

## A Year In The Life Of Jewels For Jesus

Jewels For Jesus has recently come to the end of another fiscal year. And, as we took stock of all that transpired over the last year, we thought that you, our faithful supporters, might like a recap of our many foci and how God has used these ministries.

---

### Crisis Pregnancy and Crisis Parenting Counseling Services

#### What's been happening?

Last year we serviced 70 clients.

#### What's it all about?

For decades now, the hallmark of Jewels For Jesus Mission has been our crisis pregnancy and parenting support services. This province-wide program provides individual counseling aimed at the exploration of life options and assists parents in building good plans for their children. Beyond the immediate crisis, we look for opportunities to provide ongoing support in other areas such as future goals, healthy relationship choices and, especially, spiritual health.



A client shares: "You [her support worker] are an angel! I don't know how to thank you or what I would have done without you."

### Care Cupboard

#### What's been happening?

Last year had 241 visits to the Care Cupboard.



#### What's it all about?

Our Care Cupboard is an onsite facility servicing the local community. It offers gently used children's clothing, and emergency supplies of formula and diapers free to any family in need. With each visit to the Care Cupboard the client is attended by one of our support staff who assists them in locating the items they need and takes time to inquire about other areas of struggle and need in the client's life. Through this personalized care, Jewels For Jesus Mission provides relevant educational material, encouragement, direction to community supports, spiritual counsel and prayer support. More and more we are seeing clients to our Care Cupboard accessing our parenting and pregnancy support services as they catch the vision of creating a strong, stable future for their children.

A client shares: "May God bless you and Jewels For Jesus. Thank you for speaking to me when things seemed so uncertain."

---

## Relationship Compass Program

### What's been happening?

- A few short weeks ago we sent the Relationship Compass Program brochure to 20 schools, 2 school boards and introduced it in our newsletter.
- Our 1st presentation took place March 30, and the response from youth and leaders was very positive.
- Seven more requests have been received for presentations in April and May.
- The Coordinator of Religious Education at a large Catholic school board is considering the use of the Relationship Compass Program in their schools.

### What's it all about?

Jewels For Jesus Mission is extremely excited about this newest addition to the services we offer. The Relationship Compass Program is a dynamic presentation designed for youth groups and high school settings. The goal is to help youth navigate the world of dating by giving them the tools they need to make wise and safe decisions in their intimate relationships. The workshops are current, interactive and designed to promote discussion. Topics such as "Smart Dating and Mature Love", "Heart Health", and "Teen Pregnancy through the Eyes of a Child" are some of the issues we address. In a social climate where anything goes, our goal is to encourage youth towards restraint and responsibility in their dating relationships.

---

## Post Relinquishment Grief Support

### What's been happening?

Every client who places their child for adoption is offered the opportunity to receive grief support.

### What's it all about?

Jewels For Jesus Adoption Agency is particularly proud of the grief support program offered to women and men who have relinquished their children through adoption. This often unrecognized grief is both invisible and misunderstood. Our agency has been offering bereavement support to our clients for 20+ years. It's a simple

blend of encouragement, education and support. The results have been notably positive, and have gained the attention and interest of other professionals in the field of birth parent support.

A client comments: "The agency's follow up program has also been important for me and the support from my worker has been something I won't forget."

---

## Adoption Triad Support Services

### What's been happening?

In any given month, Jewels For Jesus Adoption Agency staff will provide adoption related support to an average of 10 clients.

### What's it all about?

Jewels For Jesus Adoption Agency is committed to supporting all parties in the adoption triad – adoptee, birth parents and adoptive parents – throughout the lifetime of changes and challenges. To this end, we provide counsel and support in areas such as how adoptive parents handle the hard questions, the adoptee's issues of loss, openness in adoption, disclosure issues, and support and counsel in reunions. To date we have been able to offer this service at no cost. It is our vision to continue to be a professional resource to all, regardless of their financial means. As the government moves to discontinue providing assistance and counsel in reunions between birth parents and adoptees we expect the demand for our services to swell.

One client wrote: "Thanks for always being their when I need to talk, when I need advice."



6655 Kitimat Road, Unit 5  
Mississauga ON L5N 6J4  
(905) 821-7494

email: [helpline@JewelsForJesus.net](mailto:helpline@JewelsForJesus.net)  
Website: <http://www.JewelsForJesus.net>

## Professional Training Workshops

### What's been happening?

This past year Jewels For Jesus provided training in 9 professional settings across Ontario.

### What's it all about?

Jewels For Jesus is gaining a reputation for quality of service, and we are increasingly asked to provide training to other professionals across the province. Our post relinquishment grief support and our expertise in assisting clients in the examination of life options have received particular attention.

A colleague shares: "Your workshop shed light on the missing pieces in birth parent care."



## Annual Golf Tournament

There is still time to register for our 2nd annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, May 12th! Come prepared for a fun-filled day of golfing, good food and a chance to win some wonderful prizes! We look forward to seeing you.

Check our website for more details:  
[www.JewelsForJesus.net](http://www.JewelsForJesus.net)



## Would you like to help?

2008 is Jewels For Jesus' 60th anniversary. We would like to organize a team of volunteers to coordinate and organize a celebration of this wonderful occasion. If you are interested in helping, or have any ideas, we would love to hear from you. Please call the office at 905-821-7494 or e-mail [karen.k@JewelsForJesus.net](mailto:karen.k@JewelsForJesus.net).

### NEEDS CORNER

- Formula
- Wipes
- Diapers- sizes 4, 5, or 6
- Gently used spring/summer clothes – sizes newborn to 6X
- Canadian Tire money

## Margo's Thoughts Lessons from Creation



I recently had the privilege of spending a few days at the Grand Canyon. Needless to say, it was an experience beyond words. My husband and I had only two days to explore and we went at it full force, trying to

take in everything we could in the short time available to us.

Our second day was planned to maximize every waking hour between sunrise and our 10:30 p.m. check-in deadline at the Phoenix airport. It was about 11:00 a.m. when we found ourselves at the top of one of the main trails leading right down to the canyon floor, and looking with envy at those athletic adventurers heading down or emerging up along the trail. We couldn't resist. So we quickly assessed just how much time could be spared and headed down the trail. We knew reaching the canyon floor was out of the question, we'd been warned that it was an all day affair, but we wanted to see just how far we could get.

I learned a couple interesting lessons from that experience.

As the time went by on that amazing walk, we realized that the canyon floor wasn't looking any closer. Our goal seemed just as distant as it did from the upper rim lookouts we had skirted around the previous day. We began to catch the magnitude of the journey. It felt like we weren't getting anywhere. But then we looked back and, when we did, we could see the significant distance we had travelled. We could trace with our eyes the winding path that wove its way down the upper cliff we had been on and we could appreciate just how far we had come.

The lesson?

It's always instructive to, once in awhile, look back down the life path you've just travelled and to stop and see just how far God has brought you. That's what I have recently done, as another fiscal year came to an end at Jewels For Jesus. And it's been a

heartening experience. I spend much of my time at Jewels looking ahead to all that could be done. All the dreams we have yet to fulfill. The distance we still have to travel to reach our desired goals is huge. But looking back reminds me that great ground has been covered in the journey this far. God has brought us a good distance this past year, and we should be thankful for the many lives that have been touched and changed for His glory. We have been gaining ground.

Back to that morning at the Grand Canyon: When we began our descent, we encountered two young men just ascending out of the canyon. While talking together they realized we had no water with us and insisted on loading us up with their surplus, to ensure that we had the provisions needed for the journey. Not liking to impose, I politely declined but, due to their insistence, eventually agreed. Less than half an hour later I was blessing those young men for their generosity.

Lesson two?

Graciously accept the gifts of others who are moved to provide for your journey. I often feel reluctant to ask for provisions to support the forward movement of God's work at Jewels For Jesus. But I'm reminded that God prompts His people to have generous hearts and to want to lend a hand. The work of Jewels continued for another year because of the provision of God's people. It will only continue in the year to come if the provisions for the journey are, again, supplied by those with the means to do so.

Catch the vision and excitement of the journey God has placed before us. Is He prompting you to help provide for the year ahead?

Margo Semple  
Executive Director