



The Children's Aid Society
OF HAMILTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Hamilton CAS receives \$250,000 gift for its new Centre

The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton's \$3-million Capital Campaign received a big boost today with a \$250,000 gift from Dofasco.

"We're extremely grateful to Dofasco for its commitment to children and families in our community," said Dominic Verticchio, Executive Director of The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton. "We applaud Dofasco for recognizing a critical need in this community and following through with extraordinary support."

The announcement was made public today during the launch of the "Our Kids. All They Have is You." Campaign in support of the Society's new home – the Poscor Centre for Children at Risk.

"We are making this gift because at Dofasco, we believe a healthy community is built on a foundation of strong families. And within strong families are children who are developing to their fullest potential within an environment that is free of violence, deprivation and neglect," said Brian Mullen, Director of Human Resources at Dofasco. "This is one of the core values of The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton and it is a value that Dofasco unequivocally supports."

Since its move into the new facility in October 2004, the Society has introduced a number of new supports and services. Specialized paediatric assessments, as well as admission medicals, dental assessments and dental services for children in care, are now carried out on-site in the Society's medical and dental clinic. After-school and summer break therapeutic programs are now available to the more than 300 children and youth who are in the permanent care of the Society.

Early in the campaign, the Society also received a generous gift of \$50,000 from the Dofasco Employees Fund which enabled the agency to offer adolescents and parents the opportunity to learn low-cost and nutritious meal preparation in the on-site Teaching Kitchen.

Today's launch provided an opportunity for the Society to showcase its new child-friendly therapeutic access centre, where more than 650 supervised visits between parents and children in care are conducted each month.

The new area allows children to connect with their parents in a positive, safe and caring environment. Parents are also given the opportunity to learn basic but important parenting skills, such as infant care, nutrition and discipline techniques.

More...

Hamilton CAS receives \$250,000 gift
Page 2...

“In designing the Centre, it was very important to us that we take full advantage of the opportunity to teach parents and support them in making the changes necessary to resume care of their children,” said Mr. Verticchio. “We now provide parents with on-the-spot coaching and feedback, which we were not able to do prior to the move.”

In recognition of Dofasco’s generosity, the Society has named the new area, the Dofasco Therapeutic Access Centre.

Close to 150 donors and many local school children turned out for the event which included a special storytelling presentation by Robert Munsch, Canada’s best-selling author of children’s stories.

Mike Shea, Chair of the “Our Kids. All They Have Is You.” Campaign, asked those present to spread the word about the Campaign, calling it “a cause that can’t wait. Quite simply, this is about speaking for those who don’t have a voice. And it’s about speaking to those who do.”

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