

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

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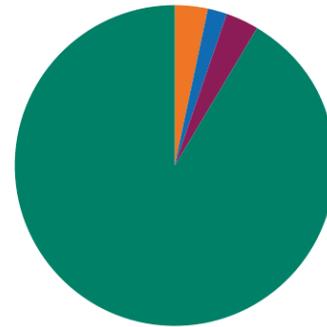
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2023-2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

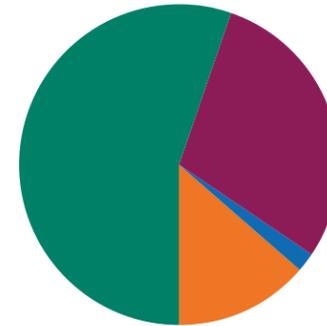
REVENUE

Province of Ontario Child Welfare	\$17,057,264
Province of Ontario Other	\$612,283
Other Revenue	\$587,486
Grant Revenue	\$371,997
TOTAL	\$18,629,030



EXPENDITURES

Salaries and Benefits	\$10,328,395
Direct Service Costs	\$5,427,323
Infrastructure	\$2,501,315
Grant Expenses	\$371,997
TOTAL	\$18,629,030



1,669 REFERRALS	164 ONGOING PROTECTION CASES
718 INVESTIGATION CASES	68 CHILDREN IN CARE
288 COMMUNITY LINKS	47 CHILDREN IN KINSHIP SERVICE

SAFE CHILDREN.



Annual Report

2023
2024

CONFIDENT YOUTH.



RESILIENT ADULTS.

SAFE CHILDREN. CONFIDENT YOUTH. RESILIENT ADULTS.
To advocate for and protect children's rights; to support and strengthen families; and to be leaders for positive change in our community.

Executive Message

OVER THE PAST YEAR, the Huron-Perth Children's Aid Society (HPCAS) has continued its mission to protect and support the well-being of children, youth, and families in our community.

The organization has successfully implemented programs that promote family engagement, family-based care, which foster kinship, provide support to caregivers, and ensure a safe environment for children and youth. These initiatives have yielded remarkable progress in maintaining the integrity of family units and ensuring that children and youth can thrive within their familial settings.

The empowerment of its staff has been a cornerstone of HPCAS's strategy, recognizing that a well-supported team is fundamental to the delivery of exceptional service. The emphasis on professional development and the cultivation of a culture steeped in continuous learning have been instrumental in fortifying the organization's capabilities. This, in turn, has translated into more effective and responsive services for those in need.

Community engagement remains a critical focus for HPCAS, with the understanding that enduring change is rooted in collective effort. The expansion of the Community Engagement and Prevention team, along with forging partnerships with local service

providers, has broadened the support network available to children and youth. This collaborative ethos is a testament to HPCAS's recognition of the power of unity in driving positive outcomes for the community.

We are proud of our actions over the past year, which reflect a holistic and forward-thinking approach to child welfare. The organization's dedication to both the immediate and long-term needs of children and youth, coupled with a commitment to systemic improvement, sets a standard for what is possible when compassion, innovation, and collaboration converge. HPCAS's journey over the past year is a narrative of resilience, empowerment, and community betterment, paving the way for a future where every child and youth can flourish within their families and communities.

We would like to express our gratitude to all staff, resource and kinship parents, and volunteers. Your selflessness, dedication, and hard work have made a profound impact in our community, and we thank you for being the driving force behind positive change. ■

Board Chair – STEVE KOMPFF
Executive Director – KRISTIAN WILSON



Equity & Reconciliation



The Huron-Perth Children's Aid Society (HPCAS) is committed to working from an anti-oppressive, anti-racist approach to service. This involves challenging biases, recognizing privilege, and working to dismantle oppressive practices. To do this we are getting to know service users, we are intentional by asking questions to gather identity-based data. Identity based data collection ensures that social location, cultural needs, and family and youth voices are at the center of our work with families. Identity Based Data Collection helps us recognize areas of priority, and approach to service delivery in a culturally considerate way.

HPCAS is committed to providing better service to First Nation, Inuit, and Métis families, Black, and 2SLGBTQ+ communities. We are committed to ensuring 11 Race Equity Practices that were developed by Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services to ensure systemic change occurs throughout all aspects of child welfare and address the interconnectedness of leadership, community engagement, partner relationships, human resources, finance, and service delivery. Equity initiatives are designed to reduce impacts of systemic oppression and improve the overall well-being of youth and families interacting with HPCAS. With collaboration and consultation, we are moving away from prescriptive interventions and are moving towards a more family-driven decision-making process. We are committed

to keeping children and youth with their families and close to their communities, which is especially important for a child's sense of safety and belonging.

HPCAS is committed to Truth and Reconciliation. We have responded by decreasing the number of FNIM children and youth in care. This is being achieved by identifying all legal files involving First Nation, Inuit, and Métis families, we are purposeful in decision making and planning to reduce the number. We are committed to responding to the Calls to Action and committed to ensuring that every child and youth in care are offered ODR services, that they are given the opportunity to know their lands, where they came from, who they are and where they belong.

HPCAS has created an Equity and Reconciliation Team. Team members are trained in anti-racist practice. The team is servicing equity deserving families. These include Refugee, Immigrant, Amish, Mennonite, Old Order Mennonite, Racialized, Black, Muslim and 2SLGBTQ+ families. The team responds to the needs of refugee and immigrant families through sharing knowledge, addressing barriers, identifying strengths within their family and community. The team has completed extensive training and built a successful partnership with The Muslim Resource Centre. ■

Community Engagement

The Community Engagement and Prevention Team at HPCAS collaborates with various agencies and community partners to deliver services to the community. The Community Connections staff provide outreach, prevention, and early help to children and families in various communities, including Stratford, Listowel, Mitchell, St. Marys, and South Huron. They also offer caregiver programs and outreach in other Perth County communities.

The Youth and Family Support Staff offer in-home and in-community support and parent education to support youth involved with HPCAS. They offer programs such as Youth Connections, Financial Literacy, Independence Program, and Healthy Relationships to help youth develop skills and build their support network. The Agency has also partnered with the City of Stratford to lease apartments for youth transitioning from care, focusing on skill-building and connections.

The Education Liaisons support children and youth with educational goals, offering tutoring programs, educational pathways, and post-secondary preparation. They collaborated with neighbouring school boards to update the Joint Protocol for Student Achievement and participated in 228 REACH Meetings to support student success.

The Prevention Team works in communities to address food security concerns and offers free children's programming throughout the school year and summer months. This preventative program builds relationships with children and provides support to families over time.

HPCAS is open to partnerships in all Huron and Perth communities to better meet the needs of children and families. ■

Volunteer

The Huron-Perth Children's Aid Society (HPCAS) has incredible support from the community, and we are happy to share that currently we have over forty volunteers. Volunteering with HPCAS provides a unique opportunity to have a positive impact on children, youth, and families in our community. We have a variety of volunteer roles at HPCAS with our largest being volunteer driving. Drivers use their own vehicles to provide transportation so that the children and families can for example attend family visits, community appointments, school, or agency programs. On average, HPCAS volunteer drivers give over 3500 hours of their time and drive over 300,000 kilometers per year!

In addition to volunteer drives, HPCAS has volunteers who share their skills, time and energy to our Mentorship Programs, PA Day Camps, March Break Camp, and Ignite Creative Learning Program. We are extremely excited to be piloting a Community Garden Mentorship Program this year which will match children with a volunteer mentor to meet regularly over the summer at the HPCAS community garden plot in Stratford. The garden mentorship program will not only educate children on planting and growing various fruits and vegetables but will also give them the experience of harvesting and bringing home produce to share and enjoy.

The Ignite Creative Learning Program is held on a weekly basis at the HPCAS building and in the community. The program focuses on igniting curiosity, igniting creativity, and igniting confidence. Ignite is supported by a handful of dedicated volunteer mentors that co-facilitate the creative program each week. Our volunteers work in a group setting with the children to explore science, cooking, creative art, community outings and more. The Ignite Program is a welcoming place where children come each week to build connections with each other as well as the HPCAS volunteer mentors.

HPCAS is fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers as part of our team that helps to support children, youth and families who reside in Huron and Perth counties.

If you are interested in hearing more about volunteering opportunities at the HPCAS, please contact us at 519-271-5290.

We are proud and very grateful to be the recipient of the following grants that will assist in supporting children, youth and their families in Huron and Perth Counties.

2023-2024 New Initiative Grants

The Rapid Response Fund will purchase services from private practitioners to stabilize children and youth who are in crisis and enable them to return to a level of functioning where they can be appropriately supported by current community-based services.

Community Services Recovery Fund

Grant funded by the Government of Canada and delivered through the United Way Centraide Canada. To expand and remodel behavioural support services by adding an adapted clinical service model that considers new needs post pandemic. It will help HPCAS modernize and adapt by providing evidence-based, tailored and culturally integrated services.

Resilient Communities Fund

Will build HPCAS resilience and sustainability by designing and implementing an enhanced service delivery model for marginalized service-users to ensure more effective behavioural support for high needs populations.

