



Dear Friends & Supporters of Safe Families,

We are so incredibly grateful for your generosity this past year in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic and related chaos! Not only have we been able to continue carrying out our mission in the midst of the pandemic and lockdowns, we have grown and expanded the service we are providing, thanks to your support.

In 2020, we added three new chapters of Safe Families in Steinbach, Chatham and Edmonton, bringing our total active chapters across Canada up to 10, and grew our staff team from 8 to 20 to be able to increase our service to families-in-crisis. We facilitated 100 hostings of children in the homes of our volunteer Host Families and supported an additional 58 families through our Circles of Support without needing to host their children. An incredible amount of time, energy, and love is poured into each of these families by our staff and volunteers. The numbers do not really indicate what is happening on the ground, so be sure to read our Snapshot Stories in this letter to get a better picture of the impact you are contributing to!

~ Jen Francis, Executive Director, Safe Families Canada

2020 In Review:



Financial Transparency

So what exactly do we do with the money you donate to Safe Families? You can find out on our Financial Transparency page recently added to our website: <https://safefamiliescanada.com/donate/financial-transparency/>

Safe Families PLUS

In the late spring of 2020, we were awarded a one-year Seed Grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to fund a pilot project of Safe Families PLUS in Windsor-Essex. Safe Families PLUS is for teens and young adults who are aging out of the foster care system alone, without a permanent home or family. In PLUS we train volunteer Mentors and match them with older youth to help them successfully transition to adulthood. Mentors serve as “anchor families” to youth, providing a safety net to fall back on after leaving the child welfare system.

Children's Aid Foundation Canada Grant

In the fall of 2020, we received a grant from the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada for our Toronto chapter to expand its reach to marginalized families who were hit especially hard by COVID-19. Through this grant, we have been able to support more vulnerable families, recruit more volunteers, and provide essential resources to families in need.

A Snapshot

I met with a single mom the other day. Due to some challenging life circumstances that she is navigating, we have arranged for her children to spend every other weekend with a wonderful Host Family for the next several months. Not only does the Host Family have an opportunity to love these children, but, this beautiful young mom will receive a much needed reprieve to focus on her needs and healing.

As we made the arrangements, her eyes welled up with tears.

"Do you know what you've given me?" she asked quietly. I shook my head.

"Hope," she responded. **"You've given me hope"**.

~ Michelle Peters, Regional Director, Steinbach, MB

A Bigger Picture

A young mom, we will call Anna, was referred to Safe Families in Kitchener-Waterloo when she was pregnant with her fourth child. Her older three children had been apprehended by Family and Children's Services and placed in foster care due to domestic violence in the home. Anna was told, that if she didn't get away from her abusive partner permanently then this new baby would also be taken from her. Struggling with mental health issues, fear, and trauma, she moved into a maternity home and was desperate to keep her baby after the birth, though she could not do it on her own. Anna felt the system had set her up to fail. That is when Safe Families stepped in: our team built trust with her and then introduced her to a local Host Family and Family Friend who provided incredible wrap-around support before and after her baby was born.

As she struggled in the post-partum months with anxiety, exhaustion, a traumatic experience and navigating the healthcare system (her daughter was born with a craniofacial deformity), the Host Family was there to care for the baby (for both short and long stays) and her Family Friend was present and supportive throughout. They all spent many hours encouraging her, sitting with her in silence on tough days, helping her navigate the challenges that came her way, and celebrating milestones with her. A Resource Friend, who is a property manager, helped her secure an apartment at an exceptionally good price so she could move out of the supportive living home.

Since our beautiful team of volunteers began journeying with Anna, she has finished her schooling, learned to drive a car, and become independent of her formerly abusive partner. One of the biggest milestones she reached was having her file closed by Family and Children's Services as they are no longer concerned about her ability to provide a safe home for her daughter! None of this would have been possible without the continued presence of the volunteers who opened their hearts and homes to Anna and her daughter, stepping into the mess with her to form a genuine loving and supportive relationship with her family. Moreover, Safe Families would not have been able to coordinate the establishment of these invaluable relationships without your generosity!

~Vanessa Ploc, Regional Director, Kitchener-Waterloo

We're Growing!

2020 Chapters Launched!

Chapters Developing!

You can contact them to get involved at:

 **Edmonton, Alberta**

 **Steinbach, Manitoba**

 **Chatham, Ontario**

British Columbia

Oceanside@safefamilies.ca

CentralOkanagan@safefamilies.ca

Ontario

Guelph@safefamilies.ca

Brantford@safefamilies.ca

Hamilton@safefamilies.ca

Picture Reference

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Join the Movement

There are families in crisis and they need you!

A mom, with little to no income trying to put food on the table; a dad struggling with mental health; a young mom with no where to live, a single parent with a medical crisis and no one to trust to care for their children while hospitalized.

You can make a difference and Safe Families can show you how! Become a **Host Family**, a **Family Friend**, a **Resource Friend**, a **Family Coach** or Make a donation today! You can give online through our website, safefamilies.ca, canadahelps.org or mail a cheque to:






PO Box 3029, Bur Oak PO, Markham, ON., L6E 0J1

For more information, contact us:

647-784-7161

info@safefamilies.ca

You can make a difference.

	Host Family Voluntarily host children in your home on a temporary basis.		Family Friend Support families in need & host families.
Resources Friend Provides Goods & Service to families in need.		Family Coach Help Families in need reach their goals & support host families.	
	Connect Introduce you local church to Safe Families.	<div>Pray</div> <div>Donate</div>	