



Luke's Place



**BUILDING SAFER
COMMUNITIES FOR
AFTER THEY LEAVE**

2023-24 IMPACT REPORT



Mission and Vision

Luke's Place envisions a family law system that promotes healthy, safe families, living free from abuse and the threat of abuse.

Mission statement

Luke's Place works with women who have been subjected to abuse to support them and their children through the family law process. We provide women, their children and their communities with specialized services, resources and information about family law and woman abuse.

Charitable Registration Number

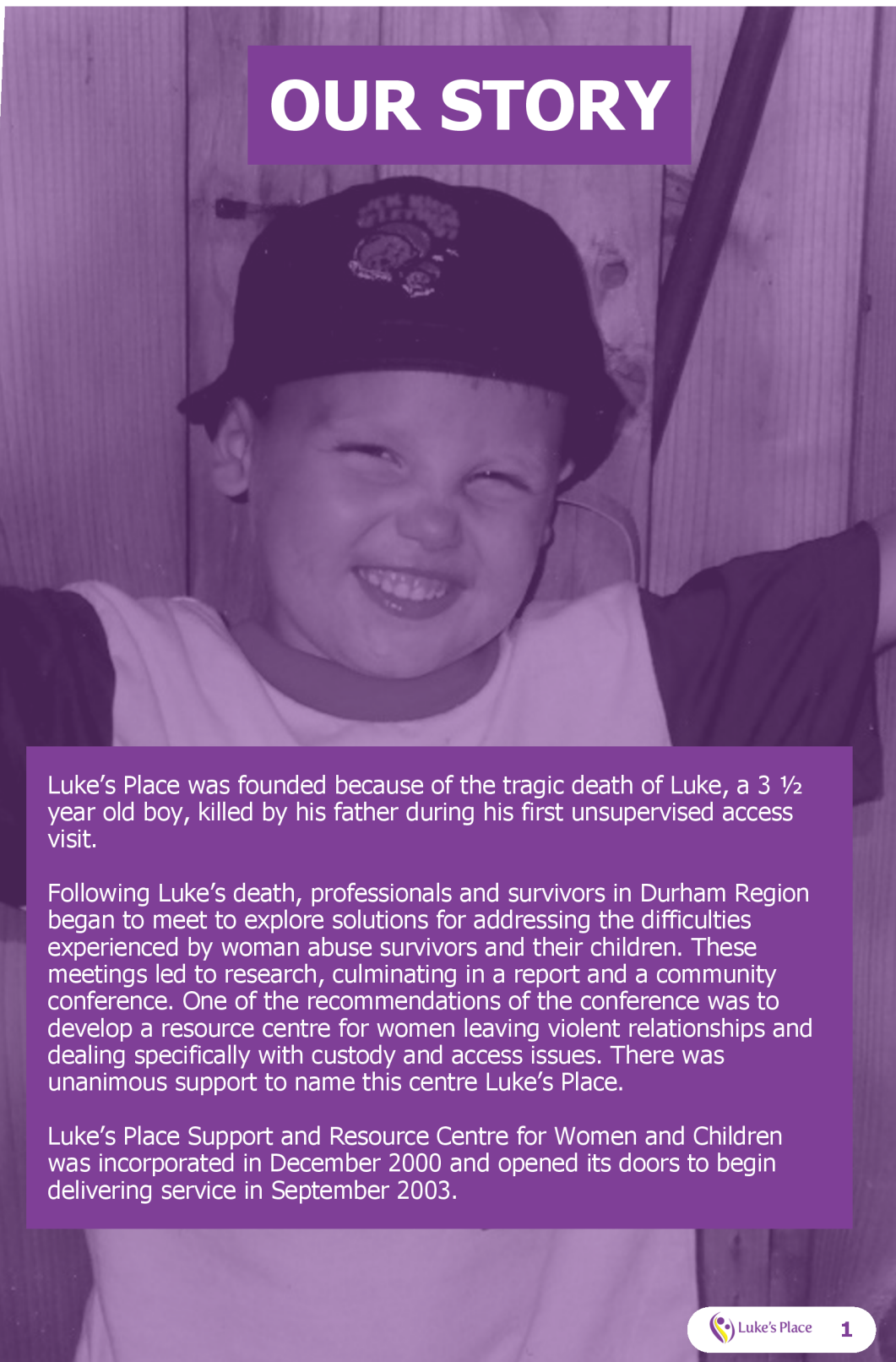
88761-1218-RR0001



Acknowledging the Land

Luke's Place acknowledges the lands and people of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, which is covered under the Williams Treaties.

We are situated on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas, a branch of the greater Anishinaabeg Nation, which includes Algonquin, Ojibway, Odawa and Pottawatomi.



OUR STORY

Luke's Place was founded because of the tragic death of Luke, a 3 1/2 year old boy, killed by his father during his first unsupervised access visit.

Following Luke's death, professionals and survivors in Durham Region began to meet to explore solutions for addressing the difficulties experienced by woman abuse survivors and their children. These meetings led to research, culminating in a report and a community conference. One of the recommendations of the conference was to develop a resource centre for women leaving violent relationships and dealing specifically with custody and access issues. There was unanimous support to name this centre Luke's Place.

Luke's Place Support and Resource Centre for Women and Children was incorporated in December 2000 and opened its doors to begin delivering service in September 2003.

Message from our executive

Board of Directors

Aparna Dixit, President
Frances Wood, Vice President
Mazie MacDonald, Treasurer
Donna Babbs, Secretary

Directors:

Rebecca Boyd
Ruth Chun
Kimberley Gavan
Kimberly Saunders
Courtney Sebu

Find us online:

LukesPlace.ca
FamilyCourtandBeyond.ca
LukesPlaceTraining.ca

 LukesPlace1

 LukesPlace707

 Luke's Place Support &
Resource Centre for
Women & Children



LukesPlace707

2023-24 was a milestone year for Luke's Place, marking the 20th anniversary of opening our doors to offer family law support services to women leaving abuse.

As we mark this anniversary, we know that our services and those of the many critical organizations serving women subjected to intimate partner violence (IPV) are needed now more than ever. IPV is an epidemic, a declaration that has now been made by nearly 100 municipalities across Ontario. We join the call for the province of Ontario to follow suit by passing Bill 173 without further delay. Doing so would bring violence out of the shadows, making it clear that IPV is both a public health crisis and public policy priority. The declaration would also validate for survivors and those living with IPV, that this violence is both real and wrong.

With respect to our work, this year was no exception to our long history of service innovation to help women gain the skills, knowledge and support they need to more safely navigate the legal system.

As part of our commitment to access to justice, we have undertaken extensive accessibility audits of several resources and are adapting our services and resources for increased accessibility.

We continued to build capacity across the sector to adapt our service model and resources for their communities. At the same time, we advocated at all levels of government, and helped shape the sector through numerous consultations and trainings.

Made possible by the generosity of our funders and donors, the commitment of our staff and volunteers, and the support of our community, we are honoured to share our story of building safer communities in 2023-24.

Carol Barkwell

Carol Barkwell
Executive Director

Aparna Dixit
Board President

“

I cannot thank the staff at Luke's Place [enough] for providing legal advice today. I have stayed in an abusive relationship for too long out of fear of what will happen when I leave. I now feel empowered to move forward with my life.

– Luke's Place client

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* We use the term women to include all women (including two-spirited, cisgender or transgender women) 16 years of age and older.

Support after she leaves

We assisted **1058** Ontario women navigate the family court system through a variety of informational and supportive programs and services. We continued to provide our expanded supports for women with urgent and emergency legal issues. We brought our Resource Room services to our Ajax and Oshawa Courthouse satellite locations. With the support of our staff and volunteer lawyers, our Legal Clinic offered summary legal advice and limited scope in-house legal support to more than **300 hundred** women across Ontario.

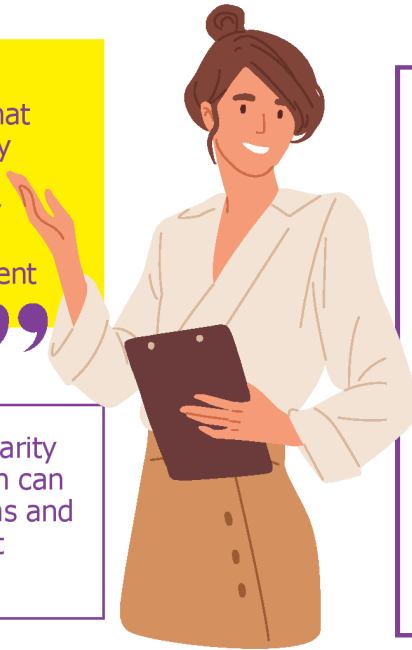


Thank you so much for clarifying the somewhat overwhelming amount of information in a way that gives me hope and clear next steps in gaining peace and stability for myself and my children.

– Luke's Place EIS client



Thanks to the generous support of The Charity Tree, among others, Durham-based women can access hands-on support to draft court forms and use the resource room for virtual court attendance.



I would like to thank the team at Luke's Place for the advice and support they have provided. This process is extremely new to me and comes with a lot of anxiety and fear.

After speaking with the lawyers and support workers at Luke's Place I have a new sense of confidence and understanding of my situation, and I feel better prepared to make the best and safest decisions for myself and my daughter.

– Luke's Place client



Safety through research

Working with our longtime academic partner, Dr Mavis Morton (University of Guelph), we are conducting research to understand the diverse needs, concerns, and experiences of women and gender-diverse survivors involved in the family court system. The knowledge gained through this research will inform our work and help us advocate for changes that will improve the system for survivors.



Extensive literature review conducted



Over **350** surveys collected



31 interviews with survivors and service providers offering family law support to women leaving abuse

Safety through our voices, expertise & resources

Luke's Place is helping build safer communities across Canada. We engage in feminist law reform at the community, provincial and national levels. We train and provide resources to family court support workers, lawyers, students, and other women's advocates and service providers. By sharing our expertise, we are strengthening responses to women subjected to violence. Women have access to better support services and resources and, as a result, they are better informed of their legal rights and more empowered to engage in the family court process.

A safer Canada:

- Sharing our service model and resources for adaptation beyond Ontario
- Launching a national feminist coalition, The Chanterelle Alliance, with the National Association of Women and the Law
- Advocating for implementation of Keira's Law (judicial education on issues of IPV and coercive control)
- Advocating against immediate passage of Bill C-332 (criminalization of coercive control)

Committed to increasing accessibility of our training and resources:

- Engaging partners to understand accessibility needs
- Prioritizing translation of our resources for French language and culture
- Developing national and provincial/territorial versions of resources
- Enhancing the technical usability and accessibility of our training website
- Adding captions to our recorded videos
- Engaging Accessibility Services Canada to audit our websites (LukesPlace.ca and FamilyCourtAndBeyond.ca) and resources

"Really appreciated the option of transcripts or video, I am not an auditory learner so being able to read the transcripts was a huge plus."
- After She Leaves training participant

A safer Ontario:

- First case intervention before the Ontario Court of Appeal (Ahluwalia v. Ahluwalia) to argue that a new tort of family violence should be recognized
- Continued calls for the implementation of Culleton, Kuzyk and Warmerdam (CKW) inquest recommendations
- Ongoing discussions with Legal Aid Ontario to increase survivors access to legal representation and the importance of ongoing IPV training and education for empanelled lawyers

Effective training:

- **900+** professionals trained through webinars, presentations, trainings, etc.
- **400+** individuals registered for our online e-learning courses
- **91%** of lawyers would recommend our online course to other family law lawyers
- **93%** of After She Leaves online training participants recommend it to others
- **100%** of participants would recommend the New Worker Training to family court support workers

"A great program that any family law practitioner should take, and retake as a refresher from time to time!" - Lawyer's course participant



Our virtual reach:

- **125K+** users visited Lukes Place websites
- **270K+** impressions across social media accounts
 - **16K+** shares of our social posts
 - **6,500+** reactions to our social media posts



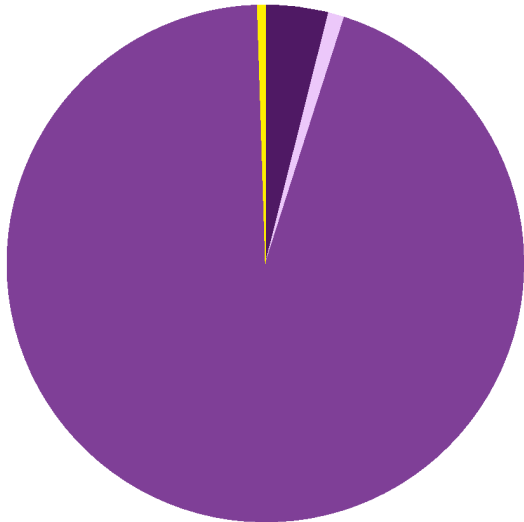
Helpful resources:

- **5000+** downloads of our FREE resources
- **400+** print copies of Family Court and Beyond workbooks/organizers distributed
- **61** informational blogs on LukesPlace.ca
- Updated and enhanced our Guide to Ontario family court operations
- **31+** resources created for family court support workers
- Collaborated with Community Legal Education Ontario on the creation of a new family law guided pathway for the completion of emergency motions

Financials

Excerpts taken from audited Financial Statements prepared by Dawn Flett & Associates and approved on June 17, 2024. A complete financial statement is available at LukesPlace.ca.

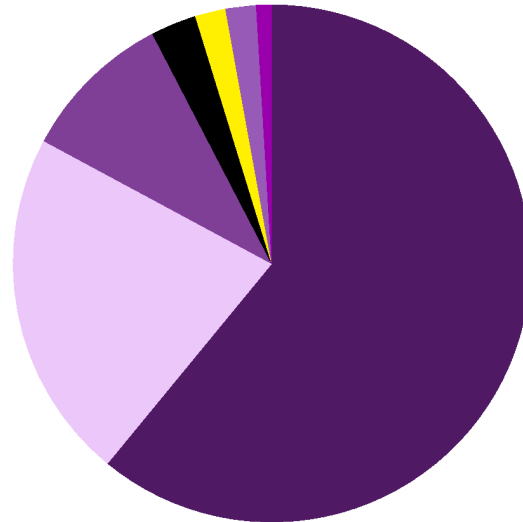
REVENUE



Grant funding	94.6%
Donations and fundraising	3.9%
Education and training	1.1%
Other	.4%

TOTAL REVENUE \$2,695,815

EXPENSES



Wages and benefits	63.7%
Professional services	22.7%
Program and resources	10%
Occupancy	1.8%
Office and general	.67%
Insurance	.5%
Amortization	.01%

TOTAL EXPENSES \$2,555,670



Thank you

To our many volunteers who gave their time, energy, and talent to helping women and families access justice, we extend our heartfelt thanks. A special thank you to the granting agencies and donors who helped us improve the lives of women and children. Your generosity enables us to focus on doing what we do best to support women and share our expertise with stakeholders across Canada.

Together, we are building safer communities for after they leave.