



Luke's Place

Change her experience. Change their lives.

Annual Report for 2014

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A message from the President & Executive Director

The year 2014 was a challenging one for Luke's Place. We experienced our first year of significant financial set-back resulting from the reality that we have no core annualized support from government. When a major grant ended in December 2013 and no replacement funding could be secured despite our best advocacy efforts, a number of staff positions and program capacity cuts were necessary. This resulted in our first ever decrease in the number of women and children served, down a staggering 21% from 2013. It also resulted in our first ever operating deficit and use of some reserve funds to cover expenses. Our remaining staff of 5, most working part-time, went above and beyond to still serve 528 women in Durham Region last year. The number of women who seek our services to help free themselves and their children from abuse continues to grow annually. We simply don't have the funding necessary to reach service capacity and we risk incurring longer and potentially life threatening wait times. It is alarming knowing the effect this has on the safety and well-being of women and children not just in Durham Region but across the province.

The outstanding leadership we pride ourselves in offering – through our unique service delivery model, tools and resources for frontline workers and women as well as training and support we offer to hundreds of legal advocates across Ontario – makes Luke's Place a true Centre of Excellence for Family Law and Violence against Women. We are confident that 15 years of ground-breaking achievements will enable us to secure the sustainable funding we need to continue to move this important work forward.

Late in 2014, Luke's Place did experience success with new project funding and some exciting new initiatives are getting underway. We remain committed to pursuing more stable support for our critical work and we invite you to help us achieve this.

We know we speak for everyone when we acknowledge that the achievements highlighted in this report would not be possible without the support of:

- 2014 funders: the Law Foundation of Ontario, Legal Aid Ontario, Ministry of the Attorney General Victims and Vulnerable Persons Division and Status of Women Canada
- Community donors who show their financial support individually and as part of local businesses and organizations
- Board members who confidently govern our mandate and mission
- Staff who tirelessly provide the family law support services, emotional support and safety guidance needed for each individual woman
- Volunteers who play a vital role administratively, with legal and emotional support and in community fund development
- Lawyers of Durham Region who donate their time and expertise to our Legal Clinic and Legal Advisory Group
- Women who provide valuable insight in our Women's Advisory Group

- Make Change. For Change. Community Fundraising participants who want to make a social impact
- Many partners and collaborators in Durham Region and across Ontario who are also providing outstanding services to women
- Clients who have the strength to free themselves and their children from abuse

Without all of you, Luke's Place would not have been able to provide 528 women and their children in 2014 with the support and resources they needed to work towards a life free from abuse. Although violence against women is a serious problem worldwide, we take comfort knowing that we help change the experience and lives of abused women and their children not just in Durham Region but across Ontario.

In order to continue breaking new ground, Luke's Place needs your support, donations and volunteer time now more than ever. If you are already contributing to Luke's Place we thank you. If you are not yet part of our life changing team then we ask you to get involved and to give financially. Please call today to find out how you can help end the cycle of abuse.



Jackie Long
President



Carol Barkwell
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Jackie Long, President, Human Resources Committee Chair is the Executive Director of Human Resources for the City of Oshawa and is focused on enhancing people's daily lives through facilitative HR leadership. Jackie is keenly aware of the need for volunteer leaders throughout the community to support the critical work of organizations like Luke's Place. She sits on the board of two not for profit organizations dealing with rehabilitative services for children. Jackie's work in the not for profit sector is focused on governance, board excellence, change management, and operational effectiveness. Jackie joined the board of Luke's Place in June 2010.

Elena Kanter, Treasurer, is a Chartered Accountant as well as Certified Public Accountant in US (IL) presently employed with Hurren, Sinclair & MacIntyre LLP as an Accounting and Assurance Manager. She has nine years of experience in the accounting industry. In those years she has worked with a number of owner-managed clients as well as non-profit organization and provided a wide range of assurance and non-assurance services. Elena joined the board of Luke's Place in November 2014.

Brenda Green, Secretary, has been a lawyer for over 20 years. Her early work was devoted to the defence of impoverished individuals in conflict with the law. Brenda eventually became an Assistant Crown Attorney and currently works in Durham Region. She specializes in the prosecution of domestic crimes and child abuse cases. It is challenging work but Brenda loves her job and the chance to serve the community as a Crown Attorney. Brenda joined the board of Luke's Place in June 2014.

Lisa Allen, Ex Officio President, is a Partner with Deloitte LLP based in the GTA. She is a Chartered Accountant and has extensive experience in providing risk management advisory, governance, and internal control auditing services. Lisa joined the board of Luke's Place in 2007 and has over 15 years of experience as a not-for-profit board Director and Officer.

Victoria Froats, Director, is an Economic Reintegration Specialist with the City of Toronto. She has over 25 years experience working with marginalized women, children and families. She is an active community developer and capacity builder for the City of Toronto funded social service communities. Her passion is founded in the belief that everyone has a right to live a life of abundance and opportunity. Victoria joined the board of Luke's Place in December 2011.

Audra Maharaj, Director, is a Certified Human Resource leader with 17 years generalist experience specializing in employee engagement. She has worked with many companies in a variety of industries through her consulting work. Prior to joining Luke's Place, she volunteered on the Board of Directors at North York Women's Shelter and Dixie Bloor Neighbourhood Centre. Audra is proud to be part of a not-for-profit dedicated to providing support to abused women and their children throughout the family law process. Audra joined the board of Luke's Place in March 2015.

Nafisa Nazarali, Director, is a lawyer with Russell Alexander Collaborative Family Lawyers. She was called to the bar in 2010 and practices exclusively in the area of family law. Nafisa is committed to issues of social justice. Nafisa joined the board of Luke's Place in March 2015.

About Luke's Place

Luke's Place **mission** is to support abused women and their children throughout the family law process and to provide them and their communities with specialized resources about family law and woman abuse. Our **vision** is a family law system that promotes healthy, safe families.

Luke's Place is devoted solely to improving the safety and experience of abused women and their children as they proceed through the family law process. We have focused on the development of a specialized response to support abused women in this difficult and challenging process, development and continuing updates of resources, tools and training processes for advocates and the provision of community based training and mentorship for service providers. Luke's Place has also focused on raising the profile and understanding of these issues provincially and internationally through leadership or participation in think tanks, stakeholder consultations, and conferences and completion of academic and community based research. Input and feedback is provided on the work of Luke's Place by the Women's Advisory Group, comprised of woman abuse survivors and the Legal Advisory Group which provides consultation about the legal dimension of our work.

Luke's Place is named after a 3½ year old boy killed by his father in 1997. Luke's mother, Kate, had serious concerns about Luke's safety with his father and had applied for supervised access through the family court process. She was unsuccessful and Luke was killed by his father, who then killed himself, on their first unsupervised access visit. Following Luke's death, the community came together to work to make sure no other child would face a similar fate. Kate played an important role in the work done in Durham Region, as did many other women who had left abusive relationships. One of the products of that work was Luke's Place - Canada's first stand-alone family law resource and support centre for abused women and their children.

Current programs & services

Luke's Place works to improve the safety and experience of abused women who are or who may become involved with the family law system. We offer women and their children in the Durham Region free:

- confidential family law support services in Oshawa and Ajax locations and onsite at family court at Durham Region Courthouse
- individual consultations with Legal Support Workers
- summary advice from family law lawyers and assistance with court documents at our Legal Clinic
- group support sessions and legal information workshops
- accompaniment to legal and court appointments and meetings to debrief outcomes
- provide family law support referrals for men who have experienced abuse

In the Durham community and across Ontario we:

- offer training and resources for service providers in person and at www.lukesplacetraining.ca on a fee for service basis
- lead the Family Court Support Worker provincial training initiative funded by Ministry of the Attorney General
- engage in academic and community based research and consultation
- provide community education, specialized resources and online reference manuals

Statistics

Luke's Place experienced an unavoidable direct service staff reduction in 2014 when a major grant ended. This caused our direct service numbers to decline 21% from 2013 to 528 women (400 of whom were new to our services) to whom we provided support with family law issues through in-person, telephone and electronic consultations, court accompaniment, groups and workshops. Luke's Place also provided education, training and resources to more than 500 service providers across the province.

This intense level of service is not sustainable with reduced staff and would soon result in increased wait times during a potentially dangerous time for abused women and their children.

New in 2014

The “After She Leaves” training project wrapped up this year and was a resounding success. A total of 306 service providers were trained over 2 years and 103 women in Durham Region attended legal information workshops. Training for service providers supporting abused women through the family law process was delivered in Durham, Hamilton, Peterborough, North Bay, Ottawa, Thunder Bay, Sault Ste Marie, Toronto, Barrie and London with support from Status of Women Canada. Access to extensive online resources including the “After She Leaves” manual was provided in a private area on the Luke’s Place training website.

With pilot project funding from Legal Aid Ontario, Luke’s Place is working in partnership with the new Durham Family Law Service Centre to provide a safe, supportive site for abused women to receive summary legal and support services. Building on its successful pro bono clinic model of a lawyer/legal support worker team approach, Luke’s Place will increase and enhance legal services to lower income, vulnerable women. This project will close the gap between the current financial eligibility for legal aid and the federal government’s Low Income Measurement. It will offer women who’ve experienced abuse and who would not normally qualify for legal aid with the opportunity to receive legal services including summary legal advice, document preparation and some court representation. Our strong collaborations with violence against women and social service agencies in Durham will ensure a holistic, wrap around service addressing intersecting needs of clients. This funding provides a unique opportunity to enhance and test a model which could ultimately be applied across the province.

In a separate contract with Legal Aid Ontario Luke’s Place has designed and is delivering domestic violence awareness training for all Legal Aid Ontario employees over the next year.

With funding from the Law Foundation of Ontario, Luke’s Place completed an inventory and mapping of the violence against women family law support work currently being done in Ontario. This inventory focuses on organizations engaged in the following activities:

- Providing frontline support to women who have experienced abuse and who are involved in the family law/court process, including shelters, community counselling agencies, settlement and other immigrant service agencies, agencies providing Family Court Support services, sexual assault centres, victim services, etc
- Providing training and education about family law and violence against women to the violence against women sector, court personnel, lawyers, judges and others
- Engaging in law and process reform advocacy

The map is accessible on the Luke’s Place website at: <http://lukesplace.ca/resources/family-law-support-services-for-women/>

Where do we go from here?

Financial support in 2013 from Green Shield Canada, Baagwating Community Association, McLean Foundation and George Lunan Foundation began the documentation of Luke's Place service delivery model into a toolkit. We are seeking funding so Luke's Place can complete and share this user friendly toolkit online with agencies in North Eastern Ontario who would benefit from enhancing their family law support programs for abused women in their own communities. Luke's Place hopes to work closely with a number of organizations in the North East between Parry Sound and Moosenee to provide training and online support in their adaptation of elements of our model, as well as to enhance their work with family law lawyers. In partnership with the Barbra Schlifer Clinic, we are seeking funding to develop an online course and best practice guidelines for lawyers to support these organizations in the provision of virtual pro bono summary legal advice services for abused women. The resources and processes developed in this project will build an infrastructure that can ultimately be accessed by service providers throughout Ontario.

2014 Financial Statement excerpts

Statement of Operations

For the year ended December 31, 2014

"Excerpt taken from audited Financial Statements prepared by Dawn Flett and Associates and approved June 2015.
A complete copy is available upon request".

<u>LUKE'S PLACE SUPPORT & RESOURCE CENTRE FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN</u>		
<u>STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS</u>		
<u>FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014</u>		
	<u>Restated 2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Revenue		
Donations and fundraising	\$ 54,777	\$ 36,905
Education and training	35,271	35,410
Grant funding (Note 4)	445,942	653,668
Other	101	121
	<u>536,091</u>	<u>726,104</u>
Expenses		
Amortization (Note 4)	-	107
Grant-related expenses (Note 4)	445,942	653,668
Occupancy costs	1,610	-
Office and general	4,627	3,840
Professional services	28,367	15,620
Program and resource costs	17,253	29,551
Wages and benefits	68,452	13,506
	<u>566,251</u>	<u>716,292</u>
NET REVENUE OVER EXPENSES (EXPENSES OVER REVENUE)	\$ <u>(30,160)</u>	\$ <u>9,812</u>

Dawn Flett & Associates Chartered Accountants

Grant funding & deferred revenue as at December 31, 2014

LUKE'S PLACE SUPPORT & RESOURCE CENTRE FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2014

4. Deferred Revenue

Grant funding of \$534,363 was received during the year or is receivable from various external sources for specific projects. Revenue was recognized as expenses were incurred. Deferred revenue consists of the unexpended portion of these grants as follows:

	<u>Opening Balance</u>	<u>Grants Received</u>	<u>Expensed Currently</u>	<u>Closing Balance</u>
Legal Aid Ontario	\$ -	\$ 202,600	\$ 81,527	\$ 121,073
Status of Women	31,659	97,980	129,639	-
Attorney General	-	164,005	163,545	460
Law Foundation	1,453	69,778	71,231	-
	<u>\$ 33,112</u>	<u>\$ 534,363</u>	<u>\$ 445,942</u>	<u>\$ 121,533</u>

These deferred revenues are represented on the balance sheet as follows:

Deferred revenue – operating grants	<u>\$ 121,533</u>
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Attorney General includes funds administered through collaborative partners.

The following is a summary of grant-related expenditures:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Amortization	\$ 1,453	\$ 3,205
Insurance	4,200	4,666
Program and resource costs	20,386	29,955
Office and general	26,395	25,154
Occupancy costs	14,852	15,607
Professional services	127,342	137,373
Wages and benefits	<u>251,314</u>	<u>437,708</u>
	<u>\$ 445,942</u>	<u>\$ 653,668</u>

Dawn Flett & Associates Chartered Accountant

"Excerpt taken from audited Financial Statements prepared by Dawn Flett and Associates and approved June 2015. A complete copy is available upon request".

Fund development & marketing

An Ontario Trillium Foundation 2 year grant provided funding for a part-time Fund Development & Marketing Manager which ended January 2014. The project resulted in the rebranding of Luke's Place logo and marketing materials as well as the development of a fundraising campaign "Make change. For change". The primary objective of this ongoing campaign is to increase donations to Luke's Place by encouraging local businesses, individuals, groups and corporations to make a positive change within their networks to raise money and awareness for Luke's Place.



www.makechange.ca

The Fund Development & Marketing Manager position resumed 1 day a week beginning September 2014. Luke's Place pamphlet was reprinted in December and included updates to programs and services, funder recognition, fundraising campaign and the inclusion of the new training website. Our social media marketing on Facebook and twitter continues to grow with 140 likes and 296 followers respectively at the end of 2014.



www.lukesplacetraining.ca

A holiday appeal letter and campaign flyer was mailed to more than 300 individuals, businesses, service clubs and associations for the 3rd consecutive year. This mail out yields an annual increase in donations as we continue to expand donor relations within the community. These relations are further enhanced through speaking engagement requests from new donors and have recently included Kiwanis Club, Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) and Faith United Church.



Luke's Place signature third party event of 2014 was the 10th Annual Pickering Mayor's Gala which is considered to be the premiere black-tie fundraiser

for Durham Region. The awe inspiring beauty of this year's Winter Wonderland theme brought with it a generous donation of \$10,000. Four Luke's Place volunteers graciously donated their time to help make the evening a great success.

A warm thank you is extended to all of our dedicated volunteers and donors whose contributions help to Change her experience. Change their lives.



Winter Wonderland: Pickering Mayor's Gala

Winter Wonderland was the theme for this year's 10th annual Pickering Mayor's Gala held at the Pickering Recreation Complex. Well-dressed men and women participated in the year's wildly anticipated event that helped raise more than \$1 million for Rouge Valley Ajax-Pickering Hospital and other community organizations. A portion of the funds will also support Luke's Place, Wounded Warriors, Joanne's House and Jennifer Ashleigh Children's Charity. With delicious appetizers, live music and dancing, the Mayor's Gala was once again one of the social highlights of the year. Thanks to the tremendous Gala Chair, Diana Hills-Miligan, and her hard working, creative committee members and volunteers, this wintery land truly was a wonder. The frosting on this cake are all of the other great snaps from the event that can be found by entering the website code below at Pickering.snapd.com.

Photos by KIM LORRY

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1



Mayor Dave Ryan welcomes guests to the 10th annual Mayor's Gala

Share Comment Buy

Photos 'snap'd' at the Mayor's Gala & posted on www.durhamregion.com



Panel was joined by the Ministry of Health's Assistant Minister, Mary-Jane, Ontario



Tanya & Carol (Luke's Place Executive Director & Co-founder) *
Photo by KIM LORRY



Dreams & Wishes



Speaking engagement at
Kiwanis of Sydenham

Ontario Power Generation's
White Ribbon Campaign





Get involved & donate!

Luke's Place is recognized as a provincial leader on woman abuse and family law yet we operate without annualized core funding. We must rely on community donations and short term grant funding just to keep our door open and provide basic services to every woman who needs them. We have been experiencing both grant funding instability and an exponential growth in demand for our services which has left in great need of financial support now more than ever. Since our work is dependent on the participation of and donations from members of our community we are asking you to get involved, donate and make change happen!



www.makechange.ca

Luke's Place is challenging Durham Region to take your business or organization to the next level by partnering with us to help local women who need our services, your services or both. The social benefits are endless! Together we can raise awareness for violence against women, increase donations for Luke's Place and work towards ending the cycle of abuse.

Not sure what you can do to help? Donate now and/or visit www.makechange.ca to find out how easy and fun it can be for businesses, individuals, groups and corporations to get involved and make change happen today! **Small change for you. Life change for abuse survivors.**

Interested in volunteering? Luke's Place is seeking volunteers for our Board of Directors, legal support role and marketing team. Our **Board of Directors** meets monthly to provide oversight and guidance to the mission and mandate of Luke's Place. Our **legal support role** assists women by providing them with emotional support during the complicated legal process and by accompanying them to court and other related appointments. Our **marketing team** supports the diverse communications efforts needed to increase awareness of Luke's Place and encourage participation in our Make change. For change. Community Fundraising Campaign.

Thank you for helping to Change her experience. Change their lives.

Charitable Registration Number 88761-1218-RR0001

Contact information

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General email

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Fund development email

makechange@lukesplace.ca

Websites

www.lukesplace.ca

www.makechange.ca

www.lukesplacetraining.ca

Social media

<https://www.facebook.com/LukesPlace1>

<https://twitter.com/LukesPlace1>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/luke's-place-support-&-resource-centre-for-women-&-children>

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