



Jakub's Story

When Jakub entered the Trauma Assessment and Treatment Program at the Halton Trauma Centre at the age of nine, his pain was obvious. He was overwhelmed by the memories of abuse. Sexually abused by his father and abandoned by his mother, Jakub suffered from severe post-traumatic stress disorder. His childhood had been brutally taken away from him.

When he first arrived at the Centre, Jakub often heard things that weren't there; he would suddenly retreat from his sessions, afraid and confused. Due to the abuse he had endured, he had no idea how to be a child. Up to this point, he had raised his two younger sisters, protecting them from the rage and anger of his parents...that is, when his parents were around. Once the Children's Aid Society entered the picture and removed the children from the home, Jakub agonized about the safety of his siblings.

The first few weeks at HTC were tough for Jakub. Even his interactions with other children were strangely adult and sadly sexual. He had learned all those behaviours from his father. Our challenge was to teach him how to be a nine-year old again and, with this much pain embedded deep into his soul, we knew this would not be an easy journey.

As with all of the children we serve, we tirelessly worked with Jakub one session at a time. Through effective assessment, therapy and treatment, we taught him how to trust again; we taught him how to come to grips with the pain that used to rule his life and how to let go of that pain so that he can have a sense of real hope for the future. And it was a long journey...but worth every single minute.

Just a few months ago, Jakub left the Halton Trauma Centre and is living with his new foster family, two remarkable people who are committed to loving and caring for Jakub throughout the rest of his childhood. He now has his childhood back and a new family to help him continue on the road to recovery.