

ANNUAL REPORT

2020/2021



THE
WOMEN'S CENTRE
GREY BRUCE



Our Vision

Women and children will live in safety regardless of their circumstances, and our community will recognize and work to eliminate abuse and violence.

Our Mission

The Women's Centre is a safer place for women and children.

OUR SERVICES

The **Shelter** is a twenty bed facility with security and main floor accessibility offering twenty-four hour crisis intervention and supportive counselling.

Second Stage Residential Program is a safe ten-unit townhouse complex that provides transitional and supportive counselling within a geared-to-income rent program.

Walk-in **crisis support** is available twenty-four hours per day at the Shelter and during business hours at Second Stage.

Trained staff provide **phone and text crisis support**, information and referrals for women in crisis, twenty-four hours per day.

Individual and group **counselling** is available at the Shelter and Second Stage, for all women regardless of their situation.

The **outreach** program assists women in the community and clients staying at Second Stage connect with local support and services.

Public education about abuse and women's issues is shared with community partners including schools, community groups, and service clubs.

Family Court support is provided in partnership with other community agencies to support abused women while they navigate through the Family Court system.

Youth Anti-Human Trafficking program includes counselling, outreach, and housing for youth under 16 years of age.

Board of Directors

Debbie McKague, Chair
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Alissa Angel, Treasurer
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Paula Carnakie, Program
Manager

Khrys Timmerman,
Finance Manager

Carrie Stevenson, Fund
Development &
Communications Manager

NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I'm delighted to present this Annual Report with highlights from our 2020/2021 fiscal year.

Last March, when COVID-19 forced the world to shut down, our staff remained steadfast in their commitment to supporting women and children staying with us. As our operations and service delivery changed, seemingly overnight, we braced for an influx of women and children who were isolated and forced to stay home with their abuser because of pandemic restrictions. Inevitably, we fielded thirty per cent more crisis calls and texts than the year before. In-shelter capacity was reduced due to physical distancing restrictions, so to meet the need, we housed women in nearby hotels and in our Second Stage units which are usually reserved for longer-term stays.

The pandemic has shone a spotlight on domestic violence showing us that home is not safe for all Canadians. A recent survey by Women's Shelters Canada indicated that in 2020, it was difficult for women to reach out for help or leave home during lockdowns. Fears about virus transmission, housing security and homelessness, and abusers monitoring and controlling daily movements, kept more women in abusive situations at home.

As vaccine efforts ramp-up and restrictions are lifted this summer, we expect to see an increased demand for our services as women turn to us for safety. Your support will remain vital to our ability to meet the needs of these women and children fleeing abuse and violence.

Thank you for your commitment to supporting women and children pursue violence-free lives. I look forward to our continued partnership.



Heather Sheldrick



Anti-Human Trafficking Youth Program

Recognized as a local expert in gender-based violence, The Women's Centre was selected by the Ontario government to launch an anti-human trafficking program geared to youth.

Funded by the Anti-Human Trafficking Community Support Fund, our program provides wrap-around services to youth victims and survivors of human trafficking. In addition to providing shelter, we support youth through counselling and outreach support.

The program is complemented by an educational curriculum to help create awareness around the signs of human trafficking among students and care givers.



MARAC

Impressed with our longstanding reputation within the community, WomenACT appointed us leader of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) in Grey Bruce.

Based on a successful United Kingdom initiative, the program involves a multi-agency response to high-risk domestic violence cases that aims to reduce repeat victimization and increase survivor safety.

The Women's Centre is one of only three Canadian sites selected for the pilot project and if successful, we will assist in rolling-out the program across the country.



International Women's Day

On March 8, more than 100 of our supporters joined us for a virtual International Women's Day event.

Participants networked before "gathering" to hear Keynote, Ashleigh Weeden, deliver a powerful speech about the need to address systemic sexism in our society.

Our sponsors, donors, ticket buyers, and auction donors and bidders, helped us raise a record-breaking \$16,000.

Thank you to everyone who played a part in its success! We hope to gather in-person in 2022, so watch our website for event details.



“I left my abusive relationship in the middle of the night with my daughter, my dog, and a basket of bare necessities. The life before that night was not the life I wanted, nor was it a good place for me to raise my daughter. I decided it was time for me to lift myself up and create a life that we deserved.

Second Stage housing was a place for me to begin that journey. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to rebuild our lives.”

- Erynn Guild, donor and former client -

\$25,000+

Canadian Women's Foundation | Grey County | Ministry of Children,
Community and Social Services | Ministry of the Attorney General

\$10,000+

Shoppers Drug Mart Life Foundation | The Home Depot Canada Foundation
| The Joan and Jim Patterson Foundation | Timothy D. Mayer Charitable
Foundation

\$5,000+

Angelic Nails & Salon | Scott Belton & Jess Leeder | Bruce Power L.P. |
Community Foundation Grey Bruce | Enbridge Gas Inc. | Cathryn & Kris
Kennedy | The Leflar Foundation | Grace Miller estate | PetSmart Charities
of Canada | Lorne Shears estate | Stephanie & John Stuart-Vanderburg

\$2,500+

Advantage Royal Group | Frank Barningham | J.P. Bickell Foundation |
Lindsay Bowman & Josh Matthews | Holland Centre United Church | Leon's
Furniture | The George Lunan Foundation | Miller Waste Systems Inc. |
M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre | Nuclear Promise X | RBC
Wealth Management | Dominion Securities Inc. | Mark Roberts | Rotary Club
of Southampton | StorageHive | The Society of United Professionals |
Trillium Mutual ROOTS Community Fund | Unifor International Department

\$1,000+

Bayshore Broadcasting Corporation | Canadian Base Operators Inc. |
Canadian Federation of University Women Southport | Anne Cathrae |
Charlene Codner | Kerry Connelly | Christine Cosby | Elementary Teachers
Federation Ontario Bluewater Local | Germania Mutual Insurance | Helen
Grant | Doug & Kallie Haslam | Jane Hendrie | Kemble & District Lions Club |
Judy Kitto | Krystal Klear Photography | Amy & Matt Langeman | Bert &
Susan Leeder | Miranda Miller | OSSTF PSSP District 7 | Owen Sound &
District Junior Optimist Club | PayPal Giving Fund | Tricia & Doug Pool | RCR
Realty | Dale Robinson | Rotary Club of Meaford | Rotary Club of Wiarton |
Royal LePage Shelter Foundation | Carol Rushton Culp & Larry Culp | Ed &
Karen Saliwonchuk | Shouldice Designer Stone | SNC-Lavalin | Tetra Tech
Canada Inc. | The United Church of Canada Foundation | Wal-Mart Canada
Corp.

Thank you

Despite many of our fundraising efforts being impacted by the shutdowns, the community support was truly astounding and has provided a strong foundation to start this current fiscal year.

Thank you to both the provincial and federal governments for their COVID-19 relief funds.

Thanks also to the individuals, service clubs, foundations, and corporations, that made our work possible through their generous contributions. Listed here are those who gifted \$1,000 or more.

Thank you for directly impacting the lives of more than 1,500 women and children who accessed our services. You helped them build safe and sustainable lives free from abuse and violence.

“A huge thank you for helping me. Your staff and shelter saved my life, I love you all for everything. Beautiful, caring staff. I will miss them.”

- client -

Staff Spotlight



My favourite part of my role is helping women recognize their

strengths so that they can become strong, independent, and self-sufficient, while pursuing lives free from abuse.

Abuse touches people across all walks of life. Whether someone has been abused themselves or has a family member or friend who experienced abuse, people are now realizing how widespread abuse really is. There is less stigma associated with being a victim of gender-based violence, so women are more comfortable coming forward and staying with us while they pursue a fresh start.

I've held various roles within The Women's Centre and in all of them, I feel like I've been a strong advocate for the women.

Joyce Ann Johnston
VAW Crisis Worker

THE WOMEN'S CENTRE (GREY & BRUCE) INC. (summary of audited financial statements)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at March 31

	2021	2020
ASSETS		
Cash, Receivables & Investments	1,390,469	976,334
Property and Equipment	1,269,415	1,332,707
	2,659,884	2,309,041
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	194,508	149,546
Long Term Debt	120,272	160,990
Deferred Contributions	1,079,604	1,029,046
	1,394,384	1,339,582
FUND BALANCES		
Operating Fund	10,247	-
Capital Asset Fund	168,841	142,675
Donation Fund	493,692	249,453
Internally Restricted Fund	300,000	300,000
Restricted Replacement and Maintenance	292,720	277,331
	1,265,500	969,459
	2,659,884	2,309,041

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

April 1 to March 31

	2020/2021	2019/2020
REVENUE		
Provincial Grants	1,068,482	1,009,176
County of Grey	193,321	189,131
Donations & Fundraising	373,848	188,052
Other	176,498	36,080
	1,812,149	1,422,439
EXPENSES		
Salaries and Benefits	939,019	829,134
Other Program Costs	541,627	500,671
Amortization	14,434	16,393
Fundraising & Other	36,416	39,394
	1,531,496	1,385,592
Surplus (Deficit)	280,653	36,847



2020/2021 Statistics

115



Women received counselling support

38



Women and children lived in transitional housing

1385



Crisis calls and texts received

118



Women accessed outreach programs

115



Women and children stayed in the shelter

2977



Days of residential stays

855



Safety plans developed

135



Women supported in court

575



Days of pet stays

The Women's Centre Grey Bruce

2048 A 9th Avenue East
Owen Sound, ON N4K 3H2
Crisis Help Line: 519-371-1600
Toll Free: 1-800-265-3722
Text: 226-974-0755

Charitable Registration Number 119302594 RR 0001

www.thewomenscentre.org



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