



President's Message

This annual report goes out to volunteers, donors, justice system partners, community leaders, organizations in the community serving children and child victims, and to other friends of the Child Witness Centre. It's a way to keep you informed about the work of the agency, the resulting benefit for children and youth in the community, and the way in which we put donations to use.

For most this will be the last hard copy annual report you receive. Later this year we will start the transition to emailing our news, annual report and need-to-know information.

Let me share with you an overview of the past year.

Children Assisted

- Each year we wish that there were fewer crimes against children in our community. Very regrettably the number of child victims and witnesses referred to the agency from January to December continues at a disturbingly high level—430 children referred, primarily by the police at the time of their investigation.



Rob Dippell

- We could not assist the kids as we do without the invaluable cooperation and working relationship we enjoy with police, crown attorneys, and victim/witness assistance staff (of the Ministry of the Attorney General)—relationships which are unparalleled in the province.
- Through client questionnaires, focus groups with police officers and crown attorneys, and other feedback, we maintain a continuing assessment of the impact of our services. It reinforces for us daily the vital need for specialized assistance for child victims and witnesses during their involvement with the justice system.

Community Support

- We were thrilled and extremely grateful to be chosen by the Kitchener-Conestoga Rotary Club to receive proceeds from the 2011 and 2012 Dream Home Lottery. This has enabled the Child Witness Centre to purchase, renovate and furnish a home at 111 Duke Street, near the new courthouse in Kitchener now under construction. We'll move in early in 2013 and plan to hold an open house. After renting for 20 years on Lancaster Street, and given the

funding challenges of a small charitable agency, this is a landmark event in the history of the agency. We simply can't say enough to thank members of the Kitchener-Conestoga Rotary Club. Through their Dream Home Lottery, Lobsterfest, and Turkey Drive, they have generated millions of dollars over the years to help others in need in our community. Their caring, donation of time and leadership, and their impact on the community is immeasurable.

- We are extremely grateful to Bryant Canada and their Cambridge dealer Service 1st Heating and Cooling who donated and installed a new furnace and central air conditioning at our new facility. True local heroes.
- We completed the year with a surplus, which enables us to sustain services at no charge to families; brings our reserves to the targeted level in order to cope in the event of a significant funding shortfall; to complete the renovations and furnishing at our new facility; and to establish a fund for future capital costs.
- We continue to receive substantial support from the Victims Justice Fund administered by the Ministry of the Attorney General; the United Way of Kitchener-Waterloo and Area, the United Way of

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651 children and families were assisted in 2011.

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

... More from the President

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Cambridge and North Dumfries, and the United Way of Guelph, Wellington and Dufferin; Region of Waterloo, The Co-operators, Scotiabank and from Sertoma and La Sertoma Clubs.

- We are grateful to the many who each year step forward to provide help—Brian Vickers at TD Waterhouse and those who participate in Brian's annual charity golf tournament; Sandra Stone at Conestoga Mall; Elmira Maple Syrup Festival; employees at Waterloo North Hydro, Bell Canada, Sun Life and Manulife Financial; community service clubs; Ben Cook at TC Group Americas; The Record; VIA Rail; all the businesses that donate silent auction items;

and many others.

- We have had continuing modest growth of the Child Witness Centre Balsillie Endowment Fund. The Fund was set up through (and is owned by) the Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation. Depending on investment results, we receive an annual allocation of investment income. The Fund is for use by those who wish to make a donation which 'lasts forever'.

Staff and Volunteers

- Our staff of six are dedicated, caring, professional and very effective in their work. Our three caseworkers all have more than 12 years of experience working with victims of crime.
- Over the past year, more than

90 individuals did volunteer work for the agency. We are so grateful for their very essential support. Special thanks to Ken Bowman, Marianne Garbotz, Gladys Grant, Peter Hughes, Mike Lankowski, Emily Liu, Carolyn Sumsion, Beth Reynolds, Herb Spencer and Carl Thiel.

Governance

- The members of our Board of Directors ensure a high degree of excellence in our governance practices. We're thankful to them for the significant time they devote to Board responsibilities. We make very intentional choices when considering candidates for the Board in order to achieve a diversity in terms of experience, skills, age, gender, geographical representation

from the areas we serve, etc. In addition to a schedule of eight Board meetings per year, six Board Committees meet regularly to provide more detailed oversight and involvement—Program, Finance, Governance, Human Resources, Resource Development, and Risk Management.

- We were very pleased to have Sherry Currie and Larry Richardson join the Board at our 2012 Annual Meeting. Sherry is a lawyer with Family & Children's Services serving Waterloo Region, and prior to that worked with Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP. Larry has been practicing law in Waterloo for 33 years, and is with Borden Ladner Gervais LLP. As well, Elizabeth Sproule has agreed to serve in

a non-director capacity on our Human Resources Committee. Elizabeth is a lawyer with many years of experience on administrative tribunals, and currently chairs the Community Justice Initiatives Board in Kitchener.

- We thank Nicola Melchers who retired after three years of significant contribution on the Board.

A heartfelt thanks to each of you receiving this report. The cooperation and support so forthcoming from the community reflects an amazing spirit of generosity and concern for child victims.



2012-2013 Board of Directors



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Jennifer Robinson
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Recruiting Sergeant, Guelph Police Services



Terry Wichman
Tax Consultant, Dube & Cuttini, former partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers

Financial Highlights

BALANCE SHEET

Assets	March 31, 2011	March 31, 2012
Bank and Cash	\$93,045	\$126,904
Short Term Investments	\$36,421	\$207,946
Interest Receivable	\$334	\$0
Recovery and Prepaid Expenses	\$42,989	\$17,956
Capital Assets	\$393,304	\$403,112
Total Assets	\$566,093	\$755,918
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable & Accruals	\$14,622	\$13,500
Payroll Remittance Payable	\$5,210	\$6,264
Deferred Contributions*	\$39,392	\$31,470
Total Liabilities	\$59,224	\$51,234
Net Assets		
General Reserve	\$113,565	\$223,669
Internally Restricted Fund	\$0	\$77,903
Investment in Capital Assets	\$393,304	\$403,112
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$566,093	\$755,918

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Revenue	Year ended Mar 31, 2011	Year ended Mar 31, 2012
Community Donations	\$70,686	\$90,816
Agency Run Events	\$44,954	\$58,318
Rotary Dream Home Lottery	\$0	\$182,403
Government Grants	\$175,000	\$175,176
Grants & Foundations	\$2,833	\$1,000
United Way	\$72,000	\$72,000
Break Open Tickets	\$10,089	\$17,808
Other Income	\$11,540	\$18,403
Total Revenue	\$387,102	\$615,924
Expenses		
Facility	\$42,317	\$62,859
Administration	\$15,747	\$19,445
Resource Development & Marketing	\$4,801	\$7,202
Staffing Expenses	\$279,723	\$296,363
Events	\$27,175	\$32,240
Total Expenses	\$369,763	\$418,109
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	\$17,339	\$197,815*

*Deferred contributions are donations being held to fund specified future expenses, such as the 2012 Youth Symposium. The significant increases in assets, reserves, revenue, and the excess of revenue over expenditures primarily reflect Rotary dream home funding related to the purchase, renovation and furnishing of a new facility for the Child Witness Centre, and the fact that some of that money is being held for expenditures which will occur in 2013. The internally restricted fund on the Balance Sheet includes a \$25,000 capital fund. The agency's general reserve is targeted to be 50% of one year's operating costs, to ensure that services can be sustained in the event of a shortfall in our fundraising.



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.

Child Witness Program Statistics

Year (Jan-Dec)	Active Cases from Prev Yr.	New Referrals	Total Children Assisted
2007	258	405	663
2008	225	430	655
2009	255	371	626
2010	235	366	601
2011	221	430	651

Profile of Children Assisted	
Age 7 and under	9%
Age 8-12	27%
Age 13-15	42%
Age 16+	22%
Victims	58%
Witnesses	42%
Kitchener-Waterloo	
Cambridge	15%
Wellington County	20%
Brantford	14%
Other Regions	1%
Types of Crime Involved	
Sexual Assault	42%
Other Types of Assault	18%
Domestic Violence	30%
Other Charges	10%
Relationship of Accused to the Child	
Family Member, Relative, Guardian	52%
Friend or Acquaintance	43%
Stranger	5%

Child Witness Program

VISION

Care and compassion for all child victims and witnesses.

VALUES

Passion

- We do all we can to meet the individual best interests of the children and youth we serve.

Excellence

- We maintain best practices in all aspects of operations.

Community-Based

- We work effectively with justice system stakeholders and the community to sustain the services we provide.

Stewardship

- We ensure good stewardship and transparency with contributions of resources from the community.

Integrity

- By our words and actions, we are ethical, welcoming and respectful.

Feedback on Child Witness Centre Services

(The following is a sample of the feedback we receive regularly from children and families served. It has been edited for reasons of confidentiality)

“ I am struggling to find the right words to adequately describe how much we were helped by the Child Witness Centre with our recent court experience. My daughter is a victim of sexual abuse and we have had an extremely difficult year. We have done our best to stay positive but at times have found ourselves to be completely overwhelmed. Even though my daughter's abuser plead guilty, the thought of going to court for his sentencing was still very intimidating. Your caseworker played a fundamental role in preparing us for this experience. We were

supported through the whole process. Your caseworker was amazing and acted as an advocate for my daughter, including arranging a meeting with the Crown Attorney. This meeting made all the difference for us in having a subsequent positive court experience!

Our caseworker was smart, articulate, compassionate, dedicated, and observant! She is detailed oriented and has a knack for explaining legal jargon in layman's terms. We found her to be very direct and her honesty was actually quite refreshing. She encouraged my daughter to read her

victim impact statement and stood beside her while she read it. This is a moment I will never forget; I could not have picked a better person to be there for my daughter!

My family has changed as a direct result of the trauma that we have endured. However, I am very grateful and feel fortunate for your support. My family truly benefited from the services that your organization offers. We could not have navigated so successfully through the legal system without your assistance! Thank-you!

.....From the parent of a child victim

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.