



ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2019-2020

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



Luke's Place is a provincial centre of excellence devoted solely to improving the safety and experience of abused women and their children as they proceed through the family law system.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

Mid-March saw the Covid-19 pandemic send shock waves around the world, closing economies and imposing stay at home rules. Recognizing the challenges women with abusive partners and ex-partners would face, Luke's Place collaborated with the legal and community service sectors to ensure that women continued to have access to family law supports and safety information.

We transitioned our programs quickly, offering our services to women in Durham Region through individual phone and video consultations, free family law advice and information, and assistance with urgent and emergency motions. Provincially, we expanded our Virtual Legal Clinic services to deliver family law advice services to women anywhere in Ontario who have been subjected to intimate partner violence.

We onboarded new lawyers to deliver pro bono summary legal advice to women. We developed safety tips for women living with abusive partners, which we shared widely. We researched and summarized COVID-related family court cases, posting them to our website. We increased our visibility in the media through several channels, including interviews on-line, in print and on television.

In this fiscal year, we supported more women and their children than ever before: 853 women accessed our services from April 1, to March 31, 2020. It is anticipated that as COVID-19 rules ease and the family courts resume regular procedures, there will be an uptick in the number of women accessing our services. With the help of our stakeholders, Luke's Place will continue to be a valuable resource.

Luke's Place is emerging as a provincial centre of excellence, thanks to the combined funding from the federal Department of Women and Gender Equality and The Law Foundation of Ontario, and our dedicated and skilled team. We are committed to ongoing collaboration with others in the women's equality movement, as well as in the legal profession, and have steadily expanded and deepened our working relationships with other organizations in both sectors.

Over the past 18 months, we have been involved in critical law reform advocacy work, including the federal Bill C-78, An Act to Amend the Divorce Act, and Ontario's Bill 161, Smarter and Stronger Justice Act. We anticipate ongoing advocacy work with respect to both of these bills as well as other upcoming issues, including the licensing of paralegals to provide family law services and possible amendments to the Children's Law Reform Act.

As a result of the pandemic, the way in which we do our work has changed and is still evolving. In order to continue the important work Luke's Place does in supporting women and children in Durham Region, and on a provincial level; we continue to rely on donations and volunteers. If you are a donor, we thank you! If you wish to become involved in the life changing work we do, we ask you to donate today, and become a part of the Luke's Place team.

2020/2021

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ABOUT LUKE'S PLACE

The only stand-alone family law centre of excellence for abused women in Canada, Luke's Place provides direct services to hundreds of women and their children in Durham Region every year.

We share our expertise with thousands of service providers across Ontario and Canada through training, resources, and mentoring. We also work with academics to conduct research and collaborate widely to advocate for improved access to justice for women and their children.

The Ministry of the Attorney General designed the Family Court Support Worker (FCSW) program based on our service delivery model and contracts Luke's Place to train FCSWs and moderate their online resource hub. We also trained Legal Aid Ontario lawyers and staff as part of LAO's domestic violence strategy.

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 systems
- Training for lawyers on the issue of violence against women and family law
- Access to free online resources

SUPPORT FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE

- Advocate for systemic change through law and policy reform in Durham Region and provincially and nationally, raising awareness about violence against women and family law with government in the media, and at public events
 - Collaborate with academics, women and their advocates, the legal sector and others to examine the intersection of family violence and family law
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LUKE'S PLACE AWARDS

- **2019 Ontario Bar Association Foundation Award**
- **2019 Law Society of Ontario Laura Legge Award**
- **2019 Law Foundation Guthrie Award**
- **Denise House Celebration of Courage Award**



DURHAM REGION



853

**Women Accessed
Luke's Place Services**



570 women supported at Oshawa & Ajax offices

226 women supported at Durham court house

183 women accompanied to Durham court

126 women attended workshops

138 women supported through pro bono legal clinic

ONTARIO-WIDE



462

Women's Advocates Trained



35 women supported in rural and remote communities
through virtual legal clinic

160 in person trainings conducted

375 virtual trainings conducted

400 Family Court & Beyond

Organizers/Workbooks Distributed

80 forum posts **7,891** hits to resources by

Family Court Support Workers in on-line discussion area

NEW PROJECTS AND GRANTS

Capacity Building Grant



Women and Gender
Equality Canada

Femmes et Égalité
des genres Canada

Formalizing the Luke's Place Centre of Excellence on Family Law and Violence Against Women



Making Technology Work for You!

Development of resources for online and tech safety, and for court documents for women and workers

Catalyst Grant - Webinars



A series of eight webinars on family law issues for women fleeing abuse in collaboration with CLEO

Community Engaged Family Court Research: Intersecting Legal Issues in Cases Involving Violence Against Women, Phase 2



WHAT THEY ARE SAYING....

"I was lost, I did not know how to deal with the family law system. Luke's Place was there for me every step of the way." Luke's Place Client

"Luke's Place is the leader in creating meaningful systemic change for women who have experienced violence and who are involved with the family court system." Provincial Service Provider

"I wanted to do something meaningful with my time. By becoming a volunteer, I was rewarded with informative workshops, meaningful networking opportunities and the satisfaction of supporting women going through the court process." Luke's Place Volunteer

"Navigating the courts and the realm of family law is not an easy task. It's even more challenging for women and their children who are actively escaping domestic abuse. I chose to be a part of Luke's Place to contribute to an organization that empowers some of the most marginalized and vulnerable members of our community." Luke's Place Board Member

FINANCES

Excerpts taken from audited Financial Statements prepared by Dawn Flett & Associates and approved June 29, 2020. A complete financial statement is available upon request

STATEMENT OF OPERATION for the twelve months ended March 31, 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Revenue		
Donations and fundraising	\$ 43,759	\$ 68,817
Education and training	23,493	41,526
Grant funding (Note 4)	850,273	788,468
Foundation grants (Note 4)	36,702	18,440
Other	306	346
	<u>954,533</u>	<u>917,597</u>
Expenses		
Amortization	511	511
Grant-related expenses (Note 4)	850,273	788,468
Foundation grant expenses (Note 4)	36,702	18,440
Office and general	82	5,380
Professional services	10,974	17,177
Program and resource costs	1,452	20,142
Wages and benefits	3,633	9,760
	<u>903,627</u>	<u>859,878</u>
NET REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$ 50,906</u>	<u>\$ 57,719</u>

4. Deferred Revenue

Grant funding of \$867,758 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>
Woman and Gender Equality Canada	\$ -	\$143,727	\$143,727	\$ -
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services	6,561	60,000	47,997	18,565
Ministry of Attorney General	-	491,300	491,300	-
Law Foundation of Ontario	<u>93,752</u>	<u>172,731</u>	<u>167,249</u>	<u>99,234</u>
	<u>\$100,313</u>	<u>\$867,758</u>	<u>\$850,273</u>	<u>\$117,798</u>

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

Deferred revenue – operating grants \$117,798

The following is a summary of grant-related expenditures:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Insurance	\$ 6,271	\$ 6,300
Program and resource costs	86,113	94,458
Office and general	12,068	1,367
Occupancy costs	34,201	28,776
Professional services	189,261	150,654
Wages and benefits	<u>522,359</u>	<u>506,913</u>
	<u>\$ 850,273</u>	<u>\$ 788,468</u>

