2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis

Highlights

1,430
Women supported

69
Children supported

3,106
Crisis calls taken

207
Public education events

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S REPORT

You can't always know who you are going to BE in any given set of circumstances. If required, then how would we grow?

Possibilities only flourish when the fear of uncertainty is set aside.

When I was asked to join the Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis (WIC) Board of Directors, I felt honoured, for a lot of reasons. One in particular was deeply personal.

I did not know who I was going to be in this situation – and I had some deep reservations about my ability to be of service.

The work that WIC does is not easy by any stretch of the imagination. Frankly I don't know how the staff continues week after week after week.

It must be – they see a bigger picture standing behind them in their morning mirror.

It must be – they know their efforts nurture seeds striving to form new life.

WIC has a longstanding and hard-earned reputation. Reputation in this field is a valuable resource because it's what inspires the community and funders to dig in their pockets and to give their time. Volunteers at WIC are rock solid; we appreciate them and we certainly need them.

WIC is noticed and appreciated beyond our fair city/county; and it's rewarding to know that our voice, one that speaks for far too many women and children, is being heard.

WIC keeps statistics on the numbers who: call-in, come-in and stay-in, and although we can never know just how many lives are saved, it is indisputable that many are.

Serving on the WIC board, and in particular as Chair – I've strived to keep the bigger picture of what WIC stands for at the forefront of my mind.

As a board we stand united, guided by one vision… to create a world where women and children live free of violence.

For me, my time as a member of this dedicated board has been rewarding; I've learned one can move forward despite the existence of reservations.

I'd like to thank my fellow board members, WIC's staff members and Sly, in particular, for the kindness extended to me and for their determination and commitment to hold on to what I believe to be an important vision.

Possibilities only flourish when the fear of uncertainty is set aside.

Susan Wheeler, Board Chair

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In February, we were granted an extra day because 2016 is a leap year. Leap days are extra days added to the calendar to synchronize it with the Earth's orbit around the sun - this keeps it on track with our seasons.

Why do we do this? Well… In case you've forgotten that science class from grade three – it's because the Earth actually takes 365.25 days to fully orbit around the sun. That .25 - or one fourth of a day puts us out of sync with our calendar, so if we did not LEAP forward and add a day every four years – then in about 300 years our winter would essentially be spring.

Given that none of us will be on earth for 300 years, it's easy to think this orbit miscalculation won't affect us, so why be concerned? There are long and complicated reasons for doing so but the short answer is because it is for the betterment of humankind in the long run.

Our work here at G-WWIC and beyond also has seasons, and this past year in particular we witnessed and participated in helping to bring about a fundamental LEAP forward in the cause to eradicate VAW (Violence Against Women).

In fact, one year before our allotted LEAP day the government, under Premier Kathleen Wynne, unveiled the plan – "It's Never Okay: An Action Plan to Stop Sexual Violence and Harassment". This plan is NO small feat; in fact, it came with a $41-million-dollar commitment. It clearly outlined actionable steps aimed to change attitudes, provide more effective supports for survivors, and make workplaces, school campuses and communities responsive to complaints about sexual violence and harassment.

Premier announces increased funding for Sexual Assault Centres

To say that we were proud to be the chosen host location, where Premier Wynne and Minister Sandals made the funding announcement for Sexual Assault Centres is an understatement. It was a highlight in the agency's amazing herstory.

I think it would be fair to say with the government's commitment we are finally moving beyond the Band-Aid approach in dealing with the greater issue of understanding the need for public education and more supports to effect change and move toward eradicating VAW.

My hope is that we're approaching a tipping point – that magical and mysterious point when an idea or social behaviour crosses a threshold and spreads beyond our wildest dreams.

In keeping with the theory of inspiring that "tip" my hopes are NO longer in vain because now we have gatekeepers in our corner. The "law of the few" are the gatekeepers who influence and open doors previously locked.

And to that end we now have a seat at the table too.

I cannot tell you how honoured I am to serve as Co-Chair for Ontario's first government Roundtable on Violence Against Women. Clearly, this is a monumental moment in my long tenure working alongside and with G-WWIC.

Myself, along with colleague and Co-Chair, Farrah Khan, and the voices of those represented through 22 organizations, speak about VAW issues that have been swept under the table, or at best minimized for too long.

And while talking about these issues is important, what's truly remarkable is the government is listening – and from this, actions are forthcoming.

And we all know ACTIONS speak louder than words alone.

Our work however, is far from done, but it has LEAPED forward and for that we must celebrate. We need to acknowledge those who stand next to us in our daily work, those who willingly donate their time and resources, those who believe the world can be a better, safe place for all of us.

Thank you to the all the staff and volunteers of G-WWIC. The work you do makes a difference in the lives of the women and children who walk through our doors every day. Thank you to the Board of Directors for all the work you do to keep the agency moving forward. To all the women who walk through our doors; thank you for trusting us to be a part of your journey. To our community and friends; thank you for your ongoing support.

With gratitude
Sly Castaldi, Executive Director

PROGRAM REPORTS

Volunteer Services and Crisis Line

Volunteers support many agency activities. Gayle Stafrace; a longtime volunteer on our crisis line and childcare provider at Marianne's Place reflects on her volunteer experience, "It has been very rewarding to be able to give back, to help the women, mothers and children at Marianne's Place". We are very appreciative for all that Gayle has contributed over the years.

5,520
Volunteer hours contributed last (fiscal) year

1,400
Volunteer & staff hours supporting women on the crisis line

Marianne's Place

The shelter has recovered well from last year's flood thanks to the amazing and very much appreciated support received during this difficult time. We are extremely grateful for the outpouring of donations we have continued to receive throughout the year. We have been busy over the past year updating our policies and procedures to comply with new shelter standards set by the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Christine Wilson, Residential Program Manager

114 Women supported

69 Children supported

Sexual Assault Centre (SAC)

In order to mirror what is taking place with our changing school curriculum as well as the provincial changes happening with the Sexual Violence Action Plan, two workshops were created and offered in Guelph. "What Does Consent Look Like?" and "Impacts of Sexual Trauma and the Brain" were introduced and were overwhelmingly supported in attendance. One evaluation read: "…I wish all professionals understood sexual trauma like this, then maybe it might have been easier".

Jennifer Davies, Manager of Programs and Services

237 Women supported

Rural Woman's Support Program (RWSP)

Community partnership and outreach continue to be a vital piece of our work. RWSP sits on a number of community committees including the Wellington County Connectivity Table, which reviews cases of imminent risk. The Palmerston office shares our space with Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health and CMHA. Through our outreach we provide many educational speaks and presentations for local groups, community partners and service clubs. RWSP continues to receive great coverage in county newspapers and interviews on local radio, 101.1 The Grand.

Jacinta Gillen, RWSP Manager

215 Women supported

2,349 Hours of direct service provided

Family Court Support Program

We have enjoyed a new pilot partnership between WIC and the Legal Clinic. Richard Herold, a Family Lawyer, has dedicated 3 hours each Monday morning to support women at WIC who are navigating the Family Court System. This partnership has been incredibly helpful for issue specific support and advice that is cost effective, streamlined and supportive. One woman shared after her 45 minute appointment that "…it was the first time she met with a lawyer and walked out feeling heard and understood as well as knowing what to do".

Jennifer Davies, Manager, Clinical Programs and Services

183 Women supported

PROGRAM REPORTS *continued*

Transitional and Housing Support Program (THSP)

681 Women supported

An exciting new group started in the Transition program this year called "The Healing Circle". This is a closed therapeutic group that uses a peer support model and places the expertise of healing within the women's hands. It is a guided dialogue between women who are not in crisis, but at a critical point in their support of healing and creating strategies to move forward from WIC. An evaluation shared that one woman felt "…this was the exact group I needed in order to feel confident about leaving…"

Jennifer Davies, Manager, Clinical Programs and Services

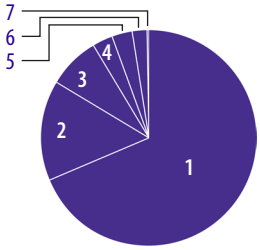
FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNICATIONS

We are continuing to see an increase in business, third-party and online giving. The fundraising efforts of David Halls and Robin-Lee Norris through the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation were absolutely fantastic and raised over $35,000. We also received significant donations from the Shoppers Drug Mart Tree of Life Campaign, the Royal City Realty Royal LePage Garage Sale, Wellington Brewery, the Charles Johnson Charitable Fund, Curl for a Cause, Puresource Natural Products Distributor and the Toskan Casale Foundation. Thank you to all our donors for your support. You are helping transform lives.

Rosemary Taylor, Manager of Resource Development and Communications

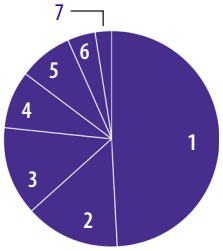
FINANCIAL REPORT

Revenue 2015-2016
$2,960,145



1	Ministry of Community & Social Services	$2,038,886
2	Ministry of the Attorney General	436,840
3	Donations/Fundraising	231,575
4	Special Projects	90,795
5	Wellington County Social Services	88,364
6	United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin	72,223
7	Interest (Capital)	1,462

Expenditures 2015-2016
$3,603,535



1	Shelter, Crisis Line and Volunteer Program	$1,780,374
2	Sexual Assault Centre, Family Court Support Program	480,269
3	Rural Women's Support Program	502,800
4	Administration	317,723
5	Transitional & Housing Support Program	289,011
6	Capital	150,821
7	Special Projects	82,537

A complete set of audited statement is available upon request by calling 519-836-1110 ext 224

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