

# OFVIC



The Ontario Foundation  
for Visually Impaired Children

Annual Report 2009 - 2010

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Ontario Foundation for Visually Impaired Children (OFVIC) is to enable babies and young children who are blind or have low-vision to learn, experience and live all aspects of a full productive life; provide children and their families with service, support and assistance at the highest level; and encourage children and families to develop skills and knowledge necessary to achieve their goals with confidence and pride.

## **Board of Directors March 31, 2010**

**President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer**

**Allan Hobbs  
Sylvia Shippke  
Rena Shadowitz  
David Cummings**

## **Directors**

**Leanne Bremner  
John Chessmond  
William Findlay  
Susan Hansen  
Brandon MacMillan  
Amin Remtulla**

## **Management Staff**

**Executive Director  
Program Director (FCRP)**

**April Cornell  
Lindsay Hillier**

## **Annual Report of the President of the Board of Directors**

As President it is my pleasure to share with you the highlights and accomplishments of the OFVIC this past fiscal year 09-10.

This was a year to maintain stability and certainty in difficult times. The economic downturn was a great cause for concern. Traditional channels of funding and fundraising were at risk of sweeping change with the times. Managing the finances of the agency was a major focus, while ensuring the continuance of service remained the same. Through collective fiscal responsibility and guidance; we were successful in operating OFVIC thru this turbulent time.

Another activity taken on by the board was the implementation of the RISK Management assessment process. As part of the Ministry of Children & Youth Services framework, which describes at a strategic level the rationale for risk management and key operating principles, the board completed the self assessment process. While OFVIC fell into the category of "low risk" it did provide discussion and opportunity for us to further identify areas of improvement for the board, in the coming year.

In addition we completed a review of the annual work plan and identified objectives for the coming year.

This year we welcomed David Cummings and John Chessmond to our board. I also want to thank Beth Richards for her contribution and welcome Leanne Bremner's return.

On behalf of the board, I want to recognize the contributions and commitment of the dedicated staff at OFVIC who deliver on their promise to children and families everyday.

Thanks to all the board members and volunteers for sharing your talents, time and special skills. It is thru the contribution of many that leads to the success of the whole.

## **Executive Director's Annual Report**

The past year was one of consolidating our programs and services under the new structure which was implemented in 2009.

As members of the Regional Blind Low Vision Program teams, the consultants with the Family and Community Resource Program have collaborated in the strengthening of the services to respond to the needs of the children and their families and the uniqueness of the regional community's model for services to young children.

This year, the High Park Forest Group Program entered into partnership with several community therapists. These partnerships enhanced services to the children enrolled and served as a demonstration of the importance of a collaborative consultation model to support young children with visual impairments.

The Centre for Training and Development has provided ongoing support to the Regional Blind Low Vision Programs. Training programs were developed and presented to the Regional Blind Low Vision Teams. Individual support to the Early Childhood Vision Consultants continued, enhancing their knowledge and skills and strengthening the delivery of service to the children and their families.

OFVIC continues to emphasize the importance of building capacity of our community partners in supporting the development of young children with visual impairment. Our Consultants and Resource Teachers continued to deliver workshops and presentations to community Special Needs Resourcing, Infant Development, and other professionals.

We are most appreciative for the support from our regional partners and volunteers who have contributed their talents in support of our mission.

## Programs and Services

### Family and Community Resource Programs

- **Objective:** The Ontario Foundation for Visually Impaired Children's Family and Community Resource Program is a family-centered, early intervention service for young children with a visual impairment. The program is designed to facilitate the growth and development of the child within the context of his or her family and community. The consultants provide support to the child, the family and community early intervention professionals.
- **Program:** The consultant, in collaboration with other involved professionals, develops a family centered plan that addresses the developmental and unique learning needs of children with a visual impairment, with and without additional disabilities, that is compatible with the family's priorities and preferences. Programming emphasis is placed on the unique teaching strategies and learning styles of children with visual impairments to facilitate their overall development, environmental access and interactions with their family and community.
- **Services Provided:**
  1. Consultation to the family and community professionals in both home and community settings.
  2. Collaboration in the development and implementation of the Individual Child and Family Service Plan (ICFSP).
  3. Programming to promote the development of visual, tactile and auditory functioning, as well as specific adaptive skills including visual efficiency, orientation and mobility, and pre-braille skills.
  4. On-going training for family and community professionals.
- **Areas Served:** Toronto, Peel, Halton, Durham, Wellington/Waterloo and York Regions.
- **Total Children and Families Served in 2009/2010:** 168 .

## High Park Forest School

The High Park Forest School offers a daily group program for children ages 2-5

- **Objective:** The objective of the High Park Forest School program is to provide the environment and means to promote the overall growth and development of the child with a visual impairment within a group setting.
- **Program:** This program follows a developmental curriculum which is individualized for each child based on the outcome of the functional sensory assessments. Emphasis is placed on the development of visual, tactile and auditory functioning, and specific adaptive skills including: visual efficiency, orientation and mobility, and pre-braille skills. The environment has been physically modified to accommodate the special needs of the children.
- **Services Provided:**
  1. Development and implementation of the child's individualized program plan (IPP) with in the group setting.
  2. Collaboration with other professionals on the child's IPP team.
  3. Parent support and training through home visits.
  4. On-site training for community professionals and college students.
- **Number of Children Participating in the Program in 2009/20010: 13**

## Financial Highlights

12 Month period ending March 31, 2010

### Revenue

Government Grants	\$ 887, 935
Donations and Fundraising	\$ 109, 851
Other	<u>\$ 9, 594</u>

**Total Revenue** **\$ 1,007,380**

### Expenditures

Salaries and Benefits	\$ 736,193
Programming, Supplies and Equipment	30,349
Office and Administration	30,297
Building Occupancy	15,379
Training	324
Program Transportation	11,188
Insurance	20,495
Travel	35,714
Professional Services	40,914
Amortization	830

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**Total Expenditures:** **\$ 921,683**

*The Ontario Foundation for Visually Impaired Children*

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(April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010)

**Corporate Donors:**

Allstate Insurance Company of Canada  
Aurion Capital Management Inc.  
Bonis & Company Ltd. (926746 Ontario Inc.)  
Celebrity Unisex Salon  
CIBC  
Fortinos (Queens Plate Drive)  
Hansen & Young Inc.  
IBM Employee's Charitable Fund  
Ice River Springs Water Company  
Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Inc.  
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Inside Out Wellness Centre  
Johnny The Wrench Plumbing and Contracting  
Jumpstart Coaching  
Keg Restaurants Ltd.  
M&M Meat Shops Ltd.  
Moose-sew Knits  
New Town Painting  
Norstar Corporation  
Princeton Painters Inc.  
Wal-Mart (Etobicoke)  
Woodhill Chiropractic and Laser Clinic  
572262 Ontario Limited O/A Stacey's

**Service Clubs and Community Groups:**

Lake Shore Chapter No. 257 Order of the Eastern Star  
Lake Shore Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 645 G.R.C.  
Mentor Educational Inc.  
Municipal Chapter of Toronto IODE  
Rexdale Presbyterian Senior Citizens Corporation  
Toronto Shrine Number 4 (Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem)

**Gifts in Loving Memory:**

Andre Boodt  
Kenneth Charles McKinnon  
Timothy Murray  
Julia Anne Shea  
Cathleen Smith  
Violet Smith