

A photograph of a woman with long brown hair holding a young child in a field at sunset. The woman is seen from the back, and the child is in front of her. The background is a warm, golden field under a soft sky.

2021-2022
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

**RURAL RESPONSE FOR
HEALTHY CHILDREN**

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Katrina Clarke - Executive Director
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Thank you to the community volunteers who hold us accountable to our vision of a responsive community that supports, nurtures and strengthens families and children.

Also gratitude to a staff team who live our mission every day by helping families and children create an environment of well-being through community engagement and capacity building.



ABOUT US

WHO ARE WE?

Rural Response for Healthy Children is a non-profit charity serving families in Huron and Perth Counties. Our work contributes to fostering a healthy community of trusted adults where children and youth thrive.

Our team offers education and support groups, activities, and workshops for parents and caregivers who are experiencing life transitions or coping with vulnerable situations.

We also educate children and youth with a focus on social and emotional learning, mental well-being, and personal safety at home, in the community and online.



WHAT'S NEW

CHANGES IN 2021-2022

This year, we shifted to permanent remote work. Working from home offices has allowed greater flexibility, and enabled us to spend more time in the communities we serve.

Katrina Clarke joined as our newest Executive Director, bringing over 10 years of experience in the higher education sector, where she worked in community engagement and fundraising.

We shadowed Huron-Perth CAS staff and volunteers at the 2021 Huron County Christmas Bureau, and were granted the role of hosting organization going forward. More than 400 families were supported by the program, which included more than 1000 children.

Finally, we were delighted to return to in-person programming. Many programs continue to be offered in virtual or hybrid models, but we look forward to more opportunities to offer in-person activities going forward.



FUNDING

OUR SUPPORTERS

The Public Health Agency of Canada continues to invest in our community with the ongoing support of the Community Action Program for Children. The intention of this funding is to improve healthy development of young children.

2021 was the final year of funding by the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Tanner Steffler Foundation to develop mental health and well-being initiatives and tools that continue to be implemented in our region.

We received two Second Harvest Emergency Food Security grants to help alleviate food insecurity in our community through food hamper deliveries, access to food-related programming, as well as local restaurant and grocery vouchers.

We are also very grateful to the individuals and businesses in Huron County and area who support our work. Every donation makes a difference in improving the well-being of area children and families.



OUR WORK

PROGRAMMING

Parent Education was offered formally through Circle of Security (COS-P) and Nobody's Perfect parenting workshops, as well as informally through discussions with families at programs and in the community.

We strengthened our relationship with Huron County Food Bank Distribution Centre and the clients who access the Mobile Food Truck by attending monthly stops and providing resources and support to families who access the service.

Our Grandparents Raising Grandchildren peer support group met virtually twice per month, providing coaching, mentoring, and capacity building among a shared community of grandparent caregivers.

In-person support was available at local women's shelters and second-stage housing for families experiencing transitional living situations or leaving intimate partner violence.



OUR WORK

PROGRAMMING

Dads & Kids Night at the Museum activities took place virtually in collaboration with the Huron County Museum and Historic Gaol.

School programming paused during the pandemic, but recommenced early in the 2022. We continue to develop our programs and partnerships in the local school community to bring evidence-based practice in the areas of mental well-being and personal safety to students in Huron and Perth Counties.

Our Kinderoo Kindergarten Readiness Program, through partnership with Huron County Library, supported preschoolers and their families in the transition to school.

In partnership with Huron Respite Network, we continued to support families where a child has a physical or developmental disability, or a mental health concern. This took place virtually in the form of Caregiver Mornings and SibShop peer support groups. Both groups are beginning in-person meetings again.

RESPONSE

A photograph of a colorful ball of yarn (red, blue, green, yellow) resting on a floral patterned blanket spread on a green lawn. In the background, there are trees and a park bench, suggesting an outdoor setting.

TESTIMONIALS

Thank you to our program participants for trusting us to support your journey toward better well-being for your children, your students, yourselves, and your communities.

- "I am extremely thankful for this resource. I have learned so much during these 8 sessions and really look forward to helping fill my children's buckets!"
- "This was such a great program. I learned a lot. Even though it was through Zoom, I felt like it was a welcoming space and I could share my experiences comfortably and safely. Susan and Kristi were wonderful!"
- "I have been relying on the group for support, and it brings comfort to know I am not alone with the many issues I am facing raising my grandchild. I am grateful for this group."

FINANCIAL REPORT

Seebach and Co. prepare the annual financial report, which is available on our website or by request at mail@rrhc.on.ca
