

*A safe place to
help, heal, end child abuse.*



10 YEARS OF

ADVOCACY | AWARENESS | PARTNERSHIP | CARE

Annual Report
// 2018



Kristen French
Child Advocacy
Centre Niagara

A MESSAGE FROM

THE BOARD CHAIR

AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,

The Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre is now 10 years strong and we have grown from hosting 50 interviews in our first year to 310, involving 569 children and youth in 2018. Follow up mental health support is now standard (117 individuals received counselling support) as is our outreach to youth. We have gone through a name change, retired our mortgage, formed a 17-member partner entity Partners to End Child Abuse Niagara (PECAN) and had our first visit from Axel the facility dog, provided by Victim Services Niagara, to support a young victim during an interview.

In 2008 the centre was opened with the specific purpose to reduce the number of times children had to repeat their experiences to professionals by providing a model of joint investigation excellence. Through the years we have maintained our community commitment to this model, thus reducing trauma for children reporting abuse and leveraging their resilience to reclaim their future.

We're proud to be working with dedicated, caring individuals and organizations. From the commitment of our core partners at Niagara Regional Police, FACS, and Family Counselling Centre Niagara, through our many generous long-time and new supporters, individual and corporate, the core elements of a trauma-reducing circle of care for children and families affected by abuse in Niagara are in place.

2018-19 was a good year for the Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre, full of change and progress. We are proud of the strides that many of our core events made as we have been continuing to build partnerships and support that we expect will have a lasting and positive impact for our Region and the children, youth and families who need us. Of particular note is the work of the dedicated volunteer event chairs and their committees, who run those events, all reaching different audiences.

When the Centre opened in 2008 a small group of founders worked with tireless dedication to raise the funds needed to open the Centre. We are proud to continue their work

with core support from partners, foundations, corporations, individuals, sponsors, service clubs, third party fundraisers and a significant Trillium grant for ongoing outreach to youth.

In the pursuit of sustainable funding, the Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre continues to seek progress through municipalities in the Niagara Region, the Province of Ontario and the Federal Government. As Board Chair, I want to recognize and thank Lynn Jerchel, former President and Board Chair, and Janet Handy, our accomplished Executive Director for their great stewardship and continued guidance on this and our many other pursuits.

We've been constantly evolving and learning through our involvement with other agencies and collaborators like Victim Services Niagara, Niagara Chapter Native Women Inc., Foster Festival, and Big Brothers Big Sisters. Our co-signing of the Niagara Region Response Protocol for Human Trafficking in 2018 to provide education and awareness to youth, may yet mean continued evolution of our role and the services we provide in this regard. As Executive Director, I want to thank our collaborators and the hard working staff team for their coordination, administrative support and program outreach.

Our success is a product of the community's commitment and determination to help, heal and end child abuse. With the ongoing support of our Partners, Board, donors, volunteers, and the dedicated staff team, the Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara is well positioned and ready for the many challenges and achievements as we move toward the future.

Thank you for your support.

Mark Doyle
President / Board Chair

Janet Handy
Executive Director



CHILDREN AND YOUTH FIRST – INVESTIGATION PROGRAM

We host our three core partners who work together to provide joint investigation and follow up mental health support to children who have experienced the impacts of abuse. Investigations are completed at KFCACN based on the unique needs of the child, youth or family to minimize stress and the trauma of recounting abuse experiences.

IN 2018, THE NRPS CHILD ABUSE UNIT REPORTED:



764 incidents involving the welfare of children under the age of 16

The incidents ranged from Information Reports outlining a concern for a child's living environment to complex investigations regarding children attending local medical institutions in various states of trauma.



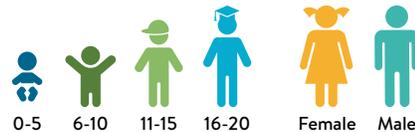
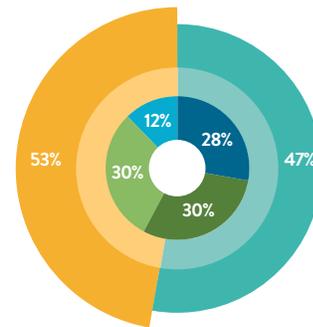
Members of the unit continued investigations into **303** of the aforementioned matters.



A total of **184** charges were laid by members of the Unit.

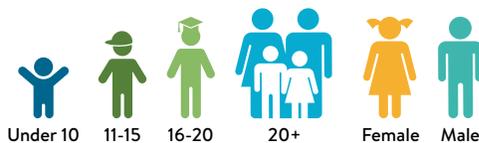
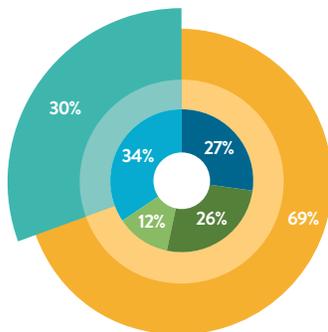
IN 2018, THE CAC-LOCATED FACS UNIT MANAGED

310 cases involving **569** children/youth
That's almost **ONE CASE EVERY DAY** in Niagara



Abuse affects kids of **male, female and self-identified** genders
Abuse affects kids of **ALL** ages

IN 2018, FCC NIAGARA HELPED:

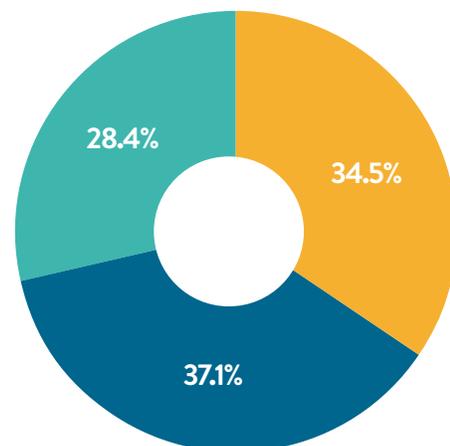


117 people through **191** individual counselling sessions



An additional **130 hours** of group counselling coverage was provided for art and trauma counselling groups.

NATURE OF ABUSE CASES (FACS)



- Physical Abuse/Maltreatment
- Sexual Abuse/Maltreatment
- Other (allegations regarding supervision, neglect, abandonment or history of abuse)

OUTREACH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

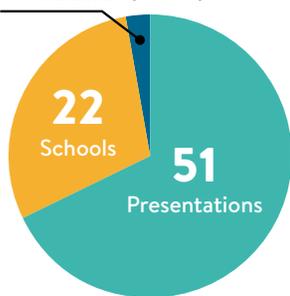
In 2016, The Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara (KFCACN) received 3 years of funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to expand outreach to youth, (who have been exposed to abuse) caregivers and adult allies who work with youth in the Niagara region. Over the past two years, with this funding we have been able to significantly increase our outreach capacity and meaningfully impact the lives of youth and the adult allies in their lives.



TEEN CONNECT PROGRAM

KFCACN's Teen Connect program is a child abuse awareness presentation delivered to students across Niagara in grades 7, 8 and 9. The program, presented in a group format by the KFCACN's Youth Outreach Coordinator, has been extremely successful in reaching many Niagara's youth, and is well-received by school staff. Critical in establishing the importance of abuse education, outreach, and prevention. The presentation is making great strides in shifting student's awareness and confidence with the disclosure process.

2 Mayor's Youth Advisory Councils (MYAC)



Altogether, the Teen Connect presentations have reached a total of **1,062** Niagara students ranging in age from 12-15 years.



MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



In collaboration with Big Brothers Big Sisters St. Catharines, Thorold and District, KFCACN is developing a team of young mentors to match with youth coming through our Trillium outreach programs. Mentors require training, an appropriate match and a one year commitment to their mentee. Topics include impacts of child abuse, resilience, the mentor role and setting appropriate boundaries.

Our first training was held August 2018 with special guest presenters Lauren Kussen, a Registered Social Worker (RSW) and Therapist at Niagara Wellness Centre and Amanda Hicks, a Public Health Nurse/ Manager at Niagara Region.

GROWING INITIATIVES

Partners to End Child Abuse Niagara (PECAN) begun in 2015, has grown from 8 agencies to 17 in 2018. The partners maintain an online database for programming and information on child abuse awareness and prevention through paid members' fees and the hard work of Andrea Jack, the Program Committee Chair for KFCACN.

Cathys' Kids is supported by the Collins family and friends. We were able to offer two groups last year and plan a group for this Fall. The same Teen Creative arts curriculum adapted to a younger age group is used and so far the participants have expressed greater and greater resilience in the face of recovery from abuse experiences.

TEEN CREATIVE PROGRAM

The Teen Creative Program is a collaborative initiative jointly delivered by KFCACN and the Foster Festival. This 12-week peer support group program uses creativity as a vehicle to support youth between the ages of 12 and 15 years who have experienced physical, sexual and/or verbal abuse, witnessed violence, or experienced internet luring, sexting and/or human trafficking. Participants are offered a variety of mediums (e.g. painting, journaling, dramatic arts, meditation, song/play writing, and mask making) to help foster creativity through local visiting artists who are assisted by two volunteer facilitators from the Foster Festival and KFCACN.



In 2018, we held two group sessions. One of these sessions was held on-site at the KFCACN and was geared towards youths who have experienced child abuse, and the other group session was adapted to be meaningful to the lived experiences of Niagara's Indigenous youth, in partnership with the Niagara Chapter Native Women (NCNW).

Keegan Langelaan, Youth Outreach Coordinator

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROTOCOL HUB & SERVICE MAP

The KFCACN is a partner in Niagara's Human Trafficking Protocol, where community agencies have come together to help support victims of Human Trafficking in Niagara. Our Human Trafficking web initiative was launched in September 2018, with updates and new information always being added. The web site provides Niagara's youth and caregivers with the opportunity to engage in dialogue about issues relevant to Human Trafficking and Internet Luring. Specifically, this webpage(s) provides awareness on the current issue and includes resources such as: Defining Human Trafficking, Glossary of Terms, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and a Directory of Community Services and Contact Numbers.

In October 2018, the KFCACN's Youth Outreach Coordinator launched the Human Trafficking Service Map through an online interactive map that allows users to filter out the service they are looking for in relation to their current geographical location in Niagara.



2018 SPOTLIGHT GALA

The Spotlight Gala, is a reference to the movie *Spotlight* that follows the Boston Globe's Spotlight team (an investigative news team) in their relentless efforts to uncover the truth behind hundreds of child abuse cases perpetrated within the Catholic Diocese of Boston. Our 2018 Gala was sold out and we were able to raise \$47,000 for the Centre!

Highlights:

- Our host Joe Pillitteri brought his usual balance of humor and fun to what can be otherwise a difficult subject to discuss.
- We featured our 10 year anniversary video that shares our journey from the beginning of the Centre's opening to the present day and our look to the future.
- Our Executive Director Janet Handy had just released her book *The Secret Tribe*; a memoir of resilience about surviving childhood abuse. Jan was guest speaker this past year and you could hear a pin drop as she spoke.



The event has been steadily growing with the tremendous support of TD in our first year and Penner Home Building Centre is now our official lead sponsor. Thank you of course to our amazing team of volunteers who make it all happen. We are pleased to announce our focus for the upcoming year will be all about outreach to youth.

KIDS GOLFING FOR KIDS

2018 was the 25th Anniversary of the Niagara District Junior Golf tour, which designates the Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre as its charity. Over the past nine years, the tour has raised over \$275,000 including last year's total of \$27,800. John White and Rose DiLorenzo have been our constant champions throughout those nine years and we could not be more grateful to them and the young golfers who pledge their support. As we celebrate our 10th anniversary we say thank you to this important partner from our Niagara community!

PLAYHOUSE BUILD & AUCTION

Our annual playhouse build is now entering its 5th year and still going strong. A unique event, it has grown from \$ 4,391.80 in its first year to raising \$26800 in 2018. In partnership with Niagara Home Builders Association this event features a one-of-a-kind playhouse building competition with some of Niagara's top builders. On April 29, 2018 over 230 people enjoyed a fun filled day of live entertainment, food trucks, face painting and more! A special thanks to the over 30 volunteers, builders and our Pen Centre host!

AMAZING RACE NIAGARA

Teams of four traveled by car throughout Niagara on September 9, competing against each other and the clock to complete various activities. Each challenge led to clues for the next destination, and prizes were awarded to the top three teams, with additional awards to teams raising the most funds and demonstrating the most creativity. The popular and ever-fun event raised \$30,900.

YOUTH ULTIMATE DODGEBALL CHALLENGE

Now in its 6th year, Dodgeball has raised just over \$7,755 for the Centre. In February of this year, 10 co-ed teams took to the court at the Niagara Ball Hockey Club to have some fun, blow off steam, and ultimately raise \$1,470 for KFCACN. High school students from across Niagara took part in this 5th annual event. It was an opportunity for students to give back by helping local children and youth during February's 'Youth Leadership Month'.





VOLUNTEERS: OUR HEARTBEAT

The Centre was built on the support of volunteers, community members and organizations. Volunteers have always played a crucial role in our operations and achievements.

We have volunteers who were with us on opening day, 10 years ago that are still volunteering with us today! Volunteers are very important to us and we truly value their efforts, commitment and the many ideas they bring to our Centre.

2018 saw a total of 52 volunteers (includes Board members) volunteering for 3,250 hours, sharing their time, talents and efforts to help our Centre succeed and achieve our goals.

Susanne McCarroll,
Resource Development Coordinator

BUILDING

From the capital campaign that raised enough funds to open the Centre in 2008 to today we have been able to repair and enhance Niagara's *safe place* for over ten years with the help of partner, community and government funds. We retired the mortgage in 2014 with the help of St. Catharine car dealers and several federal and community service grants have allowed us to repaint and add new equipment (an HVAC system) for the interview rooms, a TV/DVD player system for the teen waiting room, completion of medical equipment and a grant for an artist to provide murals on the walls. We also planned a 10 year anniversary tree in the Garden last year.

At the time the property at 8 Forester Street St. Catharines was purchased it had a ramp which only made the main floor of the building accessible. In the spring of 2016 the Board expanded accessibility to include the two lower levels of the building. The expansions resulted in two chairlifts being installed providing complete access to the two lower levels. In the following year with a continuing concern to provide a healthy environment for our employees three additional windows were added to the lower level of the building to improve the lighting and air flow.

Frank Parkhouse, Building Committee Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT

Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara has successfully met its financial stewardship obligations and the auditor has attested that our 2018 Financial Statements were presented fairly in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The Centre's net revenues of \$20,254 for 2018 can be attributed to reductions in grant revenues along with fundraising activities. These were offset by reductions in programs fees associated with grants, and reduced expenditures on repairs and maintenance and work to promote the Centre. The Centre experienced higher than normal activity in office expenses as a result of computer upgrades. Our statement of cash flows indicates a decrease in closing cash position of \$100,449, as the Centre increased its investments by \$111,427, largely in Guaranteed Investment Certificates, ensuring the Agency remains in a solid financial position.

Cathy Cousins, Treasurer

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018

Statement of Financial Activities (\$)

Income	
Donations	40,505
Grants	98,813
Fundraising events	143,457
Partner support	125,000
Interest income	378
In-kind donations	18,961
	<hr/>
	427,114

Expenses	
Advertising and promotion	12,348
Bank charges	1,513
Amortization	18,559
Fundraising	26,552
Insurance	6,867
In-kind donations	18,961
Office	20,825
Program	26,447
Professional fees	10,220
Repairs and maintenance	14,237
Travel	4,937
Utilities and telephone	11,150
Wages	234,244
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	406,860

Excess of revenue over expenditures	20,254
	<hr/> <hr/>

Statement of Financial Position (\$)

Assets	
Cash - Unrestricted	177,282
- Personnel reserve	6,331
- Awareness reserve	68,943
- Program reserve	80,000
Investments	147,911
HST receivable	9,940
Accounts receivable	-
	<hr/>
	490,407

Endowment funds	37,126
Property and equipment	550,967
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	1,078,500

Current Liabilities	
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	6,089
Government remittances payable	3,628
Deferred contributions	74,025
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	83,742

Fund Balances	
Unrestricted fund surplus	251,391
Endowment	37,126
Invested capital assets	550,967
Personnel reserve	6,331
Awareness reserve	68,943
Building reserve	-
Program reserve	80,000
	<hr/>
	994,758
	<hr/> <hr/>
	1,078,550

EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS TOWARD HELPING A CHILD WHO ENTERS OUR DOOR

We are very fortunate to have many generous donors to support our work. Thank you!

Grants

- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Canada Summer Jobs Grant
- Sleep Cheap Charities Reap (City of Niagara Falls)
- Branscombe Family Foundation
- The May Court Club of St. Catharines
- Canadian Tire Financial Services
- Niagara Community Foundation
- Township of West Lincoln

Partner Support

- Regional Municipality of Niagara (c/o NRPS Child Abuse Unit)
- Family and Children Services Niagara
- Family Counselling Centre Niagara

Planned Giving

- Planned giving donors have made preparations to provide the Centre with future support through wills and other means. They are anonymous. To date we have 7 planned giving donors.

Community & Corporate Support

- Tenaquip Limited - Brantford
- Niagara Region Police Association
- Plumbtech Services Ltd.
- Rotary Club of St. Catharines
- Probation Officers Association Ontario Inc.
- Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
- Grape Escape Wine Tours
- Future Waste Recycling Facilities Inc.
- Bridge Centre of Niagara Inc.
- Niagara Regional Raiders Football Inc.
- Pepsico Foods Canada
- Green Ribbon Memorial Golf Tournament
- Rubic Electrical Services
- A.N. Myer Secondary School
- CSN Tech Centre Ltd.
- E.L. Crossley Secondary School
- Rosenkranz & sons Limited
- Ophardt Hygiene Technologies, Inc.

Sponsors

- Rankin Construction Inc.
- Penner Building Centre
- Walker Industries Holding Ltd.
- Court Holdings Limited
- Joe Kish Foundation (Tora Investments)
- Niagara Home Builders Assoc.

- Seaway Farms
- Lakeview Vineyard Equipment
- TD (Toronto Dominion Bank)
- Niagara Trailers Ltd.
- Ensuite (EMCO)
- Marken Homes
- Sullivan Mahoney
- Henderson's Pharmacy
- District School Board of Niagara
- L. Walter & Sons Excavating
- Ontario Native Women's Association
- Aristocrat Flooring

- A&M Masonry
- Ferrell Building Supply
- Innovative Kitchens
- Meridian Credit Union
- BStone Consulting Ltd.
- St. Catharines Mazda
- Youngs Insurance Brokers
- Cardinal Kia
- Cogeco Inc.
- Don's Lighthouse
- Johnny Rocco's Italian Grill
- Scoop Group
- Darcy Richardson Revel Reality
- Rinaldi Homes Inc.
- Ophardt Hygiene
- Kavar Jewellers
- Enns Cabinetry
- Fran Ponaoness
- RBC Mortgage Specialist

- Martin Sheppard Fraser LLP
- Nickerson Appliances
- St. Catharines Canadian Polish Society
- Peninsula Flooring
- Revel Realty
- Kramer Printing
- Verge Insurance
- Broker Link Sheehan and Rosie Ltd.
- Niagara Regional Police Association
- Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation District 22 Niagara
- Sandercott & Evans Opticians
- Jeffery's Greenhouse
- ASI Group
- Beatties Basics
- McDonalds Dendres Corp.
- Ohara Trucking
- Zonta Club of St. Catharines
- Brand Blvd.
- Promus Niagara (FIRE Group)
- Divesh Inc.
- DRT Custom Homes
- Exclusive Imprint
- Hookaas & Assoc. The Cooperators

- Kevin Reid -Scotiabank Home Financing Advisor
- King Contractors
- NRP Senior Officers Association
- O'Brien Lifting Solutions Inc.
- Phyllis De Prophetis The DePro Team
- Sapphire Construction of Niagara
- Texture Hair Salon
- Town of Lincoln

Individual Supporters (\$100+)

- Jennifer Collins
- Trevor Cooper
- Lynn Jerchel
- Jeff Collins
- Marlene & Rudy DeRose
- Francis & David Pickering
- Guillermo Fuentes
- Elaine & Thomas Cybula
- Deb Elliott
- Laurie Bearss
- Darcy Richardson
- Paul Collins
- Gary & Wendy Kuenzel
- Robert & Starlet Kemp
- Jacob & Louise Westerhof
- Don & Lois Fretz
- Mark & Karen Doyle
- Brandon Kemp
- Steve & Lisa Gall
- Amanda Hicks
- Frank & Ivy Parkhouse
- Anna Bozza
- Virginia Vickers
- Anna & John Petrie
- Larisa Fry
- Doug & Donna French
- Tom & Tracey Galbraith
- Rod & Sherrill Hollick
- Lisa Jeffery
- Bill Kender
- Bev Lenchyshyn
- Charlette MacLean
- Kelly Morphew
- George & Carolyne Nichols
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- Bill & Kathleen Schenck
- Cian MacWeis
- Noah Sloan
- Allan Bannister
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- Nicole Beaulieu
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- Paul & Rachel Stuchberry
- Bruce & Barbara Stevens
- Margo Smith
- Anneliese Burke
- Arlene Pegg
- Marion Lichty
- Sheri Rivers
- James Bradley
- Tara Colaneri
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- Twila Gall
- Chelsea Mercier
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- Marilyn Philbrick
- Anna Marie Rosa
- Christine Tardif-Williams
- Mary Bianco
- Sara Henry
- Kerry Hiebert
- Richard & Joan Larocque
- Brad & Rita French
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- Martin Nurmi
- Paul Pingue
- Kevin Sloan
- Chris Smith
- Cornelis VanderMeer
- Theresa Mannion
- Ron & Sally Brooks
- Arleen Bush
- Joan Densham-Anderson
- Mitch Miljus
- Sylvia Reimer
- Ethel Roy
- Andrea Feller

216 additional donors have generously contributed amounts under \$100.

120 donors have donated gifts in kind (under \$100) to help with our programs and events.

ALL DONORS ARE APPRECIATED

Martin Caruana, Program Administrator

905.937.5435

8 Forster Street, St. Catharines, ON L2N 1Z9
info@kristenfrenchcacn.org



Registered Charity No. 865196406RR0001

OUR VISION

To engage the community in a child abuse prevention, awareness and response strategy

OUR MISSION

To serve children in the Niagara Region who have been impacted by abuse



**Kristen French
Child Advocacy
Centre Niagara**

Photos by Karyn Sawatsky