

## Time for the Taking Respite Program Review

Time for the Taking (TFTT) is a community based fee for service respite program for youth aged 12-24 with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and/or for those who have a dual diagnosis. The program operates on a 4:1 ratio for clients to staff to ensure adequate support. The overall objective of the program is to provide respite for families and secondly the opportunity for the youth to engage with a peer group.

### Program Successes and Challenges

There have been many programs successes to date and throughout the past year. First is a consistent utilization. In fact, this year we have witnessed an increase in numbers from 23 to 35 with more parents/families registering and purchasing respite for blocks of time. Further, since the program has been in operation for five years, we have now fine-tuned all program materials, schedules and data collection methods. While numbers have risen this year, this rise also poses a challenge as to meet the demand for the program with current staffing levels.

### Client Statistics

Clients that attend the TFTT Program are between the ages of 12-24 and have a diagnosis within the autism spectrum or a dual diagnosis. Our referrals come from Galloway After School Program, YouthLink, advertisements in Community Living Newsletters, the East Metro Youth Services website and word of mouth.

Statistics are tallied at the end of each season. The information gathered to capture the number of sessions offered are recorded as well as the average number of clients that used the program. The following table outlines these numbers:

### Time for the Taking Tracking Sheet 2008

<u>Quarters</u>	<u># of Sessions Offered 2008/2009</u>	<u># of Sessions Offered 2007/2008</u>	<u>Average # of Registrants 2008/2009</u>	<u>Average # of Registrants 2007/2008</u>	<u>Duplicated Numbers 2008/2009</u>	<u>Duplicated Numbers 2007/2008</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	19	9	7	8	*153	*56
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	15	8	7	5	*115	*62
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	18	12	4	6	*81	*71
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	16	12	n/a	5	n/a	*84

\*The duplicated number refers to all participants in all of the sessions and in many cases (but not all) the same people participate in different sessions.

<b>2006/2007 Registrants</b>	<b>2007/2008 Registrants</b>	<b>2008/2009 Registrants</b>
14	23	35

This fiscal year a total of 35 families participated and currently there are 28 active clients participating.

#### Future Directions

The upcoming year will focus on three areas. The first is to expand the program sessions to 8 hours, where appropriate. The second is to create a TFFT pamphlet for promotional and easy distribution that can be included in our intake for Developmental Services and the third is to create a Consumer Satisfaction Survey geared to families that access TFFT, to be implemented on a yearly basis.