



The 2011 event was a huge success with a profit of \$10,600. and a sell out of both sittings within days. **Scotiabank** joined us as our overall sponsor and thanks to fundraising training from Kristin Pass, the board secured more sponsorships than ever. Something new was Character Sponsorship which involved having the character go to visit children at Nova Vita and Lansdowne following the breakfast. These were sponsored by MRR and the Expositor. Over 50 volunteers helped to decorate, serve and entertain the children. We are so grateful to the dedicated students who return each year. Jason Gibson was our caterer and Silver sponsor along with the Kidomo, Williamson Group, Smitiuch Injury Law, Clarence St Dental Centre, Good Minds BHNCDSB and Digital Duck



Young Authors Project

A Trillium Grant & partnership with the County Library and the Expositor allowed us to bring **Lauren Kirshner**, to lead writing workshops for teens during the winter of 2011. Lauren, a published, young author herself, did a fabulous job of inspiring and nurturing the writing skills of the 22 participants. Over 50 youth applied which demonstrates the local interest. 22 Pairs of Shoes, a collection of their work, was published.



Young Authors with Lauren



Roots of Empathy
Racines de l'empathie

The Roots of Empathy program had a boost this year when the BCHU agreed to train 6 nurses who were being placed in elementary schools. They were each expected to do 2 classes so this assisted with our growth. (we did have some backfilling to do too). The walk, which took place in May 2010, brought in \$18000. towards training and ongoing costs. The Teachers Credit Union returned as a ROE sponsor with a donation and a promise of ongoing funding. The program ran in over 40 classrooms with some instructors doing double duty. The research continues to show 88% reduction of aggression and an increase of pro social behaviours in children who participate.



Walk Route 50 participants and babies, May 2010

Staff

Sharon Brooks RECE
Executive Director

Jane Flinders RECE

Board of Directors

Jeanne Smitiuch/Chair

Cathie Rice/ Vice Chair

Nora Leung/ Treasurer

Patti Berardi

Lisa Collins

Patti Kunashko

Tracy McMillan

Joe Persia

Zeta Phillipo

Heather Wilson

Robin Matthews Osmond*

Sarah Roarke*

Mellissa Ferrao*

*Penny McVicar moved to the honorary board this year and 3 new members joined. **

Honorary Board Members

Jennifer Boughner

Jackie Delong

Jessica Godin

Fred Morrell John Utley

Penny McVicar

10th Anniversary! 2001-2011

Annual Report 2010-2011



Kids Can Fly-Early Child Development & Parent Support/ CHARITABLE # 884476904RR0001

10th Anniversary Celebration

The Laurier Research & Academic Building was the site for Kids Can Fly's 10th Anniversary celebration. About 100 guest including patrons, volunteers, partners and families gathered to view video clips of Kids Can Fly's history created by Patti Berardi, hear Roots of Empathy students discuss what the program means to them, and honour our board, staff and volunteers. We were fortunate to have some specific funders provide money in January to assist us in year long promotion. The main sponsor was the St John's College Grade 11 Leadership Class, joined

by Jason Gibson Person Chef, the Williamson Group, the Teachers Credit Union and the Brantford Expositor and Rogers Cable TV providing IN KIND media support. A monthly feature article in the newspaper has allowed us to promote our work and recognize our sponsors. Regular visits to Rogers TV gives us ongoing publicity and several board members joined Patti Berardi and Sharon to create 4 early learning documentaries titled Inspiring Young Minds. This project encompassed several months with the final episodes airing in fall 2011. Topics are early brain development, parenting, early literacy and healthy children and will be a great resource

for parents. In looking back at where we started from, Kids Can Fly has grown and developed a real presence in Brant. Our funders have provided us the opportunity to develop our programs and follow our vision. Kids Can Fly is a true catalyst which has built a strong and respected reputation in the community. As we move forward, we will explore more social media methods to reach parents and continue to aim to fill gaps in service. As always, we will keep children and families FIRST in our plans!

Report from the Chair: Jeanne Smitiuch



"2011 marked the 10th Anniversary of Kids Can Fly and we celebrated throughout the whole year.

Each month we focused on a program or event that Kids Can Fly is responsible for and promoted it in an article in the local newspaper, the Brantford Expositor. Then in May we had a 10th Anniversary celebration to honour the wonderful people that have made Kids Can Fly a success, including sponsors, volunteers and recipients of our services. Special guests were treated to variety of testimonials including a touching presentation from Paul

Williamson and Bill and Dorothy Campbell. They honoured our Executive Director, Sharon Brooks, with a donation to the Brantford Community Foundation in her name. The Board of Directors also presented Sharon with a watch to commemorate her contributions to Kids Can Fly for the past ten years. In June, Sharon Brooks, Lisa Collins, Joe Persia and myself travelled to Tennessee for the bi-annual conference for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. We had an eye-opening experience on the benefits the library can have in a community. We came back armed with enthusiasm and passion to continue and grow the program in our community.

A special thanks to the Board of Directors and volunteers for their dedication and hard work throughout the whole year. Your enthusiasm is contagious! As my second term of Chair finished I would like to thank you for the privilege to serve as Chair of Kids Can Fly. It has been my honour. Finally, I would like to thank the many children, parents, organizations, businesses and individuals who have supported Kids Can Fly this year. It is great to have such unwavering support. As Dolly Parton says.... **Start Early Finish Strong!**"

Message from the Executive Director

"It is hard to believe that a whole decade has past since Kids Can Fly came to be! I am so blessed to be working with such an enthusiastic board and to be supported by funders who truly understand the importance of investing in early learning. Kids Can Fly has made a real difference in our community. We have lots to aim to achieve in the next ten years!



The first years last forever!

Sharon Brooks



"As we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Kids Can Fly, the Launch Pad continues to be a primary focus. Thanks to the ongoing generosity and support of Dorothy and Bill Campbell we are able to provide this popular drop in program for children, parents and caregivers. The free taxi service is unique in the community and allows accessibility to those who might be housebound. A new addition this past year was the Monday morning well



Jane Flinders leads music time at the Launch Pad

baby drop in program supported by the Brant County Health Unit. A nurse and lactation consultant were on site to provide free services to families. Our statistics demonstrate we are a resounding success in the community. We have over 80 families registered at the Launch Pad. Many caregivers and families have been attending since we opened 3 years ago. On average there are 15 children attending each morning we are open.

This past December, I was overwhelmed by the Kids Can Fly network who all immediately stepped up to support a family that was in crisis. Within a week this family was outfitted with beds, dishes, decorations and Christmas gifts for both children and mom. The Launch Pad was very fortunate this past year with our student placements including Kyle from Laurier University and Sarah a second year ECE student from Mohawk College. We also had a BCI student who did part of her Co-op placement at the Launch Pad. In January we decided to close the Launch Pad Wednesday afternoons due to lack of attendance. Three 6 week sessions of the Parachute Program was offered on Wednesday afternoons instead. (a move from Thursday).

We are so grateful for Bill and Dorothy's investment in this community through the Launch Pad. They have created an amazing place for children and their families to come to play and learn, thus insuring future potential for success in school. They have ensured that all families will have an equal opportunity to participate by providing transportation. The impact of this program will affect this community for generations. I am very proud and feel blessed to be part of making a difference in our community."

Respectfully Submitted Jane Flinders RECEC



We completed our first year of Imagination Library and registered over 200 children with funding from the Rotary Club of Brantford—Sunrise. Their pledge of \$10000. a year for 3 years is allowing us to bring this fabulous literacy program to children in Brant. Forms were made available at the Launch



forms to families that most need them. Plans are in place for several Kids Can Fly board members to attend the Imagination Library conference in Tennessee in June. Additional funds have been applied for from the other Rotary Club as well as a donation campaign to be held during December 2011. **There is much potential here!**

Pad, through Public Health nurses, Lansdowne staff and through our ED. A big challenge is to get the

2010 ECE Banquet Goes Hollywood

The glitz came out for a Night in Hollywood and everyone walked the Red Carpet as they arrived for this evening of glamour and fun! The committee did another stellar job in organizing this popular event. Award winners were honoured in style. Sponsors included City Grants, Brant Community Foundation, Mohawk College, BHCNDSB, GEDSB as well as the individual award donors. A new award, Every Kid Counts was created by Lansdowne Children's Centre to recognize professionals who make that extra effort for children with special needs. Dozens of door prizes were gathered and awarded as usual and a crowd of 160 early learning professionals enjoyed this special night.



Jane Flinders, Sharon Brooks and Jeanne Smitiuch pose for a glamour shot at the 2010 Banquet.. Location Best Western.

FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN 2010
ECE's enjoyed a milestone as school boards hired them to team teach in full day early learning programs. Pilot programs were set up in Brantford-Brant with the goal of having this in ALL schools within 3-5 years. **Kids Can Fly offered advice on this process.**

Financial Report Nora Leung: Treasurer

Kids Can Fly had a solid financial year. Our fundraising efforts grew and our donors were consistent. The audited statements will be presented at our Sept AGM.



Copies of the financial statements are available upon request.

Contact our Executive Director at 519 448 1713 or sharon.brooks@sympatico.ca

FUNDRAISERS

Kids Can Fly in partnership with the Galaxy Cinema held a Scary Movie Night as our IN HOUSE project to raise funds for the United Way. We raised about \$700. and won the United Way Spirit Award. Other fundraisers included the Storybook Breakfast, (\$10,600,) and Midnight Movie Marathon which was really well attended in March Profits up to \$4600.



Jason Gibson held a dinner for us and donated \$1000. as well as supporting Storybook Breakfast again.

Word IN THE Square A Family Literacy Festival

We were privileged to be involved with the Family Literacy Festival Oct 2010, which brought Youth Advocate Craig Kiellburger to Brantford to speak. Craig also did a keynote at the Expositor's Great Kids Luncheon. This was a truly inspiring gift to the youth and adults of our community. Rain spoiled the outdoor events Craig wowed the crowd at the



Kids Can Fly participated in the Day of Pink event hosted by the Boys and Girls Club. Patti Berardi, Sharon Brooks and Zeta Phillipo show off their shirts! This anti bullying initiative was really popular in Brant and Brantford Schools in 2011.

2010 Our 7th annual Book Camp at Laurier had an additional challenge this year. Unexpectedly, Sharon needed hip surgery 2 days before. Angela Wygota, our Camp Director, did an amazing job and the camp went off without a hitch! Thanks to Jeanne our Chair and Jane Flinders for providing some additional support for Angela and to the dedicated

Book Camp

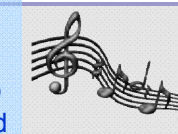
teens who act as counselors and Jr Counselors.. They were all experienced and managed really well! 56 children 10-16 participated with the 9 presenters and enjoyed the 5 days of writing, drawing and socializing with others who



Zeta and her husband Bob welcomed baby Caleb to their family



We received many accolades from the community on our 10Th Anniversary celebration.



Education Through Music!

Over the past fall and winter I had the pure joy of "playing" song games with the children of Graham Bell Victoria School. I scheduled eight 30 minute visits with each class (total of 8 classes) in the fall and then the same for the winter. Deb Opersko our enthusiastic Principal encouraged all the teachers to fully participate. For the most part the teachers were totally engaged. I can't say enough about the shared delight with the staff and children. I know for the most part it was mutual. The ETM materials are strong and grounded. I was delighted when after only a few weeks you could hear children singing in the halls "Oats Peas Beans and Barley Grow". Teachers would complain they couldn't get the song out of their head that night.

The ETM body of work is becoming even more crucial with our present day children. We are learning about the world more and more predominantly through our visual sense to the developmental detriment of our auditory memory and other sensory systems. Education through music embraces all the modalities. You can see it, hear it, feel it.

Optimal brain growth and development is dependent on global experience using all the modalities.

Over the past 8 years I have been studying Education Through Music with The Richards Institute. This past year fall 2010 - 2011 I participated in the Winter Courses offered in Michigan September, December and March. I was very fortunate to also attend the Colloquiums' in California and Michigan the last week of June and second week of July.

Thanks to the Campbell's for funding this program and allowing me to share these invaluable experiences with the staff and children at Graham Bell Victoria School.

Respectfully Submitted Jane Flinders RECEC