

# Best Start Health Coalition In Peel

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[www.Beststartpeel.com](http://www.Beststartpeel.com)

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Health Coalition in Peel


# Best Start Health Coalition in Peel 2007-2008 Annual Report

## Our Board of Directors

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Barbara Wallace



Health Coalition in Peel



## A letter from the President and Executive Director

It is our pleasure to present the Annual Report for Best Start Health Coalition in Peel (BSHCP). This year represents the 17th year of operations for our programs.

We have had many successes this year with fund development, partnership maintenance as well as celebrating over 633 new Best Start Babies! The Board of Directors and staff has worked diligently on capacity building for BSHCP in order to improve effectiveness and to better work towards our mission.

We feel that it is necessary to thank all of our volunteers and staff. We would especially like to thank the Board of Directors for their personal commitment to BSHCP. The BSHCP staff and volunteers have done a fantastic job due to their caring and compassion, which has allowed our program to be successful. It is important that each BSHCP staff and volunteer recognizes the significant impact that each of individual has had on hundreds of babies and their families in Peel. Thank you for your commitment and work ethic.

The Board of Director's goal for the next year is to redefine the Coalition and to continue to serve the underserved populations in Peel. The Board of Directors has taken great steps in capacity building this year which has allowed us to continue the transition from a working board to a policy board.

We would like to express a special thank you to all of our in-kind partners that continue to partner with BSHCP. A special thank you to the Public Health Nurses that are at the sites each and every day! It is due to this spirit of collaboration that has allowed Best Start Health Coalition in Peel to be able to experience continued success.

We look forward to the coming year!

Lexi Deece-Cassidy  
President of the Board

Barb Wallace  
Executive Director

**Mission Statement**  
**Our Mission is to reduce the incidence of low birth weight babies by offering free comprehensive services that promote the healthiest pregnancies possible, including health education, nutrition and social support to child bearing women and their families.**

**Best Start Health Coalition in Peel is a non-profit charitable organization committed to assisting pregnant women in need at our Healthy Start and Teen Prenatal Supper Club Sites.**



## Best Start Health Coalition in Peel a year at a glance...

### **Best Start Health Coalition in Peel Programs**

- Best Start Health Coalition in Peel's (BSHCP) programs and services benefit expectant women and teens including women from immigrant and refugee communities, living in poverty, having limited access to community services that benefit their unborn babies and themselves. Many are single parents, are isolated from social contacts and supports, and many struggle with special needs. Studies show that these groups of women are at an increased risk for infant death and babies born with low birth-weight.

- In our most recent fiscal year, beginning April 1, 2007 and ending March 31 2008, overall, we were able to help support 633 new mothers, 633 new babies, and 633 families in the Region of Peel – and have made over 8000 client contacts!

### **Healthy Start**

Healthy Start program sites continue to thrive. We are currently operating 8 Healthy Start sites including a new Caledon site that opened in November 2007!

- Mothers enjoy one on one care with a Public Health Nurse as well as peer and nutritional support.

### **Teen Prenatal Supper Club**

- This year we had 3 Teen Prenatal Supper Clubs running throughout Brampton, Malton and Mississauga.
- This year we moved our Mississauga Teen Prenatal Supper Club program to Fairview Clinic. We are very pleased with this new state of the art space.

### **Fundraising**

- This past year, was a highly successful one for Best Start Health Coalition in Peel's (BSHCP) annual fundraising campaign, raising \$57,574. We also raised in-kind donations valued at over \$470,000 including food donations, prenatal vitamins provided at cost or reduced prices, staffing (Public Health Nurses and Social Workers) and donated program space! A grant from Human Resources Social Development Canada (HRSDC) allowed us to hire a Program Assistant through the Summer Student Career Placement program. Special Thank You to the Chum Christmas Wish for supporting Best Start for the past 6 years.

### **Shirley Gurowka Memorial Award**

- This Spring/Summer we did award 3 deserving mothers with a \$500.00 award each to help further their education and make their life better for themselves and their families.

### **Angel Hugs**

- Each client that has a new baby at one of our programs goes home with a lovely knit outfit thanks to Angel Hugs.

### **Financial Statements**

- Please contact BSHCP's office for further information 905-452-1246

### **Volunteers**

- We have been fortunate to have 35 volunteers this year including, placement students from Ryerson University as well as Board Members, knitters and general program site help such as child care.

- If you are interested in volunteering please contact Region of Peel Volunteer Services at 905-791-7800.

Website [www.beststartpeel.com](http://www.beststartpeel.com)