# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 20

A YEAR OF HOPE AND HEALTH

#### A MESSAGE FROM MITCH ROBINSON

CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2018 was another year of strong growth across a number of fronts. We saw growth in our funding, both in the amount and diversity of sources. This in turn has allowed us to expand the team and our capabilities on all fronts including service delivery to our clients, delivering education and training, and our ability to grow awareness of the complex and challenging issues and negative impact that child sex abuse and human trafficking has in our communities.

One of the most important measures for our organization is the number of people whose lives we can have a positive impact on - our clients. 2018 saw Voice Found surpassing its five year goal for number of active clients in just two short years! As a Board and Management team, 2019 will find us focused on finding even more ways to expand our reach and scale, positively impacting not just hundreds but thousands of victim's lives.



This continued growth also saw the achievement of major milestone for Voice Found. In February 2018, we launched the H.E.A.L.T.H. Clinic, a first of a kind facility for Eastern Ontario, exclusively designed to care for and support trafficked persons who can often find mainstream health care environments traumatic. Serving Eastern Ontario, we have created a single space where regional service providers are working together to provide holistic, trauma-informed care to our clients.

Our financial results continue to demonstrate our fiscal discipline and our ability to create maximum impact with scarce resources. Of note in this area, due to funding related requirements, we also successfully transitioned to having our 2018 financial statements reviewed as an audit, a process that positively impacts our overall risk management efforts. As a Board, we will continue to adapt our governance structures to be aligned with our overall growth as an organization.

We very much look forward to an even bigger impact in 2019 and beyond.

Mitch

#### **ABOUT VOICE FOUND**

Child sex abuse and sex trafficking are devastating to experience, painful to recall, and hard for anyone to think about. But we need to go beyond thinking about it. We need to talk about it, face it, stop it, and help every survivor live the best possible life.

Voice Found works to create safe communities that recognize and stop abuse. We support survivors in their journey to overcome what has been done to them without their consent, and to move on to healthy lives.

We do this a number of ways:

#### **PREVENT**

Voice Found delivers education across Canada to help people identify risk, respond, and stop child sex abuse and trafficking before it happens.

#### **SUPPORT SURVIVORS**

Through the Hope Found Project and H.E.A.L.T.H. we provide front line support and healthcare services for persons who have been trafficked in Eastern Ontario and the National Capital Area.

#### GROWTH SKILLS AND LEADERSHIP

The Path Found program helps survivors who have exited the sex trade acquire new skills and move from Victim to Survivor to Leader. (October 2018)

Our approach is guided by compassion, lived experience, courage, honesty, and strength. It is:

#### **SURVIVOR LED**

We empower survivors to lead their own healing journey and recognize that they are more than what happened to them. We facilitate growth in all areas of their lives

#### **CLIENT CENTRED**

The needs of our clients come first with services provided in a considerate, non judgmental manner. We seek to minimize re-traumatization and further exploitation by focusing on the needs of our clients.

#### PARTNER ENHANCED

We work together with service providers across Canada to fill service and funding gaps so we can all help more clients in need.

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Many thanks to our dedicated 2017/2018 board members

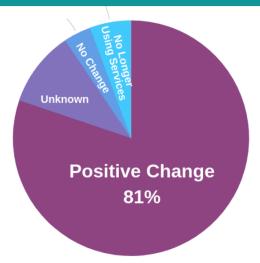
Mitch Robinson, Chair Amanda Schultz, Secretary Julie Pandeya, Treasurer Lynzy Boeswald-Lalande, Director Barbara Cain, Director Robynn Collins, Director

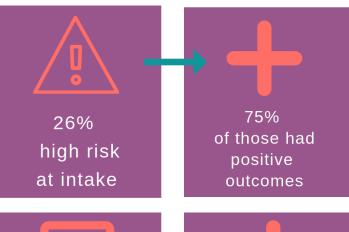
Sergeant Damien Laflamme, Director Terry Kirkpatrick, Director Anna Laurence, Director Sapna Mahajan, Director Tom Watson, Director

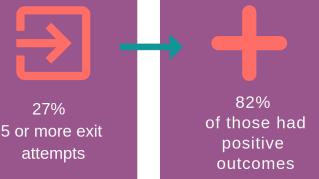


Providing services and support for persons in Eastern Ontario and the National Capital region who have been trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation or wish to exit the sex trade.

### 106 CLIENTS PARTICIPATION RESULTS





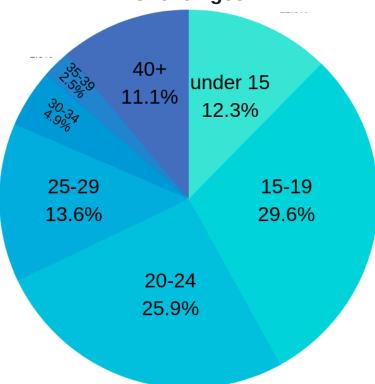


"The support I received before, during, and after trial was above and beyond anything expected. I am so thankful for the support I had during an extremely difficult time." Launched in May 2016, we had a 5 year goal of supporting 100 persons. In under 2 years we surpassed that goal by reaching 106 clients.

Working from a survivor-led and victim-centered approach, we provide services unique to each person. These range from emergency to ongoing and long-term needs. Having a team with lived experience, a safe space and working with other agencies to help fill gaps is what differentiates us and has been key to client success.

The results we have highlighted are a snapshot in time representing where our 106 clients were as of March 31, 2018. Positive outcomes or change for the purpose of this data is that the client wished to exit the sex trade and have been successful in doing so.

#### **Client Ages**



Funding for The Hope Found Project is made possible through funding from the Federal Department of Justice.

February 22, 2018 we opened Canada's first primary and preventative health care clinic for persons at risk of, being, or who have been trafficked. Led by Clinical Director, Tara Leach, H.E.A.L.T.H. is open 2 days a week and welcomes everyone (age 13+) regardless of gender, insurance or documentation.

Located in downtown Ottawa, the clinic has been designed to provide additional services to those who require them. Thanks to our partnership with Ottawa Victim Services, clients have access to a Victim Quick Response (VQRP) Coordinator who is onsite one day a week. A bilingual case manager helps coordinate access to a wide variety of services including peer support. Education to health care providers and first responders is another important aspect of work at the clinic.

#### FEBRUARY 22, 2018 - GRAND OPENING

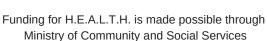
February 22nd, 2018 was Ontario's first ever Anti-Human trafficking awareness day. It was a perfect day to celebrate the opening of H.E.A.L.T.H. Over 50 local organizations, health care and service providers, city officials and collaborative partners joined us at a breakfast event.

We were delighted to have Karen Desrocher join us from Toronto. Karen is a Program Supervisor from the Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office and she updated us

on the provincial strategy to end human trafficking









Pictured above
Left, Tara Leach PHC-NP, Clinical Director with
Melissa Heimerl, Executive Director Ottawa Victim
Services



We deliver a number of educational programs and are sought after for our deep expertise and ability to deliver relevant and current content. We are happy to work with organizations to develop custom material and provide key note speakers.

### 2043

people attended our education events throughout the year.



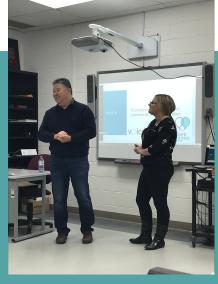
'Mothers and Daughters' training Algonquins of Pikwakanagan







Simone traveled with VERAFIN to educate people in the financial industry on how to identify traffickers.



Training future officers
Akwasasne

"We would like to thank Voice Found for the tremendous work they did developing child sex abuse prevention training, tailored to our program and our needs. For the first time in many, many years, our volunteers had the tools and got the proper training to help them.

We are happy to say that Voice Found is an important partner to Forum for Young Canadians"

Marie-Michèle Laferrière, Executive Director, Forum for Young Canadians



Speaking at highschools is always a highlight for us.

#### ABUSE AWARENESS DAY ON THE HILL

#### Monday, February 5, 2018.

Members of Parliament from all political parties hosted a screening of the documentary Swift Current on Parliament Hill. The event provided an opportunity to discuss and learn about abuse and its impact on children in Canada.

After the screening, guests interacted with a panel of experts to discuss the broad social impact of abuse and what elected officials can do to end child abuse and improve outcomes for victims.

Cynthia Bland, Founder and CEO joined National Chief Perry Bellgarde, Assembly of First Nations; Sean McCann, Great Big Sea founder and mental health advocate; and Sheldon Kennedy, child advocate and former NHL hockey player on the panel of experts.









"Family members do abuse children and, no matter our discomfort, we must always to the right thing and report abuse. Children who are supported and get help will heal faster."

- Cynthia Bland

#AbuseAwarenessDay

voicefound.

#### **GENEROUS SUPPORT**







Throughout the year we were honoured to have the support of many individuals and organizations. Third Party Fundraisers were held by the following:

Moving Mountains who donated \$5.00 from each piece of jewelry sold.

(wearemovingmountains.com)

Rise Up whose awareness event proceeds were all donated to us.

Feminist Twins chose us as the charity of choice for their Annual Feminist Fair.(feministtwins.com)

The ShoeBox Project who provided us with 90 Christmas boxes to give to our clients.

Beacon Bags who supplied us with bags packed with essentials in gorgeous bags.

Boom! Savings! Charity Shopping Club who kept us well stocked with many goodies.

**Danielle Allard** whose song 'No Longer Silent' has been recorded with proceeds of downloads being donated to us. (*danielleallard.com*)

Amanda Sterczyk who donated her time to lead staff and clients in Essentrics for Survivors.











COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

#### invested for good

for selecting us for a grant that will allow us to engage youth and subject matter experts in developing and delivering training for local high schools on the issue of Human Trafficking.



#### **EVENTS**



#### Hops and Hotdogs on the Hill

On a beautiful August evening we enjoyed a fun and casual evening dining on gourmet hotdogs and enjoying cold beverages with over 60 people who came to help us raise funds.

We were thrilled to have so many wonderful organizations, members of parliament, US embassy staff, friends and donors join us. We were delighted that Laurie Scott, MPP was able to join us along with some of her colleagues.

#### **Joy Smith Foundation**

The Joy Smith Foundation invited Simone Bell to speak at the screening of the film "Human Trafficking: Canada's Secret Shame". The event was open to Parliamentarians and the general public and helped to raise awareness of the issue of human trafficking in Canada.

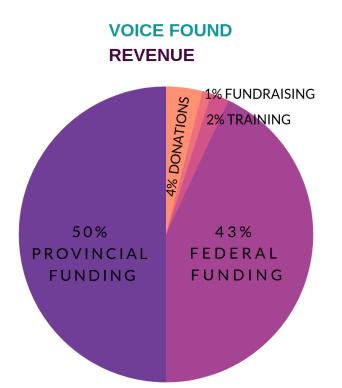


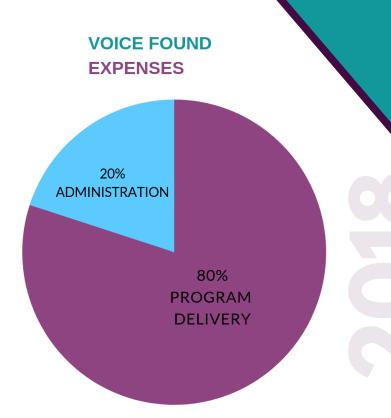
# Sandbox 150 Building Healthy Futures Voicefound Voicefound

#### **The Sandbox Project**

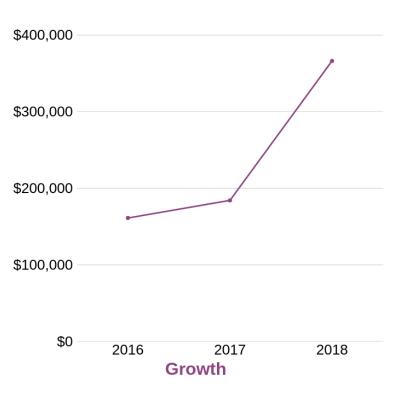
On June 6th, Voice Found's team of rain participated in The Sandbox Project. pop-up sandbox was built on Ottav Street in order to raise awarene surrounding the health of chihealth organizations, Park participated in a friench Despite the downpour a fun getting down on our he sandcastle!

#### **Financial Summary**





Revenue growth last 3 fiscal years.



**Provincial Funding:** New this year was funding from the new Ontario Anti-Human Trafficking office.

**Federal Funding:** The Federal Department of Justice continues to fund the Hope Found Project.

**Donations:** Since acquiring charitable status, we have seen a 50% increase in donations

Training Revenue: We saw a decrease training revenue. This was in part increase in case load with no staffing.

Fundraising: We did fundraiser this benefactor

Donations to Voice Found can be made to www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/v

#### A MESSAGE FROM Cynthia Bland

#### **Founder and CEO**

#### Hope

- : to cherish a desire with anticipation : to want something to happen or be true
- : to desire with expectation of obtainment or fulfillment
- : to expect with confidence : trust

As I was reflecting on last year the word 'Hope' kept coming up. When I look at the definition of the word it's easy to see why.

For the survivors who honour us with their trust, our team works hard to meet their needs and encourage their dreams while providing hope that all is possible. Whether attending our new health clinic or through the Hope Found Project, each of the clients we work with has a myriad of needs, have experienced extreme trauma and have had much taken from them. Dreams, choice, security, independence, money and so much more. We provide the support to help restore that which was taken.

This is work that requires team of dedicated professionals across different sectors and organizations to work collaboratively. We are fortunate to have forged many successful partnerships with others who understand and employ trauma-informed and victim centred care. Of note is our partnership with Ottawa Victim Services. Our new health clinic was developed as a hub model with OVS being a key part of the overall equation.

I am incredibly proud of the Voice Found team, a number of whom have lived experience. They are relentless in their commitment to do what is best for each client. Each day they bring their whole selves to their work, juggle many competing priorities, often work after-hour emergencies and do it all with the utmost integrity.

From a personal perspective, my desire and hope when starting Voice Found was to create a place where people who have been sexually exploited would get the support and healing they need. A place where they would feel safe. A place where they would be heard and seen with compassion and a belief that they would be okay. A place where we could offer opportunities for employment and encourage leadership. The ultimate goal? To prevent children from being sexually abused and all persons from being sexually exploited. It's a big dream.

This work is difficult, challenging and exhausting. It is not without risk and trauma.

More importantly, this work changes lives. Each day we are witness to the transformation of lives through the power of hope combined with the courage of survivors.

I look forward to what is to come!

With Gratitude *Cynthia* 



## Thank you to the many organizations we had the pleasure of working with during the fiscal year!

Adoption Council of Canada

A New Day

Akwesasne Community and Social Services

Algonquin College

Children's Aid Society Ottawa

CHEO Ottawa Children's Hospital of Eastern

Ontario

Covenant House Toronto

**CAVAC** 

Dave Smith Centre

Deborah's Gate

**Embrace Life Council** 

Elizabeth Fry Society

Forum for Young Canadians

Free Them

Government of Nunavut

Gatineau Police

Kingston Police HT unit

**OCTEVAW** 

OPP

Ottawa Community Adult Justice Network

Ottawa Hospital - Sexual Assault and

Partner Abuse Program

Ottawa Police Services Human Trafficking

Team

Ottawa Victim Services

**Operation Come Home** 

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada

Peel Police HT unit

Recovery Ottawa

Royal Ottawa Hospital

**STORM** 

The Canada Centre to End Human

Trafficking

Timea's Cause

Toronto Police HT unit

Victim Services across Ontario

Victim Witness Assistance Program

Wabano

Windrose

YouTurn

#### Voice Found