



ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019

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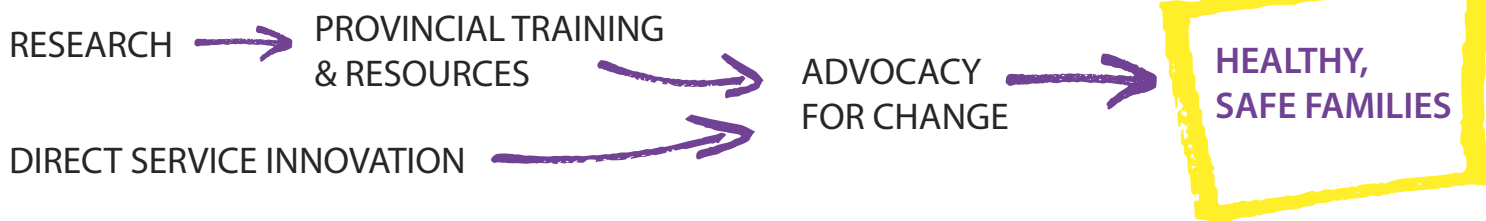


Luke's Place
Change her experience. Change their lives.

ABOUT LUKE'S PLACE

Over the past 16 years, Luke's Place has developed a unique approach to working with women who have been subjected to abuse, to support them and their children, as they navigate the complex family law process. A core component of our work is provincial training both in person and online. As the only stand-alone family law support centre in Canada that specializes in woman abuse, we share our expertise with thousands of service providers, shelter staff, lawyers and other social service professionals through training programs, resource materials, tools and mentoring. We are a recognized leader for improving the understanding of violence against women and its implications in the family law context and have published significant research and writing on the topic.

MANDATE



MISSION & VISION

Luke's Place mission is to work with women* who have been subjected to abuse to support them and their children through the family law process. We provide women, their children, and their communities with specialized services, resources and information about family law and woman abuse.

Luke's Place envisions a family law system that promotes healthy, safe families, living free from abuse and the threat of abuse.

SUPPORT FOR WOMEN

- ◆ individual consultations with Legal Support Workers/ Family Court Support Workers
- ◆ summary advice from family law lawyers at our legal clinics
- ◆ group support sessions and legal information workshops
- ◆ safety planning and trauma recovery support
- ◆ accompaniment to legal and court appointments
- ◆ community education, specialized resources and online reference materials

SUPPORT FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS

- ◆ training for service providers to support women through the family law system
- ◆ training for lawyers on the issue of violence against women and family law
- ◆ access to free online resources

COMMENTS FROM WOMEN

“ The Virtual Legal Clinic service was very much appreciated and extremely helpful.”

"I would not have been able to cope without the valuable and continued support of Luke's Place and the services provided. I have been supported through my self-representation in court all the way to trial and have come out successfully with sole custody of the children and my abusive ex-partner being ordered to pay the support payments he was attempting to evade when he started the motion. Without the support of Luke's Place I cannot even imagine how I would have managed."

"I feel 100% better now, Luke's place is very helpful, I received a lot of information. Thanks a lot!!"

* We use the term women to include all self-identified women (including two-spirited, cisgender or transgender women) 16 years of age and older.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

This has been a year of recognition for Luke's Place!

Our innovative programs, leadership, and hard work were acknowledged with two important awards. In March, Luke's Place became the 2019 recipient of the Ontario Bar Association Foundation Award, which is presented to individuals and organizations that make "exceptional contributions to the improvement of the justice system." Also in March, our Legal Director, Pamela Cross, was awarded the Laura Legge Award by the Law Society of Ontario. This award recognizes women lawyers who exemplify leadership in the legal profession. Congratulations, Pamela!

We also achieved two significant capacity-building grants – one from the Federal Department for Women and Gender Equality and the other from The Law Foundation of Ontario – allowing us to explore our governance structure and funding strategies, and invest in organizational leadership, evaluation, and advocacy as we evolve into a provincial Centre of Excellence. The Foundation's grant also supports our Pro Bono Durham Region and Virtual Legal Clinics as well as our training and resource development initiatives.

Most importantly, women leaving abusive relationships in Durham Region continue to recognize how important Luke's Place is to them. This year we served more women and their children than ever before: 810 women accessed our services from April 2018 – March 2019. As demand continues to grow, we strive to meet the need. After moving into a co-location service hub with community partners in August, we began offering drop-in services on Mondays. As of January 2019, our Pro Bono Legal Clinic is available twice a month in a new location in Ajax; this is in addition to the weekly clinic at the Oshawa office.

Luke's Place is built on the recognition that violence is a reality for too many women and their children. According to the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability, "in 2018, 148 women and girls were killed by violence in Canada." Ontario's Domestic Violence Death Review Committee has found that the most dangerous time for a woman in an abusive relationship is during or soon after separation, the very time when she is most likely to begin family court processes. Up to 75% of women who leave an abusive relationship navigate the family law system without a lawyer, emerging with court orders that far too often leave them and their children vulnerable to ongoing violence. Acknowledging these stark realities, Luke's Place offers effective and well-recognized legal support strategies to women trying to rebuild lives free of violence for themselves and their children.

Luke's Place continues to explore and leverage potential funding opportunities from all levels of government, foundations, charitable trusts, and individual donors. We also always appreciate information about potential funding opportunities and continue to be grateful for your support and ongoing commitment. Your investment in Luke's Place recognizes the challenges women and their children face when building a better life for themselves. A one-time or monthly donation will continue to support the work of Luke's Place staff, board, and volunteers as they strive to support women, and their children, across Ontario, to live a life free from violence. We hope we can count on your continued support.

Jacqueline Long



President

Carol Barkwell



Executive Director

2019-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Catherine Evans, Director
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THANK YOU

To our many supporters in 2018/2019, who help women and children stay safer through the family law process.

MAJOR FUNDERS: Ministry of The Attorney General, Ministry of Children Community & Social Services, and The Law Foundation of Ontario

PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS, including Durham/Ajax Community Foundation, Mayor Dave Ryan and the Pickering Mayors Gala Committee, Hayball Foundation, Individual Donors, Service Clubs, Faith Organizations, Local Businesses, and Community Organizations

BOARD MEMBERS who govern our mandate and mission

STAFF AND CONSULTANTS who provide individual support services for women in Durham, and training and resources to service providers across the province

VOLUNTEERS who play a vital role administratively, with legal and emotional support and in community fund development

LAWYERS who donate time and expertise to legal clinics and Legal Advisory Group

PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS in Durham Region and across Ontario



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FINANCES

Excerpts taken from audited Financial Statements prepared by Dawn Flett & Associates and approved June 5, 2019. A complete financial statement is available upon request

STATEMENT OF OPERATION for the twelve months ended March 31, 2019

	For the Twelve Months Ended March 31, 2019	For the Fifteen Months Ended March 31, 2019
REVENUE		
Donations and fundraising	\$ 68,817	\$ 70,592
Education and training	41,526	52,290
Grant funding (Note 4)	788,468	795,434
Other	346	1,649
	899,157	919,965
EXPENSES		
Amortization	511	511
Grant-related expenses (Note 4)	788,468	795,434
Office and general	5,380	4,121
Professional services	17,177	45,461
Program and resource costs	20,142	13,272
Wages and benefits	9,760	36,143
	841,438	894,942
NET REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ 57,719	25,023

NOTE 4. DEFERRED REVENUE

Grant funding of \$721,749 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:

	Opening Balance	Grants Received	Expensed Currently	Closing Balance
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services	—	\$ 175,000	\$ 168,439	\$ 6,561
Attorney General	—	491,300	491,300	—
Law Foundation of Ontario	38,981	183,500	128,729	93,752
	\$ 38,981	\$ 849,800	\$ 788,468	\$ 100,313

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

DEFERRED REVENUE – OPERATING GRANTS	\$ 100,313
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The following is a summary of grant-related expenditures:

	2019	2018
Insurance	\$ 6,300	\$ 5,250
Program and resource costs	94,458	78,767
Office and general	1,367	29,664
Occupancy costs	28,776	20,188
Professional services	150,654	174,675
Wages and benefits	506,913	486,890
	\$ 788,468	\$ 795,434

2018-2019 HIGHLIGHTS



JUNE 2018
Launched **Family Court and Beyond** survival workbook and website for women

APRIL 2018
Released **Family Violence Screening Tools Research Report** for Justice Canada



AUGUST 2018
Relocated to **community service hub**

OCTOBER 2018
Launched **Drop-in Mondays** for new clients

OCTOBER 2018
Delivered 6th Annual Gathering for **Family Court Support Workers**

NOVEMBER 2018
Joint brief on **Bill C-78** submitted with NAWL; testified before Standing Committee



JANUARY 2019
Pro Bono Legal Clinic expands to **Ajax**

JANUARY 2019
The Law Foundation of Ontario provides **Catalyst** funding



MARCH 2019
Laura Legge Award for Legal Director, Pamela Cross



MARCH 2019
Executive Director, Carol Barkwell, a **Denise House Honouree**



MARCH 2019
Ontario Bar Association Foundation Award for "exceptional contributions"

MARCH 2019
Department of Women and Gender Equality awards **capacity-building** funding

254 women's advocates trained

810 women served



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