

Best Start Health Coalition in Peel 2006-2007 Annual Report



Health Coalition in Peel

A letter from the President and Executive Director

It is our pleasure to present jointly the Annual Report for Best Start Health Coalition in Peel. This year represents the 16th year of operations for our programs.

We have had so many successes this year with fund development and partnership maintenance as well as celebrating over 692 new Best Start Babies!

We feel that it is necessary to thank all of our volunteers especially the Board of Directors for their personal commitment to BSHCP. As a board it is our goal for the next year to continue transitioning from a working board to a policy board and to continue to revise and then meet our strategic objectives. This will require a lot of hard work but is absolutely necessary for continued success.

The BSHCP staff and volunteers have done a fantastic job due to their caring and compassion and that is why our programs are such a success.

It is important that each BSHCP staff and volunteer recognizes the significant impact that each of you has had on hundreds of babies and their families in Peel. Thank you for your commitment and work ethic.

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 this 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....

Is There a Baby In Your Future?" Calendar

- The Pregnancy Calendars entitled, "Is There a Baby in Your Future?" are available free of charge to women who live or work in the Region of Peel. This Peel version has been updated this year and has been reprinted. Our generic pregnancy calendars are available for purchase, but these do not list the community resources in Peel. We will be increasing our marketing campaign to increase sales for next year. We ran out of this version by the end of the fiscal year. This version is also available on a disk in both English and French, which is accompanied by a contract with guidelines.

Volunteers

- We have been fortunate to have 35 volunteers this year including, Placement students for Ryerson University and Guelph University, as well as Board Members, knitters and general program site help such as child care and client support.
- If you are interested in volunteering please contact Region of Peel Volunteer Services at 905-791-7800

Best Start Health Coalition in Peel Programs

- This year the Best Start programs had 692 new mothers. We had over 9374 client visits. This number is slightly down from last year due to slower numbers at a few sites. Efforts will be made to increase these numbers for the next fiscal year

Healthy Start

- Healthy Start program sites continue to thrive. Mothers enjoy one on one care with a Public Health Nurse as well as peer and nutritional support.
- Clients receive support with post partum depression and breastfeeding help and support

Teen Prenatal Supper Club

- This year we had 4 Teen prenatal Supper Clubs running throughout Brampton, Malton and Mississauga
- The program at the Supper club caters to Teen mothers with their unique and special needs and offers an additional support of a hot nutritious meal as well as a healthy snack

Fundraising

- This past year, was a highly successful one for Best Start Health Coalition in Peel's (BSHCP) annual fundraising campaign, raising \$63,668, an increase of 83% over the 2005/2006 fiscal year! We also raised in-kind donations valued at over \$470,000 including food donations, prenatal vitamins provided at cost or reduced prices, staffing (Social Workers and Public Health Nurses) 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 for the first time.

Shirley Gurowka Memorial Award

- This Spring we will be awarding 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.

Website www.beststartpeel.com

- *Coming Soon!*

Financial Statements

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

Best Start Health Coalition In Peel

The Board of Directors

President	Lexi Deece Cassidy -Special Projects Manager, CDRCP
Vice- President	Linda Burdett - Psychotherapist, Private Practice.
Secretary	Ira Heidemann Community Volunteer
Director	Ravi Ahluwalia Psychometrist, Peel Infant Development
Director	Mary Varcoe Public Health Nurse, Region of Peel
Director	Florence Lum Public Health Nurse, Region of Peel – Community Volunteer
Director	Pat Martin Community Volunteer
Officer	Barbara Wallace -Executive Director Best Start Health Coalition in Peel

We would like to recognize BSHCP Donor and Partners:

Alice and Murray Maitland
Foundation
Brampton and Area
Community Foundation
Chum City Christmas Wish
CIBC Wood Gundy's Chil-
dren's Miracle Foundation
Community Foundation of
Mississauga
F.K. Morrow Foundation
Green Shield Canada
Foundation
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Marion Ethel and Frederick
John Kamm Foundation
Ontario Trillium
Foundation (OTF)
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Canada, Canada Prenatal
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Fund



www.Beststartpeel.com
4 Automatic Rd. ste. 102
Brampton, ON L6S 6K9
905-452-1246