



Annual General Meeting REPORT 2020-2021



**We Are All in This Together –
Stakeholder 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), 2020-21 was a challenging year for many. Navigating the impacts of COVID-19 on the entire population while still providing solid supports was difficult. The agency focussed on strengthening relationships with community stakeholders as well as branching out to become involved with new organizations to best serve our clients especially during the COVID pandemic. We continue to look forward to continued change, growth and celebrate our successes.

VSHC office rejoined the Huron OPP in the new Detachment in Clinton in June 2020. We kept the office space in Huron East as well to provide a second meeting and training location as well as storage space.

Thank you to all our volunteers, contributors, partners, and personnel in 2020-21.

Message from the Chair

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting for the 2020/2021 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 10 years.

The dedicated staff team consists of Deborah Logue, Executive Director, Jenn Evans, Coordinator of Services and Davis Smith, Community Engagement Lead. We also have contracted services for a Bookkeeper, Carole Weber.

The Board is pleased to recognize that 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 have also contributed to increase in knowledge of what Victim Services Huron 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

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic VSHC was required to cancel all the standard fundraising initiatives we had planned for the year. We branched out to a new endeavour of host an online 50/50 draw which continued to bring awareness of our services while generating fundraised money. Despite the lack of organized events our community provided very generous donations to the organizations which has increased our reserves, allowing the agency to enhance the supports we can offer to the clients within Huron County. We are pleased that considering the COVID-19 Pandemic impacting fundraising opportunities 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

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. On top of that we navigated a global pandemic without disruption to our services!

The work we do here is challenging for volunteers and staff, this past year has presented additional challenges in which our team rose to take on and overcome with the required wide range of skills and abilities. Victim Services of Huron County have fantastic people; the volunteer Board, volunteer Crisis Responders and the staff make this work appear easy 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 all truly appreciated.

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.

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 with special thanks to Jason Younan, Emergency Service Departments, Hospital services and our Community Stakeholders.

Deborah Logue - Executive Director

Report covering from April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021

Objectives

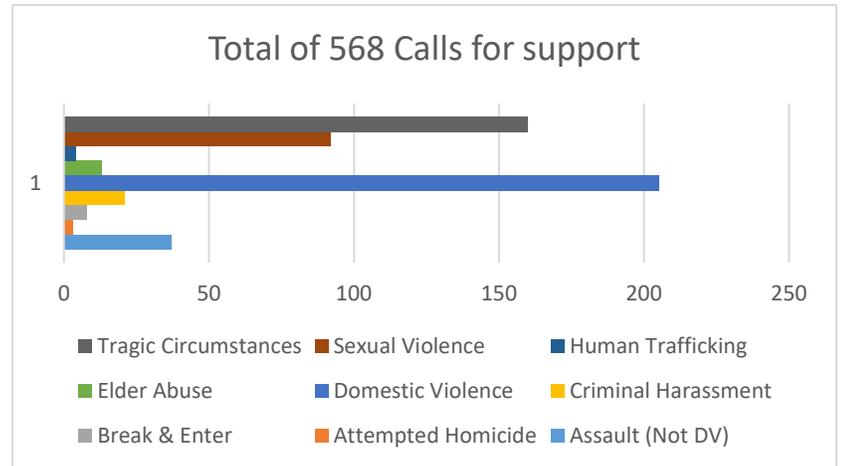
All services will be provided in a client centered and culturally competent manner. Victim Services Huron is committed to empowering all clients. We recognize that the client is the decision-maker we will offer support in the process of making informed decisions.

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.

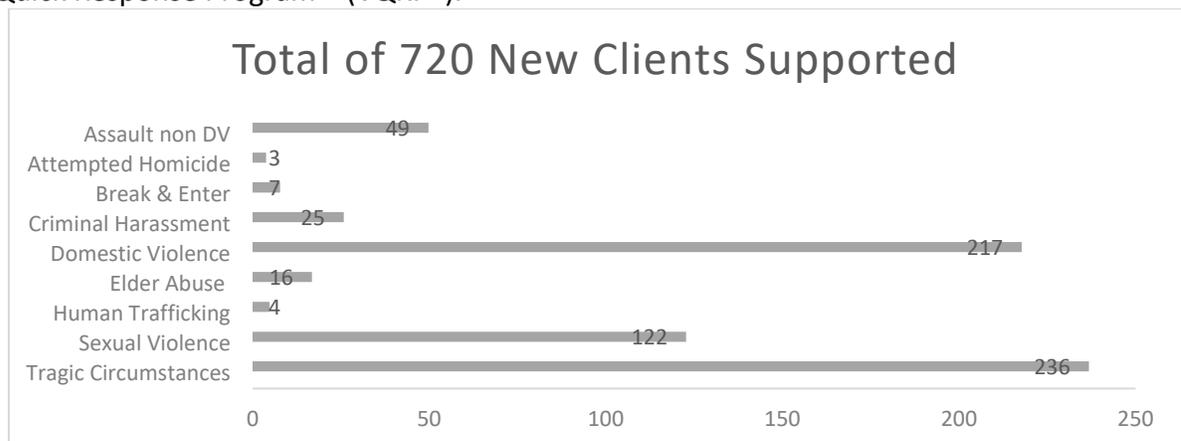


The Program objectives are:

- 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 cell phones 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+).

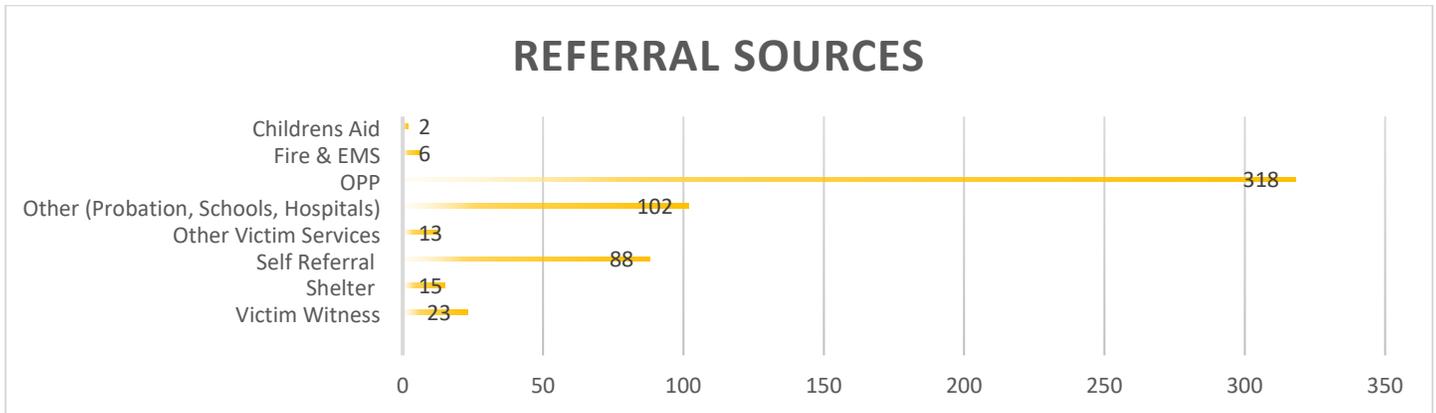


Victim Services Huron believes in and incorporates the values of being; Compassionate; Courteous; Respectful; Self Reliant; Non-Judgemental and Empowering towards all interactions with others.

Referrals

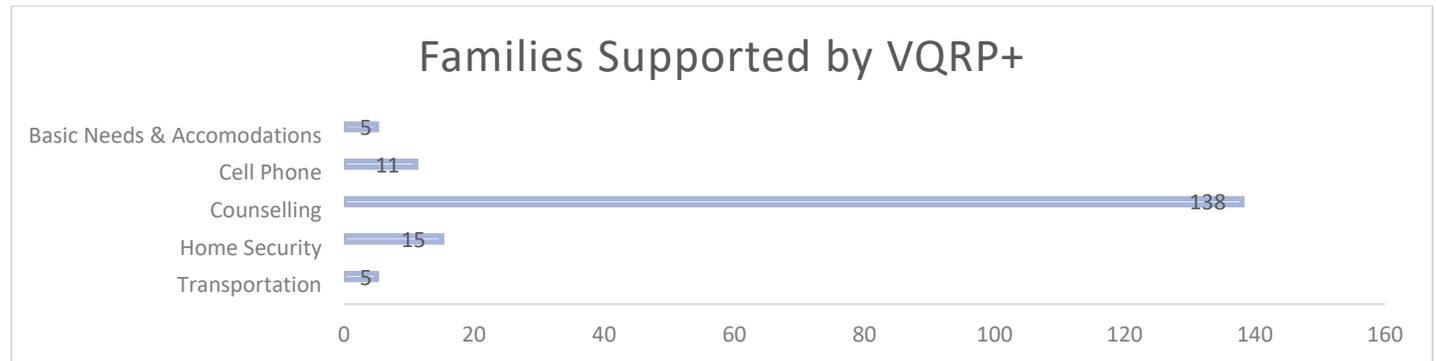
Referrals are accepted from within the County or outside as long as the victim resides in Huron County they can be offered support. If the client changes Counties they can be referred to the Victim Services in that area and continue to receive supports.

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

In 2019 the 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.

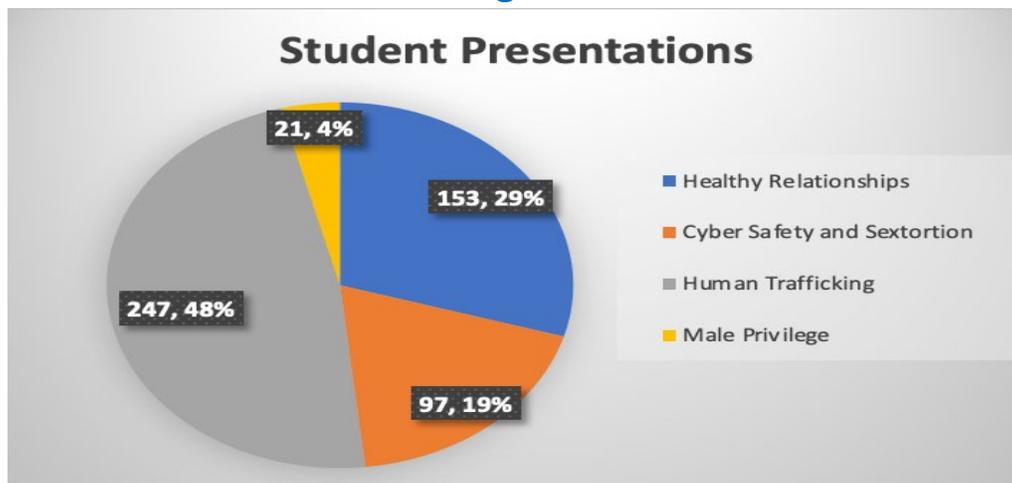
Emotional manipulation is used to recruit and condition a victim and possibly a circle of friends. Social Media is one of the main tools used for recruitment in rural areas.

Victim Services has continued to provide community awareness presentations virtually 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 518 youth since April 1st, 2020, until March 31st, 2021, as well as 83 educators/staff/parents and guardians in the area.

Vision

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

Human Trafficking Public Awareness

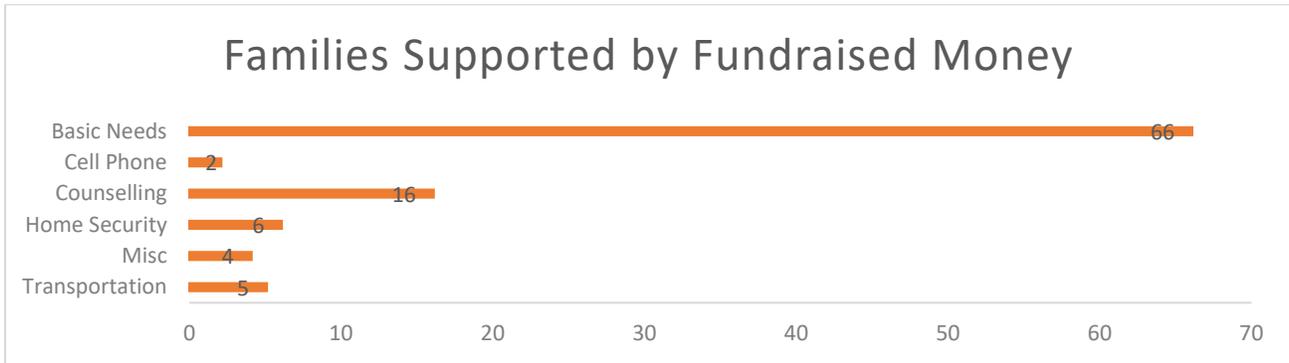


Quotes From attendees

"Thanks for sharing information on such an important topic. I was not aware that it was an issue that is a problem in Huron." - DCVI Sara Guerin class.

"The presentation was done really well, it was interesting, and the presenter did a good job of making the slideshow interactive" – remote-Tyler Pauli Class

Fundraising Summary



There was no Dancing with the Stars event in 2020!

50/50 Draw's

Draw #1 from September 24th – October 25th, 2020 had 198 participants. Winner's portion was \$2622.00.
Draw #2 from December 2nd – December 30th, 2020 had 463 participants. Winner's portion was \$5748.00.
Draw #3 from March 1st - March 29th, 2021 had 182 participants. Winner's portion was \$2288.00.

Donations Were Greatly Appreciated

Victim Services is grateful for the support of individuals, groups, and foundations in our community.
During 2020/2021 the following made direct donations to our program:

Individual Donors

Pete & Leisa Albers	Jack Bender	Shelley Bender	Diane Brandon
Madelaine Deitner	Carole Denomy	Jordan Evans	Laura Farrell
Patty Groot	Dwight Hallahan	Janice Hallahan	George & Sylke Hickey
Roman & Michele Masowa	Michelle McNichol	Rebekah Msuya-Collison	Kimberly Murray
Laura Noble	Lisa Reynolds	JoAnn Robinson	Karen Ryan
Barb Terpstra	Chelsey Yundt		

Business Donors

Blessings Community Store	Clinton Libro	Corries Foodland	D'Arcy Sand & Gravel Ltd
Hay Mutual	Howick Mutual	IODE Maple Leaf Chapter	McKillop Mutual Insurance
Orr Insurance	Seaforth RONA	Usborne & Hibbert Mutual Fire Insurance	

Organization Donors

Goderich Rotaract	Hogevorst Family Foundation	Howick Optimists	Huron District Labour CNCL
PayPal Giving Fund	Seaforth Lions		

Specific Items Donated

Anonymous (Quilts) Blyth United Church (Kleenex, Colouring books) Tabatha Fisher (Teddy Bears)
Report covering from April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021

Front Line Volunteer Crisis Responders

Active Responders

Shelley Bender	Alicia Bennewies	Pam Bieman	Julia Pearson-Boyd
Brenda Burkholder	Wayne Cronin	Yasmin Eddijli	Miranda Greidanus
Patty Groot	Alex Harmen	Chad Higenell	Janette Holmes
Holly Howson	Jess Keller	Brandon Koetsier	Jacqui Laporte
Dalton MacAdam	Nicole Miller	Andrew Rau	Joni Reinhart
JoAnn Robinson	Martina Tait	Wagner Valdez	Tim Wylie

Leave of Absence

Kathy Adams	Nicole Chapman	Margaret Cook	Angela Gould
Stacey Hallahan	Bobbi Jo Liu	Bret Pincombe	Cathy Skinner
Marion Taylor	Rosiland Ward	Wayne Walker	

Departing Front Line Crisis Responders

Josi Bradley	Barb Fleet	Micheala Holmes	Skyler Holmes
Laura Howes	Karla Kingman	Maria McIntyre	Kendra McDougall
Kathy Procter	Caitlin Winger		

Office Staff This Year

Executive Director – Deborah Logue
Coordinator of Services – Jenn Evans
Community Engagement Lead – Davis Smith

COVID-19 Support Staff

Shelley Bender
Brenda Burkholder
Wayne Cronin
Jacqui Empson-Laporte

Board of Directors

Jim Dietrich (Chair)
Robert Morris (Vice Chair)
Jo-Anne Fields (Secretary)
Mike Scott (Treasurer)
Tim Poole (Director)
Susan Regier (Director)
Joe Steffler (Director)
Tabatha Fisher (Director)
Mary-Ellen Ducharme (Director)

Years of Service Awards

Deborah Logue (2016) – 5 years
Jo-Ann Robinson (2016) – 5 years

Margaret Cook (2011) – 10 Years
Joni Reinhart (2011) – 10 Years

Volunteer Quote

It is not what I say that matters so much as how the person I support feels. When I see that glimmer of light in their eyes knowing I have really heard them and validated their feelings that is what I am most proud of. Because people remember not what you said but how you made them feel and that makes a difference.

Anonymous