



Child
Victims
CAN'T
WAIT

PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

Let's Wipe out
the Waitlist for
Victimized Kids

Child 
Witness
Centre

The Problem is Real and a Waitlist is Devastating

There is a **much greater** need for our services in our community than most people realize. **Far too many** kids are victimized by abuse and crime!

At Child Witness Centre, we are facing a perfect storm of stretched resources and steep demand for our services, making it next to impossible for us to meet the need. Our caseloads and expenses have increased, while our revenue has diminished.

In late 2022, we were forced to start a waitlist for the first time in our history of **over 40 years**.

“Hundreds of kids have already been on our waitlist – and one is too many!”

Robin Heald
Executive Director

Our staff is working tirelessly to help as many clients as we can, while constantly making hard decisions on who to prioritize.

The heartbreaking truth is gaps in our services have **serious consequences**. These children are less likely to heal and move forward in a healthy way.

Without help, kids are prone to **suffer now and struggle later** in life. The devastating impact of abuse can extend beyond the immediate pain, and last for decades!



Left unsupported, young victims are:
4x as probable to report self-harm or thoughts about suicide
26x more likely to become homeless later in life

A Multitude of Victims



>17 young victims become our clients **every week**, on average, and often remain clients for over 2 years

1 in 3 girls
1 in 5 boys
 are estimated to experience an unwanted sexual act **before the age of 18**

This equates to over 45,000 young people in Waterloo Region, Guelph, and Wellington County – the territory we serve.




At least 11 charges are laid **per week** by local police for crimes directly harming a child or youth


Only 1 in 7 cases of abuse are believed to ever be reported

We Simply Must Act Now to Overcome our Waitlist

Our goal is to raise **2.5 million dollars**, pledged over five years to this campaign.

\$2.5M

5 YRS

current financial shortfall and expanding our services to meet the growing demand.

Every child who has been hurt and harmed should be helped on their journey through the criminal justice system from the moment they need it – they should never have to journey alone.

The impact of our work for survivors is **immediate** and **lasts a lifetime**. Their trauma is reduced,



Every \$1,000 raised or saved, helps us support one more child.

and their future is brighter. It is truly a preventative service – mitigating the risk of re-traumatization and changing their life trajectory from negative outcomes, to positive ones.

children and youth, and their caregivers. It will foster a safer and healthier community for all.

We all must **dig deep** and **do more** to help local kids when needed most. The next generation, and those that will follow, deserve our best efforts and sacrifice.

That amount would support local victimized young people **now and into the future**, by covering our

Your giving to this campaign will be a huge **investment** in the future of local

The Difference We Make

Last fiscal year alone, we supported **1,261** young survivors, and their families. But **201** had to be added to our newly created waitlist.

The children and youth we served found a safe landing place, listening ear, and guidance in the criminal justice system. They also received testimonial support and court accompaniment from our team.



With early intervention for young victims, many downstream issues pertaining to violence, mental health, addictions, and homelessness can be significantly reduced. Their life trajectory can improve greatly.

“At 12 years old, I was referred to Child Witness Centre after disclosing sexual abuse to my school’s guidance counsellor. My caseworker helped me overcome my fear of testifying and walked with me through the entire court process. Today, I am a university graduate, pursuing a successful career. I am grateful for being supported through a very difficult time in my life so that I could move forward.”

Past Client

Local Victimized Kids Urgently Need Our Support

We are determined to help every child and youth as soon as they are referred to us, by eliminating our waitlist. For this to happen, we must raise at least **2.5 million dollars**, pledged over the next five years.

Your Partnership is Vital

By giving to this campaign, you will:

- ✓ **Generate** hope and address the needs of all victimized kids, setting them up for a strong future.
- ✓ **Build** capacity and stability for our work to continue, which will have a huge ripple effect for decades.
- ✓ **Receive** recognition benefits for the wonderful impact you have made on lives in our community.



"Having Child Witness Centre support me was... lifesaving." – Past Client

You can **donate today** using the "Child Victims Can't Wait" campaign pledge form or simply by giving on our website, by mail, by phone, or in person.

Help wipe out our waitlist now! Please give generously.



Charitable registration # 10097 7180 RR0001

111 Duke Street East, Kitchener, ON N2H 1A4

Tel: 519-744-0904 | Toll-free: 1-888-544-0904

Fax: 519-744-5379 | admin@childwitness.com

childwitness.com     

Give Online



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