

## In Memory

Robyn Pipe was a friend to many and a dedicated volunteer at Nova Vita. Known for her “spunky” personality and dependability, Robyn assisted with fundraising events, and delivering items especially around Christmas. Robyn began volunteering in 2009, and passed away on August 18, 2015. Her energy, laugh, and dedication will be greatly missed at Nova Vita.



Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who generously donated over **3,337** hours (equivalent to **1.7 full-time** positions) to assist us with Closet Couture, special events, sorting donations, managing reception, childcare, and so much more. We couldn't do it without you!

If you are interested in volunteering at Nova Vita please visit our website at [www.novavita.org](http://www.novavita.org) or contact our volunteer coordinator at 519-752-1005 ext. 216

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Nova Vita Domestic Violence Prevention Services

59 North Park Street, Brantford, Ontario N3R 4J8

24 Hour Crisis Line 519.752.HELP (4357)

All other calls 519.752.1005

Fax: 519.752.0811

[www.novavita.org](http://www.novavita.org)

E-mail: [info@novavita.org](mailto:info@novavita.org)

Revenue Canada Charitable Tax: 10777 1727 RR0001



# Annual Report 2014–2015



*Since 1983, Nova Vita has offered help, hope, and healing to over 20,000 women and children.*



Mission Statement

We provide holistic client-centered residential and counselling services to abused and homeless women and their children, and counselling services to perpetrators of domestic violence in Brantford.

Board of Directors  
2014 - 2015

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Patricia Lovelock

Lisa Herbert\*

\*Resigned during the fiscal year.



Message from the Executive Director  
and the President of the Board

Despite financial challenges over the past year, our programs continue to flourish. Early Childhood Education (ECE) remains a vital program at Nova Vita as our numbers reflect that the majority of children residing in the shelter are under the age of six. We were delighted to receive a \$30,000 grant from the Cowan Foundation this year, for this program, in honour of their 20th Anniversary.

Telus has also embraced Nova Vita by providing additional funding for the ECE program, emergency telephones to high risk clients, major sponsorship and presence at all of our fundraising events, providing the t-shirts for Men in Heels and a VIP trip to the Toronto Raptors game for several children in the shelter. The children enjoyed a limousine ride to and from the game, box seats, souvenirs, and a delicious dinner. Thank you Telus!

The “We Want No More” (violence, hate, harm, rape) project, sponsored by BRAVE and funded through the Status of Women Canada, concluded this year. The project’s goal was to engage young men and boys alongside young women and girls to end gender based violence. The project was such a success that we are applying for additional funding through the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Our social enterprise, Closet Couture, is thriving. It is a wonderful vehicle to provide information to the community about domestic violence and it offers great clothing at fantastic prices. Many, many thanks to the volunteers who sort



through our donations, prepare them for resale and who work at the boutique alongside our dedicated staff.

2015 also brought an organizational assessment to Nova Vita that focused on two strategic planning goals: to enhance organizational wellness and to build organizational capacity. The work plan is complete and will be rolled out over the next year.

In other news this year, the Board of Directors said goodbye to Brian Finnigan and Lisa Herbert, and we welcomed a new member, Patricia Lovelock. Future goals include Board training and the revision of Board policies and procedures.

As in many past years, funding remains an ongoing challenge. It is clear that we need to continue to be creative and fiscally prudent in our financial decision making. Nevertheless, the dedication and passion that our staff and volunteers demonstrate towards the women, children, and men we serve is remarkable. Without our funders, volunteers, sponsors, and donors’ support, we could not provide these much needed services to families in our community. On behalf of Nova Vita’s Board of Directors, we would like to extend our gratitude to the dedicated staff, managers, and volunteers behind the doors at 59 North Park Street.

Sincerely,  
Joy Freeman and Dianne Wallis

Year in Review

Our Clients

2014 - 2015

Shelter Services	
Children	120
Women	139
Total number of clients	259
Average length of stay	44 Days
Total average occupancy	87%
Calls received on crisis line	3,406

Counselling Services	
Women	453
Children	151
Men	199
Transitional/Maria House	227
Caring Families Program	51

Financials

Revenue

Provincial	\$1,590,401
Municipal	\$244,926
Fundraising & Grants	\$317,160
Closet Couture	\$111,262
Brant United Way	\$97,906
Other Sources of Revenue	\$94,993
TOTAL	\$2,456,648

Programs and Services

- 24-Hour Crisis Line (519-752-HELP)
- 24-Hour Emergency Shelter
- Counselling for women, children, and men
- Partner Assault Response Program (PAR)
- Differential Response
- Early Childhood Education
- Transitional Support
- Second Stage Housing

Community Engagement

- Closet Couture Boutique
- Volunteer Program
- Violence Prevention and Community Outreach
- We Want No More Project

For more information about our programs and services please visit our website at [www.novavita.org](http://www.novavita.org)

Expenditures

Residential Services	\$1,388,470
• Shelter	
• Children	
• Transitional	
Community Counselling	\$788,292
• Women	
• Men	
• Children	
Community Outreach	\$151,356
Closet Couture	\$68,976
TOTAL	\$2,397,094

A complete set of audited statements is available upon request by calling 752-1005 ext. 214 during business hours.