

# 2008 2009 Annual General Meeting

Niagara Resource Service for Youth ~The RAFT



## Message from the Chair

*"There have been many times when the existence of the RAFT has continued because of the vision Cindy and a few others had for the RAFT."*

Making a difference - It sounds cliché to say but it is one of the primary reasons we are all involved with the RAFT.

This is true regardless of the role we play. Many people have provided their gifts to the RAFT and especially to the youth we serve. This past year has seen a greater emphasis on regional services. Meeting the needs of youth where they live has had very positive effects for youth. It has offered more stability for them since they can continue to access their already established support network and maintain engagement with their community, which may include school or work. Having a regional focus has given us an opportunity to build collaboratives with other service providers. This has added to the richness of services in Niagara, for that we are thankful. We have been welcomed and have been respectful of the needs of the community, knowing communities know what is best needed.

The RAFT has continued to serve out of our base in St Catharines. The new building feels like home and the transition to Centre Street has gone amazingly smooth. We strive to be a good neighbour and model for the youth. The youth have responded positively, primarily due to a desire to give and receive respect, and the RAFT has been welcomed to the neighbourhood. As with the rest of the Region, we add to the richness of the community.

On behalf of the whole Board, I would like to thank Cindy McClure for her many years of service to the RAFT. There have been many times when the existence of the RAFT

has continued because of the vision Cindy and a few others had for the RAFT.

Knowing there was a need for youth services in their home community was a founding principle of the RAFT. To honour Cindy's leadership we continue to apply this as our guiding principle and can draw a direct connection to Cindy's vision in the new services we are involved in.

Making a difference is why Cindy got involved many years ago and is why the volunteers, staff, Board and peer agencies have linked arms to continue her legacy of helping youth make positive changes through opportunities in their community. The RAFT will continue to honor Cindy by staying true to that vision in the years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Huibers  
Board Chair

### 2008 2009 Board of Directors

Larry Huibers  
John Osczytko  
Ronna Katzman  
Cindy McClure  
Arlene Maliphant  
Robert Waite  
Maurice Charbonneau  
Maureen Aitken  
Margaret Murtell  
Melanie Corbett  
Kithio Mwanzia



*"I believe that we have an obligation to the community to ensure that the Niagara region has the strongest, most comprehensive and efficient service for youth possible."*

*"We now have a new corporate name, Niagara Resource Service for Youth"*

## Executive Director's Report

### "The More Things Change ..."

The RAFT has experienced a number of important and exciting changes over the last year. Much like the youth who access our services, the RAFT is always looking for opportunities to improve and take on greater roles of responsibility. I believe that we have an obligation to the community to ensure that the Niagara region has the strongest, most comprehensive and efficient service for youth possible. This process begins by recognizing the great work currently occurring in the region and then looking for ways to compliment that work as well as offering innovative ideas and projects to address gaps and needs.

A quick review of the year shows how we have put these thoughts into actions. We now have a new corporate name, Niagara Resource Service for Youth; a change from St. Catharines Resource Service for Youth. This name better represents our responsibilities in the Niagara community and reaffirms our commitment to youth. We have seen the growth of our prevention services, with the expansion of the pilot Youth Connect program beyond Fort Erie/Port Colborne to Welland and West Niagara. This expansion also created a successful partnership with the Grimsby based Foundation of Resources for Teens (FORT) through a shared staff person. Other innovative programs took off this year, including the Community Development projects with Niagara Regional Housing in Manchester & Rykert neighbourhoods in St. Cathari-

nes and the McLaughlin neighbourhood in Welland. I am especially proud of the developing Bio-Energy Program that is a partnership between the City of Welland, the RAFT, and the resident's of McLaughlin Street. This program offers the community real choice and control over how they want to educate their children and provides them with a stake in Welland's economic future. Finally, I am greatly appreciative for the United Way of St. Catharines and District's commitment to funding an after-school youth drop-in centre in the Manchester neighbourhood community. This program is open to all youth in the neighbourhood and allows other service providers, like YWCA and Big Brothers Big Sisters, to bring their programming directly to the community while keeping it fun!

The changes have been exciting but some things remain the same; Niagara's youth in need. We have supported more youth in more communities than ever before and yet the need remains. Our hostel usage remains near historic highs and teens continue to access our drop-in centre for meals, clothing, laundry, and friendship. It is this reality that motivates us to rise to future challenges. I look forward to the challenges of the next year with the confident knowledge of our achievements and a clear vision for how that future should be.

Michael Lethby  
Executive Director

### Our Vision

The RAFT contributes to the welfare of our Community by helping at risk youth become independent and self-sufficient, strengthening their emotional and social well being and acting as a referral source that reconnects youth to the community.

We believe that working together, one step at a time, we can make a difference.



**Niagara Resource Service for Youth  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**BALANCE SHEET**

	2009	2008
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	57,886	78,839
Marketable securities	94,687	152,714
Interest receivable	-	367
Grants and donations receivable	54,715	12,202
GST receivable	2,093	2,302
Prepaid expenses	1,152	877
Due from other funds	-	-
	210,533	247,301
<b>PROPERTY &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>	392,570	373,206
	603,103	620,507
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	35,437	44,089
Deferred revenue	90,000	119,145
	125,437	163,234
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Invested in property & equipment	386,260	373,206
Externally restricted for property & building program,	-	48,512
Internally restricted	36,703	36,703
Accumulated comprehensive loss		
Net unrealized securities loss: 208, (\$5)	(8,250)	(645)
Unrestricted	62,953	(503)
	477,666	457,273
	603,103	620,507

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES**

	2009	2008
<b>Expenses</b>		
Salaries & benefits	201,444	214,509
Other expenses	453,807	213,768
	655,251	428,277
<b>Revenue</b>		
Building donations and grants	48,512	82,731
Crisis housing per diems	220,345	181,693
Donations and fundraising	163,318	197,226
Youth Without Secure Housing	83,133	32,614
Homelessness Prevention Initiative	102,125	-
Special events	8,398	4,195
Interest and other	5,103	1,946
	682,654	500,405
Other Comprehensive Income	(7,010)	(645)
<b>Excess of Revenue Over Expenses</b>	20,393	71,483

**Our Visionaries**

Regional Municipality of Niagara  
 United Way of St. Catharines & District  
 Prevent Challenge Foundation

**Our Community Pillars**

Canadian Tire Financial Services  
 Government of Canada  
 Maycourt Club of St. Catharines  
 Niagara Community Foundation  
 O'Brien Jackson Family Foundation  
 T.A.L.K. - Niagara Regional Police Department

**Our Community Guardians**

Canadian Tire Financial Services ~ Employee Association  
 Covenant Christian Reformed Church  
 Knox Presbyterian Church  
 Niagara Association of Realtors  
 Ontario Paper Thorold Foundation  
 Rotary Club of St. Catharines Lakeshore  
 Silver Spire United Church  
 St. John's Anglican Church

**2008 2009 Staff**

Kiran Bains  
 Kurtis Barnett  
 Helen Dionne  
 Sarah Harris  
 Michael Lethby  
 Lindsay MacKinnon  
 James McQueen  
 Trisha Murtell  
 Nakita Stancec  
 Jacqueline Symes  
 Andrew Urlocker  
 Anna Warner  
 Tyler Whiteside



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**Our Community Builders**

Jim & Maureen Aitken  
 Marion E. Cross  
 Anne Mirynech  
 First Ontario Credit Union  
 Fonthill United Church  
 Kiwanis Club of St. Catharines  
 Maranatha Christian Reformed Church  
 Niagara Prosthetics & Orthotics Corporation  
 Rotary Club of St. Catharines  
 Scottlea Presbyterian Church  
 St. Catharines Twinning Association  
 St. Thomas' Church  
 Trinity United Church

**Our Helpers**

Pauline Aitken  
 Graham & Marion Angle  
 Maurice & Karen Charbonneau  
 Manfred & Lorraine Rudolph  
 BMO Employee Charitable Foundation  
 Canada Border Services Agency  
 Canadian Federation of University Women  
 Fairview Mennonite Brethren Church  
 Fenwick United Church  
 First Grantham United Church  
 Jordan Station United Church  
 Mountainview United Church  
 Niagara Community Foundation  
 Sir Winston Churchill Secondary  
 St. Alfred's of Rome  
 St. Giles Presbyterian  
 Vineland United Church

**Our Community Partners**

**Niagara Region**



United Way of  
 St. Catharines & District

**Canada**