

# Halton Family Services

## Annual Report, 2015-16

### **Our Vision:**

**Strong people**  
**Strong families**  
**Strong communities**

### **Our Mission:**

**We partner with you to manage life's challenges.**

### **Our Values:**

**Care and compassion**  
**Respect and Dignity**  
**Professionalism & Quality**  
**Inclusion & Safety**

Funded by Ministry of Community Social Services

Ministry of the Attorney General

United Ways of Oakville,  
Burlington/Hamilton, Milton and Halton Hills

OntarioTrillium Foundation

**Halton Family Services & Access Counselling and Family Services – Merger Accomplished!!**

This Annual Report represents the first Report of our merged agency in which we are able to celebrate both our individual and collective accomplishments.

**Our Service to the Community**

Clients Served in Counselling	2015/16
# of individuals served	2,727
# of hours of service provided	27, 346
Clients Served in Supervised Access	2015/16
# of families served	133
# of visits	626
# of exchanges	545

---

*“It was great to learn the importance of caring for your children in different ways, like their feelings as well as their physical needs” Caring Dads group member*

---

---

*The program taught me different tools & strategies to use in my everyday life which made my relationships better” PAR group member*

---

---

*My therapist has been instrumental in helping me leave my abusive relationship & flourish in all areas of my life. VAW client*

---

## OUR SERVICES

---

Individual, Couple and Family counselling

Counselling for women who have experience abuse in their relationships

Counselling for women and children who have experienced abuse in the home

Plus 55 – a group for women focused on moving forward

Caring Dads- a program for fathers who have been abusive with their family

Partner Abuse Response Program – Program for partners who have been abusive

Supervised Access Programs – support for visits with non-custodial parents

Credit Counselling & Financial Fitness- Counselling and programs to assist individuals with their financial issues

---

Halton Family Services is proud to offer programming to the community 7 days a week, including 5 evenings

Services offered in Oakville, Burlington, Milton and Georgetown.

---

Halton Family Services demonstrates our commitment to the field of counselling and the success of our next generations by offering Master level students opportunities to complete their placements at our agency. We also support internships for clinicians needing to acquire practicum hours post-Master and create summer job opportunities for university students considering work in the field.

# Halton Family Services

## Funders

The Board and staff of Halton Family Services would like to thank our funders for their continued support and understanding of the services we have provided to the many families in Halton.

Ministry of Community and Social Services

Ministry of the Attorney General

United Way Oakville

United Way Burlington & Greater Hamilton

United Way of Milton

United Way of Halton Hills

Ontario Trillium Foundation

We would also like to thank our generous Donors who have been so supportive!

We apologize if we have missed anyone.

Charlene Foxcroft

Were Family foundation

Susan Jewett

East Plains United Church

Al Albano

Catharine Donnars-Hodgon

Cornwall Wealth Foundation

Kathryn Burton

Hydro One Employees Foundation

James Knox



## HVPC's Annual Report to the Community:

2015/16 has been a busy and exciting year for the Halton Violence Prevention Council. As Halton's Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee, we are a coalition of 20+ agencies within our community that work collaboratively to establish and support a comprehensive and effective community response to address *all* forms of gender-based violence and abuse in the Halton region. Halton Family Services is the lead agency responsible for the coordination of this work, and the changes that have come to HFS have resulted in a fresh new perspective and re-commitment to the council's work.

Our Speakers' Bureau continues to build and grow their presence within our community. We supported women with lived experience speaking at several events over the course of the past fiscal year, participated in the Halton community Resource Fair, co-authored a published article in the Hamilton Spectator, and engaged in a strategic mapping exercise in order to solidify our direction and purpose for the upcoming year. This continues to be a strong, brave and courageous group of women and the council is privileged to be able to support the sharing of their stories.

Additionally, much of the council's work is informed by recommendations from the Office of the Coroner's Domestic Violence Death Review Committee – an annually published report that reviews the tragedy of domestic homicide as a method to learn from contributing risk factors and work towards preventing future acts of femicide. In honouring the recommendation for increased cross-sectoral collaboration, HVPC has taken up two initiatives within the past year. First, we developed and implemented training for professionals working alongside survivors of violence who may also be experiencing mental health and/or substance use issues. These training sessions have been positively received, and worked to strengthen capacity and knowledge sharing that responds to co-occurring issues in a streamlined and collaborative way.

Secondly, we have supported and implemented the revised Children's Aid Society - Violence Against Women Collaborative Agreement, both a signed commitment and training series aimed at reinforcing the existing partnerships between these two sectors and bringing them closer together through collaborative practices on several key service delivery areas. Again, this collective process has resulted in increased coordinated service delivery for families affected by violence and abuse.

In regards to the community, HVPC has remained involved and connected - hosting events throughout November's Woman Abuse Awareness Month, participating in regional committees and representing Halton at provincial wide conferences and research projects.

Although this year has been one full of transition and change, the council welcomes the new directions and initiatives that lie ahead, and will continue to engage and support projects and initiatives that contribute to making Halton a stronger and safer community that stands up and speaks out against gender-based violence.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Gillespie Tozer, Coordinator  
Halton Violence Prevention Council

## **Report From the Chair of the Board and Executive Director**

### **Al Albano – Board Chair**

As we moved into the 2015-16 year, we knew we faced a dynamic year of new beginnings as well as a number of endings. Access Counselling and Family Services and Halton Family Services were both ending and becoming something new and different than either agency had been previously.

We had ambitious plans to bring the best of both community resources together and create a new entity which was positioned to respond to the ever-changing environment in which we provide excellent, relevant services to the Halton communities.

After a long and challenging journey, we were thrilled to come to arrive at October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 when the official change occurred and we united under the Halton Family Service banner while we organized to define the next chapter. We were honoured to have opportunities to recognize the immeasurable contributions of our two out-going Executive Directors Susan Jewitt and Deborah Lavender as well as a number of changes to our Board. We were fortunate to have Melodie Zarczeny from the Osborne group hold down the fort and lead the process of finding the right new Executive Director for the agency.

Chondrena Vieira-Martin joined us in January, 2016. She brings a wealth of management experience from mental health and addictions and has served in the Halton community for many years.

### **Chondrena Vieira-Martin, Executive Director**

Since joining Halton Family Services in January, I have been unfailingly impressed by the dedication and excellence that I have seen in the staff and Board of Directors in their commitment to the continuing progress of the agency. It has been a whirlwind of activity with many changes and tasks in the works to bring the new agency to a point where it can function fluidly as a united whole. We have been busy with many practical matters new software systems, new accounting systems, new staffing arrangements, office moves as well as the more

intangible but equally important work of creating a new culture for ourselves as a larger player and force in the fabric of the Halton community.

## **Joint**

The merger has given us an unparalleled opportunity to look at who we were deeply and fearlessly and take a new cut at defining who we are going to be moving forward. We have created that vision and we have taken several of those critical first steps in making them a reality.

We look forward to an adventurous 2016-17 with our visions and plans coming to life!

## **Board of Directors 2015-2016**

**President: Al Albano**

**Vice President: Susan Biggs**

**Treasurer/Secretary: Carmen Harvey**

**Directors:**

**Mary Fenn-Dunbar**

**Stephen Ellis**

**Loraine Fedurco**

**Kate Graham**