



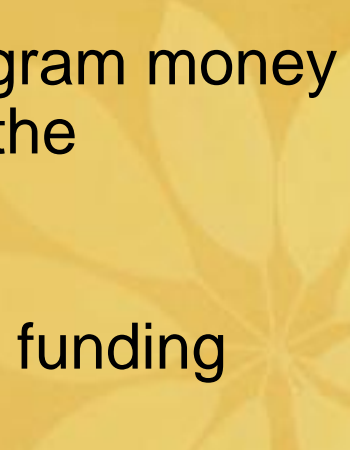
*Cares Our Community
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Working Together

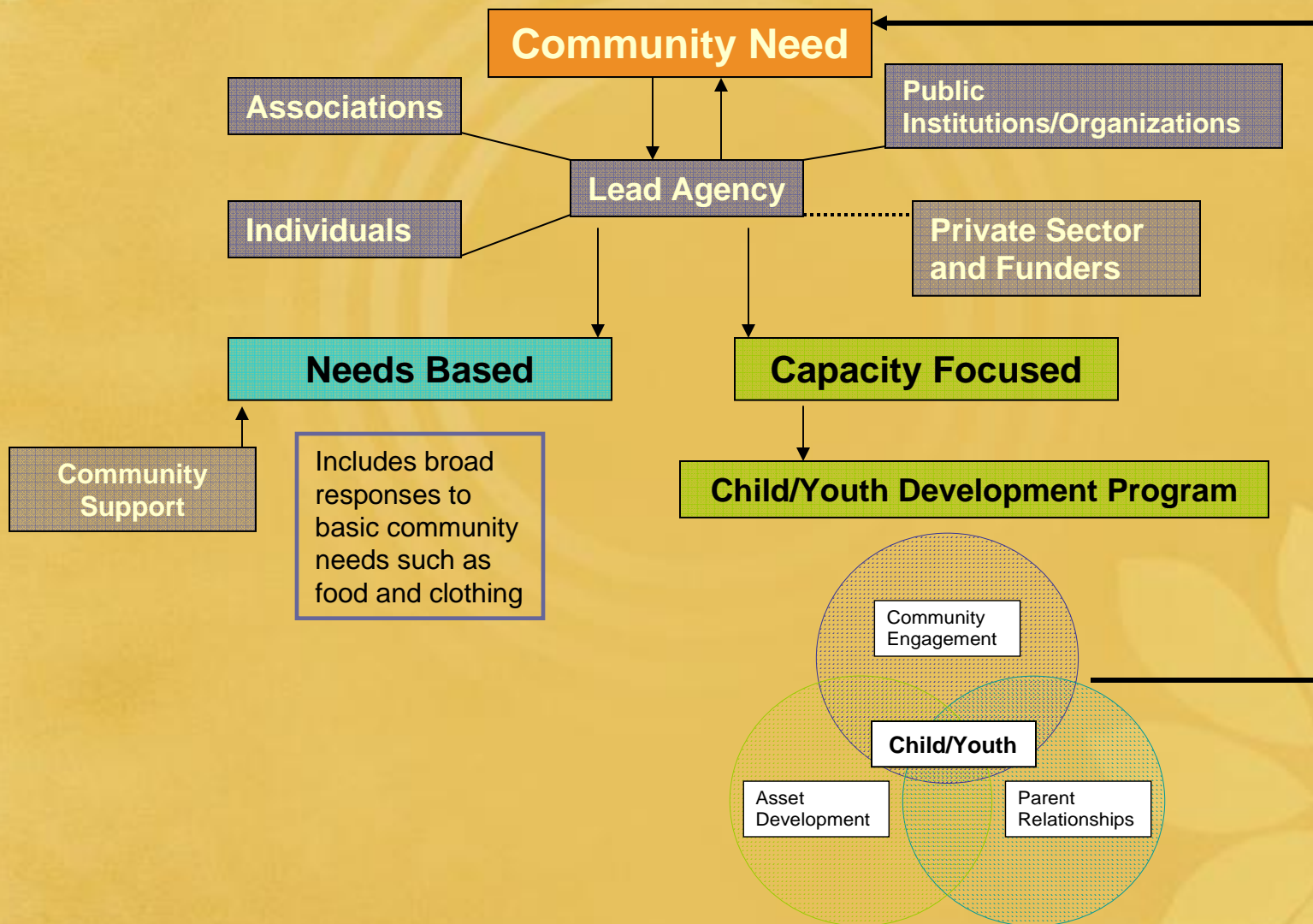




History

- *1992* 2 women speak out
 - *1995* Town house unit/Community Centre
 - *1995-2005* Despite program success, funds expire March 2006
 - *2006* OCC Model
More than \$200,000 in program money plus an IKEA makeover of the Community Centre
 - *Present* 2 OCC sites with additional funding sources
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Caring Community Development Model






Child/Youth Development Programs

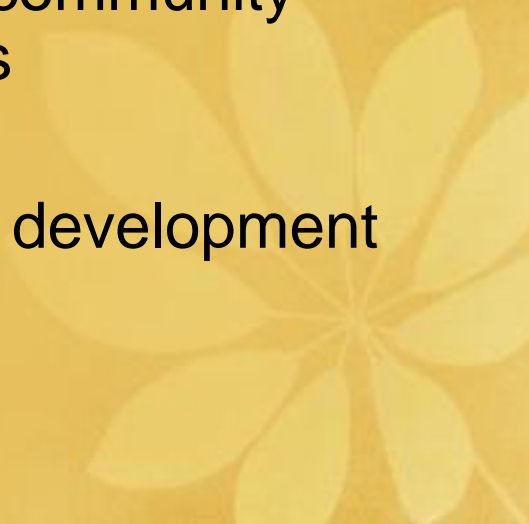
- *5 days a week for youth (11-17)*
- *5 days a week for children (4-10)*

Life Skills/Recreation

- Volunteering, Career Development, Seniors Mentorship
 - Music, sewing, woodworking, cooking, arts and crafts
 - Homework club, lending library, computer lab
 - Exercise and sports skills development
 - Field trips, special events, fundraising
- 



Broad Outcomes

- Positive statistics compared to a comparable housing complex
 - Growing interest in the success of the program, for funders and community partners
 - Ability to reach out to service the broader community as well as expand community partnerships
 - Acting as a consultant to other community development projects
- 



Outcomes for Youth


Community Engagement

- Community volunteering
- Fundraising
- Neighbourhood social events
- School engagement - sports teams, honour roll

Asset Development


- Positive peer relationships
- Peer to peer support – homework etc.
- Role modeling – significant adults/older youth
- Constructive use of spare time

Parent Relationships

- Membership on steering committee
 - Parenting program participation
 - Parent volunteering
 - Family events
- 



Role of Recreation

- Initially connected youth to each other within the community
 - On site activities show how to be active without money
 - Connects youth to their schools (intramural and team sports)
 - Connects youth from the surrounding neighbourhood together
 - Peer mentoring opportunity where youth teach skills to younger children
- * Two boys ranked in Ontario for Basketball
One offered a full scholarship to University
- 




Evaluation Goals

Primary Goal:

To determine if the Our Community Cares initiative improves the physical, mental and social health of children, youth, and parents of children and youth living in high risk communities.


Secondary Goal:

To examine the implications of the current O.C.C. governance structure on future programming, including expansion of O.C.C. to new sites within the Halton Community.






Objectives

1. To determine the effectiveness of the O.C.C. initiative at providing opportunities for needs-based and asset based community development
 2. To determine the effectiveness of the O.C.C. initiative at enhancing community engagement for children and youth
 3. To determine the effectiveness of the O.C.C. initiative at helping children and youth develop internal and external assets
 4. To determine the effectiveness of the O.C.C. initiative at fostering parent/family relationships.
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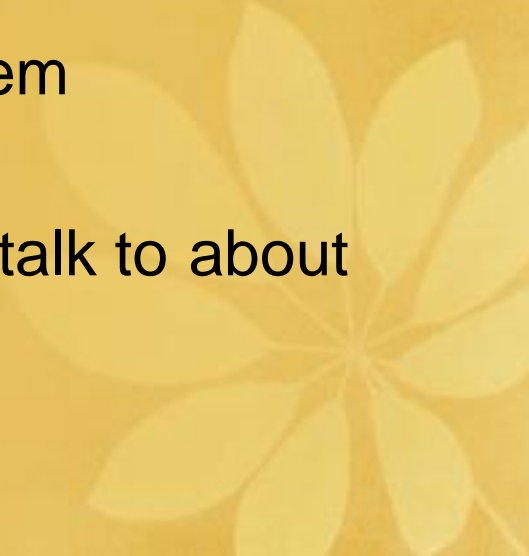


Data Collection Methods

- Steering Committee Focus Group
 - Steering Group Interviews
 - Youth Pre-Post Test
 - Parent Satisfaction Survey
 - Youth Satisfaction Survey
 - Key Informant Interviews
(staff, students, volunteers)
- 




Preliminary Findings from Youth Pretest

- 87% of youth involved in at least one volunteer activity (community engagement asset)
 - 90% demonstrate a high level of school engagement
 - 82% demonstrate a high level of peer connectedness
 - 92% demonstrate a high level of self-esteem
 - 92% have at least one adult that they can talk to about their problems
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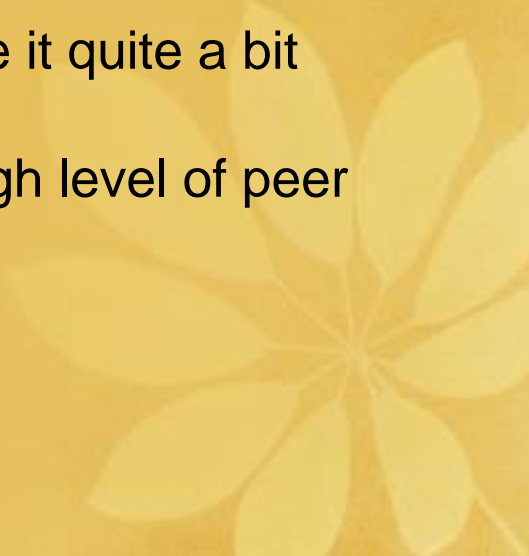



Preliminary Findings from Youth Pretest

- 92% of youth feel that they can work with others in their community to make a difference
 - 95% believe that young people can make a difference in their community
 - 97% feel very or somewhat safe in their community
 - 92% hope to attend college or university
 - 87% feel that the next five years look good to them
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Comparisons of Burloak and Warwick

- Burloak youth are more likely to have a job
 - Burloak youth are more likely to report that the next five years look good to them
 - More Burloak youth demonstrate high self-esteem
 - More Burloak youth have volunteered in their community
 - Warwick youth are more likely to love school or like it quite a bit
 - Warwick youth are more likely to demonstrate a high level of peer connectedness
- 



Success of community partnerships

- **Who -** Partnerships have evolved over time, and grown in number and role. (financial support, in kind services etc.)
 - **How -** Shift in outlook, then clarity re: potential partnerships (Model)
Clarity and success has now prompted others to seek us out
 - **Why -** Integrated Services
Increased resources
Expertise and skills
Lightens the financial load
- 




Challenges...

- Mental health/motivation
 - Partners
 - Parents
 - Poverty
 - Financial Support
 - Isolation
 - Language/literacy/multicultural considerations
- 




Testimonials

- Parent
 - Youth
 - Partner
- 



Wrap up...

- Shift of thinking.... Selling our project
 - Future direction of O.C.C.
 - Perseverance
 - Take aways
 - OCC slide show
- 



Questions?



For more information...

Lorraine Gold

Public Health Nurse

Halton Region Health Department

905-825-6000 ext. 2975

lorraine.gold@halton.ca

Shawn Kelsey

Supervisor of Community Development

Reach Out Centre for Kids (ROCK)

905-634-2347

shawnk@rockonline.ca

