



# FORT (*Foundation of Resources for Teens*) 2020 Annual Report

**As a not-for-profit community organization, we strive to empower youth to make positive and successful life choices through opportunity and guidance.**

## Message from the Chair, Agnes Sztanko-Komar

2020 has been a very difficult and challenging year for the FORT. It is with great pleasure that I can say that we rose to the challenges that COVID-19 presented. The following is a list of sponsors, donors, and grants that we would like to thank for helping the FORT get through this pandemic:

CAA Niagara, West Lincoln Firefighters, St. Andrew's Church, President's Choice, Smithville CRC, Grimsby Rotary Club, West Lincoln Kiwanis, Trinity United Church, Stanpac, Sharon Meikle, Grimsby Lions Club, Township of West Lincoln, Town of Grimsby, New Life Community Church, Wise Guys Niagara, Smithville United Church, United Way, Ontario Trillium Fund, Niagara Community Foundation, and to everyone who supports our annual Christmas Card campaign!

The FORT and I appreciate your generosity and we are humbled by your continued support.

## Message from the Executive Director, Beth Shaw

2020 will be forever remembered as the year the FORT was forced to close down. COVID-19 hit the entire world and as a result for the safety of our youth and staff the FORT closed its doors. Fortunately, the FORT was very lucky to receive some critical funding that would help us assist in transitioning our programs from our physical centres to online. I am very proud of how our board, staff, and volunteers responded to this unprecedented crisis. As a result, FORT youth were still able to access programs, receive help with homework, professional mental health counselling, and get assistance with combatting social isolation by having opportunities to see their friends daily.

The start of the year was very promising for FORT Smithville as the Mike Holmes show had renovated our Smithville centre into a new inspiring space and the youth got to make themselves right at home. As a result of this amazing experience the FORT has become a household name with many new supporters and donors. FORT Smithville was completely transformed and as a result Grimsby FORT underwent a much needed renovation as well. Today, both FORT centres have been updated and our youth could not be any happier!

Due to the effects of the pandemic, 2021 will bring new challenges to the FORT that I am confident we will be able to overcome and succeed at. I would like to take this time to thank all of our donors, grantors, volunteers, board members, and supporters for helping us through this very difficult year. We rely on your incredible generosity to continue serving the youth of West Niagara!

### 2020 Board of Directors:

|                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Craig Bivand, Past Chair | Sarah Parker, Chair |
| Michele Dellaire         | Randy Vaine         |
| Agnes Sztanko            | Jim Powell          |

### 2020 Staff:

Beth Shaw – Executive Director  
David Vandersteen – Resource Developer  
Liz Bond – Grimsby Program Coordinator  
Taylor DeGuire – Smithville Program Coordinator

# 2020 Year in Review

## Major Income:

- CAA Niagara: \$20,000
- Sharon Meikle: \$11,675
- Wise Guys Niagara: \$10,000
- Stanpac: \$10,000

## Programming Highlights:

- Transitioned all programs to online in response to COVID-19 pandemic
- Re-opened in person programs in July!
- Helped many youth enter the workforce!

The FORT is proud to continue serving the youth of West Niagara through our centres in Grimsby and Smithville. Thousands of youth visit us each year to participate in our programs and use our services, all with the goal of bringing them the support and guidance they need to succeed.

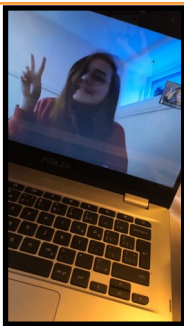


The people of West Niagara have shown great commitment to the FORT, through donations, fundraisers, and volunteering their time at events and during our programs. The FORT continues to be recognized by our community as a crucial resource for today's youth!



## 2020 Financials:

|                                          |                   |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Revenue:                                 | \$247,024         |
| Expenses:                                | \$245,808         |
| Excess of revenue over expenses:         | \$1,216           |
| Fund Balance, <i>beginning of year</i> : | \$ 109,905        |
| Fund Balance, <i>end of year</i> :       | <b>\$ 207,001</b> |



Free Mental  
Health Counselling

Help with  
online school

2020  
Programs

5,448  
Youth Visits

Employment  
Services

COVID  
Safety!



## Thank You to all who supported the FORT in 2020:

