



AGM REPORT 2016-17



Strengthening Our Community

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Victim Services of Huron County

Victim Services of Huron County is an organization providing practical assistance and emotional support to victims of crime or tragic circumstance. Staff and Volunteers respond to various types of incidents including: homicide, domestic violence, sudden death, sexual assault, theft, vandalism, missing person, car accidents, or any other occurrence where victims need emotional support, practical assistance, information or referrals in the aftermath of a crisis.

This not-for-profit organization was established in 2004 to assist police, fire and emergency personnel in meeting the needs of victims of crime and tragic circumstance.

Victim Services of Huron County is funded primarily by the Ministry of the Attorney General and donations, and services residents of Huron County. All referrals remain confidential.

Working in partnership with local police services, Victim Services of Huron County is managed by a Board comprised of Community Members and Service Providers.

Mission:

Victim Services of Huron County is dedicated to providing short term emotional support, practical assistance and community referrals to victims of crime, trauma and tragic circumstance in partnership with community and emergency services.

Vision:

Early intervention and support may assist individuals to cope with the aftermath of crime or tragic circumstance in the longer-term by relieving distress, supporting personal autonomy, and restoring self-reliance.

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.

Values:

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.

Board Report

For Victim Services of Huron County (VSHC), 2016-17 was year of establishing stabilization. VSHC entered a third successful year of delivering the Victims Crisis Assistance Ontario Program. There were many changes in the organization including that of personnel and Board of Directors. Although it was a year of change VSHC continued to focus on re-establishing relationships with stakeholders 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 2016-17.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting for the 2016/17 fiscal year. We are pleased to take this opportunity to celebrate the success of solidifying 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 Field; and Directors Carole Weber; Dianne McGregor; Matt Hoy; Susan Regier; and Timothy Poole. Special Board volunteer is Brenda Burkholder who has been a Crisis Responder for the past 13 years.

Departures from the 2016/17 Board included: Colin Stanway; Bruce Shaw; and Karen Moffatt. We thank them for their contributions.

The dedicated staff team consists of Deborah Logue, Executive Director. Barb Mitchell, Coordinator of Services and Kathy Knechtel, Lead Crisis Responder and Human Trafficking Case Manager. We also have contracted services for a Bookkeeper, Carole Weber. We are delighted to be able to share that we have increased our number of volunteer Crisis Responders over the year and are now up to 50 active volunteers.

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 cohesive for the future!

We continue to focus on the relationship between VSHC and stakeholders. The community is a stakeholder who could also be a consumer of the service at any time of tragedy. Police are important referring agents between the victim and the volunteers. Fire Services and other agencies are also stakeholders. We aim to provide excellent supports to all of our stakeholders.

Victim Services of Huron County Board of Directors is a volunteer board. 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
Victim Services of Huron County

TREASURER'S REPORT

The past year has been a learning curve for me as the new Treasurer. With the help of Carole, Deb and the rest of the board we have met and overcome many financial challenges this year.

The Board has developed and updated financial policies and have implemented practices to ensure Ministry compliance and best practices for the upcoming year.

I am looking forward to the upcoming year. I know it will be a busy year and I am confident it will be even better than this one!

Mike Scott
Treasurer, Board of Directors
Victim Services of Huron County

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Now that I have been with the agency for a year I have grown to have even more appreciation for the individual and community support being offered to others. It is challenging work 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 support a reality.

We help family and people who are hurting as a result 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.

Thank you to the staff and a special thanks to ALL the volunteers...you are truly appreciated. The general support provided by Victim Services of Huron County requires the energy and skills of up to 65 volunteers in which we have been functioning with much less than this up until recent months. I am so happy to share that we have been able to get our list of Crisis Responders up to 51 committed individuals and we continue to grow.

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 of the programs. We strive to better communicate the uniqueness of our program to the community. 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 Ellery Leitch, Ontario Victim Services Secretariat West Region, Huron County Ontario Provincial Police, Huron Fire Departments and the hospital services and staff of Huron County.

Deborah Logue
Executive Director

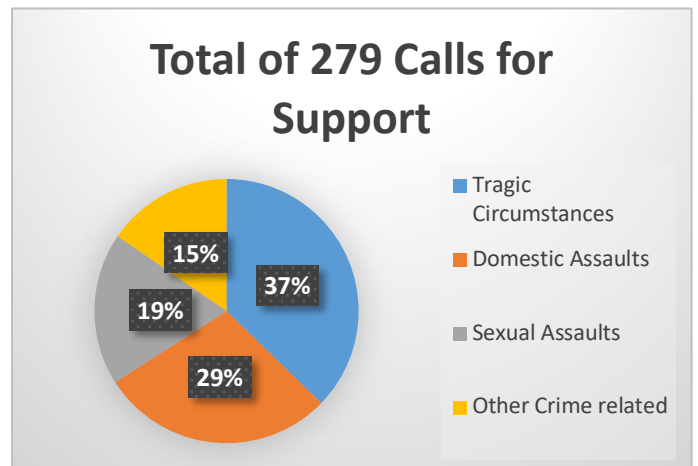
Report covering from April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017

SERVICES OFFERED

Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario (VCAO)

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 and government support services,
- Enhanced support, and follow-up.

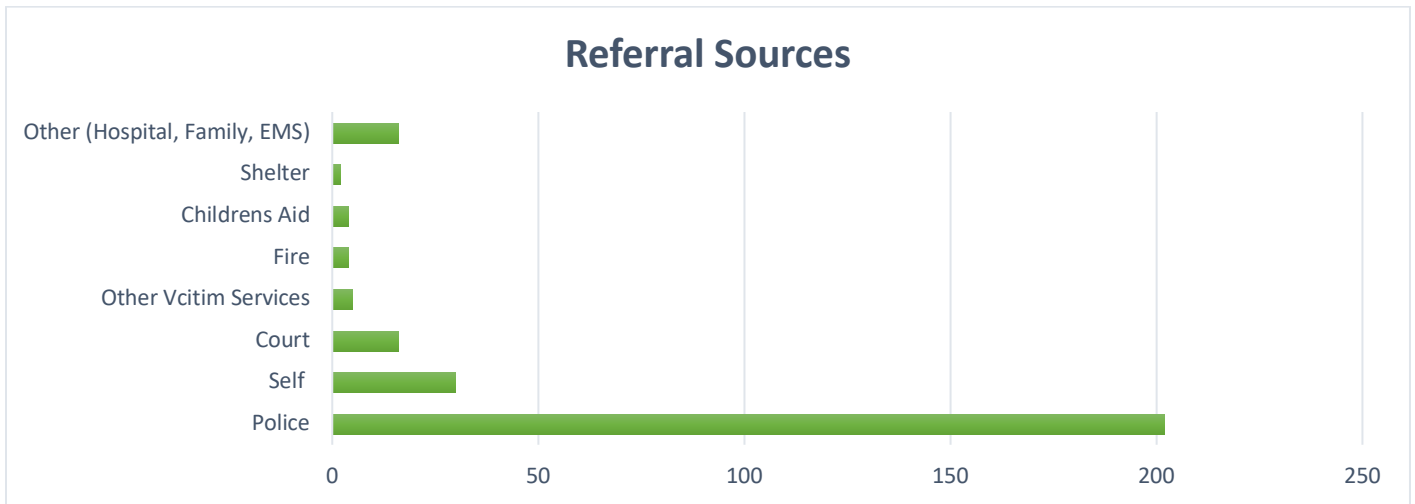


The Program objectives are:

- 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).

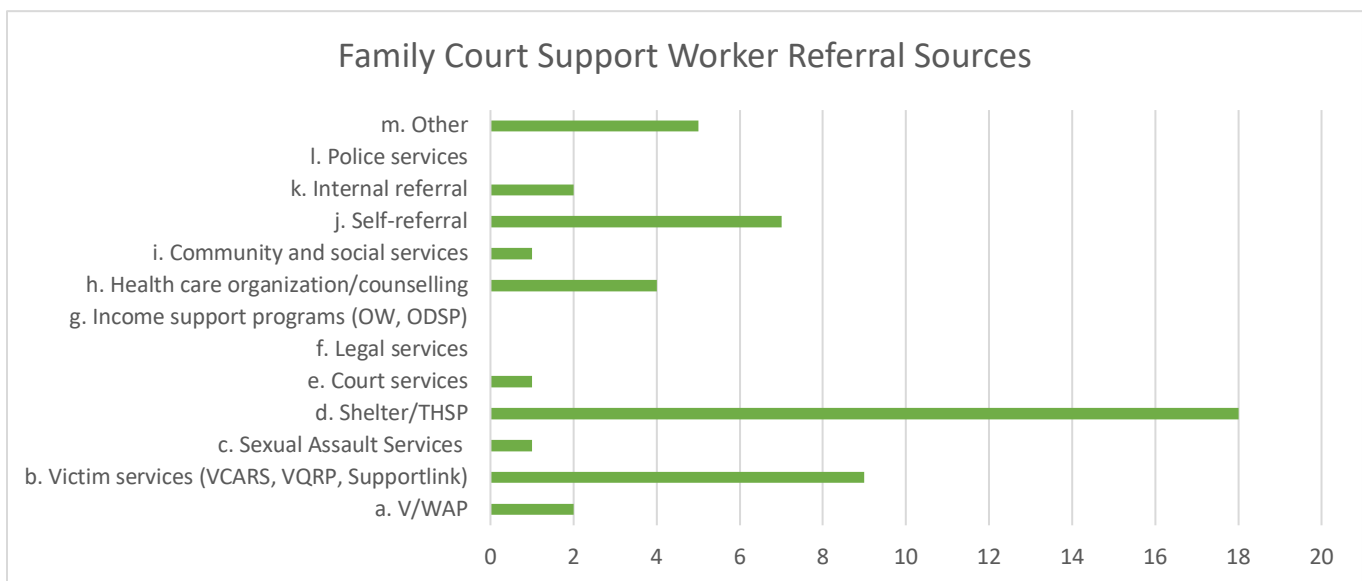


Victim Quick Response Program (VQRP), included in the VCAO

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. Eligible victims may be referred to the Victim Quick Response Program by Police after a crime has been reported.

Family Court Support Worker (FCSW)

Objectives The Family Court Support Worker program has four overall objectives: To provide supports primarily for female victims of domestic violence who are involved in the family court process; To enhance victim safety by reducing the risk of future violence; To increase the victim's access to services and supports; and to build the core competencies of service providers to support victims who are abused and involved in the family court system. In moving forward this service will now be delivered by the Women's Shelter, Second Stage Housing and Counselling Services of Huron.



FRONT LINE VOLUNTEER CRISIS RESPONDERS

Kathy Adams	Diane Anderson	Shelley Bender	Pam Bieman
Brenda Burkholder	Margaret Cook	Wayne Cronin	Chandal Cunningham
John Empson	Barb Fleet	Angela Gould	Brittany Hymers
Courtney Hymers	Jarret Jeffery	Karla Kingman	Mark Kirkconnell
Jacqui Laporte	Kayla McWhinney	Jackie Dickson	Joni Reinhart
Joanne Robinson	Cathy Skinner	Marion Taylor	Miriam Terpstra
Emily Urquhart	Emily Uyl	Jennette Walker	Cindy Wade
Rosiland Ward			

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Janine Baer	Chantel Day	Tanis Glanville	Rachel Shepherd	Ruth Uyl
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NEW ADDITIONS TO THE TEAM

Lindsay Bender	Josie Bradley	Sadie Chalmers	Michael Colbourne
David Devries	Breanna Fleming	Stephanie Forman	Miranda Greidanus
Laura Howes	Ida Kaufman	Barry Kearns	Brandy Leslie
Jordan MacLean	Greg McGrath	Sherry McLaughlin	Alicia Middegaal
Chad Monteith	Kalen Martene	Jamie Poortinga	Linda Renkema
Mandy Workman	Tim Wylie		

DEPARTING FRONTLINE CRISIS RESPONDERS

Jasmine Clark	Jenna-Lee Clifford	Kyle Dane	Jenelle Gaynor
Bev Hovius	Sarah Johnston	Nicole Kennedy	Karen Lajeunesse
Shannon Lauzon	Sandra Lee	Clarissa Mackie	Susan Martin
McKala Middegaal	Melanie Noviss	Ryan Nurse	Ruth Percy
Emma Perin	Ashley Phillips	Jenna Regier	Cindy Smale
Sarah Wilson	BJ Wraith		

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Matt Hoy
Susan Regier

OFFICE STAFF

Executive Director – Deborah Logue
Coordinator of Services – Barb Mitchell
Lead Crisis Responder and Human Trafficking Case Manager – Kathy Knechtel

YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

Wayne Cronin – 2012 – 5 year award
Shelly Bender – 2009- 5 year award – took 2 years LOA so actually with us for 6 years
Kathy Adams – 2009 – 5 year award actually with us for 8 years
Kathy Knechtel – 2007 – 10 year award

DONATIONS WERE GREATLY APPRECIATED

Victim Services is grateful for the support of individuals, groups and foundations in our community. Without the financial support of these generous individuals, our work would not be possible. We thank each of them.

During 2016/2017 the following organizations and businesses made donations to our program:

INDIVIDUALS

Angela Horbanuik	Anne Mann	Anne Roberts	Barb Martz
Barb Mitchell	Ben Henry	Brandi Rebelo	Carla Musser
Christine & Garry Pfaff	Crystal Devlin	Deborah Logue	Elizabeth McAdams
Jessica Hesketh	Jim Niesen	Kathy Knechtel	Kelli Russell
Kim Higgins	Lisa Frischknecht	Lisa Nicholson	Mitch Vandergunst
Murray Family	Sandra Dale	Susan Regier	Tania Kohl

BUSINESSES

Blooms and Rooms	Dublin Mercantile	Good Choice Appliances	Greyhaven Gardens
Luann's Flowers and Gifts	Pete's Paper Clips	Sills Home Hardware	The Off Duty OPP Shop

Organizations

Auburn Lions	Belgrave Kinsmen	Blyth Lions	Brussels Lions
Brussels Optimists	Grand Bend Rotary	Lucknow Kinsmen	OPP Huron Ice Hogs
Huron East Fire stations (Brussels, Grey, Seaforth)		Huron East Municipality	

DANCING WITH THE STARS SPECIFIC DONATIONS

Loblaw (Zehrs)
Blyth East Side Dance
Grain Stoves Inc.
Heads Up Hair Team
Faye Stanbury
Bayview Golf Club
Ironwood Link Golf
Wingham Golf Club
Maple Lane Haven
Huron County Playhouse II

Devin Sturgeon Art
Robert Morris Law
Queen's Bakery
Cait's Café
Knights of Columbus
Bluewater Golf Course
Maitland Golf & Country Club
Oakwood Resort
Blyth Festival
The Colonial Hotel

Marcc Apparel
Great Land Farms
Libro Credit Union
Goderich Print Shop
Mike Scott
Goderich Sunset Golf
Seaforth Golf Club
Dark Horse Winery
Part II Bistro
Sparlings Propane

Parkland (Sparling's) via Herb Runstedler & Bryan Shelley (Employee Program)

