



AGM REPORT 2017-18



Collaboration and Partnership

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, EMS 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), 2017-18 was year of stabilization. VSHC has now been housed in Huron East for two years and has settled in well. The agency continues to re-establish relationships with 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 2017-18.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting for the 2017/18 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; Susan Regier; and Timothy Poole. Special Board volunteer is Brenda Burkholder who has been a Crisis Responder for the past 14 years. Special mention and thank you to departing Board member Matt Hoy.

The dedicated staff team consists of Deborah Logue, Executive Director. Barb Mitchell, Coordinator of Services and Jenn Evans, Lead Crisis Responder and Human Trafficking Case Manager. Special mention to the departing staff Kathy Knechtel and Kelly Andrews who both held the role of Lead Crisis/Human Trafficking case manager throughout the year. 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 43 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 seen a steady increase in fundraising endeavours, generating new ways to bring awareness and additional funds to the agency. The increase in financial support to the agency in turn allows us to increase funding to support victims moving forward.

We are constantly looking for new ways to enhance our services and fundraising opportunities are a key component to that. I commend the efforts of the staff to be thinking "outside of the box" and being willing to try new methods to bring funding and awareness to Huron County.

I am looking forward to the upcoming year. I know it will continue to be a busy and I am confident we will prosper within that busy time!

Mike Scott

Treasurer, Board of Directors

Victim Services of Huron County

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 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.

I am so happy to share that we have been able to get our list of Crisis Responders up to 43 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 Lori McDonald, 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

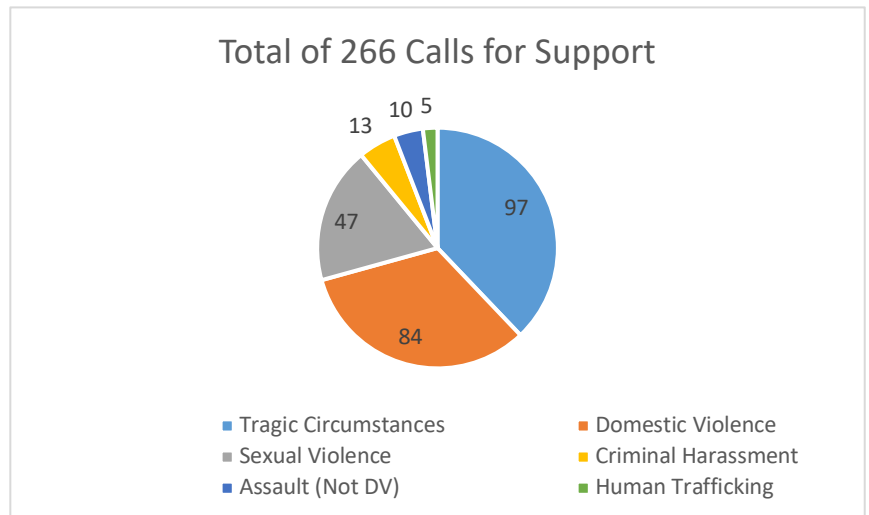
Report covering from April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018

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 or government support services
- Enhanced support, and follow up

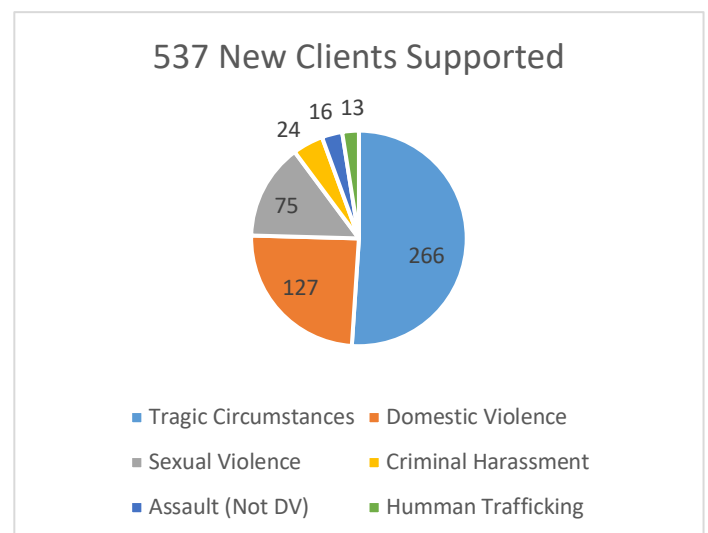


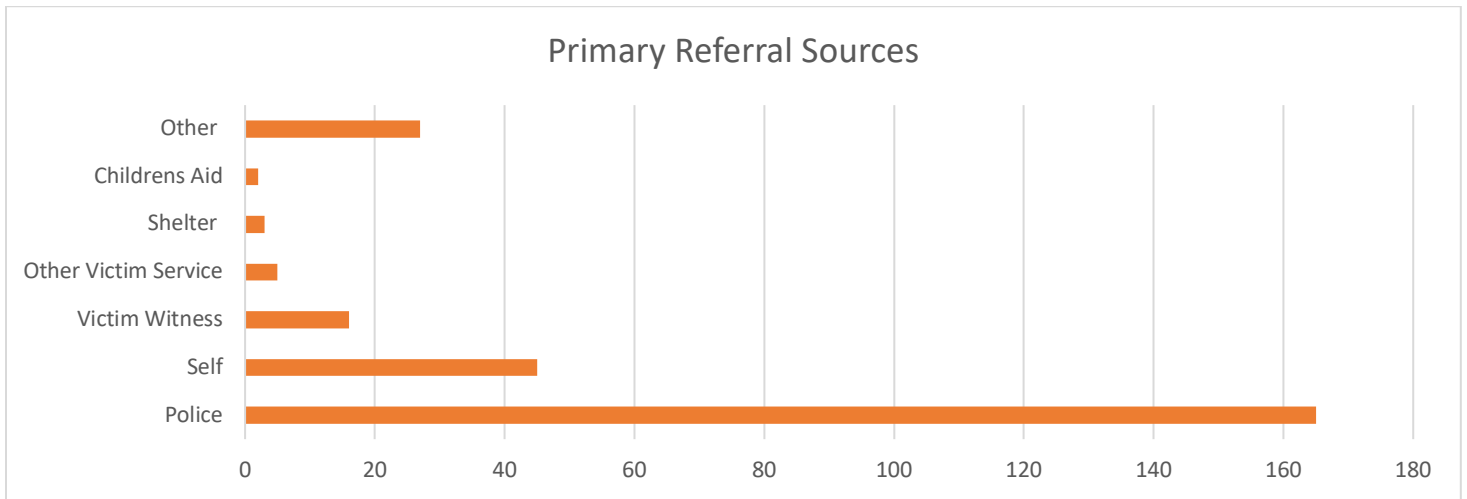
The Program objectives are:

- 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 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.

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

In the beginning girls are usually treated very well, bought gifts, nail or hair treatments, phones, etc.

Emotional manipulation is used to recruit and condition a victim and possibly a circle of friends. They may validate each other's stories to their parents regarding staying at a friend's home for the night when they are actually going to the city for a weekend party

Victim Services is currently attempting to do community awareness presentations in the high schools in order to further educate our youth on the risks and warning signs to be aware of in relation to Human Trafficking

FRONT LINE VOLUNTEER CRISIS RESPONDERS

Kathy Adams	Shelley Bender	Pam Bieman	Nicole Boyle
Brenda Burkholder	Margaret Cook	Wayne Cronin	Michael Colbourne
Chandal Cunningham	Chantel Day	Jackie Dickson	David Devries
Jenn Evans	Barb Fleet	Breanna Fleming	Stephanie Forman
Angela Gould	Miranda Greidanus	Brianne Higenell	Chad Higenell
Laura Howes	Jarrett Jeffery	Karla Kingman	Jacqui Laporte
Brandy Leslie	Jordan MacLean	Kalen Martene	Greg McGrath
Alicia Middegaal	Chad Monteith	Bret Pincombe	Sherry Pulles
Joni Reinhart	JoAnn Robinson	Cathy Skinner	Marion Taylor
Miriam Terpstra	Emily Urquhart	Cindy Wade	Jennette Walker
Rosiland Ward	Mandy Workman	Tim Wylie	

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Lindsay Bender	Josie Bradley	Tanis Glanville	Ida Kaufman
----------------	---------------	-----------------	-------------

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE TEAM

Stuart Blyde	Alicia Bennewies
--------------	------------------

DEPARTING FRONT LINE CRISIS RESPONDERS

Diane Anderson	Janine Baer	John Empson	Sarah Hessel	Brittany Hymers
Courtney Hymers	Barry Kearns	Mark Kirkconnell	Linda Renkema	Rachel Shepherd
Kayla McWhinney	Jamie Poortinga	Emily Uyl	Ruth Uyl	

OFFICE STAFF

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

DEPARTING OFFICE STAFF

Kathy Knechtel & Kelly Andrews

YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

Angela Gould – 2013- 5 Years
Emily Urquhart – 2013 - 5 Years
Marion Taylor – 2008 - 10 years

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

Anne Roberts	Barb Mitchell	Barb Fleet	Crystal Devlin	Danni Jones
Deborah Logue	Dwight Hallahan	Jacqui Empson Laporte	Jarrett Jeffrey	Jeanette Said
Kathy Knechtel	Karen Grein	Lisa Frischknecht	Patty Laporte	Lisa Nicholson
Murray Family	Miriam Terpstra	Shelley Bender	Susan Regier	Tom Trick

BUSINESSES

Blooms and Rooms	Bluewater Office Equipment	Blyth Discount Centre	Bruce Power
Dauphin Feed Mills	Foxton Fuels	Greyhaven Gardens	Huron Tractor
KG Electronics	Monoway Farms	Roman Masowa Tiling	Stainton Hardware
Silver Crik Enterprises			

ORGANIZATIONS

Auburn Lions	Clay Bird Gun Club	International Plowing Match	OPP Huron Ice Hogs
Huron County Pride	H-P Cattel Feeders	Lambton Federation of Agriculture	
Lambton Farm Safety Association		McCurdy Legacy Fund	OPSEU Local 121
Western Ontario Athletic Association			

DANCING WITH THE STARS SPECIFIC DONATIONS

Bayview Golf Club	Bluewater Golf Course	Blyth East Side Dance
Blyth Festival	Bruce Power	Budweiser Gardens
Cait's Café	Cal O'Reilly	CMB Construction
Cowbell	Dale Group	Darlene Hymer (Bartliffs & Reflections)
Debb Finch	Devin Sturgeon Art	Donnelly Murphy Law
Faye Stanbury	Fit Body Boot Camp	Gerry's Woodworking
Goderich Print Shop	Goderich Sunset Golf	Great Land Farms
Greyhaven Gardens	Heads Up Hair Team	Hensall District Coop
Huron County Playhouse II	Integrated Wealth Management	Ironwood Links Golf Course
Knights of Columbus	Libro Credit Union	Loblaw (Zehrs)
Lyle Man	Maitland Golf & Country Club	Maple Lane Haven
Maple Leafs	Marcc Apparel	Mike Scott
Orr Insurance	Owen Sound Attack	Parkland (Sparlings) via Herb Runstedler
Part II Bistro	Pete Albers	Queen's Bakery
Robert Morris Law	Ryan O'Reilly	Scott Cowan - Barrister
Seaforth Golf Club	Ship 2 Shore	Sparlings Propane
Teeswater Creamery	Toronto Rock Lacrosse	Wayne Cronin
	Wingham Golf Club	

