

## Report from the Chair of the Board

As another year has passed for BBBSKLH I will take this time to share my perspectives since the last AGM.

I would like to start by thanking the key contributors of our organization, thank you Jim, Carol, Paul, Alyssa and Emily for your ongoing contributions to our agency and community as a whole. This past year the organization continued to welcome placements students, which provided increased skills and knowledge for those who are new to the social work field.

Over the last year, we have experienced some staffing changes as Emily Gartshore, Paul Gill and Alyssa Wilson have moved on to experience other opportunities however they have remained involved with the organization. We gained Sue Orchard as a part-time case manager; Jim speaks very highly of Sue. Welcome Sue. Currently we are hiring another part-time case manager.

The Board has continued conversations pertaining to new fundraising opportunities and improvements to existing events. Thanks to all of the members who sit on the Board and volunteer their time to help oversee the operations of the organization. I would like to thank Jim for his continued dedication for completing funding proposals. I would like to thank all of the staff who spend time recruiting donations and individuals to participate in our events. I would like to recognize Ted Garrels who has been involved with our organization for many years, in different capacities. Not only is Ted an awesome Big Brother, who was awarded last year with Big of the Year he is also a very talented craftsman. Ted handmade a beautiful canoe with the assistance of his Little and donated it to our organization! We raffled off the canoe and it was a huge success! Teds ongoing generosity is more than admirable. I would like to acknowledge our local United Way and their ongoing financial contributions to our agency and for believing in us. Thank you to all in our community sponsors and volunteers who contribute to the financial operations of the organization.

The Board was privileged to gain a new Board member; Heidi Fisher. Heidi has brought forth new ideas to the Board and has been a big help with our volunteering and fundraising initiatives. We will be saying see you soon to two of our Board Members, Dakota Braiser who has relocated and Holly Tripp who is expecting her first child.

Congratulations Holly! We were also sad to see Marielle VanEglen leave the Board earlier this year. I have also made the decision to step down as Chair and to remain involve with our agency as Past Chair for the next term.

To all of our past/current/new volunteers within our mentoring programs, thank you. You ensure our vision is achieved as you positively impact and enrich the lives of children in the City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton. In 2016 Statistics Canada suggests there are 3110 lone parent families with in the City of Kawartha Lakes. There has been an 8.7% increase since the last census in 2011. Statistics Canada, 2016, also suggests there are 640 lone parent families within Haliburton. There is an ongoing need for our services within our community and we wouldn't be able to be where we are without the support from all those who are involve in the agency, whether it is an attendee at Wing Fest, a staff, volunteer or a Board Member – we wouldn't be here today without you.

As a working professional in the field of social work, I continuously hear conversations occur relating to the supportive friendships our local mentoring programs provide. This makes me proud to be part of this organization as there are many youth who benefit from time you take from your life to enhance theirs – such a selfless act with reaping benefits.

I am looking forward to a positive and healthy year moving forward.

Thank you.