




**SACHA** SEXUAL  
ASSAULT  
CENTRE

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**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

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2020/2021



FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
**sacha.ca**

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<https://www.instagram.com/SACHAhamont>

## **A Message from Caitlin Craven, Chair of Management Committee & Jessica Bonilla-Dampney, Director**

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Dear friends, supporters and community members,

This has certainly been a year like no other and can be summarized by our Take Back the Night (TBTN) theme “Reimagine, Resist, Rebuild.” SACHA, like every organization was faced with the reality of ensuring that we continually provide the best services and supports available to survivors and communities, while living through a global pandemic. We are grateful to all Management Committee Members, Staff and Volunteers for their ability to reimagine our service provision from in person services to remote services, literally overnight. Our services have been lovingly reimaged to be as accessible as possible via zoom or the telephone, by dropping off care and craft packages for group participants, being present when there are community call outs, sending masks in the mail with group materials, hosting TBTN virtually (for the first time in over 20 years) and then supporting other community organizations and groups with their virtual events, and by starting a new chat and text service to compliment the service provided through our 24hr – 7 days a week telephone support service.

Before the pandemic more and more survivors of sexual violence were reaching out for support than before. With orders to stay home and isolate, the pandemic made that need for support greater. As Miranda (Public Education Coordinator) has mentioned, “we know the orders are difficult for a lot of people and we know that for some it is more, it is dangerous or even impossible. For some, staying home means being isolated with an abuser. We know that during COVID-19 the rates of violence in the home have increased including physical, sexual, gender-based, and child violence.” The need for increased supports and actions was evident and we are grateful to everyone who supported SACHA so that we could continue to support survivors. Thank you to the team at JANE for your ongoing support with our new database system; Thank you to all funders who took action through the COVID-19 Emergency response. Thank you to the United Way Halton & Hamilton and the Canadian Red Cross for your support with PPE. Thank you to our siblings at the OCRCC for your ongoing check-ins, support and advocacy for our centers in Ontario and for providing us with ZOOM years back. Thank you to the Spice Factory for your

support with our Chocolate Fest 2020. Thank you to the local small businesses for your support, we know the pandemic has been difficult for your, and yet, you still showed up and said “we believe survivors”, “survivors can’t wait” and supported our efforts to raise funds for SACHA. We resisted the challenges!

This pandemic has highlighted the importance of providing the necessary financial and human resources to end violence and oppression. SACHA was part of a collective of community organizations that crafted a policy document “Just Recovery Hamilton” for the City of Hamilton that included 9 principles including: investing in women; disability justice; mobility justice; focus on inclusive city building; investing on decent jobs decent wages, & local economy; investing in green infrastructure, policy and public access; tackling systemic racism; housing as a human right; and supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. While the document is not all-encompassing of the important voices and issues within our city, it is a fair start to a living document that shows how we can rebuild.

As we look ahead, we look forward to the day we can welcome everyone back into our physical office and return to in person services; we dream of a Chocolate Fest 2022 where we can once again enjoy delicious chocolate and be in your good company. A time where we can once again say thank you to all of the people, groups and organizations who support SACHA’s work. Thank you to our volunteers, community partners and donors. Thank you to community for always showing up! Your ongoing efforts allow us to continue to support survivors of sexualized violence in a trauma informed, survivor centered manner. Together, we strive towards our vision of a world free from violence and oppression; we take care of each other!

You are not Alone!

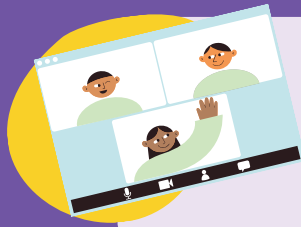
We Believe Survivors!

We are pleased to offer you the following highlights of SACHA’s work with survivors and within the community for 2020/2021:

# SERVICE DELIVERY

**1103**

VOLUNTEER HOURS



**156**

PUBLIC EDUCATION PRESENTATIONS

**1699**

SUPPORT LINE CONTACTS



**317**

PEOPLE IN COUNSELLING

**898**

TBTN VIEWS

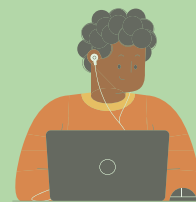


**125**

PARTICIPANTS IN  
"BY US FOR US"  
VIRTUAL WORKSHOP SERIES



# Crisis Support Program



## 24-HR SUPPORT LINE

The number of calls to the 24-Hour Support Line has grown by approximately 20% since April 2020 compared to the previous year, and the intensity of calls has increased as well.

1699



Calls to the line for the year



## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

The Crisis Support Program could not function without massive, skilled and dedicated volunteer input. Supporting survivors and tending to the various aspects of the Program.

10865

Thank you!

Hours collectively logged by Crisis Support Program Volunteers this year!



## WEBCHAT & TEXT SUPPORT

While demand for the 24-hour Support Line has increased during the pandemic, stay-at-home orders have reduced survivors' privacy and may prevent them from using the line for fear of being overheard by housemates or abusers.

The WebChat & Text Support Service offers more discretion in these situations and survivors have also been using it creatively, such as while triggered at work or while waiting at medical clinics.

Mondays 4:00 PM to 12:00 AM  
 Thursdays 4:00 PM to 12:00 AM  
 Friday 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
 Sunday 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

To chat visit: <https://sacha.ca/>  
 To text dial: (289) 207-7790





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# Counselling and Advocacy Program



## Our C&A Team

Our team consisted of 2 full-time counsellors, 1 part-time permanent counsellor, and 1 part-time counsellor on contract.

Our team is continuously flexible to accommodate the needs of service users with the funding that is available

## Counselling Amid the Pandemic

### Waitlist

Is around 5 months- gaging waitlist is becoming difficult as some service users are waiting for in-person service

### Strategies for Retention

Pilot of drop-in counselling

### Technology

Transferred our record keeping to Jane platform  
Offering services over phone, zoom or Jane video platform

### Challenges with the Pandemic within the Pandemic

Supporting clients who lack a safe place to speak in confidence  
Being stuck at home when it is triggering

# Diverse Communities Outreach Program



## What is DCOP?

The Diverse Communities Outreach Program offers supportive programming for survivors of sexual violence from Hamilton's diverse racial and cultural communities, in particular women who are Black, Indigenous, Queer, Trans, People of Colour.

## By Us For Us Workshop Series

Over 125 people participated in our **8 week By Us For Us virtual workshop series!** We assembled and delivered kits to participants, including items like grocery store gift cards, essential oils, art supplies and books. We are building a community that is By Us, For Us

## Peer Support Circle

DCOP hired two Facilitators to run a six week virtual Peer Support Circle. Six survivors participated and were supported with Care Kits.

Facilitators also created content for our social media and engaged hundreds with these tools.

## Newcomer Support

In light of Covid 19, we have had to develop innovative ways to engage Newcomers in our programming. We are in the process of developing relationships with organizations that centre Newcomer support

## Partnerships



Working with Hamilton Artists Inc. and GoodBodyFeel, we have engaged over 250 survivors with supportive, arts based and embodiment practice programs. We create space for imagination, community building and active support through online programming that is free and accessible





# PUBLIC EDUCATION

**THIS YEAR WE HAD 825 PARTICIPANTS AND A TOTAL OF 43 WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS**

**WOW!**

## Hamilton Area Schools

We are continuing to develop relationships with individual teachers and schools in the HWDSB and HWCDSB while also trying to build a partnerships with school boards. We also sit on Mohawk College's Sexual Violence Taskforce and speak at McMaster University when requested by staff, faculty or students.

## WORKSHOPS

Our most commonly requested and presented on topics for Public Education are Combatting Online Sexual Violence, Bystander Intervention, Supporting Survivors, Trauma-Informed Care and Two-Spirit & LGBTQIA+ Communities and Sexual Violence.

## Social Media

We have increased our followers on all platforms this year. We also have continued to increase the amount of original content we put out. We use a range of types of content types like live videos, educational graphics, statements, and services advertising.

## Ontario SAC Collaborations

This year during the pandemic we've had more opportunities to work with other Ontario Sexual Assault Centres. This includes Pub Ed Coordinator Check In's, a resource sharing collaboration, the possibility of an Ontario-wide virtual TBTN, and a collaborative Webinar.

## PANDEMIC CHALLENGES

We have had a busy year but being virtual has not come without challenges. Technology glitches can impact our ability to give speaks. We are also working with systems that don't always allow for participation from participants which we feel is important for learning. Lastly it has been harder to get as many feedback forms returned during the pandemic.

HAMILTON VIRTUAL

# TAKE BACK THE NIGHT 2020

Thursday September 17th 2020



This year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic we had to make our annual TBTN event virtual for the first time. While we couldn't gather in person to rally and March together we still saw our community come together with love and solidarity.

Our theme this year was Reimagine, Resist, Rebuild. At it's core it's about dreaming together of the world we want to live in.

Our event had a live premiere on YouTube but is still available to be viewed. To date we have had 898 views! If you haven't seen it, check out our YouTube @SACHAhamont !

We want to give many thanks to our amazing committee for all their work, Spirit Vision Drummers for their honour song for MMIWG2S, Sex Workers' Action Program for providing a documentary, Apoyamos Chile Toronto for leading a chant in solidarity with women facing violence in Chile, Hamilton Students for Justice for speaking, the community members who shared their talents, the survivors who shared their truths, our video editor Abby Kompare, the Hamilton District Labour Council, Sketchy Run Club, and the many unions who provided funds, and our community partners who submitted videos in solidarity.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: MIRANDA JURILJ, JESSICA BONILLA-DAMPTEY, SARAH ADJEKUM, JAY EDINGTON, NINA TRAN, AILEEN DUNCAN



# Two-Spirit, Trans, Non-Binary Trauma Counselling Group

In March 2021 SACHA began a 10 week Two-Spirit, Trans, Non-Binary Trauma Counselling Group led by Miranda and Diane.

The group showed us just how important trauma-informed services are for gender diverse people with over 12 inquiries after a single social media post and no additional outreach.

One challenge we had was group retention. For some it was related to life and COVID difficulties but for others the group did fit their needs as expected. This has helped remind us to explore the best ways to set group expectations.

Feedback included common themes of validation, acceptance, community, support, understanding, and healing.

We also often heard how SACHA is unlike other services because trauma-informed, anti-oppressive approaches. Group members were surprised but pleased to see that SACHA is different from other services.



According to the feedback received this service is necessary and should be continued to benefit and support more gender-diverse folks in the community.

# Staff

Amy Pellarin  
Danielle Boissoneau  
Diane Sharp  
Htee Naw Pa Saw  
Jessica Bonilla-Dampthey  
Maria Contreras  
Maria del Carmen Sarmiento  
Crickett Wilder\*  
Miranda Jurilj  
Miriam Sager  
Sarah Adjekum

\* Resigned during the year

Counselling & Advocacy  
Diverse Communities Outreach Coordinator  
Counselling & Advocacy Coordinator  
Financial Coordinator  
Director  
Office Coordinator  
Counselling & Advocacy Coordinator  
Public Education Coordinator  
Public Education Coordinator  
Crisis Support Line  
Counselling & Advocacy

## Contract Positions

Ashley-Anne Brown  
Ja'miil Corin  
Rocco Gizzarelli  
Ruchika Gothoskar  
Sadie Wolfe  
Sophia Topper  
Trisha Nightingale

JANE consultant  
DCOP Facilitator  
Consultant, Services for Male Survivors  
DCOP Facilitator  
Chocolate Fest Event Manager  
Program Support Worker for Chat/Text  
Bookkeeper

# Volunteers

## Management Committee

Caitlin Craven, Chair  
Candace Oghide  
Elisa Martha Grunwald

Harjot Atwal  
Jeanine Kushnir\*  
Allison Branston, Secretary\*  
Madison Brockbank, Secretary

Maria Feliz Miller  
Nora Ritcher  
Peggy McGillicuddy, Treasurer

\* Resigned during the year

## Fundraising Committee

Amanda Walters  
Ana Patrick  
Jessica Bonilla-Dampthey, Staff

Maria Contreras, Staff  
Miranda Jurilj, Staff  
Naw Pa Saw Htee, Staff

Nora Ritcher, Chair  
Sara Cifani

## Finance Committee

Alison Branston\*  
Carol Sheppard

Jessica Bonilla-Dampthey, Staff  
Maria Felix Miller

Naw Pa Saw Htee, Staff  
Peggy McGillicuddy

\* Resigned during the year



## Take Back the Night Committee

Aileen Duncan  
Miranda Jurilj, Staff, Chair

Jay Edington  
Nina Tran

Jessica Bonilla-Dampney, Staff  
Sara Adjekum, Staff

## Crisis Support Program Volunteers

Abarna Nathan  
Abeer Ahmad  
Alice Cavanagh  
Alina Millar  
Alyssa DeAngelis  
Alyssa Hiemstra  
Amanda Ayer  
Bridget Timmins  
Brienne C.  
Candice Chiu  
Catherine Reid  
Dana Muma  
Darby A.  
Denise Williams  
Dev R.  
Elaine Sterling  
Emily Chambers

Emily Panousis  
Emma Sood  
Esther Eruysal  
Inna Ushcatz  
Isabella Jope  
Jasmine Dong  
Jessica Merolli  
Jihyn Sung  
Julia Vanderluit  
Kailey Cutillo  
Katelyn McLeod  
Katerina Simantirakis  
Liberty L.  
Lily Wu  
Lochana K.  
Lorraine Rollo  
Madison Voelk

Mae Vanderkamp  
Maria Paz Villar  
Maria Sunil  
Mehrunissa Shiraz  
Meryam Qaderi  
Nandini Thiyagarajan  
Rachel Dass  
Ruchi Vijn  
Sammah Yahya  
Savanah Smith  
Selena M.  
Sophia Topper  
Sydney Johnson  
Sylvie C.  
Teresa Caterini  
Victoria Charron

# Recognition

## 5-year volunteer

Alice Cavanagh



# THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS



Ministry of the Attorney General  
Victims and Vulnerable Persons  
Division



City of Hamilton



United Way of Halton & Hamilton



Ministry of Children, Community  
and Social Services



Canadian Women's Foundation



Hamilton Community Foundation

Thank you to the team at  
JANE for your ongoing  
support



Jane App



SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTRE (HAMILTON & AREA)

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2021

	2021	2020
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	\$ 129,388	\$ 63,316
Term deposits	20,269	20,167
Accounts receivable	4,700	10,770
Harmonized sales tax recoverable	6,372	3,254
Prepaid expenses	1,873	1,124
	<u>162,602</u>	<u>98,631</u>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<u>11,316</u>	<u>11,260</u>
	<u>\$ 173,918</u>	<u>\$ 109,891</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 28,178	\$ 11,638
Employee deductions payable	12,174	11,729
Deferred contributions	54,650	5,000
	<u>95,00</u>	<u>228,367</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
General fund	57,601	60,265
Stabilization and capital fund	21,315	21,259
	<u>78,916</u>	<u>81,524</u>
	<u>\$ 173,918</u>	<u>\$ 109,891</u>

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Peggy McGillicuddy Director

 Director

The Report includes financial information extracted from Statements audited by Guyatt+Mofatt Chartered Accountant. Complete Financial Statements are available upon request.

SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTRE (HAMILTON & AREA)

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Year Ended March 31, 2021

	2021	2020
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Ministry of the Attorney General - operating	\$ 468,743	\$ 506,947
City of Hamilton	54,991	54,970
Donations	52,989	50,376
Ministry of Children Community and Social Services	51,500	-
United Way of Halton & Hamilton	50,519	51,027
Covid-19 Emergency Federal Funding (Canadian Women's Foundation)	42,415	-
United Way of Halton & Hamilton - Emergency Relief Funds	23,621	-
Other income	19,199	33,131
Funding for Male Survivors Program	10,490	12,523
Fundraising	5,350	-
Hamilton Community Foundation	5,000	822
	<u>784,817</u>	<u>709,796</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries & benefits	577,861	528,764
Program expenses	54,289	26,392
Rent	45,321	44,001
Consulting fees	29,451	25,344
Equipment & services	24,756	9,227
Office supplies	15,074	2,858
Telephone	14,184	7,653
Grounds & maintenance	10,593	4,110
Insurance	6,971	6,718
Other wages	4,227	10,146
Professional fees	4,000	4,000
Other administrative expense	2,866	1,900
Non-recoverable HST	2,777	1,415
Travel & meetings	2,504	4,415
Staff development	2,174	1,458
Membership	2,050	2,050
Publicity expenses	923	2,396
	<u>800,021</u>	<u>682,847</u>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS</b>	(15,204)	26,949
<b>TEMPORARY WAGE SUBSIDY</b>	12,596	-
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<u>\$ (2,608)</u>	<u>\$ 26,949</u>

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