

Annual Report // 2019



## A MESSAGE FROM

## THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## AND BOARD PRESIDENT

The 2019/2020 year proved to be a momentous one for us here at the Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara. Our 3-year Trillium GROW grant allowed us to lay a solid foundation for expanded program development. An important measure of this completed grant was to indicate the number of adult allies we were able to reach through the grant work. In 2019 we reached 697 adult allies through various avenues of education, awareness and mentor training undertaken in schools and at various community and agency events. Adult allies refers to those adults who are the eyes and ears in our collective obligation to protect our children and youth. They provide education, support, fostering, coaching and various programs for our children and they are the advocates for children and youth in our agencies, schools, community centres, playgrounds, neighbourhoods and extended families.

We evolved into a place, known not only for reducing the trauma for children and youth disclosing their abuse experiences to police and child protection services, but through our arts and youth outreach programs, also a place where we offer a model for the integration of resilience into the recovery from trauma. Significant donor support was secured to further develop an expanded vision for trauma-reducing healing programs and partnerships at the Centre.

Through the support of staff, board and volunteers our fundraising efforts continued to meet our targeted goals. Through the generosity of individual donors and event participants, service club contributors, foundations, the corporate community and third party events, we were able to maintain our counselling program, provide counselling oversight to our arts programs, continue to provide hosting to child abuse investigations through our Children First program and improve, maintain and make repairs to this vital centre.

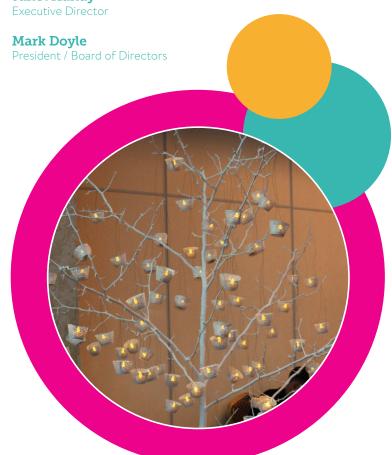
As of this report two members of our board who have given tirelessly to the Centre for the past six years will be stepping down. Deb Elliott has served as Personnel Committee Chair and Vice President while Andrea Jack has served as Program Committee Chair and PECAN Chair. Lynn Jerchel kindly served as our Strategic Adviser following 6 years as Board President. Deb will now step into this important board support role. Together this group has brought significant support to strengthening our infrastructure, and bringing outreach and awareness to the Centre. We thank them for their valued contributions. New to the Board in the last year were Vaughn Stewart, a long-time supporter of the Centre who brings Police Services Board experience, Patrick Burke who brings valuable business world experience and Karen Vanscoy who brings vital understanding of the mental health needs of the children and youth we serve. Thank you to all board members and valued volunteers who continue on and a special thanks to our

dedicated staff who continue to bring to their work the talent and passion that makes the Centre a safe and welcoming place for all who step through our doors.

COVID-19 brought about a significant challenge to many aspects of our daily lives, including actively maintaining allied adult oversight as isolation and social distancing was undertaken in early 2020. Out of all reported cases a combined 54% of alleged abuse takes place at the hands of parents, other relatives and step-parents. This means that for some children and youth, sadly, home is not a safe place and isolation can exacerbate chronic abuse situations or further stress those families who need ongoing support to care for their children. The dangers of increased abuse during isolation also impacts human trafficking victims. These victims are targeted for their vulnerability, and the Centre, with the support of a CAA grant for outreach to youth, continues to further our Niagara coalition role of education on this topic.

Now more than ever we are all called upon to be allied adults in every situation where we encounter or engage children and youth. The Centre represents a dedication to hope and a commitment to healing from child abuse experiences. It is a place where the course of a child's life can be changed from one of experienced trauma to one of engaged and strengthened resilience, one encounter at a time. As we move into a new year, thank you for being the allies to our children and youth as we continue in the mission to be a safe place to help, heal and end child abuse in the Niagara region.

#### Janet Handy





### 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 KFCACN based on the unique needs of the child, youth or family to minimize stress and the trauma of recounting abuse experiences.

## DURING THE 2019 CALENDAR YEAR, THE CHILD ABUSE UNIT REPORTED:



## 296 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.

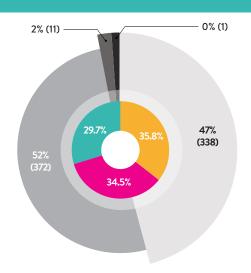


65 of those incidents were cleared by charge.



A total of 199 charges were laid by members of the Unit.

## NATURE OF ABUSE CASES (FACS)



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

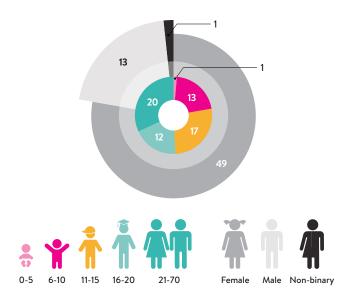






Unknown

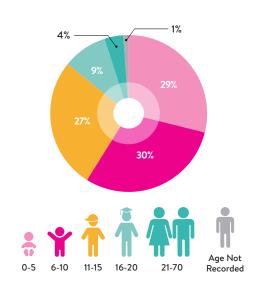
## IN 2019, FCC NIAGARA HELPED:



237 people through 63 individual counselling sessions

## IN 2019, THE CAC-LOCATED **FACS UNIT MANAGED**

#### 374 cases involving 722 children/youth



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

#### **PECAN**

PECAN, Partners to End Child Abuse in Niagara, is a group of not-for-profit agencies that provide a website **endchildabuseniagara.com** as a one stop hub of resource support and programs for people seeking help with child abuse prevention programs, awareness and educational opportunities as well as agency contact links within the Niagara Community.

In 2019 the PECAN partnership undertook a number of awareness activities in October Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month that included:

- Sliders on child abuse prevention and awareness were put on NCDSB and member agencies websites.
- An Instagram awareness contest called The PECAN "Rock Stars" project #pecanrockstars was begun at a painting session with students from Brock University. Rocks were painted with child abuse awareness messages, a "be a rock star" sticker added to them and then hidden somewhere in Niagara. As rocks were discovered Instagram posts were made and the rocks hidden again for the next person to find!
- Three presentations were held at Brock University over two days in October to 600 Child and Youth studies students.
- 300 PECAN cards were handed out along with brochures at a Parent Involvement Conference (PIC) at Eden Secondary School; an event well attended by parents and staff of DSBN.
- PECAN members joined with FACS in wearing purple t-shirts on Purple Day.
- The PECAN Chair brought awareness of PECAN to three municipal council meetings and throughout the fall the KFCACN Executive Director presented at all council sessions throughout the Niagara region to promote awareness of the Centre and PECAN.

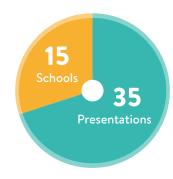
KFCACN originally spearheaded the creation of PECAN. In support of the work done over the past 4 years the KFCACN Board of Directors has designated \$5000 of our 2020 budget to assist with the further development, promotion and awareness efforts of PECAN in the Niagara Community.





#### TEEN CONNECT PROGRAM

KFCACN's Teen Connect program is a child abuse awareness presentation delivered to grades 7, 8 and 9 students from across Niagara. Extremely successful and well received in schools, this education is critical in establishing the importance of abuse education, outreach and prevention. The presentation has made great strides in shifting student's awareness and confidence with the disclosure process.



Altogether, the Teen Connect presentations reached **797** students and **47** adult allies including teachers and counsellors.

## CREATIVE ARTS PROGRAMS



#### **Teen Creative**

The Teen Creative Program is a collaborative initiative jointly delivered by the KFCACN and Foster Festival. This 12-week peer support group uses creativity as a vehicle to engage 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. Through Foster Festival and KFCACN group leadership, visiting artists engage participants in a variety of creative mediums, including painting, journaling, dramatic arts, meditation, song/play writing, mask making, and self-awareness education to enhance emotional growth through creative expression.

## Cathy's Kids

A similar program, Cathy's Kids, held with an adapted curriculum for younger youth ages 9 to 11, was also delivered and made possible through the generous support of the Collins family and friends.

In 2019, between both programs, 5 groups were held supporting the creative and emotional growth of 36 children and youth participants, ages 9-15 years.

## OUTREACH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2019, Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara (KFCACN) completed the 3-year Ontario Trillium Foundation Grow Grant funding to expand our outreach to youth (who have been exposed to abuse), caregivers and adult allies who work with youth in the Niagara region. With this funding we have significantly increased our outreach capacity and meaningfully impacted the lives of youth and the adult allies who support them.

## MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



KFCACN, in partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters – North & West Niagara (BBBS) developed a Mentorship Program to train and match mentors with young people who have experienced abuse. Mandatory training gives young mentors aged 18+ years the necessary skills to provide one-on-one support for these youths aged 9-15 years who are also receiving help through other programs and counselling services. In 2019 the training was jointly delivered by BBBS and KFCACN and included guest speakers from Niagara Region Public Health and Niagara Wellness Centre. With a focus on the impacts of child abuse, resilience maintaining appropriate boundaries, and what it means to be a mentor, trainees were also introduced to the topic of Human Trafficking; what it is, how to identify internet luring and grooming behaviours and who to contact if they suspect human trafficking. Three trainings were held in 2019 with a total of 30 mentor trainees and 9 community members. Three matches were made with mentees.

### YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Youth Advisory Council (Y.A.C.) was created to invite youth input and participation at KFCACN through various projects and community involvement opportunities. The Y.A.C. acted to strengthen this input by providing a platform for youth to share their ideas and make suggestions about how the Centre can engage Niagara youth. Their input was sought on youth engagement, awareness and understanding of youth needs and perspectives, optimal website navigation and content, youth focused promotional material, marketing and social media as well as youth participation in new and current KFCACN events and fundraisers.

With the assistance of 180 Marketing, the Y.A.C. created a video highlighting the disclosure process and how the Centre helps reduce the trauma of disclosure for children, youth and their families. In October 2019 the Y.A.C. Chair and Co-Secretaries attended our Annual Spotlight Gala and showcased this video created to highlight youth engagement at KFCACN.



This video can be seen on our website at:
kristenfrenchcach.org/volunteer/vouth-advisory-counci

## NIAGARA ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROTOCOL

The KFCACN is a partner in Niagara's Anti-Human Trafficking Protocol, joining other community agencies who have come together to develop a coordinated response to victims of Human Trafficking in Niagara. In January 2019, we worked with 180 Marketing to create an Anti-Human Trafficking website **niagaraantihumantrafficking.com** that includes awareness on the current issue and provides resources such as: Defining Human Trafficking, Glossary of Terms and a Directory of Community Services and Contact Numbers. This website, supplemental to our main KFCACN website and was launched in November 2019.

Maintaining our collaborative education role in the protocol, our Youth Outreach Coordinator assisted with and presented trainings on Understanding Human Trafficking to a variety of service providers including Eastern Residential Services Foster Care, BBBS, FACS Foster Parents, City

Summer Camp Staffs and parents /guardians and youth. These training sessions covered recruitment tactics, recognizing the signs of luring behaviours, social media apps to be aware of and who to contact if one suspects human trafficking. In 2019 a total of 10 presentations were completed, within the community, organizations and schools that reached a combined total of 224 youth and adult allies.

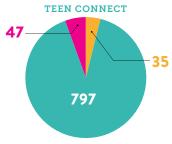


Youth Outreach Coordinator/ Program Coordinator

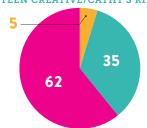


niagaraantihumantrafficking.com

#### **2019 PROGRAM STREAM:**



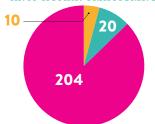
TEEN CREATIVE/CATHY'S KIDS



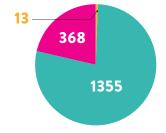
MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING

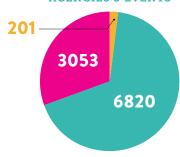


TEEN CONNECT



## TRILLIUM GRANT 2016-2019 TOTALS

SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY, AGENCIES & EVENTS



- Events / Presentations / Trainings Held
- Children, Youth Reached
- Adult Allies Reached

### **VOLUNTEER PROGRAM: 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 and 2019 was no exception. A total of 48 volunteers, including students and board members gave over 3,000 hours of their time, talents and efforts to help our Centre be the safe place it is for children youth and their families.

This past year a special emphasis was put on recruitment to fundraising events committee leadership. A special thanks to those volunteers who chaired our events and saw us through and the students who directly support staff administration, event planning, grant writing and communications.

## **EVENT FUNDRAISING** AND AWARENESS

All of our events target different audiences and are unique to the Centre and the community we support. In 2019 we raised a total of \$124,573 though all events including third party events held for us by community supporters.

## Youth Ultimate Dodgeball Challenge

Held each year in February in support of Youth Leadership Month, this team-based tournament for high school students from all Niagara Secondary Schools raises awareness for the Centre, promotes volunteer and philanthropy in youth and fosters good relationships with our education partners.

## Playhouse Build & Auction

Held each year in April to welcome Spring and raise awareness during National Child Abuse Prevention month, this event brings awareness to our local building community. Local builders or woodworking enthusiasts build one-of-a-kind backyard structures to be auctioned off in a live auction to the community. This public family fun outdoor event raises awareness and funds to support the Centre's programs and services for children and youth whose lives have been impacted by child abuse.

## Kids Golfing for Kids

This signature event, now in its 11th year held in August at the St. Catharines Golf & Country Club is geared toward creating awareness among youth supporting other youth in their community. With a season long junior golf tournament throughout many of Niagara's beautiful golf courses, these youth raise funds through various activities and collect pledges to help support youth programming that enhances strength, resilience and promotes philanthropy in these young golfers.

## Amazing Race Niagara

Held yearly in September and celebrating teamwork, this event is extremely popular with young professionals, colleagues and families. Based loosely on the popular TV show, in a fun team-based car rally and scavenger hunt, teams of four travel throughout Niagara along a predetermined race route solving clues and earning points for completing challenges. With a regional scope this event raises the profile of the Centre's work in child abuse awareness, prevention and response.

All of our events have business sponsorship opportunities, available volunteer participation possibilities and support in-kind giving from our local Niagara Community Business and Organizations!

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.

### Susanne McCarroll

Resource Development Coordinator

## 2019 Spotlight Gala

"This is a story that I have never told I gotta get this off my chest to let it go I need to take back the light inside you stole... Now I'm a warrior Now I've got thicker skin I'm a warrior I'm stronger than I've ever been..." Warrior - Demi Lovato



This powerful message to begin our evening was sung by the amazing children's choir Chorus Niagara! With a focus on youth, our guest speaker Kareem Azizi spoke from the heart and shared his journey through the system and his road to success. Our very own Youth Advisory Council presented their "Don't be afraid. You are never alone. Tell someone you trust." video which highlights the process of reporting and ending child abuse in their lives. We were also grateful for the personal message from our lead sponsor Marcia Penner in her welcome to guests.

Our host, Joe Pillitteri, once again entertained our guests and kept the evening moving along! It was an amazing evening filled with laughs, good tears and great cheer! With the generous sponsorships, donations and funds raised during our silent and live auction we were able to raise \$50,005 to continue to provide crucial support to Niagara's children and youth.

#### **Georgia Nichols**

Gala Committee Staff Liaison

#### Building

Since the opening of the Centre in 2008 we have been committed to maintaining the facility at the highest standard. This has not been without the assistance of grants and volunteer groups who provide their time and talents. This past year the staff from Sherwin Williams 4th Street location came out to paint the lower level of the basement at no cost to the Centre. A combined grant and donation allowed us to update the painting and furnishings in the interview section of the building. Added to one of the interview room walls was the donation of a hanging handmade quilt created by Sheila Durksen of the Kindred Spirits Community Quilter.

During a heavy rain in the spring we sustained some serious water damage to the upper level of the basement wall. The damage resulted in the hand removal of soil from the exterior wall which then required a major repair. The necessary restoration of the interior wall was carried out to ensure a safe and healthy environment for staff.



### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ending December 31, 2019

Statement of Financial Activities (\$)		
Revenue	2019	2018
Donations	8,427	40,505
Grants	163,133	98,813
Fundraising Events	124,573	143,457
Partner support	125,000	143,457 125,000
Interest income	2,081	378
In-Kind Donations	24,539	18,961
	477,753	427,114
Expenses	24 277	40.040
Advertising & Promotion	31,377	12,348
Bank Charges	2,356	1,513
Amortization	19,068	18,559
Fundraising	32,073	26,552
Insurance	7,245 24,539 21,562	6,867 18,961
In-kind Donation	24,539	18,961
Office	21,562	20,825
Professional Fees	9.718	10,220
Program	52,927	26,447
Repairs & Maintenance	52,927 13,758	14,237
	5,456	4,937
Utilities & Telephone	9,052	11,150
Wages	259,827	234,244
	488,958	406,860
Excess of Revenue Over Expenditures	(11,205)	20,254
Statement of Financial Position (\$)		
Revenue	2019	2018
Cash - Unrestricted	235,085	177,282
- Personnel reserve	6,331	6,331
- Awareness reserve	27566	68,943
- Program reserve	37,566 80,000	80,000
Investments	1/18/112	147,911
HST receivable	148,112 14,592	9,940
Accounts receivable	16,130	5,540
Accounts receivable		
	537,816	490,407
Endowment Funds	38,708	37,126
Property & Equipment	545,749	550,967
	1,122,273	1,078,500
Current Liabilities	.,,,,,	.,0.0,000
Accounts payable		
& accrued liabilities	14,683	6,089
Government		0,007
remittances payable	3,709	3,628
Deferred contributions	117,403	74,025
	135,795	83,742
Fund Balances		
Unrestricted fund surplus	278,124	251,391
Endowment	38,708	37,126
Invested capital assets	545,749	550,967
Personnel reserve	6,331	6,331
Awareness reserve	37,566	68,943
Building reserve	-	
Program reserve	80,000	80,000
	986,478	994,758
	1 122 272	1 070 500
	1,122,273	1,078,500

### TREASURER'S REPORT

## 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

- CAA Niagara
- Federal Canada Summer Jobs
- Humeniuk Foundation
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Rotary Club of St. Catharines
- The Branscombe Family Foundation
- The May Court Club of St. Catharines
- · Town of West Lincoln

#### **Partner Support**

- Niagara Regional Police Service
   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

- A.N. Mver Secondary School
- Algoma Central Corporation
- Brock University Paint Night
- CAA Niagara
- Canadian Federation of University Women
- Central United Church / United Church Women
- Crowne Plaza Hotel Niagara Falls
- Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario GiantFM/Country89
- Governor Simcoe Secondary School
- Grantham Lioness Bingo
- Green Ribbon Memorial Golf Tournament
- Holy Cross Secondary School
- IBEW Local 303
- Lancaster Brooks & Welch Barristers
- Niagara Junior Golf Tour
- Niagara Parks Commission
- Niagara River Lions Hero Night
- Ontario Provincial Strategy ParaMed
- Sitel Group
- St. Catharines Collegiate Secondary School
- Zonta Club of St. Catharines

#### Sponsors

- · 180 Marketing Aristocrat Floors
- Arriscraft Canada Inc.
- ASI Group Ltd.
- Automotive Warehouse
- B Stone Consulting Ltd.
- Beatties Basics Office Products Bell Canada
- Broker Link Sheehan & Rosie Ltd.
- Burnstein Brick Canadian Polish Society
- Chirothin Niagara
- Court Holdings
- Darcy Richardson
- District School Board of Niagara
- Don's Liahthouse Ltd.
- DRT Custom Homes and Renovations Inc.
- First on Fourth
- Henderson Pharmacy Impero Contracting
- · James Hardie
- Jeffery's Greenhouse
- Joe Kish Foundation
- King Contractors
- Kirkpatrick Stoneworks
- Kramer Printing
- L. Walter & Sons Excavating Ltd.
- Lakeview Vineyard Equipment
- Lucchetta Homes
- McDonalds

- Meridan Credit Union
- Meridian Credit Union (St. Catharines)
- Meridian Credit Union (Welland)
- Niagara Casinos
- Niagara Home Builders Association
- Niagara Trailers
   Nickerson Appliances
- NRP Senior Officers Association
- OSSTF
- PALFINGER
- Penner Home Hardware Building Centre
- Rankin Construction Inc.
- Regional Signal Inc.
- Sandercott & Evans Opticians Sapphire Construction Of Niagara
- Seaway Farms
- St. Catharines Building Supply
- St. Catharines Mazda
- Sullivan Mahoney
- TD Canada Trust
- TELUS
- · That's Fab Design
- Verge Insurance Brokers Ltd.
- Walker Industries Holding Inc.
- Youngs Insurance Brokers Inc. (Welland)
- Zonta Club

#### Individual Supporters (\$100+)

- Jodie Alderson Bill & Carol Anderson
- Tarryn Anderson
- Shafee Bacchus
- Jennifer Baker
- Allan Bannister
- Penny Bannister
- Al Barrick
- Nicole Beaulieu
- Sheila Bennett Marion & Mike Boase
- · Andrew Boon
- James Bradley
- Beverly Brooks
- Melanie Brown-Robson Gill Broza
- Kelly Buckley
- Anneliese Burke Melissa Burke
- Patrick Burke
- Audrey Burns
- Greg Cappellaro
- Jeff Collins
- Jennifer Collins
- Paul Collins Diana Continenza
- Trevor Cooper
- Elaine & Thomas Cybula
- Marlene & Rudy DeRose
- Anthony Demita
- · Joan, Densham-Anderson
- Michael DiLonardo Christine Doyle
- Mark & Karen Doyle
- Tim Dunyliw
- Shannon Edwards
- Deb Elliot
- Anne Ellison Sandra Flegg
- Luigi Forgione Mary Frado
- Brad & Rita French
- · Tal French · Don & Lois French
- Chris Freure Guillermo Fuentes
- Michelle Gracie

- Don Greenlaw
- Paul Hammond
- Janet Handy & Nancy
- Radclyffe Bill Heelis
- Stewart Hill
- Christopher Hodgson
- Rod & Sherrill Hollick
- · Barb Hughes
- Albert lannantuono
- Andrea & Ed Jack
- Mark Jeffries
- Lynn Jerchel Margaret Jordan
- Algis Jovaisas
- Brandon Kemp
- Starlet Kemp
- Bill Kender
- · Matthew Kett
- Bill Kirk · Lenore Klassen
- Gail Knight
- Richard Larocque
- Jocelyn Lauzon Bev Lenchynshyn
- · Andrew Longley · Kathleen Mannion
- Theresa Mannion Stephen Mcdonnell
- Chelsea Mercier
- · June Mergi Kate Merriman
- Donald Miller
- Beth Milvata Donna Murray
- · Georgia Nichols
- · Martin Nurmi Dale Olm
- Frank & Ivv Parkhouse Michael Passero
- Arlene Pegg Paul Pingue
- Maggie Popiel Monika Pries-Klassen
- Doug & Merna Pullin
- Pat ŘekowskiDarcy Richardson
- Sheri Rivers Tyler Rodrigue
- Rosanne Rotundo
- · Maureen Roy · Victoria Russell-Matthews Tracy Sacco
- Barb Scarlett
- Bill & Kathleen Schenk Bruce Scott
- Debbie Sedorkow
- Mike Shara Margo SmithJudy Stayzer
- Randy Stehing
- · Bruce Stevens Vaughn Stewart
- Paul Stuchberry
- Wendy Sturgeon
- Kerry Swayze
   Christine Tardif-Williams
- Kathy Thompson Dana Thornton
   Stan Timykoglou
- · Delores Ťkachuk
- · Cornelis VanderMeer Virginia Vickers Katrina Waters
- · Patricia Whitehead Leo Wytka · Michael Zappitelli

We are so grateful for the additional 391 donors who graciously contributed \$100 or less of their hard earned money to support Niagara's children and youth.

127 donors have donated gifts in kind totalling \$24,539. These generous donations included gifts and prizes for silent auctions, events and art supplies for our creative arts program.

#### 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

