

Gilles Métivier

2009 Spirit Award Winner

The counseling services the Children's Treatment Centre offers to abused children were provided by the Children's Aid Society until 1990, when the Children's Aid Society terminated this service due to government cutbacks.

In 1992, the staff from the Children's Aid Society took the initiative and brought a group of community minded citizens together to start a counseling service for abused children and their families. A board was formed and Mr. Gilles Métivier was elected as the president of this organization. Fr. Kelvin Maloney served as the vice-president and some of the other board members are Richard Abell, Mae Brown, Chris Francis, Fr. Kelvin Maloney, Dr. Nchama, Bill Roddy, Hilda Seguin, and Robert Smith

The goal was to raise half the funds locally to operate the facility and seek matching funds from the province for the remainder.

As president, Mr. Métivier provided the Board of Directors a clear vision, able leadership as well as his undivided attention to the cause of serving abused children. Mr. Métivier, along with the other board members, addressed various church groups, service clubs, businesses, municipal councils, school boards, labour unions, etc. to impress upon them the need for such a resource, and to ask for their support. Within a period of six months, Mr. Métivier and the members of the board were successful in locally raising over \$100,000, or half of the funds needed to operate the facility for a year.

Mr. Métivier then embarked on a mission to obtain financial support from the Province of Ontario for the remainder of the budget to operate the facility for a year. He met with provincial ministers and made presentations to them. He gave his heart and soul, but his efforts to obtain partial funding from the province did not bear fruit. The \$100,000 which was raised locally was returned to their donors, and the board was dissolved.

Mr. Métivier is commended and congratulated for his tireless efforts and the leadership he provided in 1992 to start a counseling service, the forerunner of the present Children's Treatment Centre.

The caring spirit of our community, which he personally represented along with others who served on the board with him in 1992, is vibrant and stronger today than ever, evidenced by the success the Children's Treatment Centre has had for the past 13 years.

Today, Mr. Métivier is recognized and honoured for his caring spirit, the selfless efforts he made in 1992 to start a facility to help abused children in our community, and was presented with the Spirit Award.