen St, Oshawa.

Register Here!

Individualized Funding in Ontario: Possibilities and Pathways - Three Approaches to Work for All.

If you remember back in July, we shared with you that the Ministry is well into the Journey of Belonging reform process, including the design and discussion of the ways of bringing about Individualized Funding to people with disabilities.

At that time, we posed three questions, “What Will Funding and Support Look Like in the Future? Will there be a place for a family support organization like DFR which works in partnership but does not take control? Who will do the planning so that it remains focused on a life, contributing to real community?”



On July 31, 2024, we brought DFR families together, creating an opportunity to provide input and feedback on the Individualized Funding Pathways and Possibilities Model. In the meantime, we and our other collaborative partners made up of people living with disabilities, families, independent facilitators, agencies, and provincial grassroots organizations, were still in the design phase of this document.

The evening was well-attended by families, who heard more about the steps the ministry is taking as they embark on the current reform that is being undertaken – The Journey to Belonging. Families were taken through the many pieces of the Individualized Funding Pathways and Possibilities Model document. They shared with us their support of the model, asking thoughtful questions that were grounded in years of experience with individualized funding, as well as

adding to the ideas that will strengthen the Individualized Funding pathway that DFR families are most familiar with.

As promised, we are keeping you updated - the document has been renamed Individualized Funding in Ontario: Possibilities and Pathways – Three Approaches to Work for All. We have now met the Ministry twice since its publication, and we have presented it more than six times at various conferences and groups around the province.

Please take a few minutes and look over the most updated version of this document [HERE](#).

This is My Life - Podcast Series Launch & Conversation Gaining New Perspectives

The Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario is hosting a series of podcasts that focus on listening to the experiences of people and their families receiving individualized funding, in concert with independent facilitation, and how this type of opportunity for planning and support has benefited their lives. The conversation will focus not only on the benefits, but will look closely at those things that have been made possible because of this opportunity, and how the person and their family’s vision and dreams have been shaped along the way.

The Coalition is comprised of citizens and organizations in Ontario, who have been working together for many years to advocate for an individualized funding option. They share a belief that for those who choose this path, and if done well, an individualized funding framework will lead to that everyday ordinary life we imagine and work towards for our family members.

Judith McGill and Kory Earle are the facilitators for these podcasts. Both come to this opportunity with their own experiences that will only make the conversations richer.

Event flyer and registration link can be found [HERE](#). Register by November 10th to join the conversations.



Families are Springing into Possibilities



The last few years have been challenging in lots of ways, and yet there have also been some good things happening for many families of school-aged children and youth!

Three Evenings of Learning:

- 1 Thursday January 23, 2025
- 2 Thursday February 6, 2025
- 3 Thursday February 20, 2025

6:45 – 8:45 p.m. via Zoom

For more information contact Karen at 905 436 2500 x 2309 or kahudson@dafrs.com

Join us this January - February for an online, interactive, 3-part mini-series, where we will come together to talk about what is possible in our neighbourhoods and hear stories from other parents on how they have supported their children to continue to explore new interests.

At the end of the series you will leave with ideas, strategies, and confidence to plan for a summer full of discovery, and fun!

Register Here for your Zoom link!

Run in partnership with



DURHAM ASSOCIATION FOR
FAMILY RESOURCES AND SUPPORT
• One Person at a Time • Together With Families •



Reflecting on Home and Housing Successes at This Month's Imagining Home

This November meeting will be our last Imagining Home of the year, as we'll come together in a different way next month to celebrate our annual Stories by the Fire event!

Another year has gone by and once again we have so much to celebrate around family milestones and our collective successes in many areas of home and housing. We'll take some time this month to reflect on the many highlights from the year, touch in on what's happening in housing within the Region and share some updates of the ongoing work of families and the team.

Come join the conversation! Long time and new families alike, everyone has something to gain and something to offer. Each month at Imagining Home, we engage with anything "housing, home and community" and enjoy critical discussion, sharing stories, learning and often having a good laugh among respectful and supportive people! Families bring a wealth of experience and knowledge and are ready to share and support others along their journey. All are welcome to attend and participate in Imagining Home when we meet on the second Wednesday of each month. If you are new to the group and would like to attend Imagining Home for the first time, we'd ask that you first contact Erin at eoreilly@dafers.com to arrange an introductory call.

IMAGINING HOME MEETING • WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2024 • TIME 6:30PM • IN PERSON

CONTACT ERIN FOR DETAILS ([EOREILLY@DAFRS.COM](mailto:eoreilly@dafers.com))



BioMedical Approaches Study Group Explores Expressive Art This November

This month promises to be another new experience for our Bio-Medical group. Karen Blaney-Bell will be joining us this month and introducing us to the Expressive Art Experience. The expressive art experience allows participants the opportunity to explore relaxation and contemplation through the medium of art with a guiding facilitator. We will explore using different forms of breathing, movement, music, mindfulness and more, exploring new pathways to care for ourselves and our well-being. She will spend a short time (15-20 minutes) explaining what Expressive Art is and then we will spend the remainder of the time doing 2-4 expressive art activities.

Everyone is welcome to attend and participate in the Bio-Medical Approaches Study Group. We usually engage with anything "Bio-Medical" and so families talk about all the approaches, alternatives, and strategies that we have found, are being pushed into, have discovered online and more! We have a wide circle of families who are ready to share their vast experience and together we sometimes are able to help each member make better sense of the options and choices that surround them.

The group meets monthly and is open and welcoming to new and past participants! We usually meet on the second Friday of each month at 10 am for about an hour to an hour and a half. Please RSVP to Janet at jklees@dafers.com if you'd like to attend!



**BIOMEDICAL
STUDY GROUP**

**FRIDAY,
NOV 8, 2024**

10 AM - 11:30 AM

Join us!

Thurs Nov 7th
@ 7-8pm

Thurs Dec 5th
@ 7-8pm

Email Rosanne at:
rpurnwasie@dafrs.com



Next Generation Meetup

A casual get together of those who identify as the "next generation" in the support of a loved one with a developmental disability. Coming together to connect, share, and learn from one another.

Contact Rosanne for details!
rpurnwasie@dafrs.com
(905)436-2500 ext. 2289

www.dafrs.com

Progress on New Recruitment & Matching Website!

After all these years of hearing from folks about what would be a better experience for them when using the past website, it has been so satisfying to be able to utilize many of those ideas in our new design... as satisfying as a hot cup of coffee on a cold fall morning!

We are progressing in the last stages of settling on a name and colours for the new site. We have received lots of good ideas from families, the Family Advisory, the staff team and others. A detailed outline of the design and features of the new site is now complete and development on the site has begun!

Watch this space for more information about the site launch. Please submit any questions to sciarlariello@dafrs.com and continue to use RS.com and Sandy's support as you normally would. This site continues to be in use until the new site is launched.

Important Dates At-A-Glance!

Next Generation Meetup
Nov 7 & Dec 5 @ 7pm

Bio Medical Study Group
Nov 8 @ 10am

Imagining Home
Nov 13 @ 6:30pm

Making the Most Study Group
Nov 25 @ 6:30pm

Stories by the Fire
Dec 11 @ 7pm

Springing Into Possibilities
Jan 23 @ 6:45pm

For more information,
please visit our website at
www.dafrs.com

Monthly Making the Most Study Group

The Making the Most Study Group is a fantastic opportunity for those who have completed the series to continue their learning and take some next steps in developing valued roles and relationships with a loved one.

Each month graduates of past Making the Most learning series are invited to come together and think more deeply about crafting and sharing a vision, designing, and planning days full of contributions and possibilities, focusing on roles rather than activities, seeking and developing good support, making positive introductions, and finding strength, comfort, and energy through building personal networks, and connecting with other families.

The meeting is open to anyone who has attended the 6-part Making the Most learning series or a MTM Weekend Retreat and wishes to join the conversation. Contact [Laura Lpowell@dafrs.com](mailto:Lpowell@dafrs.com) for more information.

We look forward to seeing everyone online again on Monday, November 25, at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

MAKING THE MOST STUDY GROUP

For more info contact Laura at
lpowell@dafrs.com

For more information, please visit our website, www.dafrs.com, and see the "Upcoming Events" tab.

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