

2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Guelph - Wellington Women in Crisis



Highlights



1357

Women Supported



80

Children Supported



2900

Crisis Calls



210

Public Education/Events

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

Our Collective Call to Action

Sometimes a call to action is built over time, slowly, as we watch the consequences of inaction. Sometimes a call to action happens in a moment through a herstory, or an event that prevents us from standing on the sidelines and propels us to action.

Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis (WIC) has been in this community for 41 years and our collective call to action is stronger than ever. The Board of Directors feels honoured to be part of WIC and are in awe of the work this agency's staff and volunteers do every day. You continually provide excellent service to the Guelph and Wellington County communities, responding to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and Human Trafficking.

This past few months WIC's Board of Directors, Managers and Staff have been working on and have completed our 2018-2021 Strategic Plan. Each of the Managers, Jacinta Cassidy, Christine Wilson, Jennifer Davies and Mo Johnston and Fundraising and Marketing Coordinator, Justine Morgan have submitted their reports outlining specific accomplishments in their respective areas of responsibility. We have identified three strategic priorities:

We will work together with our community to invest in opportunities to end violence against women and children.

A key goal within this priority is to focus on early engagement and education for youth and parents through public education. As part of our collaboration with the Ministry of Children and Youth and the Child Welfare Sector, we also delivered a regional training curriculum for "Engaging Men."

"Pets in Transition" (soon to be launched) – Anyone who has pets know how important they are to families and we have long known that women wishing to escape abusive relationships worry about what will become of the family pet. This fear can result in their remaining in a bad situation. Pets in Transition is a collaboration between Community Veterinary Outreach, the Guelph Humane Society and Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis. This program is led by one of our passionate, long term volunteers, Cindy McMann. We will now be able to offer pet safety planning, resources and referrals, temporary emergency foster placement and care for the animals of women fleeing violence. Animals will be placed in an appropriate foster home while women stay in the shelter

This program allows for pets to be well cared for while women escape violence and rebuild their lives. When women leave the shelter they are again reunited with their pets.

Improve women's lives as the result of their contact with WIC

"Beauty Within Ashes" - This Alaskan Native culturally relevant healing program is viewed as a possible solution to fill a much needed gap in cultural supports for members of the Indigenous communities. Kellie Grace and Jessica St. Peters took this residential program and adapted it to meet the needs and resources of our community. This past spring, thanks to the generosity of a grant from The Guelph Community Foundation, the first pilot project of Beauty Within Ashes, a non-denominational supportive learning circle series, designed to support those impacted by trauma and to work towards a generation free of abuse and neglect. This project would not have been possible without the investment of Guelph Wellington

Women in Crisis and the Guelph Community Health Centre. It is our hope that through continued promotion and support, this program will continue to flourish in our community.

We will invest in organization excellence.

A key priority for the organization is to invest in building a positive organizational culture, through greater transparency, empowerment, anti-oppressive practice, open communication, role clarity, and a shared commitment to the vision and mission of the organization. We will continue to embed the values and beliefs that embody our services to children and women throughout our entire organization. This internal strategic priority is of high importance to the board.

On behalf of the Board of Director's, I would like to thank WIC's Executive Director, Interim Executive Director, staff, management team, volunteers, community partners, funders, donors and friends for their tremendous efforts, resulting accomplishments and for responding to this important call to action.

Sherree Derferd, Board Chair



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

For the past few months, I have had the pleasure of covering a leave for Sly Castaldi. As Interim Director, I have learned that G-W Women in Crisis is an innovative organization with a highly committed group of managers, staff, volunteers and community Board of Directors. I have had the opportunity to work with the leadership team to ensure our resources and services align in a way that will improve the lives of women and children in our community. In addition to keeping the lights on for the past few months, my role has been to assist the organization in preparing for growth and to explore ways WIC can adapt to the challenges we may face in the years ahead as we strive to achieve our Vision and Mission. The deep roots of Sly's leadership is evident and appreciated across the organization and in the community. I would like to honour Sly and her leadership team for their commitment to advocacy and social change. The dedication to the women and children we serve is evident in the voices and lived experience of our clients and we wanted to share a few of these with you in this report. As we move forward, we will continue to strengthen our partnerships to develop a collective community response and investment in ending violence against women and children. We could not do this work without you. The dedication of the staff, our leadership team, volunteers, donors and partner agencies is deeply appreciated.

Alison Scott, Interim Director

FINANCIAL REPORT

Revenue \$ 3,276,810

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Ministry of Community & Social Services | \$ 2,273,945 |
| Ministry of the Attorney General | 436,840 |
| Special Projects | 46,180 |
| Donations/Fundraising | 267,607 |
| Wellington County Social Services | 109,167 |
| United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin | 72,223 |
| Other Income | 4,899 |

Expenditures \$ 3,083,985

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Shelter, Crisis Line and Volunteer Program | \$ 1,531,921 |
| Sexual Assault Centre/Family Court Support Program | 454,844 |
| Rural Women's Support Program | 323,466 |
| Administration | 205,504 |
| Transitional & Housing Support Program | 256,058 |
| Capital | 151,556 |
| Special Projects | 265,116 |

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



Contact information:



Administration Office: 38 Elizabeth Street, Guelph, ON



Phone: 519-836-1110



Agency Email: adminrec@gwwomenincrisis.org



Web Site: www.gwwomenincrisis.org



Mail: G-W Women in Crisis, PO Box 1451, Guelph ON N1H6N9

You don't have to be hit to be hurt.

You don't have to leave to get help.

You don't have to be in crisis to call.



**Call our Crisis Line
519-836-5710, 1-800-265-SAFE**

PROGRAM REPORTS

Volunteer Services and Crisis Line

Volunteers support many agency activities giving their time and resources to make a difference in the lives of women and children in our community. This is what long time volunteer; Dale Willis had to say about her volunteer experience...

"When I retired 5 years ago, I decided I wanted to volunteer, but had no idea with which agency – shortly after, I was walking through the Stone Road Mall and found a little scrap of paper on a table in the Food Court – all it said was "barbsmith@womenincrisis" and a phone number, this started my volunteering with Women in Crisis.

My involvement with the counsellors, staff, other volunteers and clients at WIC has been both heartwarming and at times very emotional. I have always been made to feel that I play a significant part in this team of women helping women. The clients I have volunteered with have shown me resilience and strength and made me feel like I was making a difference in their lives. I look forward to many more years volunteering with WIC."

In the past year alone volunteers contributed 3,629.30 hours supporting our programs, events and clients. Thank you for all you do.



3,629.30 Volunteer Hours



2,900 Crisis Calls

Jacinta Cassidy, Crisis Line Manager

Marianne's Place

Over this past year, the shelter responded to the support needs of the clients by focusing our community engagement. To improve our supports and resources for our clients, related to harm reduction, we strengthened our relationship with agencies such as Sanguen, ARCH and WDG Public health. As a result, we are connecting clients with resources in a more efficient manner and we are participating in a Ministry of Health initiative related to overdose intervention. We have received training on and are providing training to our clients on overdose prevention and interventions, including the use of naloxone.

The shelter supported 196 people this past year; 119 women and 77 children. This year over 85% of the children staying in the shelter were under the age of 10, with 65% of those being under 5 years of age. The high number of preschool children has brought lots of energy to the shelter this past year.

CLIENT VOICE:

"I feel much more able to take the next steps after assistance here. I felt safe and welcome. I loved the groups and helpful amazing staff. I appreciate the time they made to assist me in any problems I was facing"

Christine Wilson, Residential Manager



119 Women supported



77 Children supported

Sexual Assault Centre (SAC)

The Sexual Assault Centre has been able to successfully run its first full year of the newly developed group programming. We ran two rounds of a psycho-educational group "Building Tools" – one 6-week group for survivors of childhood sexual abuse and the second 10-week group for women who have experienced any form of sexual violence. Additionally, three 10-week rounds of a closed processing group called "Mending Pieces" supported women who experienced sexual violence and were ready to unpack the affects and move forward in their lives. The group programming was designed after the practice of Kintsugi, the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with lacquer dusted with powdered gold, where the belief is that in its new form, the pottery is even more valuable and beautiful than it was before. As well, we completed our first year of partnership with the University of Guelph, having one of our counselling offer sexual trauma counselling on campus 2 days a week. We look forward to continuing and growing this partnership.

CLIENT VOICE:

"I love my group! These women have become the family I never had but deserved! They are safe and loving."

Jennifer Davies, Manager of Programs and Services



190 Women supported

Anti-Human Trafficking Program

In just over 4 months of operation, our new Anti-Human Trafficking program has served over 20 women. Renovations took place in the shelter to have two Human Trafficking beds. In developing the program, emphasis has been placed on building partnerships with the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Care and Treatment Center at Guelph General Hospital, Guelph Police Services, Victim Services, Ontario Works, the Guelph Community Health Center and SOS, the Drop-In Center, Wyndham House, and Public Health. We have provided a number of outreach, public education and staff training events to local partners and community services. Capacity within our organization continues to grow through staff training and the development of an agency resources guide and other educational materials. We have a very active social media campaign that has been well received within our community.

Jennifer Davies, Manager of Programs and Services



21 Women supported

Rural Women's Support Program (RWSP)

Community partnership and outreach continue to be a necessary focus of our work in Wellington County. RWSP sits on a number of community committees including the Youth Outreach, Strengthening Families, and the Wellington County Connectivity table. This year we have also joined the OPP Regional Victim Response Committee with other justice and victim support partners to review sexual assault cases in our region as a result of the unfounded sexual assault cases brought to light by the Globe and Mail. We continue to provide educational speaks and presentations for local groups, community partners and service clubs to bring awareness and community support. The Rural Women's Support Program continues to write and have articles published in the county newspapers and interviews on local radio in order to stay visible and connected to our community.

♀ 239 Women supported

Jacinta Cassidy, Rural Women's Support Program Manager

Family Court Support Program (FCSP)

The Family Court Support Program experienced enriched programming and an increased client roster this year. With an additional 20 hours, the program was able to increase volunteer capacity through training and mentoring, increase our legal resources and enhance our advocacy ability. Collaboration between an onsite Legal Aid Staff lawyer each Monday, has greatly enhanced services provided to clients. We continue to see a steady and broad range of referrals from various agencies.

CLIENT VOICE: *"Court was terrifying. I don't think I would have made it through without their help and support."*

Jennifer Davies, Manager, Clinical Programs and Services

♀ 182 Women supported

Fundraising and Communications

This year has been marked with tremendous success in our Fundraising efforts! Our annual Gala and Fundraiser *Britpop* raised over \$100,000 including \$44,000 for new windows at Marianne's Place. We are especially thankful for our returning Platinum Sponsors Bird Elinesky Schuett for their generosity and ongoing support of the gala. The Italian Canadian Club, and Inspired Events helped make our volunteer committee's vision come to life with our gala theme and successful event execution. We are very grateful for the support of our gala committee, Red Car Service, TD Bank Group, Harry Cummings and Associates, Smith Valeriotte, The McTaggart Team, Heather Sabbadin, Skyline, Sorbara Law, EggCetra, Layne the Auctionista, KKP Printing, Fleuristic Garden and Flower Studio, Brandon Marsh Photography, Snapd Guelph, Barber Glass, Platters Catering.

We are pleased to let you know that Maureen McFadden made a bequest to Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis in the amount of \$30,109.00. When asked if there was a story behind Maureen's giving, her family responded *"Maureen was always a very caring person who gave of her time and money to those in need, often putting other's needs before her own. She lived her last 25 or so years in Mexico and often hired local ladies to do her housework and laundry, not because she couldn't do it, but because they needed the money even more than her and they would not accept charity."*

Many thanks to Robin-Lee Norris & David Halls, Shoppers Drug Mart Tree of Life Campaign, Royal City Realty Royal LePage, Charles Johnson Charitable Fund, Curl for a Cause, and the Guelph Community Foundation for their ongoing support throughout the year. A heartfelt thank you to all of our donors for your support. You continue to make a lasting positive impact for the women and children in our community.

Justine Morgan, Fundraising and Marketing Coordinator



Transitional & Housing Support Program (THSP)

Women's courage in participating in our support groups, sharing their experiences and supporting each other certainly stands out for the year of 2017/2018. Over this year we have successfully completed a ten-week educational group for women of all ages called *The More We Know* that focused on expanding individual knowledge of abuse, the affects and the cycle of violence and victimization. As well, the *Happy Hopfuls* support group for older women continues to be a very popular group. Both groups were followed up by peer support closed groups where women had the opportunity to apply the knowledge they learned from the education group in a personal and often intense way in a smaller more intimate forum. For Woman Abuse Awareness month, we offered a workshop honouring the growing numbers of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls across Canada. The video screening of the documentary series "Taken" helped spark thoughtful discussions during this workshop.

Jennifer Davies, Manager, Clinical Programs and Services

♀ 606 Women supported