



JENNIFER YOUNG / THIS WEEK

Brotherly love: Dylan Sharpley smashes his brother Derek in the face with a shaving cream pie as part of Bishop Hamilton Montessori School's business marketplace on Nov. 23. Derek and his classmate Neil Adreino created a business called Pie People and sold baked goods as well as pie in the face chances. Students paid rental costs and taxes on good as part of the mock marketplace. That money will go toward the school's partner school Mahlekefane in Lesotho in Africa.

Autism program receives healthy donation

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This Week

"We're very excited about it. It's just phenomenal for us."

• Brian Begbie

Mary Honeywell Elementary School received a welcome gift from the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) when the bank donated funding for the school's autism program.

The money was donated through a partnership between the bank, school and the Kids Come 1st organization, a group that helps support families with autistic children and autistic programs.

"We're very excited about it," said Principal Brian Begbie. "It's just phenomenal for us."

Currently, the school has 24 students enrolled in its autism program and Begbie said that the money will really help them.

"We help students on the more severe end of the autism spectrum," he said.

The school plans to put the money toward new gym equipment designed specifically to meet the needs of children with autism.

"It allows us to enhance our program," he said. "We're going to put it into our specialized gym program."

Pat Frost, one of the organizers of the Kids Come 1st organization and its golf tournament, said that the organization was only too

happy to facilitate the donation.

"We wanted to help out the program," he said. "We thought it would be a perfect match for us."

Begbie also feels that the two groups are a good match. "They're very in touch with the autism community," he said. "We were just so impressed with their enthusiasm."

Frost, who has an autistic child of his own, said that when local RBC branches found out about the organization they approached him asking how they could help. Funds for the donation were raised through a variety of bank events that ranged from barbecues to book sales.

RBC has become one of the organizations major sponsors along with **SJM Consulting** and Rona, the main sponsor of its annual golf tournament.

The tournament was originally started by Frost's friends and neighbours to help his family pay their costs.

"We raised so much I didn't feel right taking it all," he said.

The organization's main

source of funding is a result of the tournament. Through it, it is able to help seven families fund autism therapies and other related coping behaviours.


An example of coping behaviour would be if the parents decided to go to a movie. Normally, parents who don't have a child with autism would be able to pay a babysitter a few dollars an hour to watch their kids. For a parent who has a child with autism that babysitter has to be a trained worker who would cost the family about \$25 to \$30 an hour.

"If we hear of a family in need we offer help," he said. "All the money we raise goes to families."

Frost said that since the organization's goal is to help families, facilitating the donation of money to schools to help fund autism programs helps it achieve its goal.

The organization plans to continue its partnership with Mary Honeywell in order to continue to help it with its program which is something that Begbie is hoping for as well.

"Our hope is that we will continue that," he said.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

ADD YOUR VOICE, CREATE A VISION

Find out more about how you can make a difference in your community by becoming a volunteer member of a City advisory committee or board.


City staff will be available to provide you with information and answer your questions on advisory committee mandates, expectations of members, which committees have available spots and the entire recruitment process.

December 4 - 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. City Hall, Jean Pigott Place 110 Laurier Avenue West	December 20 - 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. North Gower Client Service Centre 2155 Roger Stevens Drive
December 18 - 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Metcalfe Client Service Centre 8243 Victoria Street	January 8 - 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Orleans Client Service Centre 255 Centrum Boulevard
December 19 - 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. West Carleton Community Complex 5670 Carp Road	January 9 - 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Ben Franklin Place Client Service Centre 101 Centrepointh Drive

To find out more or to apply: Web: ottawa.ca
E-mail: committees@ottawa.ca
Telephone: 613-580-2424, ext. 16760
TTY: 613-580-2401


Watch for more details in your local newspapers.

Recruitment deadline: Thursday, January 17, 2008



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