



Family and Children's Services
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Press Release

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KIDS FOR KIDS DONATES TO CHILDREN IN CARE IN ST. THOMAS AND ELGIN

On Wednesday February 10, 2010, at 2:30 PM a Ceremony of thanks will be held at 410 Sunset Dr. St. Thomas. Rod Potgieter, director of Family and Children's Services of St. Thomas and Elgin will thank Jordyn Harrison, founder of **Kids for Kids** for the approximately 150 backpacks and duffle bags he donated to children in care in St. Thomas and Elgin.

In the fall of 2009, Jordyn chose FACS of St. Thomas to once again be the recipient of his project's goodwill and in December, approximately 150 backpacks were delivered to the agency for every child/youth who was in care in the fall of 2009 (when the list was compiled). Each back pack came with a personal message from Jordyn saying **"Never give up, you can do anything you set your mind to"**.

In 2001 Jordyn then 11 learned that foster children move with all of their belongings in garbage bags so he set out to provide back packs and duffle bags to all children in care in Ontario. Over the last 8 years he has been able to provide approximately half of all Cas's across Ontario with these valuable donations. Mr. Potgieter, will recognize Jordyn for his efforts and inspiration, not only youth in care but also anyone who has the ability to make a difference in a child's life, and acknowledge his donation to our local children.

Jordyn Harrison, Rod Potgieter and volunteer coordinator Lorri Donaldson will be available for questions following the ceremony.

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Background - Kids for Kids

At the age of 11 (2001) Jordyn Harrison read a book that inspired him to make a difference in the lives of foster children across Ontario. He founded the organization **Kids for Kids** after reading *Chicken Soup for the Pre-Teen Soul*. In the book there was a story about foster children going from home to home with nothing but a garbage bag filled with their possessions. This was enough to put Jordyn into action.

Over the last 8 years, Jordyn has shipped backpacks/duffle bags to children in care to approximately half of all CAS's across Ontario. These bags and the contents therein rely totally on the donations of corporations and charities. Each foster child receives a duffle bag or backpack stuffed with a couple of age appropriate items – books, toys, school supplies, wallets and toiletries – depends on the donations received.

Harrison's efforts have earned him the Junior Citizens Award of Ontario and the immense satisfaction of helping other children. It is the best feeling to know I am helping these kids," he said "My goal is to help all the children in Ontario."

On a local level, the Elgin Children's Foundation has taken leadership on a community-based project intended to provide similar, sustainable support to children who come into care. The goal of this project named *Kits for Kids* is to provide ongoing help to kids with the transition of entering into care by providing them with useful and comforting items. Anyone interested in supporting this local initiative, please contact the Elgin Children's Foundation at 519-631-1492 or visit www.childrensfoundation.on.ca/html/kitsforkids.html

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