



2019-2020

# ANNUAL REPORT

## **RURAL RESPONSE FOR HEALTHY CHILDREN**

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58 Mary Street Clinton Ontario N0M 1L0  
1-800-479-0716 mail@rrhc.on.ca  
www.rrhc.on.ca

# BOARD & STAFF

## THE BOARD

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Jennifer Reaburn  
Genelle Reid  
Jill Robertson  
Steven VanBreda

Thank you to the community volunteers who dedicate their time to hold the organization accountable for striving for the vision of a responsive community that supports, nurtures and strengthens families and children. Also gratitude to a staff team who collaborate to achieve the organization's mission of helping families and children create an environment of well-being through community engagement and capacity building.

A photograph of a stone building with a window and a bicycle parked in front of it. The bicycle is white with a red seat and a brown helmet hanging from the handlebars. The window is white and reflects the outdoors. The stone wall is made of large, light-colored blocks. There is some green ivy on the left side of the wall.

# OUR WORK

## STRENGTHENING HURON

Over two years ago, we envisioned a stronger community. Stronger in knowledge and understanding and stronger in physical fitness and literacy. Thanks to a project grant from the Government of Ontario and engagement by the community, we succeeded!

Today, 125 people in Huron County have their Safe Places Youth Certification. The certification program continues to grow as community leaders take an active role in protecting children and youth.

We also encouraged people of all ages to be active together! In Bayfield, Blyth, Brussels, Gorrie, Dugannon and Seaforth we hosted multiple physical activity sessions with local fitness leaders! From grandparents to teenagers to babes in arms, we lifted the heart rate of so many. The response was fantastic in most locations, We thank Bayfield Optimist Group for their financial support to continue some of the work in 2020.



# OUR WORK

## YOUTH SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING

We are in the midst of delivering an Ontario Trillium Foundation project related to youth social and emotional learning. This project is also supported by a donation from Tanner Steffler Foundation.

Over 680 students and their teachers have received the six week in-class program called, "Growing Resilience" that the team developed. In addition, students and their trusted adults participated Youth Film Club, Games Club and Mindfulness Club at various schools and community locations.

These activities will continue through to the completion of the project in June 2021.

Thank you to Avon Maitland District School Board for leveraging this work to create opportunities for staff and students in Grade 7 to Grade 12.

A yellow toy dump truck with a black cab and large black tires is positioned on a sandy beach. The truck's bed is raised, and it appears to be dumping sand. The background shows the texture of the sand and some distant greenery.

# OUR WORK

## COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

Public Health Agency of Canada continues to invest in Huron County. The intention of the investment is to improve healthy child development. We do this work by delivering positive parenting programs to improve parenting skills and parent-child relationships and decreasing social isolation. Our work with children results in increasing self-esteem by building an understanding and awareness of child rights for personal safety and social skills.

Working in partnership with other community organizations helps us connect with more families. For example, we co-facilitated a Circle of Security with colleagues at Huron Perth Center. The Huron Community Family Health Team provided the space and promoted the group learning opportunity. A great team effort that supported a full group of parents!



# OUR WORK

## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Significant effort from leadership and community volunteers occurred in the development and delivery of a business plan model for a social enterprise.

An application was submitted to the federal Investment Readiness Program seeking start-up funds to establish the social enterprise entity. This opportunity facilitated us delving deeper into the evaluation of the proposed enterprise and greater good impact towards the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

Special thanks to the team of women who evolved the concept, Jeff Kish for volunteering his time for business plan development, discussions with community organizations and outreach with Community Futures and The Ross Firm.

We look forward to the next phase!



# THE NUMBERS

## ENGAGEMENT LEVEL

Youth Social & Emotional Learning Project: Since July 2019, 688 youth participants plus their teachers

Strengthening Huron Project: Since the inception of the project in Spring 2018, 125 youth certified leaders, 354 new participants for multi-generation physical activity events

Community Action Program for Children Project: Since April 1, 2019, 2281 parents and children participated in parenting or child education activities

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Seebach and Co prepare the annual financial report.  
For a copy, please email [mail@rrhc.on.ca](mailto:mail@rrhc.on.ca)



# RESPONSE

Gaining feedback from participants fills our hearts and helps us learn how to make improvements. Thank you to all our participants from this past year.

## TESTIMONIALS

- Jill and Susan are amazing teachers who are not afraid to admit they don't know something but they will look into it to find the answer.
- It is an amazing program. Genelle is so gentle how she presents the personal safety information! The kids LOVED her and the program. Keep it up!
- We loved having this program in our classroom...students had many great discussions. Kristi was able to make topics relatable to the age group and interacts well with students.
- Thanks to Jen I am finally seeing the connection between what the students are learning and my role to support social emotional learning.