



LANARK COUNTY INTERVAL HOUSE &
COMMUNITY SUPPORT

2025-26

ANNUAL REPORT

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REFLECTIONS ON ANOTHER YEAR

A message from Executive Director Erin Lee

Is important always for me to start with gratitude. I am grateful for women, children, and youth who share and trust their stories and their journeys with us.

I am grateful for the support of an amazing community on all levels from neighbour's, to groups, to politicians to the individual who saves a bit of money or the child who chooses a birthday party where the gifts go to support the agency.

I am grateful for the push to try new things. We started our RAGE podcast and it has been picked up, globally by lots of listeners and we are extremely grateful for their support. We started a new radio podcast/ show with Lanark Leeds Today that airs every week and is called Silence Broken. Local media continues to demonstrate their support to keep the issues of intimate partner violence front and centre in their work.

We had the opportunity to be engaged in Coaching Boys into Men project led by Hamilton Interval House and the program has demonstrated an interest and a need by coaches, teams and leadership to plot the path to change.

But nothing would ever exceed the gratitude that I express to our team. Our amazing staff, our outstanding board members and our amazing volunteers keep us fresh, creative, and clear on our direction and our goals to end gender based violence.

We continue to push for the implementation of recommendations. The IPV declaration has now been made in 112 communities across Ontario and we continue to be at the table amplifying the needs, voices and realities of women across our province, our country and globally. The work is not without challenges, systemic barriers, and injustice.

While the number of femicides decreased in the last year the number of calls for service to police increased. I think this is a good problem to have. I think campaigns and efforts to educate and create awareness, continues to validate victims experiences and provides the validation and encouragement for them to reach out and call for service.

As we all consider what our priorities are as the state of the world continues to create crisis, we continue to put our best assets forward, and that is the strength of this community to lean into each other, rely on each other while we remain determined to create a safer community for all.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erin Lee'.

Erin Lee, Executive Director



STANDING STRONG. MOVING FORWARD.

A message from Co-Chairs of the Board of Directors Linsey Sherman-Zekulin & Christine Walterhouse



This past year at Lanark County Interval House and Community Support has been a year of continued commitment, resilience and action. As a Board of Directors, we have had the privilege of witnessing the dedication, compassion and strength that define LCIHCS every day. We have also been reminded that the need for our services remains significant, and that our work is as important today as it was when this organization was founded more than 45 years ago.

At the heart of everything we do are the women and children who turn to LCIHCS for safety, support and hope. Through emergency shelter, counselling, advocacy, housing support, children's services and community programs, our staff continue to walk alongside individuals as they navigate some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

Every woman who reaches out, every child who finds a safer path, and every person who takes a step toward a life free from violence is a reminder of why this work matters. This year has also reinforced the importance of advocacy and public education. Ending violence against women requires more than responding to crisis—it requires challenging the attitudes, systems and structures that allow violence to continue. Through initiatives such as See It, Name It, Change It, LCIHCS continues to encourage individuals and communities to recognize violence, speak openly about it and take meaningful action. We are incredibly proud to see SINICI expand its reach beyond Lanark County and be embraced and adopted in various communities around the province this year. Our advocacy work also continues to bring the voices and experiences of women to conversations with community leaders and decision-makers, because lasting change requires action at every level.

None of this work happens in isolation. LCIHCS is fortunate to be part of a community that continues to show up—with donations, volunteer hours, fundraising, partnerships, advocacy and, perhaps most importantly, a willingness to listen and learn. From community organizations and service providers to local businesses, funders, volunteers and individual supporters, these relationships strengthen our ability to respond to the needs of women and children across Lanark County.

The Board of Directors remains committed to providing strong governance, responsible financial stewardship and meaningful support to our Executive Director, management team and staff. We recognize the extraordinary commitment required to do this work, and we are deeply grateful to every member of the LCIHCS team for the professionalism, courage and compassion they bring to it each day.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to our Board members, volunteers, members donors, community partners and supporters. Your time, expertise, generosity and belief in this work make a profound difference.

As we look to the year ahead, we know there will continue to be challenges. But we also know the strength of this organization lies in its people and in the community that stands behind it. Together, we will continue to create safer pathways, amplify the voices of women, support children and work toward a future where every woman and child can live free from violence.

With gratitude,
The Co-Chairs of the Board of Directors
Lanark County Interval House and Community Support

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LCIHCS is privileged to have strong women in leadership roles on its Board of Directors, who provide strategic leadership and sound governance with the best interests of the Agency always at its core. The organization remains committed to maintaining a Board comprised of individuals with a broad range of knowledge, skills, and experience.

The Board is grateful to the women who donated their time and talent to serving as directors for the 2025–2026 fiscal year:

Linsey Sherman-Zekulin, Co-Chair
Christine Walterhouse, Co-Chair
Candace Roberts, Past Chair
Cara Gibbons, Secretary Treasurer
Kristine von Bloedau
Kelly Blair
Karen Milligan
Amy Hogue

For the upcoming year, the Board proposes the following slate of directors; this slate includes several board members who are renewing their terms, as well as new members following recruitment efforts this year:

Christine Walterhouse, Co-Chair
Karen Milligan, Co-Chair
Cara Gibbons, Treasurer
Amy Hogue, Secretary
Kelly Blair
Kristine von Bloedau
Kate Stolee
Tara Duffy

The Board of Directors is proud to work alongside the dedicated leadership and staff of LCIHCS and to play its part in ensuring the Agency remains resilient, sustainable and accessible to the women and children in our community.





A WORD FROM OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES DIRECTOR

A message from Tess Powter

Across all programs this year, we have supported nearly 600 women through our Community Support Programs. While the details of the work are reflected in individual program reports, it is clear that our collective efforts continue to make meaningful impact. It has been a busy and rewarding year at LCIHCS.

This year marked a evolution from Onboarding and Structure to introducing the TRENDS committee (Trends Responding and Empowering Network Development Support). The intention of the TRENDS is to play a key role in shaping training, program development, and service delivery. By identifying emerging needs and systemic challenges impacting survivors, TRENDS helps inform responsive, inclusive, and empowering programming.

The year brought many opportunities for growth and transition within our team. We welcomed new staff, supported student placements, and strengthened relationships with valued community partners. Operationally, we made changes including, the introduction of Makeshift scheduling system to improve shift coordination and the expansion of the Family Court program. We also began the ongoing process of reviewing and updating policies to ensure they remain aligned with evolving best practise.

The dedication, adaptability and commitment of staff continue to be a driving force behind all that we accomplish. It is through this collective effort and a deep belief in the women and children we serve, that LCIHCS continues to provide responsive, high-quality services to women and children in the community.

Looking ahead, we remain mindful of the ongoing challenges inherent in this work. Supporting a healthy sustainable team while operating within a trauma exposed environment and a 24-hour service model requires continued attention, flexibility and care. Prioritizing staff well-being alongside service excellence will remain a key focus in the coming year.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Total Revenue

\$2,812,625



+15%



Program Spending Ratio

95%



+1%



Net Assets (Reserves)

\$2,118,487



+19%



Dollars Invested in Programs

\$2,340,059

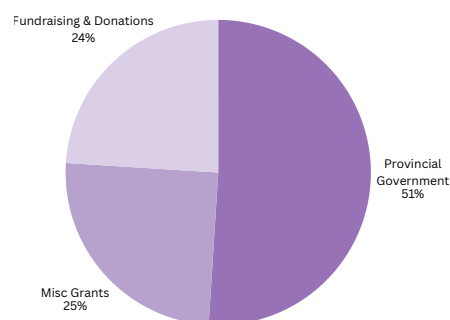


+8%

What shaped this year

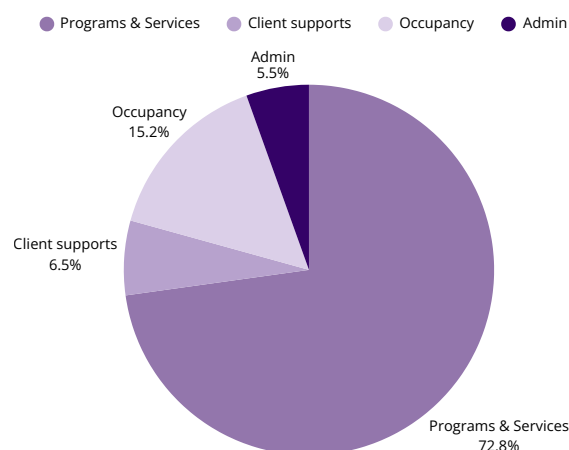
- \$300,000 capital investment grant from Rona Foundation
- Enhanced court support funding from MCCSS
- Increased donations and support of our signature fundraising events

The Support Behind Our Impact



- Provincial Government
- Miscellaneous Grants
- Fundraising & Donations

Resources in Action



Top revenue drivers

As Good As New Thrift Store	\$162,658
Donations & Fundraising	\$515,955
Rental Income	\$175,878
Grants	\$434,521
Government Funding	\$1,430,077

Top Fundraising Results: Celebrating Our Successes!

- Strong community support helped our second annual Golf Fore Change nearly double its net profit, achieving a 92% increase!
- The continued growth of our annual Violet Femmes fundraising gala resulted in a remarkable 38% increase in net proceeds thanks to the generous support of a matching donor.

Looking forward

- Database navigation to Canada Helps
- Online 50/50 fundraiser to be drawn at annual Violet Femmes Gala!
- Impact based fundraising to ensure donors understand the importance of their support
- Future program growth planning through reserve funding

2025-2026 SHELTER STATISTICS



40 WOMEN

Stayed in the shelter

36 CHILDREN

Stayed in the shelter

244 DAYS

Shelter was at or beyond full capacity.

36 WOMEN

Died by Femicide in Ontario

2903

Crisis Calls

80 DAYS

Average length of stay

RESIDENTIAL SHELTER PROGRAM

Our Residential Services Program operates a 15-bed emergency shelter providing a safe, supportive and confidential environment for women and children fleeing violence. Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, alongside our 24-hour crisis line, the program provides immediate safety, crisis intervention, emotional and practical support, advocacy and safety planning as women and children begin to heal and rebuild their lives.

This year continued to demonstrate both the complexity of leaving an abusive relationship and the significant pressures facing emergency shelter services. Women arriving at shelter were often experiencing significant trauma while navigating multiple, intersecting challenges, including family and criminal court proceedings, custody concerns, financial abuse, housing insecurity, transportation barriers, child protection involvement, healthcare and income supports. Rising operating costs and continued demand for emergency services added further pressures to shelter operations.

Staff also continued to see the ways that abuse and coercive control can extend beyond separation. For some women, children, custody arrangements, financial circumstances and misinformation about shelters were used as tools to maintain control or create additional barriers to leaving. Recognizing that separation can be a particularly high-risk period, staff worked closely with women to assess changing risks, develop individualized safety plans, advocate within complex systems and connect them with appropriate community resources and supports. This work remained grounded in trauma-informed and harm reduction approaches that respected each woman's circumstances, choices and goals.

For 40 women and 36 children, the shelter provided something fundamental: a safe place to go during a period of crisis. Beyond immediate safety, women received individualized support to identify their goals, understand their options and navigate the systems involved in rebuilding their lives after violence.

For children, the experience of safety can bring meaningful changes of its own. Children who may arrive withdrawn, quiet or experiencing significant emotions can gradually begin to engage in conversation, play, build relationships and simply have opportunities to be children. Creating an environment where children can experience safety, predictability and connection remains an important part of shelter life.

Safe and affordable housing continues to be one of the most significant barriers facing women and children leaving violence. In a limited housing market, finding an affordable home is difficult; finding one that also meets a survivor's safety needs can be even harder. For women with children, housing decisions can affect access to schools, friendships, childcare, transportation and established support networks. Available options may also be temporary or short-term, creating further uncertainty for families already experiencing significant transition.

Staff continued to work alongside women through housing searches, advocacy, referrals, safety planning and connections to community resources. While the shelter provides immediate safety, access to appropriate long-term housing is critical to helping women and children establish lasting stability in the community.

Amid these challenges, staff also had the privilege of celebrating meaningful milestones alongside women and children throughout the year. These included moments of justice, securing safe housing, choosing items for a new home and beginning to imagine what life beyond violence could look like. Connections to counselling, therapy and other community supports also helped families take important steps in their healing journeys. These moments, both large and small, reflect what Residential Services are ultimately about: creating the safety and support from which women and children can begin to determine what comes next.

The generosity of our community continues to make an important difference within the shelter. Throughout the year, community members and partners donated groceries, baked goods, fresh farm eggs and other essentials, helping offset rising program costs while providing comfort and care to women and children staying with us.

We were also grateful to receive funding from the RONA Foundation, which made it possible to replace windows and doors at the shelter and will support upcoming kitchen renovations. Investments like these help us maintain a safe, welcoming and functional environment for the families who call the shelter home, however temporarily.

RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

The Residential Children's Program supports mothers and their children as they navigate the impacts of violence and abuse. Through compassionate, family-centred and trauma-informed services, staff provide individualized advocacy, safety planning, referrals and emotional and practical support to promote safety, healing, stability and resilience.

Children arriving at shelter may be experiencing significant change and uncertainty. Staff work to create a safe, predictable and supportive environment where children can express themselves, strengthen their emotional well-being, develop healthy relationship skills and simply have opportunities to be children. Staff also work closely with mothers to understand and support their children's individual needs while families navigate transitions and plan for greater stability.

This spring marked the return of children's group programming to the shelter. For the first time, the Children's Outreach Program brought together children staying in shelter and children from the broader community, creating opportunities for connection, learning and positive social experiences in a safe and supportive environment.

The Carleton Place Youth Centre also generously provided [VERIFY: three/four] weeks of free summer camp in 2025 for children supported by LCIHCS. This partnership gave children opportunities to participate in recreation, build friendships and enjoy positive experiences in their community while reducing financial barriers for families.

Many children supported through the program have complex behavioural, emotional and developmental needs, while families continue to face barriers to specialized services. Limited availability, lengthy waitlists and the challenge of navigating multiple systems can make it difficult to access appropriate supports when they are needed.

Staff work alongside mothers to navigate available services and resources, providing advocacy, referrals and connections to community partners. Throughout staffing changes this year, the team remained focused on continuity of care and ensuring women and children continued to receive consistent, compassionate and responsive support.

Through this work, the Residential Children's Program helps create the safety and stability children need as they begin to heal from their experiences and families move forward together.



2025-2026 COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS STATISTICS



Our Community Support Programs provide counseling, legal referrals, advocacy, and more for women and children who are living in the community. These clients may still be living with their abuser or navigating life post-abuse. They face ongoing challenges caused by systemic oppression and lack of resources in our rural area.

599 WOMEN

Served in Total by CSP Programs.

58 CHILDREN

Served by CSP Programs

2316

Hours of Counselling Provided.

2369

Client Calls

790

Women and children participated in group sessions

WOMEN'S PROGRAMS

LCIHCS' Women's Program provides free and confidential community-based support to women who have experienced gender-based violence in their homes or communities. Through individual support, groups, referrals and advocacy, the program serves women throughout Lanark County who are not accessing LCIHCS' emergency shelter.

This year, the Women's Program supported 136 women across Lanark County. This number does not include women supported through the Sexual Assault Program or Highlands Program.

Group programming continues to be an important part of the Women's Program, creating spaces where women can connect with others who have shared experiences, develop new skills and recognize that they are not alone.

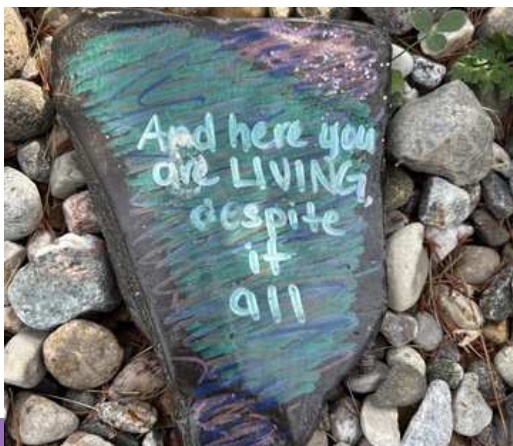
This year, the Creative Expressions group was refreshed to introduce new approaches to creativity, healing and self-expression. The updated format was well received and fostered meaningful connections among participants. Several women also stepped into leadership roles by facilitating activities, creating opportunities for collaboration and empowerment.

Breaking the Cycle, one of LCIHCS' most popular groups, was also updated with refreshed content and a more engaging and accessible format. The revised program was well received by participants and reflects our commitment to continually evolving programming to meet the needs of the women we serve.

The impact of these groups extends beyond their activities and content. Participants experience moments of recognition and validation as they develop a deeper understanding of their experiences. Strong connections form among women, creating supportive spaces where participants feel heard, understood and less alone.

At the same time, women continue to face significant systemic barriers when seeking safety and stability. The lack of safe and affordable housing remains one of the most pressing challenges, while increasing strain across social and community systems can make it difficult for women and their children to access the supports they need.

LCIHCS continues to work collaboratively with community partners to share resources, strengthen wraparound supports and identify creative solutions. Despite the challenges facing the sector, the strength of the women we serve and the dedication of our staff and community partners continue to move this work forward.



LANARK HIGHLANDS OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Highlands Outreach Program provides community-based support to women experiencing gender-based violence in Perth and the Highlands area of Lanark County. Through safety planning, individual and group support, system navigation and advocacy, the program helps reduce barriers to accessing services for women living in rural parts of the County.

This year, the Perth office became an increasingly collaborative hub for LCIHCS services, strengthening connections between programs. The Family Court Support Program established a consistent presence at the Perth office. Women accessing LCIHCS housing programs in Perth, were able to connect with supports through the office as well. Highlands Outreach facilitated a group at the Carleton Place office, creating further opportunities for collaboration and connection.

Highlands Outreach continued to benefit from generous support and donors within the Perth and area community. While partnerships with Shelter Movers and the Community Paramedic Team helped address practical needs and improve connections to community-based supports. These relationships are particularly valuable in a rural service area, where collaboration can help reduce barriers created by geography..

The housing crisis remained one of the most significant concerns for women accessing Highlands Outreach, with safe and affordable housing increasingly difficult to secure in Perth and surrounding communities. Rural isolation also creates unique considerations for safety planning. Staff worked with women to develop safety plans that reflected the realities of their individual locations and circumstances, including completing housing safety audits in remote areas of the Highlands when appropriate.

Also new this year, Transportation remains another significant barrier for women living in rural communities. Access to LCIHCS' Transportation Coordinator helped reduce some of these challenges, including through the delivery of Perseverance Pantry orders to women within the Highlands catchment area.



94

Women served this year

SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Sexual Assault Program provides trauma-informed, survivor-centred counselling, advocacy, accompaniment and system navigation for women who have experienced sexual violence. The program creates a safe and supportive space where survivors are believed, empowered and supported as they heal and navigate complex systems at their own pace.

This year, the Sexual Assault Program supported 62 women across Lanark County.

Throughout the year, women received individualized support to rebuild confidence, strengthen boundaries, access resources and make informed decisions about their lives. Therapeutic groups also remained well attended, demonstrating the continued importance of opportunities for survivors to connect, heal and find support alongside others.

This year brought increased public attention to gender-based and sexual violence, including several high-profile cases that had a significant impact on survivors in our community. For some women, media coverage resurfaced trauma or increased feelings of fear and anxiety. The Sexual Assault Program responded by creating additional opportunities for processing and validation while providing trauma-informed counselling, safety planning and individualized support.

The evolving legal landscape surrounding gender-based violence also created opportunities and challenges. Increased recognition of coercive control and patterns of power and control reflects what survivors and advocates have long understood: violence is rarely defined by a single incident. As legal and community systems continue to evolve, LCIHCS plays an important role in helping survivors understand their options and navigate systems that can often feel complex and overwhelming.

Strong relationships with healthcare providers, justice partners, community agencies and referral partners throughout Lanark County continued to strengthen coordinated responses and improve access to specialized supports for survivors.

Demand for services remained consistently high. While most survivors were connected with support in a timely manner, two brief periods of increased demand resulted in waits of approximately two to three weeks for new referrals. The program also experienced a slight increase in its waitlist compared with the previous year, while the overall number of active clients remained relatively consistent. An increase in grief-related referrals further reflected the complex and intersecting needs of survivors accessing support.

Many of the program's most meaningful outcomes cannot be captured through statistics or shared publicly because they belong to the confidential journeys of the women we support. They can be found in moments when a survivor rebuilds trust in herself, establishes a boundary, finds the confidence to make a difficult decision, navigates a complex system or begins to find hope again.

Healing rarely happens in one defining moment. It is built through conversations, acts of courage and relationships grounded in trust. LCIHCS is honoured to walk alongside survivors throughout that journey.

62

Women supported this fiscal year

CHILD AND YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Child and Youth Outreach Program provides support to children and youth ages 5–18 who have been impacted by domestic violence and family changes. Through individual and group programming, children and youth develop skills related to safety planning, communication, conflict resolution, emotional regulation, self-esteem, healthy relationships, boundaries and friendships.

This year, the Child and Youth Outreach Program supported 95 children and youth and 130 mothers.

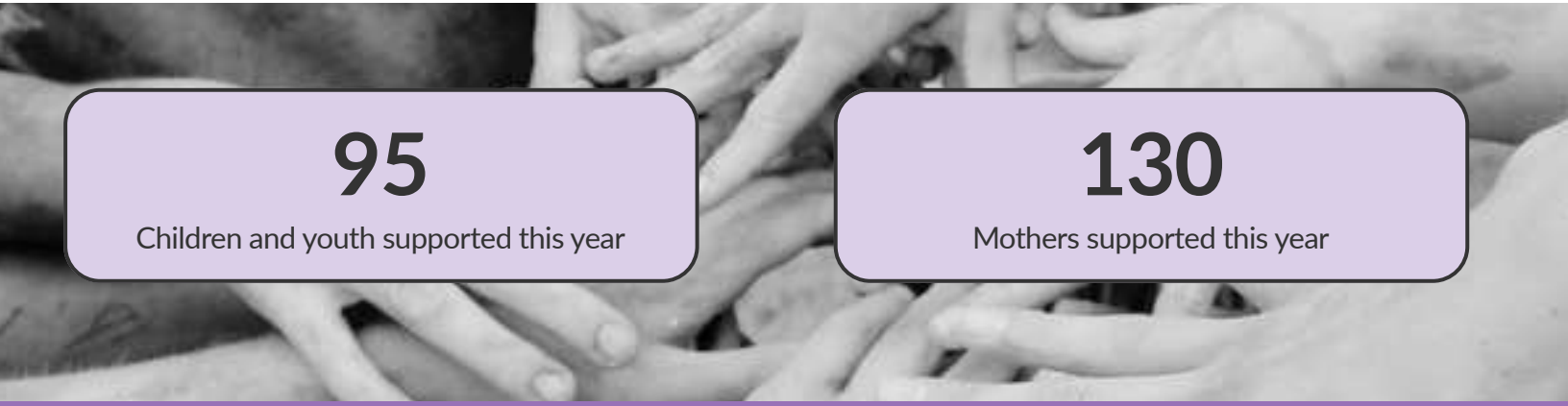
This year marked the return of children's group programming at LCIHCS' emergency shelter for the first time in several years. The program also offered a Teen Girls Group to young people in the broader community, creating another opportunity for youth to build connections and access ongoing support. Through a partnership with the Carleton Place Youth Centre/Youth Hub, children and youth also had access to three weeks of summer camp.

The impact of domestic violence on children and youth can extend into many areas of their lives. In addition to addressing family changes and experiences of violence, young people accessing the program may need support navigating school and education planning, peer relationships and conflict, coping skills, emotional regulation and other individual needs. When needs extend beyond the scope of the program, connections and referrals are made to appropriate community partners.

Throughout the year, children and youth demonstrated increased confidence in communicating their thoughts, feelings and needs with family members, friends and others in their lives. Young people strengthened their safety plans, developed strategies for coping with difficult emotions and built skills to establish healthier relationships and boundaries. Regular check-ins also provide opportunities for children and youth to reflect on their progress and identify the ways support has made a difference in their lives.

Barriers to accessing appropriate support remain. Finding suitable meeting spaces within schools continues to be a challenge, as available spaces are not always welcoming, private or conducive to trauma-informed support. Parental consent requirements can also create significant barriers, particularly in situations involving separated parents and shared decision-making authority. When one parent does not consent to services, a child or youth who would otherwise benefit from support may be unable to access it.

Despite these challenges, the Child and Youth Outreach Program continues to provide young people with a safe and supportive space where they can be heard, develop practical skills and receive support as they navigate the impacts of domestic violence and family change.



95

Children and youth supported this year

130

Mothers supported this year

VICTIM ADVOCATE

The Victim Advocate Program was developed to strengthen responses to intimate partner violence and sexual assault and ensure victims across Lanark County have access to coordinated, trauma-informed support. The Victim Advocate works alongside Smiths Falls Police Service and Lanark County OPP, the SADV Hospital Program, Victim/Witness Assistance Program (VWAP), Victim Services, and other community partners to help ensure victims are supported, informed, and empowered throughout their journey.

A key strength of the program is its collaborative approach. By working directly with community partners and justice system stakeholders, the Victim Advocate helps bridge gaps between services, supports communication, and ensures that victims' experiences and needs remain central to responses. This year, the program focused on strengthening relationships with police services and highlighting the importance of victim-centred approaches through a presentation that shared victims' voices and lived experiences. The session created meaningful discussion about barriers victims face when seeking support and reinforced a shared commitment to improving responses to violence.

The impact of the Victim Advocate Program continues to be reflected in the experiences of those accessing support. Victims surveyed reported feeling more supported and empowered when the Victim Advocate was involved. Through safety planning, emotional support, accompaniment to meetings and court proceedings, and assistance navigating complex systems, the program helps victims feel heard, informed, and safer throughout their interactions with the justice system.

This year, the Victim Advocate also continued to support stronger system collaboration by participating in the Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence (SADV) Advisory Committee and the Situation Table. These partnerships help ensure that community agencies, police services, and other frontline organizations understand the role of the program and are able to connect victims with appropriate supports in a timely manner.

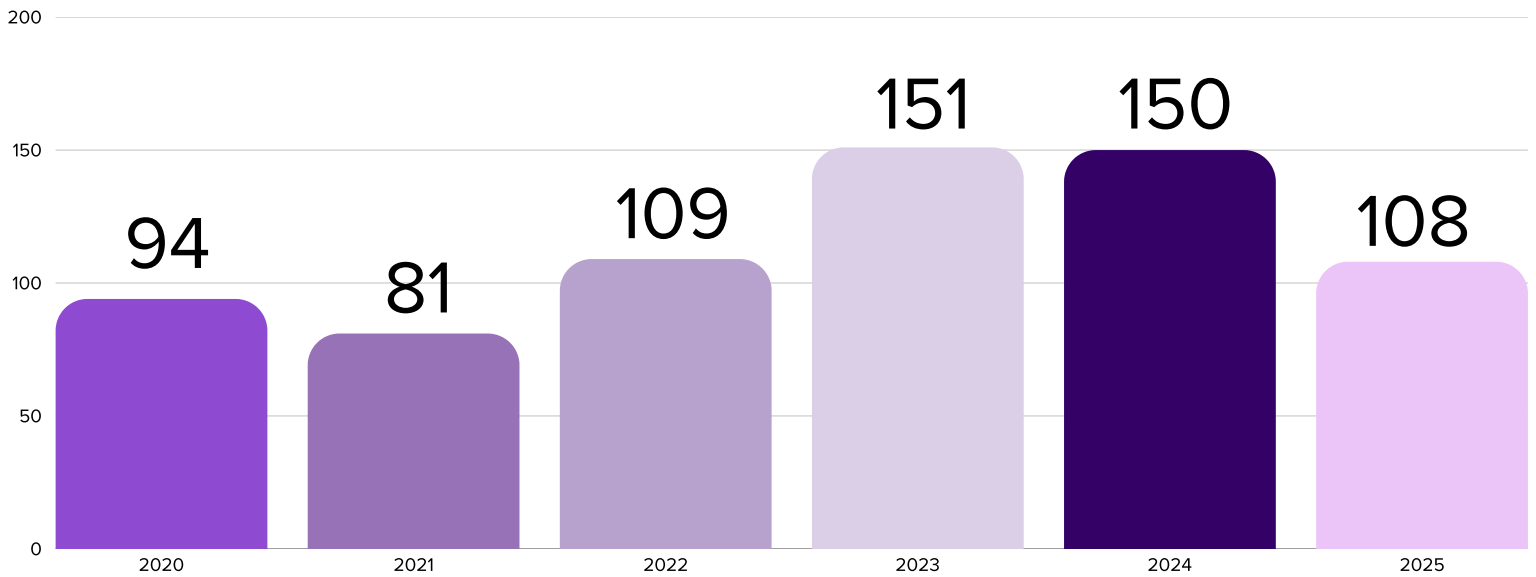
A continued focus of the program has been increasing awareness of the Victim Advocate role among new police officers and community partners. Ensuring that officers understand available supports is essential to preventing missed opportunities for referrals and helping victims access services as early as possible. Through ongoing training, relationship-building, and collaboration with police services, the program continues to strengthen pathways to support.

One ongoing complexity faced by the program is supporting victims in situations where individuals experiencing violence may also face criminal charges. These circumstances require careful assessment, clear communication, and collaboration between the Victim Advocate and police to help ensure responses remain fair, consistent, and trauma-informed.

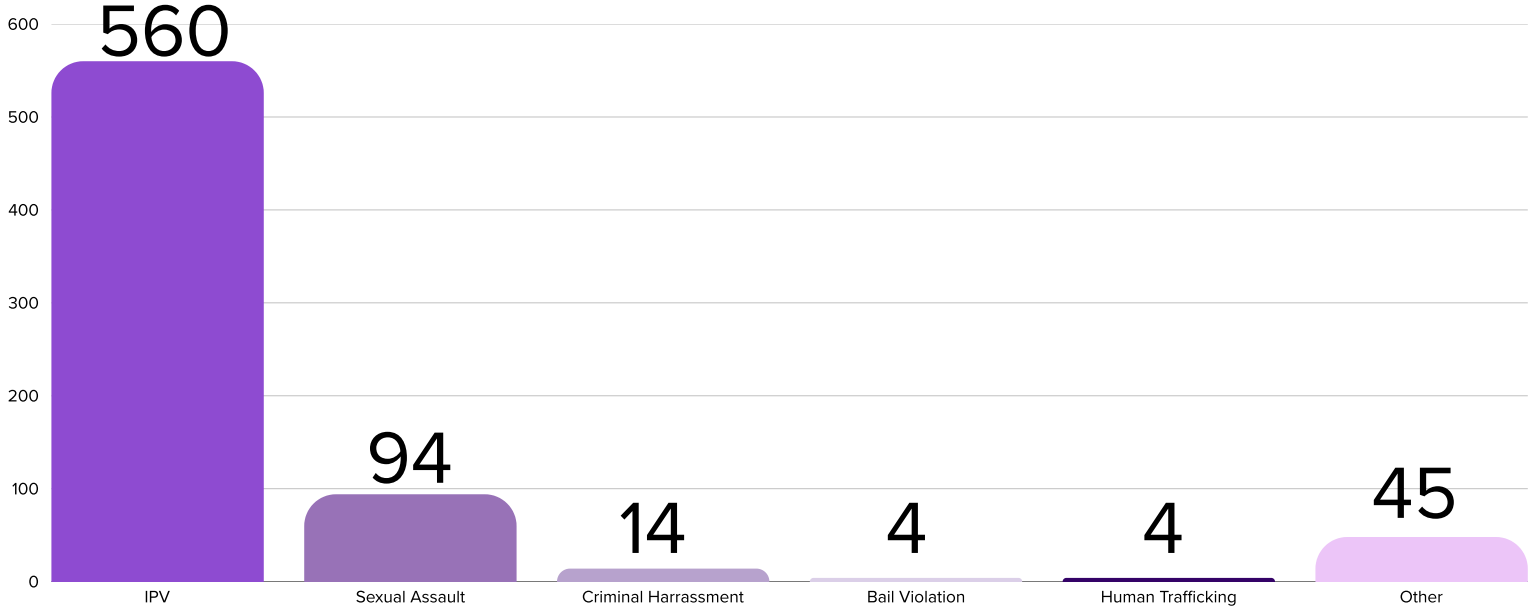
Program highlights this year included strengthening police partnerships through victim-centred education, supporting victims through challenging justice-system processes, and contributing to more informed and compassionate responses to violence. Feedback from victims continues to demonstrate the value of having a dedicated advocate who can provide support, information, and a voice within systems that can often feel overwhelming.

While there is still important work to do to improve supports and responses for victims of violence, the Victim Advocate Program continues to play an essential role in ensuring victims are not navigating these systems alone.

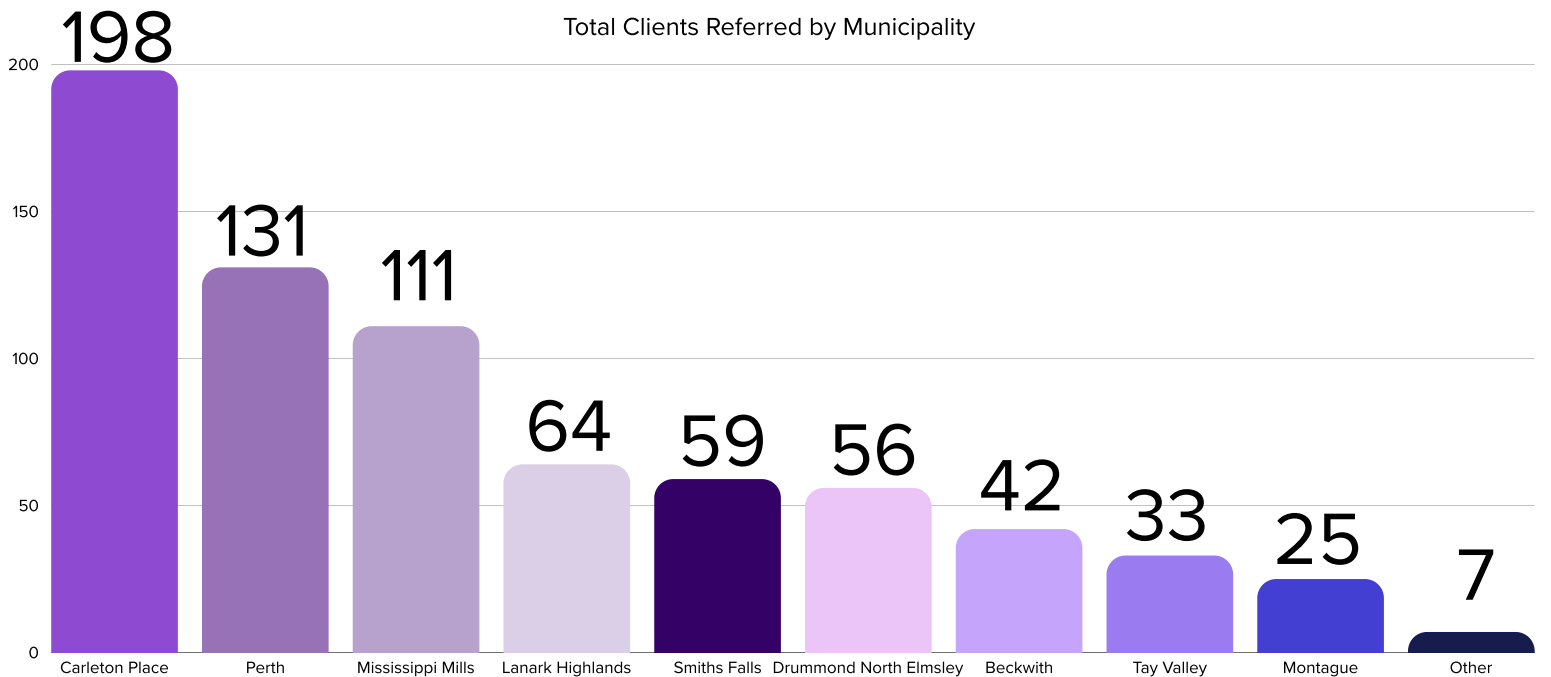
Total Clients Referrer by Fiscal Year



Total Clients Referred by Incident Type



Total Clients Referred by Municipality



FAMILY COURT SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Family Court Support Program supports survivors of intimate partner violence as they navigate the family court system. Family Court Support Workers provide court accompaniment, legal information, assistance with court processes and paperwork, referrals to specialized services, safety planning and advocacy throughout what can be a complex and overwhelming process.

The Family Court Support Program **supported 96 women during the 2025–26 fiscal year**. Because the second full-time worker joined the program in December 2025, the full impact of this increased capacity is not yet reflected in this year's service statistics.

This year marked an important expansion of the program. Through dedicated Ministry funding, LCIHCS added a second full-time Family Court Support Worker in December 2025, increasing the program's capacity to provide timely, individualized support to survivors across Lanark County. Additional funding also allowed workers to continue supporting women who have been criminalized and are navigating the criminal justice system, recognizing that survivors' experiences with legal systems can be complex and interconnected.

The program also established weekly drop-in hours at the Perth Courthouse every Friday from 10 a.m. to noon, creating another accessible point of connection for women seeking support. This regular courthouse presence has also strengthened relationships with duty counsel, mediation services, police and other justice-sector partners. Outreach was expanded through a new program brochure, social media, community partnerships and other efforts to increase awareness of the support available.

Access to legal representation remained a significant challenge for some women this year. Changes to Legal Aid eligibility and certificate approval processes sometimes resulted in women waiting weeks for decisions while facing urgent family court matters. Access to Legal Aid-funded consultations was also limited by the lack of local lawyers participating in the required Domestic Violence Panel. Family Court Support Workers responded through advocacy, connections to resources such as duty counsel and Luke's Place Legal Clinic, and support for women who had no alternative but to navigate parts of the process as self-represented litigants.

Other administrative and procedural requirements can create additional barriers and, in some cases, safety concerns. Serving legal documents, for example, can be particularly complicated when no-contact orders or other safety considerations are involved. Workers help women understand these requirements, identify available options and navigate legal processes in ways that prioritize their safety wherever possible.

Broader affordability pressures can also affect women's ability to attend appointments, travel to court and access legal and support services. Staff continue to work individually with women to identify these barriers and connect them with available community resources.

Together, increased staffing, the new Perth Courthouse drop-in service, expanded outreach and continued support for women navigating both family and criminal justice systems have strengthened the program's ability to provide accessible, knowledgeable and trauma-informed support to survivors across Lanark County.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING SUPPORT AND HOUSING PROGRAMS

LCIHCS provides safe, affordable housing options for women and children building lives free from violence. Our housing portfolio includes Second Stage supportive housing, Beyond Second Stage independent living, and private-market scattered housing units. All units are connected to rent subsidies funded by the Lanark County Housing Corporation.

The Housing Coordinator manages 15 units across these programs, with one application process and separate waitlists for each housing option.

SECOND STAGE HOUSING

Second Stage is LCIHCS' supportive transitional housing program, offering three two-bedroom units and one accessible one-bedroom unit. The building includes 24/7 security monitoring, panic alarms in each unit, and staff onsite during the week.

Women can stay for up to 18 months and participate in regular programming with the Housing Coordinator. Support is tailored to individual needs and may include budgeting, coping skills, safety planning, boundary setting, referrals, unit maintenance, and preparation for permanent housing.

During the reporting period, Second Stage housed three women and four children, with an additional woman and two children preparing to move into the fourth unit. Long social housing waitlists and the limited availability of affordable housing continue to be significant barriers for women transitioning out of the program.

BEYOND SECOND STAGE

Beyond Second Stage provides longer-term independent housing in six units: five one-bedroom apartments, including one accessible unit, and one three-bedroom apartment. The building has 24/7 security monitoring and panic alarms in each unit.

Residents can access counselling and other supports through LCIHCS' Community Support Program, while the Housing Coordinator oversees applications, the waitlist, tenant transitions, and unit administration.

During the reporting period, Beyond Second Stage housed six women and four children. Two women and their children successfully transitioned into permanent housing.

SCATTERED HOUSING UNITS

Through a partnership with a local landlord, LCIHCS also provides access to private-market housing in Perth. LCIHCS supports the tenants and manages placements, while the landlord is responsible for property management.

LCIHCS currently has access to five scattered units in Perth, ranging from studio apartments to three-bedroom family housing. During the reporting period, these units housed four women and nine children. LCIHCS also has access to two units at Carebridge in Almonte.

Scattered units provide additional flexibility for women whose location, family size, or support needs may not be suited to LCIHCS' congregate housing programs.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Transitional Housing Support Program supported 41 women this year as they navigated transitions into, through and out of LCIHCS residential services. Through individualized, trauma-informed support, women received advocacy, safety planning, housing navigation and connections to community resources as they worked toward greater stability and independence.

A key strength of the program is the continuity of support it provides as women move from shelter into the community. Safety plans are revisited and adapted as circumstances and risks change, while maintaining a connection with a trusted support person helps make this often vulnerable transition safer and more manageable. Staff continue to work alongside women to navigate complex housing and community systems while ensuring safety, autonomy and individual choice remain central throughout the process.

HOUSING WAITLISTS

Demand for safe and affordable housing continues to exceed availability. Approximately 27 women are currently on LCIHCS housing waitlists, including approximately five applications that are temporarily on hold. The Scattered Housing waitlist remains the longest because it serves women with a wide range of housing needs, including those who require a particular community, need larger units for their families, or do not require the supportive structure of Second Stage.

The ongoing shortage of affordable housing and lengthy community housing waitlists remain significant barriers for survivors seeking long-term housing stability.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM SUPPORT

Volunteers support LCIHCS housing programs by assisting with gardening, property upkeep, and other tasks as needed. Relief staff also help prepare and restock units between residents, ensuring spaces are ready to welcome the next woman or family.



The housing crisis continues to have a significant impact across Lanark County. According to Lanark County, homelessness increased by 37% from 2024 to 2025, compared to 7.8% across Ontario. The number of households experiencing homelessness nearly doubled, from 57 in January 2025 to 112 in January 2026.

Couch surfing remains the most common living situation among people experiencing homelessness locally, followed by transitional housing and unsheltered homelessness.

Violence and housing instability are deeply interconnected. Among Canadian women who have experienced hidden homelessness, 52% reported that their homelessness was connected to leaving an emotionally abusive or physically violent situation. Without access to safe and affordable housing, women fleeing violence may be forced to rely on temporary or unstable living arrangements that do not provide the security of permanent housing.

For survivors of violence, access to safe, affordable and appropriate housing can be critical to establishing safety and rebuilding their lives.

Lack of access to safe, affordable housing continues to be LCIHCS' biggest obstacles to our services.

PERSEVERANCE PANTRY

The Perseverance Pantry has supported LCIHCS clients since February 2022, providing supplemental food and hygiene items to women and children navigating the rising cost of living while experiencing or fleeing violence. Registered LCIHCS clients can access the Pantry through a referral from their worker.

Pantry offerings vary based on available funding and donations and may include fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables, pantry staples, dairy products, eggs, frozen meat, menstrual products, and personal hygiene items. LCIHCS currently allocates \$225 per week to purchase fresh food and other essentials not received through donations.

The program is strengthened by generous community partnerships. Independent Grocer in Carleton Place provides weekly meat, dairy, and bakery donations, while local farmers contribute fresh eggs and seasonal garden shares. The Hunger Stop provides surplus supplies, and several local businesses and organizations regularly donate dry goods. Volunteers and LCIHCS' Transportation Coordinator support the collection and distribution of donations.

This fiscal year, the Perseverance Pantry supported 122 women and 130 children, providing food and hygiene items approximately 550 times — an average of 10 clients each week.

Accessibility remains an important part of the program. Clients can pick up Pantry orders from LCIHCS locations, and delivery is available for those experiencing transportation barriers. The Transportation Coordinator also supports grocery shopping, donation pickups, and deliveries, helping ensure clients can access essential items when they need them.

Over the past year, LCIHCS reviewed the Pantry's service model to ensure the program remained sustainable and accessible to clients with active support needs. We identified that some clients had been accessing Pantry services every two weeks for more than two years while having limited engagement with other LCIHCS supports. At the same time, programs such as the Women's Program continued to experience waitlists.

To better balance client needs with available resources, LCIHCS introduced a six-month Pantry enrollment period. Clients may access the Pantry up to twice per month for their first three months and once per month for the remaining three months. Existing clients were notified of the change in November 2025 and were able to continue under the previous model until April 30, 2026. Pantry assistance may continue beyond six months for clients who remain actively engaged with LCIHCS programming and identify an ongoing need with their support worker.

This change has helped reduce pressure on both the Perseverance Pantry and the Women's Program while improving capacity to support clients seeking services. LCIHCS will continue to assess the updated model and make adjustments as needed to ensure the Pantry remains responsive, accessible, and sustainable.



"I am so incredibly grateful for the assistance received from the Interval House. When my daughter and I were facing our first months alone, the help with groceries and essential helped ease so much stress and worry. There were times I sat and cried, overwhelmed with gratitude, looking at the incredibly generous donations I received. Thank you for helping us during our toughest season ever."

PANTRY CLIENT, APRIL 2026

122 Women served this fiscal year

130 Children served this fiscal year

550 Number of times pantry was accessed this fiscal year

TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT

Transportation can be a significant barrier for women and families accessing essential services, particularly in rural communities. LCIHCS' Transportation Program helps bridge that gap by providing safe, reliable transportation when other options are unavailable.

This year, the program provided transportation support to 277 women and 104 children, helping clients access medical appointments, community services, LCIHCS programming and other essential supports.

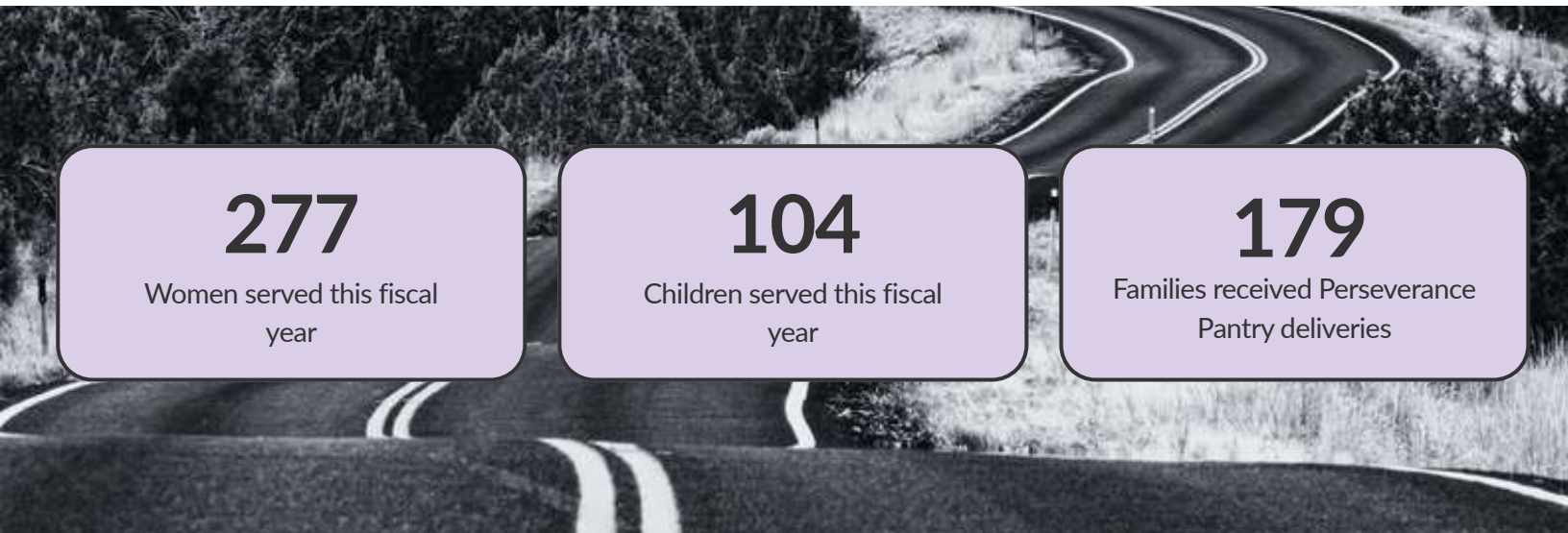
Transportation also plays an important role in the Perseverance Pantry. For clients unable to pick up their orders, delivery ensures that a lack of transportation does not become a barrier to accessing food and essential hygiene products. This year, 179 families received Perseverance Pantry deliveries because transportation was unavailable to them.

As demand for support continues to grow, so too does the cost of providing transportation. Rising fuel prices remained a challenge this year, requiring routes and schedules to be coordinated as efficiently as possible to maximize the number of clients served while managing travel costs.

The program also identified an unexpected accessibility challenge through Pantry deliveries. Some food and household items arrived in quantities that were difficult for clients, staff and volunteers to carry, particularly when navigating stairs and apartment buildings. LCIHCS reached out to the community for reusable grocery bags so larger orders could be divided into smaller, safer and more manageable loads. The response was overwhelmingly positive.

This year also brought moments that demonstrated how transportation and practical assistance can extend beyond traditional service delivery. Following the passing of a client, LCIHCS supported her loved ones by helping organize and clear her home and ensuring her personal belongings were returned to her family. It was an opportunity to continue providing care after her passing and to honour her with dignity, compassion and respect.

Community support helps make this work possible. Grants, donations and partnerships allow LCIHCS to respond creatively to transportation barriers while continuing to provide accessible and responsive support to women and families throughout Lanark County.

**277**

Women served this fiscal
year

104

Children served this fiscal
year

179

Families received Perseverance
Pantry deliveries

SUIT YOURSELF

The Suit Yourself program empowers and supports women as they prepare to enter or re-enter the workforce. Through individualized support, clients receive assistance with resume development, interview preparation and access to professional clothing, helping women build confidence and prepare for employment opportunities.

Building on LCIHCS' partnership with iSisters Technology Mentoring, the program expanded this year to offer three learning opportunities focused on digital skills, including AI literacy and online safety. These sessions provided women with practical knowledge to support employment readiness, independence and everyday life.

The Online Safety program was particularly well received. As technology becomes increasingly integrated into our personal and professional lives, digital safety has also become an important component of personal safety. Recognizing its relevance for women experiencing violence, LCIHCS expanded the program beyond community-based clients to women staying in the emergency shelter.

Participants gained practical knowledge and increased confidence in navigating online spaces safely. LCIHCS looks forward to continuing its partnership with iSisters and adapting programming alongside changing technology to support the safety, independence and employment goals of the women we serve.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

This year, LCIHCS continued to strengthen its role as a visible, trusted, and active voice in the community on issues of gender-based violence, prevention, and systemic change. We have remained intentional and strategic in how we connect with, educate, and mobilize the public.

A major focus this year was deepening community partnerships and recognition of local businesses that consistently support our work. At our 2025 Annual General Meeting in September, we formally honoured several longstanding community supporters—local Perth businesses whose generosity has had a meaningful and sustained impact on those we serve. These partners include Red Brick Emporium, CC's on the Rideau, Fashion Envy, Streve Design, Lavender and Lace, Top Shelf Distillery, Giant Tiger Perth, Barnabe's Independent Grocer, Foodsmiths, and the Chiropractic Care & Longevity Centre. These relationships reflect the broader community commitment that sustains our programming and emergency supports.

Community engagement also extended through in-person presence at key local events and initiatives. Staff and volunteers participated in the Carleton Place Ecofest fashion show, showcasing items from As Good As New to encourage sustainable shopping and donation. We were present at local Pride events, farmers' markets, Festival of the Maples, and the OV Boss Babe Wine Tour, ensuring continued visibility and accessibility across diverse community spaces.

In September 2025, LCIHCS hosted its annual Take Back the Night march, which included a new advocacy component: a coordinated bus trip to Parliament Hill for the Take Back the Budget rally, in opposition to proposed cuts to WAGE funding. This expansion reflected a growing commitment to connecting local action with national advocacy efforts and highlighting the structural drivers of gender-based violence.

We strengthened survivor-informed communications this year through the launch of the “In Her Own Words” social media series. Developed in response to feedback from residents and clients, this initiative centres anonymized survivor voices to reflect lived experiences of gender-based violence, reduce stigma, and offer insight into what support and recovery can look like. The series reflects a shift toward more participatory, survivor-informed public education and communication.

Public education and awareness work also remained a key priority across the year. Sexual Assault Prevention Month was marked with the return of our awareness banner in Almonte, continuing a visible community presence on prevention and education. During the federal election, we engaged the public through a #VoteToEndGBV campaign, encouraging community members to ask candidates to formally recognize IPV as an epidemic, establish a GBV commissioner, and commit to sustained funding for prevention and response services.

We increased our focus on gender-based violence in the media through involvement in Aura Freedom's Gender-Based Violence in the Media initiative, contributing to provincial efforts to improve how GBV is reported and discussed in Canadian media. Several staff also travelled to Kingston to attend a dedicated GBV in the Media training session facilitated by Pamela Cross, strengthening our capacity for trauma-informed and responsible media engagement. At this training, multiple participating organizations noted that they look to LCIHCS as a leader in how GBV and IPV issues are communicated and navigated within media contexts.

Digital engagement continued to be a strong area of growth. Across Meta platforms, LCIHCS saw a 92.3% increase in reach, a 23.3% increase in audience, and a 77.8% increase in content interactions. Instagram reach increased by 156.8%, reflecting continued growth in awareness and engagement with younger audiences and broader community networks.

Finally, we continued to expand our storytelling and advocacy reach through audio and digital media. The RAGE (Rural Advocacy for Gender Equality) podcast continued to grow, alongside the launch of the "Silence Broken" podcast in partnership with Bob Perrault of MyFM. These platforms have allowed for deeper exploration of systemic issues, survivor-informed dialogue, and expert analysis, extending LCIHCS's reach beyond our immediate geographic community. Together, these initiatives reflect a year of deepening community connection, strategic advocacy, and continued growth in both digital and in-person engagement. Through partnerships, public education, and storytelling, LCIHCS continues to strengthen its role as both a local support service and a broader voice for systemic change.



PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Public Education Program is a pillar of the work at LCIHCS. Through presentations, workshops, campaigns, community events, and partnerships, we engage people of all ages across Lanark County to raise awareness of gender-based violence, help prevent harm, and equip community members with the knowledge and tools to support survivors and be part of the solution.

In June 2025, the organization welcomed a Public Education Coordinator, strengthening our capacity to expand education initiatives across the county. Working collaboratively with the Communications Coordinator and the broader staff team ensured that public education initiatives, awareness campaigns, and organizational messaging remained aligned while fostering new relationships with schools, community organizations, businesses, sports associations, and local residents.

Throughout the year, we continued to show up in communities across Lanark County through fairs, festivals, markets, workshops, presentations, and outreach events. Whether through a brief conversation at an information table or a full educational presentation, each interaction helped increase awareness, reduce stigma, and remind survivors that support is available. These opportunities also reinforced an important message: violence and hate have no place in our communities, and there are many people committed to creating safer spaces for everyone.

Youth engagement remained a key focus of the program. During the 2025–2026 school year, our Public Education Coordinator visited more than 30 classrooms across Lanark County, delivering age-appropriate education on healthy relationships, consent, gender stereotypes, recognizing red flags, bystander intervention, and supporting survivors. While increased barriers at the school-board level created challenges in scheduling presentations, we remained committed to strengthening relationships with educators and ensuring students continue to have access to these important conversations.

One of the year's highlights was Big Feminine Energy, a youth conference that welcomed girls and gender-diverse students in Grades 10 to 12 from six Lanark County secondary schools. Through interactive workshops, group discussions, and a screening of the CBC documentary Big Feminine Energy, students explored media literacy, online representations of femininity, healthy relationships, and self-expression while building connections with peers from across the county.

We also continued expanding the Coaching Boys into Men (CBIM) program in partnership with Interval House of Hamilton. Multiple staff members completed facilitator training, allowing the organization to build long-term capacity for the program. In fall 2025, we trained 38 coaches representing 12 local sports associations, equipping them with practical tools to foster respectful relationships, challenge harmful gender norms, and mentor young athletes as leaders on and off the field. Feedback from participants highlighted the value of creating positive team cultures and increasing coaches' confidence in having conversations about healthy masculinity and preventing gender-based violence.

Beyond schools, the Public Education Program reached diverse audiences across the community. Staff delivered presentations at the Rural Recreation Association's annual summit, facilitated educational sessions at YAK Youth Centre, provided gender-based violence awareness training for community members and professionals in the beauty industry through the Cut It Out program, and led healthy relationship workshops for local Girl Guides.

Public awareness campaigns continued to amplify these educational efforts throughout the year. During Sexual Assault Prevention Month, we participated in the We Stand with Survivors campaign for the fourth consecutive year, displaying a banner along the Ottawa Valley Rail Trail in Mississippi Mills to raise awareness and demonstrate community support for survivors. During the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, we hosted awareness initiatives and educational opportunities despite lower-than-anticipated attendance at some events. We also participated in a community panel discussion exploring the connections between Basic Income, poverty, and gender-based violence, highlighting the importance of addressing systemic barriers alongside direct support services.

Our annual Take Back the Night event also expanded this year. In addition to our local march, we organized free transportation to Parliament Hill, allowing community members to join advocates from across Ontario in calling for sustained investment in gender-based violence prevention and response through the Women's Program at Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE). Participants then returned to Lanark County to continue the evening with our local Take Back the Night march, connecting provincial advocacy with local action.

Like many violence prevention initiatives, the Public Education Program continues to face funding challenges, relying on grants and community partnerships rather than stable, ongoing government funding. We are grateful to our funding partners and supporters, whose investments make this work possible. Together, these partnerships allow us to continue building awareness, fostering prevention, and creating a community where everyone can live free from violence.



118

Community Members
Reached

38

Coaches trained through 3
CBIM presentations

720

Local Students Reached

11

Public Information
Tables

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

In a time when many nonprofit organizations across Canada continue to face challenges with volunteer recruitment and retention, LCIHCS is fortunate to be supported by an exceptionally committed volunteer community. This year, 108 active volunteers shared their time and talents across the organization.

With such a strong volunteer base, the program remained largely closed to new applications throughout the year, with limited recruitment for As Good As New in early 2026. This allowed us to focus on supporting and retaining our existing volunteers while encouraging prospective volunteers to consider other community organizations in need of support.

Together, LCIHCS volunteers contributed approximately 7,700 hours over the past year, representing more than \$240,900 in value to the agency. Their contributions help sustain programs, events, fundraising activities and day-to-day operations throughout LCIHCS.

Our As Good As New volunteers are often the first point of contact for members of the public and serve as compassionate ambassadors for our organization. Holiday Giving volunteers dedicate tremendous time and care to coordinating donations and ensuring women and families feel supported during the holiday season. Shelter support volunteers work behind the scenes to help maintain safe, clean and welcoming spaces for women and children seeking refuge.

Across every area of the organization, volunteers bring reliability, compassion and a deep commitment to our mission. Whether their contribution is visible to the community or happens quietly behind the scenes, their work makes a meaningful difference.

To every volunteer who gave their time, energy and care this year: thank you. Your impact is felt not only in the numbers, but in the lives of the women, children and families we support.



AS GOOD AS NEW STORE

For 45 years, As Good As New has been much more than a thrift store—it has been a vital source of funding that helps sustain the work of LCIHCS. Every purchase, donation, and volunteer shift contributes directly to supporting women, children, and families through our shelter and community programs.

The store's continued success is made possible by an extraordinary team of more than 40 dedicated volunteers. Their commitment, enthusiasm, and countless hours of service create a welcoming shopping experience while ensuring donated items are given a second life.

Affordability remains at the heart of our mission. As the cost of everyday goods continues to rise, more people are turning to thrift stores as a practical way to stretch their budgets without sacrificing quality. At the same time, thrifting has become increasingly popular among shoppers who value sustainability and enjoy the excitement of discovering unique, one-of-a-kind items. We remain committed to keeping our prices affordable so everyone in our community can access quality clothing and household goods.

The generosity of our community continues to grow, not only in the volume of donations we receive but also in their diversity. While clothing remains a cornerstone of our donations, we also receive an incredible variety of unique items—from collections of Hummel figurines to beautiful floral planters generously donated by Ramsay Creek. This ever-changing inventory keeps the store fresh and inviting, giving customers a reason to visit often in search of their next special find. The variety of donations also allows us to serve a broader range of shoppers while maximizing the value of every donation.

We also continue to support our community partners by re-donating items whenever possible, ensuring that donations have the greatest possible impact. As a green business, we are proud to extend the life of thousands of items each year, reducing waste and helping divert usable goods from local landfills.

Our Thursday sale days remain the busiest shopping days of the week. This year, the store achieved a revenue increase of 14%. Looking over the past decade, sales have grown by 89% between 2015 and 2026. This growth reflects changing shopping habits, economic realities, increasing environmental awareness, the moderate price increases implemented in the 2024/25 fiscal year and the continued popularity of second-hand shopping.



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Resource Development builds and sustains the fundraising, donor relationships, community partnerships and grant opportunities that help make LCIHCS' work possible. With government funding covering approximately 60 per cent of our organizational needs, community support is essential to sustaining programs, responding to emerging needs and ensuring women and children impacted by gender-based violence can access support when they need it.

This was an exceptional year of community generosity and fundraising success. Alongside the continued growth of LCIHCS' signature fundraising events, we developed new community partnerships, benefited from the ongoing commitment of long-standing donors and received transformational support for our shelter.

Our second annual Golf Fore Change Tournament raised more than \$22,000, while Violet Femmes raised a record \$60,000 — more than double the previous year's total. A significant part of this year's success was the generosity of an anonymous donor who offered to match funds raised, inspiring our community to make their contributions go even further. We were also honoured to be selected as the charity recipient for the Carleton Place Dragon Boat Festival, creating a new opportunity to raise funds, increase awareness and connect with our community. The festival raised an incredible \$7,000.

Most significantly, the RONA Foundation's Build From the Heart campaign raised an extraordinary \$300,000 for LCIHCS. This transformational investment is supporting significant improvements to our shelter, including the replacement of windows and doors and upcoming kitchen renovations.

Resource Development helps bridge the significant gap between government funding and the true cost of providing comprehensive gender-based violence services. Community-raised funds help sustain programs without dedicated funding, support improvements to our shelter, provide practical necessities to clients and give LCIHCS the flexibility to respond to needs that do not always fit within traditional funding agreements.

Beyond the financial impact, community support sends an important message to survivors. Every donation, sponsorship, fundraising event and community partnership demonstrates that women and children experiencing gender-based violence are valued and supported by their community.

Community donations make an enormous difference to LCIHCS, and we are particularly grateful for the individuals, businesses and organizations that continue to support us year after year. Long-standing supporters such as Jeff Julian Desjardins Insurance regularly provide food and other necessities for women and children, while the Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills continues its annual support, including a generous \$3,000 contribution following this year's Women's Fair.



Born and raised in Carleton Place, I appreciate the need for a strong community and supporting various local charities and organizations, is my way of helping build that strong community. I have a daughter and enjoy being around family... especially my grandsons, Beau and Colt, and my God children, Anthony and Bella. I can't imagine what would happen if she or the kids were involved in domestic violence. There is a need for a safe place for women and children in Lanark County ...its unfortunate, but a reality.

- JEFF JULIAN, DESJARDINS INSURANCE AGENT & REGULAR LCIHCS DONOR



We were also grateful for significant support this year from the Ottawa Young Construction Leaders, whose annual golf tournament resulted in a \$20,000 donation; Thomas Cavanagh Construction Limited, which contributed \$5,000 during International Women's Month; local Independent Grocer partners, Matt and Cress Barnabe of Perth, who provided \$5,000 in grocery gift cards; Royal Canadian Legion Smiths Falls; Super Save Ottawa; and many other local businesses, service clubs, organizations and individuals. These contributions come in many forms — financial gifts, groceries, gift cards, household necessities, sponsorships, holiday gifts and countless other acts of generosity. Each provides important flexibility to respond to the needs of the women and children we serve.

Our annual holiday campaign was another powerful demonstration of community care. Individuals, businesses and community groups provided gifts, food, financial donations and holiday treats, helping create meaningful traditions and moments of joy for women and children during a time of year that can be particularly difficult for those experiencing intimate partner violence.

Rising costs continued to increase the financial pressures associated with operating a 24-hour shelter and delivering comprehensive programs across Lanark County. At the same time, the needs of women and families accessing LCIHCS services remained significant and increasingly complex. Successful fundraising initiatives, grant opportunities, strong community partnerships and the generosity of donors helped LCIHCS respond to these pressures while continuing to provide comprehensive services and practical supports.

Government funding covers approximately 60 per cent of LCIHCS' organizational needs, leaving a significant gap that must be addressed through fundraising, grants, donations, partnerships and social enterprise revenue.

Community-generated funding is particularly important for essential areas of our work that do not have dedicated funding, including the Volunteer Program, Public Education, Communications and Resource Development. Revenue from As Good As New, alongside fundraising and community donations, provides much-needed flexibility to sustain this work and respond to emerging needs.

The truth is, without the ongoing and extraordinary support of our community, LCIHCS would not have sustained more than four decades of service. From transformational grants and major fundraising events to regular food donations, purchases at As Good As New, monthly gifts and donations of everyday necessities, our community continues to show that survivors of gender-based violence matter and that supporting them is a shared responsibility.

Fundraising is not separate from our frontline work — it helps make that work possible. Every contribution strengthens our ability to provide safety, support, advocacy and hope while sustaining programs and services that might otherwise go unfunded. Year after year, our community continues to show up for women and children. We could not do this work without them.



THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY

These organizations make it possible for us to run a number of our programs including Second Stage Housing, The Sexual Assault Support Program, Public Education, Resource Development and The Volunteer Program. We wouldn't be the agency we are without the support of these organizations and their people. Thank you for being the Champions our clients need!

CHAMPIONS IN THE FIGHT TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (\$20,000+)



United Way
Lanark County



& DR. KATE STOLEE



PROTECTORS IN THE FIGHT TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (\$10,000+)



MARY BROWNE ROYAL LEPAGE TEAM REALTY
JENNIFER AUNGER-RITCHIE ROYAL LEPAGE ADVANTAGE REAL ESTATE
THOMAS ELLIS

SUPPORTERS IN THE FIGHT TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (\$5,000+)



JEFF JULIAN, DESJARDINS INSURANCE AGENT
ROBERT WINTER PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
BRENDA DERBYSHIRE

MCNEELY CONTRACTING
JIM NOBLE RBC NOBLE WEALTH MANAGEMENT
MOBILE WINDOW TINTING

ALLIES IN THE FIGHT TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Almonte Community Presbyterian Church
Ash & Arbour Tattoo Co.
Bean Motors
Beauties of the Beast
CC's on the Rideau
Canadian Tire Gas Bar Carleton Place
Carleton Place Civitan Club
Carleton Place Royal Canadian Legion
CFUW Perth & District
Chiropractic Care & Longevity Centre
Costco

Donna MacDonald Ottawa Mortgage Market –
Mortgage Alliance
Grand Hotel Carleton Place
Janice Weber
Kiwanis Club of Perth-on-Tay
Lanark County Crime Stoppers
Laura Keller Real Estate Team
Ottawa Basketeers
Perth Civitan Club
Perth Lioness Club
Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills
Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 240

Scotiabank Carleton Place
Scotiabank Home Financing Solutions
Scotiabank Perth
Scotiabank Smiths Falls
Shelter Movers Ottawa
Sideshift
St. Andrew's Church Perth
St. Paul's Church Almonte
Town of Smiths Falls
Smiths Falls Curling Club