

John Howard

SOCIETY OF LONDON AND DISTRICT

Annual Report 2016/2017



Honouring the Past, Celebrating the Present and Embracing the Future...
70 Years and Counting...



United Way
Elgin Middlesex



United Way
Perth-Huron



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CORE

Mission Statement

Effective, just and humane responses to crime and its causes

Mandate

In furtherance of its Mission, the Society:

1. Provides for the effective integration into the community of those in conflict with the law and provides, or encourages others to provide, services to those in contact with, or affected by, the criminal justice system;
2. Promotes changes in the law and the administration of justice which will lead to the more humane and effective treatment of individuals;
3. Promotes citizen awareness of the problems of crime and its causes, acceptance of responsibility to respond to these problems and involvement in the delivery and management of justice related programs;
4. Promotes the fair and humane treatment of all incarcerated persons and seeks to ensure that all forms of detention and imprisonment comply with relevant legal and human rights standards

Description

The John Howard Society of London and District is an organization of citizens who accept responsibility for understanding and dealing with the problems of crime and the criminal justice system.

Inclusivity / Diversity

The John Howard Society of London and District recognizes the barriers which prevent some members of the community from participating fully in society and affirms its commitment to policies, practices and the provision of services without prejudice or discrimination, as stated in the Human Rights Policy of the John Howard Society of Ontario.

VALUES

Human Rights Policy

Recognizing the intrinsic worth and dignity of every human being, the John Howard Society of Ontario is committed to upholding the principles set out in the Human Rights Code of Ontario and Canada. This commitment is expressed in the following undertaking:

1. The Society shall provide services within its mandate to every person without discrimination regardless of race, ethnicity, language, religion, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, age, abilities, economic status, political affiliation, national ancestry or criminal record.
2. The Society shall maintain such personnel policies and practices as are consistent with the tenets of the Human Rights Codes of Ontario and Canada.
3. The Society, through its employees, shall deal with representatives of the community in a responsive manner with courtesy, respect and without prejudice or discrimination.

Our Core Values

1. We believe that every individual has intrinsic worth and has the right to be treated with dignity and respect.
2. We believe in the potential of all human beings and in their capacity for growth and change.
3. We believe that all individuals have the right to live in a safe and peaceful society and that justice is best served through measures that resolve conflict and promote the reparation of harm.
4. We believe that individuals are responsible for their own actions and must be held accountable for those actions.
5. We believe that the root causes of crime are found within communities and that the solutions to crime are also found in communities.
6. We believe in serving community needs by cooperating and collaborating to achieve a healthy and safe society.



Message from the President of the Board of Directors

2016/2017 has been a momentous year. The John Howard Society of London and District is celebrating 70 years of service to the community. A 70th anniversary is a remarkable achievement! The Board of Directors and staff planned a number of special events, which will continue throughout 2017. We kicked off our celebrations with an announcement of the expansion of the Bail Verification and Supervision Program, including a visit from the Honourable Attorney General Yasir Naqvi.

In June, we held an Open House at our beautiful new office space at 570 Queens Avenue. It was a wonderful gathering of staff, volunteers, board members, family, community partners and funders. It was also an opportunity to recognize our volunteers and to honour Roman Nagy, the recipient of the Carol Reid Volunteer of the Year Award. I encourage you to read Roman's account of his volunteer experience, especially where he quotes Albert Einstein *"Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile"*. This quote really sums up the quality and commitment of our volunteers. The work of the John Howard Society would not be possible without the tremendous contributions of time and talent offered by our volunteers since 1947.

Professor Peter Barton, a long-term board member of the Society, is our guest speaker for our Annual General Meeting. Peter's dry wit will keep you on your toes, as he recounts the history of the John Howard Society in London and relates stories about the many people who have been associated with the agency over the years. I encourage you to connect with old friends and become acquainted with the new faces, which have become a part of the Society.

We wish to thank all of our funders for your ongoing support of the John Howard Society. We value our relationships with you. We are most grateful to the United Way Elgin Middlesex for your steadfast support of the Society since 1953. We have been fortunate to receive other funding this year. The Ontario Trillium Foundation supported the continuation of the ICCE project, an initiative that provides education to newcomers about justice and protection services. As part of the ICCE Project, the Society will hold a forum for service providers in October, which will be another opportunity to celebrate the 70th anniversary with our community. Our final celebration will be held in December. We hope you will join us for treats during the holiday season. We also thank all of our partners, too numerous to name individually, who have collaborated with us for the betterment of the community.

During the year, our staff team has expanded to 27 staff members. The commitment demonstrated by the staff of the John Howard Society is inspiring. The staff offer hope and opportunities to members of our community who are marginalized and struggle through life. It is a fast-paced work environment with multiple demands. We thank you for your efforts.

Taghrid Hussain has been our leader since 2014. She has done an amazing job. She is a woman with great determination. Shortly after her appointment to the position of Executive Director, she began working on a business plan for the expansion of the Bail Program and the realization of her goal, in January, was the culmination of significant efforts and persistence. Since the announcement, she has worked tirelessly. She has recruited new staff, secured a beautiful new space and attended endless meetings with stakeholders and partners. Many thanks Taghrid and congratulations on your achievement.

The John Howard Society of Ontario has always been a strong supporter of the London office. Paula Osmok, Executive Director, and her staff team are readily available for consultation. In June 2017, many of our staff attended the John Howard Society of Ontario provincial staff conference.

I joined the Board of Directors in 2012, following the tradition of having a representative of London Police Service on the Society's Board. It has been a good experience. My fellow board members are committed to the work of the Society and are generous in sharing their wisdom and expertise. In June 2017, I accepted the appointment to President of the Board of Directors. I am reminded that Brigadier General Draper founded the John Howard Society of Ontario in 1929. More and more, police are working collaboratively with community organizations to address the needs of individuals involved in the criminal justice system.

There have been some changes on the Board this year. This year, we bid farewell to Sharon Skutovich and we thank her for her service. Sharon began her association with the Society as a King's College student and joined the Board in 2011. In June, Christina Ninham stepped down from the role of President. On behalf of the Board, I wish to thank Christina Ninham for her years of service as President. Her calm and steady presence has kept us grounded. I will count on her good counsel, as she will continue on the Board of Directors in the role of past president.

I invite you to enjoy the 70th anniversary celebrations and take time to consider the impact of your involvement with the John Howard Society of London and District. We thank you for your support.

Chief John Pare
President

Seventy Years of



70 years is a major milestone for our organization. During the past year, our anniversary has provided us with an opportunity to celebrate our achievements, reflect on the past and contemplate the future. It is a time to fully understand and appreciate our roots to ensure that our journey honours our philosophy, values and principles of the Society. It is a moment to reflect on the meaning of our Mission Statement, *"Effective, just and humane responses to crime and its causes"*.

We salute our founders, the compassionate and forward thinking volunteers who established the John Howard Society in London in 1947. The founders were concerned about helping men who were leaving the prison system. They took the men home for meals, helped them find a job and a place to live. This humane activity continued during the period 1947-1953 and was the root of the reintegration services offered by the Society.

In 1953, funding was received from the Community Chest, now known as the United Way Elgin Middlesex, facilitating the hiring of an executive director. This development secured the future of the organization and paved the way for the development of professional social work services, which was later supported by the Faculty of Social Work at King's University College.

Once the Board was released of the responsibility for client services, the directors were able to turn their attention to the development of the philosophy, values and principles of the Society in collaboration with the John Howard Society of Ontario. The directors were a highly motivated group of individuals from diverse professional and business sectors of the community. They became

educated about the criminal justice system and prisons. They regularly attended tours of prisons both in Canada and the United States, where they encountered some of the worst conditions. They consulted members of the Parole Board and met with politicians to communicate concerns about prison conditions and proposed legislation. John Howard Society of London Directors were leaders in the community and within the John Howard Society in Ontario. Many of the board members continued to serve the Society for many years.

A review of the board minutes in the archives highlights concerns about the humane treatment of inmates. The Society objected to the lash, administered as part of the prison sentence. In a just society, the loss of freedom is punishment; individuals are not to be punished inside the prison system. Board members carefully deliberated the issue of capital punishment and eventually promoted abolition of the death penalty. In the sixties and early seventies, the Board advocated for the closure of the Middlesex County Jail. The Society was consulted in the construction of the Elgin Middlesex Detention Centre, which opened in 1977. In recent years, the conditions of confinement have continued to be a concern for staff and board members with overcrowding in the detention centre originally built for a maximum of 126 inmates, the assaults on young offenders in the courthouse cells in the nineties, the criminalization of mentally ill individuals, the high numbers of individuals held on remand and the use of solitary confinement.

By 1969, the Society purchased 601 Queens Avenue with the help of Joseph Beechie and John McNee. Our office offered a welcoming space for clients to change their lives and become successful. The Society was a place where optimism and hope prevailed and everyone was given a second chance.

The services of the agency expanded. The Society was supervising federal parolees and more programs were added to the agency's resources. In 1971, Tom Dykstra, Executive Director from 1969 through 1994, established the Women's Group for women who have a loved one in prison. Tom Dykstra understood that maintaining a connection between the family and their loved one in prison, was key to a successful reintegration. As the work with family members developed, the Society became more intimately aware of the unique needs of family members of a loved one in prison.

Effective, Just and Humane

The John Howard Society faced a number of challenges over the years with changes in funding sources and politics, but remained true to the Mission. In 1994, Tom Dykstra retired from the Society and was succeeded by Lori Cunningham who led the Society until 2014. With the support of dedicated long-standing board members, the agency was stable and continued to grow. The Society became involved in collaborative services for children and youth with a focus on prevention. Programming for federally released clients replaced parole supervision. The Bail Verification and Supervision Program was funded, followed by Direct Accountability, a program which diverts low risk accused persons from the system. The Society took a leadership role in London's diversity, welcoming the influx of immigrants to our community. Our staff team changed to reflect the diversity in our community.

Throughout the years, the Society workers counselled inmates at the Middlesex County Jail and then, the Elgin Middlesex Detention Centre. Professor Gordon Hay, a former board member, was a regular visitor at Burtch Correctional Centre. In 2009, a church volunteer from the Stratford Jail successfully advocated to the United Way Perth-Huron for the establishment of John Howard Society services. For some inmates, the John Howard Society representative is their only visitor during incarceration.

The John Howard Society has been concerned for decades about the over representation of Indigenous people in the justice system. In the eighties, the Society established the Native Services Program to ensure that Indigenous clients had access to culturally relevant justice services offered by an Indigenous worker. The Society was involved in the establishment of the Gladue court, which opened in 2012.

The Bail Verification and Supervision Program was initiated in 2005 to ensure that individuals who could not afford surety have access to bail pending resolution of their charges. In January this year, the Society was delighted to announce the expansion of bail services to other communities, including Woodstock, St. Thomas, Stratford, Goderich and Walkerton, enhanced mental health supervision to support clients experiencing mental illness and specialized bail services for Indigenous people. This expansion has promoted the Society's pursuit of a more equitable and just system.

The John Howard Society has always been effective in engaging clients in a process of change for years. The "What Works" literature assisted the Society in ensuring the services were evidence-based. Anecdotally, workers noted with pride the remarkable achievements of our clients, but in recent years the United Way Elgin Middlesex has supported the agency in developing outcome measurements, which provide evidence of our clients' success.

As the years went by, the Society became known for its work in prevention. It was evident that when youth had risk factors and needs addressed, they were unlikely to see the inside of a prison cell. Incarceration is not the answer to social problems.

The 70th anniversary of the John Howard Society of London and District coincided with the expansion of the Bail Program. This was the culmination of years of work to demonstrate pressing client needs and the realization of our goal was gratifying. The Society is a hub of activity and additional space was required to house all of the services. A beautiful space was rented at 570 Queens Avenue. Our staff team has grown and we are privileged to continue to have assistance from our many volunteers.

In 70 years, the Society has been enhanced by the contributions of so many people and organizations devoted to the cause. Each has contributed to the Society's success and so, today please join our celebration. It is an honour to serve as the Executive Director of this dynamic and vibrant organization and I promise that we will continue our work with integrity and dedication as we move forward into the next decade with *"Effective, just and humane responses to crime and its causes"*.

Taghrid Hussain, MSc.
Executive Director



Bail Expansion Announcement

Attorney General Yasir Naqvi announces the expansion of the London Bail Program

Ontario's Attorney General Yasir Naqvi visited London on Thursday, January 19, 2017 to announce improvements to the criminal justice system to make it "faster and fairer" through an expanded bail program. Minister Naqvi made the announcement at a news conference at the London Police Headquarters.

"Ontario's criminal justice system must work to protect the interests of all people – victims, the public and the accused – while keeping our communities safe. We are working on all fronts to ensure that cases get to court faster so that we have a fairer criminal justice system. Our investments in community-based agencies in the southwestern region will make it possible for vulnerable, low-risk Ontarians to be safely released in the community with the supervision and support they need".

Yasir Naqvi
Attorney General



"The London Police Service welcomes the efforts and plans to reduce time to trial and improve the bail system in Ontario. By providing the necessary support, it will assist in avoiding future conflict with the law for vulnerable individuals and low-risk accused persons".

Chief John Pare
London Police Service





"The expansion of the Bail Program to communities surrounding London will improve access and fairness in the administration of justice for vulnerable and low risk accused persons. Staffing the weekend courts will assist in meeting the goal of a more efficient system. Specialized services including referrals to housing, medical services, treatment and supervision in the community will promote a more successful release on bail for Indigenous people and persons who have a mental illness".

Taghrid Hussain
Executive Director
John Howard Society of London and District



The expansion of the London Bail Program includes:

- Enhancement of the current capacity by changing the eligibility criteria to accept more clients
- Enhanced mental health support/supervision to bail clients. Ensuring clients have improved access to housing, medical services, treatment and supervision in the community
- Providing services in new jurisdictions including Woodstock, Stratford, St. Thomas, Goderich and Walkerton
- Coverage of the Weekends and Statutory Holidays (WASH) courts in London
- Providing Indigenous bail supervision services. The Indigenous Bail Program provides supervision using a culturally appropriate approach and connects clients with Indigenous services and community resources



Open House The Society's New Office Building

The Society held an Open House at our new office building at 570 Queens Avenue. It was such a wonderful gathering of staff, board members, volunteers, funders, community partners and family members. Guests were treated to a barbeque, Anita's musical talents and many treats.





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Chief John Pare, President

Mrs. Christina Ninham, Past President

Mr. David Peeling, 1st Vice President

Ms. Sandy Ferreira, 2nd Vice President

Mr. Brian Greene, Treasurer

Directors

Professor Peter Barton

Mrs. Judy Webb

Mr. Christopher Dobson

Mr. Peter Downing

Mr. Matt White

Mr. Stuart Ewing

Mr. Michael Cywink

Mrs. Paula Greenberg

Dr. Jared Berman

Ms. Sharon Skutovich

Honourary Directors

Mr. George Brunton

Mr. O.B. Watts

Mrs. Margaret MacGee

Mrs. Sheila Davenport

Mr. Jack Moran

STAFF

Taghrid Hussain	Executive Director
Fran Woods	Executive Assistant
Ana Rojas	Director of Programming and Marketing
Kathleen Lowe	Social Worker/Clinical Supervisor
Rachel Craig	Social Worker
Juli McGrenere	Social Worker/Coordinator Direct Accountability Program
Tracey Gough	Social Worker/Institutional Worker
Nicole Anderson	Social Worker
Courtney Coqu	Institutional Worker/Counsellor
Stephanie Alegria	Groups Facilitator/Volunteer Program Coordinator
Anita Parker	Native Services Program Supervisor
Ashley Fisher	Native Services Program - Adult Program Coordinator
Danielle Grosbeck	Native Services Worker
Carolyn Henry	Native Services Worker
Justine McCurdy	Native Services Worker
Valerie Miller-Power	Bail Supervisor
Ricardo Suarez-Leon	Bail Supervisor
Charlene Beatty	Indigenous Bail Worker
Roman Nagy	Bail Worker
Robyn Moriarty	Bail Worker
Jovana Lojpur	WASH Court - Bail Worker
Sara Brown	Bail Worker - Stratford
Justine Pfaff	Bail Worker - Goderich/Walkerton
Kaela Antonissen	Bail Worker - St. Thomas
Jacqui Cebulak	Bail Worker - Woodstock
Mariana Hoyos	Support Worker
Natasha Ataei Mehr	ICCE Project Worker
Abeny Kuol	ICCE Project Worker
Kathy Watad	Housing Education Worker
Sherine Al-Budeiri	Housing Education Worker

Students

Sandie Nguyen	4th Year Social Work at King's University College
Elizabeth Aideyan	4th Year Family Studies at Brescia University College
Tatiana Crockett	Addictions Worker Program at Trios College

John Howard Society of
Ontario
Provincial Staff Conference
June 2017





VOLUNTEERS

THANK YOU TO:

Harris Syed
Catherine Kozlowski
Jovana Lojpur
Tany Fernandes
Bob Upsdell
Victoria Paterson
Parker Mitchell
Sarah Dias
Brenna Kelly
Jared Brown
Carla Sanchez
Taelor Douglas

Roman Nagy
Carly Cullen
Jacqui Cebulak
Lori Cunningham
Maya Bozorgzad
Tesa Rosamond
Anthony Mirelli
Sinead McCarthy
Rebecca Sousa
Robyn Moriarty
Sara Brown
Stephanie Bulsza

Alex Dobson
Oscar Molineros
Elizabeth McArthur
Marc Motiejunas
Ryan Hanna
Brynn McCredie
Emily Castillo
Mariana Hoyos
Paige Matatall
Richard An

**34 Sustained Volunteers
3762 Hours Contributed**

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The aim of the program is to build leadership and organizational capacity and to develop the next generation of volunteers. Members of the community are recruited, trained and supervised in the provision of agency services. Volunteers expand the capacity to deliver effective services to the community. Volunteering at the Society provides a meaningful experience for the volunteer.

Carol Reid Volunteer of the Year Award 2016

The Carol Reid Award was established in 2001 in honour of Carol Reid who was a long term staff member of the John Howard Society of London and District. Carol was a woman of courage and determination. Despite a visual impairment, she carried a large caseload of clients, conducted interviews at the Elgin Middlesex Detention Centre, developed community education programs for elementary school children, supervised students and performed the role of volunteer coordinator. Her standards were high and she demanded the best from her volunteers and students. Following her untimely death, the award was established to recognize a volunteer who has made an exceptional contribution to the agency.

We are pleased to announce that Roman Nagy is the recipient of the Carol Reid Volunteer of the Year Award for the year of 2016/2017. Roman holds a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Criminology and a minor in Psychology. Roman has been a member of the John Howard Society's volunteering team since December 2015. Roman volunteered weekly in the Bail Verification and Supervision Program as well as in other programs. Roman is passionate and a committed volunteer and has made an exceptional contribution to the John Howard Society. Roman also volunteers at St. John's Ambulance as a Medical First Responder. Roman has contributed over 391.5 hours of volunteer services. Roman joined our staff as a full time Bail Worker for the expansion of the Bail Program.

Congratulations Roman!





My Volunteer Experience at The John Howard Society

It was Ashley Fisher, who works in the Native Services Program, who first introduced me to the John Howard Society. Ashley knew I had been searching for a place to volunteer my time, wanting to help those less fortunate. She was also aware of my educational background in criminology, and interest in the criminal justice system. I do not know if she knew it at the time, but the John Howard Society was the perfect fit.

I first started volunteering once a week with Ashley in the Native Services Program, working on compiling a list of community services that her clients could access. Not long after, Ashley may have made the mistake of asking me if I would like to also volunteer in any of the other positions available. She suggested starting with the front desk, as reception, which would be an excellent introduction to how the office functions as a whole. I warmly welcomed the opportunity. At the front desk, I quickly became familiar with each employee, the programs they work in and the clients that they serve. At this point I was now volunteering two full days a week, one in each position. Then Stephanie Alegria, who had trained me at the front desk, wondered if I might be a good fit volunteering in the Bail Program...and this was where Ashley lost me as an assistant. The need for volunteers here was high, and my love of interacting with clients, directly, was too great.

Now, while volunteering with the John Howard Society, I maintained a full-time job elsewhere, working five days a week. To spend another two full days on top of that, volunteering might seem excessive, but there are two things you need to understand:

The first thing is how much I enjoy assisting our clients. Some of the clients that come to the John Howard Society have rarely had anyone in their life show them compassion, sincere concern, or a desire to help. It is such a rewarding feeling, being able to do this for these people, being able to assist them in the worst times, being able to give them direction and hope. To quote the late Albert Einstein, "Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile".

The second thing you need to understand is about the atmosphere at the John Howard Society. It is captivating. Once you're there, you won't want to leave. Unintentionally, what began as volunteering once per week, quickly turned into three. You see, every employee seems to share exactly the same passion, the same desire, to help those who need it most. I was finally surrounded entirely by like-minded people, something I had yet to experience in school or work. Here I saw no arguing over what is right and what is wrong, no bickering over politics, or trivial matters. The only thing I witnessed in conversation was their sincere concern for the wellbeing of others, expressions of gratitude between one another, and constant displays of friendship. Here, everybody seemed as though they were friends. I had never experienced this before, and I did not want to leave it. They welcomed me with open arms, and I am so glad to have the experience of working with these people.

Roman Nagy



Programs & Services

John Howard Society of London and District



PROG

Individual, Couple & Family Counselling

Counselling is provided to offenders, individuals who are at risk of offending and their families. The Society offers a crisis intervention service whereby clients are seen for brief service, usually the same day. Clients are assisted in managing their crisis, solving problems and developing new coping skills. Longer term counselling is also available to clients. Social workers engage the client in a therapeutic relationship to assess risks and needs and develop an intervention plan. Clients who become engaged in service generally experience an improvement in mental health and reduction in substance use. Family members are involved when it is deemed appropriate, resulting in improved familial relationships. Clients in need of service from other community agencies receive assistance and advocacy in securing access to appropriate referrals.

Ryan's Story

Ryan became involved with the John Howard Society after being charged with assault. At first, Ryan did not know what to expect from counselling, but knew he wanted to change. Ryan had never been involved with the law before and was experiencing anxiety about having to attend court and adjusting to the changes in his life. Ryan was coping with the grief of being separated from his wife and children. Before Ryan was charged, he had lost his job and had been struggling to find employment. Ryan was feeling depressed and heartbroken and did not have anyone to talk to. As he continued counselling, he was provided emotional support and a safe space to express his feelings. Ryan improved his communication skills, anger management skills and coping strategies. He was able to identify the unhealthy behaviours throughout his marriage and how he could create healthy boundaries for himself in the future. Ryan was encouraged to increase his self-care activities and focus on building healthy and positive relationships. Ryan joined a gym and a community club where he was able to increase his socialization. Over time, Ryan was able to secure a part-time job and gain access to his children. Ryan and his wife separated during his time in counselling; however, Ryan was able to employ the strategies he learned in counselling to remain calm and cope with his emotions. Ryan shared that the counselling experience provided mental clarity and support when he needed someone to listen.

1069 Clients 3288 Interviews 2353 Collateral Contacts 392 Case Conferences

Institutional Visiting

The Society responds to requests for help from inmates incarcerated in the Elgin Middlesex Detention Centre. The Society provides information, help with reintegration planning, counselling and advocacy. Referrals are accepted from any source including family, friends, community members and an individual on their own behalf.

Jay's Story

Jay has been in and out of custody for the majority of his life. Jay was struggling with his mental health, past traumas and substance use. Throughout our institutional visits, Jay learned helpful coping strategies, problem solving skills and how to better manage his risky thinking to improve his overall mental health. Since Jay was released from custody, he has started the methadone maintenance program and found part-time employment. Jay continues to have a relationship with the Society through counselling. He feels more confident being able to manage his thoughts, emotions and behaviour and has been able to live in the community for the longest period of time in his adult life.

Community Education Program

The John Howard Society works closely with many community groups and coalitions to educate and involve more people in understanding the social justice issues affecting John Howard Society clients. Information and workshops about the criminal justice system and its impact on society are also offered. The John Howard Society provides speakers to schools, churches, service clubs and community organizations.

126 Events 919 Total Attendance 3 Media Contacts

Record Suspension

The John Howard Society assists individuals in completing applications for a suspension of their criminal record. The service assists individuals in regaining confidence, finding employment and boosting their self esteem. Record suspension clinics are also offered in Spanish and Arabic languages.

"Thanks to the John Howard Society, I was granted a record suspension. For many years, having a criminal record made it difficult to find a job and I would often feel lost with no hope. Having a record suspension gives me hope and I am now working part-time and being able to move forward with my future".

Women's Group

The John Howard Society offers a woman-centred program to support women who have a loved one involved in the criminal justice system. Women have an opportunity to receive support through emotional crisis, evaluate their relationships and receive relevant information about the criminal justice system. The women share common experiences and emotions in a confidential and non-judgmental setting and develop new coping skills. Through group involvement, women build relationships with other women and feel less socially isolated.

"I feel able to express how I feel about what happened a little more freely here in group. Knowing there are others who understand how I feel and what I am going through is so helpful. Knowing and hearing what they have gone through and are still going through helps me know what I feel is "normal". I am glad I am here. It is comforting to know if I did become emotional during group, it is okay and there will be support given to me".

"Coming to the group is great because we can talk and no one judges you. It has helped me to keep going each day. We all understand each other".

42 Clients 49 Meetings 336 Total Attendance



Kingston Trips

Family members of inmates incarcerated in Kingston area institutions have an opportunity to visit. The Society employs a volunteer driver and the families contribute to the cost of a car or van rental for the trip.

Boullee, Huron, Kipps Lane Program

The Society offers counselling, advocacy and referrals to other community agencies for children, youth and families who reside in the three subsidized housing projects. The communities house immigrants, many of whom are poor and vulnerable. Many residents do not speak English. In working with teens, the Society identifies high risk behaviours and develops an effective intervention plan to ensure that youth are able to complete school successfully and graduate to an apprenticeship, college, university or employment. The Society's social worker attends Montcalm Secondary School on a weekly basis to support high risk youth.

"I feel comfortable talking to my worker, she really listens to me. I never feel judged. I look forward to our visits".

16 Clients 141 Interviews 28 Collateral Contacts 80 Case Conferences

County Youth Outreach Program

The Society's social workers receive referrals of high risk youth from educators, parents, probation officers, police, the Children's Aid Society and other social agencies. In addressing high risk behaviours presented by teens, the social workers offer counselling in the context of the school, peers, family and community. The social workers attend secondary schools in Glencoe, Strathroy and Parkhill on a weekly basis. Youth and families from Lucan and other small communities are served through Medway Secondary School. The Society's social workers work collaboratively with other social service agencies based in the county.

"I enjoy having someone come to see me in the county where I am at. I don't have to travel anywhere. She comes to me. My parents like the extra support that I get. My worker helps me come up with different solutions to what I am dealing with at school and with friends".

34 Clients 320 Interviews 146 Collateral Contacts 183 Case Conferences

Children's Group

The John Howard Society offers a group for girls and a group for boys in the Huron subsidized housing project. Through weekly group involvement, the children explore other cultures, racism, bullying, healthy relationships, family violence and safety planning. Activities include cooking, arts and crafts, sports, games, science experiments and drama. The Society's staff and volunteers are positive role models for the children and educate them about healthy communication and relationship skills.

Rachel's Story

Rachel became a member of the girl's group when she first moved into the Huron community. Rachel had a great deal of responsibilities with her family as she was often asked to care for her younger sibling. Rachel had difficulties dealing with the stress of her family life and her peer relationships were conflictual. The group assisted her in developing confidence, establishing friendships and improving her social skills. The group workers counselled her mother to reduce Rachel's responsibilities.



35 Girls	43 Sessions	569 Total Attendance	13 Average Attendance
27 Boys	46 Sessions	395 Total Attendance	9 Average Attendance

Stratford Jail Institutional Visiting and Reintegration Program

It is important for inmates to maintain strong links with their community. Regular visits are conducted at the Stratford Jail to provide counselling, advocacy and planning for a successful release. The client is connected to community agencies which provide addiction and mental health services. Follow-up is offered to support the client's reintegration into the community.

"I met Courtney while I was incarcerated at the Stratford Jail. I went through a hard time in my life and got involved with drugs. I had never been to jail before. Courtney helped me connect with my employer and my landlord so I was able to keep my home and my job. While in jail, I was able to do counselling to determine some of the reasons my life went off track. I have hope for the future".

131 Clients 805 Interviews 861 Collateral Contacts 27 Group Sessions

Teens in Action Group / Teens Leadership Group

Teens groups are offered in the Boullee, Huron and Kipps Lane communities. The Teens in Action Group supports teens (males and females) age 11-16 with career development, course selection and team work. The group provides teens with the opportunity to work on building resume and interviewing skills and volunteer positions to develop employment skills. The Teens Leadership Group supports youth in understanding leadership through exploration of team work, critical thinking, cultural diversity, creativity and more.



"I used to swear all the time at school and at home and would have nothing to do after school. I used to get into fights all the time with other boys in the neighbourhood and I didn't really have anything planned for my future. I love coming to the groups because we get to do different activities every week. This group has helped me think about my future and I feel more prepared to start high school this fall".

17 Teens 35 Sessions 128 Total Attendance

Immigrant Community Capacity and Engagement (ICCE) Project

The ICCE Project was developed in response to needs identified by the London and Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership (LMLIP) - Justice and Protection Services Sub-Council. Through a collaborative and community development approach, the ICCE Project was intended to build immigrants' knowledge and understanding of the Canadian justice and protection services. The ICCE Project was part of the vision of a larger initiative designed by LMLIP to promote the successful integration of newcomers into the community. The Karen, Vietnamese, Bhutanese, Spanish, Somali and Arab communities were identified as the first communities in need of this approach. This year, the Society is delivering the ICCE project to the Sudanese and Farsi speaking communities.

"We are truly lucky that organizations such as the John Howard Society exist, offering different workshops in our own language. Now I have a better understanding of the Canadian justice system and other important information that is very helpful and useful for our community".



RAMS

Bail Verification and Supervision Program



MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

The John Howard Society provides community supervision to eligible individuals who do not have the financial or social support to meet bail requirements. Prospective clients are interviewed in the holding cells at the courthouse to determine eligibility. If release is approved by the court, the clients report weekly, or more frequently, to have their conditions monitored. The Bail Program has recently been expanded to new jurisdictions including Woodstock, St. Thomas, Stratford, Goderich and Walkerton. The program also provides enhanced supervision to support clients with mental illness and specialized bail services for Indigenous people.

Ameera's Story

Ameera was a woman from the Middle East who did not speak English and was charged for the first time. She was feeling scared, helpless and alone in the cells of the courthouse. Ameera did not understand why she was being charged and how the criminal justice system works. Ameera was released on bail to the JHS Bail Program. She was supervised by an Arabic speaking staff member to ensure she understood her court order. At first, Ameera had difficulties rebuilding her life as she was in an abusive and isolated marriage for 4 years with no support. As she became involved with the JHS Bail program and because of her unique circumstances, the JHS Bail worker supported her throughout the court process and provided transportation to the courthouse on her court dates. The Bail supervision team quickly helped create a support plan for Ameera and within weeks Ameera had her own accommodations, was enrolled in ESL classes and became involved with the London Arabic community. In a short period of time, Ameera could greet the bail workers in English and became more outgoing and hopeful. The support Ameera was receiving helped her reconnect with her family and she started to become independent. Ameera's charges were withdrawn and she was able to return to her native country for a visit for the first time in four years. Ameera is starting a new chapter of her life.

989 Clients 9592 Interviews 3152 Collateral Contacts 825 Case Conferences

Direct Accountability Program

The Direct Accountability Program is an alternative to prosecution for eligible individuals over the age of 18 who have been charged with minor criminal offences. The program involves accused persons being held accountable through community-based sanctions. The four programs held at the John Howard Society are the Stop Shop Theft Program, Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program, Anger and Substance Awareness Program and Anger Management Program. Individuals referred to those programs have been assessed to benefit from an opportunity to address the problematic thinking, feeling and behaviour that led to their involvement with the criminal justice system.

"I benefitted from the workshop". (ASAP Participant)

"The overall workshop was great and helped a lot. Opened my eyes to much that I did not know about. The large effect this has on one's life". (SST Participant)

"Thank you for this program and for supporting me in being clean". (ADAP Participant)

"Very useful in developing tools and steps to manage and express my anger in healthy ways". (AM Participant)

244 Participants 99 Group Sessions 140 Collateral Contacts



MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES-YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICES
MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SAFETY & CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Native Services Program

The Society employs Indigenous workers who supervise sentence orders for Indigenous youth and adults residing in London and the three neighbouring reserves: Munsee-Delaware First Nation, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation and Oneida Nation of the Thames. Youth are also supervised in Woodstock and St. Thomas. The Native Services workers incorporate traditional Indigenous approaches in their work with clients.

"I knew something wasn't right in my life and my probation officer helped me sort stuff out. She really listened when I talked to her and she referred me to services that have helped me a lot. I have stayed out of trouble for over a year now and I feel a lot better about things".

Youth probation client

172 Adults	1278 Interviews	2877 Collateral Contacts	248 Case Conferences
77 Youth	776 Interviews	3989 Collateral Contacts	162 Case Conferences

The Community Maintenance Program/Multi-Target (CMP-MT)

The CMP-MT program is an extension of the Integrated Correctional Program Model (ICPM) Multi-Target Programming. This program is designed to address the needs of individuals on federal parole who have been referred to participate in the program. It is a weekly program of 12 structured classroom sessions and each session is two hours long. The program is designed to reduce the risk of reoffending by teaching offenders how to apply the skills they learned in the main program and apply these skills to real life situations.



17 Participants	35 Group Sessions	544 Collateral Contacts
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Education on Justice and Protection Services & Newcomer Housing Education Project (NHEP)

This year, our work with newcomers has led to the establishment of a new partnership with the London Cross Cultural Learner Centre (CCLC). This collaboration has allowed us to deliver a new housing education project for Syrian refugees and to continue our efforts to educate newcomers and build their knowledge, understanding and trust in Canadian justice and protective services. The provision of information to newcomers formed part of the Society's effort to prevent entry into the criminal justice and child protection systems as families will have information about rights and responsibilities and the opportunity to access early referrals to counselling and legal supports.

The Newcomer Housing Education Project (NHEP) was developed to educate Syrian refugee families about their rights and responsibilities as tenants to support ongoing housing stability. The project helped to increase access to user-friendly legal knowledge related to the Residential Tenancies Act, Landlord and Tenant Board and rights and responsibilities in relation to housing. The project has strengthened the capacity of newcomer groups to become established in London and know where to find help when they need it. The project also helped to increase landlords' awareness of newcomer related issues.



NHDP: 531 Participants 26 Workshops

Justice and Protection Services: 210 Participants 14 Workshops

London Drug Treatment Court (LDTC)

The Drug Treatment Court was established on June 29, 2010. This specialized program provides court supervised treatment for accused persons who have a serious drug addiction. The John Howard Society provides individual counselling, enhanced bail supervision services, a weekly cognitive skills group which addresses criminogenic risk factors and supervision of the LDTC Community Garden Initiative. The LDTC is currently under review and hopefully services will resume soon.



11 Clients 26 Group Sessions

PROGRAMS

Gladue Court

The London Gladue Court is now in its sixth year of operation. It was developed in collaboration between the London Ontario Court of Justice and other community organizations, including the John Howard Society of London and District. The Gladue Court was established to address the unique needs and circumstances of First Nation, Inuit and Métis offenders. The first Gladue Court heard six cases on its opening day, January 16, 2012. In its infancy stages, the Court was held for half a day every two weeks. Since that time, through word of mouth and active public awareness by the Gladue Court committee, the Court has grown to a full day each Thursday. Thousands of cases have now been heard in the London Gladue Court; several hundred of those were youth matters. The John Howard Society has had a representative present since the Court's inception and every appearance and outcome has been documented for statistical purposes. The John Howard Society Gladue Court worker is familiar with the majority of the Court participants and is in attendance to provide input to the Court when called upon, to act as a resource to the Court, to provide support and guidance to the Court participants and their families, to provide the medicines each week, to assist in sentencing Circles and to offer the Eagle Feather to those in need. Referrals are also made to the John Howard Society Institutional worker to request that the worker meet with offenders held at the Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre. The Society's Gladue worker was involved in the organization and implementation of a roundtable, held in March, 2016. Community partners attended the roundtable to share their ideas on how the community can enhance the Court. We have begun implementing some of the recommendations: a social worker and Gladue after care worker are now present each week at Court. Their presence in Court enhances the opportunity for more immediate support, counselling and case management strategies to assist the Court participants in addressing the problems which contributed to their offending behaviour. There are plans to continue to enhance community involvement. The London Gladue Court has recently seen the departure of two Judges: our founding Judge, Justice McGrath, has retired and Justice George was elevated to Superior Court. Justice Skowronski, another of our founding Judges continues to sit in Gladue Court and we recently welcomed Justice George Orsini, who plans to regularly preside over the Gladue Court in the future. We welcome Justice Orsini and look forward to working with him to continue enhancing the Court with more community involvement and positive changes.

"When I looked out from the prisoners box, I calmed down. I saw so many people there from different agencies in London. It made me feel better to know they were there to help me. The Judge and the Crown really listened to my story and they took that into account when I was sentenced. To me, that's important. My story is like a lot of Native people's... really bad backgrounds and messed up families. It's hard to get ahead when it seems so much is against you. Thankfully this Court knows about our history and the people here really consider that so they can figure out the best way to help me". ~ Gladue Court participant



Special Thanks To Our Funders



United Way
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MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SAFETY & CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES-YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICES



MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Addiction Services
of Thames Valley / Services de toxicomanie de Thames Valley

Ontario Trillium Foundation



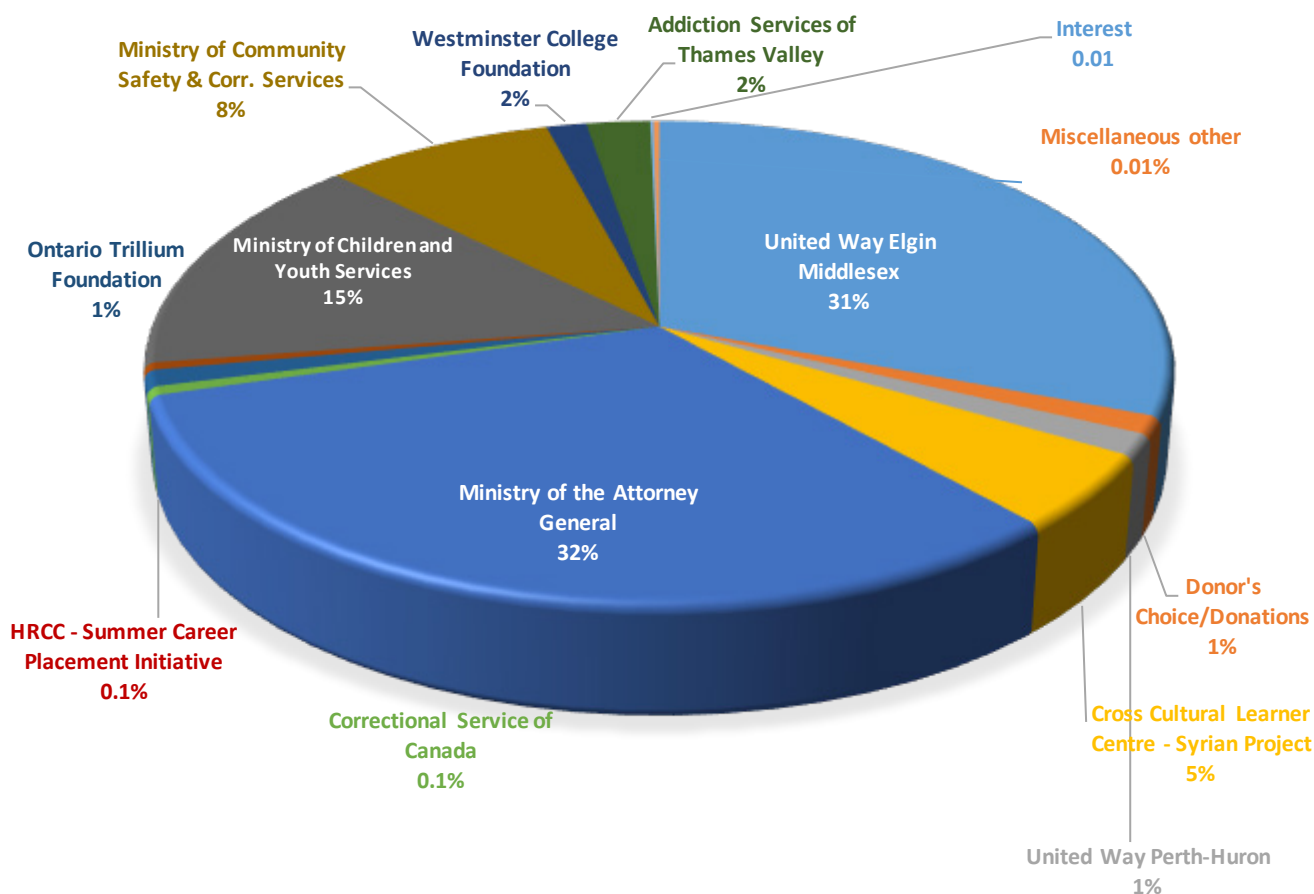
Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario

Thank You!

FINANCIALS

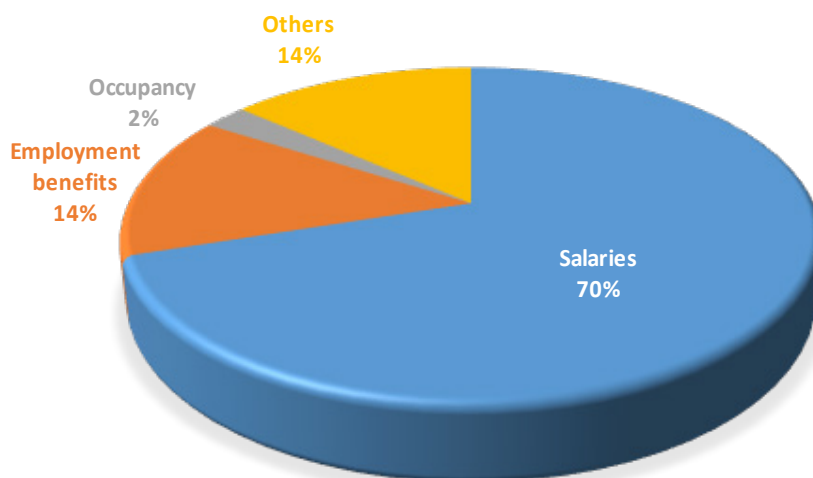
REVENUE

1,174,611



EXPENDITURES

1,163,791



United Way Campaign 2016

The John Howard Society of London and District has been a community partner of the United Way Elgin Middlesex for over 60 years. The Society is able to achieve its Mission each year due to the ongoing financial support of the United Way.

Over the course of the campaign, every single staff member at the Society as well as volunteers contributed to the campaign's success. We "kicked off" the campaign with a pot luck and invited our United Way sponsored employee. The Society created campaign calendars where every weekday in November we held a draw. Staff and volunteers provided generous prizes! The calendars were very successful. We held a Bingo Day where staff excitedly played bingo during their lunch hour. Staff and volunteers participated in the United Way's Annual Stair Climb. There were a few that could not participate in the actual climb, but they gathered pledges. Other campaign activities included a silent auction and a scavenger hunt to raise money.

Without the participation of the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers, our campaign's success would not have been possible. We appreciate everyone's continued effort, especially with the financial commitment. We are proud to announce that we raised a total of \$ 5000.08

Thank you to our campaign team!



Milestone Service Award

Our success as an organization is due largely to the hard work of our amazing staff members who meet the intense challenges of the day to day work. We truly appreciate your hard work and commitment to the work of John Howard Society of London and District.

The Society has established the Milestone Service Award in order to recognize our staff members for their dedication and years of service to the agency. The agency recognizes staff for each five years of continuous service. At each milestone, our employees receive a certificate of service and an award gift.

In 2016, two exceptional staff members were recognized!

Anita Parker
For 15 years of service

And

Valerie Miller-Power
For 10 years of service

Thank you for the loyalty and dedication you have brought to the organization over the years. Each one of you has contributed to making the John Howard office a great place to work.

Congratulations to Anita and Valerie!



Annual Meeting 2016

The London Drug Treatment Court (LDTC) was selected by the Board of Directors as the 2016 recipient of the Joseph A. Beechie Community Service Award. The Beechie Award was established to honour an individual or group in the community that has made an exceptional contribution to the work of the John Howard Society of London and District. The Honourable Justice Wayne Rabley was the guest speaker at the Society's Annual General Meeting last year. His Honour accepted the award on behalf of the London Drug Treatment Court and many team members were present to celebrate.

Congratulations to the LDTC!

Annual Meeting 2017

Professor Peter Barton, a long-serving board member, is the guest speaker for the Annual Meeting, where we are celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Society in London. Professor Barton joined the Society's Board of Directors in 1977. He took a short break in the eighties and returned to the Board. He was appointed President of the Board of Directors in 1982 and Vice-President in 2002. He also served on the board of the John Howard Society of Ontario as the representative for London. Professor Barton rarely misses a board meeting and contributes substantially. His knowledge and wisdom has been pivotal in the development of a stable organization.

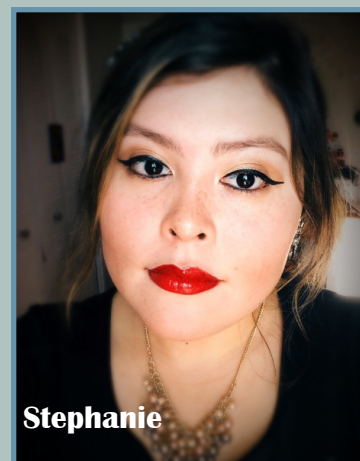
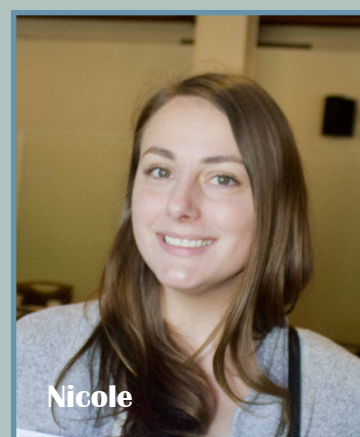
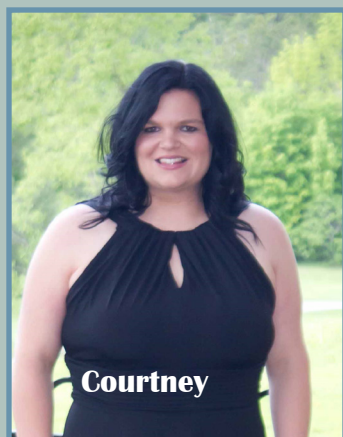
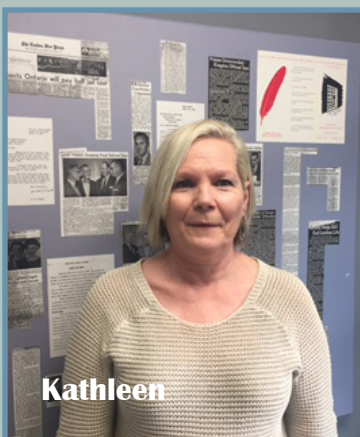
Professor Barton was born in Toronto and grew up in Orillia where he completed his post-secondary education. He holds degrees in Forestry (Toronto), Law (Queens Gold Medalist), and Law (Harvard - First Class Honours). Professor Barton worked as a Barrister and Solicitor, Law Society of Upper Canada, from 1974 through 1987. He taught law at U.B.C. and Western, part-time courses at Western (Mediation), Faculty of Commerce (UBC), Canadian Police College, Ontario Police College and Fanshawe College.

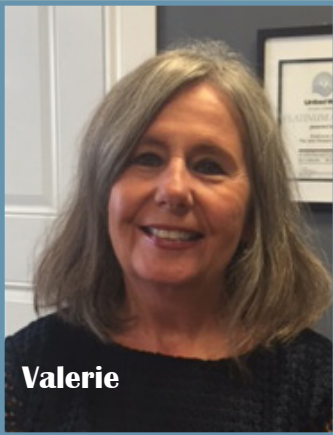
Professor Barton has lectured on arbitration and mediation at many venues and has written books about criminal practice, civil procedure, mediation, negotiation as well as numerous academic articles, largely about litigation procedure. He has also written and illustrated a book of children's stories. He was a co-editor of the Canadian Journal of Law and Jurisprudence, 1989-2007. This journal of legal philosophy explores issues of the use of rules to achieve justice.

Recently, Professor Barton has received significant awards including *Air Liquide Canada v. Steelworkers*, *Essar Steel Algoma Inc v. Steelworkers*, *Tenneco Canada v. Steelworkers*, *Central West Specialized Developmental Services v. Ontario Nurses' Association* and *Kaiser Aluminum v. Steelworkers*.

Professor Barton is married, has three daughters and six delightful grandchildren. He loves the outdoors and individual outdoor sports and has competed internationally in cycling and in cross-country skiing.







Valerie



Ricardo

JHS of London Staff

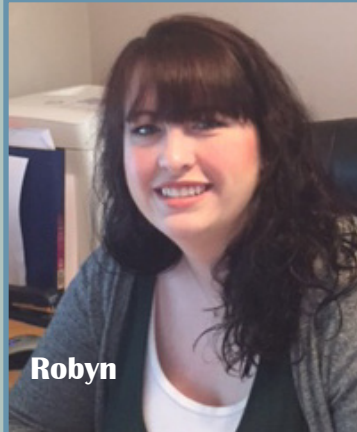
2016/17



Charlene



Roman



Robyn



Jacqui



Justine P.



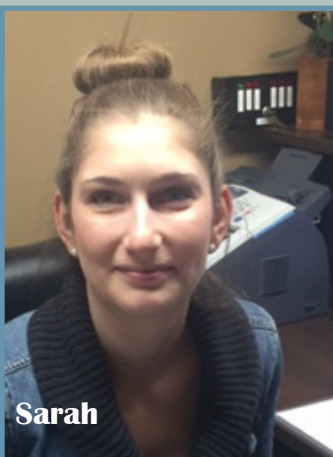
Kaela



Sara



Jovana



Sarah

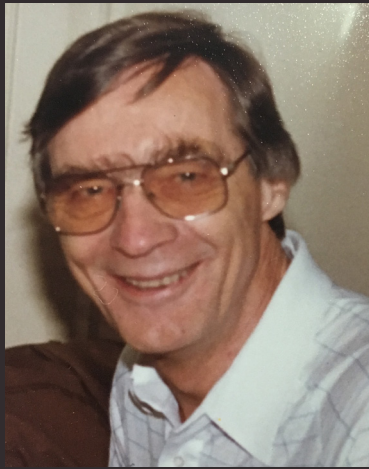


Abeny



Natasha

John Howard
SOCIETY OF LONDON AND DISTRICT



and Counting...



John Howard Society of London and District

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