

Advocacy
and support
for children
and youth
who are victims
or witnesses
of crime



We believe that
every child
and youth.....

... deserves respect while involved
in the criminal justice system.

... should feel safe and
protected in a courtroom.

... should feel enabled and
empowered to tell their story.

... should have court preparation
tailored to their individual needs.

... should be questioned by adults
who adapt their communication to
the child's developmental age
and linguistic ability.

... should have their special needs and
vulnerabilities properly addressed.

... will experience less trauma the
fewer times they need to tell their story.

... deserves a child-friendly courtroom.

... should expect that cases involving
child witnesses are dealt with quickly.

... has the right to access our services
at no cost to them or their families.

... who receives our support throughout
the criminal justice process, can move
on in a healthy way from a darker
place to one of a brighter future.

Child Witness
Centre

111 Duke Street East
Kitchener, ON N2H 1A4

Phone: 519-744-0904
Toll free number: 1-888-544-0904
Fax: 519-744-5379
Email: admin@childwitness.com



childwitness.com

Our Impact

"Your services provided a sense of
security and caring, which made
the court process less intimidating.
Excellent job!" ... A Youth

"You were with me in the courtroom,
you helped me whenever I needed it,
and you answered all my questions.
You were awesome! Thank you."
... A Child

My family has changed as a direct
result of the trauma that we have
endured. However, I am very grateful
and feel fortunate for your support. My
family truly benefited from the services
that your organization offers. We could
not have navigated so successfully
through the legal system without your
assistance! Thank you." ... A Parent

Thank you for the support and
information I was given, making me feel
safe and knowing I was well taken care of."
... A Youth



Thank you for all of your help.
Without the help of this program,
I wouldn't of made it this far.

Child Witness
Centre



CHILD
WITNESS
PROGRAM

Imagine having to testify in criminal court.

The thought of going to court makes most adults uncomfortable. *Imagine being a child.*

The Child Witness Centre, through the Child Witness Program (CWP), works in partnership with the justice system and the community to provide support services and court preparation for victims and witnesses under the age of 18 involved in the criminal justice system in Waterloo Region, Guelph and Wellington County. We help children and youth find their voice during the court process.

Each year we assist over 500 children and youth:

- More than half are victims of crime. Four out of five of these are victims of sexual or physical assault.
- More than 90% of victims and witnesses are known to the accused.
- At least 98% of all cases involve abuse or violence.
- It may take two years or more for a child to go through the court process.

childwitness.com

HOW WE HELP

- Working with Police and others to ensure that all children and youth are referred to us for support.
- Educating the child on courtroom procedures and their role as a witness.
- Helping the child understand and cope with their fears and apprehensions.
- Helping parents to be effective in supporting their child.
- Scheduling and attending pre-trial meetings with the Crown Attorney.
- Providing a child-friendly environment throughout the process.
- Assessing and advocating for the use of testimonial aids.
- Accompanying and supporting children in the courtroom.
- Assisting with Victim Impact Statements.
- Providing information on community resources and services.
- Explaining the verdict and the sentence.

OUR HISTORY

- 1981** - Citizens Concerned with Crime Against Children (4Cs) was established
- 1991** - The Child Witness Program was formed.
- 2002** - The agency was renamed Child Witness Centre.
- 2006** - The CWP expanded into Guelph and Wellington County.
- 2013** - The moved to its new 111 Duke Street home across from the Waterloo Region courthouse.
- 2016** - The Centre leads an initiative to establish a Child and Youth Advocacy Centre in Waterloo Region.

Thanks to our generous funders and community donations, our services are provided at no cost to the children, youth and families we support.

Certain funding for this program is provided by the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General. Views and opinions expressed do not reflect the views and opinions of the government.



Invest in our Community!

On average, it costs \$600 to \$1,000 to support a child, depending on the complexity of the case.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

DONATION:

- \$1,000 \$600 \$250 \$100
 Other _____

HOW TO INVEST:

- Secure donation made online at www.childwitness.com
 Cheque payable to Child Witness Centre
 VISA MasterCard

Expiry ____ / ____ (month/year)

Mail or call the Child Witness Centre:
111 Duke Street East, Kitchener, ON N2H 1A4
519-744-0904

Charitable Registration # 10097 7180 RR0001
Tax receipts will be issued for donations over \$10.

Thank you for your investment! With your support we can help children and youth have a voice.