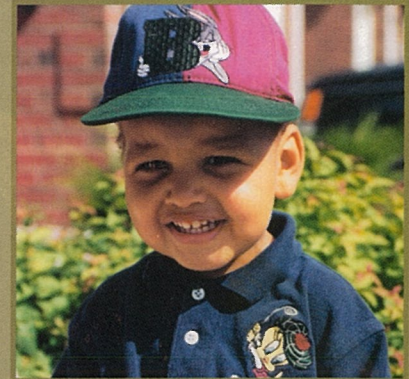
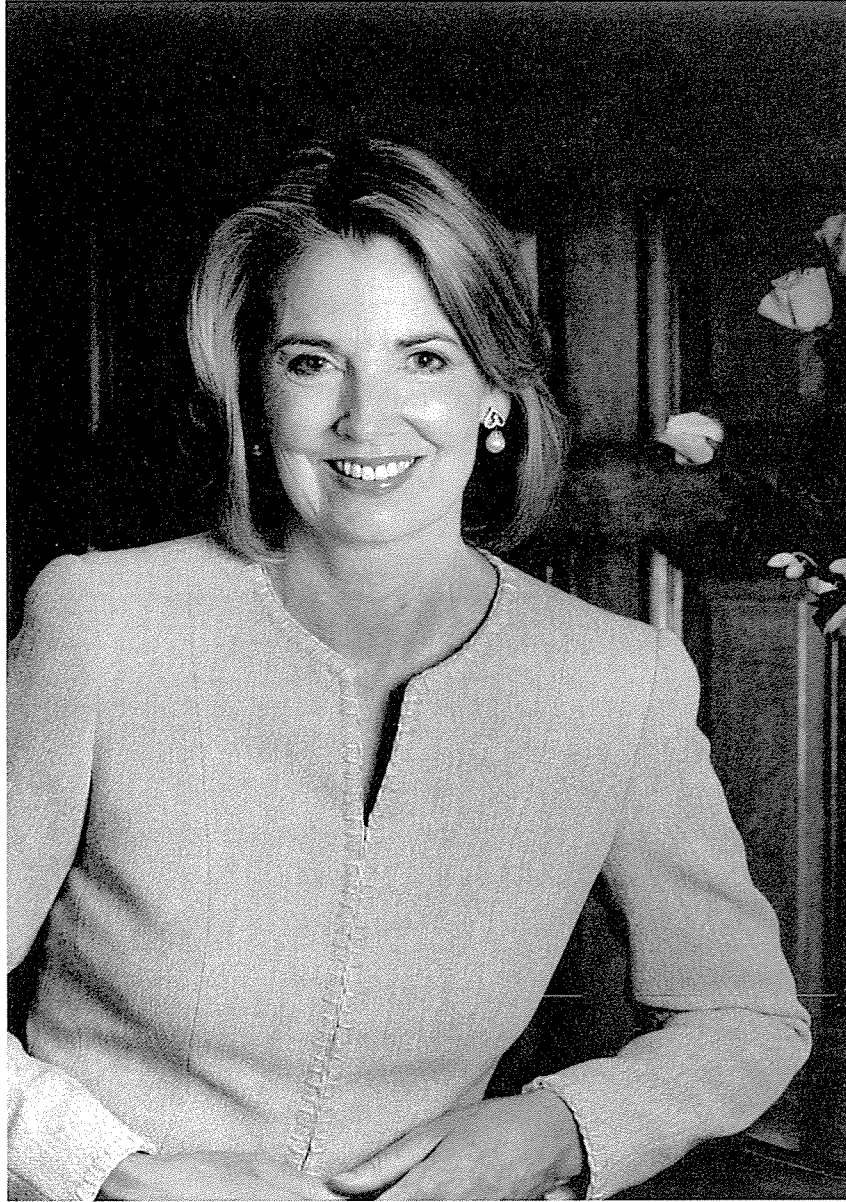


For the Children

Family Day Care Services 1851-2001







THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO
LA LIEUTENANTE GOUVERNEURE DE L'ONTARIO

Foreword

As Honorary Patron, I congratulate Family Day Care Services on 150 years of outstanding service to the children of Toronto. As social conditions and childcare practices have evolved, this agency has demonstrated unwavering commitment to meeting the changing needs of children in the best possible way.

On this anniversary, and in this volume, we salute the “Lady Managers” whose orphanage gave refuge to destitute children, the foster parents who opened their homes to those in need, and the childcare providers who deliver Toronto’s primary day care services. All deserve our respect and gratitude.

On behalf of all Ontarians, I commend Family Day Care Services for the inspiring story told in these pages – a story of the generosity, dedication and service that improved, and sometimes saved, the lives of countless Toronto children.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Hilary M. Weston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, vertical tail on the letter 'y'.

Hilary M. Weston



For the Children

For the Children

150 Years of Caring
for Children and Families

Written by Bob Cooper

Photo essay by Larry Zacher

Family Day Care Services



Abbeyfield Publishers
Toronto, Ontario

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The accuracy of the information contained on the following pages is based according to research documents supplied by Family Day Care Services, with the exceptions of the vignettes which are strictly the fictional creations of the author. Should there be errors or omissions of relevant nature to the story please advise Family Day Care Services in writing.

Every effort has been made to contact the estate of Norman Hornyansky for permission regarding his artwork of St. James Cathedral and St. Lawrence Hall. The copy of the artwork used in this book was obtained from the City of Toronto Art Collection.



I dedicate this book to the children past and present, to the memory of the Lady Managers, and to the donors and volunteers who, for 150 years, have given without stint their time, talent and money to one of Canada's most venerable institutions.

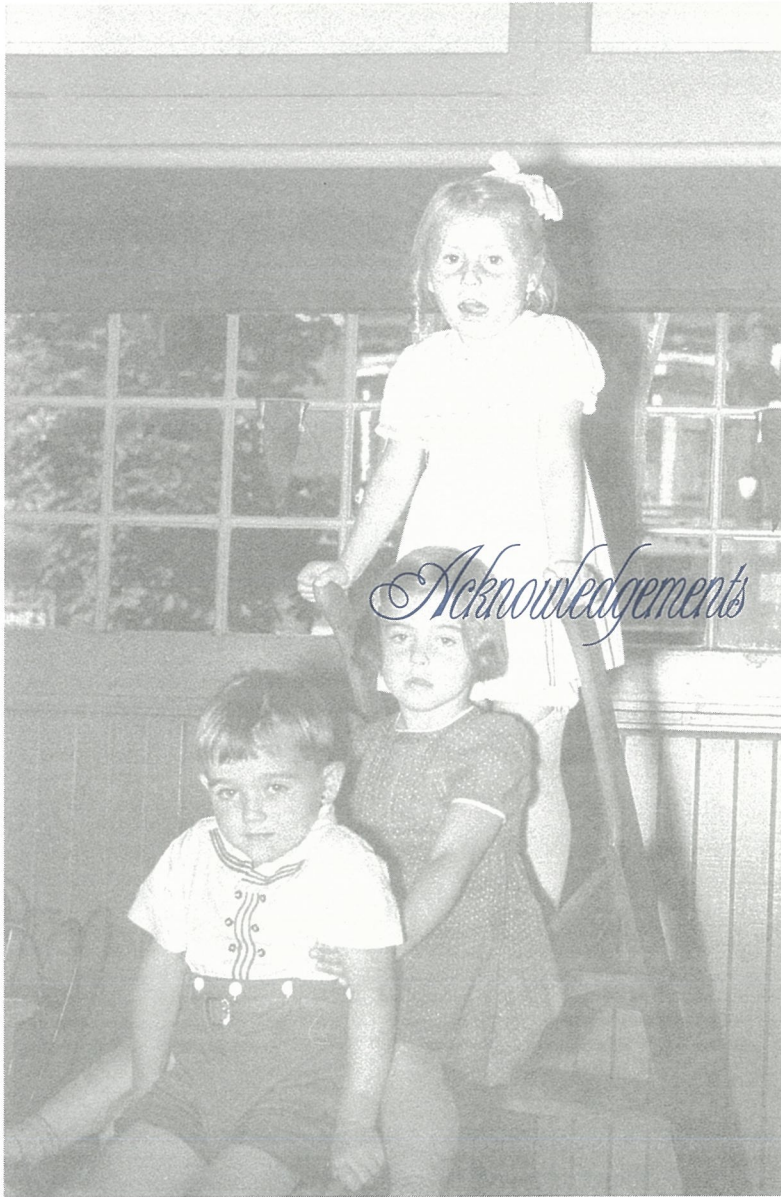
Bob Cooper
Fergus, Ontario
January 1, 2001



This original stained glass fixture is on display in Family Day Care Services' head office.
The reference to 1849 is unexplained in any of the existing historical documents.
The Orphans' Home and Female Aid Society was incorporated on August 2, 1851.



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I wish to thank the Board of Family Day, in particular Liz Howson, John Fauquier and Bob Hollingshead, and Family Day Executive Director, Maria de Wit, for giving me the opportunity to write this book.

I also wish to thank my good friend and co-labourer on this project, Larry Zacher, who, despite the numerous other duties he performs for Family Day, still found the time to roll up his sleeves and pitch in with the research and to offer valuable insights and timely advice. He was especially helpful in seeking out and assembling the many pictures that form what amounts to a photo essay, which parallels the narrative account of Family Day's 150-year history.

My debt to Dr. Irene Kyle is immeasurable. She gave unselfishly of her time to ensure that the story of child care in Ontario was accurately reflected in the narrative. Despite a busy schedule that included writing her own manuscript, Irene still found time to make corrections and improvements to mine – and she did it all with great patience and grace.

Book designer, Karen Petherick has done her usual exemplary job of presenting words and pictures in a way that is calculated to evoke the greatest emotional impact in the reader while, at the same time, allowing the information to flow naturally and unhindered.

And finally, Bill Belfontaine, who heads up Abbeyfield Publishers, has, once again, published a book that casts light on a little-known part of Canada's history, thereby permitting Canadians to see themselves in ways few have seen themselves before.



One hundred and fifty years of service! A substantial achievement by dedicated volunteers and staff over the decades that constantly drew on inadequate resources to make a home for orphans and children seeking shelter for any one of a hundred reasons.

"For the Children" will fascinate you, as it did me when I was called to bring together the group of dedicated professionals who so capably tell and illustrate the suffering and heartache that turned, through loving care, into children's smiles of belonging.

Toronto cannot call itself a world-class city today because of bricks and mortar alone. No, it takes a community with soul, starting with the heartbeats of the handful of women and men who often struggled through mud-filled streets and community degradation to bring a child to safety.

Their pioneer social concern continues today, characterized by glowing computers in the bright millennium of our new century. Yet, the need has not changed; children become hurt, they crave love and care so the need is no less worthwhile than what was started a century and a half ago.

If a salute is to be awarded to the people of Toronto, it must first be directed at the hundreds of volunteers, staff and donors who have given life to a child when all others failed.

Am I proud, in my small effort at publishing this book, to be associated with this company of people down through the years? Yes, a hundred times, yes. And to my associates Bob Cooper, writer; Larry Zacher, photograph essayist; Karen Petherick, book designer; Christopher Kott, book printing and binding, may I thank them for a job very well done.

V. Wm. (Bill) Belfontaine