



## Foster Care

**Office Locations:**

**Fort Frances Office  
(Main office)**

240 First Street East, Suite 200  
Fort Frances, Ontario P9A 1K5  
Phone: (807) 274-7787  
Fax: (807) 274-6646

**Atikokan Office**

214 Main Street  
P.O. Box 2050  
Atikokan, Ontario P0T 1C0  
Phone: (807)597-2700  
Fax: (807) 597-6920

**Rainy River Office**

113 Fourth Street East  
P.O. Box 476  
Rainy River, Ontario P0W 1L0  
Phone: (807) 852-3387  
Fax: (807) 852-1064

**TOLL FREE NUMBER  
1-800-465-7764**

On April 18, 2007, Family and Children's Services hosted an information evening to educate the community of the Foster Care and Adoption departments at the agency. The evening was to emphasize the importance of Foster and Adoptive Parents, clear any myths that surround the Foster Care and Adoption Services and, to invite applications for foster parenting or adoptive families.

To emphasize the importance of these programs a variety of speakers who have experienced foster care, as a child in foster care, and, as a foster parent, shared their stories with the group.

Darryl Little, Protection Worker, Christa Werenko, Foster Care Coordinator and, Marty Nelson, Adoption Services Worker, gave summaries of their position within

the agency and how those roles affect the families and children they work with.

For further information on Foster Care, please call Christa Werenko at (807) 274-7787 ext. 226 and, for Adoption Services, call Marty Nelson at (807) 274-7787 ext. 267.



*Christa*

## Yurchuk Receives a Helping Hand

Forty-five co-workers, family and friends gathered at the Fort Frances FACS office building on May 28th to offer a helping hand to employee, Yvonne Yurchuk of Crozier.

Spaghetti, sauce and salad, accompanied by delicious trays of desserts were enjoyed by all. A silent auction during and after the supper rounded out the evening of fundraising.

Yurchuk lost many of her possessions including a stock of supplies she had purchased and stored to renovate her Crozier home, when in late April of this year, a grass wildfire pushed by strong winds destroyed two sheds and nearly took her home as well.

"It was a very close thing as it burned all around my oil tank as well," explained Yurchuk. The

cause of the fire has never been determined, but a careless butt or match tossed by a passing motorist is suspected," she added.

"I simply can't thank folks here enough for all their kindness," said Ms. Yurchuk.

Article and photographs submitted by Jack Elliott.

Wendy Brunetta, Support Services Manager, reports that a substantial amount was raised. She wishes to thank everyone who bought tickets, donated draw prizes, donated food, made cash donations and her team who helped set up, serve and clean up.



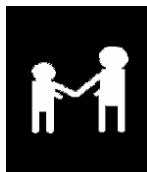
*Children of agency staff enjoy the delicious meal.*



*Support Services staff, Stacey (left), Wendy (middle), and Patty preparing the meal.*

## Community Services & Quality Assurance

**SUPERVISED ACCESS PROGRAM**



When parents separate or divorce, visits with the children may be a problem.

Difficulties sometimes arise between the parents at the time the children are exchanged. At other times, there may be concerns about the visits themselves.

Supervised Access Centers offer separated or divorced families a way to cope with some of these problems. Both supervised visits and supervised exchanges are designed to ensure that a child can have safe contact with both parents without having to be put in the middle of the parents' conflicts or other problems.

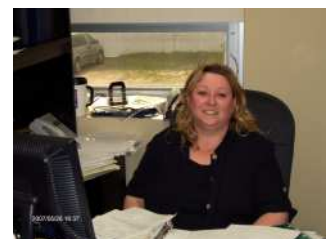
**What is the Orange Ribbon Supervised Visitation Campaign?**



The orange ribbon is a symbol of supervised visitation. Supervised Visitation centers exist to provide a safe haven for children during parental visitation. What color signifies safety better than orange? Orange is a bright color used to warn people to watch out and take notice. We want the world to see the orange ribbon and take notice of the thousands of children and families in need of this service.

The purpose of the campaign is to use the symbol of the orange ribbon throughout the month of May to raise awareness about the need and impact of Supervised Visitation.

In the Rainy River District there are three locations: Emo, Fort Frances and Atikokan. For further information regarding Supervised Access Programs, please contact Jeanne Pasch, Supervised Access Coordinator at (807) 274-0381 or Toll Free 1-800-465-7764.



*Jeanne is a new addition at FACS and started in the Supervised Access and Volunteer Program in April, 2007.*

*Welcome Jeanne!*



*If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically; or to provide feedback about the newsletter, please notify us by sending an e-mail to: [Information@facsrr.ca](mailto:Information@facsrr.ca)*

## Child Protection Services

The Child Protection Team is pleased to welcome Terri Darrigan to its compliment of child protection staff.

Terri is filling the one year contract position of Angela Aucoin's family leave.

Some of us may remember that Terri first started in Child Protection in 2001 and then moved to Children's Mental Health in 2002.

Terri is coming to Child Protection from her Therapist position at Children's Mental Health. She is

bringing her skills and knowledge of the mental health field to the Child Protection Service, and we are very pleased to be able to draw on her mental health expertise.

Welcome to our team, Terri.

Stuart McIvor  
Manager of Protection Services



**"For more information about or to request a presentation on the "Duty to Report" please call 274-7787"**



## Developmental Services

### HAS YOUR CHILD BEEN THE VICTIM OF BULLYING?

The Developmental Services Program in partnership with the Child Care Resources Program is hosting a FREE presentation on Bullying and Self Esteem. This presentation is most pertinent to parents of children with special needs as well as Special Education resource Teachers and Education Assistants. However, it is open to anyone who wishes to attend. This presentation will help you understand the seriousness of bullying, recognize when bullying is occurring, provide strategies for prevention.

### BULLYING & SELF ESTEEM



#### A FREE PRESENTATION

**Fort Frances:**  
June 20, 2007  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Family & Children's Services  
Board Room - 240 First St. E.

**Atikokan:**  
June 21, 2007  
4:00pm - 6:00 pm  
Location TBD

*With presenters*

**Pam King & Laureen Morrish**  
ASD Consultants, School Support Program

**Refreshments will be provided**

REGISTRATION IS LIMITED

To register contact:  
Fort Frances - Carolyn  
274-7787 ext 248  
Atikokan - Lorna 597-2700, ext 0

**Sponsored by Developmental Services Program & Child Care Resources School Support Program**

**We are on the Web!**  
[www.facsrr.ca](http://www.facsrr.ca)

Call your local office of Family & Children's Services  
24 Hours a day,  
7 Days a week  
Or visit us on the web [www.facsrr.ca](http://www.facsrr.ca)

## Children's Mental Health Services

### WHAT IS 'EVIDENCE-BASED' PRACTICE?

With so much talk of needing evidence to support programs and practice these days, I think it's time we spell out what this term means and how to apply it here in our own agency.

Melanie Barwicke of the Centre of Excellence for Children and Youth co-authored two research papers in 2004 and 2005, both pointing to the lack of evidence-base for children's mental health interventions in this province.

Evidence-based practice grew out of the evidence-based medicine movement, which was actually developed in the early 90's at McMaster University in Hamilton, ON. Since then, it has spread internationally throughout other fields, such as nursing, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, education and social work. I could mention psychology as well, but psychology seems to have a longer tradition of seeking out empirically supported treatments and providing training according to the researcher-practitioner (Boulder) model.

Essentially, evidence-based practice means relying upon good research to inform your clinical practice. This makes good sense, but there are some problems with this. First, who has the time to do research when they are working in the field? Second, few clinicians in rural, isolated areas have fast and easy access to research information. Third, the bulk of research is produced by academics and often these academics are not interested in researching the issues that are pertinent to 'real world' practice and even if they are, they often neglect the practical barriers of applying that research into real-world settings.

That being said, there are some very bright people who have attempted to address these concerns. There was talk about getting children's mental health centers access to online research databases. There also seems to be a general acceptance that what works in one context may not necessarily work in another, and it may be necessary to tailor prepackaged programs to the

context and then evaluate its effectiveness.

But the one we can't avoid is the need to collect information that can be used for research and evaluation of effectiveness and this is the gist of evidence-based practice. Evidence-based practice is about accountability, accountability to the ministry that funds our programs, accountability to the taxpayers that pay to support government programming and accountability to the children and families we serve.

It is our ethical responsibility to provide the most effective treatment available to them and to stop interventions that are not helping, or worse yet, adversely affecting them. That's evidence-based practice.

Terri Darrigan  
Formerly of the Children's Mental Health Team

