



*Adolescent's Family Support
Services of Niagara*

"Being fifteen and pregnant, I thought my life was ruined. Because of AFSSN...I have a co-op job at a local bank and am graduating high school. Three and a half years ago I didn't think that was even possible."

Tracy G.

"Since enrolling I have completed all my credits and now have a scholarship for Niagara College. AFSSN is...a fabulous organization that has made me proud and pleased to be a young mom."

Lindsay R.

"I'm leaving with more than a diploma, I'm leaving with confidence."

Marylou T.

"I am grateful for the wonderful childcare my son has received. He's been here since he was 3 months old and has made his own friends and connections. The workers are responsible and caring and have always been terrific with him."

Jacqueline N.

"My daughter, since being in child care here, has learned to share, play well with others and her verbal skills have improved."

Jessica M.

"The Outreach program has helped me continue my education with my son right down the hall, allowing us to have a good learning experience together."

Kristie Lynn M.

"The program was one of the best things that could have happened to my daughter and me. I really hope they keep this program around for as long as we need it. It is wonderful!"

Monique G.

"All they (the workers) have provided will never be forgotten. I am very grateful."

Kelly C.



There can be many reasons why

For some, home-life was frightening; they were withdrawn at their school; they did not learn well; they fell behind; they had no career goals...

Sometimes a very young couple are in love but are not careful...

Some are from a background that included domestic violence...

More than half have a partner more than 5 years older who often has multiple partners...

For some, in their search for respect, they decide to become a Mom...

Very few recognize the battle they assume when they choose parenthood...

Some come from a single parent family receiving welfare and simply follow the learned pattern...

Our society's most likely candidate for a life of crime is the boy-child of a single mom who was 20 or younger when she gave birth...

Education is proven as the key to ending this cycle; the opportunity for mother to complete high school and the opportunity for her child to be ready when formal education begins.



Who are we?

Adolescent's Family Support Services of Niagara (AFSSN) is a Niagara-based not-for-profit organization dedicated to fostering the independence of young families who, through the provision of our quality daycare, are able to pursue their education. We were founded in 1993 as a direct result of the 1989 report, "Teenagers becoming parents: a Niagara Perspective". This report identified the lack of services available to teenage parents and their children in Niagara resulting in the parents' inability to complete their secondary school education or to gain assistance in their new role as parents.

What do we do?

We train and supervise caregivers in their own homes who will love and care for the child of a full or part time student while in school.

We operate 3 quality licensed childcare centres in Niagara where we accept children aged from 6 weeks to 6 years. In addition, we supervise on average 15 in-home daycare facilities located throughout Niagara.

We operate a unique resource centre without walls, that includes an outreach program and social work staff to coach participants.

For the parents we offer one-on-one emotional support, crisis intervention, guidance, parenting, life skills training, goal setting and budgeting.

All centres, in-home providers, outreach programs and parents benefit from our qualified staff resource teacher. This teacher enriches daily learning for children with special needs and enhances normal child development for all children in our care.

For many young mothers, shrinking incomes, increased expenses and hectic schedules make it impossible to return to school and for many others it is difficult to return to a structured classroom environment. Our outreach program is an alternative offering personalized academic and parenting support in a 'clubhouse' atmosphere; this program supports expectant mothers in their final trimester.

Our "Growing Readers" program encourages early literacy in young families. Our "Niagara Brighter Futures" program meets the basic needs of families with children from 0 to 6. Our "Healthy from the Start" program offers education to prevent low birthweight babies.

To deliver these programs, we have a staff of 42.

Where do we operate?

AFSSN has facilities in Niagara as follows:

- The Sven H. Dohnberg Daycare Centre in St. Catharines
- The Niagara Falls Centre
- The Welland Centre
- The St. Catharines Collegiate
- Multiple sites with partners for Niagara Brighter

Futures and Healthy from the Start Why do we do this?

Research specific to the Niagara Region identified the need for services to support young parents; demand for this service has not declined in the intervening years. With a constant rate of teen pregnancy spanning the past decade, AFSSN must maintain a constant level of service to our youngest and most vulnerable families.

Approximately 80% of the children of teenage parents, who do not receive this intensive intervention, enter school developmentally behind their peers by one and one half years. The most common area of "not ready" is in the social skills area. The children in care with AFSSN enter school ready to learn, with test results showing above average social skills development.

Adults at age 40 who participated in a preschool program in their early years:

- have higher incomes
- are more likely to maintain a job
- are less likely to commit crimes
- are more likely to graduate from high school.

Several studies have documented a return to society of more than \$17 for every tax dollar invested in early care and education programs for the at risk child (High/Scope Education Research Foundation, 2003; High Quality Early Childcare, Port Perry Preschool Study).

A Bold Step Forward

AFSSN took a major step forward in service to the community of Welland by purchasing the former Welland YMCA located at 285 East Main on February 25, 2005. Significant renovations have been undertaken since the purchase but some major changes remain to be completed. We must replace the roof and the furnace and complete major electrical renovations. In addition, we have a long list of general renovations to finish the facility's conversion from a YMCA to a childcare, training and administration centre.

We also need minor renovations at our Sven Dohnberg Centre in St. Catharines and all three of our facilities require upgrades in toys and equipment. Finally, we have plans to purchase a building in Niagara Falls, allowing us to move from rented facilities in a surplus school (that is slated for sale) to a dedicated centre. In all, these plans will require \$750,000 of capital investment to complete.

We Need Your Help

You can make a positive impact on the lives of these young parents and their children that will last their lifetime. By supporting this campaign, you will support these young families in a way that has a proven lasting effect

Campaign Budget

Description	Amount
Replace Toys & Equipment at 12 Centres	\$17,000
Repairs at the Sven Dohnberg Center	\$10,000
Replace Roof, Furnace and Electrical at the Welland Centre	\$133,000
General Building Renovations at the Welland Centre	\$365,000
Building Purchase in Niagara Falls	\$225,000
Total	\$750,000

2006 Financial Summary

Revenues	Amount
Regional Municipality of Niagara	\$1,370,965
Public Health Agency of Canada	\$475,500
The United Ways of St. Catharines and South Niagara	\$29,806
Occupancy Income	\$25,400
Program Service Fees	\$3,006
Fund Raising & Donations	\$39,734
Ontario Trillium Foundation	\$35,000
Other Income	\$95,349
Total Revenues	\$2,074,560
Expenses	Amount
Salaries & Benefits	\$1,686,176
Occupancy Costs	\$226,810
Program Costs	\$70,328
Office Costs	\$27,198
Travel & Professional Fees	\$30,000
Fund Raising	\$12,952
Total Expenses	\$2,053,464
Surplus (Deficit)	\$21,096



Adolescent's Family Support Services of Niagara

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