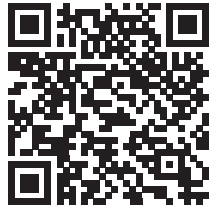


*“They broke down the process, and how everything works... They supported me through the most difficult time in my life.” ~ Former client*

We support over 1,500 children and youth victims or witnesses of abuse or crime in cases every year in Waterloo Region, Guelph and Wellington County. We walk with them through the criminal justice process, providing comfort, education and advocacy.

**Join us in supporting the most vulnerable when needed most.**

As a nonprofit charity who relies on our community for 80% of our funding, we simply cannot operate without your generosity. Thank you for your support!



Scan to donate online!

Charitable #: 100977180RR0001



Tel: 519.744.0904  
admin@childwitness.com  
**childwitness.com**



## How We Help

- Compassionate, trauma-informed, and tailored support to every child and youth, and their families
- Providing emotional support and strategies to reduce the generally high levels of stress and anxiety
- Offering crisis intervention, safety planning and coping skills
- Connecting clients to other community services that will best meet their individual needs
- Helping caregivers be effective in supporting their child(ren)
- Offering a safe place that allows our clients to begin their healing

*When everything was so scattered and we didn't know what to do, we could turn to you and that made things feel better – you took care of everything for us.” ~ Parent of past client*

**Monet** is the first accredited facility dog to work in the criminal justice system in the Region of Waterloo. She enhances our trauma-informed practice to better support the emotional and mental health needs of our clients through the criminal court process.



The printing of this brochure was made possible with funding provided by The Department of Justice Canada.

## How You Can Help

- Volunteering or organizing a fundraising event
- Donating a gift of shares or by the matching of gifts
- Honouring someone with a tribute gift (i.e.: relative, friend, colleague)
- Scheduling a community presentation to learn more about our work with young people
- Leaving a gift in your will

## Our Locations



### Main office

111 Duke Street East  
Kitchener, ON N2H 1A4  
Tel: 519.744.0904



### Waterloo Region Child and Youth Advocacy Centre (CYAC)

400 Queen St. S. (inside Carizon)  
Kitchener, ON N2G 1W7

## About the CYAC

We are proud to be the lead of this child and youth friendly collaborative, focused on providing vital services during criminal investigations and beyond – regardless of whether charges are laid. Our partners in this collective safety net include Family & Children's Services of Waterloo Region, Waterloo Regional Police Service and more.



**Building resiliency and strong futures with child and youth victims and witnesses in our community**



## Give today

Every dollar makes a difference towards creating stronger futures. Thank you for your support!

### A multitude of local young victims that keeps growing

**More than twice daily** in our community, a child or youth finds the courage to tell someone that they have experienced physical or sexual abuse or have been exposed to domestic violence.

*Local police press an average of **11 charges per week** for crimes directly harming a child or youth.*

Sadly, we know this number is the tip of the iceberg: it is estimated **only 4%** of sexual assaults are reported to the police, and **60%** of sexual assault victims are **under the age of 25**.

Year over year, the demand in the community for our services continues to increase. On average, **more than 17** local young people become new clients for our agency every week.

When a young person tells someone about their abuse, it is the first step on a tough but positive journey towards recovery and a brighter future.

*“The support of Child Witness Centre for me was... lifesaving.”*

### Vital support for the most vulnerable when needed most

We began in 1981 with the firm belief that every child deserves to be safe, valued and cared for. **Over 40 years later**, this is still at the heart of everything we do.

We support **over 1,500** local children and youth victims in cases, and their families, every year. We help by walking with them through the criminal justice process and fostering resiliency.

**1** Our service begins during the investigation stage in our **Child and Youth Advocate Program (CYAP)**. Our advocates provide a safe landing place, listening ear and advice while connecting clients to critical resources to begin moving forward.

**2** When charges are laid, young people and their families are referred to our **Child Witness Program (CWP)**, where our caseworkers provide support every step of the way through the justice process. This includes advocacy and preparing for court and testifying.

### The impact is immediate and lasts a lifetime

Young victims experience hope, healing and wellbeing from the time we begin to work with them.

Without Child Witness Centre, there is no one else that does the work we do – and the long-term impact is tremendous.

**When unsupported**, young people are:

**4x** as likely to report self-harm or suicidal ideation

**26x** more likely to experience homelessness later in life

With early intervention, the demand for downstream services related to family violence, mental health and addiction can be significantly reduced – resulting in a better community for everyone.

Your support will ensure no child or youth walks alone. For example, a \$100 gift provides two sessions to connect with our team, determine their needs, and begin the healing.

*Thanks to our generous funders and donors, our services are provided at no cost to clients.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal code: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me so I can learn more

I would like to donate  one-time  monthly the amount of:  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$250

(other) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My gift is in memory/tribute/celebration of: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque (payable to Child Witness Centre)

Credit card (provide information below)

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

VISA  MasterCard

Expiry: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (month/year)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please keep my donation anonymous

Please mail to: 111 Duke Street East, Kitchener, ON N2H 1A4. You may also call us at 519-744-0904 to make a credit card donation.

Donate online: [childwitness.com](http://childwitness.com)