

2020 Annual General Report

Resilience For Families in the Time of COVID



London Family
Court Clinic

2019 - 2020

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MESSAGE FROM LFCC's BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESIDENT

"Staying Connected" certainly looks and feels different than it did pre COVID-19. Never would I have thought that a global pandemic is where we would be right now, even though all the warning signs were certainly there. The impact to organizations' financial and human health has been catastrophic and far beyond anything experienced in the 2008-2009 financial downturn and while no-one truly knows the long-term effects of this pandemic, it is apparent that staying connected is more important now than ever.

I always say that something good must come from everything and looking back over the past year I would say that's still true. While hard to imagine anything good coming out of a pandemic, if we look hard, we can find those good nuggets. The positive impact on air pollution, sound pollution and gas emissions are just a few. But bigger than that is that we have demonstrated our ability to, on a global scale, when the stakes are high enough, collectively come together and take on these challenges.

With innovation & technology being central to how organizations respond to these challenges, LFCC has definitely stepped up. They pivoted almost overnight to online services and programs, new ways of working, social distancing and increased collaboration in a multitude of new ways with all partners. What might have taken years to do, has now happened almost overnight.

With significant uncertainty in-front of us each and every day, the staff and leadership team at LFCC have shown considerable resilience,

ingenuity and innovation in how they continue to stay connected with each other, with their clients and with their ministry partners. Learning to lead from a distance, learning to communicate in new ways, learning to offer advice & support using tools such as Zoom, Teams, Skype etc., are all ways in which everyone has had to ramp up their learning curve faster than ever before. A real testament to everyone's drive to stay connected at a time when it would have been far easier and cheaper to just 'pack it in'. But 'packing it in' has never really been LFCC's style.

Forward looking for LFCC, as they look to almost celebrate 50 years of service, along with the Board of Directors, they continue to explore opportunities and make forward progress on organizational changes that are needed to continue to thrive in what is now our "new normal". I have every confidence in the staff and leadership team at LFCC to implement these changes to meet the demands of not only our clients but the global environment in which we now operate. It won't be easy. Implementing change is never easy and there will be multiple bumps along the road, but by staying connected, and working together I have no doubt an even more resilient, stronger and connected LFCC will emerge.

On behalf of the LFCC Board of Directors, stay safe, stay healthy and stay in touch.

Respectfully,
Darlys Corbitt
Board President



MESSAGE FROM LFCC's EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A common thread for our annual general report this year is “staying connected” to build and maintain resiliency in ourselves and those we serve. Given the pandemic, the notion of staying connected obviously fits in terms of the pivot we all were required to make in March of 2020 to operating virtually. It was difficult but necessary to stop face to face work in order to keep clients and staff healthy and safe. However, staying connected at LFCC this past year has involved a deeper and more collaborative effort on the part of our skilled staff, exceptional Board members, deserving clients, talented students, dedicated volunteers, remarkable residents, and many experienced external consultants that ensured our services continued.

I am incredibly proud of our staff members who met the COVID-19 challenge and shifted their work in alternative ways to stay connected to their clients. Using various technologies, adapted and safe-distanced service models, and greater collaboration with sister organizations during this past year has allowed all our services to continue, albeit in different and sometimes unique ways. What many of us are seeing is the value added to some of these COVID required changes and the opportunity to add virtual or technology assisted service options for those who wish to use them going forward even after the pandemic challenges are met. Clients also learned to stay connected in ways that suited them personally and to self-determine how they wish to have services. Phone sessions, texting, email, video-sessions, virtual group treatment, or safe-distanced in-person work were on the menu for clients.

Community forums, knowledge exchange events, webinars, workshops, training sessions and access to professional development opportunities opened up and became more cost-effective and thus accessible to more staff and community partners through virtual methods. This new reality allowed us to ensure we were staying connected and adapting as required for grant activities, trainings received or provided, program evaluations underway, and for new research initiatives to be considered. Government supports at various levels enabled us to adapt, modify, develop or refine ideas that grew out of the chaos of the pandemic but which eventually resulted in new programs and quick response efforts to help families caught in the middle of the uncertainty of the COVID stressors. The new LFCC and Children’s Hospital of London Health Sciences Centre “Shared Decision-Making Program” is the most recent pandemic related service model that allows medical and mental health professionals to stay connected to families struggling with health decisions that impact separated and divorcing families when Courts and other services are less accessible.

Finally, as LFCC having commenced operation in 1974 and soon looking forward to achieving 50 years of dedicated services, we are currently examining our organizational structures and where further changes and adaptations may prove beneficial. We have appreciated the ongoing support of our various Ministry funders and program supervisors, as well as our community partners and sister organizations facing similar challenges. In addition, our fee-paying clients and organizations, and dedicated leadership teams are staying connected. This has enabled us to meet service demands and build resiliency in our clients, staff, LFCC directors/coordinators, and Board leaders in order to meet the challenges ahead. We encourage you to enjoy the ride, stay tuned, and stay connected with LFCC and our various social enterprises unfolding over the next few years.

Respectfully,
Dr. Dan Ashbourne, PhD, C. Psych., Acc.FM., LFCC Executive Director

About the Frank Brennan Award (Initiated in 1984)

Each year the Frank Brennan Award, named in tribute to a fondly remembered colleague from the early days of the London Family Court Clinic, is awarded to a peer working in the social services sector. Frank was 65 when he joined us and, to our great loss, he died five years later. He brought years of wisdom gained as a probation officer but also the legacy of a rich and remarkable life that included the experience of fighting in the Spanish Civil War, where he met Ernest Hemingway.

Frank, with his literate style and humorous nature, made his mark both on the children he counselled and the community he served.

Like Frank, the recipients of the award that bears his name provide exemplary service to local children and families in crisis.

They work within their own organizations and participate in broader community initiatives to exemplify the qualities for which Frank is remembered: compassion, integrity, respectful treatment of clients, effective communication, dedication to advocacy, and support to colleagues. With respect for Frank's strong sense of humanity, we continue to honour his life amongst us.

Frank Brennan Award



This year's winner of the Frank Brennan Award is Derek Muir.

Derek is the manager of a secure youth detention centre (Woodview) in Ailsa Craig. Derek has approximately 20 years of experience working with our youth population with both WAYS and Craigwood. His expertise lies in his ability to find

the balance between ensuring the safety and security of everyone while using a trauma-informed and therapeutic approach to serving our youth.

Derek always puts the youth's needs first and finds creative solutions to addressing issues that are unique and difficult. He is a strong advocate

for the rights of our youth and champions these rights.

Last year, our Wayne Willis Award recipient said it best: "Derek is like my dad". Derek has been a huge part of our youths' lives! He is always generous with his time and is a wonderful mentor and role model for our youth. He is well respected and liked by both the youth and his colleagues.

Finally, Derek happens to be National Service Dog (NSD) Yzer's number 1 fan! He was a vocal supporter and influence in arranging for Yzer, our facility dog, to attend Woodview as a support to the centre's young women. Derek's contribution to the youth that we serve is invaluable. His leadership and collaboration with the London Family Court Clinic is very much appreciated by all who benefit from his skills, manner, and dedication to serving youth.

Wayne Willis Award



A Portrait of Wayne Willis

This year we take a moment to recognise the person for whom this award is named. Wayne Willis proudly identified himself as employee #1 of LFCC. For well over 30 years, Wayne provided front line service to clients from every walk of life and every conceivable situation. Wayne's death in May 2020 brought forward many, many fond memories of working with him and heartfelt appreciation for his skills.

Wayne was a positive influence in the lives of perhaps thousands of youth (and their families), that came through LFCC's doors during his many years of service. We are hard pressed to comprehend the contribution Wayne made to the success of LFCC in our early days, but the smiles at the mention of his name and the depth of sadness at his loss indicates Wayne was a person to emulate.

Each year, front line staff nominate a youth they've worked with to receive this award. The selected youth is recognized for taking significant steps to change the direction of their lives. Last year's recipient attended LFCC's Annual General Meeting (AGM) accompanied by her family members. She expressed her appreciation for the positive influence LFCC had on her life and, specifically, her clinician's patience and encouragement.

Her family spoke with great emotion and appreciation for the impact our clinicians had on their young family member. We thank the London Community Foundation for the financial support of this award through the Judge Maurice Genest Fund.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

ADR-LINK receives referrals from CAS, First Nations, Metis, Inuit (FNMI) communities, lawyers, judges and families via self-referral. ADR connects families involved with Children's Aid Societies with a neutral third-party facilitator that assists families in settling child protection concerns in the form of a Child Protection Mediation (CPM), Family Group Conferencing (FGC), Original Dispute Resolution (ODR), or a 4th/Other option. This process is often more inclusive, less expensive, and faster than traditional court options. Families feel more involved in the decision-making process allowing for mutually agreeable solutions to their disputes.

ADR-Link works closely with eight CAS offices and ten FNMI communities throughout southwestern Ontario. We have facilitators that are available to provide services across our region. COVID-19 brought many challenges to this program and the families that it serves. We were able to use video conferencing technology to our advantage by setting up all ADR practitioners on

Zoom conferencing platform. Additionally, we were able to provide seamless service delivery by offering virtual ADR meetings and conferences to families by operating safely and remotely from home.

The primary goal for this year is to continue offering safe virtual services to our families so they can continue to benefit, from the positive aspects of the ADR-LINK process.

We are also offering information sessions by virtual conferencing that describe the ADR program services, including an in depth look at different situations where ADR can be particularly useful in the Advanced ADR options.

The ADR-LINK website is currently being redeveloped to include information and helpful resources for those who want to learn more about ADR.



Connecting Children's Aid Societies with ADR Professionals in the South West Region of Ontario



Voice of The Child: The Art of Interviewing

Since 2018, Dr. Kim Harris and Dr. Dan Ashbourne of LFCC have collaborated with Debra Rodrigues, Director of PCCS Mediation & Counselors from Peel-Dufferin region to provide practitioner training. This training is for those interested in learning to interview children and write Voice of the Child Reports (VOCR) to aid families in decision-making related planning following a separation/divorce.

This specialized training involves three full days (21 hours) of in-person or virtual education including extensive role-playing practice in the steps involved in effective Voice of the Child practices. As interest in this area has grown, those listed above have been invited to present at various conferences over the past few years on this topic and to offer webinars on VOCR.

In 2020, the three trainers signed on with the Ontario Association for Family Mediation (O.A.F.M.) to co-host the trainings for mediators and other professionals working with mediators for the next three years. We jointly completed the first training for OAFM with 16 practitioners of varied backgrounds from locations across Ontario and beyond in August 2020. Over the past several years we have developed a list of trained VOCR practitioners encouraging those completing the training to “stay connected” and consult regularly among themselves or with the trainers.

Feedback from participants doing the trainings will continue to aid updating of each VOCR training with the next scheduled offering on November 2-4, 2020. Further information about this new service provided by LFCC and training opportunities can be found on our website (www.lfcc.on.ca), at PCCS via their website at (www.pccs.ca), or by contacting Mary-Anne Popescu, through the OAFM website at director@oafm.on.ca.



Mediation

Despite the pandemic and needing to pivot to virtual work quickly, LFCC launched a new mediation initiative. In collaboration with Jennifer Suzor (an approved mediation trainer in Ontario) from the Windsor-Essex area, LFCC co-hosted training for those in the southwest region interested in becoming family mediators. Two individuals from LFCC (Dr. Kim Harris and Dr. Dilys Haner) participated in mediation training at LFCC during the past year.

The courses were provided in person and on-line. Group size varied across the five required courses over 17 full days of training, with extensive role-playing exercises enhancing the learning. Following the course work, a period of mentoring assisted the newly trained mediators to work with skilled accredited mentors from the Ontario Association for Family Mediation (O.A.F.M.).

Currently, LFCC has one accredited family mediator (Dr. Dan Ashbourne) and with the addition of Dr. Harris and Dr. Haner, we look to increase our capacity to provide mediation. This will enhance some of the other social enterprise programs available at LFCC such as Parenting Co-Ordination (P-C), New Ways 4 Families (NWFF), fee-for-service counselling with regards to separation and divorce issues, specialized family treatment related to resist-refuse contact challenges for some families, in person or virtual discussion forums related to family court matters, and trainings on topics such as Family Relations or Voice of the Child Reporting.

Looking to next year (2020-2021), we will again cohost family mediation training at LFCC (virtually) and look to support others to respond to families in need of mediation. We see this new service as another way of “staying connected” with the families seeking our services and building resiliency across our communities.



Keeping the Data Flowing

The London Family Court Clinic provides roughly 20 different exceptional services to multiple departments while answering the program needs to multiple funders. To most, this may sound like a data management nightmare, however I can proudly say that after a little patience, perseverance, and teamwork, all LFCC programs are now running smoothly on EMHware, our client management software. EMHware allows us to run consistent reports for all our programs, capturing specific program data elements in a timely manner.

As funder requirements change, EMHware makes it possible to adjust to the revised requirements and meet deadlines whether monthly, quarterly, or annually. Our EMHware administrators keep our staff on track with data quality checks and by stressing the importance of timely and accurate entries. This is an excellent tool to track the important client work of our multidisciplinary staff. It provides reports that allow us to focus on areas of need by identifying trends in service substantiated by real time data for research.

Youth Therapeutic Court

Youth Therapeutic Court (YTC) is a collaborative court designed to assist youth between the ages of 12 and 17 who have been charged with a criminal offence and who have a diagnosed or suspected mental health issue, traumatic brain injury, and/or developmental disability. The primary goal of this specialty court is to identify and support the mental health needs of youth involved in the justice system.

The process may involve screening, assessment, and if suitable, a therapeutic approach to resolving the charges. Participation in the program is voluntary and treatment plans are made in collaboration with the youth and their family or care providers.

YTC has continued to evolve and adapt to address the needs of our clients throughout the COVID-19 crisis. Courtrooms across Canada shut down, proceedings were suspended, and uncertainty lingered. Despite the

challenges, the pandemic has provided an opportunity for creative solutions and innovative approaches. New ways of working with our clients within the “new normal” have strengthened relationships with our community and justice partners as we continue to serve our clients using virtual and remote methods.

YTC has continued to provide screening, assessment, and consultation services throughout the past few months and there have been many successes as youth and their families have continued to access much needed resources and essential services. Our collaborative efforts with the Youth Mental Health Diversion Pilot Project continues to provide support to youth approved to participate in the Mental Health Diversion Program.

As we move forward, we continue to develop innovative ways to stay connected with our clients and with our community partners.



Human Trafficking: Knowledge Exchange Webinar Series



During the month of July 2020 LFCC hosted a series of 3 professional training webinars on Youth and Human Trafficking. Human trafficking (HT) violates a person's rights through the exploitation of people for profit, with a large portion of HT cases involving sexual exploitation. Female teenagers are one of the most vulnerable populations for this crime, particularly if they have histories of trauma, child maltreatment, child welfare, or youth justice involvement. LFCC has recognized HT as a growing area of risk for many of the youth seen through our programs.

The Knowledge Exchange event was funded by MCCSS through a microgrant of the Youth Violence and Human Trafficking Prevention Program (YVHTPP). Originally planned as an in-person training day in March, we reorganized the presentations into a webinar series as it became clear that COVID-19 disruptions would last for some time. We are grateful for the readiness of our presenters to accommodate this new approach and their expertise on the topic was very well received. Jennifer Richardson (Director of Ontario's

Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office) kicked off the series, followed later in the month by officers from the London Police Service (LPS) Human Trafficking Division, as well as a panel of 5 London area service providers who respond to the needs of these at-risk youth. The series offered opportunity for local service providers to work toward a shared understanding of the risk factors associated with HT, the specific developmental issues of youth trapped in this world, as well as their unique service needs.

Approximately 425 attendees representing justice, child welfare, medical, children's mental health, education, and women's community resources benefited from the series. LFCC is currently producing a Knowledge Exchange Summary Paper highlighting key information from the webinar series. This paper will contribute to the identification of promising approaches, suggested collaborations, and work to address this often invisible crime.



Client Impact Story: Planting Seeds

This year we received a unique re-referral to counselling services at LFCC. The father of a prior LFCC client got in touch with our YTC clinician, Joelene Bamford, to request counselling services for his son. The youth had successfully completed the diversion program in 2018 and had engaged in counselling services at that time. The father explained that the recent global pandemic restrictions have taken its toll on his family, which is why he wanted to inquire about counselling services.

Since this youth was no longer in conflict with the law, he was not eligible for counselling services at LFCC except through our Fee-For-Service (FFS) program. Due to the limited resources of this family, the FFS program was not within reach. The LFCC team learned, however, that this youth would be eligible to receive Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) due to his Indigenous status and would thus be able to receive counselling services at no charge to the family. The father's words say it best: "You guys are awesome! You have no idea how thankful I am that you guys can help me out with my son. I'm glad you can help again, Ellissa. He trusts you. Which I am so glad that he does. Otherwise I don't think he would be doing this. Thanks to the both of you!"

As clinicians at LFCC, we strive to "plant a seed" when counselling our difficult-to-engage clients. We work hard to build rapport with these youth who do not easily trust adults due to their various life experiences. In building this rapport, we believe that we make a difference by providing youth with a positive counselling experience. This experience may help youth feel more comfortable and willing to seek counselling services in the future when they are perhaps more able to address their problems as they mature. It has been a very rewarding experience to work with this youth again.

LFCC services team is often able to arrange financial assistance for counselling of clients who have been victim or a witness to a crime and/or identify as Indigenous. Contact services@lfcc.on.ca



EQ4: Community Supports

Suicide is a public health issue. Each year 4000 Canadians die by suicide, resulting in significant emotional turmoil for the families and loved ones left behind. Suicide remains the second leading cause of death among youth. Within the last three months alone, we have learned of the death by suicide of four youth in the London-Middlesex area.

Research tells us that when a young person dies by suicide, their peers have an increased likelihood of considering suicide as a viable option. This is a phenomenon referred to as contagion. The focus of this suicide prevention strategy is to identify those at risk and support members of the community during the aftermath of a suicide.

Community mental health agencies have come together to implement new supports that address many risks linked to suicide exposure. The youth suicide postvention supports provides community members in the London and Middlesex Community with a roadmap to guide community efforts in the aftermath of a suicide.

Our EQ4 project goals are to:

1. Prevent suicide among people who are at high risk after exposure (because of psychological, geographical, or social proximity) to suicide.
2. Identify youth at potential risk of imitative behaviour (suicide attempt) or thoughts (suicidal ideation) and subsequent mental health problems.
3. Provide a coordinated postvention intervention after the death of a youth by suicide (youth ages 12 to 24).
4. Lessen other negative effects of exposure to suicide for the community, youth, and families.
5. Evaluate our collaborative postvention process (developmental evaluation) and share results with the wider community (Fall 2020).

Both Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) and Bell Let's Talk have provided funding for one year to support the refinement and implementation of this community-wide postvention. We thank OTF and Bell for their generous support.

LFCC regularly provides training for front line workers on youth suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention. For more information on these opportunities please see LFCCtraining.com or contact training@lfcc.on.ca.



Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)



The Parent Connect project continues to provide support to parents and caregivers of children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) or a suspected Complex Neurodevelopmental Disorder. The Parent Connect project is built around the philosophy that families of neuro-diverse children deserve to feel part of a community with similar lived experiences.

Feelings of social isolation are reduced by connecting parents and caregivers of neuro-diverse children. Parent Connect is a multi-year pilot project funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The project is in its final year and is on target to enrol 120 participants by the summer of 2021. This project has enabled broader support to the FASD community through the development of a local website, event planning, a Facebook Live stream throughout the pandemic, and participation in activities on September 9th for FASD Day.

On the 9th hour of the 9th day of the 9th month, bells are rung and proclamations are issued around the world to raise awareness about the risks associated with alcohol consumption during pregnancy. This year, the theme for FASD Day is to celebrate the strengths of those affected by prenatal alcohol exposure. To learn more about FASD and the Parent Connect Project, please email fasd@lfcc.on.ca.

“ People living with Fetal Alcohol know “a lot”, but the problem lies in their inability to access and execute what they know...which is super frustrating for everyone. ”

-Jeff Noble

Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT)

The Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) group began in 2018 as part of a three-year project funded by the Poverty Reduction Strategy Office (PRSO), to support at-risk and justice involved youth. The group runs for 10 weeks and includes a DBT skills group and individual DBT skills coaching and counselling. The focus of the program is to teach mindfulness, emotion regulation, distress tolerance, and interpersonal effectiveness skills, with the goal of improving young people's quality of life and reducing poverty factors, such as school dropout.

Referrals come from a variety of sources including local social service agencies, child protection services, youth justice services, hospitals, as well as family members. During last fiscal, LFCC delivered five in-person programs but, in response to the pandemic, we transitioned in April to a virtual group format. This has proven to be a challenge for group leaders, but the DBT skills material continues to be well received by youth.

As part of the project, satisfaction and impact data are being collected. Overall, this program has been successful in improving young people's targeted skills, and the feedback has been most positive. Youth overwhelmingly agree that they are satisfied with the group and would recommend it to a friend (90%). Some say they have shared what they learn, "It's helped me a lot. It's even helped my friends because I teach them." Many agreed that the program helped them resolve or avoid conflict (72.5%), improve their relationships with significant people (62.5%), and improve their quality of life (60%). The positive effects are long lasting with 70% of participants reporting that they continue to use the DBT skills since completing the group, three months prior. Many noted that they use the skills automatically and viewed these new skills as critical to their coping. One youth noted at group completion, "Before DBT I would not have been able to handle everything that is happening right now! It's made coping so different."



As we move forward through the different phases of COVID-19 social distancing, many issues have come to the surface in family court as separated parents seek the safest arrangements for their children moving between several homes. In families where children have multiple homes or family groups with extended family members, decision-making can be complicated. Parents who have concerns about their children’s adherence to COVID-19 protocols during shared parenting time are often looking for assistance to come to agreements that are in the best interest of all involved. Importantly, this assistance can reduce conflict between parents.

If the restrictions of COVID-19 have presented issues or conflicts for your family, you are encouraged to reach out to London Family Court Clinic’s services team (services@lfcc.on.ca) to determine your eligibility for a review of the problem. LFCC works in partnership with London Health Science’s team of a pediatrician and nurse - the “shared decision-making coach”. The services are free of charge to eligible families. Funding for the service has been provided by the Government of Canada’s Emergency Community Support Fund and Community Foundations of Canada.

For more information about this service please contact services@lfcc.on.ca or <https://www.lhsc.on.ca/shared-decision-making>.



LONDON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Facility Dog Program

Everyone’s favourite co-worker is NSD Yzer. Since May 2019, through LFCC’s Facility Dog Program, she has supported children and youth involved in the justice system and has recently started supporting youth in residential settings.

Although Yzer was generously donated to us by National Service Dogs (NSD), her maintenance costs a pretty penny. Expenses such as food and veterinary care add up quickly for this special working dog. The sustainability of LFCC’s Facility Dog Program is wholly dependent on private donations from our community. As such, we are seeking funding from caring individuals, organizations and foundations in order to both sustain and expand the reach of this worthy project. Recently, we purchased Mini-Yzer stuffed animals to give to our youth as tokens of the courage they demonstrated and the shared unconditional love.

One young child witness explained it best: “If I had a stuffy of her I would take care of it like it was my real Yzer and take care of her like you do. I love Yzer and it would help me remember her forever. Thank you for bringing Yzer to meet me!”

In order to raise the funds needed to support Yzer, we are selling Mini-Yzer stuffed animals for \$20.00. Any additional funds received through private donations cover the cost of things such as grooming, equipment, treats, and other unforeseen costs.



Fee For Services

LFCC continues to grow in the areas of services purchased by those in need of our expertise. Specialized services such as Family Mediation, Voice of the Child Reports, Shared Decision Making, Parenting Plan Evaluations (formerly Custody & Access), Parenting Capacity Assessments, Family Reunification, Parenting Coordination, FASD and Autism assessments, individual and family counselling, and training for professionals are all areas in which LFCC staff provide their expertise.

The Clinical Case Management team is available to provide information on, and initiate, each of our services. They provide background information, appointment booking, case material coordination and see the process from first contact through to preparation and filing of the final reports. This team is instrumental in keeping our work on target. For information on any of our services, email services@lfcc.on.ca or call 519.870.5922.

Child Witness Program

The Child Witness Program is designed to assist and support young victims and witnesses of crime. The CWP provides assistance during the stressful period after criminal victimization and its disclosure but before resolution of the case in Court. The Child Witness Program provides Court preparation to assist child and adolescent witnesses to communicate their evidence without being traumatized by the challenging process of testifying.

Young victims and witnesses who are involved in Court preparation through the CWP will receive education and information about the justice process, knowledge about how to effectively manage both chief and cross examination, Court tours, information about special testimonial aids, as well as support on the day of their testimony. The CWP clinician will also assess the special and individual needs of all children and adolescents who are involved in the program and will advocate to ensure those needs are met. Court preparation can also include assistance with stress reduction, coping strategies, emotional support and referrals.

Funded by the Ministry of the Attorney General, there is no cost to the client for this service.

2019 - 2020 Financials

London Family Court Clinic's financial report for the year ending March 31, 2020 will be made available in late September 2020 and will be posted on our website: www.lfcc.on.ca
We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

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Our Mission:

Integrating specialized clinical practice, education and research that promotes resiliency in children and families to move beyond the justice system.

Our Financial Supporters:

Department of Justice Canada
Government of Ontario - Local Poverty Reduction Fund
Ministry of the Attorney General
Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services
Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services
Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Bell Let's Talk
Government of Canada's Emergency Community Support Fund
Community Foundations of Canada
Judge Maurice Genest Fund through London Community Foundation

We also appreciate the financial support received this year from individuals and businesses. Your contributions are important to us as they enable us to provide practical supports to clients in need.

