



Annual Report 2014|15



Women's Shelter
of York Region Inc.



A Message from the Chair & President

Cathy Tustin

***“Every
individual
effort
combines to
make a
difference
in the lives of
the women
and children
that we
serve.”***

As my fourth and final year as Chair and President of the Board comes to a close, I am happy to say that once again, Sandgate has seen many positive changes this past year.

Sandgate’s Board and staff worked together to develop our new Strategic Plan that will guide the agency’s growth through 2018. The Plan focuses on four strategic directions. The first direction revolves around our programs and services and focuses on the expansion of our child, youth and education programs, the enhancement of our services and increasing transitional housing space. The goal of the second direction is to enhance the relationships with our partners through the YRCCS and other agencies and to continue to provide leadership in specialty areas such as forced marriage, honour based crimes, trafficking and mental health. The third is to diversify and increase our funding and so, with the addition of our new Fundraising Advisor, we are well under way to achieving that goal. The final strategic direction focuses on strengthening the relationships within our agency to enhance the services we provide to women and their children.

We are fortunate to have women on our Board with a variety of valuable skills. Our Board has evolved over the past year, with the departure of Tracie Bliss, Sandy Wickeler, Pam Novak, Viola NcCube and Sarah Lajeunesse. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank each of them for their dedication towards our cause. New to our Board is Khanh Pham. We are always looking for new talent to join our Board as we continue in our efforts to end violence against women.

I would also like to thank our donors. Every dollar you donate makes a difference in the success of our agency. We need your help now more than ever to meet the financial needs associated with the high occupancy of our shelters and demand for our services. Sadly, there are still women and children in our community that suffer from abuse.

As always, thank you to the staff, volunteers, fellow Board Directors and of course, our Executive Director. Every individual effort combines to make a difference in the lives of the women and children that we serve.

I have enjoyed the past four years as Chair and will stay on as Vice-Chair. Angie Arora, who has demonstrated strong commitment and leadership to the agency over the last few years on the Board will assume the role of Chair of the Board of Directors.

Cathy Tustin



A Message from the Executive Director

Jehan Chaudhry

Each day, with our team of determined and knowledgeable staff, volunteers and Board of Directors, Sandgate works towards providing our best services to any person who identifies as a woman and their children who are suffering from any form of violence. Each day, we strive a little more to end violence against women.

This past year has been no exception. We are proud of what we have achieved and the impact that we have created in the lives of over 1,000 women and their children.

Over the next year, we will be working towards implementing and integrating the Ministry of Community and Social Services' Shelter Standards into our service delivery. We are also excited to be attending the World Conference for Women's Shelters in The Hague, Netherlands in November 2015 where we will be sharing our success using a collaborative, co-location hub model with attendees from all over the world.

Our success is the result of not only collaboration but of unrelenting resolve and resilience. We do what we need to keep women and children safe. We will continue to believe in, support and empower women as long as we need.

Thank you to all of our generous funders, donors and community partners for being a trusted ally and valued member in this work.

Jehan Chaudhry

Our Mission

Sandgate Women's Shelter of York Region Inc. is dedicated to providing all persons who identify as women and their children shelter, support and information so they can take steps towards ending abuse in their lives.

How did Sandgate get its name?

Over 20 years ago, following a number of domestic violence cases that resulted in the death of three women in Georgina, the community came together to support a call to action towards ending violence against women and to establish an emergency shelter for women.

On June 1, 1992, Sandgate Women's Shelter opened its doors for the first time. The shelter was named after Ellen Sands, the last of the three women who was brutally murdered by her estranged husband and whose death sparked the community's support for a women's shelter, and Westgate Lodge, the original building, in which the shelter now called home.

Strategic Directions Looking Ahead 2015-2018

Acknowledgements

The Board of Directors and Staff of Sandgate Women's Shelter are committed to providing a safe place for women and their children to heal from the abuse and violence in their relationships.

We acknowledge that each woman who uses any of our services is honouring us with their trust. We take that responsibility seriously and thank them for their confidence.

Strategic Direction #1

Deliver exceptional programs and services that continue to be dynamically aligned to the changing needs of York Region

Strategic Direction #2

Be leaders and work collaboratively with key partners and allies, in responding to violence against women in York Region

Strategic Direction #3

Continue to diversify funding sources and maintain a sustainable funding plan

Strategic Direction #4

Work towards building on an internal culture of stability, collaboration and strong communication

“We don't live in
fear anymore, only
in happiness and
excitement for our
new future.”

– *Woman. Mother. Survivor. (2014)*



Our Services

All of our services are free and confidential

EMERGENCY CRISIS SHELTER

- 24 hour crisis call line
- 30 bed emergency shelters (Richmond Hill & Jackson's Point)
- Customized Safety Planning
- Crisis & Supportive Counselling
- Service Delivery Planning
- Translation & Interpreters Available
- Wheelchair Accessible

TRANSITION & HOUSING SUPPORT

- Court support
- Housing applications support
- Police support & Keep the Peace visits
- One-on-one counselling
- Referrals to other community agencies
- Children's Aid Society support

CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAMS

- Supportive services for mothers working with Children's Aid Society
- School registration
- Child care support
- Parenting support
- Let's Talk (Child Witness Program)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Safe resource for women
- Support groups
- One-on-one counselling
- Access to information & program referrals
- Public education & advocacy

SECOND-STAGE HOUSING

- Up to six months accommodation in four low rent second stage apartment units located in Jackson's Point

"My stay at Sandgate was *life changing*. The *supportive, understanding* and *available* staff made the *difference*."

– A.B., Woman. Survivor. (2014)



Our Impact By the Numbers

2014 | 2015

205

*women
stayed in our
shelters*

99

*children
stayed in our
shelters*

1,202

*crisis calls
received*

31

*women's
group hours*

130

*hours of
Let's Talk*

97

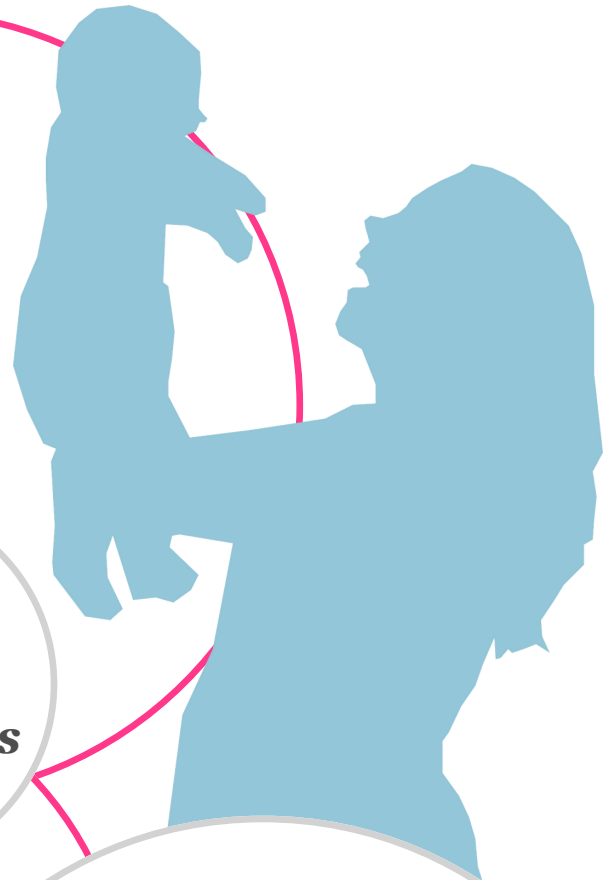
*children
enrolled in
Let's Talk*

Let's Talk

The Let's Talk program is designed to help children understand the cycle of abuse and deal with their feelings as witnesses or victims of domestic violence.

Our program aims to provide children with a safe and supportive environment where they can talk about their experiences and participate in a variety of activities aimed at assisting them in working through their feelings.

Our program offers groups for children between 4-18 years of age, as well as a concurrent mother's group.



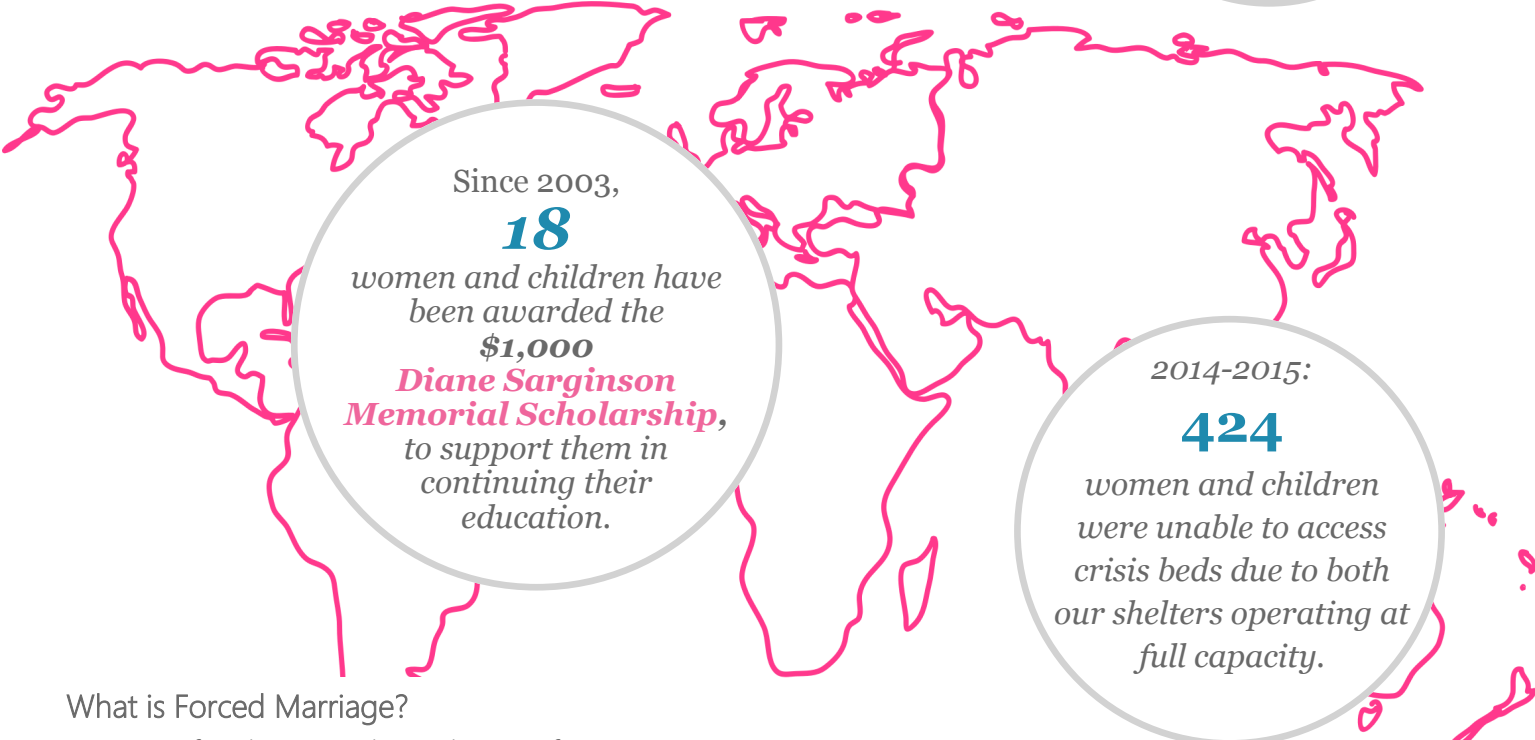
Violence Against Women Fact:

On average, every six days a woman in Canada is killed by her intimate partner.

Since 1992...
We have supported...

19,337+
women

6,045+
children



Since 2003,
18
women and children have
been awarded the
\$1,000
Diane Sarginson
Memorial Scholarship,
to support them in
continuing their
education.

2014-2015:
424
women and children
were unable to access
crisis beds due to both
our shelters operating at
full capacity.

What is Forced Marriage?

- Form of violence and a violation of a person's human rights
- Marriage that takes place without free consent of individuals getting married
- It can happen to anyone; of any gender, of any age.
- Forced marriages are not condoned by and do not take place in any particular culture, class or religion.

(Source: South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario)

2014-2015:
20
Forced
marriage and
honour based
crime cases

On any given day in Canada, more than 3,300 women (along with their 3,000 children) are forced to sleep in an emergency shelter to escape domestic violence. Every night, about 200 women are turned away because the shelters are full.

(Source: Canadian Women's Foundation)



"With guidance, support, reassurance and commitment, the staff at Sandgate gave me all the tools to have a real chance at life, and most importantly a life for my beautiful innocent children." – H.M., Woman. Mother. Survivor. (2014)

{ Our Dedicated Staff }

Our team at Sandgate Women's Shelter is comprised of diverse women who are also mothers, daughters, sisters, grandmothers, aunts, friends, leaders and visionaries. We are a dedicated and passionate group of women who work tirelessly to support and advocate on behalf of women and their children .

**27
Full-time
Staff**



**2 Shelters
2 Outreach
Offices**

**38
Languages
Spoken**

**Expertise
Compassion
Leadership**

{ Volunteer Spotlight }

Linda Kirby

Linda has been volunteering with Sandgate Women's Shelter since 2005 and helps co-facilitate both our Women's Support and Let's Talk groups.

Over the past ten years, Linda has proven herself invaluable in helping us support women and children in need in our communities. Her dedication is astounding –in ten years, Linda has only missed two sessions!

Without dedicated and caring volunteers such as Linda, our programs would not be as successful as they are in supporting women and their children.

In 2014, Linda was presented the Volunteer Award of Merit by the Town of Georgina.

Thank you Linda for your commitment and support of Sandgate!



A Big and Heartfelt Thank You to all our dedicated and wonderful volunteers who work tirelessly to help us support women and their children.

**We engaged
over 60
volunteers in
2014 | 2015!**



Board of Directors

Cathy Tustin
Chair/President

Angie Arora
Vice-Chair/Vice-President

Khanh Pham
Treasurer

Shalini Konanur
Secretary

Jessica Harvey
Director

Natasha Mascarenhas
Director

Mangala Rao-D'Sa
Director

Gunjan Syal
Director

Joan Wade
Director



"I had *friends*
here, we *laughed*,
we *cooked* and we
had *lovely times*
going to the park
and nice walks."

— J.H., Woman. Survivor. (2014)

York Region Centre for Community Safety Report 14|15

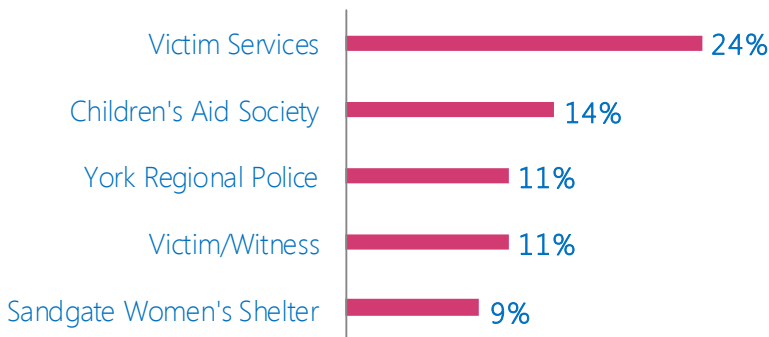
The York Region Centre for Community Safety (YRCCS) offers multi-sectoral response to intimate partner violence and provides interventions in the area of counselling, support groups, emergency shelters, housing and legal support.

Since October 2013, we have supported...

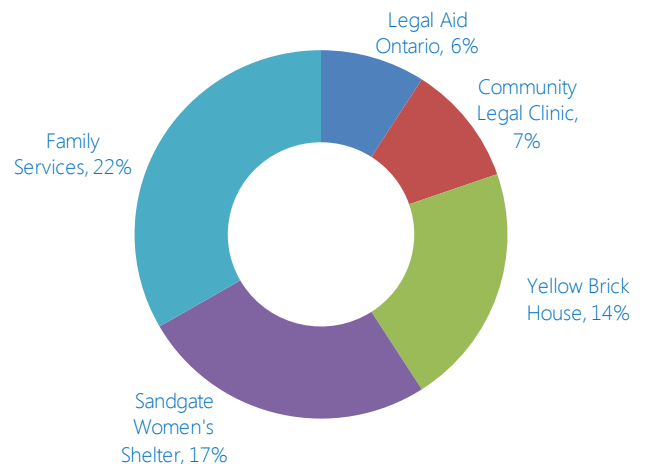


Top 5 Referrals...

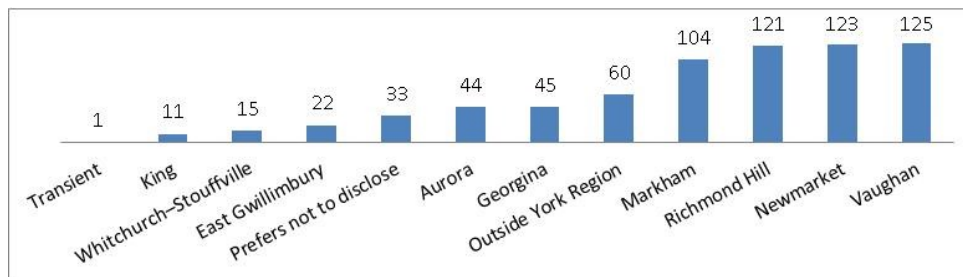
The YRCCS has received referrals from a variety of sources. The primary pathway into YRCCS is through the criminal legal system within York Region.



Top 5 Services...



Where are our service users living?



A lack of affordable housing greatly influences where service users reside following legal or child welfare intervention.

Please direct all queries to: Rubaiyat Karim, Program Manager
 Email: rubaiyat.karim@yrccs.ca | Tel: 905-836-7601 x 117 | Fax: 905-836-2617 | www.yrccs.ca
 16775 Yonge Street, Suite 200, (2nd Floor), Newmarket, ON L3Y 8J4

Financial Report

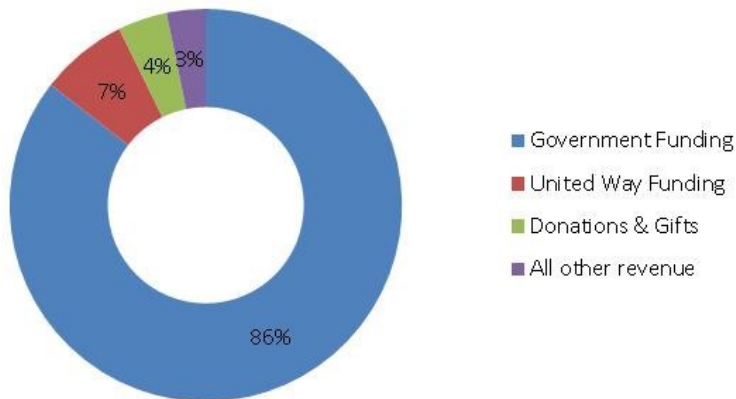
2014 | 2015

Revenue	2015	2014
Ministry of Community and Social Services	2,009,112	1,897,668
United Way – Operating Grant	149,969	149,969
Region of York – Residents Needs	38,718	39,763
Region of York – York Region Centre for Community Safety (YRCCS)	80,250	118,000
Membership Fees – YRCCS	55,392	31,781
Ontario Trillium Foundation – YRCCS	25,000	75,125
Donations and Fundraising	72,549	76,867
Grants	58,026	17,470
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Mortgage and Loan Forgiveness	38,372	38,372
Second Stage Transitional Housing	15,782	19,523
Other Income	13,781	–
Interest Income	2,372	2,314
	2,559,323	2,466,852
Expenses		
Salaries and Benefits	1,769,101	1,704,286
Occupancy Costs	250,124	203,769
Amortization	172,542	171,085
Professional and Consulting Fees	135,995	101,319
Residents Needs	73,210	74,021
Office and General	51,305	47,542
Telephone	49,120	49,913
Travel and Transportation	46,258	38,696
Insurance	27,466	27,446
Fundraising	14,712	13,726
Staff Training	10,777	17,265
Advertising and Promotion	7,968	10,348
Scholarships	3,000	2,000
Net Unrealized Gain on Investments	– 943	– 13,274
	2,610,635	2,448,142

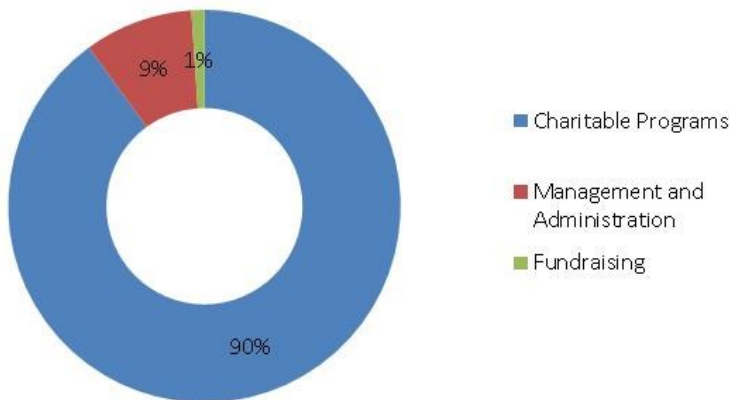


This report represents a summarized version of our financial position derived from the complete financial statements of Women's Shelter of York Region for the year ending March 31, 2015. Full audited financial statements are available upon request.

Our Funding



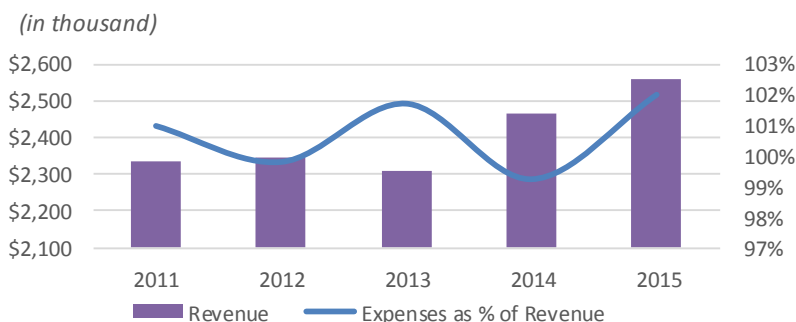
Our Expenses



Where we spend: 90%

of our expenses go toward our Charitable Programs including our emergency shelters, child witness and women's programs and outreach.

Revenue vs Expenses



A Message from the Treasurer

This is my first year working as Treasurer at Sandgate and within only a short period of time, I have witnessed the passion, love, and caring our team has offered to the women and children who come through our doors. I am happy to say that I am proud to be part of this team.

Fiscal 2014-2015 reported improvement in funding from the Ministry of Community and Social Services while other sources of funding were lower in comparison to the previous year. At the same time, the cost of providing services continued to surpass the revenues received with total expenses increasing 6.6% with only a 3.7% increase in revenues.

The marginal increase in funding was not enough to accommodate the larger number of clients. Despite every effort made, 424 women and children were unable to access crisis beds due to both of our shelters operating at full capacity.

Khanh Pham

Where Your Donations Go

At Sandgate, we work hard to ensure that every dollar we receive is spent consciously and efficiently. When you give to Sandgate, you can be confident that your donation will be managed and invested directly where it will have the greatest impact on women and children fleeing abusive situations in our community.

"Thank you for all your support and love, especially through the hardest time of my life."

M.M., Woman. Survivor. (2014)

CONTACT US

www.sandgate.ca

Toll Free Confidential Hotline:

1.800.661.8294

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Sutton West, Ontario, L0E 1R0

Administration

Telephone: 905.722.4043 ext. 113

Fax: 905.722.8416

shutchinson@sandgate.ca

Charitable Registration No. 136663812RR0001

Social Media

Twitter: [@sandgatewomen](https://twitter.com/sandgatewomen)

Facebook: facebook.com/sandgatewomen



**Working to End Violence Against Women
Supporting Choices for Women & Children**