

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**CARIZON LAUNCHES PROGRAM NAME FOR NEW MODEL FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**Kitchener** – In the Fall of 2017, Carizon established a new way of delivering mental health services to young children and their families. This evolution led to the transition from a residential model to an in-home and community-based model.

“This new model offers a flexible menu of services that creates a circle of support around children and families ,” said Lesley Barraball, Director of Children’s Mental Health Services at Carizon. “We’ve been excited to implement the new program and witness the impact of this transition, but we grew tired of calling it “the new model.”

So Carizon held a series of focus groups to explore a suitable name for the new model. The result: the Polaris Program. The team liked the symbolism behind “Polaris” – a bright central star that seems to have other stars rotating around it – emulating wrapping services around the family.

“We also liked that Polaris has a smaller star beside it, representing the adult and the child within the families we support,” said Lesley.

“It was a very family-centred approach to choosing the name,” said Carizon CEO Tracy Elop. “We involved staff and families in its selection. The symbol speaks to our placing the family at the centre of all that we do at Carizon.”



Carizon has established a project team and received funding from The Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health to evaluate this new family-centred model of care. Carizon will be sharing the results of the evaluation of the Polaris Program in the near future.

*Carizon is a multi-service community organization committed to improving the future of individuals and families through supportive, therapeutic and preventative programs.*

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