



Luke's Place

Change her experience. Change their lives.

Annual Report for 2015

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A message from the President & Executive Director

The experience of Kate Schillings in the family court system that led to the murder of her son Luke by his father on his first unsupervised access visit just one week after Kate and Luke fled from their home to a shelter was the motivation for a community-wide collaboration that led to the establishment of Luke's Place. Nineteen years later, women in Durham Region and across Ontario continue to face many of the same challenges that Kate faced in 1997. Too often, women and their children still emerge from family court with orders that leave them unsafe and exposed to ongoing abuse. However, the establishment of Luke's Place and, following the Luke's Place model, the Family Court Support Worker program across the province, has meant that thousands of women in Ontario who leave abusive relationships now have access to specialized support through the family court process.

The leadership we have been able to offer – through the development of our unique service delivery model, tools and resources to support frontline workers and women and the 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. Despite this, Luke's Place continues to struggle financially, working from funding for one time-limited project to another. Project funding provides no stability for the delivery of core services, which compromises the ongoing viability of Luke's Place and the safety and well-being of women and children not just in Durham Region but across the province.

We can never know for certain whether Luke's life would have been saved had Kate been able to access the services we now provide at Luke's Place. But we do know that she would have had a legal advocate by her side throughout her family court process who would have provided her with emotional support, legal and process information, assisted her in the preparation of her court documentation (especially in telling her story of abuse), worked with her to prepare a safety plan, accompanied her to meetings with her lawyer and into court and advocated on her behalf with others in the family court system. And we do know that our work has meant better, safer outcomes for those women who have been able to access our services.

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

- 2015 major funders: Attorney General, The Law Foundation of Ontario, Legal Aid Ontario, Ontario Trillium Foundation and Canadian Women's Foundation
- Community donors who show their financial support individually and as part of local businesses, service clubs 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 Challenge 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

Without all of you, Luke's Place would not have been able to provide 611 women in 2015 with access to our comprehensive support and resources. Although abuse against women is a serious problem worldwide, we take comfort knowing that we help change the experience and lives of women and their children not just in Durham Region but across Ontario.

In order to continue to serve women and children in Durham Region and break new ground provincially, 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 and sits on the Board of two not-for-profit organizations. 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.

Lisa Allen, Treasurer, Ex Officio President, 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.

Nafisa Nazarali, Secretary, 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.

Brenda Green, Director, 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.

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.

Kylie Buker, Director, has an English Specialist degree from the University of Toronto and is also a licensed paralegal in good standing with the Law Society of Upper Canada. Kylie spent 3 years volunteering with Distress Centre Durham and gained familiarity with the challenges that women face in abusive relationships and is interested in being a part of an organization that addresses violence against women and children. Kylie joined the Board of Luke's Place in August 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 system. 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.

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
- safety planning
- summary advice from family law lawyers and assistance with court documents
- 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 Region community and across Ontario we:

- offer training and resources for service providers in person and at 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 provided direct services to 611 women in 2015 of whom 498 were new to our services. We also provided education, training and resources both in person and online to more than 1,500 service providers across the province. The number of women who seek our services to help free themselves and their children from abuse continues to grow annually while our resources to meet these needs remain unpredictable.

New in 2015

We are updating and expanding our Family Law Information Workshop series. Two new workshops are presently in development and are titled i) how to manage legal bullying and (ii) understanding and working with family court related services such as Office of the Children's Lawyer, Supervised Access Program, parenting coordinators, Children's Aid Society, Family Responsibility Office and Legal Aid Ontario. Updates will also be completed to our four existing workshops. The new six workshop series will be delivered in Durham Region by a family law lawyer/legal support worker team. Materials will be shared with service providers across Ontario who have received Luke's Place training in their delivery. These enhancements are being made possible thanks to grants from Canadian Women's Foundation, McLean Foundation, J.P. Bickell Foundation and W.F. Hayball Foundation.

Luke's Place received Ontario Trillium Foundation funding to collaborate with 8 violence against women service partners in North Eastern Ontario and develop a comprehensive toolkit of Luke's Place Service Delivery Model that will be adapted by organizations and lawyers to fit the needs of their communities. This project follows the completion of a mapping project for violence against women family law support services in Ontario and focuses on enhancing services to vulnerable populations who include Indigenous women, Francophone women and rurally isolated women, in an underserved and geographically remote region of the province. Ultimately this project is an investment that creates an infrastructure which can be rolled out into other interested communities in Ontario and that can be expanded upon as new service innovations are developed and tested. An integral part of this project includes examining and engaging non-traditional funding sources to make these resources available across the province.

The Virtual Pro Bono Legal Services for Women pilot project with funding from The Law Foundation of Ontario will increase access to justice for women in north eastern Ontario who have left an abusive relationship and are dealing with family law/court but who are not able to retain a lawyer because they cannot afford one, they do not qualify for legal aid or there is no lawyer available to them in their community by connecting them virtually with a family law lawyer who has received training in the dynamics of violence against women. Women will be able to access virtual legal advice from a volunteer lawyer at key stages in their family law process with the support of a trained legal support worker.

Luke's Place continues to work in partnership with Legal Aid Ontario's 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 is increasing legal services to lower income, vulnerable women. This project is offering 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. This funding provides a unique opportunity to enhance and test a model which could ultimately be applied across the province.

Also with Legal Aid Ontario Luke's Place has designed and delivered domestic violence awareness training to approximately 1,000 Legal Aid Ontario staff both in-person and online.

2015 Financial Statement excerpts
Statement of Operations
(Excerpt taken from audited Financial Statements prepared by
Dawn Flett & Associates and approved April 2016.
A complete copy is available upon request.)

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

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Revenue		
Donations and fundraising	\$ 46,596	\$ 54,777
Education and training	61,509	35,271
Grant funding (Note 4)	601,364	445,942
Other	<u>126</u>	<u>101</u>
	<u>709,595</u>	<u>536,091</u>
Expenses		
Grant-related expenses (Note 4)	601,364	445,942
Occupancy costs	-	1,610
Office and general	4,145	4,627
Professional services	34,383	28,367
Program and resource costs	12,938	17,253
Wages and benefits	<u>28,526</u>	<u>68,452</u>
	<u>681,356</u>	<u>566,251</u>
NET REVENUE OVER EXPENSES (EXPENSES OVER REVENUE)	\$ <u>28,239</u>	\$ <u>(30,160)</u>

Dawn Flett & Associates Chartered Accountants

2015 Financial Statement excerpts
Grant funding & deferred revenue
(Excerpt taken from audited Financial Statements prepared by
Dawn Flett & Associates and approved April 2016.
A complete copy is available upon request.)

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

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2015

4. Deferred Revenue

Grant funding of \$647,185 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	\$ 121,073	\$ 198,200	\$ 256,494	\$ 62,779
Canadian Women's Foundation	-	26,540	7,369	19,171
Attorney General	460	152,500	152,504	456
Law Foundation of Ontario	-	55,000	39,292	15,708
Ontario Trillium Foundation	-	<u>214,600</u>	<u>145,705</u>	<u>68,895</u>
	<u>\$ 121,533</u>	<u>\$ 646,840</u>	<u>\$ 601,364</u>	<u>\$ 167,009</u>

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

Deferred revenue – operating grants	<u>\$ 167,009</u>
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The following is a summary of grant-related expenditures:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Amortization	\$ -	\$ 1,453
Insurance	4,740	4,200
Program and resource costs	25,851	20,386
Office and general	16,956	26,395
Occupancy costs	15,956	14,852
Professional services	182,713	127,342
Wages and benefits	<u>355,148</u>	<u>251,314</u>
	<u>\$ 601,364</u>	<u>\$ 445,942</u>

Dawn Flett & Associates Chartered Accountants

Thank you for helping to change their lives!

We would like to acknowledge the ongoing support of our individual donors, volunteers, community and grant funders who helped 'Change her experience. Change their lives.' in 2015:

Attorney General	Baagwating Community Association
Benevity Community Impact Fund	Canadian Women's Foundation
Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)	Cannington Lioness Club
Christ Memorial Anglican Church	Cultural Expressions Art Gallery
Dunbarton-Fairport United Church	Durham Community Foundation
Durham Region Labour Council	Faith United Church
Family Gathering Limited	It's Worth Repeating
J.P. Bickell Foundation	Law Foundation of Ontario
Legal Aid Ontario	ML Excavating and Construction
One Hundred Women Who Care Clarington	Ontario Power Generation
Ontario Trillium Foundation	Pickering Village United Church Women
North Oshawa Lions Club	NSDAR Upper Canada Chapter
Rehoboth Christian Reformed Church	Rotary Club of Ajax
Russell Alexander Barrister & Solicitors	St. Mark's United Church Women
St. Stephens United Church Women	The Ajax Lions Club
The Glass Slipper	The MacLean Foundation
The W.F. Hayball Foundation	Veridian
Vivacite Laser & Medispa	

Fund development & communications



Rogers Daytime Interview



Durham Community Foundation Donors



William F. Hayball Foundation



100 women who care Clarington



Durham Community Foundation



Ontario Power Generation White Ribbon Campaign



Cultural Expressions Art for Change



Russell Alexander Giving Fund

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. 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!



Luke's Place is challenging the community 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 impact is 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 at lukesplace.ca or email makechange@lukesplace.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.

Contact information

Mailing address	PO Box 54040 8 King Street East Oshawa, Ontario L1H 1A9
Phone	905.728.0978
Toll Free	1.866.516.3116
Fax	905.728.6105
General email	admin@lukesplace.ca
Fund development email	makechange@lukesplace.ca
Websites	lukesplace.ca 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

Charitable Registration Number 8876I-I2I8-RR000I