



Manitoulin Family Resources

Box 181
Mindemoya, ON
POP 1S0

General Administration
705.368.3400

Violence Against Women
Prevention Program
Local: 705.377.5160
Toll Free: 1.800.465.6788

Children's Services
705.368.3400

EarlyON Child
& Family Centre
Little Current ext. 236
Mindemoya ext. 247

Little Current Child Care
ext. 234

Home Child Care
ext. 235

Mindemoya Child Care
ext. 223

Help Centre & Food Bank
ext. 242

Email Address
info@mfresources.net

Website
www.mfresources.net

Annual Report

April 2022 - March 2023

MISSION STATEMENT

To support individuals and families by providing resources, advocacy, and education through the agency's three program areas of Children's Services, Violence Against Women Prevention, and Food Security.

Message from the Board of Directors

Aanii, Bonjour, Welcome to Manitoulin Family Resources 2023 Annual General Meeting.

It is a pleasure to provide you with an introduction of our current members: Leanne Bentley (Vice-President), Yana Bauer (Secretary/Treasurer), Valerie O'Leary (Past President) Jillian Peltier, Margit Alberti, Leslie Fields and myself, Suzanne Norris. In addition, we would like to extend our gratitude to Rebecca Wright and Mary Jo Gordon who left the Board during this past year. As Board of Directors, we are passionate and believe in what Manitoulin Family Resources stands for and all it does to support the people in the communities it serves through resources, advocacy and education within the agency's three program areas of Children's Services, Violence Against Women Prevention and Food Security.

This past year proved to be a busy one as we continued to navigate through post pandemic protocols. A number of events presented various challenges to all levels of MFR from front-line staffing to senior management. Yet MFR managed to pull through and still served those that we could even with the limitations of the still present COVID climate. The Board acknowledges the increased pressure for and demands of the needs that MFR provides have been pushed to the limits. We greatly appreciate all the hard-working staff and volunteers for your dedication, compassion, and resilience. Without you, it would be impossible to provide the support, programs, and opportunities that our community members needed. Thank you for your perseverance during this challenging year and we look forward to working with all of you.

At this time, we are pleased to be able to share with you that masks are no longer required in any of our buildings. This brings with it comfort and that familiar feeling of meeting each other again, as we can recognize faces and enjoy seeing the smiles we missed during the pandemic.

Despite all the challenges over the last year, the Board continued to be engaged and focused on the best interests of the Organization.

We launched a broad based Environmental Scan to our key stakeholders including staff, external organizations and funders. We engaged in board education which resulted in the development of a reporting template using quality indicators, a new Senior Executive evaluation/self assessment process and a self evaluation for the Board. As a result of this, we developed the organization's Strategic Plan that will guide us for the next five years.

The Board would also like to recognize Marnie Hall, our outgoing Executive Director of 8 years. Your community-based leadership has brought value to the Organization. Your commitment, dedication, and compassion to your team and staff was evident as you always thought of them and the potential impact decisions may have had on them when making decisions. We are grateful that you are staying with MFR as the VAW Program Director. Thank you.

We would also like to welcome Colleen Hill, our new Executive Director. Colleen is a passionate community builder, advocate and champion who brings over 25 years of senior management and leadership in academic, public and not for profit positions. Colleen has enjoyed a colourful career so far at the local, national and international levels in Indigenous health, early childhood education, health equity for women and children, and food security. Most recently Colleen was the Executive Director for the Alzheimer Society of Ottawa and Renfrew County. We are excited that Colleen has joined the MFR team.

In closing, we would also like to thank our many funders who understand the challenges we faced throughout this past year. The support we have received from our governing agencies is much appreciated. Thank you not only from the Board but from the community as well. The board is confident the new strategies will bring us continued success and growth of our organization.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Norris Board President
Valerie O'Leary , Past President
Leanne Bentley, Vice-President

On behalf of Manitoulin Family Resources Board of Directors

Message from Marnie Hall, Former Executive Director

I wish to thank Manitoulin Family Resources' new Executive Director, Colleen Hill, for extending an invitation to me to share my reflections on this past year in our Annual Report. It has been an interesting journey to have held the role of Executive Director from September of 2014 until the end of this past June.

The decision that it was time for change was not taken lightly, but I can say with certainty that it was time, and that I believe the agency to be in very capable hands with beautiful possibilities ahead. Preparing this report proved to be difficult; not because of the transitions, but because so much was done while being under-resourced in staffing this past year, this past pandemic, that it had become a blur. When we, as a senior management team, look back at what has been accomplished in spite of that, I can share that it defies reality. Every sector speaks to the human resource shortage, and challenges, and closures that we are at risk of, essential service or not. MFR has not been exempt from this, and yet we succeeded in meeting our mandates and delivering our programs throughout the year, we completed and opened our new food bank and thrift store, we expanded our volunteer program, we created agency software for our staff, and we safely supported our clients and families. We did this in spite of the challenges we faced, and we did this because Manitoulin Family Resources doesn't have a staff made up of regular people; we have a staff of superheroes who wish to change the world.

While we are currently moving through many transitions as an agency, I believe that team of superheroes stands ready to accept the new challenges on the road to that bright future. And we would be remiss to not acknowledge those who stand behind us and have supported us throughout, those who are attached to our programs through our funding, but have also been present to us as friends and support over difficult years. To Donna, Lori, Amy, Franca, Ginette, Nancy, Adam, Martin, Carolyn, Erin, and all of their teams, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for being there to fight the good fight with us, and to offer a kind word, or a shoulder to lean on when it was needed. You, too, are superheroes. In spite of changes to come, we will all move forward together towards great things.

And, like we do with every good chapter, or book, or beautiful song that comes to an end, tonight we take a moment to reflect and smile at the thought of all that was experienced and all that was enjoyed, knowing that we will start the next one. It will be different, as it is supposed to be, but therein lies the opportunity to find new excitement and beautiful moments that we cannot even predict. With the agency in the hands, and hearts, of the superheroes we have, we can be certain that the future work of the agency will be awesome and make our communities proud. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity of these past years.

In gratitude,
Marnie Hall

Violence Against Women Prevention Program — Marnie Hall, VAWP Program Director

- Grant funding provided through Women’s Shelters Canada allowed for the dedicated hiring of a Shelter Supervisor, who was able to focus her time on the everchanging requirements of a high-risk congregate setting and ensure the safety and wellbeing of our staff and clients from the fall of 2022 until this past April.
- Further grant funding provided through Women’s Shelters Canada allowed us to hire for the position of Social Media and Community Engagement. This allowed MFR to have an active community presence in communication, which was beyond what the management team could otherwise have undertaken in the midst of short-staffing. We are very grateful to WSC for supporting us in all that they have to date.
- Grant funding from the Canadian Women’s Foundation that allowed us to open a satellite office for counselling services in Espanola, furthering awareness that we offer counselling and other services from Espanola to Massey to Sagamok First Nation to Nairn Centre.
- We delivered our first “Mothers in Mind” group, partnering with Healthy Babies, Healthy Children in Wikwemikong.
- Two (2) VAW staff took part in “Peace Program” training, for working with children in the shelter, and connecting with other VAW staff working out of shelters across Canada.
- We created our own software program for our Outreach program staff, that will allow our counsellors and case managers to access and update client files and networks while out in community, as well as help us track necessary statistics.
- Updated staff training in areas of risk assessment, danger assessment, and cultural capacity, as well as a full day of specialized Family Law Reform and Advocacy training with Pamela Cross.
- Collaborative events with other agencies throughout the year sponsored by the Mnidoo Mnising Coalition Against Domestic Violence, including Women’s Wellness Day, a community response scenario training session with Pamela Cross, and community education events.
- 35 women and 9 children housed in the shelter, and unable to house more due to lack of housing options for them to relocate.
- 33 women who had to be turned away due to lack of room.
- 145 women provided with counselling and/or case management services in community.
- Zero (0) Covid outbreaks within the shelter program since the start of the pandemic.



Children's Services Program — Diana St-Pierre, Children's Services Program Director

This was the year of balancing staffing shortages with growing needs, in all areas of service delivery of Manitoulin Family Resources. With heartfelt appreciation we would like to thank our amazing staff for having seen us through it all....

In Children's Services, it proved to be a challenging year with growing waitlists for families requiring care, but with some positive growth of lowering parent fees and adjusting programs to "grow" space in our centre based programs.

Highlights

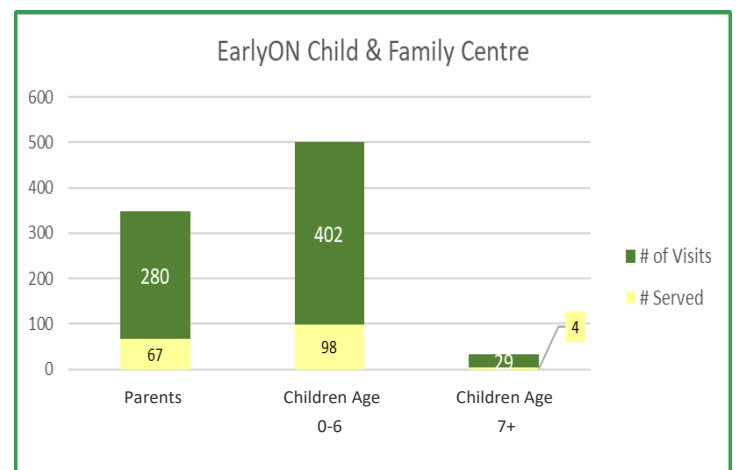
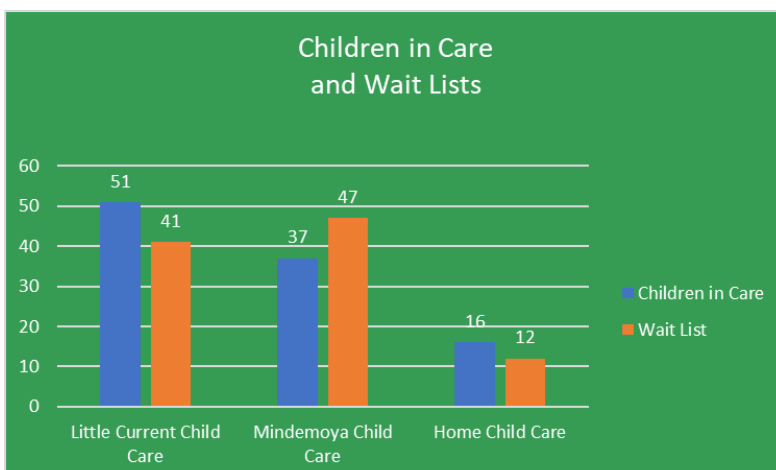
Introduction of the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care Plan, allowing families affordable child care. We continue to ask for increased wages and benefits for the staff who deliver these programs, so that we can recruit the educators necessary to provide child care to all who wish to access it.

In the fall of 2022 our staff were able to take part in the District's **"Worth More" Conference**, a full day and a half of wellness and celebrations of where we are now as a sector; this gave each location team a time to build connections face to face with our own larger agency team, and others within the district.

The relocation of our EarlyON Child and Family Centre spaces in Little Current and Mindemoya, where programs were moved out of the schools and into easily accessed community locations. This is allowing us to look ahead to our future plans of expanding programs in our two child care centres. Once staffing is in place we will be able to offer infant care in our Little Current Child Care, and toddler care at Mindemoya Child Care, supporting our desire to move families off our wait list. Our EarlyON locations are used by both internal and external programs through collaborative partnerships.



The re-introduction and expansion of the Home Child Care program in our communities since the hire of a new Supervisor. This has allowed for program awareness and promotion in community at various events, as well as at our information sessions on "How to Become a Licensed Provider".

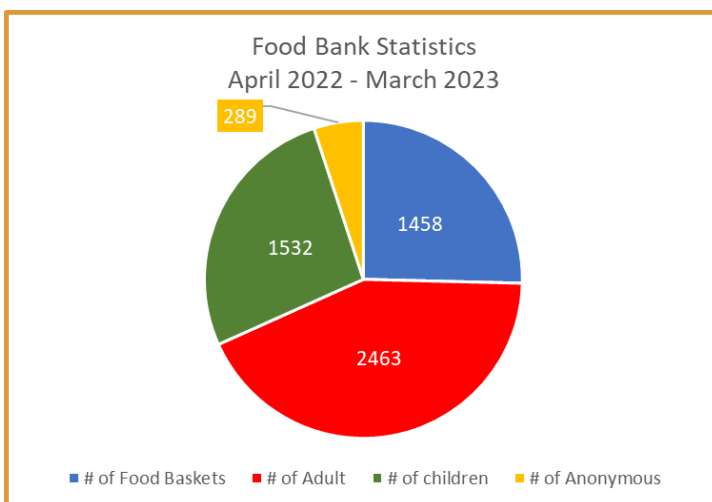


Emergency Food Assistance Program —Vanessa Glasby, Food Security Program Supervisor

In our Food Bank and Thrift Store (Food Security) operations this year saw the final relocation and opening of our long-awaited new building. We were fortunate to have Linda Gilchrist remain on in the leadership of this program until her retirement in September, having intentionally stayed on with us to be able to take part in the building's opening. Nikki Thompson, who had joined us earlier in February 2022, transitioned into the new lead of Food Security, and oversaw the return of volunteers to our programs and the opening of our new thrift store. It was a very full year of finally seeing this new building in operation, in spite of continuing with ongoing work around it. We are extremely grateful to our local contractors and the generosity of our District Services' Board leadership, our project manager, and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all of whom made this building possible, as well as our local food suppliers who assist us in meeting the needs of those who are hungry.

Highlights

- The successful, gradual, opening of the new food bank and thrift store location, starting with 2 days/week and then including an evening shift for those needing to access the food bank outside of the hours of school or employment.
- Approval of the 2022 Capacity Boost grant through Food Banks Canada, which allowed for a part-time staffing position, as well as equipment to ensure temperature maintenance in the cold-chain transportation of food items.
- Approval of the Feeding Possibility! Grant through Feed Ontario, which allowed for the development of our local Hunger Report, billboards and print materials that highlight the magnitude of local food insecurity and food access issues, and greater community awareness.
- Approval of the 2023 Emergency Food Access Grant, which provided an additional \$8000 worth of food purchases for our food bank.
- Generous local food drives and campaigns, including the very successful pre-Christmas Drive, organized by Orr's Valu-Mart in Little Current.
- A successful Christmas hamper campaign, which provided Christmas baskets to well over 1000 households on Manitoulin.



Expressions of Gratitude

While it was a difficult year on many fronts, we must express our sincere gratitude to our funders and program supervisors, who stood by us throughout, often offering a kind word or a listening ear at moments when it was most needed. And to our staff and community members who assisted us in keeping our doors open, thank you for being part of our extended family.

Sincerely,

The Program Directors of MFR

Thank you to the 2022-2023 dedicated staff of Manitoulin Family Resources

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Abbie Smith | Jackie Smith | Ned Martin |
| Ainslie Michaels | Jayme Blouin | Nicole Boyle |
| Allison Sloss | Jessica Pelland | Nicole Jol |
| Amanda Roy | Kaelyn Moor | Nicole Spry |
| April Pangowish | Kaitlyn Sorbara | Nikki Thompson |
| Autumn Buratynski | Kennedy Leblanc | Patricia Hurst |
| Barbara Brethat | Katrina Wilhelm | Rheanne Green |
| Bethany Williams | Leslie Moore | Sabrina Ferguson |
| Brendan Allen | Linda Gilchrist | Serena Recollet |
| Cassie Moggy | Lindsey Varey | Shay-Lynn Gordon |
| Catherine Van Egmond | Madisen McAllister | Shelly Deforge |
| Charlene Sagon | Marnie Hall | Shelly Wright |
| Charlotte Wagar | Maureen Eadie | Starlee Kanasawe |
| Crystal Robinson | Marissa McCready | Susan Wilson |
| Danielle Bourgault | Mary Collins | Tara Bailey |
| Dawn Patrick | Mary Laidley | Taylor King-Defoe |
| Deanna Lewis | Mackenzie Cortez | Tracey Jefkins |
| Denise Leblanc | Megan Gibson | Trevor Nehring |
| Diana St-Pierre | Michelle Pyette | Tyler Hore |
| Diane Rouse | Mikaila Kennedy | Vanessa Glasby |
| Hannah Chapman | Morgan Leblond | |
| Hunter Shawanda | | |