

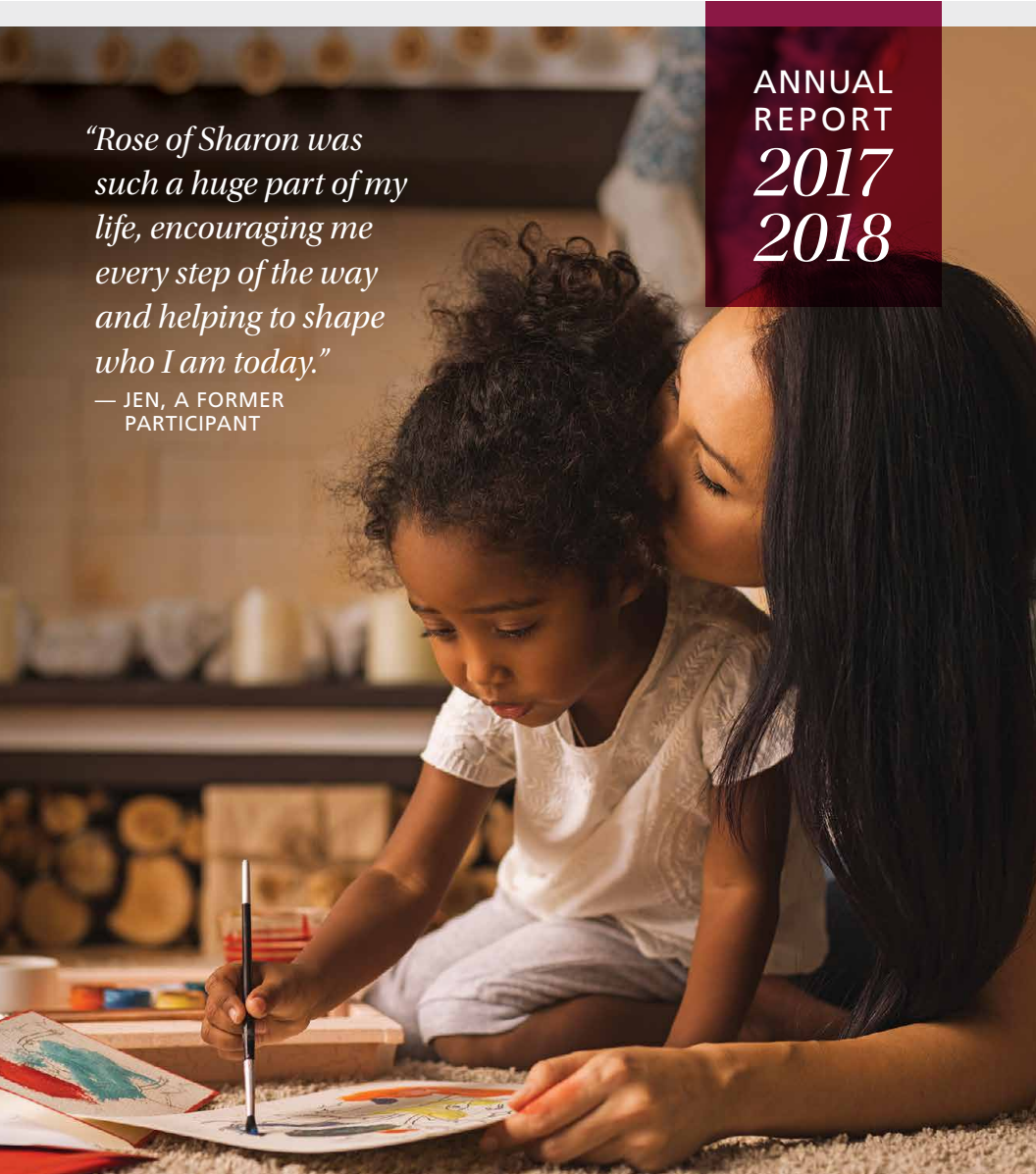


SERVICES FOR YOUNG MOTHERS

ANNUAL
REPORT
**2017
2018**

*“Rose of Sharon was
such a huge part of my
life, encouraging me
every step of the way
and helping to shape
who I am today.”*

— JEN, A FORMER
PARTICIPANT



Executive Director and Board Chair REPORT



Left: Anna Pavan, Executive Director
Right: Susan La Rosa, Board Chair

In the 2017–18 fiscal year, the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers of Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers worked diligently to ensure that its services and supports were offered to all young mothers and their children in York Region. As always, we are amazed by how much can be accomplished in a year.

This year, with the support of individual and community funders, we increased our awareness of issues relating to equity and diversity, in keeping with our goal to make Rose of Sharon a more inclusive agency. As a community leader in supporting young mothers, Rose of Sharon launched an extensive training program designed to help staff and volunteers meet the needs of 2SLGBTQ, gender-diverse, Indigenous and newcomer populations. We are proud to be working towards providing a safe and welcoming space for all young mothers in York Region.

In early 2018, through an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant, we introduced a new Food Security Program for participants. Facilitated by our in-house Nutrition and Resource Coordinator, this program provides young mothers with classes and individual support to increase their knowledge and understanding of nutrition for themselves and their young children. Additionally, the program enables greater access to nutritious food on a regular basis, including new weekly hot lunches for our high school participants.

This past year, the Board focused on fund development and increasing awareness of our agency in the community. With the generosity of the Sisters of Good Shepherd, we executed our Board Match campaign. Our Board members stepped up to the challenge and exceeded their \$50,000 fundraising goal!

For the second year in a row, our Staff and Board Giving campaigns have been a true success with 100% participation from members of the Rose of Sharon team. We are hopeful to continue this upward trend, building increased financial stability as we move into our next fiscal year, with our Catalogue of Hope and other innovative fundraising initiatives at the forefront.

We continue to rely on our caring community to provide financial support to Rose of Sharon, so we can welcome each young woman who walks through our doors in search of acceptance and support. We are so grateful to those of you who contribute financially, as well as through offering your time and skills to our agency. Your generosity empowers two generations, a mother and her child, which will make a positive difference in both of their young lives.

Anna Pavan
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Susan LaRosa
BOARD CHAIR

Board Members 2017–18 FISCAL YEAR

Susan LaRosa CHAIRPERSON
Lisa Purdy VICE CHAIRPERSON
Thomas G. Reid TREASURER
Kirsten Eastwood SECRETARY
Bob Interbartolo APPOINTED
Fulvia Cantarutti DIRECTOR
Lynn Conforti DIRECTOR
Jonathan Earle DIRECTOR
Marco LoFranco DIRECTOR
Amber Smith DIRECTOR
Andree Vincent DIRECTOR



Client Impact and Outcomes

In the 2017–18 fiscal year, Rose of Sharon served
330 MOMS
and
309 CHILDREN



15
scholarships awarded for moms attending post-secondary education



47
young mothers participated in our new Food Security Program *(January to March 2018)*



24
workshops offered throughout the 2017–18 year

In our 2017 client survey, Rose of Sharon participants reported the following improvements in their young lives:



94%
improved family stability



89%
improved parenting capacity



96%
improved decision-making skills for themselves and their children



88%
improved interpersonal relationships



95%
improved sense of self-worth



94%
increased hope for the future

Results are based on survey responses received in December 2017 from Rose of Sharon program participants during the 2017 year.



IN THE WORDS OF
A ROSE OF SHARON
PARTICIPANT

Jen's Story

Left: Jen at Rose of Sharon | Right: Jen and her family today

“Rose of Sharon was such a huge part of my life, encouraging me every step of the way and helping to shape who I am today.”

I got pregnant at the age of 17. It was quite the shock, to be honest. Once reality started to set in, I knew decisions had to be made.

At the point in time when I first reached out to Rose of Sharon, my parents did not know about my pregnancy, my boyfriend had left me, my friends had mixed opinions, and I felt completely lost. On my first visit to Rose of Sharon, I received a warm and comforting welcome from the staff who would later support and encourage me through my journey. After speaking with a counselor, I started to feel organized and prepared for the first time in my pregnancy.

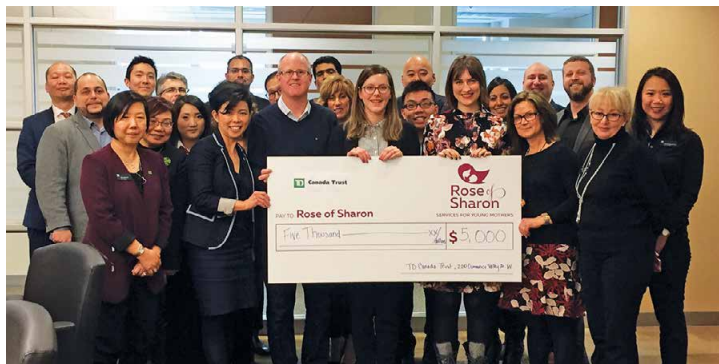
In addition to school and work, I participated in several Rose of Sharon programs which provided me with the necessary skills to take care of not only my baby, but myself. Once my baby was

born, I continued to access my counsellor on a regular basis. I felt I always needed to appear strong, but underneath, I was struggling. It was hard to be a young mother but having someone to listen to my feelings and provide support allowed me to make it through.

Fast forwarding to now, my boyfriend and I rekindled our relationship. We both pursued post-secondary education and, once finished, continued to grow our family. We are now married and have three children who keep us busy. I am still in touch with Rose of Sharon – I think I always will be. Rose of Sharon was such a huge part of my life, encouraging me every step of the way and helping to shape who I am today. I am grateful for this organization and what it does for its community.

Thank you

TO OUR
wonderful donors and
volunteers who make
Rose of Sharon's
work possible!





WHY I GIVE TO
ROSE OF SHARON

Juli's Story

"When you are a mother you are shaping the future, and when you are a child, you are the future in waiting."

In 2015, I delivered the most beautiful angel I had ever seen, my daughter Millicent. I was elated by the news of my pregnancy, but soon after the test came back positive, all sorts of thoughts crossed my mind. The question *who will help me?* resurfaced often. Fortunately, my loving and loyal parents reassured me that, although they both still work full time and live an hour away, they would be there for me no matter what. Knowing how much it meant to have people rally around my husband and me, I wondered about parents—especially single parents—who can't rely on their own families for support.

As a first-generation Canadian, I see how our social landscape differs from the one I grew up in. When I was a child, the unwritten rule of motherhood was to do the best you could with what you had. Now, becoming a parent means navigating through endless information and conflicting opinions while meeting the demand to earn an income, all with fewer

family resources. When I think about the young parents in our community who are figuring this out on their own, I am so glad that Rose of Sharon exists.

For a young mother taking on her new role as a parent, Rose of Sharon can serve as a beacon of hope. Rose of Sharon and its caring community of staff, volunteers and donors create a safe, welcoming space where vulnerable young mothers can grow into the parents they hope to be. The impact of nurturing their health and happiness is twofold: when you are a mother you are shaping the future, and when you are a child, you are the future in waiting. Every parent from any walk of life should have a second family like Rose of Sharon to support their journey.

Donating to Rose of Sharon serves as my personal healing outlet. I am so grateful to have my own parents in my life to seek support from, and I want an organization like Rose of Sharon to offer services in every community in every city worldwide. I will be a lifetime supporter.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO All Our Donors

Rose of Sharon, a charitable organization, relies on the generosity of the community to help fulfil our mission.

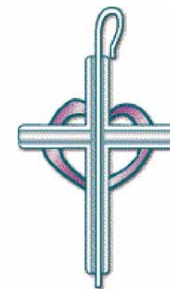
 ShareLife

 Catholic
Charities
of the Archdiocese of Toronto

 York Region

Ontario
Trillium
Foundation  Fondation
Trillium
de l'Ontario
An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

 Public Health
Agency of Canada  Agence de la santé
publique du Canada



Sisters of the Good
Shepherd

\$20,000+

TELUS Corporation
Spring of Hope Gala
The Meeting House
Fyfe Foundation

\$10,000 to
\$19,999

Meridian Credit Union
Sun Life Financial
The Peter Gilgan
Foundation
JBS Foundation

\$5,000 to
\$9,999

United Soils Management
Our Lady of Grace Parish
RBC Foundation
Scotiabank
TD Canada Trust
Deutsche Bank
York Region Paramedics
Charity Winter Gala

Thank you to all our individual donors, community groups, local businesses, private foundations and corporate partners—at all levels of giving—for your support throughout the year. We couldn't do this work without you. You make a great difference in the lives and futures of young families in York Region.

Note: We have not included individual donors in this list out of respect for their privacy.



WHY I VOLUNTEER
AT ROSE OF SHARON

Keelan's Story

*"I honestly could not think of a better community
for young mothers to grow in."*

I have always firmly believed in the proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child." In today's world, mothers are still expected to do most of the child rearing, often with little to no help. I volunteer with Rose of Sharon because it offers a support network for mothers not only through the staff and services, but also through the mothers bonding with each other. Rose of Sharon is a safe space to build a community for the moms and their children.

Rose of Sharon staff go above and beyond when it comes to making everyone who enters through their doors feel like family. They are always positive, supportive, and engaging; I honestly could not think of a better community for young mothers to grow in.

Motherhood can be an isolating time when faced alone. Rose of Sharon is a village, always there and always ready to support mothers, no matter their circumstances. They don't believe you should have to do it alone—they believe we should all do it together.

Rose of Sharon would like to thank its volunteers for their invaluable support and dedication to the agency's mission.



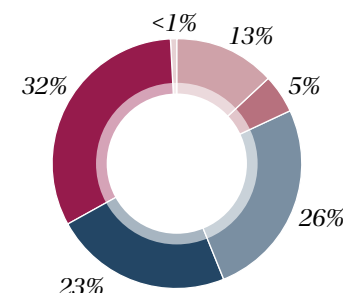
Financial REPORT

April 1, 2017 to
March 31, 2018

Revenues

Federal Government	\$183,654
Provincial Government	\$69,842
Municipal Government	\$359,440
Catholic Charities	\$321,271
Donations/Fundraising	\$445,703
Other Revenue	\$2,123

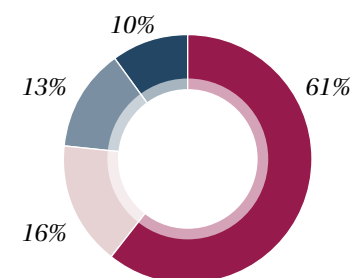
\$1,382,033



Expenses

Payroll and Related Costs	\$798,864
Program Costs	\$211,640
Building and Occupancy Costs	\$174,057
General and Administrative Costs	\$131,168

\$1,315,729





Get In Touch!

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for Young Mothers



TWITTER

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Rose of Sharon

SERVICES FOR YOUNG MOTHERS

Charitable Registration No.
13323 5903 RR0001