



## Annual Report 2014/2015



We give kids a lift when they need it the most.®



Boost is committed to eliminating abuse and violence in the lives of children, youth, and their families. We believe that all children and youth have a right to grow up in a safe, healthy, and nurturing environment. We are dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and violence through education and awareness, and to collaborating with our community partners to provide services to children, youth, and their families.

## Core Values



### COMMITMENT

We are passionate about our work, and focused on the best interests of the children and youth whom we serve. We recognize the uniqueness of each child and strive to adapt our services to be responsive and flexible to each situation.



### COLLABORATION

We work closely with our community partners to develop, deliver, and coordinate services. We are dedicated to mutual sharing of expertise and knowledge with other agencies, professionals, and the broader community.



### LEADERSHIP

We are committed to continuous learning to ensure our knowledge and skill levels are second to none. We are up-to-date on the latest research and developments, related to the services we provide, so that we can develop and promote best practices.



### INTEGRITY

By putting children's needs first, we work at building effective relationships with children, youth, and their families. By our words and actions, we demonstrate respect for children, youth, and their families whom we serve.



# Message from the Chair

Since our last Annual Report, Boost has been making great progress in its “space.” I dream of the day when our programs and services are not required – today, Boost does and will continue to do its best to help those individuals who require our support so that they can live happy and productive lives.

In last year’s Annual Report, my predecessor referred to the opening of the doors of “Toronto’s first Child & Youth Advocacy Centre” on October 1, 2013. The importance of this centre cannot be underestimated. While there has been a 27% increase in expenses and revenue for the first completed calendar year of operations as indicated in the 2014 financial statements, and increased occupancy and personnel requirements, which are higher than the original plan, more importantly there is a significant impact that the “one-stop shopping” has on the children, youth and caregivers who find themselves in need of our services. The program was a relatively simple concept but it took more than a decade, in particular the last three years and some government and private funding, before it became a reality. The Centre is a partnership among eight community and government agencies that brings together all professionals involved in child abuse cases in one location. The advocates are the backbone of the program as their primary role, if not only responsibility, is to assist children, youth and their families to cope with all aspects of the matter at a time when they are most vulnerable. It is only one of two comprehensive co-location models in Canada, the other

being in Calgary, Alberta. In addition, as Boost was one of the first organizations to implement this concept, we have been playing a leadership role in the area, both provincially and nationally

Another significant event this year is the adoption of a new three year strategy that commenced on January 1, 2015. Two of our areas of focus are the development of a strong sustainable funding base and increased profile/visibility both in Toronto and elsewhere. While approximately 50% of our revenue comes from annualized funding from all three levels of government, we must raise the difference annually. Without such funding, some of our programs and services would suffer.

Another important development was a name change to Boost Child & Youth Advocacy Centre to better describe our organization and the programs and services it offers.

One of my reasons for accepting the Chair position was the obvious dedication and professionalism of the staff. Having completed my first year, I can only stand in awe of the professionalism of the staff, the “extra mile” they go for those individuals in need and their work ethic, all of which is combined with a motto that is exhibited daily – something must



be done to alleviate the situation. They truly do make a difference, particularly in some very trying and complex situations

In closing, I want to thank the staff of Boost and its partner agencies, volunteers and the Board directors for all of their hard work in making the last 12 months a success in so many ways. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laurence C. Murray".

**Laurence C. Murray**  
Chair

## Message from the Executive Director

The word that best describes the past year at Boost is “teamwork.” We have many different teams at Boost that include our staff, Board of Directors, volunteers, community partners, donors and funders; all of them essential to our success.

Over this past year, Boost Child Abuse Prevention & Intervention and the Child & Youth Advocacy Centre fully merged to become one organization now called Boost Child & Youth Advocacy Centre. The Child & Youth Advocacy Centre component has now been in operation for 18 months, and together with the staff in the prevention and intervention programs and the administration at Boost, we truly work together as an effective multi-disciplinary team. This became apparent when children coming to the centre began to talk about their “team” and the support they felt from the professionals who are here for them. We have seen children collect business cards from their team members to tape to the walls above their beds and draw pictures as gifts for their team. Each child has their own team of dedicated professionals who work together to best meet that child’s needs and the child is always the centre of the team’s focus.

Teams change depending on who needs to be involved with the individual child and their family, what services are required

and when. The initial team may include a police officer, child protection worker and advocate and then expand to include a nurse practitioner, mental health clinician and child victim witness worker. Once the case enters the criminal justice system, the crown attorney also becomes a member of the team.

Other teams at Boost include our communications, development and administration staff. Board members, volunteers, donors and funders make up other essential teams. Boost depends on the work of all of these teams to support the services provided to children and families. Our teams are passionate about the protection of children and are deeply committed to the work we do. All of our team members, from our staff to our volunteers, board members, donors, funders and others make a significant contribution to Boost and we would not be able to succeed without each of them.

I am extremely grateful to be able to work with such incredible, talented and dedicated individuals. Every one of these



individuals has a critical part to play in the protection of children and youth who have experienced abuse and in the efforts to end violence in our community.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karyn Kennedy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping line extending from the end of the name.

**Karyn Kennedy**  
Executive Director

We give kids a lift when they need it the most.®



# Assessment Directed Therapy Program (ADT)

The Assessment Directed Therapy Program (ADT) believes that with support, children, youth and families can build on their strengths to recover from traumatic events. No two children are alike; that is why a comprehensive assessment at Boost can help provide insight into how a child has been impacted, as well as what specific type of help will be most beneficial. Boost therapists work jointly with the child and family to co-create treatment goals based on the assessment findings. They create a safe place to facilitate therapy to reach these goals.

## How Boost's Child & Family Therapists support families through assessment and therapy:

Fifteen year old Darryl was referred to ADT following a disclosure of sexual abuse by an older male cousin. When Darryl first attended Boost, he presented as shy, nervous and withdrawn. Darryl's upper body slouched, he often spoke in a whisper and initially averted eye contact. Darryl engaged in a trauma assessment at Boost in order to assess how the sexual abuse had impacted his thoughts, feelings, sense of self and sense of the world around him. Darryl shared that he had accessed treatment services in the past related to struggles with mood and anxiety. Over a period of two years, before attending Boost, he met with four therapists, due to therapists' internships coming to an end. Darryl was hesitant to open up to a new therapist, not only because he was afraid to talk about the sexual abuse but because he was also scared that he might have to start over again.

During the assessment, it became clear that Darryl had a great deal of personal strength that allowed him to cope with the traumatic events. However, it also became evident that he was struggling with many common post-traumatic symptoms, including re-experiencing the abuse through flashbacks, hyper-vigilance and avoidance. Darryl also struggled with feelings of anxiety and depression, which had increased since his disclosure

of abuse. From sessions the therapist held with his mother, it was evident that she was incredibly supportive of Darryl but that she would benefit from some psycho-education to reduce some of her own anxiety about the impact of trauma on her son.

Darryl began to work with the Boost Child & Family Therapist to address the clinical concerns identified through the assessment, as well as continue to build upon his personal strengths. Darryl's mother met with a different therapist for a short-period of time to address her concerns. Darryl's biggest worry was that his offender would sexually abuse him again or would abuse someone else. Through collaboration with Toronto Police Service (TPS), Darryl was able to meet with an officer at the Child & Youth Advocacy Centre, review his offender's bail conditions, and create a safety plan. Darryl had begun to feel safe with others and begun to understand how the trauma had impacted him. He was able to recognize his strengths and learned to build strategies to regulate uncomfortable emotions.

As is common for many children and youth who experience trauma, Darryl's post-traumatic symptoms began to resurface when the criminal trial date approached. Boost's Child Victim Witness Support Program (CVWSP) played an



important role for Darryl and his mother in emotionally and mentally preparing for court. CVWSP, ADT and TPS worked closely together to ensure that Darryl felt safe and supported by his "team."

Therapy continued after court and created the opportunity for Darryl to reflect on the resilience of his spirit as he realized the many obstacles and struggles that he had overcome. Standardized measures, self-reports and collateral information all indicated that his trauma-related

*Darryl was able to meet with an officer at the Child & Youth Advocacy Centre, review his offender's bail conditions, and create a safety plan.*

symptoms had decreased, however it was his body language and voice that was the most powerful proof of his incredible strengths and achievements. Today, Darryl stands tall, smiles more

frequently and speaks confidently. Darryl now sees himself as a “whole”, as one person, instead of the person before the disclosure and the person that came after. Darryl describes himself as

assertive, friendly, funny and aware of his surroundings. He acknowledges that he will occasionally have sad days and is gentle toward himself. Most importantly, Darryl feels safe.

### Assessment Directed Therapy Program Statistics:

250

Children and youth  
were referred to  
the program

107

Individual  
trauma assessments  
were conducted

67

Clients received  
individual therapy

9

Youth attended  
the Expressive Arts  
Therapy Group



# The Child & Youth Advocacy Model

The Child & Youth Advocacy Centre (CYAC) model is a creative community response to child abuse investigations. A partnership among local community and government agencies, it brings together all professionals involved in child abuse cases under one roof, for a coordinated, seamless, multidisciplinary response to child abuse victims in Toronto. Boost CYAC's community service partners in the City of Toronto include: Children's Aid Society of Toronto, Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto, Native Child & Family Services, Jewish Family & Child, Toronto Police Service, SAFE-T Program (Radius Child & Youth Services), Child Development Institute, and the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect Program (The Hospital for Sick Children).

Our team of highly-skilled professionals collaborate on cases, take actions that prevent re-victimization, and support the child's long-term well-being, as well

as non-offending family members. Our goal is to provide a centre of leadership, promoting excellence in child abuse services, research, training and education

– a collective community response to protecting Toronto's children from abuse.

## How Boost Child & Youth Advocates support families during a child abuse investigation at the CYAC:

10-year-old Matt and his 8-year-old sister, Ali were brought to the CYAC from school by child protection worker, Carolyn and police officer, Dave following a report of suspected physical and emotional abuse by their father. When they arrived, the children were visibly anxious and appeared very thin, fragile. Matt and Ali were greeted by Child & Youth Advocate, Jenny who knew they were coming and had arranged the family waiting area with age-appropriate activities. Jenny spent some time getting to know the children while showing them around the CYAC and providing them with a snack. She also explained to them that they would be speaking with investigators Dave and Carolyn and that it was their job to talk to kids to help make sure that they are safe.

Jenny spent time with each child while their sibling was being interviewed and engaged them in activities that were supportive and empowering. Each child decorated a shape to hang on the wall and wrote a message for other children coming to the centre.

Following the interviews, it was decided that Matt and Ali could not return to their father's care. Jenny and Carolyn arranged for the children to have dinner while they waited for their mother, Janice to arrive. Upon her arrival, Janice spent time with Jenny who offered her support and comfort, while discussing the investigative process, as well as potential next steps.



Jenny also explained the services that were available to her family, including a medical examination of the children that would take place at the CYAC.

When the medical examination and interviews were completed, it was decided that it was in the interest of the children to live with their mother. Janice and her children were encouraged to contact Jenny with any questions they might have. Each family member received a business card from Jenny, Carolyn and Dave with their names and phone numbers on them. Matt and Ali also each got to choose a handmade blanket to take home and they chose one in each of their favourite colours.

Two days later, Jenny followed up with Janice to see how she and her children

were doing. Janice told her that Matt and Ali were still anxious, but they had taped all of the business cards to the wall in their bedroom and said they knew they had "their team" to support them. Jenny offered to speak to Matt and Ali over the phone and used the opportunity to reassure them that they were safe. Jenny then scheduled an appointment with Janice and the children to return to the CYAC to discuss the options for counselling services and children's activities in her local area. Janice remarked that she found it comforting knowing she could call someone to help her and the children felt less anxious because they had a team of people at the CYAC that were all working together to help their family.



When Jenny met with the family next, she explained the court process and obtained consent from Janice to make a referral to the Child Victim Witness Support Program at Boost, as well as counselling services close to their home. Jenny also advised that Dave would be in touch to explain things related to the criminal court process and that Carolyn would be visiting their home regularly.

Jenny kept in touch with the family and over the weeks noticed that they had become much more confident. When Carolyn visited the family home for the last time, the children gave her 3 framed pictures that they had made to thank their "team." At their last meeting, Jenny noticed that they looked like a new family; confident, healthy and all with big smiles. Jenny told them that they could call her

any time. The children told Jenny that they still had her card on their wall, but that they were doing great!

Although their case has now been closed with child protection, the police have finished their investigation, and the counselling has started, Jenny is still available to this family should they need some extra support.

### Child & Youth Advocacy Centre Statistics:

800

Number of  
investigations

1,457

Number of  
interviews conducted

325

Boost Advocates provided  
service to 325 CYAC cases.  
This included services for  
325 children/youth and 259  
parents/caregivers

175

Mental Health clinicians  
provided service to  
175 individuals

124

SCAN provided service to  
124 children/youth



# Child Victim Witness Support Program

The Child Victim Witness Support Program (CVWSP) at Boost is for any child or youth who may need to testify in a criminal court proceeding. Teaching children/youth their job as witnesses and educating them about the criminal justice system lessens the anxiety around attending court. Boost offers court preparation and support in Toronto and across the Central Region, including Barrie, Peterborough, Midland, Orillia, Bradford, Huntsville, Bracebridge, Collingwood, Lindsay, Cobourg, Brighton, and York and Durham regions.

## How the CVWSP advocates for the unique needs of every child/youth:

Following a disclosure of chronic physical abuse by her parents, eleven-year-old Amy was referred to Boost for a trauma assessment and therapy. Through this therapeutic process, it was uncovered that Amy was experiencing high levels of stress and anxiety about an impending court date. Amy's therapist knew that a referral had already been made to the Child Victim Witness Support Program (CVWSP) so she contacted Lynn, the assigned Child Witness Advocate to share Amy's current struggles. Through this sharing of information, a supportive plan was put into place to ensure that Amy received court preparation as

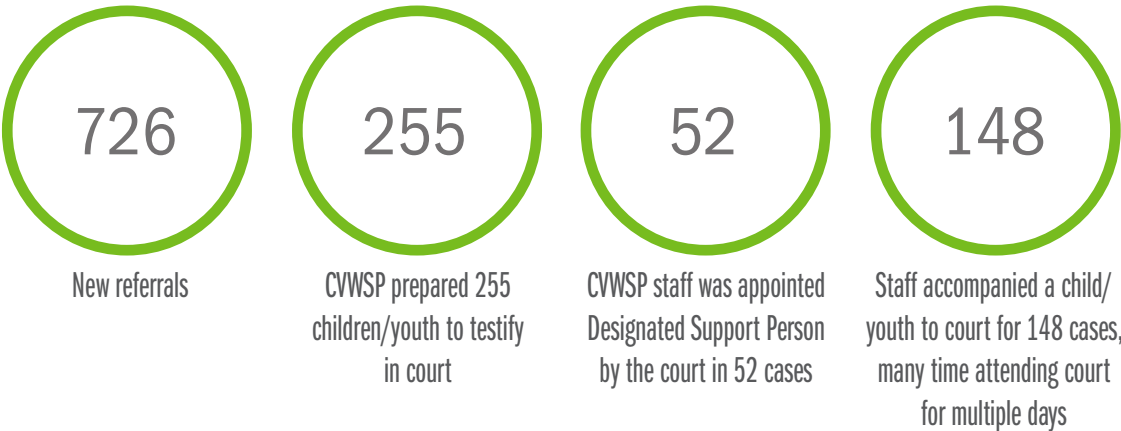
soon as possible to provide information and coping strategies.

During the court preparation session, Amy identified specific worries and concerns about the court process and about testifying. Lynn explored different ways to manage these stressors and through discussion with Amy, learned that she loved animals and found them calming. With this in mind, Lynn contacted Therapeutic Paws Canada and made arrangements for a therapy dog to attend the courthouse with Amy to provide comfort and support. Once this was arranged, the task at hand was to

gain permission for the dog to enter the courthouse. Lynn collaborated with Amy's Child Protection Worker, Crown Attorney, and the Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) Manager. With this coordinated approach, the therapy dog was allowed in the VWAP office to spend time with Amy before testifying, on breaks from court and following her time on the stand.

The support that animals provide is unmatched. The CVWSP will continue to advocate for the use of dogs in the courthouse.

## Child Victim Witness Support Program Statistics:



# Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Counselling Referral Program

Boost's Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Program provides short-term counselling services to child and youth victims of Internet sexual exploitation and to their impacted family members. Following a referral to ICE, Boost's Clinical Intake Worker will identify an appropriate therapist and make a referral for the child/youth in their community, anywhere in Ontario. Funding for the ICE Program is provided by the Victims and Vulnerable Persons Division at the Ministry of the Attorney General (Ontario). This program is part of the Provincial Strategy to Protect Children & Youth from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation on the Internet.



## How the ICE Program works to meet every need of the families referred:

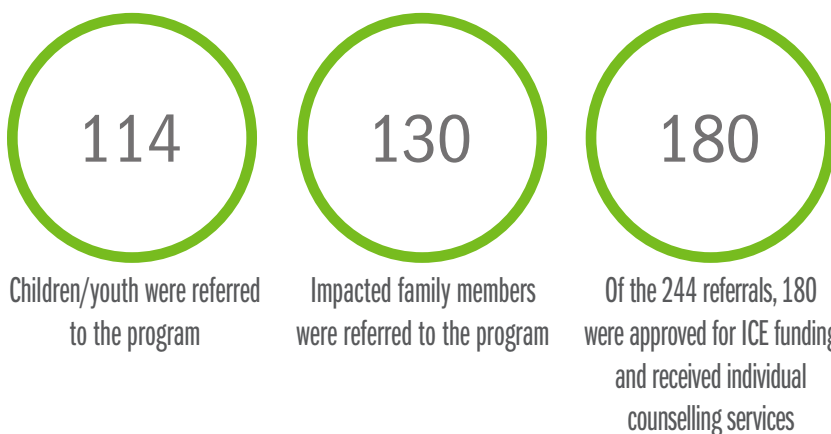
In December 2014, the ICE Program received a referral for a 10 year old girl. An investigating officer had tracked digital sexual abuse images (photographs) to a particular IP address. Through the investigation, the young girl in the images was identified as granddaughter of the person who owned the computer. The girl's family was notified of the recovered images and further investigation took place. During the police interview, the young girl disclosed sexual abuse by her

grandfather that had been occurring for several years.

The ICE Intake Worker connected with the family the same day to inform them of the ICE Program and the services it provides. Funding was approved for the young girl, as well as her two younger siblings. During the referral process, the girl's parents advised that their daughter was hearing impaired and used American Sign Language (ASL) to communicate. At that time, the

ICE Program did not have a registered clinician who could communicate through ASL. As a result, the program approved funding to allow for an ASL interpreter to provide translation during counselling sessions. Within three weeks, all family members were connected with individual service providers through a private practice clinic specializing in child and youth psychotherapy.

## ICE Program Statistics:



*"Your services are a wonderful help. We don't know how we would have coped if it wasn't for the ICE Program."* CAREGIVER

# Prevention & Public Education

The Prevention & Public Education (PEP) Program offers programming for children and youth to learn skills that reduce vulnerability and to know how and where to get help. Our evidence-based primary prevention programs, *I'm A Great Kid!* and *I'm A Great Little Kid!*, introduce children aged 4 – 11 years to six basic concepts: self-esteem; communication; making good choices; respect for self and others; touch; and how and where to get help. This information helps them to develop and strengthen healthy relationships, and acquire skills and attributes that lessen their vulnerability to abuse and bullying.

After a successful pilot in early 2014, the Prevention & Public Education program has begun offering a primary prevention program to students in grades 7 and 8. Topics covered include; self-esteem, communication, getting help, forming friendships, gender stereotypes, healthy and unhealthy relationships,

understanding abuse & violence, legal rights and responsibilities, choices & consequences, responding to unsafe situations, and self-care. The demand for this program has been very high during the 2014-2015 academic year. Boost also offers the *Making A Difference* training both in-person and online to

help adults understand how to recognize and respond effectively to concerns of child abuse. *The Keeping Kids Safe* program helps staff and caregivers learn what is important in protecting children from harm.

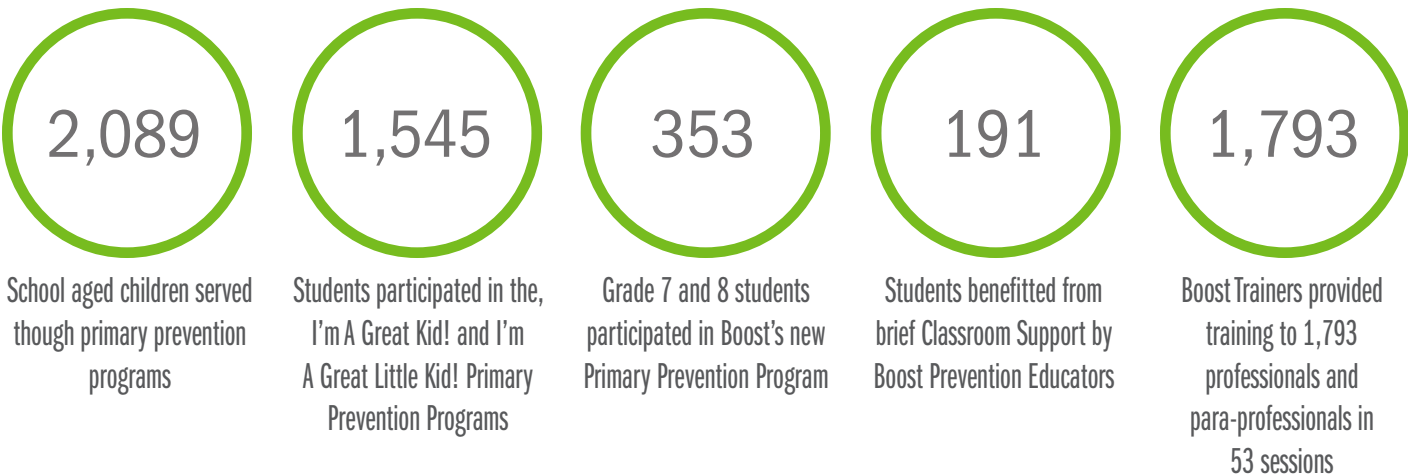
## How the PEP team responds to crisis situations and works collaboratively with schools, community and other Boost programs:

The ICE Program (see page 9) received a desperate call from a concerned elementary-school principal who had four students hospitalized for self-harm. The Grade seven girls had developed an online relationship with an adult male, whom they had never met, and who convinced the girls to harm themselves. The students corresponded with this individual for months, escalating the severity of their

self-harm until he began to suggest techniques for suicide. Alarmed and afraid, one of the girls disclosed what was happening to her school principal who immediately contacted a Children's Aid Society. Once the girls were under medical supervision the principal and investigative officer reached out to Boost for support and ICE funding.

The PEP team was able to offer the school our new program on healthy relationships for all of the Grade 7 classes. We also provided training for the teachers on how to respond to their suspicions and concerns. In addition, a *Keeping Kids Safe* workshop was offered to parents on discussing personal safety with children, understanding how offenders operate and staying safe on the Internet.

## Prevention & Public Education Statistics:





## Research & Evaluation

In 2013, a needs assessment was conducted across the entire agency to determine the research and evaluation needs of each program, and to help develop a plan to execute effective ethical evaluations.

In October 2014, two evaluations were completed for the Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Program. Boost mailed out comprehensive feedback forms to all Service Providers who had engaged with the program. Responses were collected November 2014 through January 2015.

An additional satisfaction survey was also mailed out to all caregivers who completed an intake with the ICE Program between November 2013 and April 2014 for a referral to counselling services, to be completed on behalf of their family. The information provided by both surveys is

being used by Boost to improve service delivery to children, youth and impacted family members participating in the ICE Program.

*“Thank you for being there. You are a great asset.”* CAREGIVER

*“The ICE Program is great and very helpful to those who need it.”* CAREGIVER

*“I am very grateful for the intake worker who assisted me and listened to me... I have never met her, however, her compassion and support meant the world to me when I first spoke with her.”* CAREGIVER



# Coordination & Community Partnership

Boost's history is rooted in collaboration and community partnership. As a committee formed by Metro Chairman, Paul Godfrey, Boost was established in 1981, in response to the tragic sexual abuse and murder of a 12 year-old boy in Toronto. The committee was made up of professionals already involved in child abuse investigations and support services and worked collaboratively to develop policy and best practice for investigating child abuse cases. The implementation of the Child & Youth Advocacy Centre model at Boost (Fall 2013) is an extension of this partnership framework. With all disciplines working together, we can provide child-centered investigations and support services under one roof.

Boost's numerous partnerships with community organizations, school boards and law enforcement across the province is demonstrated by the number of working groups and committees Boost staff are a part of:

CAC/CYAC National Network  
Child Victim Witness Program  
Advisory Committee  
CYAC Community Advisory Partnerships  
Committee  
CYAC Mental Health Committee  
CYAC Joint Management Team  
CYAC Research Committee  
Children's Services of Northumberland  
Community Safety Committee –  
Toronto Police Service  
CYSIS Database Advisory Committee  
(Mothercraft)

Domestic Assault Review Team  
(Barrie, Midland & Orillia)  
ICE Conference Organizing Committee  
Ontario Justice Education Network  
Toronto Committee  
Ontario Provincial Network of Child &  
Youth Advocacy Centres  
Ontario Safety School Education Officers  
Community Committee  
Protocol Chairpersons & Training Committee  
Sister to Sister – Toronto District School Board  
Student Focused Worker Initiative  
(an MCYS project)

Toronto City Wide Intake Workers Committee  
Toronto Police Service Domestic Violence  
Advisory Committee  
Toronto Sexual Abuse Programs - Intake  
Trauma Services Network  
Trauma Services Peer Support Network  
Committee  
Victim Services: Project Safe S.P.A.C.E.  
(Students and Partners Against Cyberviolence  
Everywhere)  
West End Sexual Abuse Treatment (WESAT)  
Program Committee  
Youth Justice Advisory Panel

## Highlights

Since its inception, Boost CYAC has been a leader in field. As one of Canada's largest centres of its kind, it has a prominent role on the Ontario Provincial Network of Child & Youth Advocacy Centres and the CAC/CYAC National Network. Boost CYAC has taken the lead on creating best-practice guidelines for CYACs in Ontario and across the country, and has assisted many centres in their development, including sharing our agreements, relevant documents related to service flow, and evaluation tools.

During the first year, CYAC staff conducted over 30 presentations locally, nationally and internationally, including at:

- The 13th International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, European Regional Conference, Dublin Ireland.
- The 8th International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, Latin American International Conference, Viña Del Mar, Chile.
- The 40th National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) Conference, Chicago, Illinois.
- The 8th Annual Provincial Strategy Multidisciplinary Training Conference.
- The National Victims of Crime Awareness Week.
- King's College, London, Ontario and other post-secondary education institutions.
- Community agencies.

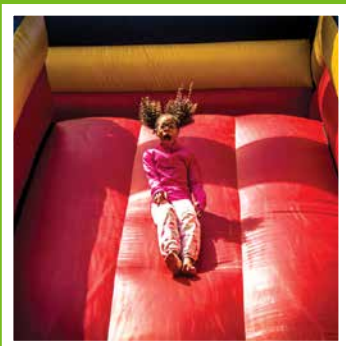
In late 2014, The Department of Justice Canada contracted with Boost for 3 webinars (November 2014 to April 2015) conducted by Karyn Kennedy, related to Developing An Effective Child & Youth Advocacy Centre. The online sessions were titled, Getting Started; Governance & Decision Making; and Developing a Service Model.





# Camp Rainbow

In July 2014, 29 campers and 3 junior counselors attended Camp Rainbow for 10 days of action-packed summer camp fun! Located outside Toronto, Camp Rainbow offers an overnight summer camp experience in a beautiful rural setting to Boost clients between the ages of 7 and 13 years. With plenty of activities to keep them busy, including; horseback riding, dance workshops, birthday celebrations and swimming, arts and crafts, drama and yoga kids get an unforgettable summer camp experience. Over the years, special bonds have formed between campers and friendships last throughout the year.



*"Camp Rainbow is what I look forward to at the beginning of summer. Everyone is really nice and I have kept my friendships with everyone throughout the year. We always talk about how excited we are for it to come."* 12 YEAR OLD CAMPER

# Special Events

## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Butterfly Ball®



On May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Boost hosted the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Butterfly Ball®, the agency's largest annual fundraiser. The event was held at the Four Seasons Hotel, Toronto. Co-chaired by Daniela De Gasperis and Vanessa Mulroney, the 2014 committee pulled together an outstanding event including a reception, sit down dinner, live auction and raffle

featuring exquisite jewelry. With the support of the presenting sponsor, Rogers Communications, as well as all other sponsors and donors, over \$330,000 was raised that evening to continue the critical work that Boost does! Thank you to Daniela and

Vanessa and the entire committee for their support and work to ensure the event was such a success.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Boost Spooktacular



Boost Spooktacular™ is a Halloween event the whole family can enjoy together! The event caters to children 2-12 years old with fun activities such as a Monster Mash (dance), a haunted house, spooky fun stations, plus food and beverages. On October 26, 2014, Boost hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual event at the Berkeley Church with over 350 people in attendance. Thanks to the donors and sponsors, over \$13,000 was raised to support services for children and youth who have experienced abuse.



## Justice Minister and Attorney General of Canada, Peter MacKay Visits Boost CYAC

On February 9, 2015, Boost was excited to welcome Justice Minister Peter MacKay to Boost. The visit was for a meeting with Crown Attorneys and CYAC representatives from across Ontario to discuss how Child & Youth Advocacy Centres can work effectively with the criminal justice system to support victims of abuse. The shared experience and expertise in the room fostered excellent discuss about current trends in the sector as well as needs moving forward. Minister MacKay



shared high praise for Boost CYAC and the positive impact the centre has had

on children and youth in Toronto who have experienced abuse.



# Awards & Recognition

On June 2, 2014, Boost honoured a number of individuals for their tireless work in the area of child abuse and advocacy.



## Champion for Children Award

Boost presented the inaugural *Champion for Children Award* to former Toronto Police Chief, William Blair. Through this award, Boost honours a group or individual who has displayed an exemplary commitment to creating pathways to better service for children, youth and families in the City of Toronto. Through partnerships with community stakeholders, new initiatives and outstanding leadership, the recipient of this award leads the way in creating more seamless, accessible service to our most vulnerable population – our children.

## Outstanding Leadership Award

The Board of Directors honoured Executive Director, Karyn Kennedy with an *Outstanding Leadership Award* for her commitment to Boost and the children and youth of Toronto. Karyn was and continues to be a driving force behind the development of Toronto's first Child & Youth Advocacy Centre. Through her leadership and determination, she helped to create one of the largest and most comprehensive centres of its kind in Canada.



## Staff Outstanding Achievement Award

Each and every day, the staff at Boost work diligently to support children and youth who have experienced abuse, and their families and to provide children and youth with information to empower them and make them less vulnerable to abuse and violence. Each year, with the endorsement of the Board of Directors, Boost recognizes the efforts of one or two particular staff members that have gone above and beyond in their efforts to support children. 2014 recipients were Jenny Yuzon (Child & Youth Advocate) and Sharon Hart (Prevention Educator).

## Making A Difference Award

Through the *Making a Difference Award*, Boost honours a person who is committed to the well-being of children and families and who demonstrates on a daily basis, his or her commitment to children and youth. 2014 recipients of this award were Tanya Smith (Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect Clinic, (Hospital for Sick Children) Dawn McGauley (Director at Camp Rainbow), and Robin Doornick (foster mother with Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto).



## Outstanding Volunteer Award

After 11 years as a Boost Board Member (6 of them as Chair), Mike Ruthard stepped down from the Boost Board of Directors in June 2014. As a small token of thanks for his commitment and dedication to Boost, Mike was honoured with the *Outstanding Volunteer Award*.

# Our People

## Board of Directors

**Laurence C. Murray**  
*Chair*

**Bryn MacPherson**  
*Vice Chair*

**Lucy Iacovelli**  
*Treasurer*

**Tamara Costa**  
*Secretary*

**Joanna Beaven-Desjardins**  
**Allan Brown**  
**Nancy Dale**  
**Mark Daniel**  
**Jonathan Hamilton-Diabo**  
**Mary Juric**  
**Trent Mell**  
**Thomas Rowe**



## Staff

**Karyn Kennedy**  
*President & CEO*

**Nancy Cottenden**  
*Director of Development  
& Marketing*

**Lindsay Jolie**  
*Director of Communications  
& Community Relations*

**Pearl Rimer**  
*Director of Operations,  
Child & Youth Advocacy Centre*

**Linda Arwich**  
*Clinical Intake Manager,  
Assessment Directed Therapy  
Program Manager,  
ICE Program*

**Giselle Garcia**  
*Manager, Assessment Directed  
Therapy Program*

**Tamara Jordan**  
*Coordinator, Research, Evaluation  
and Resource Mobilization*

**Barb McIntyre**  
*Manager, Child Victim Witness  
Support Program*

**Audrey Rastin**  
*Manager, Prevention & Public  
Education Program*

**Barbara Rodgers**  
*Manager, Child & Youth*

*Advocacy Program*

**Helen Vozinidis**  
*Manager, Assessment Directed  
Therapy Program*

**Kathy Barratt**  
*Finance*

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*Child Witness Advocate*

**Anabela Carneiro**  
*Trainer*

**Janet De Gazon**  
*Clinical Intake Worker*

**Karen Deutch**  
*Clinical Intake Worker and  
Prevention Educator*

**Carmela Diano**  
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*Child & Family Therapist*

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*Child & Family Therapist*

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*Child Witness Advocate*

**Ann Williams**  
*Office Assistant*

**Jenny Yuzon**  
*Child & Youth Advocate*

## Students

**Lukas Allemann**  
*Lucerne University of Applied  
Sciences and Arts  
Social Work*

**Joe Blake**  
*George Brown College*

### *Child & Youth Worker Program*

**Rachel Ehrlich**  
*University of Toronto  
Faculty of Social Work*

**Lindsay Miller**  
*George Brown College*

### *Child & Youth Worker Program*

**Jarid Robbins**  
*Danforth Collegiate Technical  
Institute  
Co-op*

**Sharon Singh**  
*University of Guelph-Humber  
Bachelor of Applied Science  
– Family & Community Social  
Services Program*

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Stephanie Filippi  
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Lynda Prince  
Dave Randall  
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Amy Scheerer  
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Sarah Schumacher  
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Alex Smith  
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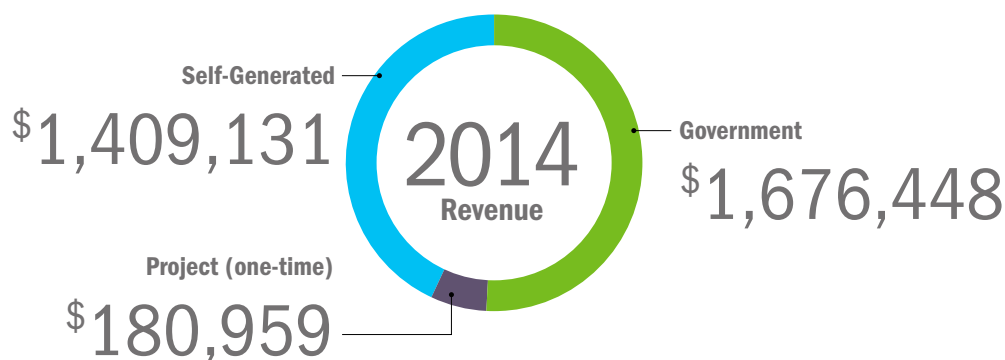
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# Finances

Revenue	2014	2013
Core government funding	<b>\$ 1,676,448</b>	\$ 1,436,246
Fundraising & Donations	<b>1,315,037</b>	621,167
One-time project grants	<b>180,959</b>	271,827
Training, publications and consultation	<b>89,264</b>	159,016
Interest & other	<b>4,830</b>	4,398
Boost for Kids Foundation grant		64,119
Total revenue	<b>3,266,538</b>	2,556,773

Expenses		
<b>Program Expenses</b>		
Assessment Directed Therapy Program	<b>728,771</b>	546,000
Central Child Victim-Witness Support Program	<b>224,845</b>	194,208
Toronto Child Victim-Witness Support Program	<b>317,117</b>	252,623
Prevention and Public Education	<b>436,602</b>	438,645
Coordination and protocol	<b>132,856</b>	81,797
Child and Family Support Program	<b>44,918</b>	59,275
Child and Youth Advocacy Centre	<b>728,088</b>	411,046
Internet Child Exploitation Counselling Referral Program	<b>183,176</b>	185,229
	<b>2,796,373</b>	2,168,823
Administration and program development	<b>339,716</b>	306,916
Total Expenses	<b>3,136,089</b>	2,475,739
<b>Excess of revenue over expenses for the year</b>	<b>\$ 130,449</b>	\$81,034







*We give kids a lift when they need it the most.®*

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