



Annual General Meeting REPORT 2019-2020



We Are All in This Together – Collaboration and Partnership is Essential

Victim Services of Huron County provides short term emotional support, practical assistance, and community referrals to survivors of crime, trauma, and tragic circumstance in partnership with community and emergency services

Board Report

For Victim Services of Huron County (VSHC), 2019-20 was year of expansion in to more educational and community awareness opportunities. VSHC has recently been invited to rejoin the Huron OPP in the new Detachment in Clinton although we will be keeping the space in Huron East as well to provide a second meeting and training location as well as storage space. The agency continues to strengthen relationships with community stakeholders as well as branching out to become involved with new organizations while always looking toward our vision to support victims and survivors in Huron County. We look forward to continued change, growth and celebrate our successes. Thank you to all our volunteers, contributors, partners, and personnel in 2019-20.

Message from the Chair

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting for the 2019/2020 fiscal year. We are pleased to take this opportunity to celebrate the success of a committed staff team and Board of Directors. The Board Members include: Chair: Jim Dietrich, Vice Chair: Robert Morris, Treasurer: Mike Scott, Secretary: Jo-Anne Fields; and Directors: Tim Poole, Susan Regier, Joe Steffler, Tabatha Fisher, and Mary-Ellen Ducharme. Special Board volunteer is Wayne Cronin who has been a Crisis Responder for the past 9 years.

The dedicated staff team consists of Deborah Logue, Executive Director, Jenn Evans, Coordinator of Services and Davis Smith, Community Engagement/Human Trafficking Case Manager. Special mention goes to departing staff members Barb Mitchell, Katie Sparling and Lauren Michaelis who all departed earlier in the year. We also have contracted services for a Bookkeeper, Carole Weber.

The Board is pleased that despite the change in staffing within the office this year, our dedicated support and services in the community continued without any diminished capacity. Our numbers of survivors we have been able to support continues to grow each year. This is a true reflection to the public awareness and community engagement we have been able to increase across the entire county. Fundraising, social media platforms and community education sessions that have been held throughout the years has also contributed to increase in knowledge of what Victim Services can do to assist people in our community.

Every volunteer, staff, and board member rise above the norm to follow the mission of Victim Services of Huron County. There are many family members, partners, and children who also stand proudly by their loved ones who are risking their own comfort to help others in their time of need. Everyone who contributes, whether directly with victims, or indirectly as a family supporter, is making our County service stronger and more cohesive for the future!

The Directors that make up the Board at Victim Services of Huron County are all volunteers. Our business is generally public, with some limitations to safeguard people and comply with required legislation. Please approach us with any questions or comments via the Victim Services' staff (info@victimserviceshuron.ca).

Respectfully,

James Dietrich
Chair, Board of Directors

Treasurer's Report

In the past year VSHC has continued to expand fundraising initiatives and is pleased that efforts to increase awareness of our service has resulted in invitations to present at several community groups and also generated spontaneous donations. Along with proceeds from our regular calendar of fundraising events, we have increased our reserves, allowing the agency to enhance training opportunities and resources to our volunteers and provide expanded support to victims. We are pleased that considering the COVID-19 Pandemic impacting fundraising opportunities in the upcoming year we are still in a financially sound position to be able to continue our operations without disruption.

We continue to constantly look for new ways to enhance our services and fundraising opportunities are a key component to that. We thank everyone who has contributed to the success of these activities

Mike Scott - Treasurer, Board of Directors

Message from the Executive Director

The work we do here is challenging for volunteers and staff, which requires a wide range of skills and abilities. Victim Services of Huron County has the volunteer Board, volunteer Crisis Responders and the staff that make this work appear easy at times and makes support to people that need it a reality. Thank you to the staff and a special thanks to ALL the volunteers ... you are truly appreciated.

We help families and people who are hurting because of crime or tragic circumstance; we provide compassionate care; emotional and practical support to our community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. We join with and offer referral support, guidance and encouragement to hundreds of victims struggling with the increasingly complex world of crime and tragic circumstance.

It is my pleasure to thank the Board of Directors for the valuable work they do in sharing their areas of expertise and guiding our organization forward. We appreciate your energy and commitment to making VSHC valuable, accountable, and successful. Your magnitude of support and the MANY hours you contribute often goes unnoticed, but I am very aware of your time, energy and commitment and I am grateful.

The ongoing services and program development would have not been possible without the generous support from our donors, funders, volunteers, stakeholders, direction from the Board of Directors and the commitment of the staff. In partnership with VQRP+ (Victim Quick Response Program+), we continued to advocate for the needs within our community. We strive to better communicate the uniqueness of our program to the public. We will focus on outcomes and learn what impact VSHC has on the community - and how to achieve better program results. We will grow and continue to change.

VSHC recognizes and appreciates our supporters: Ministry of the Attorney General with special thanks to Lori McDonald, Ontario Victim Services West Region, Huron County Ontario Provincial Police, Huron Fire Departments and the hospital services and staff of Huron County.

Deborah Logue - Executive Director

Report covering from April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020

Objectives

All services will be provided in a client centered and culturally competent manner. Victim Services Huron is committed to empowering all clients. We recognize that the client is the decision-maker and Victim Services Huron will offer support in the process of making informed decisions.

SERVICES OFFERED

Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario

The Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario Program provides support for individuals affected by crime and tragic circumstance and is victim-centered and culturally competent. The menu of services offered by the program includes:

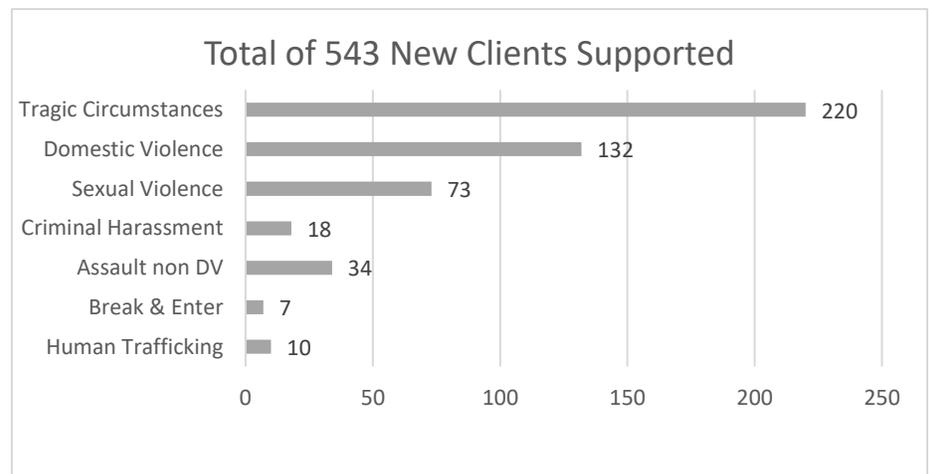
- 24/7 on-scene crisis intervention,
- Addressing immediate safety concerns,
- Community support sessions, needs assessment,
- Development of a personalized referral form or service plan,
- Safety planning,
- Referrals to counselling and community or government support services,
- Enhanced support, and follow up.

The Program objectives are:

- To provide crisis intervention, emotional support, information and referrals to individuals affected by crime and tragic circumstances.
- To reduce the likelihood of further harm by helping a client identify and address safety issues.
- To help clients identify their needs and concerns, and develop strategies to address them.

In addition to on-site crisis Intervention, other services offered through the VCAO program include:

- Safety planning for all eligible victims of crime
- Referrals to appropriate community supports and services
- Provision of cellular telephones for eligible victims
- Needs assessments and customized service plans
- Assisting eligible victims with emergency transportation to a safe location; crime-scene cleanup; funeral expenses; emergency home repairs to items that pose a safety risk; and emergency counselling
- Enhanced support for vulnerable victims
- Referrals to community agencies
- Victim Quick Response Program + (VQRP+).

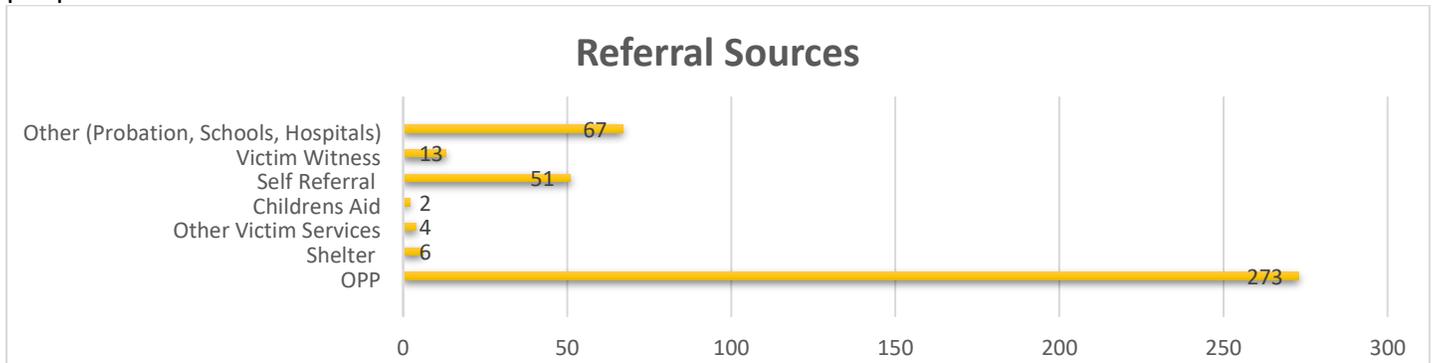


Victim Services Huron believes in and incorporates the values of being; Compassionate; Courteous; Respectful; Self Reliant; Non-Judgemental and Empowering towards all interactions with others.

Referrals

Referrals are accepted from within the County or outside as long as the victim resides in Huron County they can be offered support. If the client changes counties they can be referred to the Victim Services in that area and continue to receive supports.

Our primary referral would be the OPP although in recent years the self referrals have increased significantly. The organization has worked hard to build collaborative relationships with community stakeholders which is illustrated in the increase of “other” referral sources. Public speaking events, media coverage and community presentations have also contributed to the increase in knowledge of the service and provided comfort for people to come forward and seek assistance.



Victim Quick Response Program (VQRP+), included in the VCAO

Criminal Injuries Compensation Board was amalgamated into the existing VQRP system to enhance the services it can offer resulting in the + being added to the name. This program responds to the most urgent needs of victims of violent crime, offering timely access to resources and emergency funds. Victims might be eligible for financial assistance related to emergency expenses - securing premises, transportation, crime scene clean-up, etc.; funeral expenses; counselling services - short-term, early intervention. Victim Services will apply on behalf of a victim of crime to explore what supports they may be eligible for.

Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking is the fastest growing crime on the planet, with 96% of the victims being females. 65% of all Human Trafficking cases in our country are in Ontario.

There is a stereotype that allows people to believe the issue of Human Trafficking does not exist in Huron County. Our information indicates it does exist, it just looks a little different than it does in our neighbouring urban centres.

Many victims identify their pimp as their ‘boyfriend’ and think that they are in love. They may not recognize what is happening to them. Being shown attention and interest can be confusing to a young girl that is looking for acceptance.

National Organization of Victim Advocates

Victim Services Huron was once again chosen to present at the NOVA International Conference on Rural Human Trafficking, highlighting the differences between Rural and Urban centres. This year’s event was held in Phoenix, Arizona and had 250+ people in attendance to the talk.

Vision

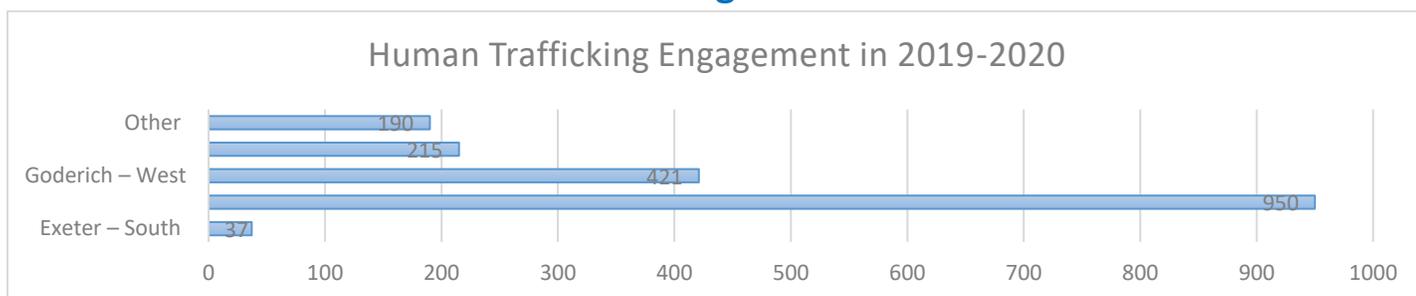
Education and awareness are essential to both prevention of the crime as well as reduction in trauma when supports are in place quickly

Emotional manipulation is used to recruit and condition a victim and possibly a circle of friends. Social Media is one of the main tools used for recruitment in rural areas.

Victim Services has continued to provide community awareness presentations in the high schools as well as community events. These presentations have further educated our population on the risks and warning signs to be aware of in relation to Human Trafficking specifically in rural areas. We have been able to reach a total of 1346 youth since April 1st, 2019 until March 31st, 2020 as well as 467 educators/staff/parents and guardians in the area.

When you consider winter travel challenges and COVID-19 impacts resulting in the cancellation of presentation, these numbers would have been higher.

Human Trafficking Public Awareness



Presentations were made to other community service providers, agencies, youth, teachers, parents, church groups and community members. These presentation topics included who Victim Services is, Human Trafficking, Sextortion and Consent and Boundaries. We have recently incorporated Healthy Relationships, Cyber Safety and Male Privilege to the list of options schools can choose from as presentation opportunities.

Victim Services Huron was requested by West Region Ontario Works to present on Rural Human Trafficking in London at their annual conference in which there were 200+ people in attendance. Feedback indicated that 100% of attendees saw value and appreciated the presentation!



Quinn & Clarke, these two young inspiring women set out on an adventure to hike the Bruce Trail from Niagara Falls to Tobermory, a total of 900km as a fundraising opportunity to bring awareness to the issue of Human Trafficking. The trip took 33 days to complete. The donation was just over \$2000 to Victim Services Huron to continue increasing knowledge on challenges associated with Human Trafficking especially in rural areas. We Thank You for your incredible effort!

Front Line Volunteer Crisis Responders

Kathy Adams	Shelley Bender	Alicia Bennewies	Pam Bieman	Brenda Burkholder
Nicole Chapman	Margaret Cook	Wayne Cronin	Barb Fleet	Angela Gould
Miranda Greidanus	Patty Groot	Stacey Hallahan	Alex Harmen	Chad Higenell
Janette Holmes	Micheala Holmes	Laura Howes	Holly Howson	Karla Kingman
Jacqui Laporte	Bobbi Jo Liu	Maria McIntyre	Bret Pincombe	Kathy Procter
Joni Reinhart	JoAnn Robinson	Cathy Skinner	Marion Taylor	Wagner Valdez
Wayne Walker	Rosiland Ward	Tim Wylie		

Leave of Absence

Skyler Holmes	Kendra McDougall	Emily Urquhart	Caitlin Winger
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New Additions to the Team

Due to COVID 19 the spring recruitment class was postponed.

Departing Front Line Crisis Responders

Serena Atfield	Stuart Blyde	Nicole Boyle	Josie Bradley	Alana Case
Jackie Dickson	Stephanie Forman	Farran Goos	James Hess	Brianne Higenell
Ida Kaufman	Anjela McCool	Mackenzie Melady	Sherry Pulles	Miriam Terpstra
Shalenea Turnbull	Alyssa Sherry	Jennette Walker	Cindy Wade	Jordan Wilson
Mandy Workman				

Current Office Staff

Executive Director – Deborah Logue
Coordinator of Services – Jenn Evans
Community Engagement and Human Trafficking Case Manager – Davis Smith

Departing Office Staff

Lauren Michaelis Barb Mitchell Katie Sparling

Years of Service Awards

Rosalind Ward – 5 years
Jacqui Empson-Laporte – 10 years

New Board Members Joining

Tabatha Fisher
Mary-Ellen Ducharme

Report covering from April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020

Donations Were Greatly Appreciated

Victim Services is grateful for the support of individuals, groups, and foundations in our community. During 2019/2020 the following made donations to our program:

Individual Donors

Alasdair & Anne Campbell	Alicia Bennewies	Amanda Clarke	Anna Szyszko
Audrey & Peter Dejong	Barb Fritz	Betty Guthrie	Brian McKenzie
Bryan & Sandra Williams	Cathy Dashford	Cheryl Johnson	Dianne McGregor
Dorothy Sample	Dwight Hallahan	Emily Lewis	Emily Lindsay
Frank Dorman	G Fred Kinsmill Chapter of Demolay		G Mayers
Gail Trucott	Gary Martin	Gayle and Norman Frisa	Gayle Frisa
George & Pigache	Gordon & Josy Britton	Helena Finch	J Holwerda
Jackie Empson-Laporte	James Hewett	Jasper Baer	Jennifer Richards
John Van Eeken	Karen Ryan	Kate Steeper	Kathy McLeod
Kevin Williams	Kim & Robert Petteplace	Linda Wilkey	M.L. Statchuk
Madelaine Deitner	Mary Livingston	Miriam Terpstra	Myrle VanderZaden
Nancy Weicker	Natalie Issacs	Othmar & Brenda Roth	Pam Murray
Pam Warzecha	Patrick Capper	Richard Paterson	Sally Bell
Shelagh Morrison	Shirley & Donald Watson	Stella Szyszko	Tim Poole
Trixie Usselman	Wagner Valdez	Yvonne Bialeil	

Business Donors

Blessings Community Store	Corrie's Foodland	Dale Group Realty Corp	Form & Build Management
Gateway Casino	Greyhaven Gardens	Jokey Plastics	Trivitt Memorial
West Harbour Insurance & Investments Ltd.			

Organization Donors

Arthur Circle Women Knox Church	Blyth Junior Broomball	Clay Bird Gun Club
Goderich Legion	Goderich YMCA	Hogevorst Foundation
Huron District Labour Council	Huron Perth Centre	My Tribute Gift
Zurich Mennonite Church	Ontario Municipal Social Services Assoc	OPP Ice Hoggs
PayPal Giving Fund	Rural Response for Healthy Children	
Spiritual Care Department-St Joseph's Health Centre	St Ambrose CCW	St Peters CWL
Stratford Horticultural Society	Trinity Choir	

Report covering from April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020

Dancing With the Stars Specific Donors

Bartliffs Bakery

Bonnie Walter

Cowbell Brewing Co.

Drayton Theatre

Hayter Turkey

Kazwear

MacEwan & Feagan Insurance Brokers

McGee Motors

O'Reilly Family

Ship2Shore

Wholesale Jewellers

Bayfield Relics

Brads Automotive

Danni Jones

Elizabeth Art Gallery

Ideal Supply Goderich

Knights of Columbus

Mike Scott

OLG

St Mary's Buick/GMC

Blyth East Side Dance

Budweiser Gardens

Dianne McGregor

FauxPop Media Inc.

Jacqui Empson-Laporte

Libro

Margaret Fleming

MLSE

Prieform Concrete

The Livery

Blyth Festival

Clinton Raceway

Donna Hamilton

Haskett Funeral Home

John Wilkin

Linda & Randy Rapley

McLean Brothers Concrete

Murray's RONA

Robert Morris Law

Wayne & Melitta Cronin

Dancing With the Stars 2019 Participants



Courtney Hymers, Les Cook, Bonnie Walter, Andrew House, Chelsey Merkt, Herb Runstedler, Reanna Ramaker, Cole McLean, Linda Birch, Brian Fisher