



Special Thanks...

To everyone who has ever donated to the Child Witness Centre, thank you. Donations come in many forms — volunteer hours, third party events, individual donations, and silent auction items, to name a few. We thought you should know about three unique donations we recently received.

1. For Laura Muirhead's birthday celebration earlier this year, her husband Bill asked guests to make a donation to the Child Witness Centre in lieu of a gift. Laura and Bill have themselves been very strong supporters of the agency over many years. Donations were made on-line or brought to the celebration, and what a fabulous result—over \$1,000 was donated!!!!

Special thanks to Laura and Bill for being creative in their donation and for thinking of us... and we urge others to do the same.

2. The Child Witness Centre was thrilled to receive a cheque from Sun Life Financial in the amount of \$1,140 earlier this year. This donation was part of Sun Life's Matching Gifts Program that is open to employees and retirees from Mutual/Clarica/Sun. We're very grateful to all of you who gave and then requested matching, and we applaud Sun Life for having such a program.

3. As reported in previous newsletters, we've had immense support over the years from Chubb Insurance and the Cowan Group, both of whom deserve great credit for giving back to the community so generously. We recently received \$1,000 from the Chubb Charity Golf Event, directed to us by Rick Purdy and Cowan staff participating in the event. We thank both organizations for their wonderful corporate citizenship.

Please join us for a fun Entertaining Night

As part of our annual fundraising efforts, the Child Witness Centre traditionally holds three events each year...a pancake luncheon, a youth symposium and a gala. In 2010 we're replacing the gala with a new venture...something new, exciting, affordable and of interest to all age groups. We're holding an "Evening of Entertainment" on Friday May 7 at the Pavilion in Kitchener's Victoria Park. Festivities begin at 8 p.m. and feature a night filled with music from several bands, door prizes, silent auction tables and, of course, great food... 'grazing stations' provided by local restaurants. The event will be well advertised, and open to all. Tickets are \$20 per person in advance, \$30 at the door,

and will be available by contacting the Child Witness Centre, or at the door.

Many are asking for a return of the gala... it was a popular event... and we'll certainly be thinking about that. But we hope even more will attend this upcoming "Evening of Entertainment" which provides a unique and relaxing atmosphere of enjoyment and interaction with others who share an interest in such a worthy cause—assisting child victims.



Save Your Zehrs Tapes... We're Still Collecting

Although many of the collection boxes have been removed from local Zehrs stores due to changes in their Save-A-Tape program, the Child Witness Centre is still collecting tapes and receiving much needed funds from Zehrs in return. We applaud Zehrs for their many years of 'giving back to the community' in this way. So... save your tapes and drop them off at the Child Witness Centre. Without the collection boxes at the stores it will take a little longer for us to meet our target, but it remains a very valuable program.

Recognition of a Volunteer

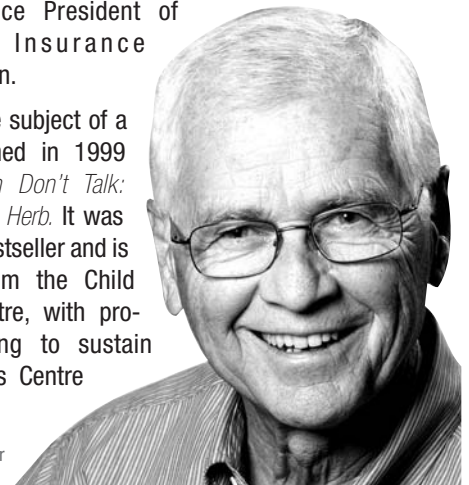
Herb Spencer has been a volunteer with the Child Witness Centre since 2003. Thanks to Herb, we are not working in the dark, sitting on chairs that can't be adjusted, trying to get files out of drawers that won't open, or without adequate storage shelves. He also provides ingenious solutions to our heating and air conditioning problems, and on many other issues. So he's on call 24/7...well not quite, but he comes whenever needed.

Herb also volunteers at the Habitat ReStore. He serves on the ReStore Advisory Committee, the Board of Ray of Hope, the Human Research Ethics Committee at the University of Waterloo, and over the years has served in various capacities at his church. He and his wife Dorothy have two sons...Dave is a lawyer in Calgary and Steve is a doctor in Trail, B.C. Herb retired in 1998 after 38 years with Mutual/Clarica Life Insurance. He

developed and led Mutual's world class information systems operation, and then spent 20 years as Vice President of Individual Insurance Administration.

Herb was the subject of a book published in 1999 entitled *Men Don't Talk: Breakfast With Herb*. It was a regional bestseller and is available from the Child Witness Centre, with proceeds helping to sustain Child Witness Centre services.

Herb Spencer



Honour the Child Witness Centre with a gift that lasts forever

The Child Witness Centre established the Child Witness Centre — Jim and Heidi Balsillie Endowment Fund in 2004 through the Kitchener-Waterloo Community Foundation (KWCF). The Fund is named after Jim and Heidi to recognize their immensely generous support. Including a very significant donation this Fall, they have donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Child Witness Centre over the years.

A donation to the Child Witness Centre endowment fund is 'a gift which lasts forever'....it is one of the most meaningful things you can do to assist child victims. Donations are invested prudently by the Foundation, **forever**, and the investment earnings are used to sustain Child Witness Centre services. That steady stream of

earnings provides much needed financial stability.

Our services are founded on the belief that children and youth have the right to grow up in a safe, caring and supportive environment. They deserve to be treated with compassion and dignity, and to receive support when they have been abused or

have experienced violence.

Through a donation to the endowment fund, you are joining hands with us to make that belief a reality.

Under an agreement with the KWCF, the endowment fund is managed by, and forms part of the assets of, and is owned by KWCF. Donations to the Fund

form part of the pool of investments of KWCF, remain there permanently, and are managed in accordance with the investment policy adopted by KWCF's Investment Committee in consultation with its investment managers and advisors, and approved by its Board of Directors.

Donations are accepted at the Child Witness Centre or the KWCF. If you choose to make a donation, thank you for joining hands with the Child Witness Centre to help child victims through a terribly difficult time in their life.

Exciting Youth Symposium Update

We were excited to host 2,000 grade 8 students from Waterloo Region and Wellington County at our 6th annual Child Witness Centre Youth Symposium last April, but very much regretted having to turn 1,000 students away--we were overbooked. To avoid that in April 2010, we're adding a second Symposium, in Guelph. This unique event offers high impact presentations which engage and challenge students, equip them to cope with issues they face, and help them develop to their full potential. The event also builds awareness about the work of the Child Witness Centre and our ongoing need for financial support from the community. Thanks to an annual sponsorship from Sertoma/LaSertoma, we have full funding for the Symposium in Waterloo Region. We are currently looking for a sponsor for the Wellington County Youth Symposium. For full program details, go to: www.childwitness.com/youth.html.

Staff & Board Changes

Laura Cook gave birth to a baby girl and will be on maternity leave until May 2010.

Katrina Ratz resigned from the Child Witness Centre to pursue other career opportunities.

Susan Dubé rejoined us as a caseworker. She worked with the agency from 1997 to 2001, and since then has been with the Kitchener office of the Ministry's Victim/Witness Assistance Program. We are thrilled to have Susan back.

Two New Board Members

Ranjini Jha is an Associate Professor in the School of Accounting and Finance, at the University of Waterloo. She will serve as Treasurer, and Chair of the Audit, Finance and Investment Committee.

Patti McKague is the Director of Communications and Marketing at the City of Waterloo. She will serve on the Development Committee.

Welcome Ranjini and Patti!!

Vickers' Brothers Tournament Raises Money for Child Victims



Executive Director Jack Reynolds (right) receives proceeds from the 10th annual Vickers Brothers' Invitational Golf Tournament, from Brian Vickers, Senior Vice President and Investment Advisor at TD Waterhouse (left), and TD Waterhouse Vice President and Branch Manager Neil Miskell (centre). Brian and his brother David, an Inspector with Metropolitan Toronto Police, have for many years directed tournament proceeds to the Child Witness Centre and to Toronto Victims Services. We are immensely grateful for this wonderful community initiative which has provided close to \$25,000 in recent years to sustain the work we do with child victims...an immense contribution. (Brian is also a regular volunteer at the annual Child Witness Centre Youth Symposium!!!)

Special thanks also to Russell Investments, TD Bank Financial Group and Invesco Trimark.

Tuesday February 16th, 2010 - 12th Annual Pancake Luncheon

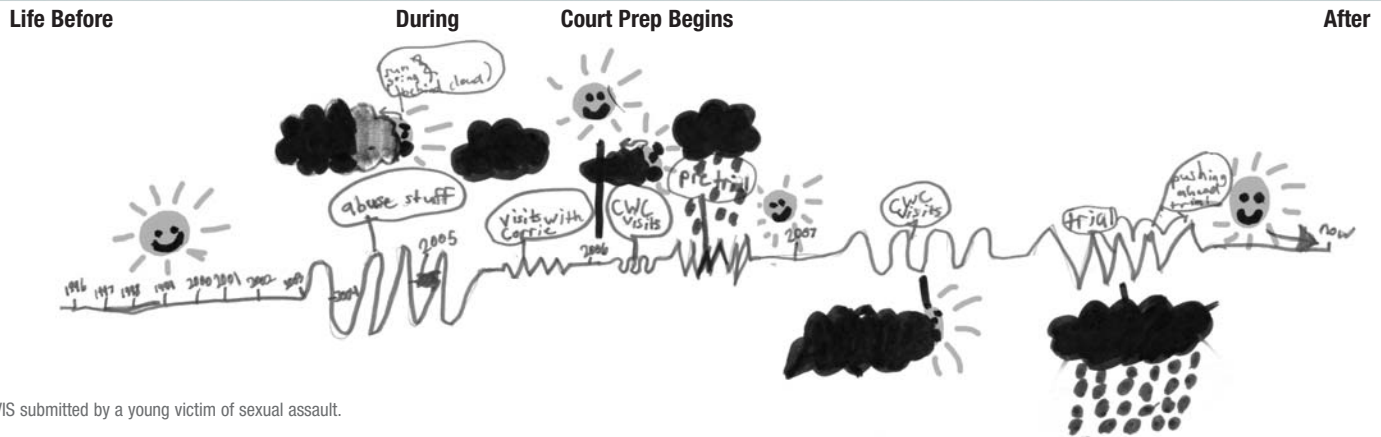
Want to enjoy lunch with friends and colleagues and help a worthy cause at the same time? For \$12, you can enjoy a scrumptious buffet lunch of pancakes, bacon, sausage, ham, fruit and drinks, held at the Delta Kitchener around the pool area, with proceeds going to the Child Witness Centre. Lunch is served anytime between 12 noon and 1:30 pm. Due to its popularity, we strongly urge you to reserve a spot or table by calling or emailing us.

We offer sincere thanks to the downtown Delta Kitchener for their continuous support of this event over so many years.

Caseworker's Notebook

Victim Impact Statements

Each year at the Child Witness Centre, we help many children and family members to complete Victim Impact Statements. Although these Statements are widely used in the criminal justice system, and are often referred to in the media, many people are unfamiliar with them. We hope that the following information, adapted from the Ministry of Attorney General's Information Guide to Victim Impact Statements, will be of interest.



VIS submitted by a young victim of sexual assault.

What is the purpose of a Victim Impact Statement?

The purpose of the Victim Impact Statement (VIS) is to provide the judge, Crown Attorney, defence lawyer and accused with a written account of the personal impact of the crime. The VIS is used at the time of sentencing the offender.

When did the VIS become legislated?

In October 1988, Canadian legislation relating to VIS was proclaimed under Section 722 of the Criminal Code of Canada. At that time, the VIS "could be *considered* by the court for the purpose of determining sentence; [but] the court was not required to do so." In September 1996, Bill C-41 was proclaimed *requiring* the VIS to be considered by the court at the sentencing hearing (source: <http://www.johnhoward.ab.ca/PUB/C53.htm#victim>)

Who may complete a VIS?

Anyone who is a victim of a crime may complete a VIS. If the victim is unable to complete the VIS, a family member may complete it instead. When the victim is a child, the family member(s) may also

submit their own VIS to discuss the impact of the crime on the child, as well as on the family.

Why should someone complete a VIS?

The victim, and his/her family, is in the best position to help the court understand the personal impact of the crime. The VIS gives a voice to the victim and the family at the sentencing hearing to express their feelings about the changes that have been experienced as a result of the crime.

While everyone has the opportunity to complete a VIS, it is not mandatory that a victim do so. Completing the VIS is voluntary.

How will the VIS be used?

It is the role of the judge to decide the appropriate sentence for the offender. The judge will consider the VIS when deciding the sentence. The judge can read the VIS privately or, if a victim prefers, s/he can read their VIS aloud in the court.

Once the VIS has been submitted it becomes a public document and can be used in the media, subject to any restrictions of a publication ban.

How is the VIS completed?

Usually, the statement is prepared in writing on the form provided; however, children are given the opportunity to provide a drawing to depict their thoughts and feelings in relation to the crime. In exceptional circumstances the statement can be provided orally or by videotape.

If a person would like to tell the court about the emotional impact of the crime, they may wish to consider:

- Has the crime affected their lifestyle?
- Have their feelings about themselves or their life changed since the crime?
- Has the crime affected how they feel about their personal safety and the safety of those around them?
- Has the crime caused them to change their eating or sleeping patterns; their ability to enjoy previously enjoyable activities; or their ability to perform at work or at school?
- Has the crime affected their general emotional well-being?

If the victim was injured, he/she may wish to tell the court about the physical impact of the crime. In this case, they may wish to:

- Describe the physical injuries suffered.
- Describe how long the injuries lasted or how long they are expected to last.
- Describe any medical treatment received or anticipated to receive in the future.
- Describe the effect the injuries have on them and their lifestyle.

Additionally, a person may want to discuss the financial impact of the crime. They may be required to bring receipts and/or proof of medical expenses. To describe the financial impact of this crime, a victim may wish to describe:

- Any personal belongings or personal property lost, destroyed, or damaged as a result of the crime and the value.
- Any medical expenses resulting from the crime.
- Any lost wages or income due to the crime, doctor or therapy visits, or attendance at court.

Thank you



Child Witness Centre

Every donation helps us provide child victims and witnesses with the support they need through the difficult challenge of testifying in court.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: hm: _____ wk: _____

Email: _____

Payment Options:

Cheque enclosed (made payable to Child Witness Centre)

VISA
 MasterCard

Expiry Date: □□ □□ Card Number: □□□□ □□□□ □□□□ □□□□

Signature: _____

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E-mail: admin@childwitness.com
www.childwitness.com

*On average it costs \$350 per child to provide court support services

Donation amount: \$35 \$250

\$50 \$350

Tax receipt issued for donations over \$10 \$100 \$500

I prefer to give: \$ _____

Charitable Tax
Registration Number
10097 7180 RR0001

Please use my donation for Child Witness Program operating expenses

Please direct my donation to the Child Witness Centre Endowment Fund

Please keep my donation anonymous

Donations can also be accepted online at www.childwitness.com/help.html

Mail Code: FALL2009

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