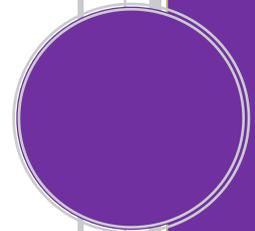




THE WOMEN'S CENTRE — OF HALTON —

ANNUAL REPORT

April 1, 2016- March 31, 2017



CHAIR'S REPORT

This year the Board of Director have focused their direction on acquiring new ways to meet the needs of communities served by The Women's Centre of Halton as we expand services and reach.

We are pleased to have partnered with so many generous community supporters that have contributed to new developments and expansions related to the Centre and our work.

As we continue to focus on these new developments and our fast-paced growth, we realize we are only beginning to scratch the surface in maximizing the human and economic potential of stewardship in our communities with our Centre witnessing and measuring its impacts.

We have widened our funding base by implementing a fundraising plan with our successful Love Does Gala leading the way, now established as an annual event. We have received new funding through the Law Foundation of Ontario as well as Halton Region. We were also able to increase funding from a few previous supporters including JCS Foundation, Zonta Club and Shoppers Drug Mart Love Life Foundation.

Thank you to our long time funders who continue to believe in us and support us, the Ontario Women's Directorate and the United Way of Hamilton & Halton. We hope for continued support from the Ontario Women's Directorate as they undergo their own changes related to a change in Ministries. Fundraising and sustainable grown will continue to be of the highest priorities for the Centre and the Board of Directors as we grow and expand our reach in our communities.

We continue to believe in the leadership of our Executive Director and value her hard work in ensuring the Centre's operational and service-oriented excellence.

I would like to thank my fellow Board Members whose help has been invaluable.

It is an honour to motivate and direct the Centre in this pivotal year of exponential growth and change.

The Centre is making its mark on our communities. We can see a reflection of this in the growth of donations and increase in support.

Never underestimate the power of women in unity together.

Alesia Nahirny
Chair of the Board

TREASURER'S REPORT

A condensed version of our audited statements for the year ended March 31, 2017 is included here as part of our annual report.

As in past years funding agencies have provided our main source of revenue. In the year 2016-2017 we received funding of \$90,000 from the Ontario Women's Directorate and \$35,048 from the United Way. Other fundings were also received before the year end but were not spent on designated programs before March 31st. These fundings have been included as Deferred Revenue on the Balance Sheet and will be taken into income in the current year.

We were fortunate to receive donations of \$44,949 and fundraising activities netted us \$48,144. This included our very successful GALA and over \$20,000 from Bingo.

It is hard to compare 2017 to 2016 as the latter was a year of transition in which the Centre was run for part of the year by volunteers. The result is considerably larger personnel costs in 2017. However, these expenses are quite in line with a normal operation of a non-profit organization of our size. Because of the strong efforts of the Executive Director, her staff and volunteers the remainder of the expenses were well controlled and the Women's Centre ended up with net operating income of \$8,318.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Executive Director, Martha Barragan, her staff and volunteers on the fantastic job they have done this past year, adding new programs, maintaining old ones and providing support and guidance in so many ways to so many women.

Jean Haynes
Treasurer

FINANCIALS

BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2017

INCOME STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED MAR.31, 2017

REVENUE	2017	2016
Funding agencies	126,192	74,863
Donations	44,949	39,582
Fundraising activities	63,432	20,111
Other income	1,380	3,488
	<u>235,953</u>	<u>138,044</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Conference & program	13,223	9,198
Fundraising expenses	15,288	1,171
Office and general expenses	16,980	12,412
Personnel expenses	125,574	65,364
Rent, utilities, insurance	53,892	59,282
Telephone & communications	2,678	3,081
	<u>227,635</u>	<u>150,508</u>
NET OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	8,318	-12,464
Operating Fund, beginning of year	44,322	107,790
Less Allocation to Contingency	1,150	x
Less Repay't to Gov't Funders	x	51,004
	<u>x</u>	<u>51,004</u>
OPERATING FUND YEAR END	51,490	44,322

ASSETS	2017	2016
Cash in bank	36,578	19,710
Term deposits	100,000	50,000
Receivables	15,113	53,231
Prepaid expenses	3,617	1,289
	<u>155,308</u>	<u>124,230</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	155,308	124,230
LIABILITIES		
Accts pay & acc. liabilities	9,086	18,378
Deferred revenue	32,051	x
	<u>41,137</u>	<u>18,378</u>
SURPLUS		
Contingency fund	62,680	61,530
Operating fund	51,491	44,322
	<u>114,171</u>	<u>105,852</u>
TOTAL LIAB. & SURPLUS	155,308	124,230

PROGRAM REPORT

In the past year, we have made real progress in expanding our programs, as well as bringing in new clients and community partners through our outreach efforts. We have also secured new funding sources so that we can continue to provide free, high quality programming for the most vulnerable women in our community.

The funding we received from the Ontario Women's Directorate continued to provide programming for many vulnerable women. These women participated in a variety of programs, including self-esteem/life skills, abuse support, and employment coaching. By far, our biggest draw is our self-esteem program, which consists of both a group workshop and one-on-one life coaching component. The feedback that we have received from participants is enthusiastic and overwhelmingly positive, and we have expanded the scope of this program to make it available to more women.

We are also pleased to announce that we now have a Mental Health Program, funded by the Oakville Community Foundation. Through this generous support, we are now able to provide a Depression and Anxiety support group, a depression workshop, as well as one-on-one appointments with our Mental Health Advocate.

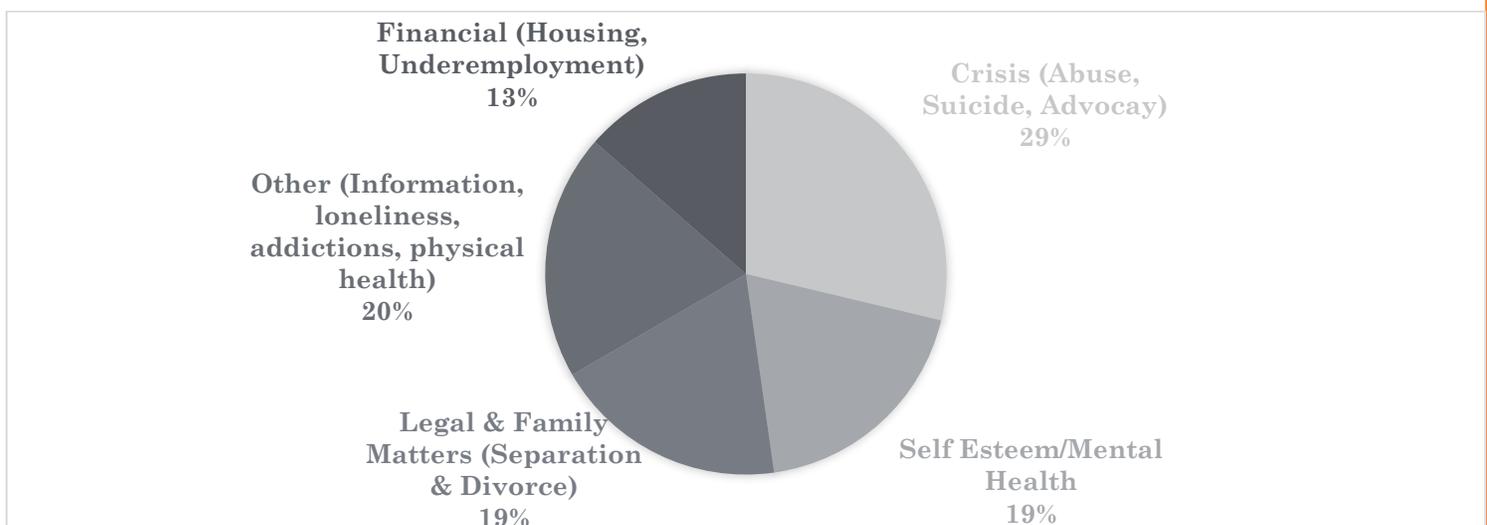
In addition, a grant from the Law Foundation of Ontario has allowed us to expand our legal clinics. We now have at least one family lawyer on most Monday evenings, as well as lawyer from other specialties that can include, criminal, employment and immigration. We have also converted one room to our new Legal Information Centre, complete with a client computer donated by the American Women's Club of Oakville.

Finally, we estimate that our outreach efforts have made contact with 1793 people throughout the Region and beyond in the 2016/2017 year. This increase is especially due to our students' efforts to seek out new avenues for outreach and providing a presence in many new locations and at several different events.

In the coming year, we expect to use this momentum to propel us forward as we continue to expand and grow. Thanks to so many women, especially our many volunteers, the future is bright and The Women's Centre will continue to help women effect positive change in their lives.

Total number of clients served: 2264

Breakdown of top priorities:



VOLUNTEER REPORT

The theme for volunteer week 2016 in Canada was 'Volunteers are the roots of strong communities. Just like roots are essential for trees to bloom, volunteers are essential for communities to bloom' and this is especially appropriate here at the Women's Centre. Our volunteers make a profound impact whether it is Peer Support, fundraising, or outreach. Our volunteers build community roots. We are truly grateful and proud of the contributions our volunteers have made this year in supporting the Centre's mission.

This year we received a high volume of volunteer applications and recruited 20 new volunteers for various roles within the Women's Centre initiatives.

Frequently, we hear from staff and clients the incredible impact they have with the betterment of the Centre. From a warm smile to a friendly conversation, you can always count on our volunteers.

Our Volunteers in Action

Volunteer Service Awards



Ontario Volunteer Service Awards



Halton Community Service Awards



Our Volunteers together donated over **2500** hours to empowering women.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I am incredibly proud to be a part of this Women's Centre.

We are all about people working together to achieve something greater than any one individual ever could do alone. We believe in the strength in numbers and what it means to stand together. We are greater than a team, we are a family of believers in the passion of this cause that drives us all.

In many ways, we are The Women's Centre. This is us. We are the face of every woman. The work by our staff and volunteers informs and builds these very communities we live and work in. The work that continues to drive us is to implement the changes we wish to see outside of these walls to the community, mastering these values that drive us internally first and see its ripple effects as it becomes contagious.

There's something special happening inside this Centre. I am always struck by how deeply our staff and volunteers care about what they do. Our staff are passionate about helping their clients succeed, while often being the driving force of maintaining the excellence in our standards. Our many volunteers selflessly coming in devoting themselves to our cause and changing one woman's life at a time and positively affecting whole communities without even knowing it. Seeing the impacts on our clients firsthand where they channel that passion they receive into a determination to seize the opportunities

“We are part of creating a safe space where women can explore and begin to create their future. Futures free from violence, suicidal thoughts, economic distress and powerlessness into strong, independent, empowered women.”

available to them and create their own future is a privilege. We are part of creating a safe space where women can explore and begin to create their future. Futures free from violence, suicidal thoughts, economic distress and powerlessness into strong, independent, empowered women.

This year we have had the privilege to experience many women's lives impacted by the compassionate empowerment we provided. As vast as the stories are, they had that same

commonality of passion and determination and the powerful changes that they brought.

I for one am challenged for the better by our women to utilize this same passion and determination to continue to drive the Centre forward for powerful changes to come.

Together, with the positive unity of direction and support from our strong Chair and passionate Board of Directors, along with our hard working staff and volunteers we bring incredible drive to the women that we serve.

Thank you to everyone for not only standing by us, but with us. I can hardly wait to see what's in store for us in the future!

Martha Barragan
Executive Director

OUR FUNDERS

The Women’s Centre of Halton is grateful for the financial support received from our funders, donors, and community members. It is the continued support that allows us to offer in demand free services to women in need.

We gratefully acknowledge our following supporters:

