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June 2018

DAFRS

FAMILY focus

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

Annual General Meeting a Great Chance to Get to Know Us Better!

Join us on Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at the Gathering Place (20-850 King St W, Oshawa) for our Annual General Meeting. Here you will have the chance to meet the staff that make DAFRS work, and the Board members who guide us along our chosen path. With a focus on **our new name**, we are planning an engaging evening which will help illustrate who we are and what we have on offer to families and their allies.

The evening will consist of a presentation along with the usual business agenda. It is sure to be a great evening and we always bask in the opportunity to gather families together. This is your opportunity to come out and show your support for the work and staff of DAFRS. Consider coming out and seeing what we are all about!

Durham Association for Family Resources & Support

• One Person at a Time • Together with Families •

Annual General Meeting



Tuesday, June 26, 2018

The Gathering Place

20-850 King St W, Oshawa

Meeting Begins at 6:00pm, with dinner to follow

RSVP to Alicia

amunshaw@dafrs.com or (905)436-2500 ext.2304

Making the Most of Funding Graduates Delve Into Individualized Approaches to Planning a Good Life



Those who have completed any one of our Making The Most series are invited back to a MTM Study Group! Graduates are welcome to drop in to these monthly gatherings, where participants, mentoring families, and facilitators will delve deeper into the topics and activities which were presented throughout the series' six sessions. If you have been working through some ideas, or want to spend more time on a particular area or exercise presented at the series there will be time, guidance, and support to do so.

MAKING THE MOST STUDY GROUP

MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2018 at 10am

If you'd like more information or want to RSVP, contact Selena at sblake@dafrs.com or by phone at (905)436-2500 ext.2302.

The Gathering Place
20-850 King St. W, Oshawa

Family Alliance Ontario Releases Survey Results from Ontario-Wide Family Contribution

Family Alliance Ontario (FAO) recently completed a survey which asked for family input about hiring support for a loved one with a disability. Their response was only open for a limited time and yet they had a very good response. They heard stories from across the province which reflect the challenges and issues families face when hiring good support.

FAO hopes these survey results can be used to shine light on the hiring situation in Ontario which families are saying is getting worse rather than better. FAO has released the full results which can be accessed [through this website](#). Follow the [FAO Facebook page](#) as it releases highlights of the findings, such as the infographic below over the next few months.

Implement prepayment of direct funding rather than working with reimbursement schemes.

Look at how the Assistive Devices Program (ADP) works as an example of prepaid direct funding. Families are managing ADP lump sums.

Look to the Ministry of Health Direct Funding Program for individuals with physical disabilities as an example of prepaid direct funding and trust families as honest brokers.

We don't need more databases or inappropriate workers to choose from. We don't need to expand the role of bureaucrats by hiring more MCSS or DSO staff. We need the DIRECT FUNDING to attract and retain the workers we trust to spend time with this population.

Have MCSS establish real links with real families to hire students who have graduated or are trying to get more experience.

A family and support worker friendly respite website

Reinstate the Live-in Caregiver Program



Based on survey responses

Provide a clean and direct method for applicants to find families by allowing registration on the community college job sites. (college/university/agencies)

Promote and communicate the fulfilling benefits of supporting people with developmental disabilities to live a full life.

Eliminate Bill 148 for this population.

Develop a means for families to share best hiring practices.

Technology apps for—

- families or workers to access one stop shop; matching jobs to vacancies
- connecting with other families with options to match up workers and to share residential opportunities

Allow families enough funding for competitive salaries and enough support hours.

Ministries should reduce or eliminate many costs. Stop making government larger and harder to navigate. Utilize direct funding to families alone with checks and balances in place.

Families could contact the community college faculty directly involved and have them shoot out the info to their students.

Streamline bureaucracy for respiteservices.com and make it more commercial and responsive. If a family is registered and a worker is registered on this confidential website just have the resumes available. Eliminate the need for the family and the worker to each flow requests through the site administrator.

MCSS needs to understand the shared values of families. Start acting upon family 'consultation' and 'collaboration' instead of inserting what we say in the jargon of their latest policies and never acting upon what was voiced in a truly collaborative manner.

Develop a process that allows families to start saving for their child's future. The RDSP doesn't go far enough.

Thinking About Summer Adventures? Lots of Options in Our Own Backyard!

The sun is shining, the grass is green, and there are plenty of things to do in and around Durham Region! Take some time to explore our community by checking out the list below, compiled by our facilitators, or some of the local things happening soon.

- Driftwood Theatre Group will be performing Rosalynde (or, As You Like It) outdoors in Pickering, Oshawa, Whitby, Port Perry and Bowmanville this summer. [See the schedule and other Driftwood Theatre happenings](#)
- Race car enthusiasts may want to check out [Motorsport Park](#) in Bowmanville
- Annual Rotary RibFests in [Pickering](#), [Whitby](#), [Oshawa](#) and [Bowmanville](#) and beyond!
- Pickering hosts a number of [art and music festivals](#) throughout the summer
- [Clarington Concerts in the Park](#) , and [Oshawa concerts in the park](#)
- The Oshawa Folk Arts Council presents a multicultural [Fiesta Week](#) each year which is sure to please
- For those who love Classic British Cars, all things British and street festivals [check this out in Port Perry](#)
- Dog fans will love the [Dog Days of Scugog Festival](#)
- [BluesBERRY Festival](#) in Clarington in August - amazing combo of berries and blues music!
- For train enthusiasts of all ages check out [A Day Out with Thomas](#) or the [York-Durham Heritage Railway in Uxbridge](#)
- For folks thinking about opening a small business, a great place to get information, support and free courses (year round) is at the [BACD \(Business Advisory Centre Durham\)](#)
- The Playground Program is a free, “come and go as you please” drop-in program available in [Ajax](#) and [Oshawa](#) for children 6-12 years of age to enjoy a variety of games, sports, crafts, etc. Other great activities and learning for youth and adults can be found in each the [Ajax Leisure Guide](#), [Whitby Leisure Guide](#), [Scugog Leisure Guide](#), and/or the [Oshawa Summer Camp Guide](#).
- The City of Oshawa has an [Active Oshawa Guide](#) with plenty of ideas and activities
- [Mobile Playground Program](#) in Clarington is a van full of fun that stops at various locations for children up to 12 years, with their parents
- Splash Pads throughout Durham Region: look up your local area Leisure Guides on-line or in your local library.
- Libraries host events throughout the year—check out the events calendars for [Ajax](#), [Pickering](#), [Whitby](#), [Oshawa](#), [Clarington](#), and [Scugog](#)
- Great parks and trails throughout Durham Region. [Check out the Trails Guide!](#)
- Be a “home town tourist” and check out [Durham Region’s Tourism Guide](#)
- If you want to go further afield in Ontario check out the [Festivals and Events Ontario](#)
- Durham Region Health Department has also compiled [a list of free or low cost ideas](#) to keep the whole region busy!



Make Your Voice Count - Vote in the Ontario Election on June 7th

Next month, there will be a Provincial Election here in Ontario. The election will be held on Thursday, June 7, 2018.

Being a voter is an important role for every Canadian citizen, as it allows you to choose who you think will best represent you and your community. Your vote helps decide who will represent and form Ontario's government. When you vote, you are participating as a full citizen in Canadian society.

One family in our community recently shared their thoughts on helping a family-member vote:

“The role of voting citizen is important because we want our adult children to be seen as citizens of this country.

My son got involved in the role of voter because as he reached the age of majority, his family knew it was important to exercise his rights as a citizen. So we had discussions about the candidates in his riding, looked at what each one had to say about the issues concerning people with disabilities, like poverty, etc. and decided before going to the poll who he wanted to vote for. We printed his chosen candidate's name in large letters for him to take with him to the voting station. At the actual poll booth he compared the name he had chosen to the one on the ballot. When he found it we supported him to write the “X” in the corresponding spot.

This process is important because the politicians are the ones who influence the policies that directly affect us. We read the newspapers, listen to and watch debates, and research the candidates platforms. Because it is very confusing we ask organizations like Family Alliance and others that can be helpful in sorting out the jargon to provide more and clearer information. Organizations that represent what families truly need have ongoing dealings with the government and therefore have good insights into the politics of it all.

When families can see how government policies directly impact our sons and daughters, I think they will take more of an interest being part of the voting process. It can be broken down into doable steps and each part is something we learn from for the next election and then the next. No matter what level the election is at, federal, provincial or municipal, it is important to be engaged. After all, the policies at each level of government impact all of us.

Years ago in being part of a family group that was very politically active for some time, I got to see the power of our voices, letter writing campaigns, faxes advocating for our children, make a real difference.”

Elections Ontario has been committed to removing voting barriers faced by Ontarians with disabilities and to making the electoral process more accessible for all voters. All voting locations meet Elections Ontario's Site Accessibility Standards.

Services for accessible voting include assistive voting technology, assistance at the polls, and voting by mail, home visit or in the hospital. Find out more about accessible voting methods by visiting the [Elections Ontario website](#).

Your vote counts. Make your voice heard.

VOTING IN ONTARIO

If you are at least 18 years of age, a Canadian citizen and resident of Ontario, you can participate in the democratic process as a voter or a candidate.

[elections.on.ca](#)

1.888.668.8683 | TTY 1.888.292.2312 | info@elections.on.ca

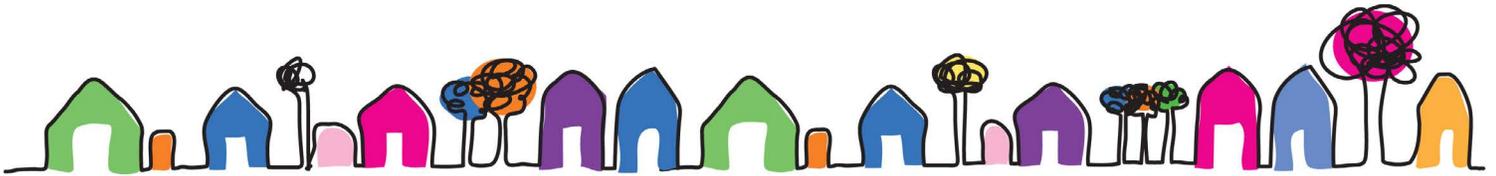


Imagining Home Meeting to Look at Pushing Affordable Housing in Durham Region

On June 4th, the Intentionally Built Community (IBC) group is presenting to the Whitby town council on their efforts to progress affordable housing in Durham Region. We will touch base with them on their progress and hear about the meeting. We will discuss other ways to get involved and push this important subject in our community.

Last month we discussed how we might address the issue of affordable housing with potential representatives in our electoral regions. We discussed our progress from the Clarington Housing Roundtable, various discussions with other important figures throughout the region, and our letters of support for the myHome myCommunity project. If you are interested in thinking about and planning for a home for a loved one with a disability, these are conversations you will want to be a part of!

The next housing meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at 6:30 pm. This meeting will be at The Gathering Place, here at the DAFRS office located at 20-850 King St. W. Contact Selena for more information at 905-436-2500 ext. 2302 or sblake@dafrs.com.



Environmental Sensitivity, Diet, Nutrition, and More the Focus of Monthly BioMedical Study Group

Interested in discussing alternate approaches to health and well-being?

We are a group of family and community members who find it inspiring, helpful, and personally rewarding to talk with each other about our own experiences and share new information all about optimal health, balance and well-being. We think about wellness in terms of food and nutrition, making sure sensory needs are met, figuring out mindful and conscious approaches, or looking at what recent research can tell us about medications, seizures, digestive issues and more.



Study Group Info
Friday, June 8, 2018

Our conversation focuses on the whole person and how people may respond with more or less sensitivity to their environment, including diet and nutrition, brain coherence, sensory integration issues, the calmness or agitation of those around them, and more.

The group has been meeting monthly for over a year and is open and welcomes new participants! We meet at The Gathering Place (20-850 King St. W, Oshawa), the second Friday of each month at 10am. Please RSVP your attendance to jklees@dafrs.com so that we can plan a successful morning.

It's Our Pleasure to Re-Welcome Kathy to Our Office Family!

Kathy Sieben has joined DAFRS permanently, in the finance and administration department after filling in for Chantel while she was away. One of Kathy's many roles will be coordinating the financial paperwork related to contracts we hold with individuals and their families. This includes preparing the contracts, insuring we have signed copies, following up on quarterly reports and annual third party reviews. If you haven't met Kathy please stop by and introduce yourself when you are in the office!



Families and supporters who use DAFRS finance and administration services will be pleased to know that helpful documents are now online and available for download.

Visit dafrs.com/finance and you will find a number of documents including the Direct Deposit Schedule, an Invoice for Self-Employed Contractors who provide support, an Expense Invoice, and an update on the payment process for this year.

respiteservices.com



Respite Worker Orientation

Keep an eye on the website for the next Orientation!

Or call Jeanne for more details! (905)436-3404

The CHAP Respite Worker Orientation is a mandatory session for potential support workers joining the CHAP program worker bank. Families and their support workers are welcome to attend the orientation. The day includes an introduction to supporting families and their family member who has a disability, an introduction to understanding the meaning of respite, understanding and developing roles, language, community involvement, the support worker's roles and responsibilities with families and respiteservices.com.

To attend you must be registered with respiteservices.com/durham and you will need to RSVP. Contact Jeanne at (905)436-3404 or jgodfrey@dafrs.com

Want more information?

Durham Association for Family Resources and Support

For more information on our organization or any of our events, please visit our website at www.dafrs.com or contact Heather by phone or email: (905)436-2500 ext.2314 hminors@dafrs.com

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

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