

# FAMILYfocus

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

## DFR Families and Community Allies Connect and Look to the Future at this Year's Annual General Meeting



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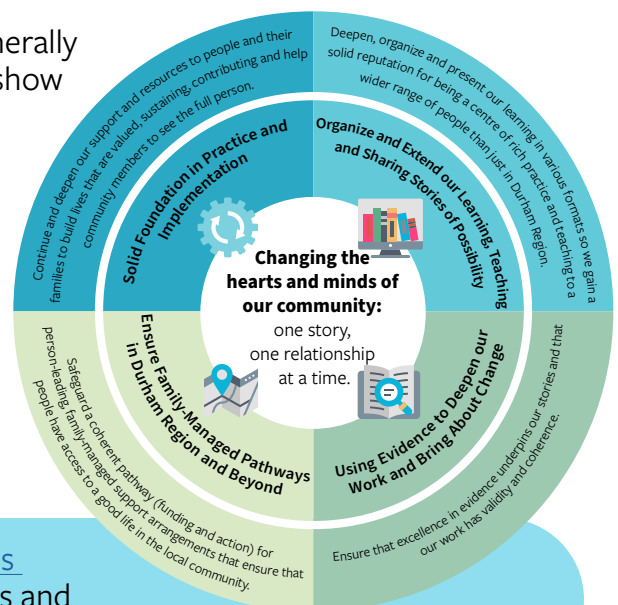
Another successful Annual General Meeting is in the books! Despite calls for heavy rain, we enjoyed a beautiful evening at the Hartrick House in Ajax for our AGM in the last week of June. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us! Aside from being a wonderful opportunity to meet and connect with other like-minded families, having a well-attended AGM shows support for our organization and our work.

Between mingling on the lawn, the ice-cream truck serving out cool treats, and the live band

keeping our toes-tapping, a good time was had by all. After the business meeting, we were able to present our new 5-year Strategic Plan and its central theme - **changing the hearts and minds of our community: one story, one relationship at a time.**

We briefly went over the four areas of focus, and spoke generally to each direction. At DFR, we know that whenever we tell and show stories of people with disabilities in their community in typical ways, the community changes. Community members see what is possible and they respond. This results in more vibrant lives on both sides of the relationship. We want to do more of this, and have outlined four strategic directions which we intend to move forward with to do so. With good and impactful stories, a greater amount of everyday interactions with community members, and a higher profile to share these, together we can influence how our greater community welcomes and expects contribution from its members with disability.

We invite anyone interested in our work to [take a look at this comprehensive document](#), which shares two summary graphics and our full strategic plan narrative.



# Historic Passage of Bill C-22 Establishes Canada Disability Benefit

Bill C-22, the Canada Disability Benefit Act, has achieved a significant milestone as it receives Royal Assent, officially becoming law. This groundbreaking legislation creates a federal income supplement aimed at addressing poverty and enhancing financial security for Canadians with disabilities. The passage of this bill is a result of the relentless advocacy efforts of various stakeholders, including the disability community, organizations, and families!

The Canada Disability Benefit aims to provide greater financial support and independence to individuals with disabilities. Recognizing the urgent need for income support, the federal government plans to engage in a collaborative process with the disability community to develop the regulations for the Benefit. These regulations will outline important details such as eligibility requirements, application and appeal processes, and the amount of the Benefit.

While celebrating this historic moment, the work is not yet complete. Close collaboration and co-designing with the disability community will be essential in shaping the regulations and ensuring that the Benefit meets the diverse needs of individuals with disabilities across the country.

Although the Bill received unanimous approval from both the House of Commons and the Senate, there were some amendments and recommendations proposed during the legislative process. Notably, there was a Senate amendment aimed at protecting the Benefit from potential private insurance clawbacks. However, this amendment was rejected due to concerns over provincial jurisdiction. Advocacy groups express concerns over this omission and call for agreements with provincial and territorial governments to prevent any clawbacks to the Benefit.

The passage of Bill C-22 offers hope for reducing poverty and providing more financial security among Canadians with disabilities. This historic achievement sets the stage for a more equitable and inclusive future for Canadians with disabilities. As the regulatory process begins, we will keep an eye on new information and ways to be involved.

Stay involved:

- March of Dimes and Prosper Canada [have written a report about what “co-creation” could look like](#) in shaping the regulations of the Benefit.
- [Send an email to your MP with the click of a button](#) through Disability Without Poverty’s *Budget the Benefit* campaign, which urges that money is added to next year’s federal budget so that the Canada Disability Benefit is funded adequately and is made available as soon as possible.



## The Power of Positive Introductions: “Thinking it Through” Preparing for the Upcoming School Year

We are delighted to extend an invitation to an intimate virtual meetup for our parents of young children on **July 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm to 7:30pm**. Join us for an engaging dialogue as we delve into strategies and insights on creating positive introductions for our children, emphasizing their unique skills and strengths.

This is especially helpful to think about and plan prior to another school year beginning when your youngster will be meeting teachers, educators and others! This event aims to provide a welcoming space for connections to form and conversations to unfold. **Register now to secure your spot!**



**Register Here to Receive the Zoom Link Details!**

# Shared Learning From Siblings, and Questions for a Realtor Relationship at July's Imagining Home Meeting

This month at Imagining Home we're excited to be joined by two sisters, Maureen and Nadine, who will share about their brother Michael's evolving story of home – touching on the power of sibling support, becoming a primary homeowner, the search for a first-time housemate, and Michael's broadening horizons well into his retirement years.

Also, we were recently approached by a local Realtor and invited to explore the potential of connecting him with local people and families looking to secure a rental or owned property. Before we embark on that conversation to understand what the benefits and other considerations might be, we'd like to know from families what questions you'd have about teaming up with a Realtor. Come and share your thoughts and help us shape some thinking around a potential partnership.

Again this month, we'll be hosting our meeting in-person at the Gathering Place at our offices in Oshawa. If you are a family who does not live within the Region or may have trouble traveling to our Oshawa office, please let Erin know and alternate arrangements can be made. We're looking forward to gathering together in-person once again!

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 (905) 436-2500 ext. 2511 or eoreilly@dafrs.com to arrange an introductory call.

**IMAGINING HOME MEETING • NEXT MEETING • WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2023 • 6:30PM**

**IN PERSON AT THE GATHERING PLACE!**

**CONTACT ERIN FOR DETAILS (EOREILLY@DAFRS.COM)**




## BioMedical Approaches Study Group Discusses their Farm-Fresh Findings and Organizes their Next Summer Visit

Our meeting is back to the second Friday this month, join us on July 14th! We will gather in-person at the Gathering Place as we discuss our trip to City of Greens, and plan for our next outing!

Last month the group met to catch-up and share their favourite summer beverage recipes. The group has been discussing a few places around Durham Region they would like to visit, so we will re-look at our options and discuss where and when we might take our next field trip.

Everyone is welcome to attend and participate in the Bio-Medical Approaches Study Group when we meet on the second Friday morning of each month. We usually engage with anything "Bio – Medical" and so families talk about all of the approaches, alternatives, 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 10am for about an hour to an hour and a half. Reach out to Janet  if you'd like more information or to RSVP to the next meeting!



**STUDY GROUP  
INFO  
FRIDAY,  
JULY 14  
10 AM**



# Have You Attended Making the Most Family Series? Come Together to Discuss and Continue Learning!

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 circles of support, 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@dafers.com](mailto:lpowell@dafers.com) for more information.

We are taking a break in July to give everyone a chance to enjoy all that summer evenings can offer and look forward to seeing people again on August 28 at our usual time of 6:30pm via Zoom.



## MAKING THE MOST STUDY GROUP

AUGUST 28, 2023  
6:30PM TO 7:30PM

[respiteservices.com](http://respiteservices.com)



RespiteServices.com continues connecting families to supporters! Contact Sandy for details!

Respiteservices.com is continuing to operate remotely to connect families and support workers. We know people continue to need good support during this time and are working diligently to continue to provide this service to residents of Durham Region.

To be matched with support workers, you must be registered with [respiteservices.com/durham](http://respiteservices.com/durham). Contact Sandy at (905)436-3404 or [sciarlariello@dafers.com](mailto:sciarlariello@dafers.com). New supporters are continuing to be added. Contact Sandy for more information!

## Important Dates At-A-Glance!

**Imagining Home**  
July 12@6:30pm

**Bio Medical Study Group**  
July 14@10am

**Thinking it Through**  
June 27@6:30pm

**Making the Most  
Study Group**  
August 28@6:30pm

For more information,  
please visit our website at  
[www.dafers.com](http://www.dafers.com)

For more information, please visit our website, [www.dafers.com](http://www.dafers.com), and see the "Upcoming Events" tab.

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(905)436-2500 [www.dafers.com](http://www.dafers.com)