



“I’d be dead now if the Chapter hadn’t intervened for me, my kids would be orphans.”

“Sometimes all I need is a friend to talk with. Someone like me who understands where I come from and what I’ve been through.”

“Not a hand out but a hand up. I want to do things for myself, I just need a little help getting there from people I trust is all.”

“The Chapter provided me with on-the-job training when I couldn’t even get back into school. I ended up going to university because of that.”

“The Chapter paid for my son’s operation. I’ll never forget that.”

Dear Friend,

These are the sentiments of some of our members - Urban Native women who have a measure of comfort and a sense of belonging with our local chapter of Native women. For over 37 years **Niagara Chapter-Native Women Inc.** has been undertaking projects, programs and services that have made a tremendous difference in their lives and the lives of their families. We have children of our members come back to work with us from time to time. We continue to progress and evolve with the times, always keeping their best interests at heart. I invite you to come take a look and walk the journey with us.

Peace,

Wendy Sturgeon

Executive Director

CHARITABLE REGISTRATION # 10777-3111 RR0001



Our JUNE Online Campaign

You have helped us to achieve a great deal and make good things happen for urban Native families and the community. Thanks to you we have been very busy and have many accomplishments. We know you are interested to stay in touch and appreciate your ongoing interest.

So, what have we been doing lately? Well we've been busy!

YOUTH



Each year youth have been able to learn more about gardening through our Community Garden. Students Angelica and Joy were with us a while and really got into it. Thanks Angelica and Joy!



Another student, this time on placement through Niagara College, Matthew Assiniwe from Wikwemikong First Nation, a Health Sciences Graduate worked with us individually regarding our health as staff persons. We learned a lot. We wish him success and thanks Matthew!

WOMEN & YOUTH



Several of our young women attended the Annual General Assembly of the Native Women's Association of Canada. They had their own delegation and presented at the AGA. Our own Jessica Winger was amongst them.



Premier Kathleen Wynne attended the Ontario Native Women's Association Annual General Meeting pictured here with *NCNW* President Bonnie Brant, General Member Candy and E.D. Wendy Sturgeon.

COMMUNITY



She and her Ministers in attendance joined in for the Sunrise Ceremony, Friendship Pipe Ceremony and many of the teachings that were shared. She spent a considerable amount of time engaging with our youth delegation as well.



Our Executive Director makes a lot of connections with many others who can assist our families like the *National Association of Friendship Centres* Executive Director and Honorable Board Member of the *Ontario Native Women's Association*, Jeannette Corbier-Lavalle.

BEING PROACTIVE



Sisters In Spirit events are designed to help us remember the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. They also urge the government to get proactive to help protect our women and girls. Finally, a National Inquiry was announced by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Here is Wendy Sturgeon, E.D. receiving the R.C.M.P. report from an officer at a local Sister in Spirit event.



Here are Dr. Laurie Sherry-Kirk and Chelsea chatting with Dr. Cindy Blackstock at a *Child Welfare Conference*.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Aboriginal child welfare is important to us. Our services and programs are designed to be the least intrusive and most supportive possible. Through our various programs and services we have served over 1,296 urban Native children and youth in the Niagara region, all of whom have been connected to *FACS Niagara (Children's Aid Society)*.



(Generic children's photos from MCYS government website.)

Additionally, over 2,000 family members including extended family have been served and supported through our services. Another 856 others such as foster siblings and foster parents, guardians and trustees have been served and participated in learning through our services/programs. We have also been working to educate and sensitize the *FACS Niagara* staff of over 400 people, as well as staff of other agencies that we deal with. We are proud of the work we do on behalf of urban Native children and families.

DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS



The *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada* released 94 recommendations. The first five were all related to Indigenous Child Welfare. The Chapter's ongoing partnership with *FACS Niagara* builds a bridge to work together for the best interest of the child. That means we do our best to keep these children with family members and in their home communities. This year we mutually hosted a *Rededication of the Tree of Peace* that we had gifted to *FACS Niagara*. *Strongwater Women Singers* of the *Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre*, one of our partner organizations, were there with us.



E.D. Chris Steven and E.D. Wendy Sturgeon speak at *Tree of Peace Rededication*.

DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS



The first ever Partnership Commitment between an Indigenous organization and *FACS Niagara* is signed on National Aboriginal Day 2016. *FACS Niagara* commits to, among other things “reducing the number of Indigenous children coming into care,” one of the foremost recommendations of the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission*.

We couldn't have done it without **YOU!**

SCHOLARSHIPS



Recipient Ira Sowden, Board members Lisa Martin and Krystal Brant.

Our scholarship awards continue to keep making a difference in the lives of our aspiring post-secondary students. With your help, we have gifted some \$53,000+ to 66 recipients over the years.

(A recent Impact Study done for us by Brock University revealed that the majority of recipients finished their schooling and are now employed in their chosen profession. We wanted to know how they did and worked with students from the Canadian and Civil Society program under Dr. Livianna Tossutti to find out the impact we had).

AWARDING VOLUNTEERS



Family members of Vera Hill-Sharrow and Board members make the presentations.



The *Vera Hill-Sharrow Award for Volunteerism* is an ongoing annual award presented at our Annual General Meeting to recognize and honor a Native woman within our community for her volunteer work. So many volunteers have helped the Chapter to remain vital, strong and true to our mission.

As you can see, **together** we make great things happen for urban Native children, youth, women and families.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY



Our Annual Holiday Party at Christmas time is a huge hit with over 200 children and adults in attendance, many of whom may not have a Christmas celebration of their own due to limited economic circumstances and other family issues. We continue to be the only Native organization in the region that still ensures that every single person goes home with a gift. For some, it's their only gift over the holidays. Special donations are accepted for the party annually. Pictured here is Paula from *Paul Davis Systems Restoration* with their donation of \$200.00.



Santa takes a rest after the excitement and joins in the meal.

(Due to privacy issues we cannot show children who attend the party).

THANK YOU

Thank you for all your support, we truly appreciate it.

Right now, we need your help because we are not a core-funded organization and as you know we have to raise all the funds we use to provide these services.

There are many activities we'd like to do or various 'add-ons' to existing services or expansions to programs that need to happen as we've identified gaps and shortfalls, but due to inadequate funding or strict restrictive requirements, we cannot. Donations and sponsorships can help us though. People like you have helped in the past and we hope you will again.

All donations stay here in Niagara and are 100% used within the organization to assist with our ongoing needs as shown herein and described.

The children, youth and families we work with trust us and often face considerable hardship, food insecurity, (we help with that when we can) and would be considered "at risk" if it weren't for the support and ongoing services that are made possible through our organization. We work to restore hope and make their lives better so they can come to a point where they can actually start to see a brighter future for their children and family. This is hard work and it takes time. The needs are complex and multi-layered.

We hope you will remain involved and consider supporting us in one of the following ways:

INDIVIDUALLY: You can become a monthly donor

\$25 Monthly = \$300 per Year

\$50 Monthly = \$600 per Year

\$75 Monthly = \$900 per Year

\$100 Monthly = \$1,200 per Year

BUSINESSES: Become an annual corporate supporter *(Invitation to events)*

\$1,000 = Logo and name on our website

\$2,000 = Above and link to your site

\$5,000 = Above and display plaque, special event

CHARITABLE REGISTRATION # 10777-3111 RR0001

PROJECTS: Sponsor a corporate project

\$10,000 Helps with:

Ongoing expenses, transportation, the community garden, shed renovations, a new complete database system, a new complete phone system, a new interactive website.

Speak to us for more details.

LEGACY: Leave a legacy donation or donate to our endowment fund

You can easily donate to this endowment fund online at

<https://niagaracommunityfoundation.org/donors/donate-now> (select Indigenous Advancement Fund)

or via cheque to Niagara Community Foundation (memo: Indigenous Advancement Fund).

This project made possible by and with our thanks to



Women and Gender
Equality Canada

Femmes et Égalité
des genres Canada