



November 2013 Newsletter

Dear Friends of the Child Witness Centre,

This is our second newsletter this year and we have some exciting news to share. To save trees and allow us to redirect more funds towards providing court preparation and support to children, youth and their families we work with, we have started sending our newsletter out electronically. We are mailing this out to you as we currently don't have an email address for you, and very much want to share our news with you. We hope that you will support our efforts to stay in touch and that if you have an email address you will send it to Sherry Stockton at admin@childwitness.com so that we can add you to our database. Thanks in advance for helping us with this.

NEW WEBSITE: We are excited to announce the launch of our new website. We are incredibly grateful for the financial support and guidance of the Steele Family Fund of the Cambridge & North Dumfries Community Foundation and the work of Bobby Li in making this new website a reality. This is the next step in our rebranding strategy and we are very pleased with the results. Check it out at www.childwitness.com and let us know what you think! This is a key part of our communications strategy, so we hope you will visit our website often.

2012-13 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY: Moving to our new location, developing a new brand, completing work on a feasibility study for establishing a Child and Youth Advocacy Centre in Waterloo Region, and the impact we had on 574 child victims, witnesses and their families made for a very eventful and successful year.

To learn more about what the Child Witness Centre has been up to and to view our list of supporters, you can read our Annual Report online on our website. If you would prefer a paper copy, please contact the Child Witness Centre at admin@childwitness.com or (519) 744-0904 and we will be happy to mail you our Annual Report.

SAYING GOODBYE TO JO-ANNE HUGHES: After over 30 years of dedication to child victims in our community, Jo-Anne Hughes will be leaving the Child Witness Centre at the end of December. For those of you who have had the good fortune to work with Jo-Anne over the years you know that her advocacy and caring and compassionate support of child victims and witnesses has been exemplary. Jo-Anne will continue her work with the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, where she continues her efforts to support victims of crime across the province. She will be incredibly missed by the Board and Staff of the Child Witness Centre, and her many colleagues in the justice process and especially by the children, youth and families that we serve! All the best to Jo-Anne and thanks for an amazing contribution.

SUPPORTING UNITED WAY: To support the three local United Ways that funds us - Kitchener-Waterloo & Area, Cambridge & North Dumfries, and Guelph Wellington Dufferin, the Child Witness Centre held their own fundraising event in October. Thanks to Staff who prepared the dinner, and the Board for their generous contributions towards the dinner and movie passes, we were able to donate \$450 to the various United Ways, which was divided by the percentage of children we help in each area.



11TH ANNUAL YOUTH SYMPOSIUM: The Youth Symposium is a program we run annually for Grade Eights, where we invite 3,500 students and teachers to our one day event in either Wellington County or Waterloo Region. The dates for the 2014 Youth Symposium are:

Tuesday April 8, 2014 for Grade Eight students in Wellington County students

Wednesday April 9, 2014 for Grade Eight students in Waterloo Region students.

We are working on another promising program that will feature over 15 top notch presenters from across Canada that will inspire and motivate youth as they are about to enter high school. Registration for schools will begin in late January. For further information go to www.childwitness.com/what-we-do/youth-symposium/.

If you would like to sponsor a presenter, please contact Linda Mark at linda.mark@childwitness.com or call her at (519) 744-0904.

16th ANNUAL PANCAKE LUNCH: Mark your calendar...the date for the 2014 Pancake Lunch is **Tuesday March 4**. Due to the tremendous success of last year's Pancake Lunch, we will again be holding the event at the Waterloo Inn. Registration will be done online and more details to follow in early February.



ONLINE AUCTION: New in 2014, the Child Witness Centre will be holding an Online Auction or OLA as we like to call it. OLA will run from Thursday February 20th until Friday March 7, 2014. From the comfort of your home, you can bid on many great items to help support child victims and witnesses in our community. Stay tuned for more information.

Congratulations to Living Lighting in Kitchener for being the first business to donate a \$100 gift card. If you would like to donate an item, please contact Linda Mark.



GIVE 111 UPDATE: In the Spring we launched our Give 111 Campaign where we were looking for 111 people to donate \$111 to 111 Duke Street East (our new home). So far 33 people have helped raise \$3,864 towards the Give 111 Campaign. To donate, go online at www.childwitness.com/donate/ or call us at (519) 744-0904 to donate by credit card.

Thank you for your being a friend of the Child Witness Centre. We wish you a Happy Holiday Season and all the best in 2014.

On behalf of the Board, Staff and Children and Youth that we support,

Laura Muirhead
Executive Director