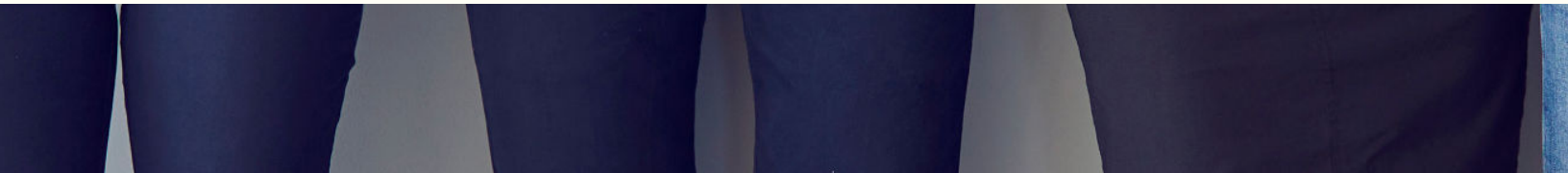




# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

2021-2022



WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER - PROVIDING STRONG STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION, PARTNERSHIP AND SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

## BOARD REPORT 2021-2022

For Victim Services of Huron County (VSHC), 2021-22 was once again a challenging year for many. Navigating the impacts of COVID-19 on the entire population while still providing solid supports was difficult. The agency focussed on strengthening relationships with community stakeholders, increasing public awareness, and bridging staffing challenges. We continue to look forward to broadening our services, team growth and celebrating our successes.

Thank you to all our volunteers, contributors, partners, and personnel in 2021-22



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR.....	1
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.....	2
TREASURER'S REPORT / FUNDRAISING SUMMARY...	3
PROACTIVE EDUCATION.....	4
SERVICES OFFERED.....	5
ORGANIZATION PERSONNEL.....	8





# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting for the 2021/2022 fiscal year. We are pleased to take this opportunity to celebrate the success of a committed staff team and Board of Directors. The Board Members include Chair: Jim Dietrich, Vice Chair: Robert Morris, Treasurer: Mike Scott, Secretary: Jo-Anne Fields; and Directors: Tim Poole, Susan Regier, Joe Steffler, Tabatha Fisher, and Mary-Ellen Ducharme. Special Board volunteer is Wayne Cronin who has been a Crisis Responder for the past 10+ years.

We as a Board are proud of the continued dedication of all members especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. All regular Board meetings continued to take place over Zoom to ensure shared responsibility and quality of services are maintained. Additional meetings to capture policy reflection and fiduciary responsibilities were also supported. We are very fortunate to have such a committed team.

The current staff team consists of Deborah Logue, Executive Director, Karen Redmond, Coordinator of Services and Dawson Currie, Lead Crisis Responder/Community Engagement Lead. Jenn Evans and Davis Smith departed the agency throughout the year. We also have contracted services for a Bookkeeper, Carole Weber.



The Board is pleased to recognize that the numbers of survivors we have been able to support continues to grow each year. This is a true reflection to the public awareness and community engagement we have been able to increase across the entire county. Fundraising, social media platforms and community education sessions that have been held throughout the years have also contributed to increase in knowledge of what Victim Services Huron can do to assist people in our community.

Every volunteer, staff, and board member rise above the norm to follow the mission of Victim Services of Huron County. There are many family members, partners, and children who also stand proudly by their loved ones who are risking their own comfort to help others in their time of need. Everyone who contributes, whether directly with victims, or indirectly as a family supporter, is making our County service stronger and more cohesive for the future!

With the shift in Ministries from the Ministry of Attorney General to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services we want to thank Deborah Elliott and Lori McDonald for the guidance and support they have provided to this Board for the past six years. We look forward to our future collaboration with Sam Curtin within MCCSS and what progress and growth lays ahead for Victim Services Huron.

The Directors that make up the Board at Victim Services of Huron County are all volunteers. Our business is generally public, with some limitations to safeguard people and comply with required legislation. Please approach us with any questions or comments via the Victim Services' staff ([info@victimserviceshuron.ca](mailto:info@victimserviceshuron.ca)).

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "James Dietrich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**JAMES DIETRICH**  
**CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



We help families and people who are hurting because of crime or tragic circumstance; we provide compassionate care; emotional and practical support to our community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. We join with and offer referral support, guidance, and encouragement to hundreds of victims struggling with the increasingly complex world of crime and tragic circumstance. On top of that, we continued to navigate a global pandemic without disruption to our services!

Victim Services of Huron County have fantastic people; the volunteer Board, volunteer Crisis Responders and the staff make this work appear easy and makes support to people that need it a reality! Thank you to the staff and a special thanks to ALL the volunteers... you are all truly appreciated.

Over the last year we have had shifts in both of the office staff positions, increased responsibilities of our Team Leaders to cover more of the on call and after hours needs, as well as continue to navigate a remote world. Changes like this can be difficult to adjust to while ensuring there are no disruption to client services. If it was not for these individuals dedication, strong work ethic, positive energy and willingness to take on additional duties the agency would not have been as successful as it was. Thank you for your continued contribution to our agency's success and the ongoing strength of our team.

It is my pleasure to also thank the Board of Directors for the valuable work they do in sharing their areas of expertise and guiding our organization forward. We appreciate your energy and commitment to making VSHC valuable, accountable, and successful. Your magnitude of support and the MANY hours you contribute often goes unnoticed, but I am very aware of your time, energy, and commitment and I am grateful.

The ongoing services and program development would not have been possible without the generous support from our donors, funders, volunteers, stakeholders, direction from the Board of Directors and the commitment of the staff. In partnership with VQRP+ (Victim Quick Response Program+), we continued to advocate for the needs within our community. We strive to better communicate the uniqueness of our program to the public. We will focus on outcomes and learn what impact VSHC has on the community - and how to achieve better program results.

The strong relationship we have maintained with the Ministry of Attorney General, specifically Lori McDonald and Deborah Elliott, over the last six years has ensured our solid footing and collaboration as an agency and community advocate. We embrace the change ahead with the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services with Sam Curtin as the liaison and look forward to what that collaboration will bring to Victim Services Huron.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah Logue". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

**DEBORAH LOGUE**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



# TREASURER'S REPORT

Due to the continued impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, VSHC was required to cancel all the standard fundraising initiatives we had planned for the year. Despite the lack of organized events, our community provided very generous donations to the organizations which has increased our reserves, allowing the agency to enhance the supports we can offer to the clients within Huron County. We are pleased that even though the COVID-19 Pandemic is impacting fundraising opportunities we are still in a financially sound position to be able to continue our operations without disruption.

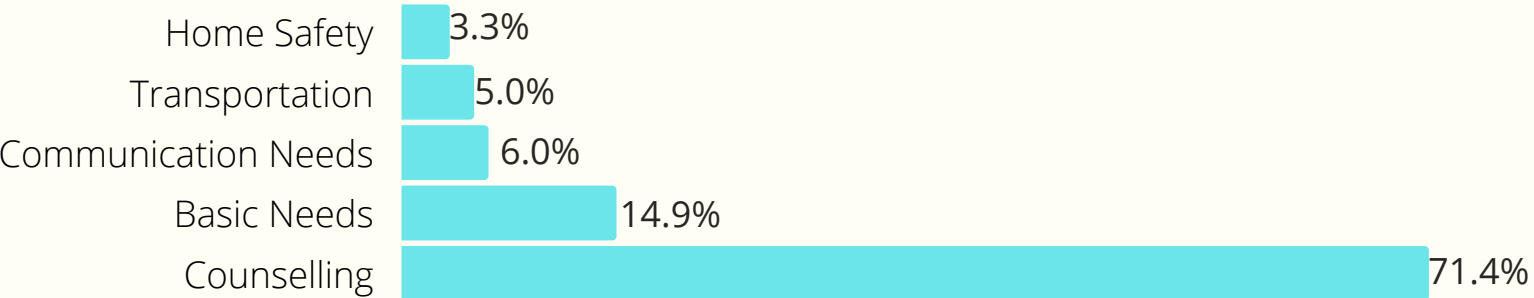


We continue to constantly look for new ways to enhance our services, and fundraising opportunities are a key component to that. We thank everyone who has contributed to the success of these activities.

**MIKE SCOTT-TREASURER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

## FUNDRAISING SUMMARY

### Breakdown of Support Provided via Fundraised Dollars (%)



**100% OF FUNDRAISED DOLLARS REMAIN WITHIN HURON COUNTY TO SUPPORT SURVIVORS OF CRIME AND TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCE AS WELL AS THE VOLUNTEERS WHO SUPPORT THEM.**

**UNFORTUNATELY, THERE WAS NO DANCING WITH THE STARS EVENT IN 2021!**



**50/50 DRAW RESULTS**

Our final draw ran from June 1st - 29th,  
Winner of \$1,510.00 was Jeff Rosser



DURING THE

# 2021/2022 FISCAL YEAR

THE FOLLOWING MADE DIRECT DONATIONS TO OUR PROGRAM:

# THANK YOU

## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Leisa & Pete Albers - Sandy Bennewies - Vicky Bremner  
Laurie Chapman - Holly Dauphin - Mary-Ellen Ducharme  
Fear Family Farm - Diane Ferguson - Lisa & Henry Frischknecht  
Barry Golly - Lori Guzara - Dwight Hallahan - Sylke Hickey  
Ben & Jenny Hogervorst - Bev Jeffray - Genevieve Laforce  
Jacqui Empson-Laporte - Kristina Litzinger - Roman Masowa  
Michelle McNichol - Ron & Michelle McNichol - Barb Mitchell  
Lisa Nicholson - Karen Redmond - Rob Scouller

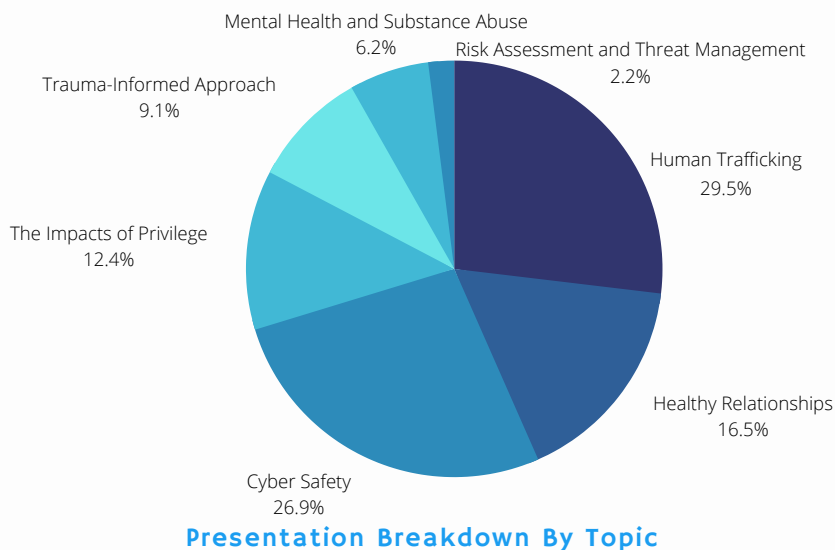
## BUSINESS DONORS

Blessings - Bluewater Office Equipment - BriteSpan  
McLean Brother Concrete - Parkland Fuels

## ORGANIZATION DONORS

Anglican Parish of the Holy Trinity - Belgrave Kinsmen  
Blyth Lions Club - Clinton Kinsmen - Howick Women's Institute  
- Huron Chamber of Commerce - IODE Maple Leaf Chapter  
PayPal Giving Fund - Salvation Army

# PROACTIVE EDUCATION



The agency feels it is imperative to provide education and awareness to the public to reduce the amount of victimization that takes place. We have developed community training presentations on many topics we feel can support the reduction of gender-based violence crime. We have been able to present these topics within our high school system as well as at community events; Healthy Relationships, Cyber Safety and Sextortion, Human Trafficking 101, Impacts of Privilege, Trauma and Violence Informed Approach, Threat & Risk Assessment as well as, Mental Health & Substance Abuse.

There is a stereotype that allows people to believe the issue of Human Trafficking and other Gender Based Violence does not exist in Huron County. Our information and experience indicate it does exist; it just looks a little different than it does in our neighbouring urban centres. We have been able to reach a total of 1,012 youth since April 1st, 2021, until March 31st, 2022, as well as 310 educators, staff, and stakeholders in the area.



**It's conversations and presentations like these that will save someone's life in the future. Thank you.**

*- South Huron District High School Teacher*

# Services Offered

## VICTIM CRISIS ASSISTANCE ONTARIO

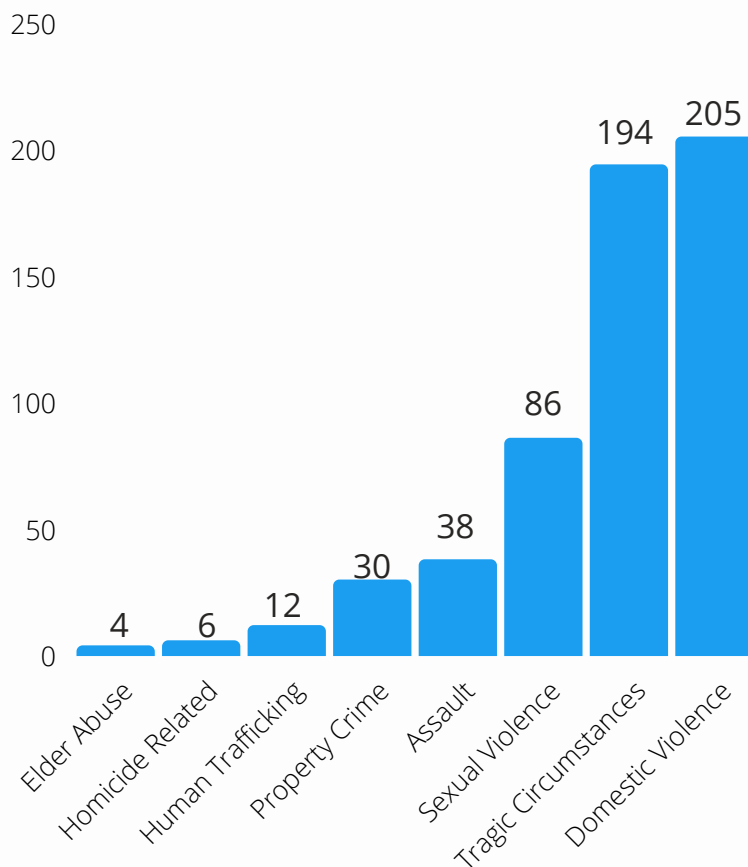
The Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario Program provides support for individuals affected by crime and tragic circumstance and is victim-centered and culturally competent. The menu of services offered by the program includes:

- 24/7 on scene crisis intervention
- Addressing immediate safety concerns
- Community support sessions and needs assessments
- Development of personalized referral forms or service plans
- Safety planning
- Referrals to counselling and community or government support services
- Enhanced support and follow up

### THE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES ARE:

- To provide crisis intervention, emotional support, and referrals to individuals affected by crime and tragic circumstance.
- To reduce the likelihood of further harm by helping a client identify and address safety issues.
- To help clients identify their needs and concerns and develop strategies to address them.

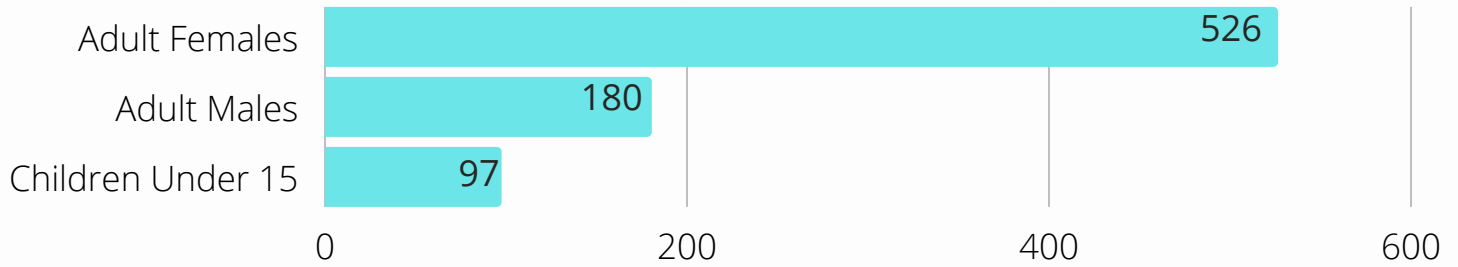
### TOTAL NUMBER OF CALLS FOR SUPPORT - 577



### IN ADDITION TO ON-SITE CRISIS INTERVENTION, OTHER SERVICES OFFERED THROUGH THE VCAO PROGRAM INCLUDE:

- Safety planning for all eligible victims of crime.
- Referrals to appropriate community supports and services.
- Provision of cell phones for eligible victims when communication is vital.
- Needs assessments and customized service plans.
- Assisting eligible victims with emergency transportation to a safe location; crime-scene cleanup; funeral expenses; emergency home repairs to items that pose a safety risk; and emergency counselling.
- Enhanced support for vulnerable victims.
- Referrals to community agencies.

## TOTAL NUMBER OF DIRECT SURVIVORS SUPPORTED - 803



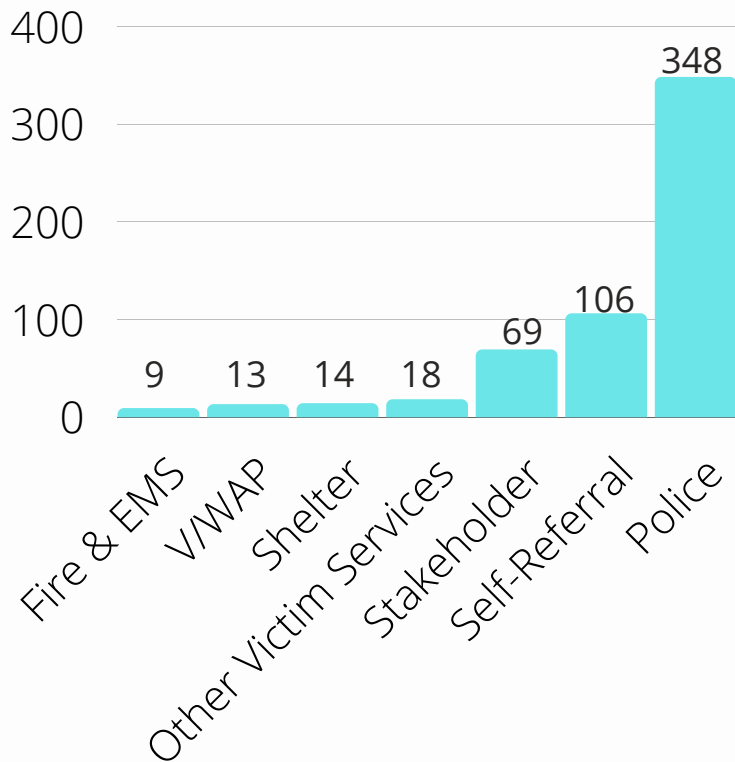
**VICTIM SERVICES HURON BELIEVES IN AND INCORPORATES THE VALUES OF BEING COMPASSIONATE, COURTEOUS, RESPECTFUL, SELF RELIANT, NON-JUDGEMENTAL, AND EMPOWERING TOWARDS ALL INTERACTIONS WITH OTHERS.**

## REFERRALS

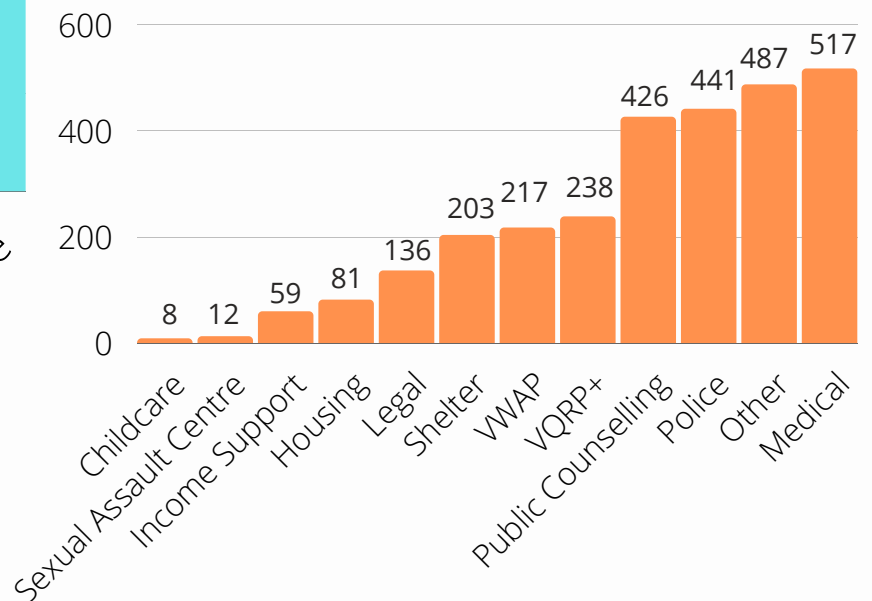
Referrals are accepted from within the County or outside. As long as the victim resides in Huron County, they can be offered support. If the client changes Counties they can be referred to the Victim Services in that area and continue to receive supports.

Our primary referral would be the OPP, although in recent years the self referrals have increased significantly. The organization has worked hard to build collaborative relationships with community stakeholders which is illustrated in the increase of “other” referral sources. Public speaking events, media coverage, and community presentations have also contributed to the increase in knowledge of the service and provided comfort for people to come forward and seek assistance.

### INCOMING REFERRAL SOURCES - 577 TOTAL



### TOTAL OUTGOING REFERRAL SOURCES - 2336



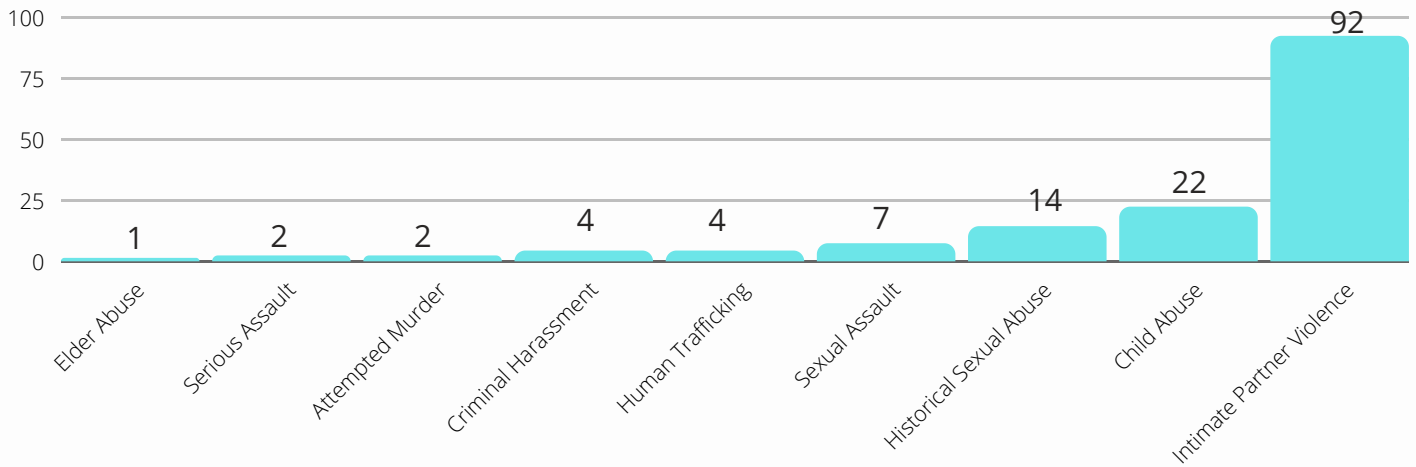


# VICTIM QUICK RESPONSE PROGRAM (VQRP+), INCLUDED IN THE VCAO

In 2019 the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board was amalgamated into the existing VQRP system to enhance the services it can offer resulting in the + being added to the name. This program responds to the most urgent needs of victims of violent crime, offering timely access to resources and emergency funds. Victims may be eligible for financial assistance related to emergency expenses - securing premises, transportation, crime scene clean-up, funeral expenses, counselling services - short-term, early intervention. Victim Services will apply on behalf of a victim of crime to explore what supports they may be eligible for.

Vision, Education, and Awareness, are essential to both prevention of the crime as well as reduction in trauma when supports are in place quickly.

Individuals Supported by VQRP+ by Crime Type - 148

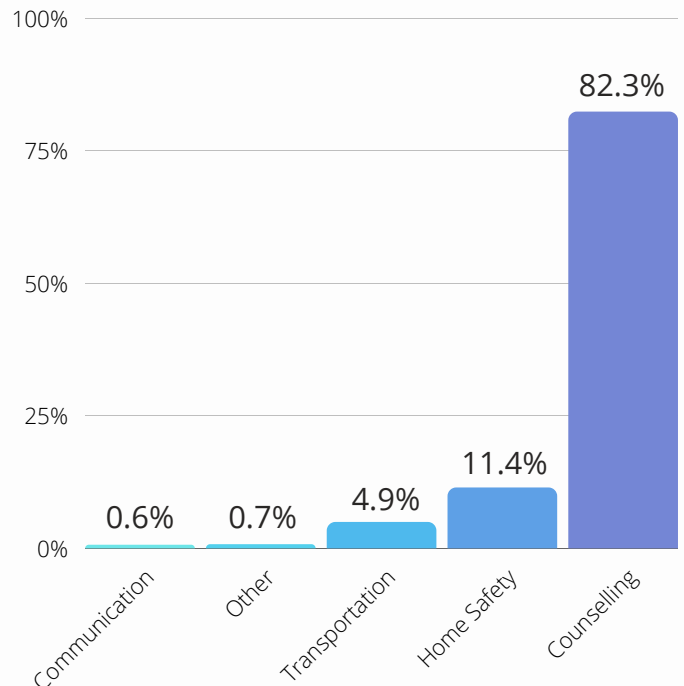


Through the Victim Quick Response Program (VQRP+) We are able to:

- Provide immediate transportation to safety for a victim fleeing a crime.
- Help to secure the residence of a victim following instances of domestic violence.
- Assist in ensuring survivors have the communication tools required to remain connected to service providers.
- Assist in covering costs of crime scene clean up and tragic scene clean up following crimes or certain tragedies.
- Provide counselling to those recovering from victimization.
- Provide immediate financial response to ensure the basic needs of victims of crime are supported.

\*\*This list is not complete or exhaustive, some restrictions may apply.

Breakdown of Service Provided via VQRP+



# Years of Service Awards

- Miranda Greidanus (5)      Shelley Bender (10)
- Tim Wylie (5)                Wayne Cronin (10)

## Board of Directors

Jim Dietrich (Chair)	Dashwood	Joined 2016
Robert Morris (Vice Chair)	Goderich	Joined 2016
Jo-Anne Fields (Secretary)	Hensall	Joined 2016
Mike Scott (Treasurer)	Kingsbridge	Joined 2016
Tim Poole (Director)	Wingham	Joined 2016
Susan Regier (Director)	St. Joseph's	Joined 2017
Joe Steffler (Director)	Seaforth	Joined 2019
Tabatha Fisher (Director)	Goderich	Joined 2019
Mary-Ellen Ducharme (Director)	Exeter	Joined 2020

**GUIDANCE**  
**VISION**  
**LEADERSHIP**  
**COMMITMENT**

## Current Office Staff

### Executive Director

Deborah Logue

### Coordinator of Services

Karen Redmond

### Lead Crisis Responder

Dawson Currie

## COVID-19 Support Staff

- Shelley Bender
- Brenda Burkholder
- Wayne Cronin
- Jacqui Empson-Laporte
- Kathy Knechtel

**\*\*Thank you to the Victim Services team who actively went above and beyond throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic to ensure our community continued to receive uninterrupted support.\*\***

## Active Responders

- Shelley Bender
- Alicia Bennewies
- Pam Bieman
- Julia Pearson-Boyd
- Brenda Burkholder
- Nicole Chapman
- Wayne Cronin
- Yasmin Eddijli
- Brandy Gagnier
- Miranda Greidanus
- Angela Gould
- Stacey Hallahan
- Nancy Hamelin
- Alex Harmen
- Ally Henry
- Janette Holmes
- Holly Howson
- Jess Keller
- Brandon Koetsier
- Kathy Knechtel
- Jacqui Laporte
- Bobbi Jo Liu
- JoAnn Robinson
- Davis Smith
- Rosa Snopko
- Martina Tait
- Marion Taylor
- Wagner Valdez
- Vicki Whiting
- Tim Wylie

Each Responder Commits to at least 24 hours of on-call coverage per month.  
  
 This year, Active Responders committed to over 8,500 hours of coverage.

# Thank You to Those Departing the Agency...

- Jenn Evans
- Kathy Adams
- Margaret Cook (LOA)
- Patty Groot
- Chad Higenell
- Dalton MacAdam
- Bret Pincombe
- Cathy Skinner
- Wayne Walker
- Rosiland Ward (LOA)

*"Volunteering with Victim Services is One of the Most Rewarding Things I've Ever Done"*

*- Cathy Skinner*

We appreciate all of your time, energy, and dedication to the organization. We wish you nothing but the best in the future!



**VICTIM  
SERVICES**  
Huron County

Victim Services of Huron County provides short term emotional support, practical assistance, and community referrals to survivors of crime, trauma, and tragic circumstance in partnership with community and emergency services.



[WWW.VICTIMSERVICESHURON.CA](http://WWW.VICTIMSERVICESHURON.CA)



**519-600-4108**



[INFO@VICTIMSERVICESHURON.CA](mailto:INFO@VICTIMSERVICESHURON.CA)



VICTIM SERVICES OF  
HURON COUNTY



DANCING WITH THE  
STARS - VICTIM  
SERVICES HURON



VICTIM SERVICES  
HURON



**@HURONVS**