

London Family Court Clinic

2025 - 2026 ANNUAL REPORT



Our Vision

No one organization can solve all the challenges facing children and families. Our vision recognizes the importance of caring communities that work together to support children, youth and families. These communities are inclusive, safe, engaged and committed to helping each member thrive.

London Family Court Clinic works to strengthen resilience in children and families as they navigate challenges, overcome barriers and move toward positive futures. Our work supports children and families who are involved with the justice system, as well as those who may be at risk of becoming involved.

Our Mission

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

Our Values & Principles

Our work is guided by the principles that have long shaped London Family Court Clinic's approach to children, families, colleagues and community partners.



These principles are reflected in how we deliver services, build partnerships, support our people and remain accountable to the children, youth, families and communities we serve.

For more than 50 years, the London Family Court Clinic has supported children, youth and families navigating some of the most challenging circumstances in their lives

Established in 1974, London Family Court Clinic began by providing specialized clinical expertise to the courts and community

Over the decades, our work has grown and evolved alongside the needs of children, families and the systems that support them.

Today, London Family Court Clinic works across the intersecting areas of youth justice, child welfare, mental health, victim services and violence prevention

Our services include specialized assessment & intervention, counselling, Child Victim/Witness supports, Alternative Dispute Resolution and Beacon House Child and Youth Advocacy Centre. Our work has also expanded beyond direct service to include education, training, research, evaluation and prevention, including our stewardship of the Fourth R & its longstanding work promoting healthy relationships and preventing violence among youth.

Throughout our history, London Family Court Clinic has recognized that no single organization or system can meet the complex needs of children and families alone

Strong partnerships have therefore remained central to our work, bringing together clinical expertise, community knowledge and cross-sector collaboration to strengthen outcomes for children and families.



While much has changed since 1974, our commitment has remained constant

Supporting children, youth and families through specialized expertise, meaningful partnerships and services that continue to evolve with the communities we serve.

Message from Our Executive Director



This past year has been one of meaningful growth for the London Family Court Clinic. After a period focused on transition and strengthening our foundation, 2025/26 gave us an opportunity to look ahead with greater clarity, and to build on what LFCC has always done well while also considering where we can have an even greater impact. Across the organization, our programs have continued to respond to the complex and changing needs of children, youth and families. We have strengthened our work in Youth Justice, continued to provide specialized assessment and clinical services, continued to grow Beacon House, our Child and Youth Advocacy Centre, and worked alongside our community partners to improve how children and youth experience the justice system. Our work to develop a child- and youth-centered remote testimony space at Beacon House is one example of what can happen when we identify a gap and bring the right people together to find a better way forward.

One of the most significant developments this year has been welcoming The Fourth R to LFCC. For more than 25 years, The Fourth R has been recognized for its leadership in healthy relationships, violence prevention, research and education. Bringing this work to LFCC expands our ability to support young people not only when they encounter difficult situations or circumstances, but earlier, through prevention, education and capacity building. It is an exciting addition to LFCC and one that aligns naturally with both our history and our future.

We have also continued important work within the organization itself. Together with our Board, we have modernized our governance framework, strengthened our financial and operational practices, invested in our people and infrastructure, and continued to examine our programs through the lens of sustainability and long-term impact. Growth is exciting, but it also requires us to ensure that the organization underneath our programs is strong enough to support where we are going. What continues to stand out most to me is the commitment of the people behind this work. Our staff bring skill, compassion and an incredible willingness to adapt. Our Board provides thoughtful leadership and oversight, and our community partners continue to demonstrate what is possible when organizations work together around a shared purpose. I am deeply grateful for the trust each of them places in LFCC.

As I look toward the year ahead, I am excited by what is taking shape. We have an opportunity to strengthen the services for which LFCC has long been known while expanding our role in prevention, education, clinical excellence and system collaboration. There is still much to build, but our direction is becoming increasingly clear. LFCC has a remarkable history. Our responsibility now is to honour that history while continuing to evolve, staying curious about what is possible, responsive to what our community needs, and focused on creating better experiences and outcomes for the children, youth and families at the heart of our work. I am proud of what we have accomplished together this year and incredibly optimistic about what comes next.

Joelene Bamford

Joelene Bamford
Executive Director, London Family Court Clinic

Meet Our Team



Rose Van Wieren

RSSW & Senior Caseworker, Child Victim Witness Program

As a Child Victim Witness Program Caseworker, Rose provides child-centred and trauma-informed support to children and youth who have experienced or witnessed crime, helping them understand the court process, access resources, and feel supported every step of the way. Outside of work, she enjoys staying active through sports, supporting community events, hunting for a great deal, and finding any excuse to put her industrial-sized cotton candy machine to work.



Frances Nuvoloni

BSW, RSW & Lead Caseworker, Child Victim Witness Program

Frances Nuvoloni is a Lead Caseworker of the Child Victim Witness Program, Lead Facilitator of the Rise and Thrive, Volunteer Coordinator, as well as support for the Beacon House Child and Youth Advocacy Centre. In 2019, she graduated from King's College at Western University with a Bachelor's Degree of Social Work where she specialized in bereavement, childhood trauma, and familiar dynamics. She later pursued certificates in Child and Youth Mental Health and Not for Profit Management. She is honoured to support countless young people and families through their criminal court journey and leads with kindness, genuineness, and empathy. When not at court, she is usually reading, cycling, or mothering my bulldog, George!



Sierra Caissey

Administrative Program Support

Sierra provides administrative support across London Family Court Clinic's programs and services. She graduated from Fanshawe College in 2018 with a diploma in Event Planning, where she developed a strong interest in marketing, fundraising, and communications. At her core, she has always been driven by a desire to help others. That passion led her to a career in the non-profit sector, where she can make a meaningful impact in her community. Outside of work, she enjoys practicing yoga to stay balanced and recharged. When she's not in the office, you might find her chasing down her excitable lab husky mix, Luna!

Meet Our Team



Paige Thuss

BA (Hons Spec.) Psychology & Advocate, Beacon House Child and Youth Advocacy Centre

Paige began her journey with LFCC last year after graduating from Western University with an Honours Specialization in Psychology and a Minor in Criminology. Her passion for fostering resilience among children and youth impacted by maltreatment ultimately drew her to the work being done at LFCC. At the clinic, Paige supports both the Youth Justice team and the Rise & Thrive Program, while primarily serving as the Advocate at Beacon House CYAC, where she provides trauma-informed care, education, and connections to community resources for young victims of crime and their families. Outside of work, Paige enjoys travelling and road trips, making memories with family and friends, and spoiling her pups!



Nikita Ariganello

MPS, Registered Psychotherapist & Clinician of the Clinical Supports Program

Nikita is a Registered Psychotherapist and Clinician in the Clinical Supports Program. She sees clients referred to LFCC by youth probation or youth therapeutic court for counselling. She works with youth and adolescents in preventing recidivism, while also meeting clients where they are and working on any personal goals that may be pertinent to them. When the weather is nice, Nikita enjoys spending her free time sitting outside in the sun and spending time with her three cats and two dogs!



Amelia Hamilton

Registered Psychotherapist

Amelia is a Psychotherapist at the London Family Court Clinic supporting youth and adolescents in conflict with the law. Her practice is relationship-driven and trauma-informed, blending CBT, DBT, ACT and other evidence-based modalities to foster emotional growth, decision-making, and prosocial pathways. Outside of work she loves gardening, staying active, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.

Meet Our Team



Lisa Butcher

RSSW & Youth Mental Health Court Worker

Lisa Butcher is a Registered Social Service Worker who works at LFCC as the London Youth Mental Health Court Worker. Lisa believes that each young person is utterly unique and always deserving of respect. It is through this lens that Lisa hopes to connect with and assist youth in developing their own bright future!



Rachel Braden

MSW, RSW & Manager, CVWP and Beacon House Child and Youth Advocacy Centre

For over 12 years, Rachel has dedicated her career to supporting vulnerable participants in the legal system through advocacy, education and innovation. As Coordinator of the Child Witness Program from 2014–2019, she provided court preparation and support to young victims and their families and stewarded Ontario's first Accredited Facility Dog program. Rachel provides training locally and nationally to Crown Attorneys, Police, Judges and Victim Service Workers. She currently works with justice and community partners to support the development and sustainability of Beacon House Child and Youth Advocacy Centre. Rachel also works with the Stratford Police Service as Primary Handler of "Dusty," a facility dog supporting victims, the community and first responders.



Audrey Thorne

Interim ADR Program Coordinator

Audrey has an Honours Specialization Bachelor's degree in Family Studies and Human Development from Western University, where she graduated in 2025. Her academic background provided her with a strong foundation in child and youth development, family dynamics, and strengths-based approaches to supporting children, youth, and families. She's always had a passion for working with families and youth in need, and she's excited to apply her knowledge.

Meet Our Team



Tammy Riley

Director of Finance and Operations

Tammy joined LFCC in 2005 as an Administrative Assistant and has been fortunate to grow into her current role as Director of Finance and Operations. She is passionate about creating efficient systems, solving problems, and ensuring the organization has the resources it needs to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children, youth, and families. Tammy enjoys working alongside LFCC's dedicated staff, Board of Directors, and community partners and is always looking for ways to make things run a little smoother and a little better. Outside the office, Tammy enjoys spending time with family and friends, caring for her many farm animals, and appreciating a good sense of humour—along with the occasional perfectly balanced spreadsheet.



Ellissa Riel

Clinical Services Manager

Ellissa is LFCC's Clinical Services Manager and a valued member of our leadership team. She brings a strong commitment to trauma-informed, child- and youth-centred practice and has contributed to the growth and development of services across the organization. Ellissa is currently on maternity leave, and we wish her and her family all the best during this special time.



NSD Virgil

Court Facility Dog

Virgil is LFCC's accredited facility dog, providing comfort and support to children and youth as they navigate difficult experiences and the court process. As part of the Beacon House Child and Youth Advocacy Centre team, Virgil helps create a calm and welcoming environment, offering a reassuring presence when children and youth need it most.

Message from Our Board Chair



On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is my privilege to present the Annual General Report for the London Family Court Clinic (LFCC) for the 2025–2026 fiscal year. This year has been defined by resilience, specialized excellence, and an unwavering commitment to the children, youth, and families navigating the complexities of the justice and social service systems in Southwestern Ontario. For over five decades, LFCC has stood as a critical pillar of support in our community. In the past fiscal year, our foundational mission—to integrate specialized clinical practice, education, and research to promote resiliency—has been more vital than ever. As families continue to face acute socio-economic pressures and complex trauma, our clinical teams, staff, and leadership have met the rising demand for services with profound compassion and unmatched professionalism. Throughout 2025–2026, our core programs achieved remarkable milestones:

- **The Child Victim Witness Program (CVWP)** and **Beacon House Child & Youth Advocacy Centre** provided vital, trauma-informed guidance to children and youth, helping them find their voices and understand their rights during overwhelming legal proceedings.

- **Our Youth Justice Assessments** and **Youth Therapeutic Court Worker** programs continued to deliver the multi-faceted, objective clinical insights necessary to help the judiciary make balanced, restorative decisions that prioritize rehabilitation and long-term well-being.

Operationally, the Board has focused on ensuring long-term sustainability and compliance under the Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA), reinforcing our fiscal health and governance structures. We are proud of our ongoing dedication to transparency and accountability, ensuring that every dollar invested directly impacts service delivery, growth, and community advocacy.

This vital work is not done in isolation. We extend our deepest gratitude to our funding partners at the provincial and federal levels, whose resources make our specialized clinical care possible. To our community partners including local hospitals, police services, legal professionals, and social service agencies, thank you for your continued collaboration in building an integrated safety net for vulnerable youth.

Most importantly, I want to express my deepest appreciation to our extraordinary staff, clinicians, students, and volunteers. Your day-to-day dedication to transforming trauma into resilience alters life trajectories and strengthens the fabric of our community. I also want to thank my fellow volunteer Board members for lending their diverse expertise across the legal, educational, and business sectors to guide this organization forward. As we look ahead to the next fiscal year, the London Family Court Clinic remains steadfast in its leadership role. We will continue to innovate, advocate, and ensure that every child and family entering our doors is met with the clinical expertise and dignity they deserve. Thank you for your enduring support and partnership. We are Stronger Together.

George Skikos

George Skikos
Board Chair, London Family Court Clinic Board of Directors

Meet Our Board of Directors

The members of our volunteer Board of Directors come from a multitude of professional fields including legal, education, business, community service, police, and judiciary as well as past clients. Thank you to each and every one of you who has been part of our mission in this last year.

George Skikos
President

Stewart Blair
Vice President

Mary Ann Tucker
Past President

Bev Noble
Board Member

Kenna Dalrymple
Board Member

Samantha Skinner
Board Member

Sandra Savage
Board Member

Asha Parekh
Board Member

Travis Dolynny
Board Member

Sheldon Hines
Board Member

Scott Muirehead
Board Member

Through the Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program, we welcomed two amazing people to the LFCC team in Summer 2026

Chelsea Berg

Chelsea joined London Family Court Clinic assisting the Child Victim Witness Program (CVWP) with materials for youth workshops while gaining experience in youth-focused services, trauma-informed practice, and prevention education.

Maysoon Maadh

Maysoon joined as Administrative Support Assistance, contributing to day-to-day operations through reception, and assistance with meetings, events, and marketing initiatives. The placement provided hands-on experience in office administration and non-profit operations.

Through the Canada Summer Jobs program, they made valuable contributions to LFCC and demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting our work with children, youth, and families

We are grateful for their contributions and wish them continued success as they move forward in their professional journeys.We gratefully acknowledge the Government of Canada – Employment and Social Development Canada for their continued support.

Frank Brennan Award



Each year, the Frank Brennan Award is presented in tribute to a fondly remembered colleague from the early days of the London Family Court Clinic. Frank was 65 when he joined LFCC and, to our great loss, died five years later. He brought with him years of wisdom gained as a probation officer, along with the legacy of a rich and remarkable life that included fighting in the Spanish Civil War, where he met Ernest Hemingway. With his literate style, humorous nature, and strong sense of humanity, Frank made his mark on both the young people and families he worked with and the community he served.

Like Frank, recipients of the award that bears his name provide exemplary service to children, youth and families in our community. Through their work within their own organizations and their participation in broader community initiatives, recipients exemplify the qualities for which Frank is remembered: compassion, integrity, respectful treatment of clients, effective communication, dedication to advocacy, and support of colleagues.

This year, we are proud to present the Frank Brennan Award to Detective Steve Simone of the London Police Service.

Steve's service to the London community spans nearly four decades. Since 2012, he has spent much of his career in the Criminal Investigation Division, including Major Crime and the Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Unit, where he has served as both Sergeant and Detective.

Through his work investigating sexual assault and child abuse, Steve has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to ensuring children, youth and other victims and survivors are treated with compassion, dignity, and respect throughout the investigative and criminal court process. His trauma-informed approach is reflected not only in his interactions with victims and survivors, but also in his efforts to improve the systems and environments they encounter. Over the years, victims and survivors have specifically recognized Steve's kindness and compassion during extraordinarily difficult times.

Steve's commitment was particularly evident in the development of LFCC's Beacon House Child and Youth Advocacy Centre. Personally invested in bringing the vision for Beacon House to life, Steve could even be found there on his lunch break, still in uniform and covered in drywall dust, sanding and mudding walls to help prepare the space.

Steve also championed the creation of a dedicated photography space and the acquisition of equipment at Beacon House for collecting photographic evidence. Rather than requiring young victims to make an additional trip to police headquarters to have injuries photographed, evidence can be collected in a more private, supportive and youth-centred environment, helping reduce unnecessary transitions and the potential for re-traumatization.

Steve has become a valued and trusted presence at Beacon House. His willingness to work alongside the multidisciplinary team, build relationships and share his expertise has contributed to the collaborative environment at the heart of the CYAC model.Steve is also known for his approachable nature, light-hearted spirit, and generosity in sharing the knowledge and perspective he has gained throughout his career. He is a determined advocate who understands both the importance of pursuing justice and the responsibility of helping children, youth and families feel heard, supported and safe throughout the process.

We are honoured to recognize Detective Steve Simone as the recipient of the 2026 Frank Brennan Award. Through his compassion, integrity, dedication to victims and survivors, commitment to justice, and support of his colleagues, Steve embodies the qualities this award was created to recognize. His career with the London Police Service has made a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of children, youth and families and among the professionals who work alongside him.

Consultant Spotlight

Leadership, Governance and the Occasional Bass Riff

In August 2025, LFCC was fortunate to welcome Steve Crawford as a volunteer advisor to our leadership team, working closely with Executive Director Joelene Bamford and Director of Finance and Operations Tammy Riley.

Steve came to LFCC with an impressive 25 years of experience as CEO of McCormick Care Group, retiring from the organization in 2024. Fortunately for us, retirement did not appear to mean sitting still. In addition to taking up the bass and playing with a variety of bands, Steve decided to share some of what he learned over more than two decades of executive leadership in the charitable sector with LFCC.

Since joining us, Steve has met regularly with Joelene and Tammy, providing mentorship, perspective, practical advice and, when needed, a healthy challenge to think differently. His guidance has supported conversations about leadership, organizational growth, financial oversight, strategic planning and some of the inevitable complexities that come with running a growing organization.

Steve has also served as a consultant to LFCC's Governance Committee, sharing his experience with our Board as we worked to strengthen our governance practices and position the organization for the future.

What makes Steve's contribution particularly special is not simply the experience he brings, but the way he brings it.



He is thoughtful, candid, generous with his knowledge and exceptionally funny. He has quickly become someone who is genuinely loved by those who have had the opportunity to work with him. Our Wednesday meetings have become an important part of the week, providing space to step away from the immediate demands of the organization, look at the bigger picture, ask better questions and continue developing as leaders.

After 25 years in a CEO role, Steve has accumulated plenty of lessons worth sharing. We are incredibly fortunate that LFCC gets to benefit from them, and perhaps equally fortunate that his burgeoning music career still leaves room in his schedule for us.

Thank you, Steve, for your mentorship, your candour, your humour and your commitment to helping LFCC and its leadership continue to grow.

It's been another incredible year

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Participated in Shine the Light Campaign

November 15, 2026

LFCC participated in Wear Purple Day held in support of the Shine the Light on Woman Abuse campaign, an initiative led by the London Abused Women's Centre to raise awareness about men's violence against women and its impact on women and girls.

Through our participation, LFCC joined community organizations and individuals in recognizing survivors, raising awareness, and demonstrating our shared commitment to creating safer and more supportive communities.



Hosted training with the Canadian Child Interviewing Research Team

April 21, 2026

On April 21, 2026 we hosted a specialized training with the Canadian Child Interviewing Research Team, bringing together community partners from policing, child welfare, and the justice system to strengthen practices in forensic interviewing with children and youth.

Led by Dr. Angela Evans and Dr. Kaila Bruer, the session explored how child development influences memory and recall, along with evidence-informed interviewing approaches designed to reduce suggestibility, support reliable disclosures, and promote ethical, trauma-informed practice.

Opportunities like this strengthen collaboration across sectors and support a shared commitment to improving how children and youth are heard and supported throughout the justice system. This work is essential to improving how we listen to and support children and youth.

7 Days of Activism Against Islamophobia
June 10, 2026

LFCC was proud to pledge its support and participate in the 7 Days of Activism Against Islamophobia, an initiative led by the Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration.

The initiative promotes awareness, accountability, and collective action to address Islamophobia and create safer, more inclusive communities. LFCC's participation reflects our ongoing commitment to inclusion, respect, and belonging for the children, youth, families, and communities we serve.





London Pride Parade
July 19, 2026

Our agency was proud to participate in the 2026 London Pride Parade, joining our community in celebrating diversity, inclusion, and belonging. The event provided a meaningful opportunity for staff to connect with the community and demonstrate LFCC's ongoing commitment to creating welcoming and inclusive spaces for the children, youth, and families we serve.

We are grateful to everyone who helped make the day so memorable and to Pride in London for bringing our community together in celebration.

Practitioner Retreat
May 12, 2026

LFCC brought together ADR-Link Practitioners for a dedicated opportunity to connect, share experiences, and engage in meaningful discussions about their practice.

The retreat encouraged collaboration, shared learning, and knowledge exchange, allowing practitioners to learn from one another and strengthen connections across the child welfare community. These opportunities help strengthen ADR-Link practice and support a shared commitment to better serving children, youth, and families throughout the mediation process.



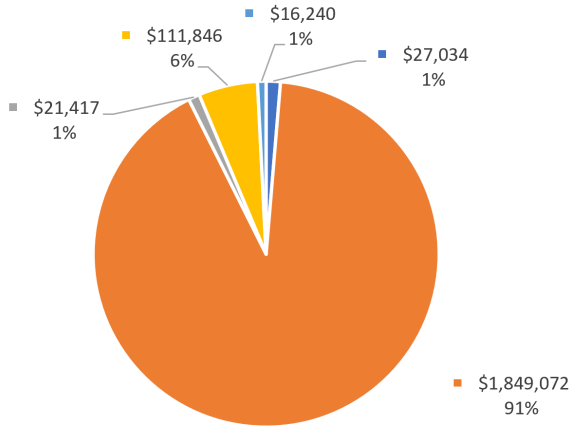


Social Work Week
March 2-8, 2026

During Social Work Week, LFCC recognized the dedicated Social Workers, Social Service Workers, and helping professionals across our organization who support children, youth, and families every day. Their compassion, expertise, and commitment are integral to LFCC's work and to providing meaningful support for those navigating complex circumstances and systems in our community.

Financials

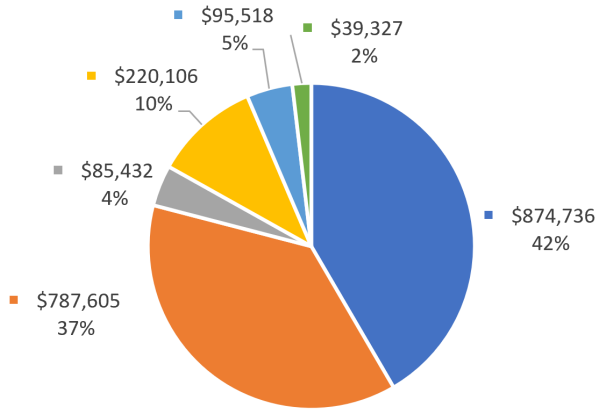
Revenue



Total Revenue: $2,025,609

- Fee for Service
- Government Funding
- Fundraising Event and Donations
- Other
- Amortization of Deferred Contributions

Expenses



Total Expenses: $2,102,724

- Staffing
- Professional Services
- Travel
- Building Occupancy
- General & Administrative
- Amortization of Capital Assets

Welcome, The Fourth R

This year marked an exciting new chapter for London Family Court Clinic as we welcomed The Fourth R to the LFCC family.

For more than 25 years, The Fourth R has been a leader in the development of evidence-informed programs, resources and research focused on promoting healthy relationships and preventing violence among youth. Originally developed at Western University, The Fourth R is grounded in the understanding that relationship skills are as important to young people's development as the traditional "three Rs" of education: reading, writing and arithmetic. The Fourth "R" is relationships.

Through school-based programming, education, training and resources, The Fourth R equips young people with the knowledge and skills to build healthy relationships, communicate effectively, make informed decisions, recognize unhealthy behaviours and reduce relationship violence and other high-risk behaviours.

The transition of The Fourth R to LFCC represents a natural alignment between two organizations with longstanding commitments to improving the lives of children and youth. While much of LFCC's work supports young people who are already navigating complex circumstances and systems, The Fourth R strengthens our ability to reach young people earlier through prevention, education and healthy relationship development.

As we welcome The Fourth R, we also recognize the remarkable people and partnerships that have shaped its history. In particular, we recognize the late Dr. Claire Crooks (her partner George Goodall), Dr. David Wolfe, Dr. Peter Jaffe, Ray Hughes, Deb Townsley, Susan Dale and Carrie Waters who were instrumental in the development, implementation and growth of The Fourth R, alongside many researchers, educators, students and community partners who contributed to its success over the past 25 years.

We remember, in particular, Dr. Claire Crooks, who passed away in 2024. Claire was integral to the development and implementation of The Fourth R and dedicated much of her career to advancing violence prevention, healthy relationships and better outcomes for young people. Her influence is deeply woven into the work, and her legacy will continue as The Fourth R enters this next chapter. There is a unique history between Claire and LFCC as she did a post-doctoral placement here in forensic assessments over 25 years ago.

LFCC is honoured to become the new home of The Fourth R. We recognize the responsibility that comes with stewarding a program with such a significant history and are committed to honouring the work that has come before us while continuing to strengthen its reach and explore new opportunities for the future.

We are grateful to Western University and to everyone who has helped build The Fourth R into what it is today. As we begin this next chapter together, we look forward to celebrating its history, preserving its legacy and continuing its important work to help young people build healthier relationships and safer futures.

Welcome to LFCC, Fourth R.
We are honoured to carry this work forward.

ADR-LINK

Over the past year, the ADR-Link Program continued to strengthen collaboration, enhance service delivery, and build capacity among community partners.

Online orientation sessions were introduced to provide an overview of ADR's five streams of service and the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) process. These sessions also familiarized referral partners with available services and the administrative referral process, helping to improve access and coordination across the network.

ADR-Link practitioners also came together for a Practitioner retreat, providing an opportunity for reflection, discussions about practice, shared experience, and peer support. These discussions reinforced our shared commitment to supporting children, youth, and families through collaborative, child-centred mediation services.

In partnership with the London-Middlesex Children's Aid Society, a Rapid Response pilot project is currently in development. The initiative is designed to provide immediate safety planning and timely crisis intervention, strengthening early support for families during periods of heightened need.

To further build community capacity, ADR-Link facilitated a training for IAADR/ODR Foundations: Core Competencies for Practicing Indigenous Dispute Resolution (IDR). This three-day training introduced participants to the foundational principles and practices of Indigenous Dispute Resolution and supported service providers in delivering culturally responsive services to Indigenous children, youth, and families.



In 2025 and 2026, we served 213 families across our five streams of service

- 106 Child Protection Mediation
- 37 Family Group Conferencing
- 29 Ready, Set, Go
- 25 Indigenous Approaches to ADR
- 16 4th Option/Other

Beacon House
Child & Youth Advocacy Centre

Beacon House Child and Youth Advocacy Centre (CYAC) is a space where police, child protection services and child advocates collaborate to deliver a coordinated approach to addressing the needs of child and youth survivors of abuse and violent crime. A child-friendly and trauma-informed environment, Beacon House offers victims feelings of safety and support as they navigate the investigative process. This collaborative model places the well-being of children and youth at the forefront, while fostering long-term resilience and recovery.

The investigative process is confusing and unfamiliar to most. At Beacon House, victims and their families are greeted by the dedicated and passionate child advocate who offers immediate and ongoing emotional support, guiding them through the various stages of the reporting process. The Advocate works with the victim and their families to explore what long-term supports will help them move forward and facilitates access to the necessary programs and services.

Beacon House thrives because of the incredible efforts of our Child & Youth Advocate, Paige Thuss, whose compassionate and patient approach provides comfort to young victims and their families during their most challenging days. Paige's dedication to advocacy and coordination of care strongly reflects the core values of Beacon House CYAC.

We are pleased to welcome Rachel Braden, who joined the Beacon House team as a dedicated consultant in the Fall of 2025. Rachel brings extensive expertise, thoughtful leadership and a genuine passion for supporting children and youth victims through the investigative and court process. Rachel's focus is on strengthening the ongoing development and sustainability of Beacon House, ensuring that victims continue to receive the best possible support.

Every child should be safe & supported

The impact of Beacon House is best reflected in the experiences of the individuals and families it has supported. The following testimonial is from a parent of a child who received support from the Beacon House this past year.

My experience with the Beacon House was nothing short of exceptional. The advocate did an absolutely amazing job making both my daughter and I comfortable and cared for during our time there, and even after. Her warm and kind demeanor won my daughter over very easily, and helped keep me at ease during my daughter's interview. I am incredibly thankful for Beacon House and the dedication they have to creating a comfortable, safe space for children and families experiencing difficult times. As much as I hope my child and I never require their services again, it comforts me to know that others will be in more than capable hands in their care.

186 youth
Referred to Beacon House CYAC

Over 50%
Of the victims and survivors or witnesses were female identifying

Age 9
Medium age of the individuals referred

45%
Were victims and survivors or witnesses of sexual assault

Clinical Support Program

The Clinical Support Program (CSP) continues to provide individualized clinical and therapeutic support to youth referred through Intensive Intervention Services (IIS) and Youth Therapeutic Court (YTC). Over the past year, CSP served a total of 133 unique youth, supporting young people with a range of mental health, substance use, social, emotional and behavioural needs.

This year, CSP strengthened its collaboration with Youth Probation by establishing an office within the probation setting. Having a regular presence on-site allows CSP clinicians and probation officers to work more closely together to coordinate appointments, reduce barriers to accessing services, and provide youth with more consistent and timely support. This collaborative approach helps ensure that young people are connected to services in a way that is accessible and responsive to their individual circumstances.

One young person's experience this year demonstrates the impact this support can have. When she first became involved with CSP, she struggled to see a positive future for herself and was experiencing significant challenges related to substance use, mental health, self-esteem and limited family support. Through the development of a strong therapeutic relationship, strengths-based counselling, and practical skills and strategies, she has made significant progress. Today, she is attending online school and successfully completing her classes. She has worked through significant social anxiety, developed positive peer relationships and made new friends, and is looking forward to returning to school in person. She continues to challenge herself by stepping outside of her comfort zone and pursuing new experiences and opportunities. Perhaps most significantly, she now talks about her future with hope and has identified a goal of one day becoming a child therapist so that she can support vulnerable young people who may be facing challenges similar to those she has experienced.

Her progress is a powerful reminder that meaningful change often begins when a young person has consistent support, a safe relationship, and someone who helps them recognize strengths and possibilities they may not yet be able to see in themselves.



In 2025 and 2026, we served 133 clients in the Clinical Support Program

Child Victim Witness Program

The Child Victim Witness Program (CVWP) is dedicated to supporting children and youth who have experienced crime, as well as young witnesses, as they navigate the criminal court process. Our mission is to minimize the trauma associated with involvement in the justice system by providing comprehensive court preparation, trauma-informed education, advocacy, special testimonial aid applications, and compassionate support before, during, and after court proceedings. Through a child-centered approach, we strive to empower young people and their caregivers with the knowledge, confidence, and support they need throughout every stage of the judicial process.

Over the past year, CVWP has experienced several staffing changes that reflect both appreciation for valued team members and excitement for returning expertise. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Athena Mavrokefalos for her dedication and contributions to the program while providing intake and administrative support. Athena's professionalism and commitment to serving children, youth, and families have been greatly appreciated, and we wish her every success in her future endeavors.

We are also pleased to welcome Rachel Braden back to CVWP. Rachel has returned to provide clinical coverage and support during Elissa Riel's leave. Her extensive experience, trauma-informed approach, and ongoing commitment to strengthening victim-centered practices make her an invaluable addition to the team. Staff, community partners, and the families we serve are grateful for Rachel's continued dedication to improving services for children and youth involved in the criminal justice system.

Under the leadership of Senior Caseworker Rose Van Wieren, CVWP has undertaken an exciting initiative to develop comprehensive family resource guides designed to enhance families' understanding of the criminal court process. These guides aim to explain legal procedures, court roles, and available supports in a clear, accessible, and trauma-informed manner, helping to reduce uncertainty and anxiety for children, youth, and their caregivers.

This project has been strengthened through collaboration with the London Crown's Office and the Youth Therapeutic Court (YTC) Program at LFCC.



The team is developing resources that not only benefit the families served by CVWP locally but also have the potential to be shared with Child Victim Witness Programs across Ontario. This collaborative initiative reflects our commitment to enhancing consistency, accessibility, and victim-centered service delivery throughout the province.

Throughout the year, CVWP has continued to manage a high volume of referrals while maintaining strong partnerships with key stakeholders, including the London Crown's Office, the Victim/Witness Assistance Program (VWAP), the London Police Service, and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). These collaborative relationships remain essential in ensuring that children, youth, and families receive coordinated, responsive, and compassionate support throughout the criminal justice process.

Despite these ongoing efforts, significant delays within the criminal court system continue to impact the children, youth, and families we serve. In response, the CVWP team remains steadfast in its commitment to providing consistent, trauma-informed support, advocacy, and guidance throughout every stage of the court process. By fostering trusting relationships and working collaboratively with justice partners, we continue to ensure that every child and family receives compassionate care, accurate information, and meaningful support while navigating what is often one of the most challenging experiences of their lives.

Child Victim Witness Program

To end on a positive note, we would like to share a message from a youth that was provided to one of our caseworkers

Words can't express how thankful my parents and I are for the support throughout this difficult process. You were always patient with all my questions and made sure that I was comfortable during one of the toughest experiences that I will probably ever go through. I'm glad that I got to know you even though it wasn't for the most positive reasons. I truly won't ever forget everything you've done for me. I wish you all the best and I know your next clients will be so happy to have your support.



189 cases were opened in CVWP in the 2025-2026 fiscal year

71
Were victims and survivors or witnesses of sexual assault

72
Were victims and survivors or witnesses of physical assault

7
Were victims and survivors or witnesses of domestic assault

1
Was a victim and survivor or witness of human trafficking

38
Were victims and survivors or witnesses of other types of crimes (i.e.. Witnesses to homicide, robbery, etc.)

Age 16
Medium age

Youth Justice Program

The Youth Justice (YJ) Program remains a cornerstone of London Family Court Clinic's services, providing comprehensive Section 34 psychological assessments through clinical evaluation and evidence-informed recommendations. Assessments examine key areas to support informed decision-making and positive outcomes for high-risk children and youth.

Each report contains historical and cultural context, addresses the referral questions posed by the Court, and provides violence prevention and recommendations related to risk, needs, and responsivity factors. Our individualized approach ensures that recommendations are tailored to each young person's unique circumstances, supporting informed intervention, improved stability, and long-term case planning.

This year, we are honoured to welcome Dr. Teresa Grimbos as a consultant to our team. Dr. Grimbos is a registered clinical and forensic child and adolescent psychologist. For over 25 years, she has been immersed in mental health and forensic education, leading highly specialized mental health, psychoeducational, and risk assessments. We are deeply grateful for the dedication, compassion and support Dr. Grimbos brings to our team.

We are also proud to welcome Paige Thuss supporting the YJ program through intake and ongoing case management. With her empathetic, trauma informed approach, Paige helps ensure that youth and families feel informed and supported throughout the process. Her compassionate care and commitment contribute to positive outcomes for the young people we serve.



Success Story

A young person was referred to London Family Court Clinic following an incident that brought them into contact with the justice system. Like many youth navigating this unfamiliar process, they felt overwhelmed and uncertain about the future.

Through a comprehensive clinical assessment, assessors developed a diagnostic profile summary that identified the youth's unique strengths, needs, and areas requiring additional support. This assessment enabled the youth to meet eligibility requirements for specialized community services for developmental services.

By connecting the young person with appropriate resources, the assessment helped establish the foundation for ongoing support, promoting greater stability and better outcomes beyond the justice system.

39 assessments were completed and service was provided to 52 clients

Youth Therapeutic Court

The London Youth Therapeutic Court continues to provide support to vulnerable youth and families as they navigate the criminal court process during what can be a very challenging time in their lives. In addition to supporting youth in court every week, advocating for their needs, and assisting with s34 psychological assessments, our Youth Mental Health Court Worker, alongside the London Youth Assistant Crown Attorney and Youth Duty Counsel, facilitated 36 Mental Health Diversions – meaning that 36 individuals were able to participate in meaningful mental health interventions as an alternative to proceeding through the criminal justice system.

Many of these young people were connected to psychotherapy and community counselling resources, perhaps for the first time in their lives, and had a valuable opportunity to address their mental health needs and develop a therapeutic alliance with experienced clinicians. Other adolescents were connected to community youth workers and partner agencies, and worked on specific life goals that enabled them to move forward in their lives with increased self agency and an understanding of how addressing practical needs positively impacts their mental health functioning. Additionally, many diversion youth participated in psychoeducational group interventions, engaging in work that enhanced their social skills, developed their emotional regulation and communication abilities, and increased their understanding of safe and healthy relationships. These young people developed positive self-esteem and an ability to recognise and invest into relationships from an empowered position, thereby enhancing their mental health functioning.



All of the young people were given an opportunity to participate voluntarily in mental health diversion and to have an active part in identifying their strengths, addressing their varied mental health needs, and developing prosocial methods to move beyond the criminal justice system. At the London Family Court Clinic, we recognise that adolescence is a dynamic time, and young people are facing a myriad of mental health and social challenges. We seek to work creatively and compassionately to develop young people's self-efficacy, assist them in connecting meaningfully to community resources and mental health services, and work collaboratively within our vibrant and diverse London community to do so!

143 clients served and 36 clients participating in mental health diversion

Rise & Thrive

EMPOWERMENT ESSENTIALS

Rise & Thrive: Empowerment Essentials (R+T) is a dynamic seven-week psychoeducational program designed to empower youth ages 12–18 with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to navigate adolescence safely and build healthy, resilient futures. First developed through funding by the Ministry of the Attorney General's Victims and Vulnerable Persons Division through the Supporting Child Victims of Gun and Gang Violence initiative, the program provides youth with practical education and meaningful discussion in a supportive, trauma-informed environment.

Each weekly session encourages active participation through engaging activities, group discussions, and interactive learning opportunities. The curriculum addresses topics that are highly relevant to the lives of today's youth, including understanding and communicating consent, developing and maintaining healthy relationships, practicing safe and mindful social media use, recognizing the warning signs of human trafficking, and building self-awareness, confidence, and healthy decision-making skills. By creating opportunities for open dialogue and learning, Rise & Thrive equips participants with the tools to recognize risk, advocate for themselves, and make informed choices.

The program addresses an important gap in youth education by providing timely, evidence-informed information that many young people may not otherwise receive until much later. Facilitated by compassionate and experienced professionals, each session fosters a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment where participants are encouraged to ask questions, share their perspectives, and build meaningful connections with their peers. Through a trauma-informed and strengths-based approach, the program empowers youth while reinforcing protective factors that contribute to long-term well-being and resilience.



LFCC is excited to announce that, thanks to the generous support of Westminster College Foundation, Rise & Thrive will be offered on a more consistent basis throughout the coming year. This expanded capacity will allow the program to reach more youth in our community and ensure that participants have increased access to these important educational opportunities. We welcome referrals from community partners, schools, service providers, and families, and look forward to continuing to support youth through this impactful initiative.

Finally, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation to our dedicated facilitators: Athena Mavrokefalos, Paige Thuss, NSD Virgil, and Frances Nuvoloni. Their passion, expertise, and commitment helped create a space where youth felt safe, respected, engaged, and empowered to learn. Their ability to foster meaningful conversations while making each session informative, welcoming, and enjoyable has been instrumental to the success of Rise & Thrive.

Thank You to Our Donors

The London Family Court Clinic is incredibly grateful for the generosity of the individuals, businesses, foundations, service clubs and community partners who supported our work throughout the past year.

Our inaugural Stronger Together event provided an exciting opportunity to expand LFCC's community of supporters and bring together people and organizations who share our commitment to children, youth and families. We were also fortunate to receive generous support throughout the year through donations, grants, sponsorships and other contributions.

We are equally grateful to the many other individuals, organizations, sponsors and community partners who contributed to LFCC throughout the year. Whether through financial support, sponsorship, donated goods or services, participation in Stronger Together, or simply championing the work we do, each contribution has helped strengthen our organization and our ability to serve the community. Every gift represents an investment in LFCC and, more importantly, in the children, youth and families at the heart of our work. We are deeply appreciative of the trust our donors and supporters place in us and look forward to continuing to build these relationships in the years ahead.

To each of our donors and supporters, thank you for being part of the LFCC community.

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Canada Trailers
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Dr. Toni Stwart
Judge Genest
Spriet Associates Ltd
BlueSky IT
SweetLife Candy & Pop Shop
London Children's Museum
Gordons Gold Jewellers

Stronger Together

Last year, LFCC was proud to launch our inaugural Stronger Together fundraising event, bringing together friends, partners, supporters and members of our community for an evening in support of the children, youth and families we serve. More than a fundraiser, the event provided an opportunity to celebrate LFCC's work, strengthen our connections within the community, and introduce new supporters to the impact of our programs and services.

The success and enthusiasm surrounding our first event reinforced something we have long known at LFCC— meaningful change happens when our community comes together around a shared purpose. We are incredibly grateful to the sponsors, donors, volunteers, attendees and community partners who helped make the evening possible.

Building on that success, we are excited to bring Stronger Together back again this year. We look forward to another memorable evening of connection and community, while raising important funds to support and enhance LFCC's work.

As Stronger Together continues to grow, so does the opportunity to strengthen community support and the work happening across our programs and services. We hope you will join us as we continue to grow Stronger Together into a signature annual event for LFCC.















We extend our sincere appreciation to our many supporters

Harrison Pensa LAWYERS





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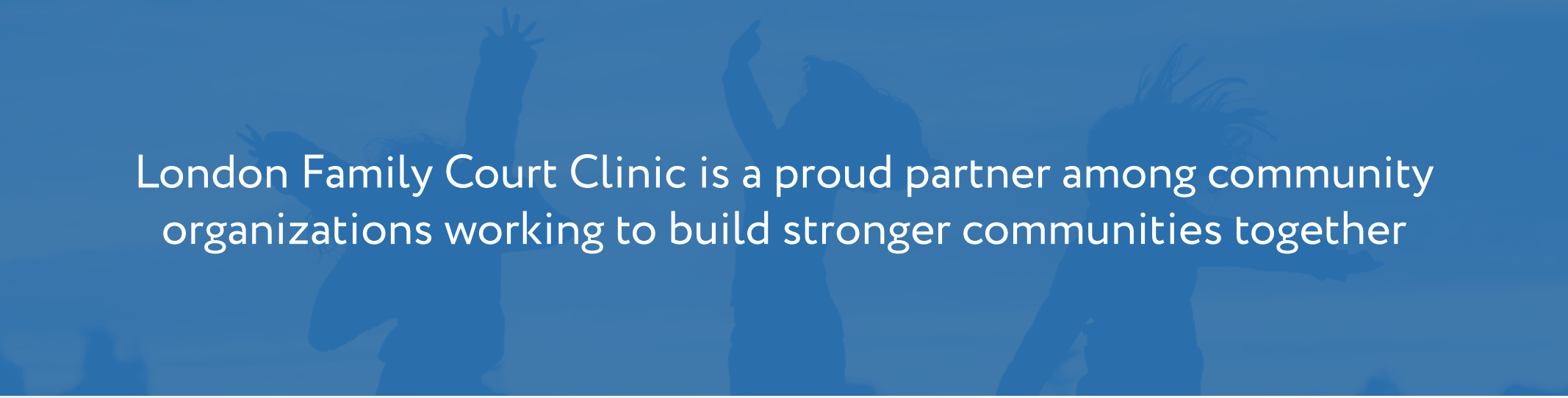
THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

We couldn't do it without you

Volunteers are an important part of the work and community at London Family Court Clinic. Throughout the year, volunteers contributed their time, skills, and experience to support LFCC programs, events, and organizational initiatives. Their contributions take many forms, from supporting fundraising and community events to assisting with projects and other areas of the organization where additional support is needed. This involvement not only strengthens the work of our team but also brings valuable perspectives and greater community connection to LFCC.

Volunteer involvement also provides an opportunity for individuals to learn more about LFCC's work and contribute in a meaningful way to an organization supporting children, youth, and families involved in the justice and mental health systems. We are grateful to each volunteer who has chosen to share their time with LFCC. Their willingness to get involved helps strengthen our organization and our ability to serve children, youth, and families across our community.

London Family Court Clinic is a proud partner among community organizations working to build stronger communities together



Ontario
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

Bruce Grey Child & Family Services

Children's Aid Society
La Société d'aide à l'enfance
London & Middlesex

vanier Children's Mental Wellness

Children's Hospital
London Health Sciences Centre

tvcc

Canadian Mental Health Association
Thames Valley
Addiction and Mental Health Services

FANSHAWE

Ministère de la Justice Canada
Department of Justice Canada

CSCN
Community Services Coordination Network

linck
Child, Youth & Family Supports

NavOn

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The George Hull Centre
for Children and Families

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