

Child Witness Centre

Serving Waterloo Region, Wellington County and Brant County

2010-2011 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

President's Message

At the end of my three-year term as President of the Child Witness Centre Board, let me say it's been an honour. Working with fellow board members to support capable and caring staff as they provide services vitally important for child victims and witnesses, has been a wonderful experience.

As I end my term, let me also pay special tribute to the Kitchener-Conestoga Rotary Club. Choosing the Child Witness Centre as the recipient of the 2011 Dream Home Lottery proceeds—which could exceed \$250,000—is a landmark for the agency. After renting for more than 20 years on Lancaster Street, the agency has purchased a home near the new consolidated courthouse under construction in Kitchener. Sincere thanks to each and every member of Rotary, and to those in the community who will purchase tickets for the Rotary Dream Home.

In last year's annual report, I spoke of four key areas of focus. I am proud to report back on those.

1. Continuing Support for Child Victims and Witnesses

The past year saw a small reduction in the number of child victims and witnesses referred to the Child Witness Centre. Still, new referrals combined with cases still in progress from last year totalled 601—a large and troubling number. Our program is founded on the belief that children and youth have the right to grow up in a safe, caring and supportive environment.

2. Keeping the Agency Strong

With the generous support of people and organi-



Rod Miller

zations across our community, and with support from municipal, regional and provincial governments, the agency is able to sustain its services and maintain a sufficient reserve to survive if our fundraising initiatives were to ever fall short of target. We can never sufficiently thank all those who help us.

The agency also remains strong in terms of its staff, board of directors, governance and agency management practices, and its financial and risk management policies. We strive to be best practice and to improve our services by acting on feedback from clients, police officers, and crown attorneys.

With other child witness programs in the province, we began important work this year to more effectively measure our impact. This work will draw on specialized program measurement expertise from Conestoga College and the University of Waterloo.

3. Relocating the Agency Near the New Courthouse

We're very excited about our new home at 111 Duke Street, made possible with the support of Kitchener-Conestoga Rotary. Since the new courthouse won't be completed for another year, and because that funding doesn't reach us until the dream home lottery ends in December, we will stay on Lancaster Street, and rent out space at our Duke Street home, delaying renovations



Our new home at 111 Duke Street

and refurbishing until the end of the year—a wonderful solution on many fronts.

4. Reaching a Decision on Services in Brant County

Staff and the board have been carefully considering whether to offer services in Brant County on a more permanent basis. Although the Ministry of the Attorney General is not yet providing funding for specialized services for child victims in that region, the need is great. To address that need, we began providing services there on a pilot basis in 2008. Two years later we are seeing tangible benefits as a result of that decision. Our caseworkers have worked with some horrifically victimized children, and the caseload is growing.

What's Ahead for 2011-2012

The year ahead promises to be gratifying and exciting.

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601 children and families were assisted in 2010.

Established in 1981, the Child Witness Centre is a local registered charity providing support and court preparation for child victims and witnesses.

... More from the President

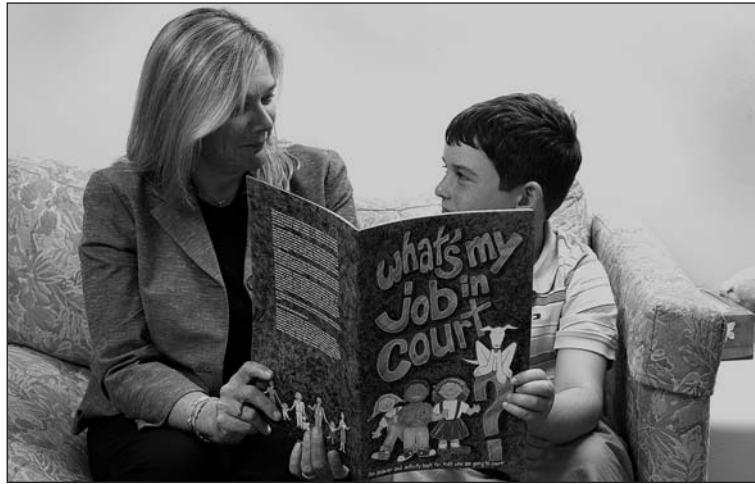
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Our wish is to see the number of child victims and witnesses in our community go down. In fact, it would be best if there wasn't a need for our agency. But for those children who are victimized, we will be there. Ensuring the capacity to do that is an ongoing challenge, with no fees charged and only partial funding from the Victim's Justice Fund administered by the Ministry of the Attorney General.

Moving to our new home and managing through the renovations and transition process will also require ongoing attention.

A board and staff strategic planning session scheduled for this fall will allow for important discussions. We will consider our mission, look at where we want to be in three to five years, and identify the strategies we need to get us there.

Our client database is an essential tool for delivering our services,



measuring outcomes, and reporting results to our stakeholders. Our existing system, developed in-house in the early 90s, is fragile and limited. Thanks to the volunteer services of Peter Hughes, a former IBMer, we expect to have new, customized software in place in 2011. This is a significant project for us.

Lastly, plans are already underway for the 9th annual Child Witness Centre

Youth Symposium. We're told by teachers that this event is invaluable for the 3,000+ Grade 8 students attending, and our presenters say that it is a unique event in Canada. We're proud to partner in this initiative with Sertoma/La Sertoma service clubs in Waterloo Region, and with The Cooperators and Scotiabank in Guelph, who share our vision of supporting youth in our community.



In closing, special thanks to retiring directors Robin Decker, Alex Hardy and Craig Sullivan, each of whom has reached their term limit after many years of significant contribution. We have added four new and very well qualified directors in recent months-- Lara Banks, Angela Moisse, Doug MacMillan and Jennifer Robinson. I also want to thank Rob Dippell who now takes over as President of the

Board. Rob joined the Board in 1998, served as Treasurer for two terms and as President from 2000 - 2003. Having reached his term limit in 2006, he left the Board for a year and rejoined in 2007. Rob's leadership skills and depth of experience with the agency are a great asset.

2011-2012 Board of Directors



Rob Dippell
PRESIDENT
President & General Manager,
William Knell & Co. Ltd.



Rod Miller
PAST PRESIDENT
Senior Manager, Family &
Children's Services



Ranjini Jha
TREASURER
Associate Professor, School of
Accounting & Finance, University of
Waterloo



Maedith Radlein
SECRETARY
Principal, N.A. MacEachern
Elementary School



Lara Banks
Vice President of Marketing &
Communications, St. Michael's
Foundation



Doug MacMillan
President, MacMillan Marketing
Group



Patti McKague
Manager of Internal
Communications, RIM



Nichola Melchers
Lawyer, SmithValeriotte Law Firm
LLP



Angela Moisse
Recognition Programs Project Lead,
RIM



Jennifer Robinson
Professor, Conestoga College



Corrie Thompson
Patrol Sergeant, Waterloo Regional
Police Services



Cate Welsh
Recruiting Sergeant, Guelph Police
Services



Terry Wichman
Retired, former Partner with
PricewaterhouseCoopers

Financial Highlights

BALANCE SHEET

Assets	March 31, 2010	March 31, 2011
Bank and Cash	\$123,071	\$93,045
Short Term Investments	\$336,734	\$36,421
Managed Fund Investment	\$56,000	\$0
Interest Receivable	\$2,297	\$334
Recovery and Prepaid Expenses	\$2,592	\$42,989
Capital Assets	\$9,704	\$393,304
Total Assets	\$530,398	\$566,093
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable & Accruals	\$10,201	\$14,622
Payroll Remittance Payable	\$4,336	\$5,210
Deferred Contributions*	\$26,331	\$39,392
Total Liabilities	\$40,868	\$59,224
Net Assets		
Facility Fund	\$310,231	\$0
General Reserve	\$169,595	\$113,565
Investment in Capital Assets	\$9,704	\$393,304
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$530,398	\$566,093

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Revenue	Year ended Mar 31, 2010	Year ended Mar 31, 2011
Community Donations	\$60,239	\$70,686
Agency Run Events	\$26,302	\$44,954
Government Grants	\$173,800	\$175,000
Grants & Foundations	\$0	\$2,833
United Way	\$72,641	\$72,000
Break Open Tickets	\$19,349	\$10,089
Other Income	\$15,607	\$11,540
Total Revenue	\$367,938	\$387,102
Expenses		
Facility Expenses	\$38,297	\$42,317
Administration	\$12,287	\$15,747
Resource Development	\$7,701	\$4,801
Staffing Expenses	\$237,430	\$279,723
Events	\$17,942	\$27,175
Total Expenses	\$313,657	\$369,763
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	\$54,281	\$17,339

*Deferred contributions are donations being held to fund specified future expenses, such as the 2011 Youth Symposium.



Certain funding for this program is provided by the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General. Views and opinions expressed do not reflect the views and opinions of the government.

Salute to Donors and Volunteers A list of our donors and volunteers is included on our website. We are extremely grateful to all who help sustain our services for child victims and witnesses.

Child Witness Program Statistics

Year (Jan-Dec)	Active Cases from Prev Yr.	New Referrals	Total Children Assisted
2006	148	467	615
2007	258	405	663
2008	225	430	655
2009	255	371	626
2010	235	366	601

Profile of Children Assisted	
Age 7 and under	14%
Age 8-12	32%
Age 13-15	39%
Age 16+	15%
Victims	58%
Witnesses	42%
Kitchener-Waterloo	46%
Cambridge	15%
Wellington County	14%
Brantford	20%
Other Regions	5%
Types of Crime Involved	
Sexual Assault	51%
Other Types of Assault	17%
Domestic Violence	24%
Other Charges	8%
Relationship of Accused to the Child Witness Centre	
Family Member, Relative, Guardian	49%
Friend or Acquaintance	45%
Stranger	6%

Child Witness Program

Our goals are:

- To reduce the risk that the court process will retraumatize child victims and witnesses.
- To help protect the child's sense of self-worth and confidence.
- To facilitate truthful testimony.

Services are free and include:

- Providing updates for the family on the progress of the case.
- Educating the child on courtroom procedures and the role of a witness.
- Helping the child deal with fears and apprehensions.
- Scheduling and attending pre-trial meetings for the child with the Crown Attorney.
- Providing 'child friendly' rooms where children wait before going to court.
- Accompanying children into the courtroom, and on occasion on the witness stand.
- Assisting with victim impact statements.
- Explaining the verdict and sentence.

Current Staff



Jack Reynolds
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Jo-Anne Hughes
PROGRAM CO-ORDINATOR



Laura Cook
CASEWORKER



Susan Dubé
CASEWORKER



Sherry Stockton
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



Linda Mark
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
CO-ORDINATOR