

2022-
2023

ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



As part of our governance role, The DASO board completed the task of policy review for the organization. With the direction of Janny Hughes Consulting, the board looked at policy and procedures for the organization. As part of Ontario Not-for-profit Corporation Act, we also undertook the revision of our by-laws to ensure that DASO remains in compliance.

The DASO board of directors hired the firm of The Pod Group to guide us through a Strategic Planning Process. As a vital resource for domestic abuse issues in our community, we want to ensure that our programs and services continue to be effective, innovative, and responsive, while ensuring women's rights and gender equity remain at the forefront.

On behalf of the Board of Directors at DASO, we truly thank our service users, staff, community partners for their input and engagement in helping us shape our future. Through everyone's efforts, I am pleased to share that we have developed four new strategic objectives that will guide us over the next three years!

We are excited to present our new mission, vision, and strategic plan in the fall of 2023 as we continue to embrace the health and well-being of all women in our community! Sadly, it is time to say goodbye to two of our long-standing board members, Danielle Paluska and Pam Hagen. Both women have worked tirelessly during their six years on the board. I thank both for their hard work over the years as well as their dedication to ending the cycle of domestic abuse.

Lastly, I want to thank Diane Harris, executive director and the amazing staff that work the frontlines of DASO. Each of you have truly made a positive difference in the lives of women and children.

Warmly,
Sue Hodgins,
Chair, Board of Directors.



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This past year has been another busy year. Domestic Abuse Services Oxford continues to provide confidential, over-the-phone and in-person support services to service users in the shelter, as well as a range of practical, compassionate support services 24/7 - 365 days of the year through our crisis line.

As we begin our 50th year of service, the calls for safety and support continues to be at an all-time high. While the needs continue and the challenges become more complex, I want to applaud our dedicated staff on the front lines, who work tirelessly to help women through the most difficult times. Women who have come into shelter have built up the courage to say, "no more", by taking the courageous steps needed to change their lives. While this can be the most dangerous of times, their safety is our first priority.

This year through assistance through the County of Oxford, we introduced an Intake Coordinator. Since the pandemic, a significant number of women have reported needing assistance navigating counselling services and long waitlists. This program received positive feedback while supporting individuals with brief system navigation and referrals, triaging information including initial risk assessment and safety planning resulting in a more seamless approach with an appropriate response time.

We revamped our Outreach Counselling Program to a Community Support Program and in January started taking referrals. Since January 1, 25 women received one-to-one counselling. 44 participants enrolled in group work on topics such as power & control, healthy relationships, trauma, healthy boundaries, emotional and physical safety and selfcare. This program is also offered in Tillsonburg one day per week out of the Livingston Centre.

I would like to celebrate all the staff that come together at DASO who work for change in helping the broader community understand, identify, and combat gender-based violence. I am proud to be a part of this amazing team.

Thank you to the board of directors for their ongoing support, their time and energy to ensure that DASO fulfills its commitment to women and children in Oxford County who courageously choose to leave a life of violence and abuse.

Sincerely,
Diane Harris,
Executive Director.

Our Vision

A world with gender equity for all.

Our Mission

To provide effective, efficient, and accountable services for women and children who have been impacted by gender-based violence in Oxford County.

Our Strategic Priorities for 2023-26

Maximizing Impact Together: Leverage community partnerships and collaboration to build capacity, increase access and eliminate barriers.

Fostering a Culture of Success: Strengthen culture, capacity and EDIB through staff engagement, training, and accountability.

Empowering Women: Enhance and expand services to support to meet the complex, changing and emerging needs of all women and the community.

Stronger Together: Increase awareness, advocacy, and education of violence against women by meaningfully engaging with the community.

Annual Statistics

63

Women called
DASO their
home

56

Children called
DASO their
home

42 Days

Average length
of stay

95%

Occupancy for
the Year

2881

calls for help to
the crisis line

That
translates to
7 calls every
day

103

Women received
transitional resources
services including, but not
limited to, risk assessment,
safety planning, legal
system navigation, housing
and court support

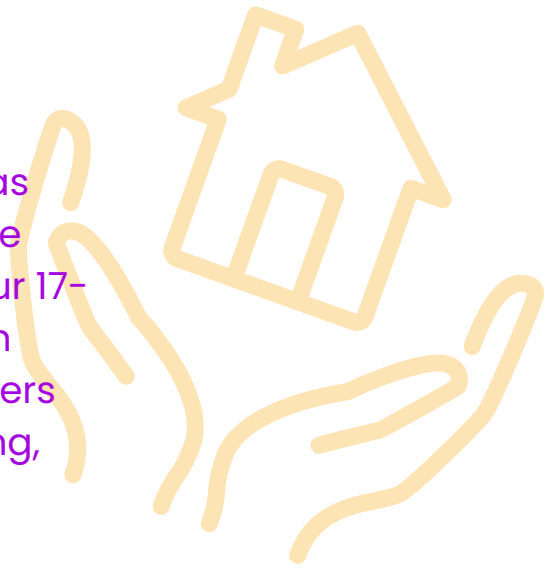
90

Women have accessed
the Intake Coordinator
Program since October 1
to March 31

Programs and Services

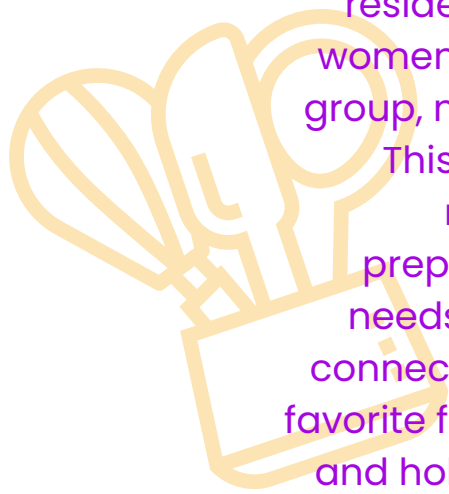
Residential Program (Shelter Services)

The Residential program is safe, secure accommodation for women identifying as women (with or without children) who are impacted by gender-based violence. Our 17-bed shelter is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week 365 days a year. Service users receive individual support, safety planning, information, and referrals as well as assistance customized to needs.



Kitchen Program

The Kitchen Program has become an integral part of our residential program. Not only does this program nourish women and children, it also interacts by supporting every group, meeting, theme night with the most delicious food. This program handles the many food donations, while making crucial connections with donors. Planning, preparing and grocery shopping for the many different needs in terms of sensitivities, and pallets. This program connects women and families through food by recreating favorite family recipes and embracing diverse celebrations and holidays as well as supporting with valuable life skills, safe food handling practices and budgeting ideas.



Transitional Resource Program

The transitional resource program helps women affected by abuse to overcome barriers as they start new, violence-free lives by providing advocacy, goals planning, safety planning, court support and assistance with housing. Staff are available to meet with women either at the shelter or in their own communities with Oxford County



Programs and Services

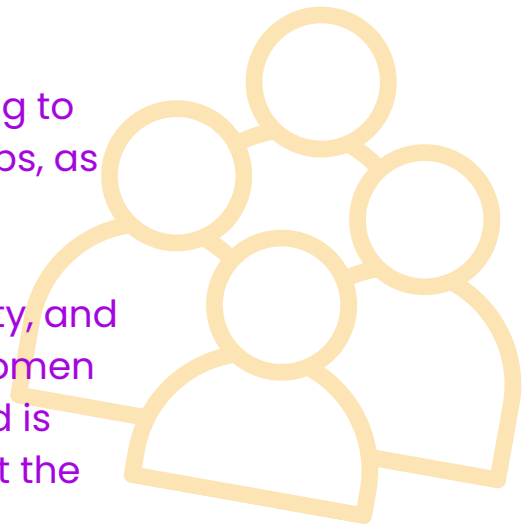


24/7 Crisis Line

The 24/7 crisis/help line is available to individuals in Oxford County who are in crisis or who need help, support and information about any issue involving domestic abuse. It is also open to anyone in the community who has questions about abuse or is concerned about a friend, family member, neighbour or co-worker.

Community Support Program

This program offers one to one counselling to women who have left abusive relationships, as well as groups on topics such as power & control, healthy relationships, trauma, boundaries, emotional and physical safety, and self-care. This program is available to women living anywhere within Oxford County, and is offered in Tillsonburg one day per week at the Livingston Centre.



Family Court Support Program

Court support services are offered collaboratively by DASO, Ingamo Homes, Family Violence Counselling Program and Victim Services of Oxford County. Court Support staff at DASO work with existing services for victims of domestic violence to ensure clients have access to the supports they need at every stage of the family court process. This service will facilitate the client's understanding and navigation of the family court system.



Programs and Services

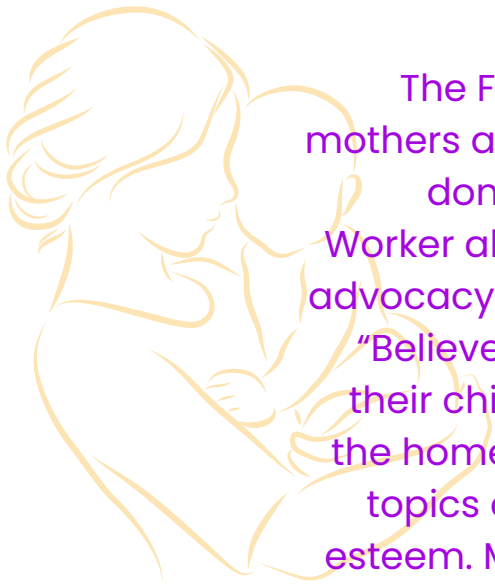
Intake Coordinator

This is a new program offered due to a number of women seeking assistance navigating counselling services in our community who have long waitlists for service. We have received good results supporting individuals with brief system navigation and referrals. There has been a positive impact on outreach programs by providing detailed, thorough and triaged information including initial risk assessment and safety planning resulting in a more seamless, timeless, appropriate response for the individual.



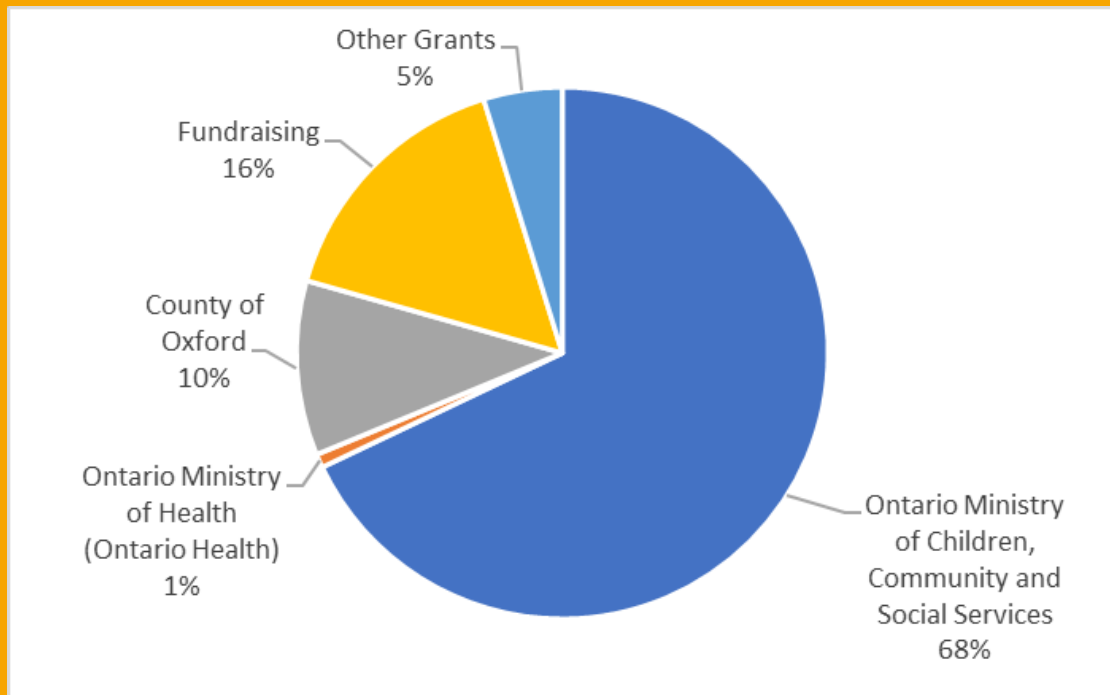
Family Support Program

The Family Support Program provides support for mothers and their children to aid in the transition from domestic violence to safety. The Family Support Worker also provides children's activities, respite, and advocacy with community partners. This program ran "Believe in Me" group twice this fiscal for moms and their children who have been exposed to violence in the home. The families meet weekly for 10 weeks with topics on anger control, conflict resolution, and self esteem. Moms and kids have separate time and joint time to connect through this program material.



Annual Finance Report

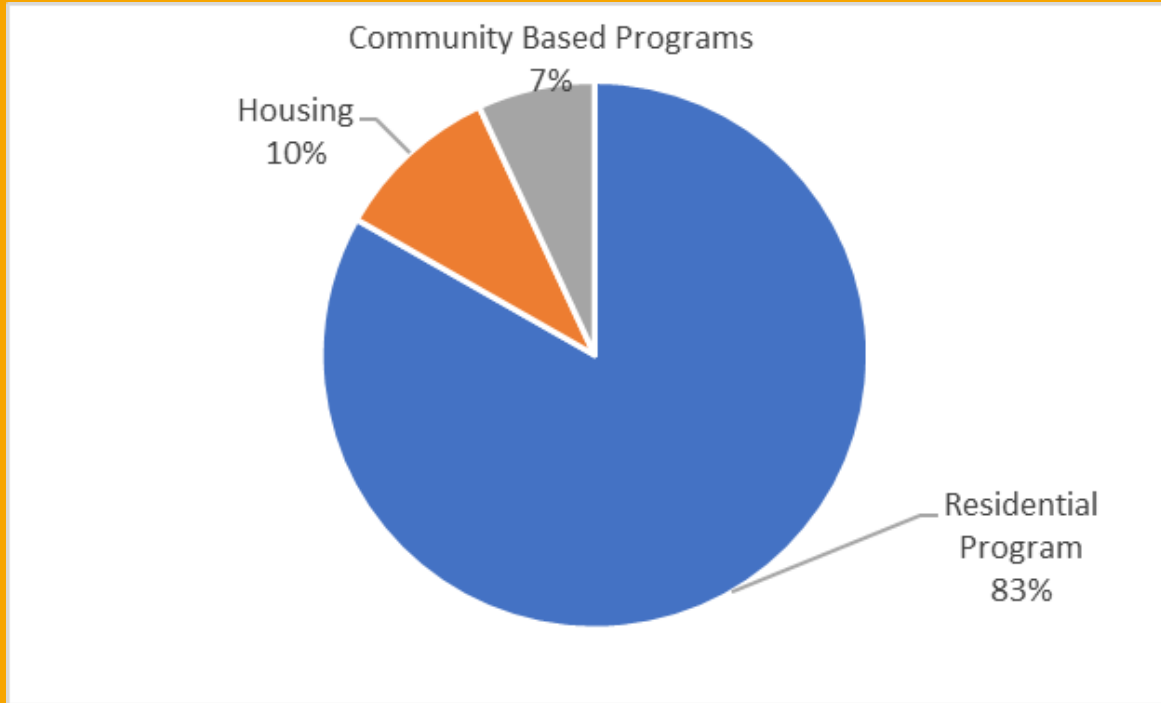
Revenue



Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services	1,088,555
Ontario Ministry of Health (Ontario Health)	13,372
County of Oxford	170,250
Fundraising	253,441
Other Grants	76,733
Total	1,602,351

Annual Finance Report

Expenses



Residential Program	1,132,278
Housing	133,731
Community Based Programs	94,250
Total	1,360,259

Board of Directors

Susan Hodgins
Chair

Pat Coad
Vice Chair

**Courtney
Strickler**
Treasurer

Kristen Doyle
Secretary

Danielle Paluska
Director

Shari Vindasius
Director

**Alannah
Robinson-Scott**
Director

Carly Keenan
Director

Pam Hagen
Non Voting Member

Management Team

Diane Harris
Executive Director

Jennifer Weicker
Residential Program Manager

Samantha White
Communications Manager

Anne Wismer
Contracted Financial Manager

Jaime-lyn Thorne
Kitchen Supervisor

Staff Team

Alyssa R.
Christine K.
Sophia R.
Robyn D.
Sarah R.
Sarah K.
Melissa S.
Natasha M.
Jenilee M.
Rachel H.

Jess B.
Abbey G.
Cait B.
Cinnamon B.
Jodie F.
Amanda D.
****Sarah F.**
****Jenny M.**
****Alicia A.**
**** Resigned**

Fundraising EVENT

THANK YOU!



Men in Heels

Wrapped in Courage

Be the Light Mail Campaign

Pure Air Indoor Air Quality

Finkle Street Tap and Grill

Zonta Club

Home Depot Orange Door Campaign

Fashion for a Cause

Nova Steel

Unifor Bob White Annual Charity Golf Tournament
and many more third party events

Thank you to all our private donors named and un-named for supporting us in continuing to offer our programs.

We could not do it without YOU!



Electronic bank transfer of funds
(all amounts welcome) by sending
an email to donate@daso.ca.

