



The Children's Aid Society OF HAMILTON

For Immediate Release

Kiwanis and CAS launch new community based initiative

On Friday, September 7, 2007 the Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys' and Girls' Club and The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton (CAS) will celebrate the launch of a new community based initiative to help build healthy families and healthy communities.

"The program's focus is early intervention and prevention of child abuse," says Dominic Verticchio, Executive Director of The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton. "We know that parenting is one of the most difficult jobs around. Often parents need support and don't know where to turn for help. Our Family Services Workers will be onsite - Monday to Friday at the Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys' and Girls' Club - to support parents and caregivers by providing information and making links to appropriate resources in the community that can assist families during stressful or difficult times."

Glenn Harkness, Executive Director of the Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys' and Girls' Club says, "This is a very creative partnership, and one that we hope will greatly benefit parents."

As part of the initiative, the partnering agencies are offering a drop-in session for parents, caregivers and parents-to-be at the Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys' and Girls' Club the second Tuesday of every month. The Parents' Corner Drop-In Program is hosted by a CAS Family Services Worker and a Kiwanis Boys' and Girls' Club worker. It is an opportunity for parents to come together with other local parents and caregivers to talk about the challenges they may be facing with their children or teens and explore solutions.

The joint initiative is a step toward the CAS's vision of working under a model of practice that supports a collaborative partnership with parents and community services to develop a network of support for families and children in need of assistance.

To recognize the official launch of this new initiative, local families and community members are invited to attend a meet and greet barbecue at the Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys' and Girls' Club where they will have the opportunity to learn more about programs and services available, and be introduced to the three CAS Family Services Workers now based out of the Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys' and Girls' Club.

Anyone interested in learning more about the initiative or the work of The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton and the Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys' and Girls' Club are invited to attend the meet and greet session at 45 Ellis Avenue from 5:00 - 7:00 pm on Friday, September 7.

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For more information, please contact:
Dianne Pearson
Manager of Communications & Development
905-522-1121, ext. 6467
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