

Open Door

Drop-in centre offers services for young moms

More young parents should take advantage of the services offered by the Open Door Young Parents program, the executive director says.

Vanessa Bell-Smith says there are only eight to 10 young moms taking part in the program and "I think there are more out there."

The program is run out of St. Andrew's Church at the corner of Mountainview Road and Sinclair Avenue. Ms. Bell-Smith continues to extend an open invitation to all pregnant or young parents between the ages of 15 and 24.

Some of the parents who have already joined say the program has helped them with raising their children. Maria Oram, 21, said she needed support after her son, Kody, was born. "When I had him (Kody) I really lost a lot of my friends," she said.

Kody is two years old and Ms. Oram says he's enjoyed being able to play at the church with other children. Her other child, Calvin, approximately 10 weeks old, is a bit young to fully appreciate the company of other children, she said.

Ms. Oram also said she has been able to meet with other parents who have "the same values and

beliefs" as she has. She has been with the service for two years.

Julianne Yurichuk, 20, has also been at the Open Door for two years. "I decided to come because my friend was here," Ms. Yurichuk said.

She is a part-time student at Georgetown District High School and has a four-year-old girl named Anna-Marie.

"I started with the group before she (Anna-Marie) started daycare in school," she said. Ms. Yurichuk added the group has helped Anna-Marie develop better relations with other children.

Krista Eastwood, 20, said the program helped her get her high school diploma and get her son, Joey, into daycare.

Ms. Eastwood has also been with the program for two years. She eventually "came in" to the Open Door program with a little persuasion from her mother. "The entire time I was pregnant, my mom cut out all the ads" to the program, Ms. Eastwood said.

The Open Door program includes services such as playgroups, parenting groups, free transportation, peer counselling and assistance in accessing government and community social services, Ms. Bell-Smith said.

Ms. Bell-Smith also showed concern that some people will not leave messages on the answering machine at the Open Door centre. She said there is not always someone by the telephone.

For more information on the Young Parents' Program call Ms. Bell-Smith at 873-2966.



The Open Door Young Parents Centre is looking for young parents to join and take advantage of the services offered by the young parents program. Some of the participants in the program include (back row

from left to right) four-year-old Anne-Marie and Mom Julianne Yurichuk, Mario Oram, Krista Eastwood, (front row) Kathy Taylor, Kody Oram and Executive Director Vanessa Bell-Smith.

Free clothing

For those people who are in need of clothing to help survive the chilly winter the Mountainview Baptist Church is having a free clothing day March 3.

The church will hold the clothing day from noon until 3 p.m.

Mountainview Baptist Church is located one block from Sinclair Avenue on Mountainview Road in Georgetown.



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Women's club needs books

The Georgetown University Women's Club is once again looking for used book donations for its Annual Book Sale to be held on April 21 at Knox Presbyterian Church.

Books and records (no text books or magazines please) can be dropped off at three locations: Georgetown Library; Acton

Library; McDonald's Restaurant.

Books can be picked up by club members, by calling 873-4985 or 877-9027.

Proceeds from the book sale go towards scholarships for Halton Hills students, and to a number of local community charities including Halton Women's Place.



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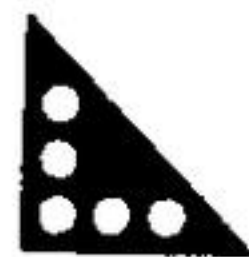
Helping hospitals is just one way lottery profits are used.

Lottery profits are also used to provide grants in other areas such as helping people with disabilities.

They also help fund sports and recreation, arts and culture, and province-wide charities.

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