

2017-2018 Annual Report



**Barrie and Area Victim Crisis
Assistance and Referral Service**



Office location:

29 Sperling Drive, Barrie, ON L4M 6K9

Phone: 705-725-7025, ext. 2120

Fax: 705-727-7970

www.bavcars.ca

“Funding for this Program is provided by the Government of Ontario”

About Us

Founded in 1996, Barrie and Area Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Service is a community based, charitable, non-profit organization. We work together with local police and community agencies in our geographic area to provide early intervention crisis services in the immediate aftermath of a crime or tragedy.

Alliston
Innisfil
Tottenham
Beeton
Thornton
Barrie
Gilford
New Tecumseth
Meaford
Thornbury
Collingwood
Wasaga Beach
Midland
Penetanguishene
Bradford West
Gwillimbury
Severn Township
Oro-Medonte



From the Board Chair and Executive Director

Thank you to everyone who helped us meet our service delivery goals, and contributed to our accomplishments.

As another fiscal year comes to an end, it is with great pleasure that we provide an update on the activities of Barrie and Area Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Service for the period April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.

The organization remains staunchly committed to our clients, staff, volunteers and local stakeholders. We strive for excellence in the delivery of our services and work closely with our police partners to meet the needs of victims of crime and tragic circumstances in our area.

Modernization continues to be a priority and we endeavor to effect daily efficiencies. As police are the primary source of referrals to our organization, providing education and in-service training on our services remains a priority. We are dedicated to ensuring all victims are aware of and offered services that are available to them during times of crisis.

This year, we created a fundraising committee who are very excited about several upcoming potential fundraising events. The committee members are passionate about finding new ways to enhance public awareness while raising money for the organization. They have dedicated significant time and effort to identify fundraising opportunities to supplement government funding to help the organization as it faces increased operating costs.

The Board welcomed several new highly skilled and enthusiastic individuals to its membership. We are very excited to work with the new members and look forward to the upcoming year. As we say goodbye to some long-term directors, we thank them for their dedication to Barrie VCARS. Their knowledge and commitment was invaluable and we cannot thank them enough for their volunteer time and contribution to the Board.

Christine: It has been a privilege to be Chair of the Barrie and Area VCARS Board of Directors this past year. The dedication of the Executive Director and staff members needs to be praised as they continue to work to ensure the best possible outcome for the clients we serve. Through their commitment, they lead an elite team of volunteers. Without these volunteers, we would not be able to continue operations. They are the backbone of the organization.

Marie: As we move forward into 2018-2019, our focus will be on growing awareness and identifying ways to bolster the financial integrity of the organization. We are fortunate to be associated with so many fine partners, community agencies and volunteers. Thank you for what you have done thus far, and will do as we continue to work together to make a difference!

Christine Madden, Chair
Marie McCallum Executive Director

Board of Directors 2017-2018

Executive Officers

Christine Madden, Chair
Manager, Ontario Works

Tracey McGruthers, Vice Chair
Instructor Georgian College, Social Work program

Bob Papineau, Treasurer
Inspector, York Region Police



Directors

Simon Bradford
Coordinator police Foundations program, Georgian College

John van Dyke
Inspector, South Simcoe Police Service

Rob Burke
Inspector, Barrie Police Service

Peter Ford
Management, Business

John Ferris
Lawyer, Ferris Law

Doug Adams
Owner and Funeral Director, Adams Funeral Home

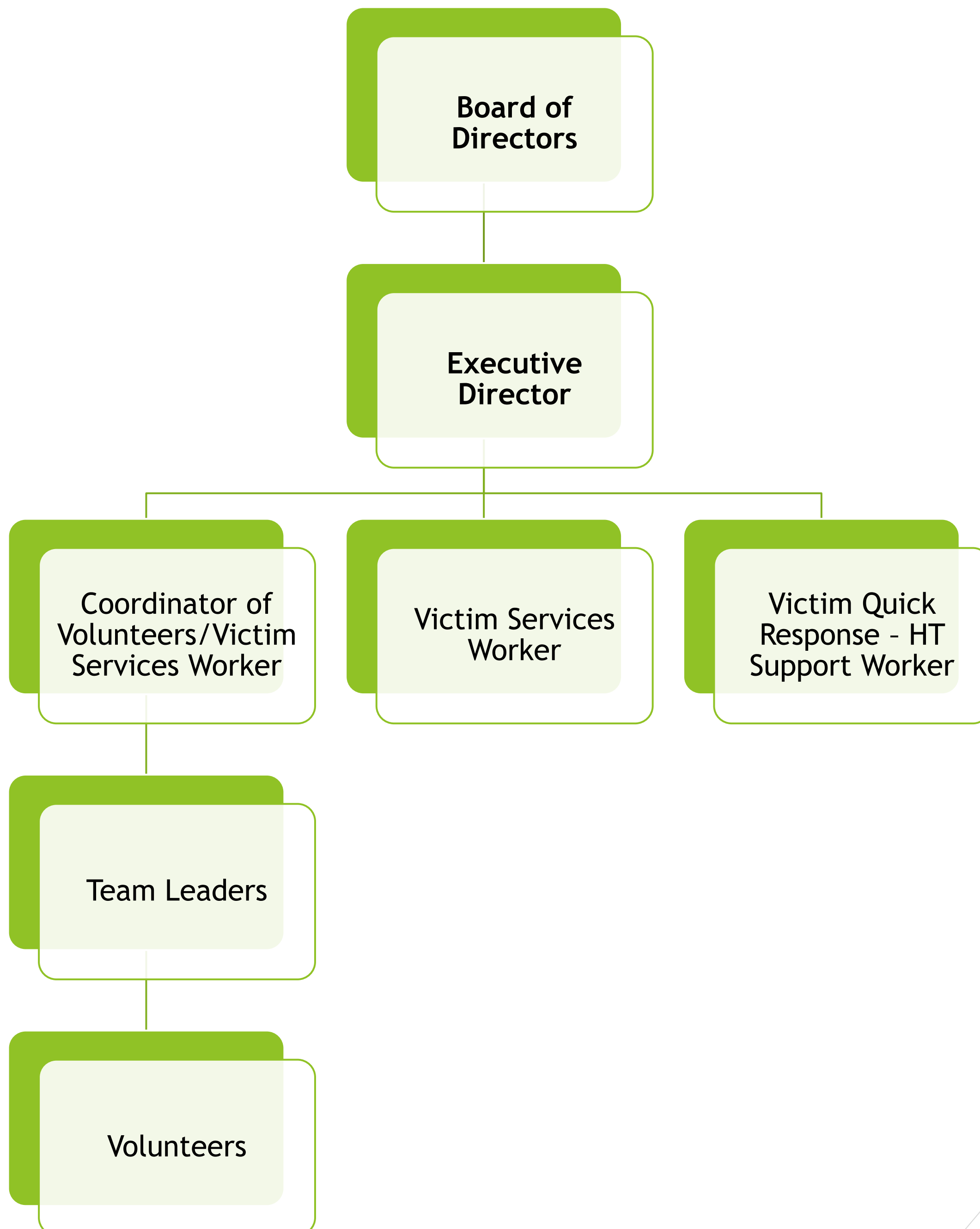
Dave Zeldin
Lawyer, Zeldin Law

Andrew Ferguson, Board Advisor
Detachment Commander, Southern Georgian Bay OPP



The Board of Directors is made up of a minimum of 9 members from across our catchment area. They volunteer to govern the organization and work with the Executive Director to ensure the organization remains financially solvent and adheres to all legislation relevant to the agency. They establish policy and contribute to the integrity of the organization by sitting on special committees: human resources, financial, fundraising, board recruitment, and other committees established on an ad hoc basis. They lead with professionalism and integrity and govern with due diligence.

Our Organizational Structure at a Glance

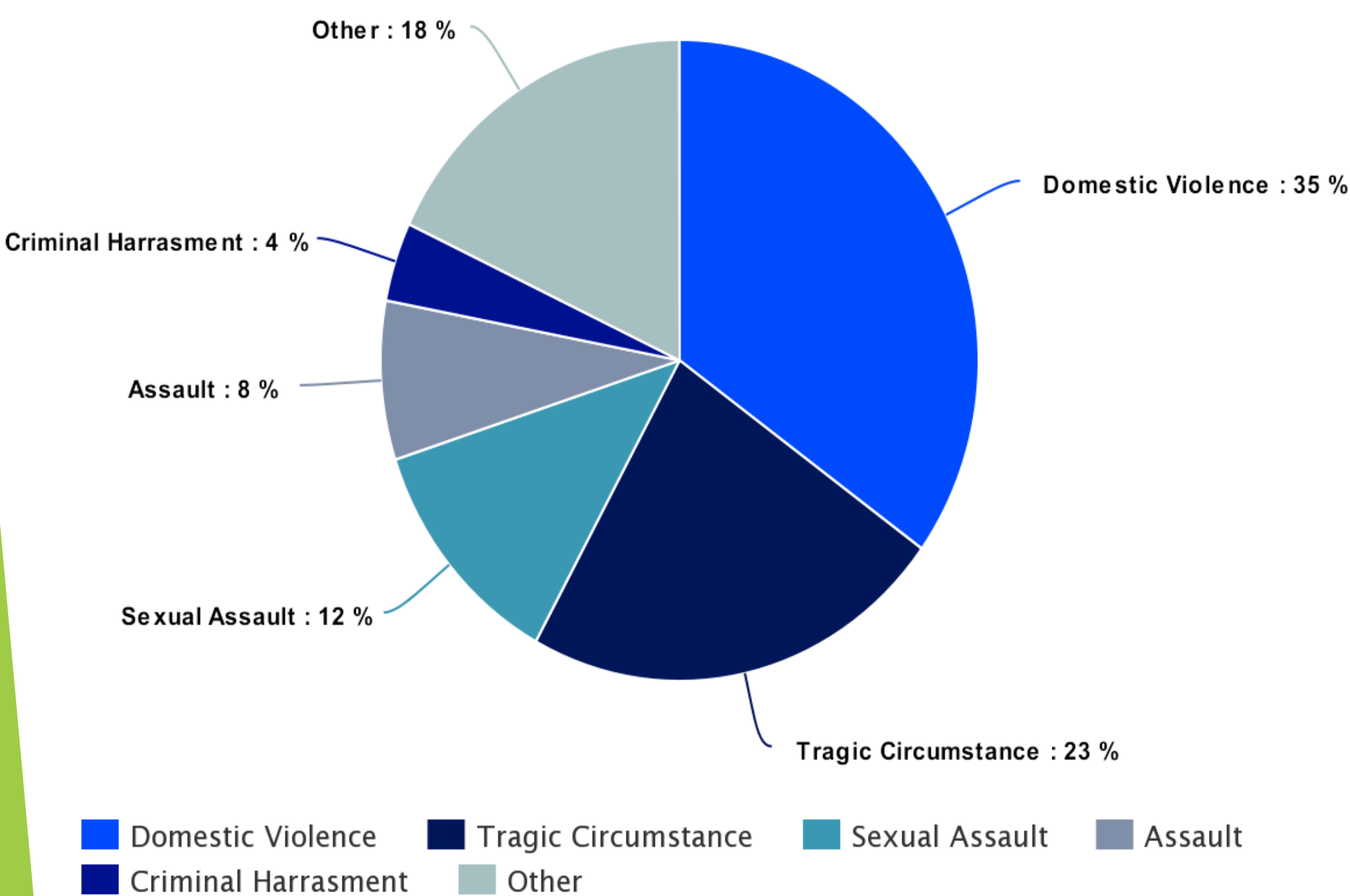


How We Help

A victim is any person who is directly or indirectly affected by a crime or tragic circumstance. The organization offers a range of early intervention supports to help individuals, families and groups cope in the aftermath of a traumatic event. These services include crisis intervention, needs assessment, practical assistance, referrals, safety planning, and follow-up.

In addition to our crisis response service, we deliver the Victim Quick Response Program to support victims of violent crimes, and the Victim Quick Response Program to help victims of human trafficking.

Barrie and Area VCARS provides immediate direct service delivery 24/7, in English, French or a range of other languages, to support victims in crisis due to physical assault, domestic violence, homicide, child abuse, sexual assault, human trafficking, hate crime, sudden death, and many more crime types and tragic situations.



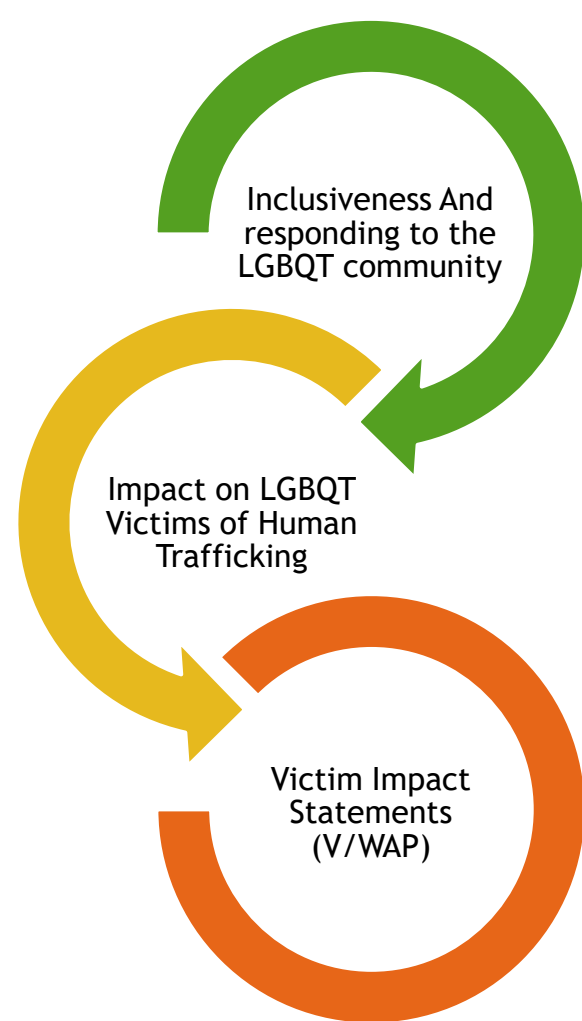
Our Volunteer Program

2017-2018 Program Highlights



VOLUNTEER HOURS DONATED IN 2017-2018 = 44,118

Professional Development



Opioids and Fentanyl



Red Cross Disaster Services



Survivors of Suicide



Rainbows

“ I was raised in a family that had deep roots in a rural small town community. Volunteerism was considered a worthwhile way to give back to the community.

In preparing for my retirement, I started thinking about what was important to me. How was I going to use my skills and experience in the future? How was I going to challenge myself? How could I volunteer in the community where my partner and I now reside?

Barrie and Area VCARS was advertising for new volunteers. I joined. VCARS is a well-managed program. The staff, scheduler, team leaders and volunteers are a dedicated group. There is excellent communication, appreciation, de-briefing and ongoing support for me as a volunteer. Victims are treated with dignity and respect. I am proud to be a VCARS volunteer.” Suzanne, July 2018

“ People choose to volunteer for many different reasons. I believe the most common reason is that volunteer work provides an opportunity to give back to the community. In addition to giving back it also provides an opportunity to use your skills in a new environment. As a retiree, I have been rewarded by providing emotional support to people who find themselves in crisis.

Volunteering allows me to be part of something beyond my normal day. My actions as a VCARS volunteer have an impact on someone else’s life. Volunteering changed my “world view” because I have had the privilege of coming into contact with people from various backgrounds. This perspective allowed me to have personal growth and to gain new insight into the struggles and lives of others.

The organization keeps me motivated through the training that they provide and through regular monthly meetings and special speakers.

As a volunteer, I choose to stay connected with VCARS because I believe it is a front-line organization that provides many different levels of support to people in their time of need. It is very rewarding to know that I am making a positive difference in the life of a hurting individual or family.

Volunteer with Barrie and Area VCARS, Shirley, 2018

Volunteers

Volunteers donated hours to participate in local events on behalf of Barrie and Area VCARS. These included:

- ▶ Wyevale Fire Department Family Fun Day
- ▶ Township of Tiny Senior's Symposium
- ▶ Memorial Service hosted by Nicholl's Funeral Home

South Simcoe Police Wellness Walk to Support Barrie VCARS



Victim Quick Response Program (VQRP)

Eligible Crime Types:

- Attempt to commit murder
- Child abuse
- Criminal harassment
- Domestic violence
- Hate crimes
- Homicide
- Serious Assault
- Sexual Assault



Financial Assistance available:

- Safety expenses
- Travel and related Expenses
- Practical Assistance Expenses
- Expenses for restoration of crime scene
- Funeral expenses for victims of homicide
- Counselling / associated transportation expenses

The Victim Quick Response Program (VQRP) offers assistance in the immediate aftermath of a violent crime to victims who require emergency financial help that cannot be obtained through other sources.

Funding for the program is provided by the Government of Ontario.

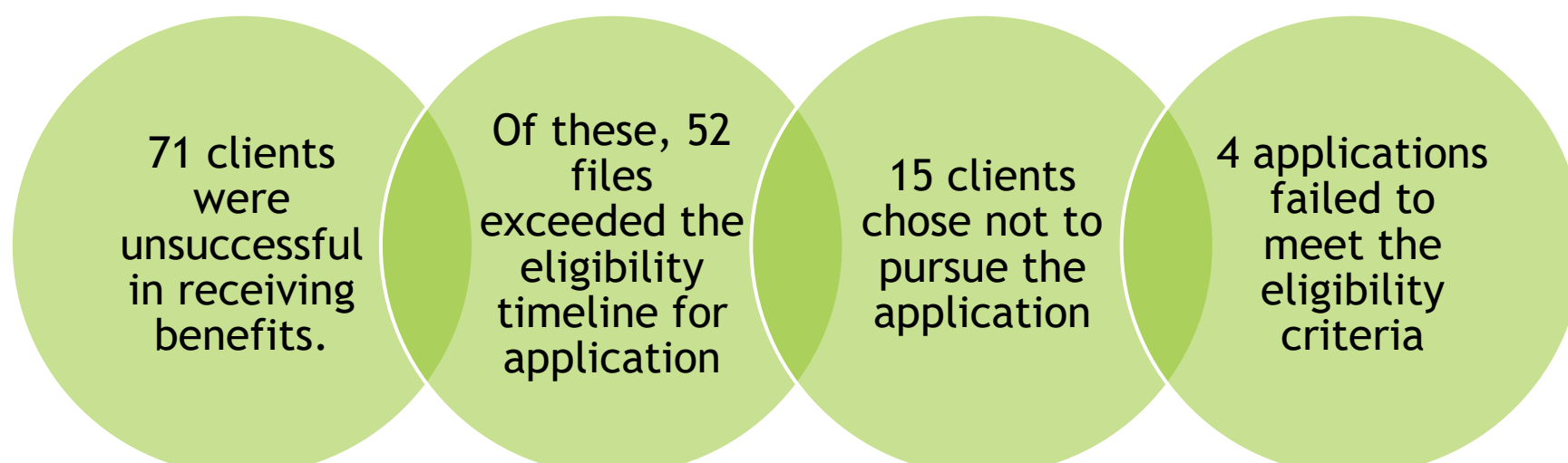
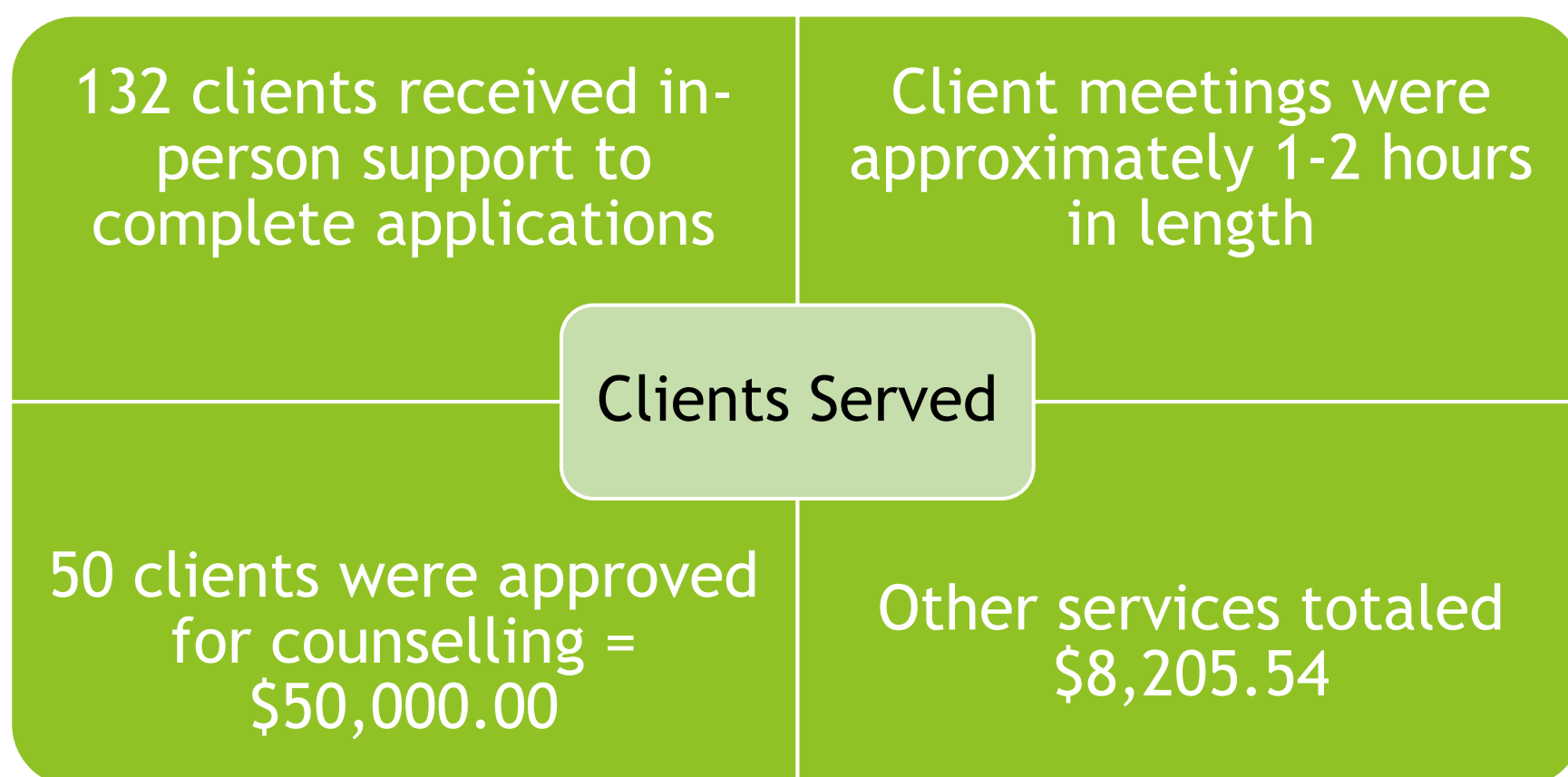
All clients receive safety planning.

Clients who were unsuccessful in receiving benefits received referrals to alternate services.

The timeline for submission of the application is discussed with clients at the first meeting. It is not unusual for staff to try to re-connect with clients to encourage them to proceed with the process of applying, but without success.

If a client is not able to be reached before the timeline expires, the file is closed.

Sometimes the difficulty relates to clients not returning phone calls, or telephone numbers out of service. Priorities may have changed for the client. Sometimes, while adjusting to life without the offender, and perhaps now solely responsible to single parenting one or more children, clients are overwhelmed with other struggles including having to move, getting a job, and making decisions alone. Others may not have the confidence or belief they are worthy of help so they give up the process.



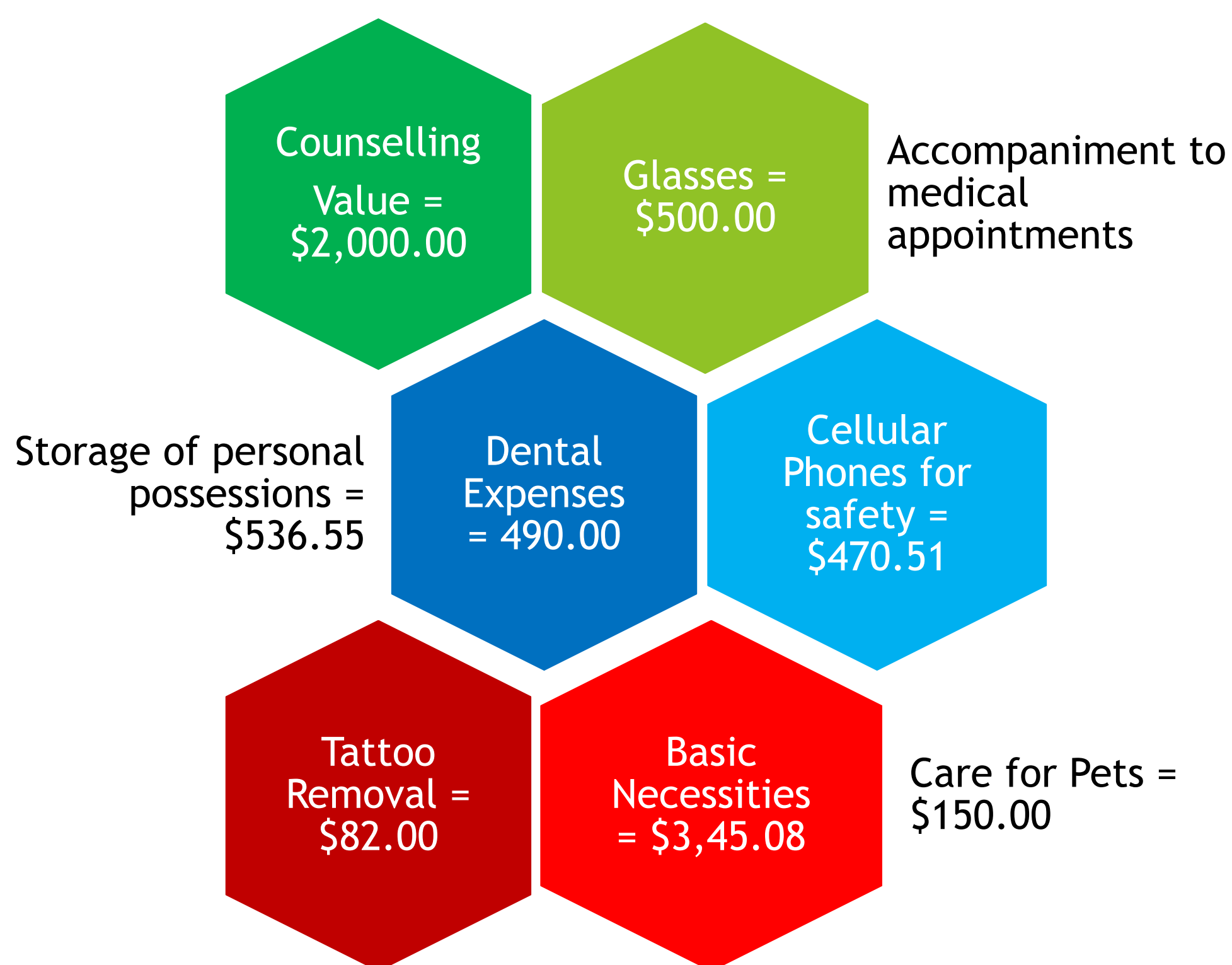
Victim Quick Response Program - Human Trafficking (VQRP-HT)

The Victim Quick Response Program provides financial assistance for eligible victims of human trafficking as well as for related witnesses and family members.

The needs of victims of human trafficking are complicated and multi-dimensional. The Ontario government is committed to providing services to support individuals who have been exploited, abused and unsafe due to human trafficking.

The VQRP-HT program offers assistance to help cover emergency financial expenses for practical and personal needs, and expenses related to safety, travel, crime scene restoration, counselling, and residential treatment.

Services to Provided to VQRP-HT Clients in 2017-2018



Emergency Accommodation

- \$2,29.10

Transportation to Safety

- \$1,606.85

Donations

“ My name is Tracey.

My heart broke into little pieces the chillingly cold morning I was told by police that my youngest sister Shellie had ben killed in a tragic car crash.

I tell you this because I can sat that with the right help and support I received from Agencies like Barrie and Area VCARS made all the difference to me and can make all the ddiference to other cvitcims of crime and tragic circumstance.

Thanks to the help I received from victim services, I was able to get through this devadtating crisis and find hope again. I have embaced a llife story of forgiveness, healing, and resilience. I have learned that I can't control the tragedies in life, but I can control how I choose to respond.

With your support, victim services can help to restore peace, balance, comfort, harmony, and a sense of safety and security in the lives of those who have experienced tragic circumstances or crime. Together we can help others suffering to find hope and have an empowering story too.

Thank you for your support of Barrie and Area Victim Crisis Assisrance and Referral Service. Your donation will give them a life line - A chance tto heal, to move forward, and to take control of their lives again.

Donations received from our community:

The Mirror, Midland - Bears that Care

Midland Minor Hockey Assn - stuffed animals

50 handmade quilts - Bonnie from Angus

Adams unreal Home - training facility

Thank you to donors and sponsors

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