



2020-2021

AGM

Annual General Report

Huronion Transition Homes

(La Maison Rosewood Shelter, Athena's Sexual Assault
Counselling & Advocacy Centre, Choices for Children,
Aquarius House and Operation Grow)

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OUR MISSION

We believe that all violence against all women and children must end. We are community members who are committed to education, advocacy, harm reduction, and poverty reduction as a means to end violence. HURONIA TRANSITION HOMES is also committed to providing shelter and support to abused women and their children and to providing counselling to women survivors of sexual assault and socioeconomic opportunities through social enterprise.

BELIEFS AND AIMS

Huronian Transition Homes exists to serve women and children dealing with violence and abuse. We are here only to serve those women and children. Our understanding and analysis of violence and our role in ending it is based and framed by this belief.

Violence against women is a global social reality. It is used to control women and is a symptom of women's ongoing inequality.

Violence against women is a human rights issue. Perpetrators— both individual and systemic— must be held accountable for the violence they engage in, whether explicitly or implicitly. At the same time, women's response to the violence they experience should not be criminalized or pathologized.

All of us are responsible for working to end violence against women and children so that all women will have the right and freedom to live and act as they choose.

We use an intersectional feminist framework (IFF). This framework attempts to understand how multiple forces work together and interact to reinforce conditions of inequality and social exclusion. An IFF examines how factors including socio-economic status, race, class, gender, sexualities, health, ability, geographic location, refugee and immigrant status combine with broader historical and current systems of discrimination such as colonialism and globalization to simultaneously determine inequalities among individuals and groups.

It supports our work to reduce barriers to major social systems faced by many women.

We bring a harm reduction philosophy to our work. This means we meet people where they are at with compassion, understanding and knowledge, providing support and resources foster connection.

We make every attempt to understand and respect women's diverse life experiences and the impact of violence on their lives.

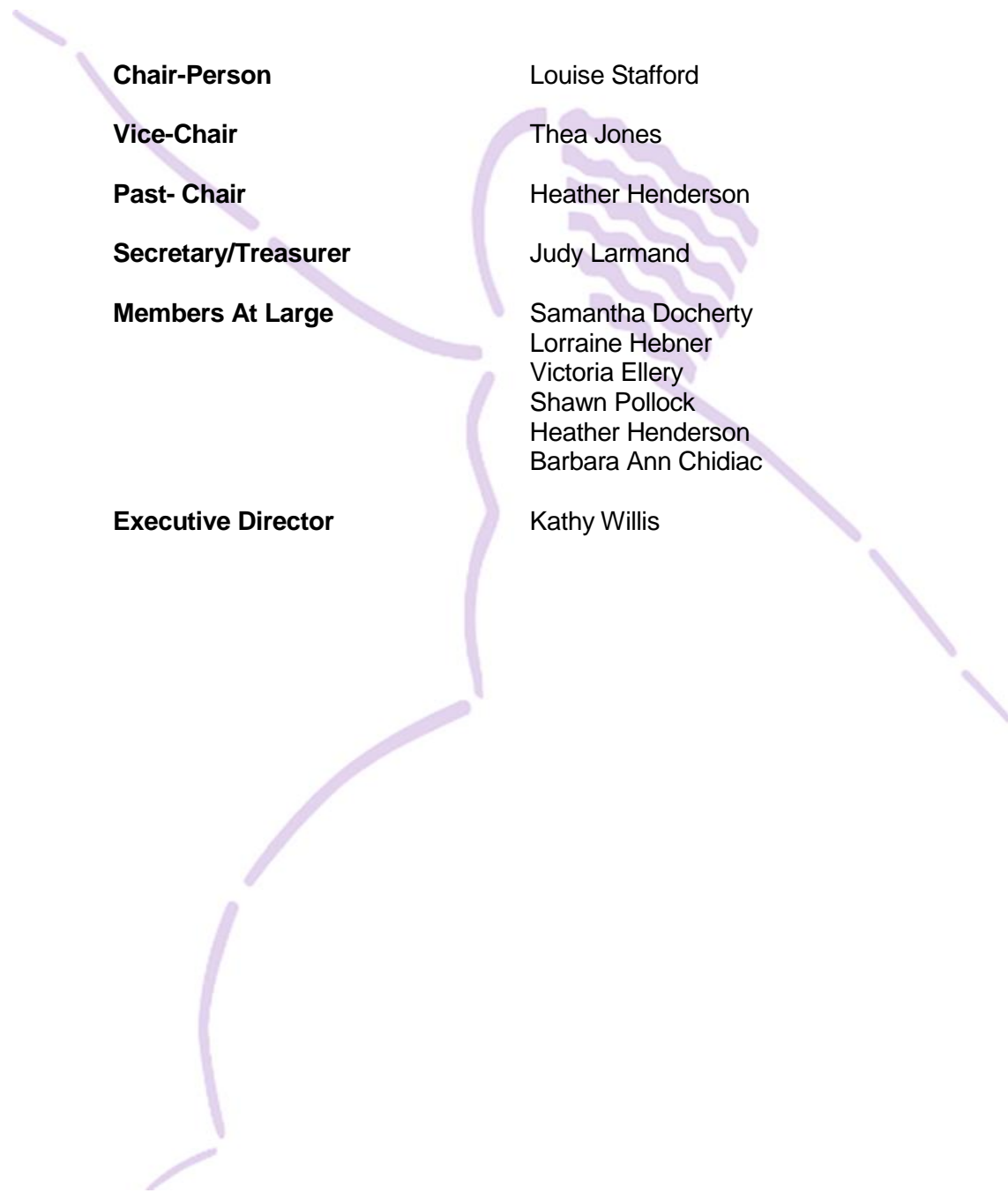
While we understand the primary mandate is the provision of direct services to women and children, we locate that work in the broader context of the community, provincial, national and international movement to eradicate violence against women and children.

Where their philosophies, beliefs and aims are compatible with ours, we belong to, work with and support relevant provincial, national and international groups and associations.

We understand that some women face greater challenges and more barriers because of their lived realities, and we work to make our properties and services as accessible as possible to all women as well as to educate ourselves and our community about issues of oppression, discrimination and accessibility.

Based on these beliefs and aims, how we do our work is constantly evolving as we understand more about the needs of women and children we serve.

HURONIA TRANSITION HOMES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022



Huronion Transition Homes
Minutes of Annual General Meeting For 2019-2020

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held September 28, 2020, at Operation Grow, 436 Bay St., Midland, Ontario, at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Heather Henderson, Chairperson.

Members: Heather Henderson, Victoria Ellery, Shawn Pollock, Barbara Ann Chidiac, Samantha Docherty, Lorraine Hebner, Louise Stafford, Thea Jones, Judy Larmand

Auditors: Kerri Graham, Chartered Accountant, BDO

Guests: Mona-Lise Barriault (MCCSS); Amie Sanchez (MAG); Kathy Willis (Executive Director); Haily MacDonald (Director of Operations); Marian Brown (Director of Finance); Annick Brown (Shelter Supervisor) Tammy Wamboldt (Office Coordinator)

Recorder of Minutes: Tammy Wamboldt

1. Welcome

The Chairperson called the meeting to order and welcomed guests.

2. Quorum

Quorum was established.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Thea Jones
Seconded by: Shawn Pollock

*Motion: To accept the agenda as presented. **Carried***

4. Approval of November 25, 2019, AGM Minutes

Heather Henderson referred to the November 25, 2019, Annual General Meeting Minutes and requested that they be adopted as presented.

Moved by: Judy Larmand
Seconded by: Lorraine Hebner

*Motion: To accept the minutes of the November 25, 2019, Annual General Meeting as presented. **Carried.***

5. Chairperson's Report

Heather Henderson presented the Chairperson's Annual Report.

Moved by: Thea Jones
Seconded by: Judy Larmand

*Motion: To accept the Chairperson's report as written in the Annual Report. **Carried.***

6. Treasurer's Report

6.1 Presentation of Treasurer's Report

Judy Larmand presented the Treasurer's Report.

Moved by: Judy Larmand
Seconded by: Thea Jones

*Motion: To accept the Treasurer's report as written in the Annual Report. **Carried***

6.2 Introduction of the Auditor

Judy Larmand introduced Kerri Graham, Chartered Accountant, BDO.

6.3 Presentation of the Audited Report

Kerri Graham presented the audited statements for the 2019/2020

Moved by: Judy Larmand
Seconded by: Thea Jones

*Motion: To accept the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending March 32, 2020 as presented. **Carried***

6.4 Appointment of the Auditor for 2020/2021 Fiscal Year

Moved by: Judy Larmand

Seconded by: Lorraine Hebner

Motion: To appoint Kerri Graham to conduct the audit for the fiscal year 2020/2021

7. Executive Director's Report

Kathy Willis presented the Executive Director's Annual Report for approval.

Moved by: Shawn Pollock

Seconded by: Thea Jones

*Motion: To accept the Executive Director's report as written in the Annual Report. **Carried***

8. Nominating Committee Report

Heather Henderson presented the slate of candidates for election; Barbara Ann Chidiac, Samantha Docherty, Lorraine Heber and Victoria Ellery

Moved by: Judy Larmand

Seconded by: Shawn Pollock

*Motion: To accept the slate of candidates for election. **Carried***

8.1 Call for Nominations

Heather Henderson called for nominations from the floor three times. There were no nominations from the floor and nominations were closed.

8.2 Elections

Moved by: Judy Larmand

Seconded by: Louise Stafford

That the following candidates are acclaimed to the Board of Directors; Barbara Ann Chidiac, Samantha Docherty, Lorraine Heber and Victoria Ellery. **Carried**

9. New Business

There is no new business.

10. Adjournment

Moved by: Louise Stafford
Seconded by: Judy Larmand

*Motion: That the meeting be adjourned at 5:39 pm **Carried***

Chairperson

Secretary - Treasurer

Chairperson and Executive Director's Report



2020/21 has been the most challenging year in HTH's history. Global and national issues have had a profound impact on HTH, its staff, its clientele, and the Board.

In this past year, the unmarked graves of over 1300 indigenous children were discovered on properties once occupied by residential schools. The residential school system is only one example of the brutal legacy of



colonization in Canada. Colonial practices are not a historical legacy. They are entrenched in the systems and institutions of today and continue with government action and inaction as exemplified by: boil water advisories and no access to clean drinking water; denial of treaty rights; disproportionate numbers of children in the child welfare system and missing and murdered indigenous women and girls. HTH stands in solidarity with First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities and we will continue to support education and action directed by and for Indigenous Communities. HTH continues to call for the implementation of the 94 Actions of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The global pandemic caused by the coronavirus has impacted every aspect of the organization and more importantly the pandemic is deepening inequality. "Across every sphere, from health to the economy, security to social protection, the impacts of COVID-19 are exacerbated for woman and girls simply by virtue of their sex." (United Nations, 2020). Women are experiencing higher rates of job loss. Industries hardest hit by the pandemic are also those where women are disproportionately represented. Women are also shouldering an increased burden related to unpaid care work including child care, elder care and children's education. Female health care workers are at far greater risk of infection; the UN reported that Infection rates of female vs male health care workers in Spain was 72% vs 28% and in Italy it was 66% vs 34%. Since March of 2020, the rate of fatal opioid overdose in Ontario has increased by 60% (Science Table: COVID-19 Advisory For Ontario, 2021). And it should come as no surprise that Violence Against Women has intensified and increased during the pandemic; early estimates from the UN indicate a 25% surge in domestic violence in Countries with reporting systems in place. The reality is the pandemic has left many women trapped in their home with their abusive partners and sadly COVID-19 infection is being used as another tactic of control. It is within the context of the global pandemic that this report is generated.

Women in our local community are experiencing first hand the wrath of the pandemic. Over the course of this reporting period frontline workers at HTH have administered naloxone to several women residing in the shelter and lives have been saved. Staff come to work prepared to respond to women experiencing toxic reactions due to volatile substance supply. Frontline staff and residents have grieved the loss of at least six women in our community. Addiction is complicated and often rooted in trauma and the lack of safe supply and the integration of harm reduction has resulted in loss and tragedy.

Coming to a shelter is never easy for women and children, routines are disrupted and creature comforts are left behind and other than a bedroom, all space is shared with up to 20 strangers. Pandemic protocols for congregate added further stress to shelter stays. All communal spaces were closed to residents. Women and kids had to adhere to strict public health measures and spend the majority of their time in their very small bedrooms where they would eat, sleep and study. Mom's also had the added burden of ensuring their children attended school in this environment. Staff did all that they could to support children's education, tablets were purchased and learning areas were designated so that students could focus and study. Some kids easily adapted, however most did not. Staff reported the stress and burden women faced as their children refused to study and learn. Abusive Partners added this information to their arsenal further undermining women's confidence in their parenting ability. The pandemic created an environment for abusive men to exert more power and control over their partners: noncustodial moms living in the shelter were refused access to children under the guise of infection control, abusive men forced women to apply for pandemic benefits which would later result in a claw back of OW and ODSP income and emergency measures restricted women's ability to escape abusive partners as lockdowns did not permit women to seek crisis service or the support of their social network.

Operating an organization as complex as HTH during a global health crisis is not easy. Every employee in the organization stepped up to this challenge and we are pleased to report that there was no disruption to essential programs and services. Athena's staff readily embraced virtual counselling and continued to provide counselling services across Simcoe County. Operation Grow kept farming and feeding our local community. Emergency orders dictated program closures at OG which meant farming apprentices had to stay home and in-person workshops were cancelled. OG staff embraced these challenges and quickly offered workshops virtually. OG also cooked and packaged all the meals required for shelter residents. The Choices for Children lead facilitator redesigned the program for virtual delivery and now we are able to offer groups to more moms and more kids. The pandemic created similar hardships locally as it has globally and the hardships are gendered. Women have shouldered so much more during this time and we have witnessed an erosion of equity that will be decades in recovery but the pandemic also provided new opportunities. The pandemic forced HTH to consider alternative service delivery models and virtual programming has expanded our service reach. Virtual programming was something we were contemplating and COVID-19 moved us from contemplation to action.

The employees of HTH have done a remarkable job this year. They have continued to offer essential service, without disruption during the pandemic. They have remained on the frontline supporting women and children who have experienced the wrath of the pandemic and the employees are witnessing first-hand the devastation of COVID-19. HTH has remained steadfast in our commitment to service excellence and our frontline workers have continued to provide exceptional support and service to women across Simcoe County.

The Board also embraced the challenges of governing the organization through provincial lockdowns and states of emergency. Board members quickly shifted to meeting virtually and everyone got on with the work at hand and there was plenty of work to do! Operational and

Human Resource policy was revised to ensure that we were meeting or exceeding new public health guidelines. Recognizing the enormous stress the pandemic response created for shelter staff, the board unanimously approved additional compensation for all employees working at La Maison Rosewood Shelter and Aquarius House for six months. Once operations were normalized and employees had access to vaccinations, compensation rates returned to pre-pandemic levels. We are pleased to report that all staff flexed their work and embraced reassignment to ensure facility hygiene and these efforts paid off. We have operated 18 months without an outbreak of Coronavirus.

It has been the practice of the Board to develop an education plan at the beginning of each fiscal year. This year members agreed to work on their understanding of anti-black racism. This learning commenced at the Board's annual retreat. As a result of a workshop facilitated by Heather Henderson, board members agreed to learn more about racism in Canada and read Desmond Cole's book, *The Skin We Are In*. At the beginning of each Board meeting, members discussed key learnings from the book. The Board also extended their November meeting in order to view and discuss the NFB's production, *We Were Children*, a full-length feature film illustrating the devastating impact of residential schools. The Board is extremely grateful to Heather for her ongoing facilitation of board development.

At the request of the board treasurer, Judy Larmand, all board members participated in training on the fiduciary responsibilities of financial oversight and reporting. The training included an orientation to the internal statements, funder contracts, financial policy and the audit process. The Board has directed senior staff to deliver this training annually.

We are very pleased to report that MCCSS awarded HTH partner facility renewal funding to renovate the kitchen and dining area of the shelter. Immediately following this announcement, Heather Henderson suggested that the board allocate reserve funding to update and refurbish the entire main level of La Maison Rosewood which was tired, worn and dated. All members of the board agreed, a budget was set and the motion was passed to completely renovate and renew the entire main level of the residence. Despite the operational challenges created as a result of the pandemic, it made sense to complete the renovation during this time because residents were unable to access communal space. COVID-19 public health directives for congregate living required the closure of common areas in order to reduce infection transmission. Staff and residents are very happy with the main level redesign which has resulted in better space utilization, accessibility, a designated area for teens and an open, inviting and functional children's area designed to accommodate multiple activities simultaneously.

We are also very excited to report that, through the efforts spearheaded by Karen Caldwell with support from Judy Larmand, \$20,000 was raised to convert a small storage building into a pet shelter. Women fleeing abuse will soon be able to have their pets accommodated at Rosewood. Dr Barbara-Anne Chidiak has provided expert advice on this project. She will also volunteer her expertise in assessing an animal's suitability for this program. The opening of this facility has been delayed because of the pandemic. Currently, we have the support of Iron Horse Kennel

when pets need care. We are very grateful to Kristian and Dona at the kennel for their ongoing generosity, support and care.

The year has been filled with challenge and the dedicated staff and board of HTH have faced the adversity with energy and enthusiasm. The organization continues to be an advocate and support to all women impacted by violence. Lockdowns, states of emergency and ever-changing public health measures have not deterred the work of HTH.

Respectfully submitted
Louise Stafford & Kathy Willis

Treasurers Report



The BDO Audit provided Huronia Transition Homes with a clean audit report. As presented by the audit team at BDO, our financial position at the end of the fiscal year was strong.

Summary Statement of Funding Received for the Year Ending March 31, 2021

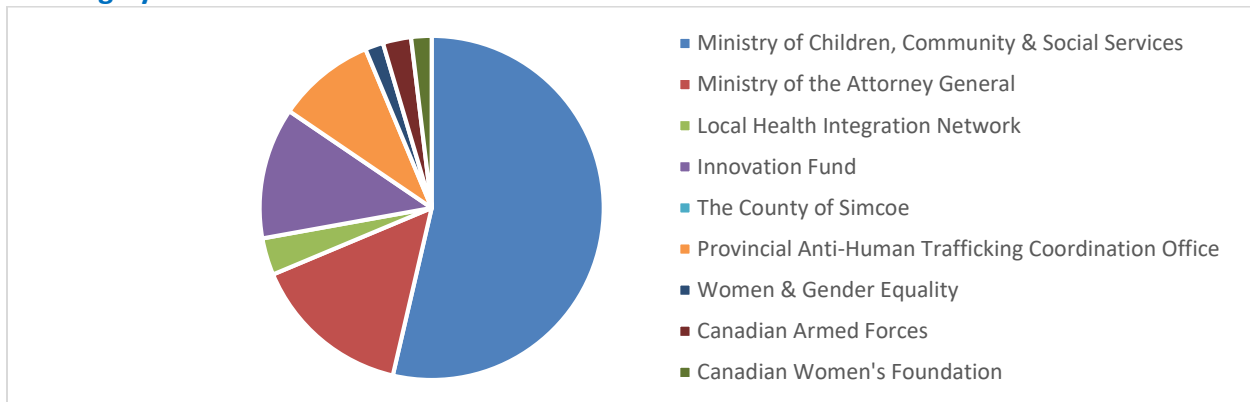
Total Revenue from all Sources	\$	2,936,170
Total Expenditures	\$	<u>2,936,170</u>
Net Surplus	\$	0.00

Total organizational funding for the year was \$2,936,170, predominantly funded by Provincial & Federal Ministries. Huronia Transition Homes's funders remain stable. The primary funders are:

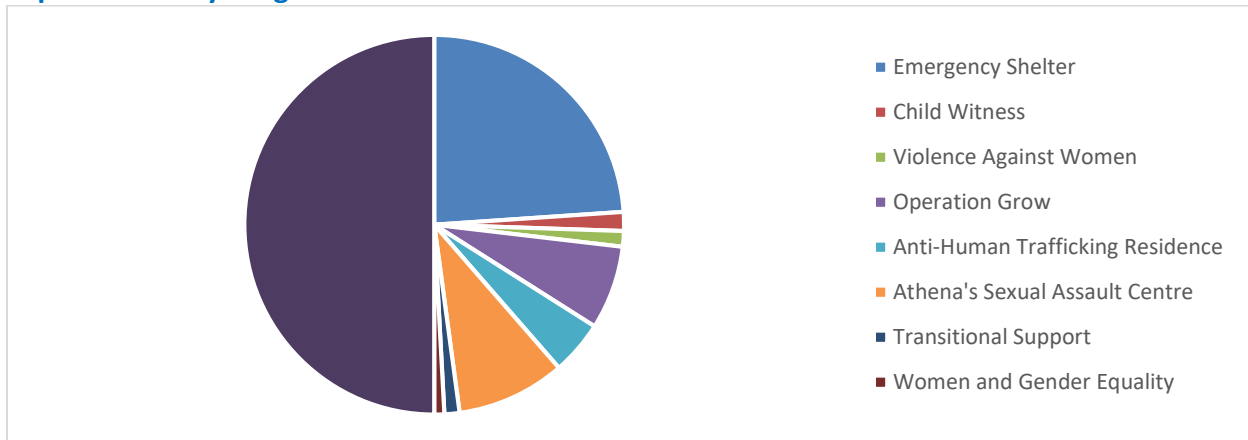
- a) the Ministry of the Attorney General,
- b) the Ministry of Children & Community Social Services,
- c) the Ministry of the Status of Women,
- d) the Local Health Integration Network,
- e) County of Simcoe and
- f) the Canadian Armed Forces

We gratefully acknowledge the ongoing support of all our funders.

Funding by Source



Expenditures by Program



The investments Huronia Transition Homes investment portfolio held with Cardinal Capital Management remains solid and has earned 5% (before management fees) in this fiscal year. I would like to report the completion of the construction of the dog kennel at our shelter. The construction of the kennel was made possible by a donation from Royal LePage in the previous fiscal year prior. This will allow our clients to bring their pets with them when accessing services.

The Fiscal Year 2020/21 continued to provide challenges due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Covid 19 pandemic specific funding was received from three sources. Ministry of Children and Community Social Services, Women's Shelter of Canada, and Canadian Women's Federation.

The additional Covid 19 funding assisted with covering the additional expense because of Covid 19 restriction. This enabled regular funding dollars to remain in programming and essential services.

In addition, we would like to thank all our funders for their understanding and additional time allotted for financial reporting during this time of increased workload.

Respectfully Submitted
Judy Larmand
Treasurer

Independent Auditor's Report - Continued



Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the organization's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

BDO Canada LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

Barrie, Ontario
June 28, 2021

Program Review

All Programs of HTH are offered within an integrated harm reduction and intersectional feminist framework.

La Maison Rosewood Shelter



Service area: North Simcoe
Emergency shelter for abused women and their children.

La Maison Rosewood offers safe and secure shelter for women and their children experiencing

42 women served
31 children served

abuse and/or homelessness. The shelter is equipped with 20 beds and operates 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. The average stay is approximately eight weeks, services are available in French and English and include individual counselling, legal advocacy, emergency transportation, resources and referral information and psychoeducational support groups.

Exchange Works

In keeping with HTH's commitment to harm reduction, the organization participates in the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Units Exchange Works program. This program provides sterile injection and inhalation kits, offers resources to women, and serves as a drop-off location for used equipment, to ensure safe disposal. Sterile equipment and other harm reduction supplies are available 24 hours per day at La Maison Rosewood shelter, and during hours of operation throughout our other programs.

1796 women served

Distribution of equipment:

- 3414 injection kits
- 2430 stem kits
- 570 bowl kits
- 791 sharps containers

13,856 needles returned

Crisis Line

La Maison Rosewood Shelter operates a 24/7, telephone crisis line for women in the community.

564 Crisis Calls

Staffed by crisis counsellors, the crisis line provides immediate emotional support, crisis intervention, development of safety plans; this service also connects women with community resource information and referrals to appropriate community agencies and resources.

Counselling Program

The counselling program provides service to women in the North Simcoe community who are experiencing abuse from an intimate partner. The counsellor provides individual counselling support, information, advocacy and psychoeducational support groups.

The legal advocate is available to assist women in both navigating the legal system and understanding their legal rights. The legal advocate assists with document preparation, provides advocacy, and provides accompaniment to and from court and/or other legal appointments.

235 women served in counselling program

Transitional Support Program

This program provides support to women residing in the North Simcoe community who are exiting abusive intimate partner relationships. The transitional support worker assists women in applying for housing and social assistance where appropriate and assists with social system navigation. This program supports women's short- and long-term personal goals through advocacy, information and appropriate community agency referrals.

69 women served in Transitional Support Program

Child Support Program

This program provides support, counselling and advocacy as well as recreational and craft activities for children residing at the shelter with their mothers. Additionally, Child Support Workers provide support and counselling for women around parenting issues and challenges, as well as assuming care of children while mothers attend appointments.

Human Trafficking Program

HTH has a specialized program for women who have or are at imminent risk of being sex trafficked. The program uses a case management model to support and guide women to access services needed. Services include extended shelter stay, coordinated for each woman as directed by her, system navigation for medical, legal, and housing services, internal referral protocol to ensure quick access to all of HTH programs, and advocacy and accompaniment to all appointments.

22 women served

Choices for Children



Choices for Children is a county-wide program designed to provide psychoeducation and support for children aged 5-15 who have been exposed to abuse against their mothers. This program provides a safe, supportive and respectful environment where children and their mothers are encouraged to explore and discuss their feelings, develop new understandings of abuse and learn coping strategies.

The mothers' group offers women an opportunity to discuss how the witnessing of violence has affected their children, to connect with one another around a common experience, to share resources, and to learn about the weekly content of the children's program. Women are offered assistance in developing strategies to help support and validate the experiences of their children. The ultimate goal is to strengthen the bond between the woman and her child(ren). Individual support is offered to women and their children before, during and after the group for duration of approximately 3 months.

49 women served
72 children served

Athena's Sexual Assault Counselling & Advocacy Centre

Crisis Line

Athena's Sexual Assault Counselling and Advocacy Centre operates a 24/7 telephone crisis line for women who have experienced abuse. Staffed by crisis counsellors, the crisis line provides immediate emotional support, crisis intervention and the development of safety plans. This service also connects women with community resource information and referrals to appropriate community agencies and resources.



161 women served

Crisis Counselling

This program provides individual counselling to women aged 16 and over who have experienced sexual abuse as children and/or as adults. Crisis Counsellors assist women in exploring the impacts of sexual abuse through a trauma-informed lens. Services are offered individually for a period of up to 6 months. Crisis counsellors support women in working towards self-directed goals and provide community resource information, referrals to services, advocacy, and accompaniment to appointments as requested.

1045 calls

In-Depth Sexual Abuse Counselling

This program provides one to one counselling to women aged 16 and over who have experienced sexual abuse as children and/or as adults. In depth counsellors assist women in exploring the impacts of sexual abuse through a trauma-informed lens. Services are offered individually for a period of up to 9 months. In depth counsellors support women in working towards self-directed goals and provide community resource information, referrals to services, advocacy, and accompaniment to appointments as requested.

98 Women
Served

In-Depth Partner Abuse Counselling

This program provides one to one counselling to women aged 16 and over who have experienced abuse from an intimate partner. In depth counsellors assist women in exploring the impacts of partner abuse through a trauma-informed lens. Services are offered individually for a period of up to 9 months. In depth counsellors support women in working towards self-directed goals and provide community resource information, referrals to services, advocacy, and accompaniment to appointments as requested.

96 women served

Operation Grow

Operation Grow is a social enterprise holistically designed to reduce poverty, isolation, food scarcity, and the impacts of trauma for women with a lived experience of violence. Women engaged at Operation Grow become members and have access to a paid apprenticeship program, trauma informed yoga, cooking and nutrition workshops, and other wellness and skill building workshops, daily drop in, and affordable fresh greens from the vertical farm.

114 members

