



BRUCE GREY  
CHILD &  
FAMILY  
SERVICES

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017



*The bear is generally feared and admired at the same time for its strength and power.  
In Native American culture, the bear symbolizes strength, confidence and courage.*

## ENGAGED AND CARING COMMUNITIES

Our Legacy agencies offered more than two centuries of service to the Counties of Bruce and Grey. Bruce Grey Child and Family Services is proud to continue the tradition of supporting families, youth and children. On April 1st, 2017 we formally marked our first five years of service. We are proud of the accomplishments of our staff and we are grateful for the commitment to children and youth shown by our resource families and our volunteers. Together we have built a new organization that honors our rich history but is uniquely the result of our collective effort to support strong families and ensure that all children and youth are safe and well cared for. Thank you to everyone for your contribution, your tenacity, your patience and your optimism.



BRUCE GREY  
CHILD &  
FAMILY  
SERVICES

Bruce Grey Child and Family Services' **MISSION** encompasses two primary purposes.

- We are engaged and caring communities where children thrive in strong families.
- We are dedicated to the quality of life, safety and well-being of vulnerable children and youth, honouring diversity, culture and heritage.

Our organizational **VALUES** are:

- Caring
- Respect
- Integrity
- Collaboration
- Accountability

# Message from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer

In 2017, Bruce Grey Child and Family Services is proud to celebrate five years of service to the communities of Bruce and Grey.

We pause on this anniversary to reflect on the challenges that we have faced and goals we have achieved as we worked to build a new organization. We have been working hard to establish our service model and to ensure support for families while keeping community children safe.

- We have a strategic plan, organizational values, service principles and an articulated leadership framework. We are committed to a strong partnership with staff, CUPE, our Foster Parent Association, our volunteers and our community partners.
- The board represents the diversity of our community, engages with stakeholders, participates in provincial initiatives and shares a work plan that drives the work of our strategic plan. We are committed to our community.
- We are implementing Signs of Safety; a model of family engagement that is both strength-based and focused on ensuring child safety through the protective behaviors of caring adults.
- We are implementing Family Based Care, a model of service that ensures that all children are raised in a family where they can belong whether through foster, kin, customary or adoptive care.
- We are committed to serving indigenous families and children in a manner that demonstrates respect for their traditions and culture. We are on a learning journey to understand the impact of Residential Schools and the child welfare removal of children from indigenous communities in the 1960's and 70's. We are committed to reconciliation and to serving families in a helping way rather than a harmful way. We honor the leadership and the families of Saugeen First Nation and the Chippewa's of Nawash.



Don Moore  
Board Chair



Phyllis Lovell  
Chief Executive  
Officer

***“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much” Helen Keller***

- We continue to partner with community agencies in the planning for and provision of services that support vulnerable families. We participate in activities that foster collaboration, equity, inclusion and coordination.
- We have developed a Bruce Grey approach to continuous quality improvement and we publish our quality metrics.
- We are participating in sector wide activities that strengthen the provision of child welfare services across the province by reducing disparity and ensuring alignment of practices across all regions.
- We have successfully deployed to the Child Protection Information Network (CPIN) and share service data with 17 child welfare agencies across the province. We have made a significant contribution to the development, testing and implementation of this new data base which will be available to the entire province by 2020.
- We have successfully reduced our expenditures over 5 years by 11.2% in order to deal with a provincial funding reduction. We have achieved this goal without layoffs or reductions in service levels. We have been responsible stewards of public funds.

The people of Bruce Grey Child and Family Services – the board, the staff, the volunteers, our foster and adoptive and kin families are our most precious commodity. We are so grateful for their change resilience, their dedication to families and children and their commitment to our organization.



**“In every community there is work to be done.  
In every nation there are wounds to heal.  
In every heart there is the power to do it.”**

***M. Williamson***

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



***Back row left:*** Gerald Glover, Gordon Hammer, (Secretary), James Rice, Don Porterfield, George Sanz (Treasurer), Douglas Pollington, Selwyn Hicks (Chair Elect)

***Front row left:*** Christena Dawson, Donna Jansen, Don Moore (Chair), David Wyles (Past Chair), Gary Harron, Christine John



BGCFS's challenge in the first decade of operation is focused on building organizational capacity and maturity in all aspects of its work. The Board of Directors has developed a cohesive and strategic decision making tradition, and the work of the board committees is focused on developing strong community and stakeholder relationships and supporting the leadership team of BGCFS to build service excellence and community accountability.

Our Strategic Plan allows us to better describe what our mandate is, where we are going and what our priorities must be over the next 3 years. In particular, it identifies our role in the broader child and youth service system, the focus of our services, and how we partner with others to provide for child safety and child well-being within our community. By acting on this Strategic Plan, BGCFS will move closer to our long-term vision expressed in the following statement:

**ENGAGED AND CARING COMMUNITIES WHERE CHILDREN THRIVE  
IN STRONG FAMILIES**



# STRATEGIC DIRECTION #1

**BGCFS will be a cohesive organization that lives its values and has a culture of service, engagement and empowerment.**

## **Partnering with Hope Grey Bruce**

Bruce Grey Child and Family Services is pleased to partner with Hope Grey Bruce in supporting parents and children in our communities.

In 2013, Hope Grey Bruce (addiction/mental health services) obtained Ministry of Health funding to hire two staff for The Pregnant and Parenting Program. The focus of the program is to support women who are pregnant/parenting young children and those that struggle with opiate and other substances use. The Hope Grey Bruce staff work together with BGCFS child protection staff in meeting with women and children in their homes and with their individual expertise, assess what services are needed to support the safety of children while recognizing the parent's substance use.

Hope Grey Bruce Staff also promoted the collaboration of community agencies through the development of the Substance Involved Mom's (SIMS) Committee with 22 members from 14 different community agencies, includes Public Health, Violence Against Women Services, Keystone, Grey Bruce Health Services pregnancy clinic, Midwives, etc. This collaboration of front line and management staff allows for education, training, determining and overcoming barriers for service, networking between agencies to understand roles and expectations of services that will enhance the work of front line staff with women and children.

Through these initiatives, there has been an increased understanding of the role of child protection services in the community and BGCFS' goal to support children within their family units where possible with the support of community partners.

**Judy Moir, Supervisor of Protection Services**

# STRATEGIC DIRECTION #1

BGCFS will be a cohesive organization that lives its values and has a culture of service, engagement and empowerment



## CONNECTIONS MATTER

We work with community partners and families to ensure children maintain important connections.

Over 870 children were receiving community based services on March 31, 2017!



Families and Children Participating in Community Based Services

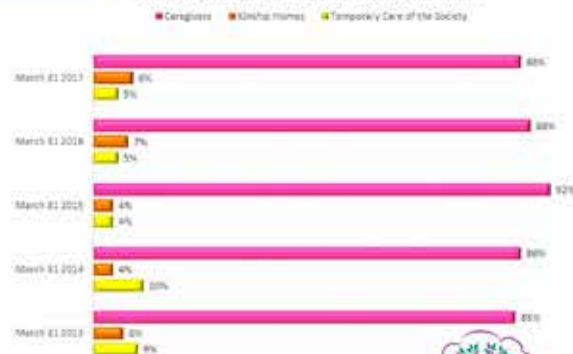


We work together to create safe solutions for children and youth



94% of children and youth served were receiving services while living with a parent or family member on March 31 2017!

Where do children live while we work with them?







## **Welcome to a Career in Child Welfare**

In high school, I realized that I wanted more than anything to be a part of helping children to feel supported, secure and safe. I recognized that as a child welfare worker, I would have the ability to help parents make positive changes in their families' lives as well as be there in a supportive way when it is needed for children to come into care. It was also the structure of the job that attracted me as I like to work in a fast paced environment where I continue to learn and feel challenged. No family is ever the same and I enjoy working with a dynamic group of individuals on a daily basis.

I completed my Social Service Worker Diploma in the hopes of working as a Family Resource Worker for BGCFS. I worked in the field of social services including a contract position with Legacy Grey CAS. When my contract ended, I was employed with the Y Housing Support Program in Owen Sound for 7 years. My role as a Housing Support Worker provided me with an incredible knowledge of community resources that has now proven to be invaluable in my new position at BGCFS. During that time, I attended University and attained my Bachelor of Social Work Degree.

One of the most enjoyable parts of my job at BGCFS is being out on the road meeting with families and helping to support them while they are experiencing difficult times in their lives. My goal with the families that I work with is to provide resources/knowledge to help remove feelings of isolation and to engage the families in building relationships in their own communities.

Being new to a large organization felt intimidating to me, until I walked through the door on my first day and was greeted with an immense amount of support, knowledge and an incredible amount of caring from staff. I have never before met a staff group that shows so much respect and encouragement to one another.

Since I began my career as a Child Protection Worker a year and a half ago, I have been faced with having to make decisions that affect the lives of families and children. I put a lot of thought and care into every decision I have to make because that is what the families and children that we work with deserve.

**Laura Schwindt, Child Protection Worker for 1 year**



## **An Acknowledgement in Child Welfare**

My mother worked for Niagara Child and Family Services for many years in a role similar to a Family Resource Worker (FRW). As I watched her struggle with challenging families and stressful court work; I in my youthful wisdom stated that no matter where I worked in social work, I would not work for a Children's Aid Society (CAS). I have learned to never say never!

Prior to moving to this area and joining Bruce Children's Aid Society, I worked in Hamilton in hospital based social work. I worked in the areas of chronic care and emergency care. I loved my work there and loved being in the medical field. I remember clearly the one time I had to call CAS regarding a concern which arose in the ER. I was terrified!

The most enjoyable part of my job at CAS has always been the people I work with, both colleagues and clients. I have a real passion for parenting and it was a joy to be able to join with client families to work on making their family life better. I also learned many important lessons for my own life. I appreciate the support and friendships I have been gifted with from my colleagues (staff & foster parents).

There have been terrifying times, heart-wrenching times and times of celebration throughout my 20 year career in child welfare. It has been a great privilege for me to do this work and provide support to families and children.

**Bruce Grey Child and Family Services thanks Kaia Kontrimas for 20 years of Service as she retires in September 2017**

## A Volunteer Story



I believe in supporting my community. It takes all of us to make our communities safe and supportive and that makes a community a strong, healthy and thriving environment. I was raised in one of these communities and still feel those strong attachments.

We live in a rural climate where public transportation is very limited and adds stress to our vulnerable citizens. I enjoy meeting people and also like to drive and that makes volunteering for BGCFS a perfect match for me.

**Marlene Moore, Volunteer**



## STRATEGIC DIRECTION #2

**As good stewards, we will seek innovative opportunities and balance our needs and resources to be sustainable.**



Summer camp gives children the opportunities to try new activities, meet new friends and have the wonderful experience of just being a kid. Summer camp enables children to develop more social skills that help them make new friends, grow more independent and show more leadership qualities, as well as become more adventurous and willing to try new things.

It is always exciting for staff to meet up with the children after their camp experience and hear what they have to say. Prior to Christmas last year a sibling group of two both told their worker the only thing they “wanted for Christmas was to be able to go back to camp next summer”. For children who experienced camp the previous year it is not uncommon for them to continuously ask their worker if they could go again next year.

“Going to camp is an experience I deeply value. Going to camp was so much fun and I learned so much about myself like I am not afraid of heights anymore! I got to explore new areas and take new opportunities in a safe environment where people did not judge me. I felt accepted among others who came from different backgrounds than my own. My friends and counsellors at camp felt like my extended family. I believe that any child who has the opportunity to attend summer camp should jump at it. Camp for me was an extremely fun environment and I can’t wait to go again!” **Emma and Michael**



## Strategic Direction #2

As good stewards, we will seek innovative opportunities and balance our needs and resources to be sustainable

Our Kids Bruce Grey Child & Family Services Foundation provides funding for us to support two important initiatives

### Winter Warmth

699

children and youth were provided with snowsuits and winter coats to keep them warm this winter



177

Children and youth attended day camp or overnight camp in 2016!

9 Different Over Night Camps

16 Different Day Camps

\$50,025 spent on children and youth!







## **A Family's Story**

Angela is a hardworking, energetic, single mother of two children. Elizabeth is six years old and Dylan just turned four. It has been a difficult year for Angela. She has been married to Mark for three years. Last year Mark lost his job when his employer retired and closed the business. Mark was not able to find a new job and he began to manage his stress and disappointment by drinking.

Angela and Mark began to have marriage problems. There was an altercation and the neighbors called the Police. The police called BGCFS. Angela asked Mark to leave the home. Mark was devastated by the separation and went to his family doctor for help. Mark was referred to addiction treatment and the Partner Assault Program. He has slowly been rebuilding his life and Mark and Angela think that they will reunite when Mark is at a strong point in his recovery.

Angela has been meeting with a BGCFS staff person who has been supporting both her and Mark to rebuild their lives. It has been difficult emotionally and financially. This fall, the family received:

- support from the United Way backpack program for school supplies;
- support from Jumpstart to attend a recreation program at the Owen Sound YMCA; and,
- support from BGCFS to get new winter outdoor clothing.

The community, through the generosity of donors helped with this family's safety and recovery. The support assisted Angela to keep her children, warm, ready for school and swimming with other kids. She could not have managed the cost of these things on her income from her retail job. Angela also felt encouraged by this support and she said it helped her to be optimistic about the future.

Elizabeth and Dylan look great and feel warm in their new snowsuits. They love the Buzz Light Year and Dora backpacks and they both look forward to the nights they go for swimming lessons because it is so much fun.

BGCFS is happy to be a part of this family's success!

**Angela and Mark**

# STRATEGIC DIRECTION #3

**We will focus and reorient for service excellence in delivering a family-centered service experience.**

## **Making a Family for Violet**

Our journey toward adoption began a long time ago, even before we made the choice to add a little person to our family by this method. Both our families have a history with adoption, which strongly influenced our perspectives both as individuals and as a couple. We always considered adoption to be something we wanted to explore but didn't ever quite make the leap to acting on it. Our family is firmly grounded in our faith and we both felt moved in the autumn of 2015 that the timing was right to begin taking steps with the belief that the opportunity for us to help someone would present itself if we made ourselves available to it.

We joined a PRIDE class in the spring of 2016 and we were blessed to meet some very special individuals, some challenged our preconceptions, some supported us when things got hard, some encouraged us to focus on our strengths as a couple and some were a help just by walking through all the same things beside us. PRIDE managed to take a subject we thought we were comfortable with and challenged us in ways we did not expect. It has its high points and its low points for sure but we both agree that you come out of the course much stronger for the journey it takes you on.

While we were waiting to complete our home study, a mutual friend introduced us to a foster family who was taking care of a very special little girl. We spoke with our worker who had already been reviewing us as a potential match. This looked like the providence we were always certain we would find ourselves eventually; we just weren't expecting it so soon. We tried our best to keep our expectations in check as we set up an informal meeting to get to know each other but as soon as this little angel was brought into the room we knew that she was the little person our family was meant to help. The love from our family and friends has been amazing as everyone has provided us with so much support and encouragement as we welcomed this miracle into our lives.

**Philip and Rebecca**

## Strategic Direction #3

**We will focus and reorient for service excellence in delivering family-centred service experience.**

**87%** of children and youth in Society Care have resided in **Family Based Care** Consistently for the last 5 years!



**5 out of 10** children and youth who enter Society care **LEAVE SOCIETY CARE** within **12 months**

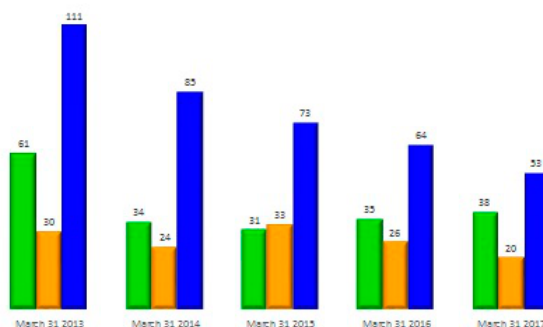


We have created partnerships with **MORE** Foster Parents than Children in Care. This allows us to **INTENTIONALLY** match children with foster parents when they do need to be in Society Care, ensuring the child's unique needs can be met.

**We ensure services are provided to each child/youth in a manner that is age appropriate and reflective of his or her individual needs.**



Ages of Children and Youth in Society Care  
■ # of children age 0-5 ■ # of children age 6-11 ■ # of youth age 12-17



## **A Foster Parent's Story**

My heart for children who needed someone to care for them in their time of need began when I was a young teen. I had heard about the war in Rwanda that left children homeless and parentless and I longed to help to make a difference. This passion has stayed with me and is one I have been convincing the rest of my family to join me on for years. It was in an ad in the newspaper that read: 'Foster parents needed in your area' that refueled the passion. Our decision to foster and perhaps adopt came from realizing that there are children in our own community who need to feel safe and loved while their parents journey to resolve their own issues so they can meet the needs of their children. Our family agreed to lay down some of our own wants and desires, often resulting in a bit of a sacrifice, but also with so much joy for others.

The most rewarding part in being able to be a foster parent is seeing the children in our home responding to feeling safe and loved. Watching them grow in trust, to see the changes in their eyes from the fear they felt to be replaced with trust, joy, love and assurance. The most challenging part isn't helping them to adjust and be all they can be, it is in letting them go. All the unknowns that follow them when they leave your care and the many questions we ask ourselves: will they be afraid? will they think that now we have abandoned them? are they safe? do they know that our love for them was real? are they happy? When the children in your care leave your home, they forever take a part of you and your heart with them. Although we often ask ourselves was this worth it, in time we always say yes. We are making a difference by providing love and safety, even if we never see know the final result.

As foster parents, we always try to see life through the eyes of the parent(s). It is only choices and circumstances that separate our lives from theirs. Anyone of us could be on that same road and who are we to judge? So in light of that, we try to show the parents respect and support in our words, thoughts and actions. It can be hard to do when we see how a parent's choices affect their children but this is when our faith helps us towards love and grace.

**Amanda & Adam Nickell**





## STRATEGIC DIRECTION #4

**We will be a trusted community presence and work in partnership for best outcomes. We are committed to open dialogue with First Nation communities that facilitates mutual understanding.**

### A Youth's Story

Taylor is a young adult who attends Humber College in Toronto. She has completed her first year in the Child & Youth Care program and is looking forward to her third semester of school. Taylor is a determined young woman who's wish is to give back to her community.

Upon graduation, Taylor plans to work with youth in care. Taylor is thankful for the continued support from her workers and for the BGCFS Bursary Program that is administered through Bruce Grey Child and Family Services. The bursary program is made possible through generous donations from organizations and individuals in the community.

The Board of Directors places a very high value on post-secondary education and will continue to help to make dreams of higher education come true for our youth.



## Strategic Direction #4



We will be a trusted community presence and work in partnership for best outcomes. We are committed to open dialogue with First Nation communities that facilitates mutual understanding



We supported education expenses for youth attending post secondary school at a cost of over \$80,000



This is our third year participating in the Bookworm Club!

67

Children and youth receive a monthly package of books/ebooks.

Older youth received a KOBO eReader!



Truth and  
Reconciliation  
Commission of Canada



We respect the journey of Canada's Indigenous people. We continue to engage with our local First Nations Communities to better service their families and children.

We currently provide services to 74 Indigenous families and 9 Indigenous children/youth are in the care of the Society. These families and children are representative of 21 First Nations across the country.





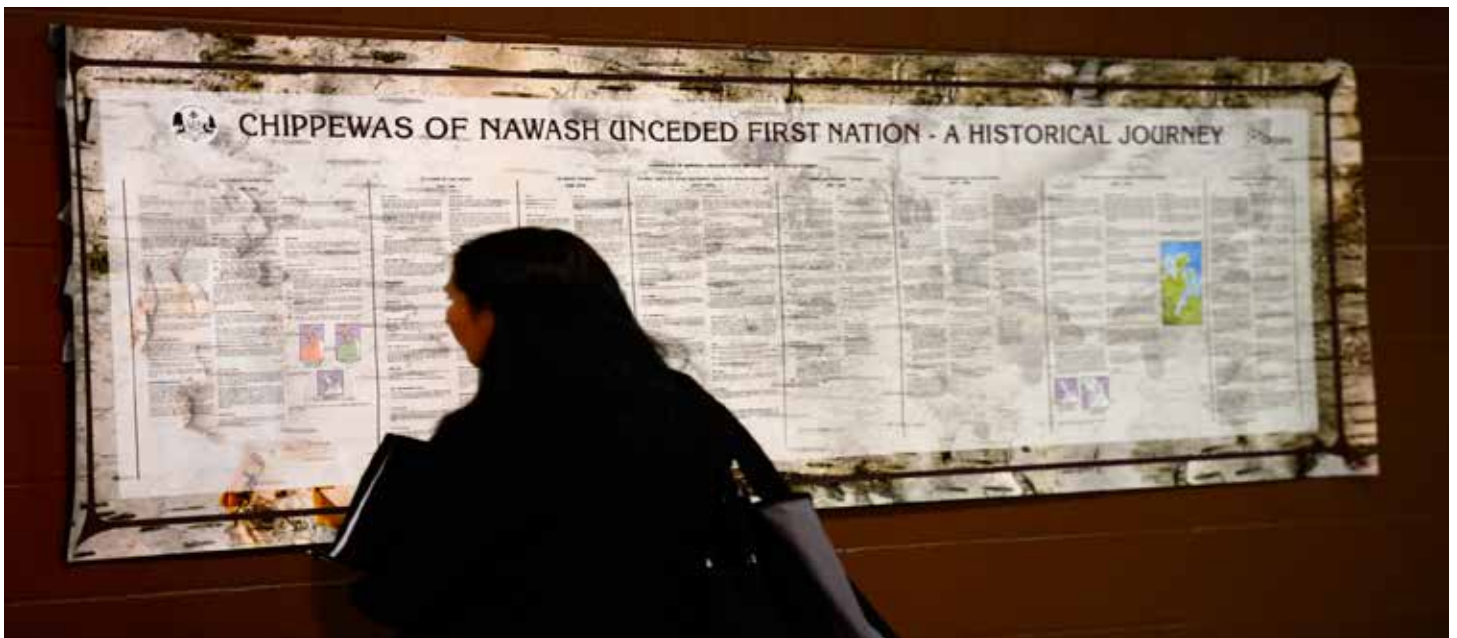
## **Community and Cultural Awareness Event on April 22, 2016**

Last spring BGCFS was invited to a Community and Cultural Awareness Event at Chippewas of Nawash Community Centre. A large number of staff were able to be in attendance for this event. The event included an overview of Chippewas of Nawash history which was presented by NishEducator Karen McClain. Ms. McClain presented on traits that promote resilience; the impacts of Residential Schools; and the history of Neyaashiinigmiiing. Patrick Nadjiwan, of Nadjiwan Law, highlighted the legal difficulties with Child Welfare and was open to feedback from the audience. Renee Linklater then spoke about Trauma in First Nation communities. Ms. Linklater broke this down to help us have a better understanding of resistance, relationships, and resilience amongst the members of the First Nation communities. Tours of the community were also offered for all to enjoy the beauty of the area.

Afterwards a number of program representatives presented the many services and supports systems that are available in the community. A panel was set up comprising of program representatives to answer any questions the audience might have.

**Charmaine Pette, BGCFS Supervisor**





I very much appreciated the opportunity to attend this event. I found it to be an educational experience that left me yearning to learn more about the history of the Chippewas of Nawash and our first nation communities. The speakers shared a lot of background and history that made me feel that I left the day with a better understanding of some of the struggles experienced and of the resiliency of the community. I learned that part of the impact of the Residential Schools was the disconnect it created far beyond that of the children from their families and communities. It led to a disconnect with their language, culture, ceremonies, rituals, and traditions. It led to a loss of honour and respect for the Elders in the community. It led to a loss of the leadership roles women once held and this subsequently resulted in what was termed as 'double-oppression'. I learned about the 'Blood Memory' philosophy/belief which asks us to understand that every individual carries the memories and feelings of loves and hurts of their ancestors. Some quotes from the day that have stuck with me were:

- ***"Trauma is not a disorder; it's a response to a wound"***
- ***"PTSD is related to a single event. Historical Trauma can form across a lifespan and can be multi-generational"***
- ***"When your heart is broken, your head doesn't work right."***

I am grateful to the Neyaaniishniimiing for inviting us to listen to their story.  
**Kristi Acres, BGCFS Admin Assistant**

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It was in the beating of the drum and his songs that I found a new understanding; that a space was created where I could meet with honesty my own preconceived ideas of who the peoples of Neyaashiinigmiiing are/were. In that moment, I stopped seeing through my white colonial privilege and became openly curious about the Neyaashiinigmiiing Nation and its people who I have lived beside for 30 years and never known, who graciously had provided me a glimpse into their spiritual centre.  
**Marjorie Snyder, BGCFS Supervisor**



# Our Service Data

Did you know?

BGCFS finalized **14** adoptions

There are **150** approved Resource Homes as of March 31, 2017

BGCFS completed **1,298** investigations

BGCFS serves **430** Ongoing Families as of March 31, 2017

There were **103** children in care on March 31, 2017

BGCFS has **30** CCSY (Continued Care Service for Youth)

There were **67** New Admissions as of March 31, 2017

There were **60** Discharges as of March 31, 2017





# Financial Statements

	For the year ended March 31/17	For the year ended March 31/16
<b>Revenue</b>		
Province of Ontario	\$ 20,441,401	\$ 20,930,395
Province of Ontario - Balanced Budget Fund	418,796	
Other revenue	744,177	756,323
	<u>\$ 21,604,374</u>	<u>\$ 21,686,718</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Salaries	10,908,465	10,141,131
Benefits	2,908,103	2,656,184
Travel	1,340,471	1,289,129
Training	64,558	90,124
Occupancy costs	534,536	1,219,277
Professional services - Non Client	123,858	88,033
Program	26,182	27,891
Boarding payments	3,399,219	3,452,808
Professional services - Client	297,426	294,995
Client Personal Needs	425,620	440,223
Health and Medical	253,345	256,571
Financial Assistance	39,927	141,180
Adoption Subsidy	384,897	345,069
Promotion and Publicity	54,479	51,828
Office Administration	303,325	350,455
Miscellaneous	212,623	248,512
Technology	357,910	374,161
	<u>\$ 21,634,944</u>	<u>\$ 21,467,571</u>
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year</b>	<b>\$ (30,570)</b>	<b>\$ 219,147</b>





# SERVICE USER FEEDBACK

## 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

April 2015 - March 2016

### Sample Size

Service User Feedback was collected by calling families whose files were closed from April 2015 - March 2016. In total, 259 surveys were completed out of a sample of 1199 files closed at Intake and Ongoing Services (789 Intake and 410 Ongoing). The overall response rate was 22%.

### Calling Bruce-Grey CAS for Help

Participants were asked whether they would call Bruce-Grey Child & Family Services for help if their family were to have difficulties in the future. Sixty-three percent (63%) of the participants reported that they would call CAS for help in the future.

### Safety

Ninety percent (90%) of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the worker made it clear to them what was needed to ensure their child(ren)'s safety.

### Culture & Diversity

Seventy-eight percent (78%) of participants agreed or strongly agreed that their cultural and religious background was respected (19% responded "N/A"), and 89% reported being treated with respect.

### Responsiveness and Reliability

Participants were asked when they were trying to get in touch with their worker how long it took to be able to speak with someone.

- 76% indicated that we called back within 48 hours.
- 82% agreed or strongly agreed that their calls were quickly returned.
- 90% of participants reported we clearly explained to them why CAS was involved.

*"They did awesome, the worker was very nice and informative, she helped me make decisions about my family."*



*"Get more programs in Bruce County."*



2016-2017  
ANNUAL REPORT





## President's Message

### Tim Nicol



Summers for Sam and Susan (twins age 10) are usually long and lonesome. Their grandmother provides care while their mom works on her problems. Grandma provides good supervision but she has mobility problems and the kids are cooped up playing games and reading in her apartment all day.

Life for this family has been difficult. Mom is doing better now after getting some mental health help but there is no money left over after the bills are paid for extras. School provides fun and interest most of the year but the summers are long. There is public funding for children in care to attend camp but there are no financial supports available to children in care of a family member. That's where your support of the foundation makes a difference in the lives of a child. Last year Sam and Susan had the opportunity to go to overnight camp. They were apprehensive and excited as they packed their sleeping bags and bathing suits. Sam learned archery and Susan spent a lot of time in the pool. Campfires held a special magic for the kids and they loved their camp counselors.

Both kids couldn't wait to tell their family about the fun they had and they were proud of their swimming and archery success. Both Sam and Susan have asked to go to camp again this year. Children benefit enormously from going to camp. They develop new skills. It can improve their outlook on life and it builds positive self-esteem.

Your donation to our Summer Camp program and our Winter Warmth program makes a world of difference to a struggling family. Parents get a much needed break. Children have fun and learn new skills and this support eases the pressure that financially strapped families face during a long hot summer. Warm winter clothing for children also helps ease a big worry for some families. We couldn't provide these important programs without your generosity.

We said goodbye to Cindy Wheeler, our Senior Fund Development Officer, this year as she moves closer to family. We wish her much success in the future and thank her for her good service to the foundation. We are busy planning for the Foundation and will be sharing our plans by summer's end.

We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for caring about kids.



## **We Say Goodbye to Cindy Wheeler**

The Our Kids Foundation Board, BGCFS staff and the community were sad to see Cindy Wheeler, Senior Fund Development Officer and the sole staff resource of the Foundation resign to move close to family this year. Cindy has been a champion of vulnerable families for many years. She worked for Our Kids Foundation Bruce Grey since its inception in 2012.

Cindy loved special events and was the organizer of the Annual Gala Dinner, the Amazing Race and an Annual Golf Tournament. Cindy was also a veteran volunteer at many community events in Owen Sound. We thank Cindy for her passionate service during our first five years of service to Bruce and Grey.



# Financial Snapshot

	2017	2016	2015
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Revenues:			
Grants	—	—	1,000
Net Fundraising Revenue	168,835	216,891	153,778
Other	60	401	530
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	168,895	217,292	155,308
 Expenses:			
Administration Disbursements	78,570	87,894	68,610
Donations paid to BGCFS	5,000	—	200,000
Endowment Fund Contribution	9,859	90,000	
	<hr/>		
	93,429	177,894	268,610
 Excess of Revenues over Expenditures			
	\$75,466	\$39,398	\$(113,302)





# In Memory Of



*Robert C. Light*

**"From the heart  
it has come, to  
the heart it must  
go" *Beethoven***

**Social Worker  
Dedicated Child Welfare Professional  
Community Builder  
Friend  
Board Member (2011 to 2014)**

**Bob Light spent his life making the world a better place for children and youth through his work, his volunteerism and his advocacy. His legacy will continue to enrich the lives of vulnerable families.**