



2022-2023

ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD



At the beginning of the pandemic, we longed for a return to 'normal.' Three years later, the world seems like a very different place and we are starting to adjust to our new reality. One thing that has not changed is the amazing dedication of the staff at HNWS. Under the direction of Executive Director Jane Scheel, our team is constantly adapting while striving to meet the needs of the women they serve. HNWS would not be able to provide the services we do without the amazing team who work day in and day out to overcome every obstacle and challenge they face to support women in our community.

This year we were able to resume a few of our incredible community events. We welcomed community members and supporters to our Wrapped in Courage Event in November, and were excited to once again host our annual Trivia Night on International Women's Day. The remarkable number of community members who attended these events, along with other events throughout the year, reinforce the importance of HNWS in our community.

As a board we are constantly striving to ensure we are creating the environment for Jane and her team to carry out their important work, ensure we are meeting our governance obligations, and looking for new ways to support women in Haldimand and Norfolk. After the presentation by Nurse Practitioner Kristie Jones at the 2022 AGM, we created a Women's Health Committee to explore ways HNWS can create opportunities to further support Women's Health in Haldimand and Norfolk. We are proud of the current partnership with Kristie to support women in the shelter and are exploring opportunities to support even more women in the community. In April, the board also met with Dr. Richard Leblanc for a learning session to ensure that we are functioning as a responsible non-profit governance board.

This year we were eager to review the recommendations from the Renfrew inquest, which will be shared by Marlene Ham at the 2023 AGM. The HNWS Board of Directors is investigating ways we can advocate and support the implementation of these recommendations.

I am excited to work with the amazing members of the HNWS Board of Directors. The board is made up of a group of women who bring a diverse range of expertise and lived experiences to the table. Next year we will be revisiting the HNWS Strategic Plan as part of our commitment to staying current and reflective on our work.

My sincere appreciation to the Staff, Executive Director and Board Members for your continued support of our agency and your service to our community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca Malo, Board Chair

MISSION

"Dedicated to a non-oppressive social, political, and economic environment for women, their children, and their communities"

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else.” Fred Rogers

At the end of our fiscal year in March 2023 we had been providing service amid COVID for 1080 days. We continued to meet the needs of the women and children in our community seeking our service. Throughout the year we have made many changes based on directives from both our funder and Public Health. These changes had no impact on the quality of service we offered or the ability to meet our client's needs.



We welcomed 2 new board members this year, Michelle Alvey and Ashley Malo. They have been a great compliment to our already fabulous board. Rebecca Malo assumed the role of Board Chair this year and has provided thoughtful and valuable leadership. Michelle Becker will be retiring from the Board; Michelle has been a champion of our work since she joined the Board, and I am confident we will continue to benefit from her support.

We have enjoyed several successes in the past year. For the first time as the only supporting agency, we hosted a very successful GIRLS Power Camp in December. This program is valued by our organization, and we are committed to making sure it has a “forever” home with HNWS. Our Board launched a Women's Health Committee and have engaged the Health Teams from both Haldimand & Norfolk. The opportunities that lie ahead are very exciting and will improve the quality of life for our clients. We are in the process of reviewing our Strategic Plan, we have fast-tracked many of our objectives and are reconsidering some of the others with our sights set on a new Strategic Plan for 2024.

I want to acknowledge the leadership of our Program Supervisor Sam Curtain from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services who makes his priority recognizing the work we do and the women and children we serve. I could not be prouder of the amazing Staff I have the pleasure to work with, led by a Management Team that are rock solid and want only the best for our organization. The staff act with empathy first which makes them all such great advocates.

The issue of Gender Based Violence continues to be part of the fabric of our lives. We hold inquests, we report femicides, we do research and provide statistics, and yet it continues. I recently was profoundly impacted by the following statement, “As long as two men kissing sparks more outrage than a man hitting a woman, there will always be something wrong in the world.” (Toby Toth)

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Scheel, Executive Director

VISION

"A world in which every person has undisputed safety and security"

PROGRAM STATISTICS

APRIL 1, 2022- MARCH 31, 2023

Shelter Program

Women in residence	38
Children in residence	31
2022/2023 occupancy *	94%
Crisis calls	776
Counselling calls	772
C&Y moms counselled	13
C&Y children counselled	19
C&Y teens counselled	3
Referred out-capacity	420
Referred out-other services	135

Quetzal Family Homes

Women served	25
Counselling sessions	281

Women's Counselling

Women served	277
Counselling hours	1725

Sexual Assault/Abuse

Women counselled	64
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*based on reduced capacity of 12 beds

Children Who Witness

Children participated	0
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CAS/VAW Liaison

Individuals served	32
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THSP/Family Court Support

Women supported	154
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Youth Housing Advocacy

Youth served	14
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Community Education and Counselling

Students counselled	114
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G.I.R.L.S. Power Camp

Students participated (+20 facilitators)	50
Wildflower volunteers	3

Elementary School Based Counselling

Number of students	71
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HALDIMAND & NORFOLK WOMEN'S SERVICES 2022-23 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rebecca Malo - **Chair**

Marie Steiner - **Vice Chair**

Katrina Schmitz - **Secretary**

Megan Soles - **Treasurer**

Michelle Becker - Past President

Malti Patel

Michelle Alvey

Ashley Malo

Legal Counsel - Filion Wakely Thorup Angeletti LLP

Auditor - Thompson Goossens Accountants LLP



IN MEMORIAM

In December of 2022, our organization experienced a devastating loss when our colleague and co-worker Courtney lost her battle with cancer. Courtney was a daughter, sister, partner, mom, and colleague who at 32 was taken from us too soon. For those who had the good fortune of working with her, both staff and clients, her gifts of kindness, equity, and quiet leadership are qualities we will cherish forever.



Haldimand & Norfolk Women's Services

12 Homewood Ave. Simcoe, ON

519-805-8188

hnws.on.ca



Thank you

A sincere note of appreciation to the donors who supported us this past year. Your generosity helps to ensure access to service for local women and children fleeing violence.