



Media Release

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Family Day Celebrations a reminder that more foster and adoptive families are needed...

Kids and their parents from Belleville to Bancroft and in Quinte West laced up their skates and took to the ice Monday, February 15 to celebrate Family Day and highlight the need for more foster and adoptive families.

"It was an amazing time for everyone who came out for our annual Family Day Celebrations in Belleville, Trenton and Bancroft," said HCAS Resource Supervisor, Sylvia Pearsall. "As well as giving foster, adoptive and staff families a chance to get together for some good fun and exercise, the event served as a reminder to everyone of the large number of children and youth in care in Hastings County, and all over the province, who need foster and adoptive families."

Pearsall explained that children come into foster care for protection from abuse or neglect. "Most often, they have been hurt by abuse, violence or neglect and need a stable, loving home and a caring family," she said. "We're very fortunate to have over 220 wonderful foster homes currently in Hastings County; however, we still need more, particularly foster homes for infants, toddlers and teens in both South and North Hastings."

Frances McEvoy, President of the local Foster Parent Association, was pleased with the turnout of families at the three venues, commenting that, especially on Family Day, it's important that people realize that the meaning of "family" doesn't always have to take on the traditional interpretation, but can mean a feeling of belonging."

For more information about becoming a foster or adoptive parent, contact Hastings Children's Aid Society or check out www.winningkids.ca, an Eastern Ontario foster and adoption recruitment website.