

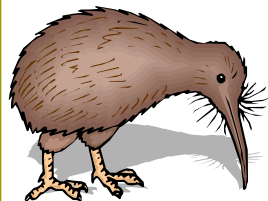
FAS centre gets global interest

Adapted from an article by Amy Steele, The Times

Published: Friday, March 20, 2009

Five New Zealanders and one Australian travelled all the way around the world to Maple Ridge on a quest to develop more of an expertise in fetal alcohol syndrome. They spent three days at The Asante Centre observing firsthand the centre's multidisciplinary approach to diagnosing, assessing and assisting people with the syndrome. The international trainees included a pediatrician, two neuropsychologists, a health promotion adviser and a social worker.

Christine Rogan, a health promotion adviser in Auckland, said Asante's assessment approach is much more comprehensive than what is done in New Zealand and Canada has more specialized services for people with FAS. She said the Asante Centre is recognized as a "world leader" in dealing with FAS, which is why the team from New Zealand and Australia are spending time here.



Kwadwo Asante, the medical director of the Asante Centre, said a multidisciplinary approach works best because FAS affects various areas of a child's development, including brain function, learning, growth, behavior and language abilities.

Asante believes preventing FAS isn't just up to mothers but also fathers and the broader community. "It's not that men are exempt. Men have a big role to play," said Asante.

Prue Walker, manager of child protection in Australia's Northern Territory said she's been interested to learn about the Asante Centre's emphasis on family support as well as support for the child with FAS. She said finding out your child has FAS can be devastating to families and they shouldn't just walk into a clinic, get the diagnosis and then receive no support afterwards.



Audrey Salahub, Executive Director at the Asante Centre, is proud that the Asante Centre is able to offer training to people from around the world to help them offer stronger services to people with FAS and their families.

"It's really rewarding because we do really great work and when your peers recognize it and come from across the world to be trained it's even more rewarding," said Salahub.

Up and Coming:

FASD Training in Cranbrook

April 7th and 20th, 2009

FASD training in Cranbrook. Please see the Asante Centre website for more details or contact Pearci Walkley or Joyce Beattie (250) 489-4563.

Whitecrow Village Training

April and May, 2009

Email: admin@whitecrowvillage.org

Tel: 250-716-3231

Birth Mother Support Group

in New Westminster

This group meets on the last Thursday of each month. Contact Carrie at 604-814-3197 or FASDbirthmoms@gmail.com

Parent-to-Parent Support Groups

For dates and times of parent-to-parent support groups and parent education in the Fraser Health region visit Events and News on the Asante Centre website.

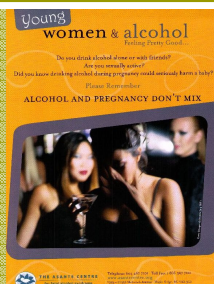
FASD Research Opportunities

You could contribute to the growing body of FASD Research. Visit our website for further details.

1. Distractibility in Children with FASD - ages 7 to 14 years
2. Reinforcement Learning in Children and Adolescents (ages 11 - 17) with FASD
3. Foster Parents of Children with Prenatal Substance Exposure: Experiences with Public School System
4. FASD and Emotion Recognition - ages 10 to 14 years old, with and without Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and their parents / caregiver.
5. Managing their children's schooling: perspectives of caregivers of elementary school aged children with FASD - caregivers of children ages 6 to 12 years old

Young Women and Alcohol FASD Prevention Posters and Pamphlets

Are available at the Asante Centre. Have a look at them in the store on the website, or give us a call for more details.





The 3rd International Conference on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

The FASD International Conference was held at the Victoria Conference Centre from Wednesday March 11th to Saturday March 14th, 2009. Members of the Asante Centre staff and clinical team attended the conference, presented at concurrent sessions, and provided information to conference goers at the Asante Centre exhibit. Over the four days, the conference highlighted the fact that Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) continues to have a profound impact on individuals, families and communities around the world. Discussions

about current research, policy and practice were promoted by the thought-provoking presentations of individuals working with FASD from many corners of the globe. Individuals with FASD, birth mothers, and other families members also had time to speak, and the impact of their voices resonated throughout the four days.

Those of us from the Asante Centre that had the opportunity to attend the conference returned to Maple Ridge with a renewed sense of inspiration. Learning about all of the FASD research and clinical work happening in other areas of the country, and world allows all of us to feel like we are part of the bigger picture of FASD. The information presented also informs our clinical practice, allowing us to serve individuals with FASD, their families and support networks better in the future.

St. Patrick's Day at the Westgate Flower Garden

Sandra Taylor, a colleen from Ireland, is the "Irish Messenger" for Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows, bringing warmth and kindness to all those who walk through her flower garden at the Westgate Mall. She sprinkles her fairy dust on those who are in need and she sees the goodness in all. Sandra is a strong promoter for the prevention of FASD. She plans many special events throughout the year supporting the work of The Asante Centre and provides opportunities to share the FASD prevention message. She has held Flower Festivals, Christmas Poinsettia Days, St. Patrick's Day Events, and Customer Appreciation Days. All these occasions provide opportunity for our staff and Sandra to talk about the dangers of prenatal alcohol exposure. Thank you Sandra for your commitment to this worthy cause and may your flowers bloom forevermore!



Do you know someone who would like to be part of the Asante Centre Team?

Positions available:

- Speech-Language Pathologist (part time),
- Family and Community Support Coordinator
- Medical Practitioner

to join us at the centre. Please call if you are interested.

How can I, or someone I know, receive a fetal alcohol assessment?

In order to come to a centre for a multidisciplinary FASD assessment, a referral can be made directly to the Asante Centre for a private assessment. The legal guardian is required to make the private referral. Or a referral can be made to your local health region for an assessment funded through the provincial health authority. A paediatrician is required to make the referral to the health region for an assessment. Please visit <http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/fasdassessment.htm> for details. Or probation officers can make a referral for a youth justice client directly to the Asante Centre.

What can you do?

Become a member of the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Society for British Columbia!

Name/or Organization: _____

Your Charitable Donations are appreciated.

Mailing Address: _____

Donation (tax receipt provided): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

or become a member on our website

www.asantecentre.org



THE ASANTE CENTRE
for fetal alcohol syndrome

Send cheque or money order to:
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Society for B.C.
103 – 22356 McIntosh Avenue, Maple Ridge, BC V2X 3C1
E-mail: info@asantecentre.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!