Our Vision and Mission

We believe thriving children create thriving communities. To that end, we focus on a community-wide response to childhood trauma that combines excellence in treatment, state-of-the-art education, and community oriented prevention initiatives aimed at reducing the incidence and impact of child maltreatment and promoting the safe and healthy development of children.

Prevention. Education. Treatment.
Our 3-part mandate combines the essential parts of an effective community strategy to achieve the impact we want for young people and their families. All three are necessary, and together these are formidable tools to help children thrive.
Prevention and Education

Our commitment to the prevention of child abuse, maltreatment, and trauma is reflected in our vision and in our ongoing and pioneering prevention initiatives.

Historical projects like The Courage Collection (resources housed at the Kenilworth Library), “Touching” (an award winning school-based education program), and “It’s About Time” (video, available on our web site) helped to shape our early leadership role in community prevention efforts and increase understanding about childhood sexual abuse and its impact on community. Today, we continue to develop and support prevention and education initiatives at local and broader levels.

Community Briefings

Our quarterly e-newsletter reaches a wide community audience with research updates, news from the trauma and children’s services fields, and information about our programs and services. Each issue also features inspiring stories about young people on the path to thriving and community partners whose support makes our work possible.

Internship Training Program

THRIVE occasionally pursues opportunities to recruit and build the capacity of those providing specialized trauma counseling and services within the Hamilton community. Our advanced training program is taught by experienced clinicians with extensive knowledge and skills in this area. It combines theoretical teaching in a classroom setting as well as supervised practice in the assessment and treatment of the children and youth we serve.

Custom Training, Workshops, and Professional Development

We regularly host training and educational events featuring leaders in the field and focused on evolving trends, emergent research, and best practices in child abuse and trauma prevention, education, and treatment. We also offer customized training tailored to meet the unique needs of professional groups, as well as workshops to enhance knowledge about child abuse and trauma, including the impact of abuse and trauma on victims, families, and communities; child sexual behaviour issues/problems; best practices in the field of treatment and prevention; and the importance of early identification, management, and intervention.

Parent Support Group Program

Education and therapeutic groups for non-offending parents/caregivers of sexually victimized children/youth, and children with sexual behaviour problems. Participants learn how to best support their child and family, manage their own feelings, and better understand the processes through which they must navigate.

Trauma Assessment and Treatment

Strongly committed to excellence in service, programs are evidence-based, delivered by qualified trauma clinicians.

Sexual Abuse Assessment and Treatment (SAAT)

Offers comprehensive assessment and specialized treatment to a) children/youth to age 18 who have been sexually victimized; b) children under age 12 who have engaged in problematic sexual behaviours, and c) youth 12-18 who have sexually harmed within a family context. Our family reunification process is based on best practices and aims to successfully resolve relationship issues caused by sexual abuse. Treatment plans are individualized and based on assessment recommendations.

OASIS Program

The Outreach, Assessment and Specialized Intervention Services (OASIS) Program addresses the unique mental health needs of immigrant and refugee children, youth, and their families experiencing symptoms related to trauma or significant acculturation stress. Trained interpreters are available.

Contact Us

Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Day and evening appointments are available. Services are free to residents of the greater Hamilton area.

For details about programs, services, and upcoming educational events or training opportunities visit our website:

www.thrivechildandyouth.ca