

Tracking our Progress



Luke's Place

2022-2023
ANNUAL
IMPACT REPORT



The Story of Luke's Place

Luke's Place was founded because of the tragic death of Luke, a 3½-year-old Durham boy, killed by his father during his first unsupervised access visit.

Following Luke's death, professionals and survivors in Durham Region began to meet to explore solutions for addressing the difficulties experienced by woman abuse survivors and their children. These meetings led to research, culminating in a report and a community conference attended by more than 225 participants. One of the recommendations of the conference was to develop

a resource centre for women leaving violent relationships and dealing specifically with custody and access issues. There was unanimous support to name this centre Luke's Place.

Luke's Place Support and Resource Centre for Women and Children was incorporated in December 2000 and opened its doors to begin delivering service in September 2003.

Mission and Vision

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

Mission Statement

Luke's Place works 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 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



Luke's Place offices are located on traditional territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation.

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



Message from our Executive

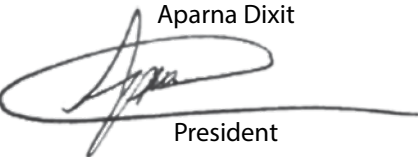
For Luke's Place, 2022-23 was a period of adjusting to a new normal. With the lifting of provincial restrictions on vaccines and masks, a new era of recovery began. Our return to the office brought unique challenges in a post-pandemic environment. New workplace priorities emerged, and in response, new strategies were developed. Special attention was given to team well-being, risk management, technology, fundraising, professional development and recruiting and retaining staff and volunteers. Despite the many challenges, we continued to expand our services and enhance accessibility to all women subjected to intimate partner violence living across Ontario.


Organizationally, we had some exciting changes. We made great strides towards the implementation of our 10-year strategic plan. Luke's Place Legal Services Director Emily Murray was named the new Legal Director, taking over from Pamela Cross, who held the position since 2009. Pamela Cross stepped into the new position of Advocacy Director. Both organizational pillars saw considerable growth this past year.

We expanded our legal services to include limited scope service and added a staff lawyer to support women in person and online both in Durham Region, and across the province.

Under the leadership of Pamela Cross and Emily Murray, Luke's Place was particularly active in its advocacy efforts in family law and the family court system both on a provincial and federal level including involvement in Bill C-233, Bill C-21, Ahluwalia v. Ahluwalia at the Ontario Court of Appeal and the Culleton, Kuzyk, and Warmerdam (CKW) Inquest.

Looking forward to the year ahead, we are thrilled that we will soon share our service delivery model nationally, through training, resources, and consultation support. We are excited to be hosting our annual gathering for Ontario's Family Court Support Workers live and in-person for the first time since 2019. Also, 2023/24 marks our organization's 20th anniversary of service delivery, an exciting milestone for Luke's Place. None of this work would have been possible without the generosity of our funders and donors, the commitment of our staff and volunteers, and the support of our community.


Aparna Dixit
President

Carol Barkwell

Executive Director



"We are so fortunate to have this resource, right here in our community, that is devoted to improving the safety and experience of women and their children that have left abusive relationships as they navigate through the complex family law system."

—Analiese St. Aubin, Manager Corporate Relations,
Ontario Power Generation



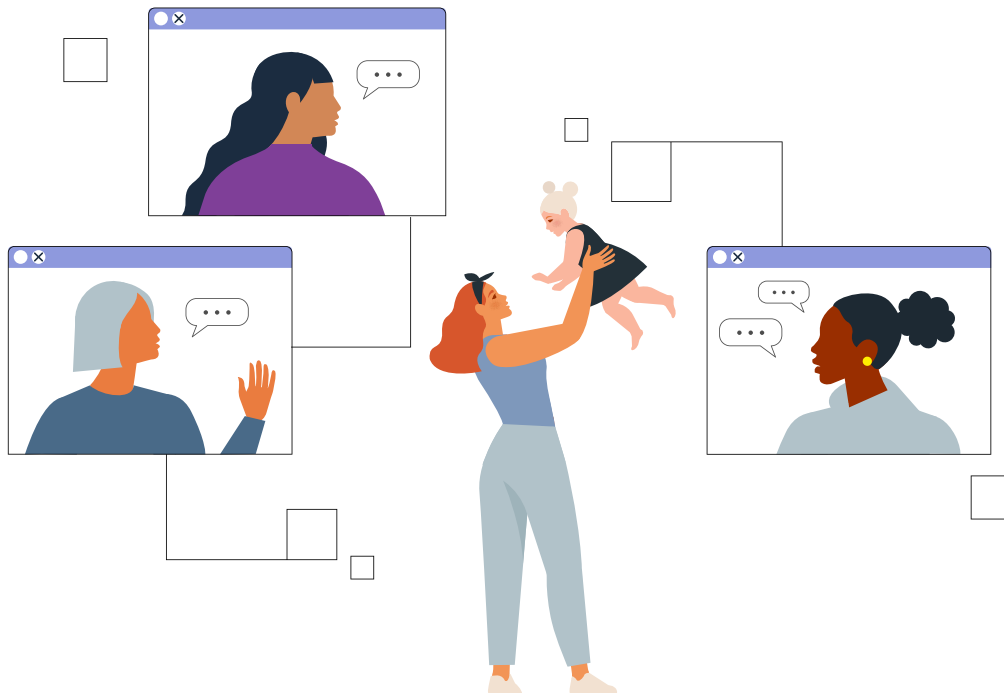


Women's Services

Our women's service team provided support to **910 women** through a variety of services that include safety planning, supportive counselling, information about family law process, court document preparation, accompaniment and debriefing outcomes, legal appointments accompaniment, support to address intersecting legal issues, referrals to community services, and group workshops and information sessions.

This past fiscal year, we succeeded in transitioning to a hybrid service delivery model. Despite the many challenges faced in navigating an ever-changing landscape, Luke's Place experienced an overall increase in access to services, while maintaining positive client evaluation feedback. We streamlined our legal clinic processes that support women in Durham Region and in communities across Ontario. The clinic supported **295 women**, through the contribution of **363 pro bono hours** provided by lawyers throughout Ontario.

Work began on critical issues identified in our 10-year strategic plan specifically that of increasing accessibility of services across Ontario. We implemented a new intake model to ensure we offer early support and safety planning with women and enhanced legal clinic services to provide some limited scope representation by our staff lawyer. Expansion of in-house discreet legal services and legal supports will continue in the coming year.



*"Luke's Place Legal Clinic
is an invaluable asset.
We are in a remote northern
location with limited services.
This program is desperately
needed and very well received.
Thank you!"*

—Family Court Support Worker

*"I now feel empowered to move
forward with my life and to make
decisions for myself based on hope
and not of fear. I feel like I know
more about my legal rights after
my meeting today and feel confident
about what to do for my next steps."*

—Luke's Place Service User



Advocating for Change

Our advocacy team strives to bring about changes that remove barriers and increase safety of women and children at the provincial and national levels. Grounded in the lived experience of women we work with, we leverage our in-house legal and research expertise and in collaboration with other feminist experts, provide insights on improvements in laws, policy, systems, and services. Our advocacy efforts raised awareness through **38 media hits** and **104 blog posts** in 2022-23.

This past year, Luke's Place engaged in our first strategic litigation. Together with the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic, we were granted intervenor status at the Ontario Court of Appeal, in the case of Ahluwalia v Ahluwalia. We were actively involved in advocacy efforts with Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) highlighting challenges experienced by many women in finding lawyers to accept their LAO certificates. Luke's Place undertook an active role in the Culleton, Kuzyk, Warmerdam (CKW) Inquest and in particular, our Advocacy Director was present throughout the entire proceeding and provided expert testimony. We continued to lead and support advocacy efforts for the implementation of CKW Inquest recommendations.

Taking into consideration the goals of the 10-year strategic plan, the team works to provide timely information to decision-makers about women's equality issues and opportunities for law and policy reform. A national law and policy reform coalition on gender-based violence and access to justice was created in collaboration with the National Association of Women and the Law (NAWL). We supported Bill C-233 (known as Keira's Law) which would result in mandatory training on domestic violence for judges. We supported Bill C-21 along with several feminist organizations as part of the Women4GunControl coalition, calling for a ban on assault-style firearms.

"This training was very well done. There was a good mix of collaborative work, and time for us to think about the topics. I enjoyed meeting others and hearing their stories about law-reform engagement."

—Law Reform
Online Training Participant

"Increased access to justice for survivors is essential."

—Pamela Cross,
Luke's Place
Advocacy Director





Knowledge Mobilization

Our knowledge mobilization team supported **1,000+ women's advocates** across Ontario and Canada through training, resources, and mentoring, to equip them to help women navigate the family law system and to counteract some of the barriers in that system.

This past fiscal year the team successfully planned and executed what is to be our final virtual Family Court Support Worker (FCSW) provincial gathering, as plans are well underway for the first in-person event since 2019.

Our team created **28 resources** including our updated Emergency Motions Toolkit which provides clear information to women's legal advocates on how to support women who may need to bring an emergency ex parte motion in family court. We updated our "After She Leaves" Manual and launched our "After She Leaves" self-directed online training for legal advocates who are working with women fleeing abusive relationships. We created the Culleton, Kuzyk & Warmerdam (CKW) Inquest Advocacy Toolkit, to assist organizations that do not have the resources to develop their own advocacy strategy and tools. New national webinars were developed and delivered on media engagement and law reform advocacy for frontline women's equality organizations with new online resources soon to be released.

As part of our 10-year strategic plan, work began to improve resources, ensure greater accessibility, and expand the promotion of our resources across Ontario and Canada. We have begun to adapt our flagship "After She Leaves" training and manual as well as other key resources nationally, and we look forward to reporting on this next fiscal year.



Research



Our research team works to advance knowledge on the intersections of family violence and family law often in collaboration with an academic partner. Since 2008, Luke's Place has published ten research reports. Our research questions emerge from our experience working with women, and the difficulties and barriers they encounter.

This past fiscal year, the research team working with our academic and community organization partners continued family court observation research in five Ontario court jurisdictions. This research examines the courts' approach to family violence where intersecting legal issues are present. A report of findings and recommendations will be released later in 2023.

Work began to address goals aligned with our 10-year strategic plan including developing stronger relationships with organizations in communities encountering the most serious or complex difficulties with the family law system. In the coming year, we will work collaboratively to conduct community-engaged research for the purpose of increasing understanding and developing recommendations to address the challenges faced by equity-seeking communities of women as they navigate the family law system.

Financials

Excerpts taken from audited Financial Statements prepared by Dawn Flett & Associates and approved June 14, 2023.

A complete financial statement is available upon request.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS For the year ending March 31, 2023	2023		2022	
REVENUE				
Donations and fundraising	\$76,460	3.6%	\$102,620	7.1%
Eduction and training	\$18,211	.9%	\$12,474	.85%
Grant funding	\$1,988,532	95.4%	\$1,322,361	91.3%
Other	\$318	.1%	\$11,030	.75%
	\$2,083,521	100%	\$1,448,485	100%
EXPENSES				
Amortization	\$511	.02%	\$511	.03%
Grant-related expenses	\$1,988,532	99.9%	\$1,322,361	98.7%
Office and general	\$1,546	.08%	\$920	.07%
Professional services	-	0%	\$5,500	.4%
Program and resource costs	-	0%	-	0%
Wages and benefits	-	0%	\$10,741	.8%
	\$1,990,589	100%	\$1,340,033	100%
NET REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$92,932		\$108,452	

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW	2023	2022
CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$92,932	\$108,452
Non-cash items:		
Amortization	\$511	\$511
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	\$(78,848)	\$(7,587)
Prepaid expenses	\$(17,346)	\$(2,800)
Investments	\$(200,234)	\$117
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$23,750	\$6,350
Deferred revenue	\$393,491	\$110,446
CASH PROVIDED	\$214,256	\$215,489
CASH, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$743,974	\$528,485
CASH, END OF YEAR	\$958,230	\$743,974

DEFERRED REVENUE	Opening balance	Grants received	Expensed currently	Closing balance
Women and Gender Equality Canada	-	\$527,277	\$279,711	\$247,566
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services	\$76,603	\$459,447	\$536,050	-
Ministry of Attorney General	-	\$255,000	\$255,000	-
Law Foundation of Ontario	\$181,906	\$219,775	\$245,906	\$155,775
Canadian Family Justice Fund	-	-	-	-
Department of Justice	-	\$565,340	\$565,340	-
Canadian Women's Foundation	\$16,734	\$141,590	-	\$158,324
Municipal Grants	\$3,000	\$6,000	-	\$9,000
Ontario Trillium Foundation	\$7,700	\$136,100	\$88,586	\$55,214
Summer Student Grants	-	\$17,939	\$17,939	-
Private Foundation Grants	\$116,783	\$53,555	-	\$170,338
TOTAL DEFERRED REVENUE	\$402,726	\$2,382,023	\$1,988,532	\$796,217

EXPENDITURES	2023	2022
Insurance	\$11,531	\$8,626
Program and resource costs	\$158,727	\$187,155
Office and general	\$1,961	\$1,424
Occupancy costs	\$34,943	\$34,993
Professional services	\$316,121	\$203,870
Wages and benefits	\$1,465,249	\$886,293
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,988,532	\$1,322,361

Thank You for Creating a Culture of Safety



Luke's Place

To our many volunteers who gave their time, energy, and talent to helping women and families access justice, we extend our heartfelt thanks. A special thank you to the granting agencies and donors who helped us improve the lives of women and children:

Ministry of the Attorney General
Ministry of Children Community and Social Services
Department of Justice Canada
Department of Women and Gender Equality Canada
Canadian Women's Foundation
The Law Foundation of Ontario
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Calvin and Frances Hamm Foundation
Community Foundations of Canada
Durham Community Foundation
JP Bickell Foundation
McColl Early Foundation
Canada Summer Jobs
Christ Memorial Church
City of Oshawa
Daughters of Isabella
Deer Creek Cares Charitable Foundation
Durham Region Labour Council
Faith United Church
Knights of Columbus Council 11098
Mississauga's of Scugog Island First Nation Maada'ookii Committee
Newcastle Lions Club
Ontario Power Generation
Ontario Secondary School Teacher's Federation District 13
Pickering Mayor's Gala Event
Purpose Church
Rotary Club of Pickering
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 322
Walmart Stores #1150, 1139, 3106, 3105, 3653
and our many generous individual donors