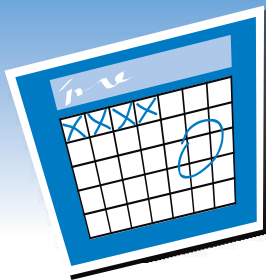


Mark your Calendars



April 12

Abbotsford Addiction Centre Braveheart & Lifesaver Awards

5:00 - 7:00 PM

ACS - Jasbir Saran Room

Addictions are a family issue and everyone deserves to be recognized for the positive efforts they are making towards recovery. Family and community members also deserve to be honored for their support of people with addiction.

May 2

3rd Annual Community Builder Fundraising Breakfast

7:30 - 8:30 AM

Ramada Plaza & Conference Centre

You will hear inspirational stories of how ACS helped people achieve their full potential.

May 24

New Beginnings Community Thank You Tea

11:00 - 1:00 PM

ACS - Jasbir Saran Room

Abbotsford Quilters will present their beautiful quilts to New Beginnings participants.

RSVP's are required

Check our website for details

www.abbotsfordcommunityservices.com

What Participants Say about Family Centre

"I found this to be a home away from home. This is where I want to be - this is my life. What started as a drop-in has turned into a community. I go back to work next month (after maternity leave) but have arranged to have Tuesday's off so that my daughter and I can keep coming here. She's ten months old now, but we first came when she was six weeks old. We HAVE to keep coming."

-Shira-

"These drop-ins are an amazing place to meet other moms who are 'where you are at' as a mom. We understand each other."

-Jenn-

"This drop-in is a lifesaver especially for me a new, first time mom. It gets me out of the house, it's great for my baby and her social skills."

-Leanne-

"My husband, two children and I came to Canada from Taiwan so that our kids could have a better education. Family Centre has become our second home. As a new immigrant there are lots of pressures. We have no other family here. But Family Centre is helping me to raise my children as North American children, learning North American culture and attitudes."

-Yaling (Jessica)-

Strong, healthy families are the
lifeblood of any thriving community.
We know your family is important to you.
Families are important to ACS too.

Help us support the young families of
Abbotsford - make a donation to
ACS Family Centre today.



Abbotsford Community Services
Family Centre

We Support Families in Our Community

DONOR NEWS

Abbotsford Community Services

SPRING 2007



Your Support is Making a Difference

Without you, so much of what we do would not be possible. Abbotsford Community Services (ACS) helps people at almost every stage of life, in almost any situation in life. In 2006, 803 individuals donated to ACS for the first time. Welcome & thank you. Your support is making a big difference.

Seniors Service

Last fall we told you about the services offered by our Seniors Service department. Your response was fantastic. Thirty gifts totaling \$8,205 helped to buoy the programs offered to the growing number of seniors in Abbotsford. Another 428 gifts were received totaling over \$58,000.

ACS Food Bank & Christmas Bureau

There was a phenomenal response from the community this last Christmas season. The goal was to reach \$350,000 in financial donations. You did it! Thank you so much. Through the Christmas Bureau, you helped to sponsor 520 families in Abbotsford - families that were able to enjoy the spirit of Christmas thanks to your support.

To donate to the ongoing work of the ACS Food Bank, just write the word 'Food Bank' on your cheque or on the enclosed coupon.

'A Penny for Your Tots' Spring Campaign

see inside for details



A Few Thoughts from

Thelma



Research proves that children receiving early prevention programs, like ABC-123 Preschool Literacy Program and Precious Babies Community Drop-In, had better outcomes as adults than children who did not have these services. They:

- > were more likely to graduate from high school
- > were more likely to hold a good job
- > had higher earnings
- > had committed fewer crimes

We know that:

- > effective parenting & early learning is critical to child development
- > good nutrition for young, high-risk pregnant moms leads to healthier babies
- > providing food to people with limited incomes minimizes the effect of poverty
- > information about resources can help keep families together living in their own homes

With your support, ACS can continue to provide those services. We are so fortunate that you understand, and that you continue to contribute to this work. I want to thank you for that, and encourage you to come see how your support is making a difference.

Thelma Schrock
Thelma Schrock
Executive Director

We Want to Hear from You

- > Any thoughts you want to share with us?
- > Would you prefer email updates?
- > Do you as a donor want to know more? Or less?
- > Would you like to be invited to special ACS events?
- > Would you like to drop by sometime and see for yourself how your donations help people?

Contact Janna at 604.859.7681. Local 204
janna@paralynx.com

Vikki Hopes, City Life Editor for the Abbotsford & Mission News,
published an article in the Saturday, March 17, 2007 paper with the heading:

WANTED A PENNY for YOUR TOTS

Family Centre launches fundraising campaign
in face of money crunch



Penny Petersen points to a bag of coins on the coffee table. "Try to lift it. It's really heavy," she says.

The challenged person attempts to lift the cloth bag with one hand, but must resort to two to get it to budge.

Dave Holmberg, owner of Bobcat Country Inc. in Abbotsford, observes the activities and estimates the value of the coins to be \$1,000.

It's all going to Abbotsford Community Services Family Centre as part of a new fundraising campaign called 'A Penny for Your Tots.'

Holmberg has always been a big supporter of the centre, which provides programs for parents and their children, six years and under. *'The community needs to get behind the service,' he says. 'It's everyone's responsibility to raise children.'*

The current operational budget for Family Centre and its Neighborhood Place programs at three local schools is \$534,500. Forty percent of that is covered through federal, provincial and school district money. The remaining 60% of costs need to come from other areas such as fundraising and donations. *If you would like to know more about Family Centre or want to drop in for a visit, call Penny at 604.859.7681 Local 302.*

Excerpts from the original article are re-printed here with permission. You can read the full Abbotsford News article on our website at: www.abbotsfordcommunityservices.com. Thank you Vikki for telling out story so eloquently. And thanks for your support!



Worth Getting Up For

Aileen Payne is a young mom passionate about Family Centre. Aileen suffered from severe post partum depression after the birth of her daughter to the point of requiring hospitalization to control the chemical imbalances. Here are a few of her words as expressed in a recent letter to the Minister of Education, Shirley Bond.

"When my daughter was two months old I was told of this program for moms and their babies called Precious Babies. It was offered through ACS Family Centre at a minimal cost which was good for me. My husband and I are a one-income family and money was tight. At first I didn't want to go but I was feeling very alone and nervous around my baby. When I finally got the courage to go, I truly believed that this program saved my life.

I was able to get out and meet other moms who were in the same boat as me. Through the stories and experiences that we shared with each other, I found my confidence starting to grow. As my daughter grew, I grew with her Because of these community programs I have made several connections, and made some deep friendships with other moms in the community. The most important thing to me is that I am much more relaxed about life and about being a mom ... Please keep these programs going, they are worth getting up for in the morning."

Your financial support can make a big world of difference for moms like Aileen. To make a donation to ACS Family Centre, check the designated box on the enclosed coupon.