

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

**HALDIMAND & NORFOLK
WOMEN'S SERVICES**



HALDIMAND & NORFOLK
Women's Services



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

At the 2023 HNWS AGM our guest speaker, Marlene Ham, shared the recommendations of the Renfrew Inquest, spearheading a discussion on the ways the HNWS Board of Directors can support and advocate for the implementation of these recommendations. We were excited when, in September 2023, Haldimand County declared gender-based violence an epidemic, followed by Norfolk County in October 2023. This public recognition of the challenges we serve to address on a daily basis is welcomed development, however, there remains much work to be done.

The focus on Women's Health that was started in 2022 continued to expand in 2023 and 2024. With the support of the 100 Women Who Care Haldimand, we have created a treatment room at the shelter for the Nurse Practitioner to meet with women in a safe and familiar setting.

At this time of the year, we celebrate the successes of the past year, while also reflecting on the challenges we face. A shortage of affordable housing continues to be a serious challenge in Haldimand and Norfolk and for the women we support. The 'little house' operated by HNWS continues to be an important asset for the organization, and the board has started a capital campaign to improve its financial stability. We are also excited that Matt Bowen from the Haldimand Norfolk Housing Corporation will be speaking at the 2024 AGM.

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. We are in the process of creating a new Strategic Plan as part of our commitment to staying current and to allow us to reflect on the work we do and the way we do it.

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



REBECCA MALO

Board Chair



MISSION

"DEDICATED TO A
NON-OPPRESSIVE
SOCIAL, POLITICAL,
AND ECONOMIC
ENVIRONMENT FOR
WOMEN, THEIR
CHILDREN & THEIR
COMMUNITIES"

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As an organization Haldimand & Norfolk Women's Services have continued to lead efforts in our community and our province to reduce Violence Against Women and support initiatives to address the challenges and barriers women are faced with each day. None of these efforts would be possible without the dedicated staff and Board who work tirelessly to ensure our clients receive the support they need with a willingness to adapt service delivery to meet these needs. These individuals are truly the backbone of our organization.

During the fiscal year 2023-24, we engaged in the development of a new strategic planning process and proudly launched a mobile Health Clinic, providing much need service to women who had otherwise no access to health care. This initiative was made possible through community collaboration at its finest!

Both Haldimand & Norfolk County have declared Gender Based Violence an Epidemic in their municipalities, certainly a step in the right direction of ending gender-based violence. We have worked with the Haldimand Norfolk Housing Corporation to provide innovative approaches to keeping women safely housed. Much work has also been done with our other VAW partners in the community to be sure we are enhancing our reach and giving women and their children the level of service, diversity, and inclusion they need to thrive in our community.

I want to thank and acknowledge Rebecca Malo for her Board Leadership and willingness to make HNWS a priority in the community. Our MCCSS Program Supervisor, Sam Curtain continues to be a steadfast supporter of our team. I have the pleasure of working daily with a Management Team that are passionate, dedicated and brilliant advocates for our clients.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue this hard work, and remain committed to fostering an environment where all women and children can thrive.



JANE SCHEEL
Executive Director



"Violence against women and girls is a problem of pandemic proportions. At least **1 in 3 women** around the world is beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime."

- United Nations
Population Fund (UNFPA)

VISION

"A WORLD IN WHICH EVERY PERSON HAS UNDISPUTED SAFETY AND SECURITY"

PROGRAM STATISTICS

APRIL 1, 2023 - MARCH 31, 2024

WOMEN'S COUNSELLING PROGRAM

232

WOMEN SERVED

1363

COUNSELLING HOURS

SEXUAL ASSAULT/ABUSE PROGRAM

54

WOMEN COUNSELLED

THSP/FAMILY COURT SUPPORT PROGRAM

208

WOMEN SUPPORTED

CAS/VAW LIAISON PROGRAM

20

INDIVIDUALS SERVED

QUETZAL FAMILY HOMES

15

WOMEN SERVED

153

COUNSELLING SESSIONS

SHELTER PROGRAM

57

WOMEN IN
RESIDENCE

44

CHILDREN IN
RESIDENCE

87%

2023-24 OCCUPANCY
(BASED ON 19 BEDS)

41

MOMS COUNSELLED
(CHILD & YOUTH
PROGRAM)

37

CHILDREN
COUNSELLED
(CHILD & YOUTH
PROGRAM)

794

CRISIS CALLS

517

COUNSELLING CALLS

346

REFERRED OUT
(CAPACITY)

129

REFERRED OUT
(OTHER SERVICES)

PROGRAM STATISTICS

APRIL 1, 2023 - MARCH 31, 2024

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL-BASED COUNSELLING PROGRAM

68

STUDENTS COUNSELLED

CHILDREN WHO WITNESS GROUP

8

CHILDREN PARTICIPATED

6

WOMEN PARTICIPATED

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND COUNSELLING

109

STUDENTS COUNSELLED

GIRLS POWER CAMP

68

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED

(+30 FACILITATORS +4 WILDFLOWER VOLUNTEERS)

YOUTH HOUSING ADVOCACY

21

YOUTH SERVED

VALUES

“INTEGRITY”

OUR WORK IS GUIDED BY EXCEPTIONAL AND CONSISTENT STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

“TRANSPARENCY”

WE WORK OPENLY AND HONESTLY WITH WOMEN, FAMILIES, STAKEHOLDERS, AND OUR COMMUNITY.

“NON-JUDGEMENT”

EACH INDIVIDUAL STORY IS UNIQUE. WE HONOUR INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCES AND AIM TO PROVIDE SERVICES THAT REFLECT THE NEEDS OF EACH PERSON WE SERVE.

“EQUITY”

WE WORK TO DISMANTLE BARRIERS, PROMOTE EQUITABLE SYSTEMS, AND ADDRESS MARGINALIZATION IN OUR COMMUNITY.

“WELLNESS”

WE AIM TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE WHOLE PERSON.



WITH THANKS

HALDIMAND & NORFOLK WOMEN'S SERVICES RECOGNIZES OUR FUNDER, THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL SERVICES (MCSS), AND THANKS OUR PROGRAM SUPERVISOR, SAM CURTIN.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023-24 DONORS, WHOSE GENEROUS SUPPORT HELPED TO PROVIDE VALUABLE, MUCH NEEDED SERVICES TO OUR COMMUNITY.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rebecca Malo

Marie Steiner

Katrina Schmitz

Megan Soles

Malti Patel

Michelle Alvey

Ashley Malo

Kim Schott

Chair

Vice Chair

Secretary

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CELEBRATING 25 YEARS!

AN EMPOWERING EXPERIENCE FOR
GRADE 8 GIRLS IN OUR COMMUNITY

