



family transition place

HOPE Journey of

Safety. Support. Hope.

Spring/Summer 2004 - www.familytransitionplace.ca

"Call. Come for help"

"You have nothing to lose; and only your life to gain"

Sometimes, prayers are answered.

For 37 year old, university educated Sheila* her prayers for an escape from her controlling, drug addicted husband together with a co-worker's advice and her own courage helped her dial 941-HELP, the 24 Hour Crisis/Info Line at Family Transition Place.

Sheila had tried to leave before, but felt trapped, fearful of making her own decisions, wondering how she could find affordable housing or financially survive on her own.

During her three week stay at the shelter, she talked to counsellors, used legal support services, and found help in making the transition for both herself and her children. Her kids took part in the children's program and discovered the encouragement that comes from knowing they're not alone.



"Before I used to have to give him my paycheques. I used to have to answer to him for everything. Now I'm saving for a house and I'm making my own decisions."

"I accomplished a lot in a short time. I feel settled and at peace. No matter where I am, I'm home. I now see the choices I have," she said.

"FTP is a good place to stay, to gather momentum, strengthen yourself. It's a community here. The Dalai Lama said *'What we lack in this world is compassion for others.'* Here at FTP, I found compassion."

Community Kudos!



To **Katie Reid & Hilary Dean**, Grade 7 Maples students who purchased Easter treats for shelter residents and donated \$100 from their "Values Project" bake sale.

To **Orangeville Police Service** for their supportive and compassionate response to the abused women at the shelter. Officers have demonstrated their willingness to take part in training to better understand the emotional and psychological impact of abuse.

To the **Ont. government's Family Responsibility Office** for taking steps to help collect \$1.32 billion defaulted child support payments. Ont. taxpayers paid \$211 million in social assistance to people whose spouses have defaulted on support payments.

To **Joyce***, a former shelter client who's back on her feet and now organizes her own fundraising events in support of FTP. (Joyce is a pseudonym).

To **Greater Dufferin Area Chamber of Commerce** for recognizing the valid contributions that not-for-profit organizations make to the overall health and prosperity of our community.

FTP's Golf Classic Sept. 23rd

FTP's 3rd Annual Golf Charity Classic isn't yet on the PGA tour, probably because we have way too much fun! Last year golfers putted, hooked and sliced their way through the Caledon Golf & Country Club to raise \$12,000 for FTP. Don't miss out on all the fun - help us raise even more this year!

Early Bird Registration

\$150

includes green fees, power cart, lunch, dinner, prizes



Sponsorship opportunities available!

*Sheila & Joyce are pseudonyms.

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Thank you!

Our volunteers make a difference!

Some of Family Transition Place's volunteers help with fundraising and administration; others help by providing childcare during counselling appointments and in the shelter. Their commitment, time and talents are much appreciated. Thanks to our newest trained volunteers:

Barb Millard
Cheryl Gray
Eva Charters
Jo Anne Lane
Joan Rossiter



Judy Kendrick
Lenore Netzke
Linda Larson
Lorraine Larsen
Maureen Goddard



Patricia Ferguson
Sarah McCardell
Susan Ralph
Ursula Courtney

"It takes a whole village"

FTP collaborates, reaches out

It's part of FTP's vision to "be a leader and partner in providing the community with education and prevention initiatives."

In recent months, FTP staff and Board members took part in a variety of such initiatives including:

- presentations to Guides & Pathfinders
- workshops for young girls to help raise awareness about "risky" behaviours
- parenting workshops specifically for moms of children who have witnessed family conflict
- the establishment of the Dufferin Domestic Violence Court

- the development of a protocol with Children's Aid Society & Catholic Family Services for supporting families that experience family violence

- initiating a coalition of agencies to explore ways to improve the overall "social prosperity" of our community
- providing information and training to childcare workers about supporting children who have witnessed family conflict
- taking part in the Dufferin Community Advisory Committee's efforts to find solutions for homelessness in Dufferin.

"Wanted" Volunteers

Reception Relief: Have a welcoming smile & a helpful manner? We're looking for someone to answer phones, book appointments, and help with general office work.

Childcare: We need help with child care during daytime counselling appointments as well as during some evening workshops.

Flyer Delivery: Help raise awareness by dropping off flyers and posters during Woman Abuse & Sexual Abuse Prevention Months.

Call Shelley at 942-4122 ext. 240.

2003-2004

- 121 women & 117 children in the shelter
- 628 women in counselling
- 3,500 crisis calls
- 3,700 students in violence prevention



Family Transition Place
20 Bredin Pkwy,
Orangeville, ON L9W 4Z9
p. 519-942-4122
f. 519-942-8243

www.familytransitionplace.ca

24 Hour Crisis Line
519-941-HELP (4357)
1-800-265-9178

Your PRIVACY Rights & Responsibilities

Family Transition Place conducts our fundraising activities in compliance with the new Federal Privacy Act and in a manner that conforms to the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy's Ethical Fundraising and Financial Accountability Code.

We value the trust of our donors. We do not rent, sell or trade our mailing lists.

If you have any questions about our fundraising practices contact the Resource Development Coordinator.

Teens, tweens & sexuality - some frightening trends

Our children are growing up knowing about sex, but understanding less about healthy sexuality.

They understand the mechanics of sex at a younger age, but the “whys” and “why nots” are missing. There’s a serious gap between the physical, emotional and psychological aspects of sexual maturity and the fall-out is showing up in frightening ways.

Girls as young as 12 are performing oral sex on boys, both publicly and privately, as nonchalantly as they would brush their teeth. The goal is rarely personal pleasure. It’s a rite of passage, a strategy to gain affection, an expectation, a peer pressure, a new norm.

Some girls believe oral sex is a way to avoid getting pregnant or preserve their virginity. For some, oral or even anal sex doesn’t count as having ‘real sex’.

Some believe that they’ll avoid contracting AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STD) or infections (STI). The pregnancy rate

for young girls is dropping, but the frequency of STD/STI is on the rise. Children today face many more sexual health threats than ever before.

The Globe and Mail, the Toronto Star, TVOntario and even Oprah have brought to light the startling sexual language, attitudes and activities of our youth.



What’s happening in the lives of our youth? Teachers, youth, police, health care workers, social workers have told us about:

- date rape drugs showing up at a party involving 12 and 13 year olds;
- the growing pride amongst youth about being a sexual object;
- a group of boys targeting certain girls and succeeding in their specific goal of getting them pregnant;
- unreported sexual assaults because the incidents involve drug use and underage drinking.

In a recent US study, one-third of 10 to 11 year olds and almost half of the 12 to 15 years olds surveyed say pressure to have sex is a concern for them.

Kids need help sorting out the images, the information, the facts and their feelings.

Understanding that sex is more than just a physical act minimizes the risk of abuse and helps prepare our children for healthy, respectful relationships.

Do you talk to your kids about healthy sexuality?

Sex still goes undiscussed in many families often because parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles just tell children to wait until they’re married.

Abstinence is a choice, but the truth is, most children today are not waiting.

Want to turn a potentially awkward “talk” into a healthy exchange of information and feelings? According to a group of Orangeville 17 and 18 year olds, here’s how:

- Don’t just scare the heck out of me. That’s not going to help me.
- Don’t make me feel ashamed.
- Don’t just try to protect me; educate me.
- Don’t jump to conclusions. Asking about sex doesn’t mean I’m having sex.
- If you can’t find the words, go to a book or a website and use the words they suggest.
- If caring and respect are part of healthy sexual relationships, show us. Don’t be afraid to show affection to each other in front of us.
- Talk to us before we think about having sex. If 12 year olds are having sex, talk to us about it when we’re 10.
- Respect my point of view by listening without overreacting.

Learn more about healthy relationships, dating and sexuality. Call FTP’s Violence Prevention Coordinator at 942-4122 ext. 226.

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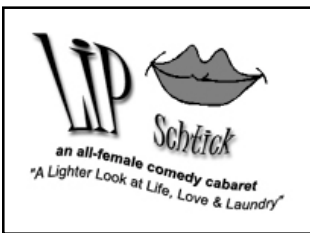
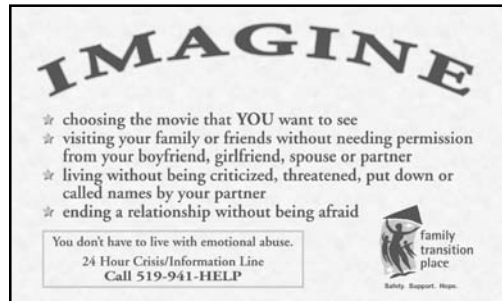


Mansfield Ski Club

Members of Mansfield Ski Club raised more than \$1,100 on Valentines Day for FTP. Proceeds came from donations as well as guest ski passes and ski tune-ups. Board Chair Ann Henney-Castel (right) and Resource Development Coordinator Shelley Chidlow were on hand to say thanks!

Galaxy Cinemas

Since its Opening Gala 2.5 years ago, Galaxy has been a strong corporate partner. Family Movie Mornings, the ELF Movie Premier, the pre-show "Imagine" ad as well as movie passes for children in the shelter have helped raise awareness of woman abuse and funds for FTP.



Laughter raised the roof and \$7,000 for FTP on March 9th. Thanks to the major sponsors of this SOLD OUT! event: Sarah Haney, Plastiflex, Elementary Teachers Federation (Upper Grand), Egan Funeral Home.

It's one of our most popular fundraising events! 64 curlers and our generous sponsors raised more than \$5,200 February 8th. Thanks to Effem Inc., Orangeville Curling Club, Sobey's, Staples, TDCanadaTrust & Galaxy Cinemas.

Curling Funspiel

Holding the light, showing the way for others to support FTP

Family Transition Place is indebted to the generous people who use their own time and resources to raise funds for us.

Individuals, employee groups, teachers, students, businesses, church groups and others have organized events and activities that engage and involve others in their charitable giving.

Frank the Tailor designates 5% of his December sales to charities chosen by his customers.

Virtuoso Music School designated FTP the beneficiary of ticket sales from its concert.

Bolton Rexall Drugs donated the proceeds from its Christmas gift wrapping.

Students at **St. Andrew School** raised money through their own curling bonspiel.

Our programs and services continue because people find creative ways to help us and involve others in their initiatives.

Thank you!

For more information on fundraising events and volunteering, contact Shelley Chidlow, Resource Development Coordinator, 519-942-4122 ext. 240, shelley@ftp.on.ca

Don't miss out on more "fun-raising" events!

Join the FTP Email Club and be among the first to be notified of upcoming FTP fundraising events.

Email shelley@ftp.on.ca and put "Email Club" in the subject line.

We need your on-going financial support. *Thank you!*

Abused women and their children depend on Family Transition Place for emergency shelter, counselling, legal and transitional support. We depend on your financial donation to deliver these much needed community services and our violence prevention initiatives. Help us make a difference through your **monthly donation, electronic debit, designated United Way deductions, event sponsorships, one-time donation, celebration gift or bequest.** Please call to find out how.