

**v**oicefound.

**Annual Report**

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2016-2017



## A MESSAGE FROM MITCH ROBINSON

CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
VOICE FOUND



Our Fiscal Year ended March 31, 2017 was a tremendous year of growth for Voice Found in terms of impact.

Unfortunately, much of this growth was driven by increased demand for our services. However, on the positive side, some of this growth was also driven by increased awareness in our local, regional and national communities of the challenges that Child Sex Abuse and Human Trafficking present to our society. There was also much greater awareness of the potential outcomes that are possible when the right services, delivered in the right manner, are made available through organizations like Voice Found. Ultimately our mission is threefold, to have a positive impact on the people who require our services, to raise awareness to these complex issues and finally, to educate with prevention in mind. When we look at FY 2017, we feel significant progress was made on all three fronts.

From a financial perspective, our organization continues to operate in a very efficient manner, maximizing the impact of our expenditures wherever possible and consistent with our newly minted status as a charitable organization, we have now implemented a more formalized Board structure and governance model.

We look forward to continuing on this trajectory in the years to come.

**Mitch Robinson**  
***Chair of the Board of Directors***  
***Voice Found***



Across Canada there has been a rise in the number of persons being sex trafficked and sexually exploited. Ontario is a major hub and the average age of girls being coerced into the sex trade is 13. This is a significant issue and over 90% of trafficked youth have a history of child sex abuse.

In May 2016 we officially launched the Hope Found Project which provides services and support to persons in Eastern Ontario who have been sex trafficked and/or who wish to exit the sex trade. The vision for this project belongs to co-founder Simone Bell, herself a survivor of domestic sex trafficking.

During our fiscal year, we supported 47 clients – 28 of whom are considered high risk. This number has far surpassed our expectations of supporting 100 clients over 5 years. Early indications tell us that the work we are doing is effective. We have a few clients returning to school, some now living independently, and some who have been out of the game for over a year.

Clients have told us that they feel safe and comfortable coming here. They know they will not be judged and appreciate that we are professionals with lived experience. Our success is due to our ability to mobilize quickly and adjust to the specific circumstances of the individual. In addition, our collaborative approach has allowed our clients to have access to the best support available to suit their needs. The 24/7 emergency support that we provide to clients has resulted in the successful rescue of those who have found themselves in danger.

Voice Found's mission is to prevent child sex abuse and commercial sexual exploitation. We hope some day there will be no need for the services provided by The Hope Found Project.

While we work towards that lofty goal, we will continue to provide the best of services and support for those who've been victimized by this most heinous of crimes.



## Year at a glance



### 210 HOURS WEEKEND & EVENING EMERGENCY SUPPORT



These are critical emergency responses for clients who are in dangerous situations. We immediately spring into action to ensure safety no matter the time of day.

- 47** Number of sex trafficked clients
- 29** Required after hours care
- 15** Under the age of 18
- 28** High Risk



### \$18,000 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Paid for clients to get much needed therapy, specialized addiction treatment, have tattoos removed and more.



### \$7,000 EMERGENCY ESSENTIALS



This includes temporary and safe shelter, food and clothing in addition to moving and storage of belongings and transportation.



### 36 EMERGENCY BACKPACKS

PJ's, toiletries, snacks, coffee cards, feminine products, underwear, water, hats, socks, mitts. Distributed by law enforcement.

## THE YELLOW DRESS PROJECT

*When people come to our office one of the first things that they comment on are the paintings on display. These paintings are the work of Torre Marie –a survivor of child sex abuse who started painting as a way to heal from her trauma. She produced a series of paintings called 'The Yellow Dress Project'.*

### WHY THE YELLOW?

"I've been asked this a lot. I'm not really one who tends to be a yellow person. The colour is probably on my least favourite list, well it was. This project has changed my perception of the colour. After considering the choices to represent such a delicate part of myself, yellow happened to 'fall onto the canvas' so to speak. The yellow represents my hope. The process of healing can be dark and it can feel lonely. Trauma can sound scary to people on the outside, it creates an uncertainty. Truly though it is just as scary and filled with just as much uncertainty to the person who is experiencing and healing from Trauma. It requires a great deal of hope, trust, and whole lot of faith to consider going through the painful healing process. I will be honest, sometimes I have lost sight of those things and as long as I keep going I find it again. The yellow reminds me that hope exists even though at times it can feel like it doesn't."



Torre has created small pictures for us to give to our clients and these are treasured reminders to them that they are not alone.

### WHY ARE ALL THE GIRLS SILHOUETTES?

"The answer to this is one that requires delicate words. The easy answer is that the contrast is beautiful. That's the easy answer though. The truth is that the silhouettes represent the shame. Shame is the I am \_\_\_\_, (unworthy, stupid, undeserving, etc.) It has a tendency to swallow up the uniqueness. It swallows up the talents, dreams, and future in my case. Shame is deeply painful, it occurs in everyone and in many different situations. Shame for survivors of childhood trauma is usually what fuels the silence and fuels the "I'm the only one" mentality. I learned a lot and healed a lot learning about shame. Brene Brown's book, "I thought it was just me (but it wasn't)" provided me with insight and understanding into shame that lead to healing breakthroughs, I strongly recommend it. When we shed the blackness of the shame, we can find our uniqueness.

We need the yellow dress to do that though, we need the hope of better, days, nights, tomorrow's, of health, strength, and love. We need the hope of being worthy of love, compassion, empathy. We simply need hope of good. So when I look at these paintings that's what I see. That is what I am reminded of."

### THE YELLOW DRESS – A STORY OF HOPE

Two years ago we had the pleasure of meeting Torre Marie while delivering facilitator training and we spent some time after class talking. During the course of the conversation, she expressed to me that there were so many people with stories about child sex abuse that needed to be told. We both recognized that most stories were of famous people and people of means who could afford treatment. We started thinking about how important it was to tell more stories. Stories from the 'every day' person. Stories from those who can't work because of their trauma. Stories from people who have not had support of partners or family or therapists. Stories of incredibly brave people who despite the odds – despite the trauma – despite the lack of support – have found hope. Stories of resilience and courage that would help other survivors know they are not alone. Stories that would educate others as to the significant impact that sexual abuse has on a child. It simply made sense to that Torre Marie tell her story.

On February 24th, 2017 we released our short documentary – The Yellow Dress- A Story of Hope. You can find it on our YouTube channel and also the home page of our website. We know you will be inspired to take action to protect children and to support all who have been impacted by sexual exploitation ~ Cynthia

# voicefound.

## TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Both Simone and Cynthia were invited to speak and train at a number of events



and conferences throughout the year. Here's a snapshot of some of the events:

This was an exciting year for new training development with two new projects:

### **Simone:**

Panelist - US Embassy - Trafficking in Persons (TIP) 2016 report  
Speaker - Liberty and Dignity Cocktail, Queens Park and Ottawa  
Speaker - The Girl Next Door Act , Queen's Park  
Speaker - A21 Walk, Ottawa  
Speaker - Algonquin College Social Work  
 Keynote Speaker- Brebeuf College School Social Justice Conference, Toronto  
Speaker - The Girl Next Door Act , Queen's Park  
Trainer - Ottawa Civic Hospital Emergency Room Nurses  
Trainer - Law Enforcement and Perth  
 Presenter - Rideau High School, Ottawa

### **Cynthia**

Presenter - Canadian Suicide Prevention Conference, Iqaluit, NU

### **2) Training for Nunavut**

Embrace Life Council and the Government of Nunavut invited Voice Found to partner on the development of a child sex abuse prevention resource for the territory. This is one of the recommendations from the suicide prevention strategy and we are honoured to have been invited to work on this culturally relevant training for Nunavut. Work began in August 2016 with roll out of the pilot expected in the fall of 2017.

Trainer - Forum for Young Canadians, Ottawa

Presenter - Renfrew County Victim Services

### **1) Forum for Young Canadians**

We developed and delivered new training for this national organization that is based in Ottawa. The training was geared to their unique needs. Youth aged 15-18 from across Canada attend a one week program in Ottawa and so they needed training that would be specific to that age demographic. All staff and volunteers were trained and the feedback was terrific. They now feel confident in their ability to reduce risk and manage disclosures or suspicions of sexual abuse.

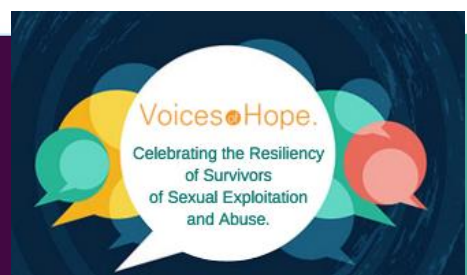
We continued to offer Stewards of Children child sex abuse prevention training in locations across Canada. A total of 1,346 people were trained and we are grateful to our volunteers who deliver this training.



## SURVIVOR VOICES

Finally the voices of survivors are being heard! This past year we hosted or participated in a number of events that provided survivors with opportunities to share their lived experience in a meaningful way.

Ottawa event featuring: Carol Todd, Henry Maxwell, Tabitha McDonald, Cynthia Bland and Dexter Nyuurnibe



Kingston event with Paulie O'Byrne, Tabitha McDonald, Dexter Nyuurnibe and our special trauma dog.

National Victims and Survivors Week.



Simone Bell at Queen's Park speaking with MPP's about the issue of sex trafficking.



Simone Bell speaking at the release of the TIPS report at the US Embassy with former US Ambassador Bruce Hayman



# VOLUNTEERS

Stewards of Children training is delivered coast to coast to coast via a great group of volunteers who work tirelessly to teach adults how to recognize, respond and even prevent child sex abuse. We are grateful for their commitment and

happy to have them as a part of our team.

## CLIENT ACTIVITIES



It's not ALL work ALL the time! One of the most healing and important activities are when we bring clients together to participate in social activities. At Christmas we had a craft evening (and ate a lot of treats in the process!)

We've also hosted pizza and movie nights and vision-boarding!



We are always looking for good people and the picture at the left is from our recruitment day through Volunteer Ottawa.

Some of our clients joined us for the A21 walk. A large crowd marched in silent single file through downtown Ottawa and ended on the steps of the Parliament buildings. It was a beautiful and powerful day.

# *FINANCIAL SYNOPSIS* X *AS OF 03/31/17*

We are so grateful to see an increase in donations and program revenue. This has resulted in a small surplus. Late this fiscal year we attained charitable status. For further information, please visit the Government of Canada Registered Charity Return which will be filed by August 1, 2017.

## INCOME

Grants	\$150,543
Programs	\$21,538
Fundraising	\$6,365
Donations	\$5,548

## EXPENSES

Program Delivery	\$72,413
Salaries	\$68,396
Office and Administration	\$25,111

**Voice Found is now a charitable organization.**

**Our registration number is #82503 3202 RR0001**

**Donations can be made on our website or via Canada Helps.**

**Cheques made out to Voice Found can be mailed to c/o 5654 Hazeldean Road, Box 13097, Kanata, ON , K2K 1X3**

*Funding for the Hope Found project has been provided by the Department of Justice Victims Fund – Measures to Address Prostitution Initiative.*

**Canada**



Department of Justice  
Canada

Ministère de la Justice  
Canada



# PARTNERS. COLLABORATORS. SUPPORTERS.

Every day we get to work with the most amazing and dedicated individuals and teams who help us to accomplish our mission. We know we can't do it alone. Together we are stronger!

Adoption council of Canada  
A New Day  
Centre for Treatment of Sexual Abuse and Childhood Trauma  
Children's Aid Society Ottawa  
Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario  
Covenant House Toronto  
Deborahs's Gate  
Elizabeth Fry Society  
Embrace Life Council  
Forum for Young Canadians  
Free Them  
Government of Nunavut  
Kingston Police HT unit  
OCTEVAW  
OPP  
Ottawa Community Adult Justice Network (The Community Adult Justice Network of Ottawa (CAJN))  
Ottawa Hospital - Sexual Assault and Partner Abuse Program  
Ottawa Police Services Human Trafficking Team  
Ottawa Victim Services  
Operation Come Home  
Peel police HT unit  
Recovery Ottawa  
STORM  
The Canada Centre to End Human Trafficking  
Timea's Cause  
Toronto Police HT unit  
Victim Services Leeds and Grenville  
Victim Services Renfrew  
Victim Services SDGA  
Victim Services of Toronto  
Victim Witness Assistance Program  
Wabano  
YouTurn

Algonquin College  
Arise Dance Studio  
Art In Jest  
Boom! Charity Savings  
Creativision  
Danielle Allard  
Derick Fage  
Diane Kroe  
Guardman Insurance  
Harvey and Verns  
James McNeil  
Jayshree Bhargava  
Jeff Larocque CKCU FM  
Jennifer Francis  
Kevin McGowan  
Kitchessipi Beer  
Le Twist Bakery  
Marcoon Creative Design  
Maya Spoken  
MediaStyle  
Nandos on Elgin Street  
Olivia-Jeannine Desormeaux  
Rennie Estate Winery  
Rise UP  
Selfie Box  
SpeedPro Imaging  
Tanya Goveas Events by 7  
Torre Marie

**Gavin from  
Boom! Charity Savings  
With one of his special  
deliveries.**

**So much goodness!**



## From Disclosure to A National Registered Charity



## A message from Founder and CEO, Cynthia Bland

Over the past year Voice Found has made a huge impact on the lives of so many. I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished and how far we have come. From a grassroots organization run by volunteers to a registered charity, we have remained committed to the prevention of child sex abuse and commercial sexual exploitation.

December 13, 2015 is a day I will never forget - it is the day that I disclosed that I had been sexually abused as a child starting at age 5. It is the day I found my voice.

Voice Found was born from my pain and my healing. It is my commitment to do something more so that others don't feel alone. It is vitally important to me that we not only support adult survivors but that we do all we can to educate everyone on how to identify, respond and possibly even prevent these atrocities from happening.

Voice Found would not exist without the unwavering support and guidance from our board of directors, an amazing team, volunteers, incredible collaborating partners and donors.

Mostly though, it would not exist without our clients. Sadly, I do not foresee a day in my lifetime that we are not needed. Demand for our services is high but with your continued support, we will do our best to meet the needs.

I look forward to a year where we provide more hope, more help and where more people join in the fight against child sex abuse and sex trafficking.

With gratitude,

Cynthia Bland  
Founder, CEO  
Voice Found





WELLBEING AGENCY

#NOLONGERSILENT

SAFETY AND SECURITY

TOGETHERNESS

JOY STRENGTH

LAUGHTER THANK YOU

HAPPINESS

EMPOWERING

FREEDOM

EVERY DAY IS A NEW DAY

SUPPORT

YOUR VOICE DESERVES TO BE HEARD

FAITH PERSISTENCE

COURAGE

JUSTICE UNITY

voicefound.

PREVENTION PEACE

FIGHTING THREATS THROUGH EDUCATION AND AWARENESS UMBRELLA EDUCATION

THE YELLOW DRESS GALA AWARENESS

HEALTH FIGHTING BACK SELF-ESTEEM THE HOPE FOUND PROJECT

VOICE FOUND CANADIANS

COMMITMENT LOVE JOYFUL

FREEDOM

SELFLESSNESS

PEERS

WISDOM BEAUTY