

The image features four hands of different skin tones (two darker, two lighter) positioned to form a protective frame around a central family silhouette. The background is a bright blue sky with white clouds at the top and a lush green field at the bottom. The family silhouette consists of two adults and a child, all made of white clouds.

Healthy Families,
Strong Communities

2014-2015
Annual Report



**The Children's Aid Society
of Haldimand & Norfolk**

"A change is brought about because ordinary people do extraordinary things."

– Barack Obama

Healthy Families,
Strong
Communities

We all share the responsibility to protect children from harm. We believe that children should remain with their families in their own homes whenever possible. The vast majority of our work with families is while the children remain at home with their parents. We believe in permanence or life-long connections for all children and youth. This planning begins with our very first contact with a family.

The Children's Aid Society of Haldimand and Norfolk (CAS-HN) works alongside many other local service providers and community groups to assist families and neighbourhoods with the vision of building healthy families and strong communities.

Letter to the Community

The Children's Aid Society of Haldimand and Norfolk is committed to positively impacting the lives of children, youth and families in our community. This annual report is our public demonstration of actions taken to support positive change for children, youth and families over the course of the last year in regards to safety, permanency and well-being.

Our service philosophy recognizes the importance of involving families and the community in the planning for children. To increase family involvement, a strength-based program called Signs of Safety was implemented. The approach focuses on answering the question, how can a child protection worker create partnerships with parents and children in situations of suspected or substantiated child abuse and still deal rigorously with the maltreatment issues? With the introduction of the program the community should experience a greater sense of engagement in child welfare services.

At this time we would like to extend a note of gratitude to the volunteers who mentor, drive and who are special friends; to the community members who called to report concerns of abuse; to donors who give generously towards *Little Dreams, Big Dreams*; to the Board of Directors for their time and leadership; to foster parents who open their hearts and homes; to the staff who work alongside families; and to our service partners. It is through these collective actions that child abuse and maltreatment is addressed and prevented. Communities that support families build hope for the future.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Gallagher, *Executive Director*
John McColl, *Board President*

Board of Directors, 2014-2015

Officers: *President:* John McColl • *Vice-President:* Renee VanKooten

Past President: Petar Guzina • *Treasurer:* Vince Marchesano • *Secretary:* Jane Anderson

Directors: Neil McCoag • Melissa Sault • Brooke Shaw • Marilyn Thompson



4,546

Children served in 2014-15, 95% of them in their own homes or with kin



1,848

Calls were received in 2014-15 from concerned citizens about children/youth who might be in need of protection



950

Reports of child abuse and neglect were investigated in 2014-15



656

Open child protection files with 1,146 children served in their own homes (at June 1, 2015)



257

Children in care (average number throughout the year)

Our Services

We are a not-for-profit agency and child protection is our mandate. We investigate any situation where a child under 16 has been or is at risk of physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse, or neglect by a caregiver or a person in a position of authority. Our goal is to keep families together. When that can't happen we look to the child's extended family or kin, or other significant person in their life who may be able to care for them.

We have a Family Finding program that seeks extended family (kin) or members of the child's community to provide a safe and nurturing home. This reduces stress for children coming into care, maintains family and community ties and increases the likelihood of the child's reunification with his/her primary family.

44 referrals were made to the Family Finding Program and 32 family connections or placements were made

If that option is not available, we search for a foster family. We make an effort to reunite children with their parents whenever possible. If a child has to be permanently separated from their parents, we do our best to find them a permanent home and family through adoption or connection with family.

*Do you want to make a difference?
We are urgently seeking more foster and adoptive homes and welcome and value diversity in our fostering and adoptive community.*

We are a Local Community Agency

We are led by a voluntary Board of Directors made up of local community members. Our staff, volunteers and foster parents come from various backgrounds. We all share the same goal of protecting children in our community and helping them reach their full potential.

Volunteers Rock!

A volunteer action is like a stone thrown in a lake: its effect has a direct impact and at the same time, like ripples, their efforts reach out far and wide to improve communities. Volunteers contribute their time and talents in many ways: they can act as a mentor, tutor or special friend, driving or assisting at special events. *Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering!*

Children & Youth in Care Programs

LIFT (Living Independently for Tomorrow)

We are committed to ensuring that youth in care have a network of supportive relationships and the opportunity to develop the necessary skills to achieve stability and future success.

Youth CORE (Conquering Obstacles

Reaching Excellence) is an advisory group for youth in care ages 14 and over, who meet monthly for peer support, to create opportunities for youth and advocate for positive change. They plan activities and fundraisers to give back to their community. Youth also get together four times per year to enjoy celebratory dinners, which are made possible with the generous support of staff donations.



83%

Of the children/youth in care in 2014-15 were cared for in family-based care



12

Adoptions were finalized in 2014-15



115

Foster/kin families (average number throughout the year)



141

Staff members (as at March 31, 2015)



61

Volunteers support the work of CAS-HN

2014/15 Financial Report

For the year ended March 31, 2015

Revenue – Child Welfare

Province of Ontario	\$ 20,559,699
Other income and expenditure recovery	829,435
Total revenue	21,389,134

Expenses – Child Welfare

Salaries and Benefits	12,466,839
Boarding costs for children and youth in care	4,957,699
Children in care and family support costs	2,052,864
Building occupancy and administration	953,384
	20,430,786

Excess of Revenue over Expenses	958,348
Surplus repayable to Ministry	(653,882)

Child Welfare Excess of Revenue over Expenses **\$ 304,466**

*This financial information is a summary from the audited financial statements.
Full copies of the audited financial statements are available upon request.*

Child Welfare Fund Balance, Beginning of year	\$ 11,538
Transfer for capital purchases and mortgage	(319,965)
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	304,466
Child Welfare Fund Balance, End of year	(3,961)
Other Operating Fund Balances, End of year	87,811
Restricted Fund Balance, End of year	723,206
Endowment Fund Balance, End of year	648,649
Total Fund Balances, End of Year	\$ 1,455,705

*"I have a chance to achieve great things
in my life due to this financial assistance.
I am now in college all because my workers would
not give up on seeing me succeed in life."
– A former youth in care*

little dreams, big dreams

of Haldimand & Norfolk

125

Children
attended
camp

14

Youth in care
graduated high school
and 2 graduated from
post-secondary schools

21

Youth received
assistance to attend
post-secondary school or
a training program

Donor Support

Two Society programs are not funded by the government: our summer camp program and our critically important youth education program. Support received for "Little Dreams, Big Dreams" has a direct and long-lasting impact. Thank you to all of our donors, including:

100 Women Who Care Norfolk • Procter & Gamble
Rotary Club of Norfolk – Sunrise • Linda Jansen
Lion's Club of Fisherville • KWIC Internet • CAS-HN Staff
Unilever Canada • Ron Clark, Clark Group of Companies
Nationwide Appraisal Services • Norfolk County



The Children's Aid Society
of Haldimand & Norfolk

Contact us:

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Go online to learn more:

www.cashn.on.ca

Our Registered Charity Number:

89920 6759 RR0001

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