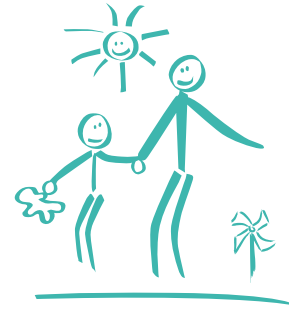




Kristen French  
Child Advocacy  
Centre Niagara

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

# A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD PRESIDENT



This past year has brought about challenges for all of us that were impossible to imagine before 2020. Separated from our families and friends for long periods, kids schooled at home in front of a screen, work and leisure lives upended and, in many cases, shutdown. The smiling faces of our co-workers, neighbours and even strangers in public, covered by masks. The challenges of the last year forced society to alter regular routines, and we were no exception. Fundraisers were cancelled and existing programming was offered virtually when possible. New programming planned to serve more children and families was not able to safely begin. Many of the changes during COVID-19 have been difficult to adjust to and hard to process for even the strongest and best equipped among us. These challenges have now continued for far longer than any of us first imagined, almost 14 months ago.

For some, a silver lining has been found. More family time at home and more meals together, without the rush of activities and commute times. Without broader social contacts or travel, many have rediscovered their neighbourhoods and the faces and places that make it special. If this is at all a part of your pandemic story, consider yourself truly fortunate.

Many children across Niagara, have not been so fortunate. Home for countless kids has no silver lining. School is a sanctuary from a troubled homelife. The smiling faces of teachers, classmates and even strangers can be a necessary support in a sea of trauma and abuse. Financial hardship, stress, isolation, poor support systems, addiction and mental health issues often create a dangerous combination in more households than we are prepared to face.

As we emerge from the global pandemic, there is a growing realization that while the experience has been challenging for many of us, it has been very serious for the children, youth, and families we serve. Lockdowns, school closures and movement restrictions have left far too many children stuck with their abusers, without the safe space that school would normally offer. Families face heightened stress and anxiety from lost income, social isolation, and potential crowding in the home.

Additionally, more time online has undoubtedly exposed children and youth to an increased risk of online sexual

exploitation or bullying. As a result, incidents of child physical and sexual abuse, neglect, and witness to violence have soared. Never has the need for child advocacy, and the programs and services we provide been so great.

Today, we find ourselves well prepared to face these challenges. We have a dedicated and committed Board and staff team, and a core group of volunteers who are passionate about our cause. We have a generous and growing pool of donors who believe that the work we do makes a difference in our community. And, we have committed partners in the Niagara Regional Police, Family and Children's Services and the Family Counselling Centre who together, work to serve children and families impacted by abuse in Niagara. As we look to the future, there is reason for optimism.

The introduction of our new strategic plan positions us to be sustainable over the long term and readies us for program and service expansion. Supported by soon to be released National Standards and best practices, the goal remains to develop the Centre into a full-service Child Advocacy Centre which will enable us to serve more kids, in more meaningful ways. This means introducing new programs and continuing to build on our past successes; it means turning a Healing Centre concept into reality and welcoming a Facility Dog to support children and youth; it means developing new partnerships and supporting families in more holistic and comprehensive ways; and it also means not losing sight of what we do best – providing an environment that is child-focused and private; a safe and non-threatening place for children and youth to disclose their experience of abuse.

Despite the many challenges all around us, it is an important time to be a part of the Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre as we ramp up efforts to protect children during these difficult times and beyond.

While our methods may have changed, our mission remains the same: To help, heal, and end child abuse.

**Brian Bratt, Executive Director**  
**Mark Doyle, President / Board of Directors**

# CHILDREN AND YOUTH FIRST - INVESTIGATION PROGRAM

We host 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 the Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara based on the unique needs of the child, youth or family to minimize stress and the trauma of recounting abuse experiences.

## DURING THE 2020 CALENDAR YEAR, NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE REPORTED:



**180 incidents involving child abuse and/or neglect, 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 the children attending local medical institutions in various states of trauma.

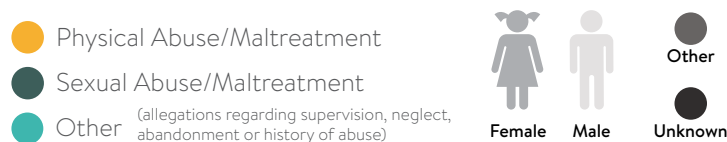
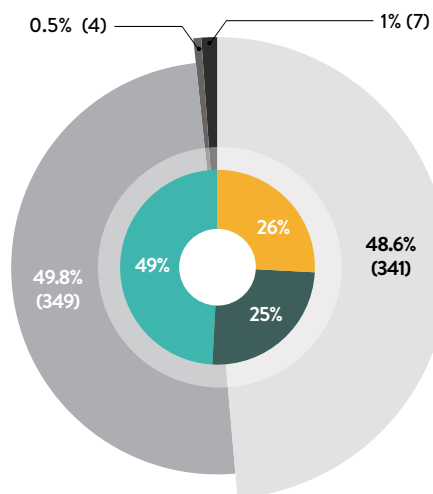


**36 of those incidents were cleared by charge.**



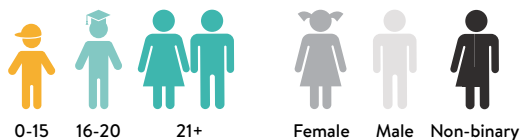
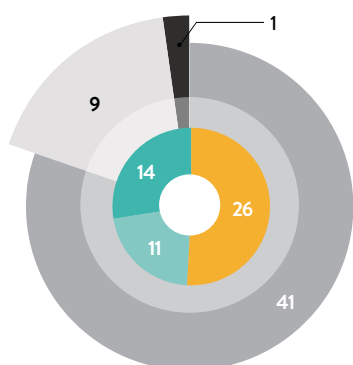
**A total of 121 charges were laid by members of the Unit.**

## NATURE OF ABUSE CASES (FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES)



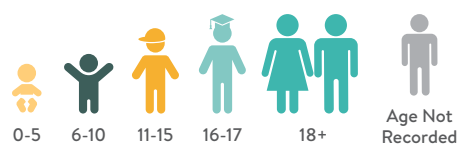
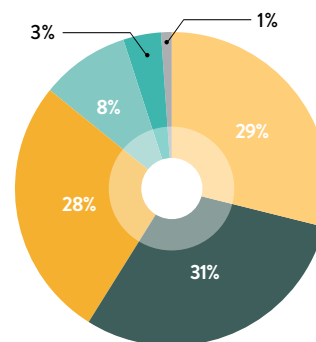
## IN 2020, FAMILY COUNCELLING CENTRE NIAGARA HELPED:

**51 people through  
263 individual counselling sessions**



## IN 2020, THE CENTRE-LOCATED FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES UNIT MANAGED:

**338 cases involving 701 children/youth**



**Abuse affects children and youth of  
all ages and who identify as male,  
female and non-binary genders**

# FUNDRAISING EVENTS

All of our events target different audiences and are unique to the Centre and the community we support. Despite COVID-19, we raised a total of \$63,722 through all our events including third party events held by community supporters.

We were disappointed to cancel our Youth Ultimate Dodgeball Challenge, our spring Playhouse Build & Auction & our Spotlight Gala this past year due to the pandemic. We are very fortunate to have been able to hold our Kids Golfing for Kids and Amazing Race Niagara events this summer while following COVID-19 and public health protocols and safety measures.

We have so many loyal and dedicated sponsors who continue to provide support for our Kids Golfing for Kids event presented by Rankin Construction, which has run every summer since 2009. We are pleased to share that together with the support of our sponsors and the Niagara District Junior Golf Tour we raised just over \$20,000 this past year to support our much needed programs & services.

With a maximum limit of 25 teams, our Amazing Race Niagara event raised just over \$30,000. A huge thank you goes out to our friends over at Country89 & GiantFM, our sponsors and our racers who helped raise funds for the Centre's ongoing post investigation programs.

All of our events have business sponsorship opportunities available, volunteer participation possibilities and support from our local Niagara community in-kind options.

We very much appreciate all the wonderful sponsors, donors, participants and volunteers who have graciously supported our events in the past, who continue to support our events today and who will give their support to our events in the coming years.

From all the staff at the Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara we thank you for everything you do!



## VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

Despite the pandemic, we had great volunteer support in 2020 with a total of 48 volunteers supporting our efforts through in Centre, Events and Board assistance for a total of 2,065 hours.

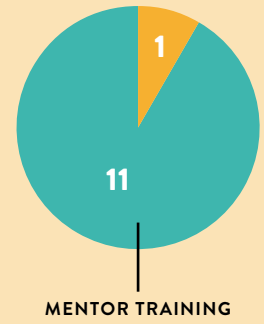
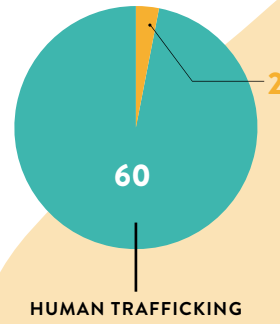
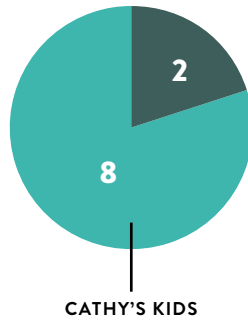
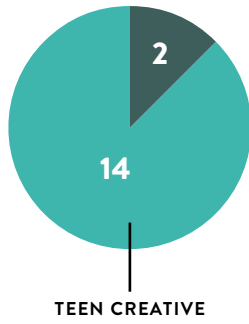
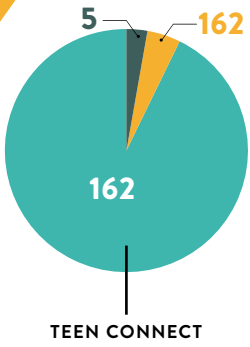
With Student and volunteer help in the office from January to March when we first moved to Work from Home we had 480 volunteer hours and then 10 hours from September to December for a total of 490 hours.

With some initial planning of our Build 4 The Future Event, a full complement of Kids Golfing for Kids, an increase for Amazing Race Niagara and some initial planning for GALA we saw 1,225 hours of volunteering for our 2020 events.

Throughout the pandemic, the Board continued to provide support and guidance by giving 350 hours of time and talent.

# 2020 PROGRAM STREAM

● Schools / Groups    ● Presentations / Trainings    ● Students / Participants



## MARLENE DEROSE

It is with heavy hearts that we share news of the passing of Marlene DeRose. Marlene played a tremendous role in the founding of the Centre and continued her amazing work on behalf of Niagara children and families throughout the years.

Marlene was instrumental in putting together the first Board of Directors and acted early on as chair of the fundraising committee which secured funds required to purchase the building from which we operate. Marlene's contributions through the years remained significant and varied as she served in a number of capacities including President, Past President, Senior Advisor, and chair of the programming committee as recently as 2016.

Marlene was a dynamic force who laid much of the groundwork for our current successes and accomplished it all as a passionate, genuine, team player. As she stated in her 2010 Annual Report Message from the Chair, "We are successful because we work together, we care for each other and we believe passionately in the vision of "helping victims become children again". Marlene's dedication to volunteerism and commitment to helping Niagara children and families impacted by abuse will not be forgotten.

Marlene will be missed by all who knew her, and we extend our deepest condolences to her family and friends.



## 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Mark Doyle	President / Chair of Board
Chelsea Mercier	Vice President of Board
Cathy Cousins	Treasurer
Diana Continenza	Secretary
Andrea Jack	Director
Wendy Sturgeon	Director
Frank Parkhouse	Director
Patrick Burke	Director
Deb Elliott	Director
Karen Vanscoy	Director
Vaughn Stewart	Director

**It's not easy being a kid today.  
The problems they face are complex.**

For the first time in decades, today's generation is expected to be worse off than their parents. Threats to childhood, including mental illness and anxiety, food insecurity, systemic racism and discrimination, physical inactivity, poverty and incidents of child abuse and neglect all put too many futures at risk.

Many of these problems are compounded by the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic, where staying at home may not be the safest place for all children.

That's why the Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre exists: to bring kids and families together in a safe and secure environment when they can find support, comfort, and the opportunity to heal from traumatic childhood events.

**At the Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre,  
we help victims become children again.**

At the Centre, we transform lives by providing a safe and supportive environment where children and youth can speak about their experiences to professionals, heal from adverse childhood experiences and build resilience so they can overcome the debilitating effects of childhood trauma and realize their potential.

Working collaboratively with the Niagara Regional Police Service, Family and Children's Services Niagara, and Family Counselling Centre Niagara, the Centre is a charitable, community supported organization that serves Niagara's 12 municipalities helping children, youth and families cope with the life altering impacts of physical or sexual abuse, neglect, or of being an unwilling witness to violence.

**We can't do it alone. We need your help.**

Every year, donors like you help the Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre provide services and supports to aid investigations, deliver one to one counselling and social support programs and fulfill our mission to serve children and families in the Niagara Region who have been impacted by child abuse.

As a successful community charity for more than a decade, we rely on generous donations by individuals, businesses, and community partners to help us ensure all our programs and services are free for everyone. With your help, we can remain open to all and ensure that everyone who needs help, gets help.

By making a donation large or small, you can join hundreds of Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre supporters, who believe in creating opportunities for a better life for children and youth. Everyone has a role to play, and every gift makes a difference.

**YOUR ONGOING GIFT OF:**

**\$10/MONTH**

Helps comfort children and youth when they visit the Centre by providing snacks and a plush toy they can take home.

**\$25/MONTH**

Provides teens with opportunities to develop self-confidence and leadership skills as members of the Youth Advisory Council.

**\$50/MONTH**

Gives a child the opportunity to attend social support programs, delivering experiences that build self-esteem and resilience.

**\$75/MONTH**

Helps remove barriers to participation by offsetting transportation costs for children and youth accessing Centre programs.

**\$100/MONTH**

Supports education and awareness programs in local schools helping youth and teens avoid abusive situations, internet luring and human trafficking.

**\$200/MONTH**

Provides a youth with professional one-on-one counselling helping them to heal from the traumatic effects of physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

Make your donation today.

**Visit us at [kristenfrenchcacn.org](http://kristenfrenchcacn.org)**

to make a secure online donation.

**Call us at 905-937-5435 x7000**

to donate with your credit card over the phone.

Send us a cheque made payable to:

**Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara.**

*Consider naming Kristen French  
Child Advocacy Centre in your will.*



# 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

- TD Canada Trust – Lakeshore Branch
- The Branscombe Family Foundation
- The May Court Club of St. Catharines
- Township of West Lincoln
- Youth and Philanthropy Initiative Canada

## PARTNER SUPPORT

- Niagara Regional Police Service
- Family and Children's Services Niagara
- Family Counselling Centre

## COMMUNITY & CORPORATE SUPPORT

- Beta Sigma Phi Sorority
- CAA Niagara
- Canadian Federation of University Women
- Crock-A-Doodle St. Catharines
- DLB Electric
- Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
- Fikawear
- Garden City Pharmacy
- Grace United Church Women
- MGE Niagara Entertainment Inc., C/O Niagara Casinos
- Niagara Heritage Quilters' Guild
- Niagara Wasps Rugby Football Club
- Port Dalhousie Lioness Club
- Rotary Club of St. Catharines – Lakeshore
- Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake
- St. Francis Catholic Secondary School
- Stone Mill Holdings Inc.
- Together We Can
- United Way of St. Catharines & District
- Wormald Masse Keen Lopinski LLP
- XpertVR

## SPONSORS

- ASI Group Ltd.
- Beatties Basics Office Products
- Bell Canada
- Brian Cullen Motors
- Bridge & Quarry
- District School Board of Niagara
- Don's Lighthouse Ltd.
- DRT Custom Homes and Renovations Inc.
- Gales Gas Bar Limited
- Garda World
- Jeffery's Greenhouses
- King Contractors of Niagara Ltd.
- Little Chief and Co.
- McDonald's - Dendres Corp.
- Mountainview Homes
- Niagara Home Builders' Association
- Niagara Regional Police Senior Officers Association
- Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation
- Penner Home Hardware Building Centre
- Rankin Construction Inc.
- St. Catharines Mazda
- Tora Investments Inc.
- Westland Greenhouse Solutions Inc
- Windrush Hill Construction
- Zonta Club of St. Catharines

## INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS (\$100+)

- Allan Bannister
- Andrea Sferrazza
- Andrew Longley
- Angela Basciano
- Arlene Pegg
- Barb Shannon
- Belinda Miller
- Ben Alderson Stortini
- Bonnie Taylor-Gillings
- Brad Giroux
- Brenna Lanktree
- Bryan Kluge
- Carrie Risdale
- Carroll Castle
- Casey Sullivan
- Christina Fowler
- Christine Mark
- Clara Marcocchio
- Craig Martel
- Darel Cyr
- David Barrett
- David Sherlock
- David Secord
- Debbie Crocker
- Debbie Hylkema
- Deena Beauchamp
- Denise Weaver
- Derek Galipeau
- Diane Elmer
- Donna Murray
- Doug & Donna French
- Douglas Harrison
- Elsa Holomego
- Ernie Kovacs
- Fabian Gracie
- Fern Fresco
- Frank Parkhouse
- Gail Knight
- Gary Rabbior
- Geoffrey Mark
- Gil Broza
- Guillermo Fuentes
- Gustavo Camelino
- Jacob Plourde
- James Bradley
- Jeff Collins
- Jennifer Houston
- Jill Bidgood
- Jo-Anne Zucarelli
- John Spencer
- John White
- Joseph Lee
- Joy Miele
- Joyce Vidal
- Judy Stayzer
- Karen Vanscoy
- Kate Merriman
- Kelly Buckley
- Kendra Upham
- Kerrie Sinclair
- Kevin Cordingley
- Laura Langerap
- Laurel Bennett
- Leo Wytko
- Lesley Elmer
- Linda Mooney
- Lloyd Roseboom
- Lola Marcocchio
- Lora Miani
- Lorenzo Zanatta
- Lori Callahan
- Lori Chithalen
- Lorraine Belenchuk
- Lous Oort
- Lucia Posavad
- Lydia Zarb
- Lynn Jerchel
- Lynne DiStefano
- Margaret Bertagnolli
- Margo Smith
- Marion Wright
- Marlene Verburg
- Marlene & Rudy DeRose
- Mary Kala
- Mary Dora McCaig
- Mary Jane Handy-Zamudio
- Maxine McPhail
- Megan Chadwick
- Melissa Bowden
- Melissa Leconte
- Merna Pullin
- Michelle Lament
- Michelle Smith
- Milos Popov
- Moutazz AbuRamadan
- Nancy Coughler
- Nancy Radclyffe
- Nicole Marsh-Burke
- Nicole Metz
- Nicole Beaulieu
- Paul Collins
- Paul & Barbara Chadwick
- Richard Larocque
- Rick Betts
- Rob Angus
- Robert Schram
- Robert Nero
- Robert Hill
- Ron Hogan
- Ron & Sally Brooks
- Sandra Mackenzie
- Sandy Rosie
- Scott Laporte
- Shafee Bacchus
- Shannon Edwards
- Sharon Webb
- Sharon & Don Cook
- Shirley Welstead
- Stephanie Ireland
- Stephanie House
- Stephen & Kelly McDonnell
- Tammy Marion
- Tiffany Stehling
- Tina D'Amelio
- Todd Bibeau
- Tom Davidson
- Tony Versace
- Tracey Dixon
- Trevor Arthur
- Trevor Kinghorn
- Vaughn Stewart
- Virginia Vickers
- Wayne Hicks
- Wende Horvath
- Wendy Boucher
- All-Risks Insurance
- A-Z Expediting
- ClaraDerma+
- Hamilton Builders' Supply
- Heartwood Renovations
- Heavy Metal Polishing
- L A Steel Group Inc
- Leading Edge Claims Services Inc.
- Nature's Roots
- NYR Consulting Inc
- Parlatore Professional Corporation
- R-K Construction
- Sam Visca Electric
- Scotts Family Campground
- The Surveillance Shop Ltd
- WJ Heaslip Ltd

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ending December 31, 2020

## Statement of Financial Activities (\$)

Revenue	2020	2019
Donations	59,916	38,427
Grants	84,945	163,133
Fundraising Events	63,722	124,573
Partner support	125,000	125,000
Interest income	3,168	2,081
In-Kind Donations	7,927	24,539
Wage Subsidy	50,070	-
	<b>394,798</b>	<b>477,753</b>
Expenses	2020	2019
Advertising & Promotion	14,943	31,377
Bank Charges	3,820	2,356
Amortization	18,207	19,068
Fundraising	8,466	32,073
Insurance	8,387	7,245
In-kind Donation	7,927	24,539
Office	16,343	21,562
Professional Fees	8,683	9,718
Program	41,657	52,927
Repairs & Maintenance	12,353	13,758
Travel	2,291	5,456
Utilities & Telephone	9,012	9,052
Wages	201,629	259,827
	<b>353,718</b>	<b>488,958</b>
<b>Excess of Revenue Over Expenditures</b>	<b>41,080</b>	<b>(11,205)</b>

## Statement of Financial Position (\$)

Revenue	2020	2019
Cash	325,963	235,085
- Unrestricted		
- Personnel reserve	6,331	6,331
- Awareness reserve	22,623	37,566
- Program reserve	80,000	80,000
Investments	149,910	148,112
HST receivable	6,331	14,592
Accounts receivable	13,536	16,130
	<b>604,694</b>	<b>537,816</b>
Endowment Funds	37,439	38,708
Property & Equipment	527,542	545,749
	<b>1,169,675</b>	<b>1,122,273</b>
Current Liabilities	2020	2019
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	7,901	14,683
Government remittances payable	4,857	3,709
Deferred contributions	128,922	117,403
	<b>141,680</b>	<b>135,795</b>
Fund Balances	2020	2019
Unrestricted fund surplus	534,606	278,124
Endowment	37,439	38,708
Invested capital assets	527,542	545,749
Personnel reserve	6,331	6,331
Awareness reserve	22,623	37,566
Building reserve	-	-
Program reserve	80,000	80,000
	<b>1,027,995</b>	<b>986,478</b>
	<b>1,169,675</b>	<b>1,122,273</b>

# TREASURER'S REPORT

The Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara has successfully met its financial stewardship obligations and the auditor has attested that our 2020 Financial Statements were presented fairly in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The Centre was successful in generating a net income of \$41,080 during the difficult pandemic year. While revenues declined due to the limitations on funding raising, The Centre also reduced expenditures and attracted government wage subsidy to support staffing costs. While programming was reduced, The Centre did continue to offer services and support clients throughout this pandemic year. The Centre continues to sustain a strong financial balance sheet and is in a sound position to move forward with strategic initiatives.

Cathy Cousins, Treasurer

We are also grateful for the additional 589 donors who graciously contributed \$100 or less to support Niagara's children and youth.

34 donors provided gifts in kind totalling \$7,927. These generous donations included gifts and prizes for silent auctions, events and art supplies for our creative arts program.

**ALL DONORS ARE APPRECIATED. THANK YOU!**



**Kristen French  
Child Advocacy  
Centre Niagara**

**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