



Ontario March of Dimes York-Durham Aphasia Centre

Annual Report 2011 - 2012



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**Presentation of
service pins and
certificates of
appreciation.
May 9, 2011.**

In April, 2010 Ontario March of Dimes acquired the York – Durham Aphasia Centre (YDAC). YDAC has since transitioned into a successful program of Ontario March of Dimes.

The Local Health Integrated Network, the major funder, transferred the grant for service to Ontario March of Dimes as part of an annual regional grant. Most YDAC staff continue to be retained by Ontario March of Dimes.

There was therefore no service provided by YDAC. The Board of YDAC met twice during the year and received a report from management that indicated service to aphasia clients had increased.

Some of the highlights over the past year include 164 clients served or an average of 29 activities per person served.

Core Services continue to focus on supporting clients to develop new strategies

for communication in an aphasia friendly environment. This is accomplished through the provision of mutual aid and peer support. Volunteers and Staff work together to build on the clients' abilities, increasing communication skills and improving their self-confidence when communicating. The planned long term objective of the program is focused on enhancing life participation outside of the program setting.

In addition to the core services, listed below is a sample of activities that the team initiated and supported throughout the past fiscal year;

- New brochures developed
- Student placements with the University of Toronto and Georgian College
- National Aphasia Awareness Survey conducted with over 500 people participating
- Action plans developed for each site in response to satisfaction outcomes of the 2010 Client, Caregiver and Volunteer Surveys



Group discussion the Newmarket YDAC program.



A staff member and volunteer work with a client on an iPad.

- Expansion of the Newmarket program
- Presentations at Festival of International Conferences on Caregiving, Conferences, Disability and Technology (FICCDAT), Leadership in Volunteer Education (LIVE) conference, and a number of stroke conferences
- Art and Music programs
- Development of caregiver and couples support groups
- Creating of client teaching teams to better promote Aphasia awareness in the community
- Fundraising events
- Crossover and integration into other March of Dimes programs, including our Acquired Brain Injury, Recreation and Integration Services and Conductive Education® programs

Management is recommending to the Board and Membership that the Corporation be dissolved and the charter surrendered. This will be discussed at the July, 2012 Annual General Meeting.

The continued involvement of the many former volunteers of YDAC is acknowledged with appreciation. We benefit from the dedicated service of 81 Program volunteers, 20 Aphasia Awareness Volunteers and one Office Volunteer for 8,610 total hours delivered by our volunteers.