

ERINOAKKIDS

Centre for Treatment and Development

Vol. 2 • No. 2

Spring 2015

Province announces new funding for rehabilitation and speech services



ErinoakKids client Uwais El-Samad, 4, joins Mississauga-Erindale MPP Harinder Takhar and ErinoakKids' President and CEO Bridget Fewtrell for a photo along with Uwais' mother, Areej Musa, at the recent funding announcement.

We are excited to announce additional funding that will enable us to reduce wait times and serve more children in two important services.

Late last year, Mississauga-Erindale MPP Harinder Takhar visited ErinoakKids to announce a significant funding increase to the Halton-Peel Preschool Speech and Language (PSL) Program. As the lead agency for Halton-Peel, ErinoakKids will receive an additional \$887,689 this year and next. This will enable us to provide speech and language assessments and/or therapy to an additional 1,000 children in the 2015/16 fiscal year.

"We are grateful for this vitally necessary increase in funding to support Preschool Speech and Language Services in Halton and Peel," says Bridget Fewtrell, President and CEO of ErinoakKids. "When young children are having difficulty, early intervention is vital to their development and future success in school and beyond."

ErinoakKids has also received an additional \$844,250 for Rehabilitation Services. This investment will enable us to provide occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech-language therapy to approximately 800 additional children and youth in the coming year.

Bridget Fewtrell
President & CEO



One of the things that excites us most about our new facilities, scheduled to open in spring 2017, is the Respite Centre that will be located at our new Brampton site. The Respite Centre will enable us to expand from 10 to 26 beds and offer year-round, around-the-clock care when fully operational.

Respite care is one of the most critical gaps in service for families at ErinoakKids and across the province. It enhances quality of life by providing safe, overnight care to children and youth with special needs. At the same time, their families receive a much needed break from caregiving activities.

ErinoakKids has provided respite services in our community for more than 15 years. Respite helps build meaningful, productive lives in several ways. It provides fun and recreation, reduces isolation and loneliness for both participants and parents, and introduces participants to peers who share their challenges and concerns. It also enables parents to enjoy special activities with their other children.

Our \$20-million *In My Dreams* campaign, now underway, will provide the resources to equip, not only our Respite Centre, but all three of our new sites, with specialized therapy and treatment equipment. Learn more at erinoakkids.ca/inmydreams.

Bridget Fewtrell

New hands bring Yajur's dreams within reach

When Yajur Randhawa became a client of ErinoakKids, he could only dream of playing a sport. That is because Yajur was born without hands and his left foot. Today, thanks to a pair of prosthetic hands, he can grasp and throw balls, and has held a hockey stick for the first time.

Born in India in 2001, Yajur came to Canada with his family in 2008. Within a year, he received a prosthetic foot. Just last year, he received prosthetic hands.

His mother, Jaspreet, had pushed hard for them. "The doctors wanted to wait, saying he was too young," Jaspreet recalls. "I thought no, I don't think we should wait – he's already 13. It's the time in his life when he needs to develop more independence."

Today at ErinoakKids, Yajur receives occupational therapy, physiotherapy and medical services. His care team is impressed at his progress.

"We've worked on ways to increase his independence in dressing, eating, bathing, using a computer and more," says his occupational therapist, Pamela Breese.

When Yajur was nominated for an ErinoakKids Pride & Joy Award in 2014, he was able, for the first time, to pick up a pen and sign his name on the nomination form – a joyous symbol of his growing independence.



When Yajur was nominated for a 2014 Pride & Joy Award, he was able to join his Occupational Therapist, Pamela Breese, in a 'thumbs-up' for the camera.

ErinoakKids supports Ontario's Special Needs Strategy

The Ministries of Children and Youth Services, Community and Social Services, Health and Long-Term Care, and Education are working together to develop and implement a strategy to improve services for children and youth with special needs in Ontario.

The Special Needs Strategy will support the vision of "an Ontario where children and youth with special needs get the timely and effective services they need to participate fully at home, at school, in the community, and as they prepare to achieve their goals for adulthood."

The first phase involves three steps:

- 1) Developing/implementing a common, standardized developmental screen for preschool children;
- 2) Ensuring coordinated service planning for children/youth with multiple and/or complex needs; and
- 3) Communities developing local implementation plans for integrated service delivery of child and youth rehab services.

As Ontario's largest Children's Treatment Centre, ErinoakKids is working on the strategy at the local level. For more details, please visit the Ministry of Children and Youth Services website.

Calling all superheroes



We are so excited about our spring fundraiser on May 24 at Lakeside Park in Mississauga. *Movin' For Kids* is a chance to celebrate the superheroes among us. We know there are many at ErinoakKids!

Here is what to expect this year:

- 1 km, 3 km and 5 km options to walk, run or roll.
- A 100-metre dash for kids 5-12.
- Sign-up options for individuals or teams.
- Entertainment, activities for kids, prizes and more!

Please visit erinoakkids.ca for more details and to register.



Upcoming Events

May 24: *Movin' for Kids* fundraiser at Lakeside Park, Mississauga

May 1: Groundbreaking celebration at our new Brampton site

May 8: Groundbreaking celebration at our new Mississauga site

June 1: ErinoakKids Players present *Grease*, at Stephen Lewis Secondary School, 3675 Thomas St., Mississauga

June 24: ErinoakKids' Annual General Meeting

October 23: Pride & Joy Awards