



SAVIS of Halton

Sexual Assault & Violence
Intervention Services

No Names
No Judgement
Just Support

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



Contents

Mission, Vision & Values	1
Board of Directors	2
Leadership Team	2
Chair's Report	3
Executive Director's Report	5
Anti-Human Trafficking Program	6
Counselling	8
Public Education	10
Volunteer Program	12
Financial Report	14
Our Funders	15



Mission

We foster a supportive environment for all survivors of sexual violence and human trafficking, including their families and caregivers. Through an intersectional, feminist, equitable, diverse, and inclusive lens, we offer a continuum of free trauma-informed specialized services.

Vision

We are dedicated to ending sexual violence and fostering a safe, supportive, just, and equitable society.

Values

ACCESSIBILITY

We offer a range of service delivery options to minimize barriers to access support services.

PERSON-CENTRED

We operate from a trauma-informed lens that fosters the autonomy and self-determination of survivors.

ACCOUNTABILITY

We maintain accountability through transparent and integral actions and acknowledge the positions of power that we hold as service providers.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Through an intersectional, feminist lens we recognize and seek to disrupt unequal power relations and uplift diverse voices through an anti-racist, anti-oppression framework.

COMMUNITY

As leaders in the anti-human trafficking and sexual violence space, we work collaboratively to provide preventative education and strengthen community partnerships to cultivate wrap-around supports.

ADVOCACY

Through a micro, meso, and macro lens, we amplify survivors' voices and facilitate their navigation of the system by bridging barriers to a continuum of support.

Board of Directors

Suzanne Stolz	Chair
Michele Ghai	Treasurer
Gillian Wassmansdor	Secretary
Alexa Barkley	Member
Katie German	Member
Pam Uppal	Member
Smita Devane-Bhan	Member

Leadership Team



Silvia Samsa
Executive Director



Suresh Tharma
Manager, Finance



Shelagh Nuttall
Director of Development



Anna Morgan
Director of
Programs & Services

Chair's Report

This past year has been a difficult one for many survivors. High profile cases involving sexual assault and human trafficking have dominated the headlines, but beyond the headlines, these stories carry real weight for survivors of sexual violence. These cases have unfortunately reinforced a truth survivors have long known: that the world too often protects power over survivors and that there is still much work to be done to achieve our vision of ending sexual violence and fostering a safe, supportive, just and equitable society. More than ever, SAVIS's work in public education, counselling, outreach, and anti-human trafficking initiatives is not just relevant, it is essential.



Suzanne Stolz
Board Chair

As I reflect on my second year as Chair of the Board of Directors at SAVIS of Halton, my heart is full of gratitude - for the courage of the survivors we serve, the unwavering dedication of our staff and volunteers, the continuing support of donors and sponsors, and the deep compassion of our community. SAVIS's work is rooted in the belief that everyone deserves to live free from violence and exploitation and this past year that belief has guided our work.

Our public education programming continues to address and challenge harmful cultural narratives that normalize abuse, excuse perpetrators, and silence survivors. Over the past year, we significantly expanded our outreach efforts, engaging more individuals than ever before through education, prevention, and awareness initiatives. Our team delivered customized presentations across Halton in diverse settings—including classrooms, community centres, youth groups, and newcomer organizations—covering critical topics such as consent, healthy relationships, and the realities of sexual violence and human trafficking in our region. This proactive work not only informs and empowers individuals but also strengthens community ties and fosters a culture of prevention.

Our counselling programs continued to provide something truly transformative: support and connection. Expanding our group counselling sessions, SAVIS has sought to create safe healing spaces where survivors find not just support, but each other. They share their stories, their pain, and their strength. The consistent demand and positive feedback reinforce the message that no one heals alone.

Our anti-human trafficking program continues to address both the visible and hidden faces of exploitation. We know trafficking does not always conform to public

...continued on Page 4

Chair's Report

...continued from Page 3

stereotypes. It occurs in our Region, suburbs, and online spaces. Our human trafficking staff supported survivors with wraparound services that prioritize autonomy, safety, and long-term recovery. From crisis intervention to transitional housing referrals and court support, SAVIS continues to stand as a trusted and trauma-informed partner in this complex work.

None of our work would be possible without the generous support of our donors, sponsors, community and government partners, dedicated volunteers, and our staff. To every individual, foundation, agency, and organization that contributed time, resources, or funding, we extend our heartfelt thanks. Your investment in this mission directly impacts lives and enables SAVIS to continue delivering vital, trauma-informed programs that meet people with compassion, self-worth, and care.

We are living through a challenging cultural moment, one marked by both pain and possibility. High-profile cases of abuse must not be seen as isolated incidents, but rather as reflections of deeper systemic issues that demand sustained attention. At SAVIS, we remain firmly committed to addressing these root causes through advocacy, survivor-centred care, and the pursuit of systemic change. Since our founding, we have never turned away from difficult truths. It is this unwavering commitment that has made SAVIS a trusted leader in the fight to end gender-based violence, and it is this same resolve that will guide us in the year ahead.

Thank you for your continued leadership, your commitment to justice, and your steadfast support of survivors.

With deep appreciation and hope,

Suzanne Stolz
Chair, Board of Directors

“We are living through a **challenging cultural moment**, one marked by both **pain** and **possibility**.”

Suzanne Stolz
Chair, Board of Directors

Executive Director's Report



As I reflect on the past year, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our community for your ongoing support of the vital work that SAVIS does.

As shared by the Chair of our Board of Directors and our Director of Program and Services, this past year has been especially difficult for many survivors. In the face of these challenges, our collective dedication and unwavering belief in survivors continues to be the cornerstone of our work. No Names, No Judgment, Just Support has been our guiding mission for over 35 years—and it will remain so.

Over the last year, we have deepened our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, ensuring these values are woven into every aspect of our organization. This is a continuous journey, and one we approach with intention and care.

We also undertook a comprehensive review and update of our bylaws to align with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA). This important task was carried out with diligence and care by our dedicated Board of Directors.

As the demand for our services grew and our office space became increasingly limited, we were fortunate to expand into a small adjacent office. This additional space is now well-used for individual counselling, group sessions, and staff and board meetings.

This year also marked important growth in our leadership team. We created a new role, Director of Program and Services, following a rigorous hiring process. We were thrilled to welcome Anna Morgan to the role in March. Anna now leads a dedicated team working in public education, counselling, anti-human trafficking, and our 24/7 crisis line.

In recognition of the growing needs within our resource development efforts, Shelagh Nuttall, formerly our Manager of Development, was promoted to Director of Development. Her leadership has been instrumental in strengthening our capacity and reach.

SAVIS continues to work in collaboration with community partners throughout Halton. In fall 2024, I was honoured to become co-chair of the Halton Violence Prevention Council. This group of over 25 agencies works collectively to end violence in all its forms, address its impacts, and foster an inclusive, equitable, and healthy community.

In early spring 2025, SAVIS joined EFry Hope and Help for Women and Nina's Place in a critical case review process alongside the Halton Regional Police Service. We examined sexual assault cases previously classified as "unfounded." This review ensures that survivors' reports are taken seriously and not prematurely dismissed. Our shared goal is to support survivors and advocate for justice through accountability and systemic change.

We are proud of what we have accomplished together over the past year, and we remain committed to our mission, our community, and—most importantly—survivors.

Silvia Samsa
Executive Director

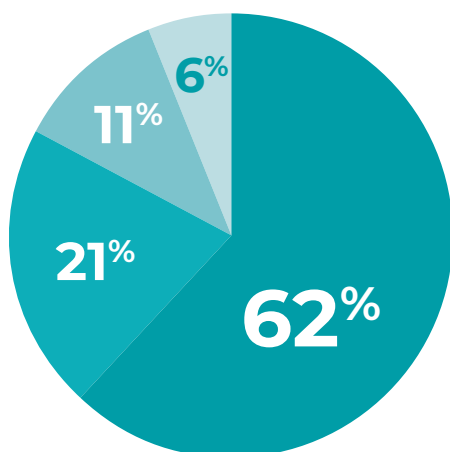
Anti-Human Trafficking Program

The Anti-Human Trafficking Program has seen an increase in referrals to the program over this past fiscal year. SAVIS of Halton is one of the few organizations that supports survivors of labour trafficking and has provided support for several survivors who have experienced labour trafficking.

The Anti-Human trafficking team also supports the Public Education work SAVIS does at awareness raising events for Anti-Human Trafficking that focus on prevention through education to vulnerable individuals at risk of human trafficking and helping communities recognize and respond to signs of trafficking. There were several Anti-Human trafficking awareness raising events that took place over the past year in collaboration with the Halton District School Board and Halton Catholic District School board for parents, students and community members. The Anti-Human trafficking program also hosted a newcomer group session with the Halton Catholic District School Board.

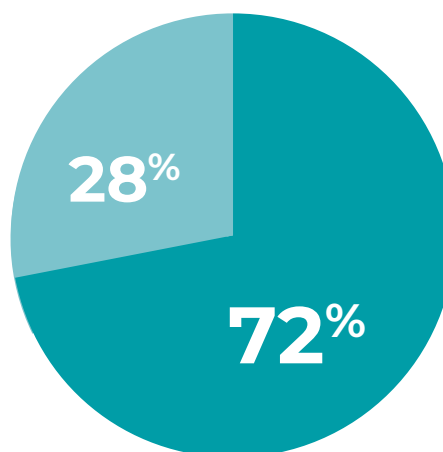
Type of Trafficking

- Sex Trafficking
- Labour Trafficking
- At Risk
- Other



Trafficking by Age Group

- 25 Years & Older
- Up to 24 Years





Halton Collaborative Against Human Trafficking (HCAHT)

SAVIS coordinates the Halton Collaborative Against Human Trafficking, which exists to create and support a united Halton community and regional response to combat human trafficking. The Collaborative facilitated training opportunities over this last year build service providers' capacity to support survivors of human trafficking. The trainings included a session on supporting survivors of labour trafficking and a survivor-led expert panel on best practices for supporting survivors of human trafficking. The training sessions were instrumental in continuing to address the systemic barriers survivors face when trying to access services.

Counselling

The counselling program at SAVIS of Halton continues to provide trauma-informed counselling support for survivors of sexual violence and trauma and for family members or friends supporting a loved one affected by violence. This year SAVIS of Halton received increased support from the United Way Foundation to be able to continue to have additional counselling staff as part of our team. As the rates of sexual violence and gender-based violence increase, the need for services for survivors of trauma continue to remain high and the support from donors allows us to ensure that more survivors have access to the counselling support they need to rebuild their lives. The program provided over 1300 hours of counselling support to survivors this fiscal year.

The Ontario Trillium Fund provided generous funding this last fiscal year to deliver an Art-Based Therapy group to survivors and to continue to provide staffing for overnight and weekend coverage of the SAVIS crisis line and volunteer crisis line coordination. SAVIS was able to deliver three cycles of the art-based therapy program. The expressive arts-based group offered an opportunity for participants to explore the creative process by providing a community-oriented group and providing sensory experiences to identify and articulate emotions and the opportunity to express difficult emotions.

The Night Shift Crisis Line Administrator provided increased coverage support for the 24/7 crisis line. The crisis line provided over 200 hours of crisis line counselling to over 700 crisis line contacts over the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The position also provided support for crisis line coordination ensuring that new volunteers to the program were well trained to deliver trauma informed support to survivors. They also coordinated ongoing training to volunteers, including training on the Sexual Assault Investigation guide by Victim Services and working with survivors with disabilities.





The counselling program continues to focus on expanding our reach across Halton by providing remote counselling services in Milton and Burlington. SAVIS also continues to ensure staff are trained in the most up-to-date, trauma-informed practices, supporting a safe and compassionate environment for those we serve. Counsellors were able to participate in training on Narrative-Therapy: Re-authoring Stories of Depression, Supporting Survivors of IPV-related Traumatic Brain Injury and trainings by Grandmother's Voice, an Indigenous organization whose mission is to revive and amplify Ancestral insights and values, nurturing them for generations to come.

“As the rates of sexual violence and gender-based violence increase, the **need for services for survivors of trauma continue to remain high...**”

Public Education

This year, as conversations around consent, healthy relationships, and bystander intervention has become more relevant than ever, our commitment to violence prevention through public education has remained unwavering. The Public Education program continues to be core to our mission advocating against violence in the community at large and promoting prevention through community education. Public education is a critical tool for early intervention, community engagement, and long-term systemic and cultural change and continues to be busier than ever.

PubEd continues to collaborate with the Halton District School Board and Halton Catholic District School Board to deliver workshops to students, parents and community members on topics of mental health, consent and healthy relationships – providing individuals with the knowledge and tools to build respectful, informed, and safer relationships. Pub Ed also hosted 2 presentations over 2 days with the Parent Involvement Committee Conference, supported Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness presentations and collaborated on providing input into the development of the consent education curriculum with HDSB. For this past fiscal year, public education attendees totaled over 8,500 attendees at over 150 presentations, workshops, broad community engagement and training events, which is a 150 percent increase from last fiscal year. Our Public Education is also busy in the community at local events including mental health fairs, Burlington and Milton Pride and expanding outreach to Public Libraries. They have also been delivering groups to youth at Syl Apps a residential forensic mental health facility for youth.





Public Education has also been busy providing training and education opportunities and building capacity for other service providers. In collaboration with SAVIS, the Women's Centre of Halton, and the Victim Services Unit of Halton Regional Police Service, we are hosting a workshop for professionals called "Responding to Disclosures of Sexual Violence." The workshop focused what it means to support survivors, the neurobiology of trauma, a brief outline of reporting options, the police process, and the legal system. The workshop targeted professionals who were likely to hear disclosures of either acute or historical violence in the course of their day-to-day duties.

Through workshops, outreach, and collaborative initiatives, the Public Education team has been having significant impact in fostering a culture of consent, equity, and care.

Testimonials

“We are incredibly grateful to SAVIS for the impactful presentations delivered at our high school, both for our students and staff. Kyle's sessions were a standout element of the experience—he was engaging, informative, and brought a deeply authentic approach to sensitive topics. His ability to connect meaningfully with students created an open and respectful environment, encouraging important conversations about bullying. We especially appreciated that he took time afterward to speak individually with students and answer their questions, showing genuine care and commitment.

During the teacher training on human trafficking, Kyle and his team demonstrated a high level of professionalism and empathy. The session was not only informative but also thoughtfully designed to allow space for reflection. Kyle's willingness to meet with teachers individually following the session was incredibly valuable and helped to deepen our understanding of the issues discussed.

We are incredibly grateful to have Kyle from SAVIS as a community partner at GDHS. His ability to connect with both large assemblies and small classroom groups is truly exceptional. What makes him especially effective is his relatability and down-to-earth, no-nonsense speaking style. He addresses sensitive topics, such as consent, bullying and sex-trafficking with empathy, clarity, and honesty.”

Volunteer Program

Making a Difference in Our Community

and helping to create meaningful change. Their contributions fill gaps in service and support systems and enhance both individual lives and the overall fabric of society. By generously sharing their time, talents, and compassion, volunteers unite people and cultivate a strong sense of community and connection.

At SAVIS of Halton, we are deeply grateful for our volunteers as they are a vital part of our organization. Our 24/7 crisis line is staffed by dedicated, trained volunteers; our Board of Directors is composed entirely of volunteers; and our fundraising efforts are supported by committed bingo volunteers.

The commitment and efforts of our volunteers have allowed us to broaden our impact and provide vital support to as many survivors as possible. They are the backbone of our organization, playing a key role in its effectiveness and success.

Volunteer Recognition

Thank you, Janet, for 20 incredible years of volunteer service! Throughout this time, you've generously shared your time and compassion in so many meaningful ways; whether it was answering calls on our crisis line, supporting our holiday drives and bingo events, or standing alongside survivors of gender based violence in court. Your dedication has made a lasting impact, and SAVIS is truly grateful.



SAVIS of Halton is thrilled to announce Chris Little as the 2024 Volunteer of the Year for his continuous, dedicated support for survivors of gender based violence.

Chris provides ongoing support during our bingo fundraisers and consistently lends a helping hand in our office. Without your dedication, many of our day-to-day operations and fundraising efforts wouldn't be possible. Your contributions make a real difference, and we're truly thankful for all that you do. Your commitment and support ensure creating positive differences within the community and assists us in continuing our mission. Thank you, Chris!

Volunteer of the Year Award is dedicated to the memory of Ingrid Zollikofer, a long-time volunteer.



6,173

Volunteer
Hours

“As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands - one for helping yourself, **the other for helping others.**”

– Audrey Hepburn

Crisis Line

Our Crisis Line responds to hundreds of calls each year, offering vital support to survivors of sexual assault and those impacted by childhood sexual abuse, sexual exploitation related to human trafficking, sexual harassment, and other forms of gender-based violence.

The line operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To ensure continuous support, our trauma-informed staff respond to calls during business hours, while our trained volunteers provide essential coverage after hours, on weekends, and during holidays.

We held our annual Volunteer Appreciation Event in early June, bringing together volunteers, Board members, and staff for a heartfelt luncheon. This event is one small way we, at SAVIS, express our deep gratitude to the volunteers who choose to do this challenging and meaningful work. Their dedication is the foundation of what we do; and without them, our mission wouldn't be possible.



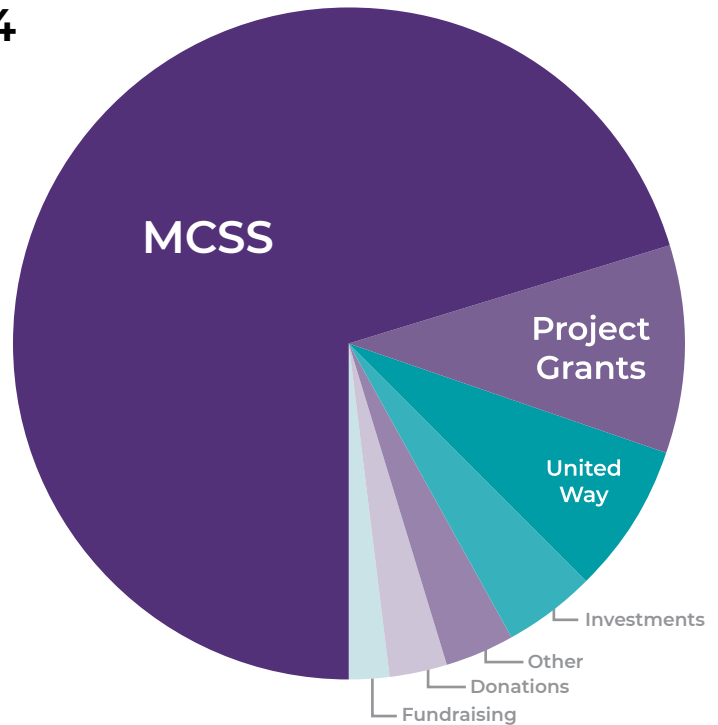
A Year in Review



Financial Report

2024-2025 Revenue: \$1,503,654

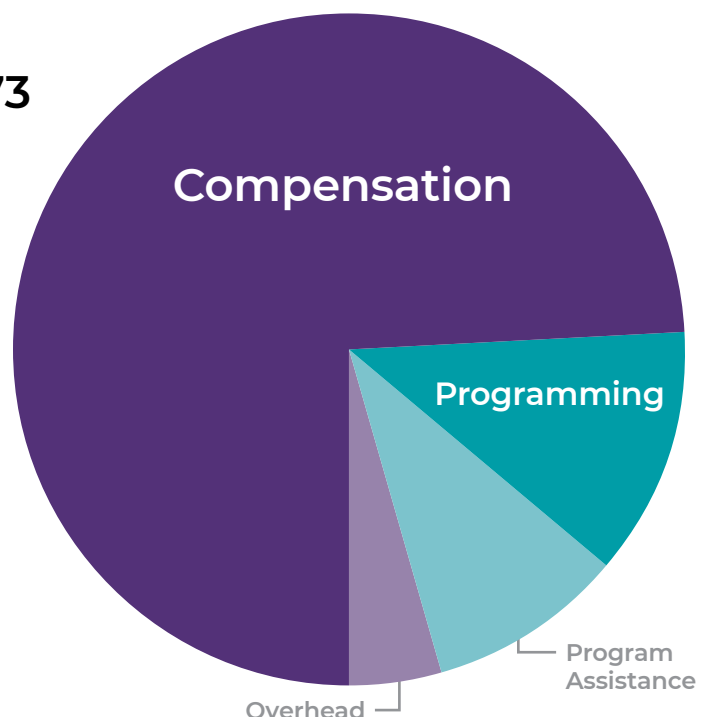
● MCSS	\$1,058,582
● Project Grants	\$148,544
● United Way	\$110,784
● Investments	\$65,579
● Other Income	\$52,073
● Donations	\$39,896
● Fundraising	\$28,196



SAVIS is primarily funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.

2024-2025 Expenses: \$1,560,773

● Compensation	\$1,159,407
● Programming	\$188,854
● Program Assistance	\$144,260
● Overhead	\$68,252



Our Funders

SAVIS of Halton extends our deepest gratitude for your generous support of survivors of gender-based violence. Your commitment is instrumental in helping us continue our mission and uphold our vision of a safer, more equitable community for all.



Ministry of
Children, Community &
Social Services



United Way
Halton & Hamilton

Ontario



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
OF CANADA



MEDAVIE



BURLINGTON
FOUNDATION



Community
Foundation
of Halton North
For Good For Ever

Halton Shoebox Project

DLT Productions

Roger & Brenda Beach

Purse Project Network



SAVIS

of Halton

**Sexual Assault & Violence
Intervention Services**

No Names
No Judgement
Just Support

905.825.3622

savis@savisofhalton.org

1515 Rebecca St. Suite 227
Oakville, ON L6L 5G8

savisofhalton.org