



## “Hardwired to Connect”

The Commission choice of the word “authoritative,” is noted, “First the word refers to a strong body of scholarly evidence demonstrating the value of that particular combination of warmth and structure in which children in a democratic society appear most likely to thrive. Second, the word comes from the Latin “auctor”, which can mean ‘one who creates.’ We like that. Authoritative communities just don’t happen. They are created and sustained by dedicated individuals with a shared vision of building a good life for the next generation.”

The Commission lists what it considers to be the 10 main characteristics of an authoritative community. They include:

- It is a social institution that includes children and youth.
- It treats children as ends in themselves.
- It is warm and nurturing.
- It establishes clear limits and expectations.
- The core of its work is performed largely by non-specialists.
- It is multi-generational.
- It has a long-term focus.
- It reflects and transmits a shared understanding of what it means to be a good person.
- It encourages spiritual and religious development. Con’t page 6

In the Fall 2008 Newsletter we reviewed the importance of connecting with our children and its correlation to the Roots of Violence Report. In the past few months, the importance of connectiveness has again risen through the **“Hardwired to Connect: The New Scientific Case for Authoritative Communities”** report developed by the Commission on Children at Risk. This is an independent, jointly sponsored initiative of YMCA of the USA, Dartmouth Medical School, and the Institute for American Values.

The Commission on Children at Risk, a panel of 33 leading children’s doctors, neuroscientists, research scholars and youth service professionals, draw upon a large body of recent research showing that children are biologically primed (“hardwired”) for enduring connections to others and for moral and spiritual meaning. The authors introduce a new public policy and social science term — **authoritative communities** — to describe the ten essential traits across social institutions that produce better outcomes for children.

The word “authoritative” comes from the work of Dr. Diana Baumrind who more than 30 years ago described different styles of parenting, including authoritative, permissive, authoritarian, and neglectful. Authoritative parents are warm, involved, and accepting, and establish clear-cut and reasonable guidelines, consequences, and expectations. Research has consistently demonstrated that children are more likely to experience healthy emotional development when they are reared by parents who practice an authoritative approach.

### Inside this issue:

Hardwired to Connect	1
Taking the Time	2
Family Education Centre 2009—A Quick Glimpse	3
Family Life Resource Centre	3
Thank You and Welcome	3
Parenting Courses April 2009	4
2009 Volunteer Appreciation	4
FEC’s Annual General Meeting	4
Our Fund Development Challenge	5
Hardwired to Connect (con’t)	6

### MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS



Our Private Donors

## Taking the Time

A man came home from work late, tired and irritated, to find his 5-year old son waiting for him at the door.

SON: 'Daddy, may I ask you a question?'

DAD: 'Yeah sure, what it is?' replied the man.

SON: 'Daddy, how much do you make an hour?'

DAD: 'That's none of your business. Why do you ask such a thing?' the man said angrily.

SON: 'I just want to know. Please tell me, how much do you make an hour?'

DAD: 'If you must know, I make \$50 an hour.'

SON: 'Oh,' the little boy replied, with his head down.

SON: 'Daddy, may I please borrow \$25?'

The father was furious, 'If the only reason you asked that is so you can borrow some money to buy a silly toy or some other nonsense, then you march yourself straight to your room and go to bed. Think about why you are being so selfish. I don't work hard everyday for such childish frivolities.'

The little boy quietly went to his room and shut the door.

The man sat down and started to get even angrier about the little boy's questions. How dare he ask such questions only to get some money?

After about an hour or so, the man had calmed down, and started to think: Maybe there was something he really needed to buy with that \$25.00 and he really didn't ask for money very often. The man went to the door of the little boy's room and opened the door.

'Are you asleep, son?' He asked.

'No daddy, I'm awake,' replied the boy.

'I've been thinking, maybe I was too hard on you earlier' said the man. 'It's been a long day and I took out my aggravation on you. Here's the \$25 you asked for.'

The little boy sat straight up, smiling. 'Oh, thank you daddy!' he yelled. Then, reaching under his pillow he pulled out some crumpled up bills.

The man saw that the boy already had money, started to get angry again.

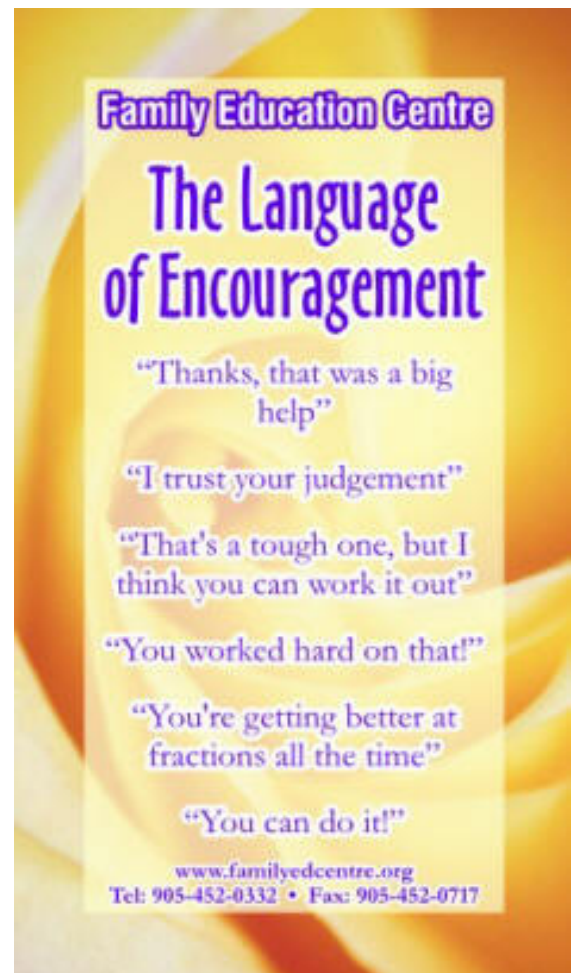
The little boy slowly counted out his money, and then looked up at his father.

'Why do you want more money if you already have some?' the father grumbled.

'Because I didn't have enough, but now I do,' the little boy replied. 'Daddy, I have \$50 now. Can I buy an hour of your time? Please come home early tomorrow. I would like to have dinner with you.'

The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little son, and he begged for his forgiveness.

Kindly emailed by Helene Burrowes



## Family Education Centre 2009 — A Quick Glimpse

### Community Development

The Fall and Winter was a busy time. We have 7 schools partnering with us for Parents Reaching Out Grants from the Ministry of Education. We will be providing 3 parenting workshops at each school. We partnered with The Dam Youth Drop In Centre (Teen Mums Supper Club) and ran a Parenting Young Children Course for their participants. In February we started another PYC course for the Teen Mums attending the Peel Alternative School (North campus). This course was funded through the generosity of the Bramalea Rotary Club.

### Corporate Development Report

We continue to be members of the Brampton Board of Trade and Gay attends bi-weekly meetings of the Brampton Business Network and other Board of Trade events. If anyone knows of a company that might be interested in having Family Education Centre come in to do a parenting course or a series of workshops please contact Gay.

### Middle Years Parent & Youth Program

In the Fall of 2008, in partnership with the Peel Youth Violence Prevention Network's Working with Families and Education, Policy and Programs Working Groups, the Family Education Centre launched its first Middle Years Parent and Youth Program in the Knightsbridge area in Brampton. Thanks to Peel Health a comprehensive evaluation, including participants surveys and focus group feedback, was completed. The feedback from the evaluation included comments like, "It has given me more direction on how to deal with my kids when they misbehave without having to yell at them." "Not clenching my teeth as much." and "Noticed between our Son and daughter (that attended) they don't yell at each other as much—They are also handling being bothered by the 12 year old better, and listening better."

The second program is currently underway at Shelter Bay Public School in Meadowvale, Mississauga. There were eleven (11) parents and twelve (12) children registered for this program. This course will be completed on March 31, 2009. The third and final course has been scheduled to begin on March 31, 2009 at Allan Drive Middle School, Bolton, Caledon. Registration for this course has already begun. Funding to continue this program is currently being sought.

### Family Futures

We are currently running a Parenting Young Children's Program at the OEYC Heart Lake location, which began on February 5th, and a Parenting Middle Age Children's Program, which began on January 19th. Our Parenting Young Children program saw an all time Family Futures registration record of 25 adults and 20 children!

As we wind down to complete our third year end, we

would like to extend a special thank you to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services for providing Family Futures with additional one time funding. Now that's an honour!

### Shelter Program

We are very pleased to thank the United Way of Peel Region for their additional one year funding to support the Family Matters Program to continue in Interim Place II and to start again at Peel Family Shelter.

### Malton Community Building Project—Phase I

March 31, 2009 brings us to the end of the first year of the Malton Community Building Project—Phase I. This project was created to promote greater civic engagement and community development in Malton by empowering adult and youth leadership in the Black Community with the aim of developing and strengthening new and existing, formal and informal community networks. Through the work of one of the project's collaborative partners (Social Planning Council of Peel) the year one evaluation report is indicating that the majority of survey respondents are satisfied/very satisfied with the project (e.g. "great organizations of meetings and community involvement;" "if we continue to move forward in this manner, I will be satisfied;" "people with influence are involved and are ready to tell others about it;" people are taking an interest to improve leadership roles and youth are taking an interest.")

The Project has established a 15 member Advisory Committee and a very large group of supporting members. The first leadership training program is being launched March 31st.

## Thank you and Welcome

### Thank you ...

Since the last newsletter, we would like to acknowledge and thank **Emily Ding** for her work on the Board of Directors. Emily was instrumental in leading the HR and Nominations Committee. Emily has resigned from the Board of Directors. We will miss her enthusiasm and dedication.

### Welcome ...

To **Patricia Fantauzzi, and Subagini Sivapatham** to the Board of Directors

### Looking for Volunteers to join ...

- The Fund Development Committee

*"We are looking for a lot of people with have an infinite capacity to not know what can't be done."  
Henry Ford*

## Parenting Courses January to April 2009

The Family Education Centre is a non-profit, charitable organization striving to enrich the quality of life for families through community-based, parent-to-parent education, support and training. The following parenting courses are being offered at Central Public School, Recreation and Arts Centre (CPS), 24 Alexander St., Brampton, L6W 1M7 and the Family Education Centre Office (FEC). The cost is \$80.00 per person unless otherwise specified. A text, approximately \$25.00 (cost is not included in the registration fee) is a necessary component of most parenting courses and may be purchased the first night of instruction. For information and to pre-register, please call the Family Education Centre at 905-452-0332, Ext. 226. For more information, please go to our web site at [www.familyedcentre.org](http://www.familyedcentre.org). Our administrative office is at 24 - 50 Kennedy Rd., S., Brampton ON L6W 3R7. Payment by VISA is now available.

*Subsidy is available; please inquire.*

### PARENTING YOUNG CHILDREN

(For parents of children ages 1 through 5)

**7:00 – 9:00 p.m. for 8 weeks**

Explore how a child's personality, social skills, belief systems and lifestyle develop. Learn the purpose of misbehaviour and how to deal with it. Learn ways to handle crying, temper tantrums, jealousy and public misbehaviour.

**Tuesday, April 14 – June 2/09 (FEC)**

### RAISING RESPONSIBLE CHILDREN

(For parents of children ages 6 - 11)

**7:00 – 9:00 p.m. for 8 weeks**

Create more satisfying, productive relationships with your children. Learn practical discipline methods, guidelines for building self-esteem, better family communication, and much more!

**Wednesday, April 22 – June 10/09 (CPS)**

### Region of Peel Parenting Workshops

In partnership with the Region of Peel Children's Services we are offering Parenting Workshops.

Please refer to:

<http://www.peelregion.ca/childcar/parenting/>  
for the current schedule

### Important Dates to Remember

#### 2009 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

**Thursday April 30, 2009**

**6:00 - 9:00 pm**

**At Rapini's Restaurant in Brampton**

**More details to follow.**

#### Family Education Centre's

Annual General Meeting

**Wednesday June 10, 2009**

**Mississauga Convention Centre**

**6:30 p.m. Reception with light dinner**

**7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Meeting**

**2009 is the Family Education Centre's  
35th Anniversary.**

**Come celebrate with us at our AGM!**

**More details to follow.**

## Our Fund Development Challenge!

### 2009 Fund Development Plan

Please join us in welcoming the new Fund Development Committee. This new committee has already begun working hard by developing a 2009 Fund Development Strategy which will include:

- Board of Directors Letter Campaign
- Membership Renewal and New Membership Campaign
- Face-to-Face Campaign
- FundScript
- Bingo
- Fund Development Webpage
- Potential 2010 Golf Tournament

The Fund Development Committee needs your help to reach their fundraising goals. Your ideas, connections and contributions are all welcome.

Fund Development Committee:

- Cheri Garraway Reuben
- Ana Paula Biscaia
- Phil Gallant
- Subagini Sivapatham
- Diane Myers

### 2009 Challenge Update ... Getting off to a good start!

Thank you to the following contributors:

**The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation, Ana Paula Biscaia, Lorie Ann and Wayne Chapman, Liz and Glenn Corbett, Diane Myers, Lynn, Rob, Kristyn, Laura and Carrie Hand , Marlene Van Esch and Cameron Behehsti, and Sue Moore.**

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ernest and Young LLP for their donation of 2 laptop computers. This donation was facilitated by Hasan Halloum... thank you Hasan

Thank you all!

**Invest now and help  
parents help their  
children succeed!**



*To donate via a safe online system, please go to Canada Helps through [www.familyedcentre.org](http://www.familyedcentre.org)*

*Look for the logo below on our webpage home page!!*

**YES! I want to help parents help their children.**

**Please accept my tax-receiptable gift of:**

\$105  \$80  \$55  \$35  other  \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (including postal code): \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this coupon with your donation to:

Family Education Centre  
50 Kennedy Rd S. Unit 24  
Brampton ON  
L6W 3R7



**Parent Information and Support**

50 Kennedy Rd. South  
Unit 24  
Brampton ON  
L6W 3R7

Phone: 905-452-0332  
Fax: 905-452-0717



**Staff & Contractor Directory**

<b>Fathima Butool</b>	
Program Administrator & Volunteer Coordinator.....	223
fathima@familyedcentre.org	
<b>Lorie Ann Chapman</b>	
Program Coordinator .....	221
lorieann@familyedcentre.org	
<b>Paula Nunes-Haggett</b>	
Family Futures Coordinator .....	225
pnuneshaggett_fec@yahoo.ca	
<b>Lynn Hand</b>	
Bookkeeper .....	300
lynnhand@rogers.com	
<b>Supa D. A. Meikle</b>	
Community Development Coordinator, Malton Community Building Project .....	304
supa@familyedcentre.org	
<b>Diane Myers</b>	
Executive Director .....	224
diane@familyedcentre.org	
<b>Gay Routhier-Paige</b>	
Corporate and Community Development .....	301
gaypaige@yahoo.com	
<b>Lorry Seabourn</b>	
Parent and Youth Program Coordinator .....	303
lorry@familyedcentre.org	
<b>Jacqueline Stanton</b>	
Parent Education Specialist .....	226
Jacqueline@familyedcentre.org	

**“Hardwired to Connect” con’t...**

- It is philosophically oriented to the equal dignity of all persons and to the principle of love of neighbor.

In light of these 10 characteristics, the Commission states as a primary goal “to deepen our society’s commitment to those values that build and sustain authoritative communities, and to reconsider our commitment to those values that often replace or undermine them. Those values that build and sustain authoritative communities include enduring marital relationships and family connectedness, community action and civic engagement, and concern for the moral and spiritual well-being of all children.

In an article by Robert Brooks, Ph.D. (<http://www.drrobertbrooks.com/writings/articles/0405.html>) in reviewing the Commissions 10 characteristics he asks his readers consider the following questions:

1. What are one or two things I’ve done this month to strengthen my connections with my family?
2. What are one or two things I’ve done this month to strengthen my connections with my community?
3. What activities have I engaged in this month that have contributed to the well-being of others?
4. What programs exist in my community that strengthen connections between adults and youth and adults with other adults and do I participate in these programs?
5. Do I treat others with respect and dignity, as I myself would like to be treated?
6. Do I teach children, by example, a set of moral values that are in accord with principles of honesty, decency, and compassion?

The Family Education Centre has purchase some copies of **“Hardwired to Connect: The New Scientific Case for Authoritative Communities”** if you would like to borrow a copy, please let us know. More information can be found at <http://www.americanvalues.org/html/hardwired.html>

**WEBSITES OF INTEREST:**

**Region of Peel Health Line:**

<http://www.peelregion.ca/health/>  
905-799-7700

**City of Brampton Recreation and Parks**

<http://www.brampton.ca/parks-rec/catalogue/parenting.tml>