



2019

2020



**GANQHKWÁSRA⁷ 2019-2020
ANNUAL COMMUNITY REPORT**

LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CHAIR:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Gan̄kwásra⁷ Family Assault Support Services, it gives me great pleasure to reflect on a year of continual growth, culturally based healing, and the onset of unprecedented challenges.

Tsi Tionkwatention A non:wara Rason:ne is the phrase used to refer to the Youth Lodge. In the Mohawk language, it means, “My Home on Turtle Island”. The Youth Lodge, which is a licensed Children’s Mental Health Facility, experienced tremendous growth, which is featured in detail within the pages of this booklet.

Since 2007, Gan̄kwásra⁷ has offered the Ohahi:yo: Program. Ohahi:yo: is a Cayuga phrase that closely translates to “Good Road”. Ohahi:yo: was the chosen name as it is a good road that will assist individuals to make positive changes within themselves and their relationships. The Ohahi:yo: program provides culturally sensitive Family Violence Education from a Haudenosaunee perspective. The program offers community members access to an immediate service to comply with their probation order and/or CAS service plans. This group process has been successful by having individuals who may have been mandated to attend the group become clients who want individual counselling and continue their healing journey. Although the program was extremely beneficial to the participants, it was not recognized as an official Partner Assault Response (PAR) program in the eyes of the Funding Source. After many years of advocating, the Ohahi:yo: Program was officially designated as an Indigenous PAR by the Ministry of Attorney General in September 2019.

Due to the success of the Ohahi:yo: Program and a need to provide Family Violence Education to Youth ages 14 to 19, the Egodinigohahniyoh Program was created. Egodinigohahniyoh is a Cayuga phrase, meaning “They will have strong minds”. This program shares traditional teachings which help individuals take responsibility for their choices and their mental, physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. Egodinigohahniyoh decreases the wait list for Community Counselling services, and provides a more rapid opportunity to become empowered and to make positive changes toward a violence free life.

None of these feats would be possible without the determination and passion of the Gan̄kwásra⁷ team. The Watherenha:wih are the Wisdom Keepers and History Holders who have set the path for the future, making invaluable contributions to our organization. Watherenha:wih is a Mohawk phrase, meaning “They carry baskets”. The Gan̄kwásra⁷ staff compliment consists of a variety of ages. The budding employees bring a new energy and perspective on healing, compassion and life.

I would like to acknowledge the courage it takes each individual to peruse our Social Media information, make that first call, and ultimately walk through our doors. The road to healing is not easy, but please know that you do not need to travel it alone. Our caring, compassionate staff members offer Counselling, Cultural Teachings, Transitional Support and so much more.

You know what they say about March, “In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb”. I don’t know if this myth holds true for March of 2020, which will always be remembered as the time the COVID-19 virus hit our part of the world. Gan̄kwásra⁷ Family Assault Support Services, which is a designated Essential Community Service, remained open and available for our community members, thanks to the quick thinking and constant planning of Sandra Montour, Executive Director and the management team.

The World Health Organization (WHO) was referenced as a guide for information. Six Nations Public Health was an immense help and resource for Gan̄kwásra⁷, and we can’t thank them enough.

Nia:weh,



Mary Monture,
Gan̄kwásra⁷ Board of Directors, Chair



Gan̄kwásra⁷
Family Assault Support Services



GANQHKWÁSRA⁷ BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Monture, Chairperson
 Wanda Smith, Vice Chairperson
 Michelle Davey, Treasurer
 Melba Thomas, Six Nations Band Council Representative
 Evan Sault, Mississaugas of the Credit Band Council Representative
 Claudette Mitten
 Lance Logan-Keye
 Dave Smoke

OUR VISION

With Ganqkwásra⁷ (love among us),
 we bury our weapons of violence to create a safe and caring community for all generations.

OUR MISSION

We, as a community, affirm respect for our traditional roles as Onkwehon:we women, men and children and uphold the principals of the centrality of the family within our society. Recognizing the existence and devastation of family violence and sexual assault, we accept the responsibility to support victims in time of crisis: to provide shelter, support, and counselling.

As such, our mission is: To provide, through a non-profit organization, for the stabilization, maintenance, revitalization and enhancement of the family structure in a safe and culturally sensitive manner.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

We are all born with ganikwi:yo (a good mind) and interconnectedness,
 therefore everything we need to end violence is within us.

WE BELIEVE

- In being respectful, caring, and accountable for our own actions
- In self evaluation in all aspects of our organization
- All living things deserve respect and have purpose
- In a holistic approach
- Safety is paramount for a healthy existence
- In the power of choice
- In inclusiveness of the whole family/community
- Everyone has the right to service
- Traditions and culture play a vital role
- In sharing our Onkwehonwe approach with everyone
- In living our lives purposefully
- In life-long learning
- In protecting Mother Earth

WE UTILIZE

- Keepers of traditional knowledge to maintain our cultural integrity
- Various traditional and alternative approaches
- The strengths, knowledge and skills of clients, staff, volunteers, Board, funders, and community
- Technology and various resources to support our organization
- Ethically based practices
- Available funding sources
- Policies and procedures
- Open and active respectful communication
- Community partners

WE ASSESS

- Risk management accountability from many sources
- Safety in all situations
- The effectiveness of our programs and service delivery
- Community trends, i.e. addictions, mental health, etc.

YOUTH LODGE 'MY HOME ON TURTLE ISLAND'



The “My Home on Turtle Island” Youth Lodge, which is a licensed Children’s Mental Health Facility, experienced abundant, much needed and long awaited growth. This was mainly due to funding from Jordan’s Principle, who focus on the well being of Children and Youth.

The 8 bed facility, which houses Indigenous Youth from the ages of 12 to 18, gained many new staff members. Not only did the number of full time Youth Lodge Counsellors increase to 8 from 5, several new positions were created as well.

Youth Lodge Cultural Resource Worker

provides cultural teachings and on the spot learning moments to the residents. A favourite occasion for the Youth Lodge residents is Saturday morning breakfast! Clientele feedback consistently conveys that traditional knowledge, cultural teachings and in some cases, attending ceremonies are very grounding and healing.



Youth Lodge Navigator

position was designed to support potential residents and their families through the process. This position has assisted tremendously with ensuring the Youth Lodge is a proper fit for residents. The Youth Lodge Navigator provided tours of the Youth Lodge, assisted with the Intake process and facilitated presentations within the community. The Youth Lodge Navigator also acts as a liaison between the families, applicable staff members and partnering Child Welfare organizations.



Youth Lodge Cook

has been invaluable to the residents and staff. Having a designated person to plan and prepare nutritious meals enables the Youth Lodge Counsellors to provide more one on one counselling to the residents, and complete other tasks. The Youth Lodge residents also receive the benefits of Life Skills Coaching, such as education on nutrition and meal planning. Traditional Haudenosaunee foods and teachings around the history, planting, harvesting, etc. are incorporated into the Youth Lodge meal plans.

YOUTH LODGE 'MY HOME ON TURTLE ISLAND'



The Youth Lodge Mental Health Child and Youth Counsellor and other Youth Lodge staff members benefited greatly from weekly consultations with Dr. Amanda Bell. These consultations were very successful and assisted the team in gaining more understanding of residents. Dr. Bell is a trauma specialist, Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR) and play therapist, consultant and researcher.

Youth Lodge outings varied from Indigenous art exhibits at the Woodland Cultural Centre and the Museum of Guelph to the Canadian Warplane Museum, Canada's Wonderland, the Butterfly Conservatory and many more.

The Youth Lodge residents and staff also engaged in numerous nature themed activities. They enjoyed regular hikes to safe sites, such as Albion Falls, the Chedoke Radial Trail and Tiffany Falls. They were also able to enjoy a camping trip to Tobermory.

The Youth Lodge Supervisors put forth a significant effort to ensure that the Youth Lodge residents are supported academically during their stay at the Youth Lodge. This includes enrolling residents in Sylvan Learning as well as implementing attendance at the Six Nations Polytechnic Homework Support Program.

The residents have very much enjoyed the newly implemented Youth Lodge Police Dinners. This effort to build positive relationships between the Youth Lodge residents and the Six Nations Police was well received by both parties. Resident growth during the Police Dinners was amazing! The residents went from being standoffish with the Police Officers to looking forward to their arrival. The Six Nations Police appeared to also enjoy their visits, which included having Mario Kart competitions, basketball on the sport court and taking residents for rides in their cruisers.

The Youth Lodge residents and staff designed and created a float for the 2019 Six Nations Santa Claus Parade and Placed 1st place in the Youth Category!

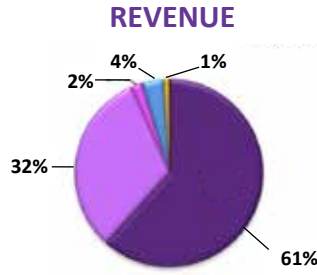
A unique Intake process, specific to the Youth Lodge, was created by dedicated Youth Lodge staff members who saw the need for enhancement. The Youth Lodge team also developed a Youth Lodge Assessment Team, which carefully assesses whether the Youth Lodge is a suitable environment for a potential resident through information gathering.



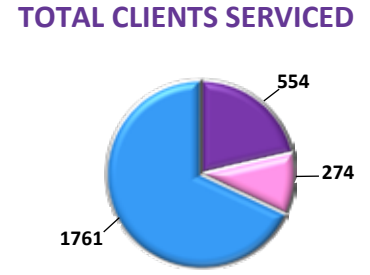
GANQHKWÁSRA⁷ FINANCIAL REPORT ENDING MARCH 31 2020



- Wages & Benefits
- Program Expenditures
- Travel & Training
- Maintenance & Repairs
- Materials & Supplies
- Advertising
- Miscellaneous
- Insurance
- Professional Fees



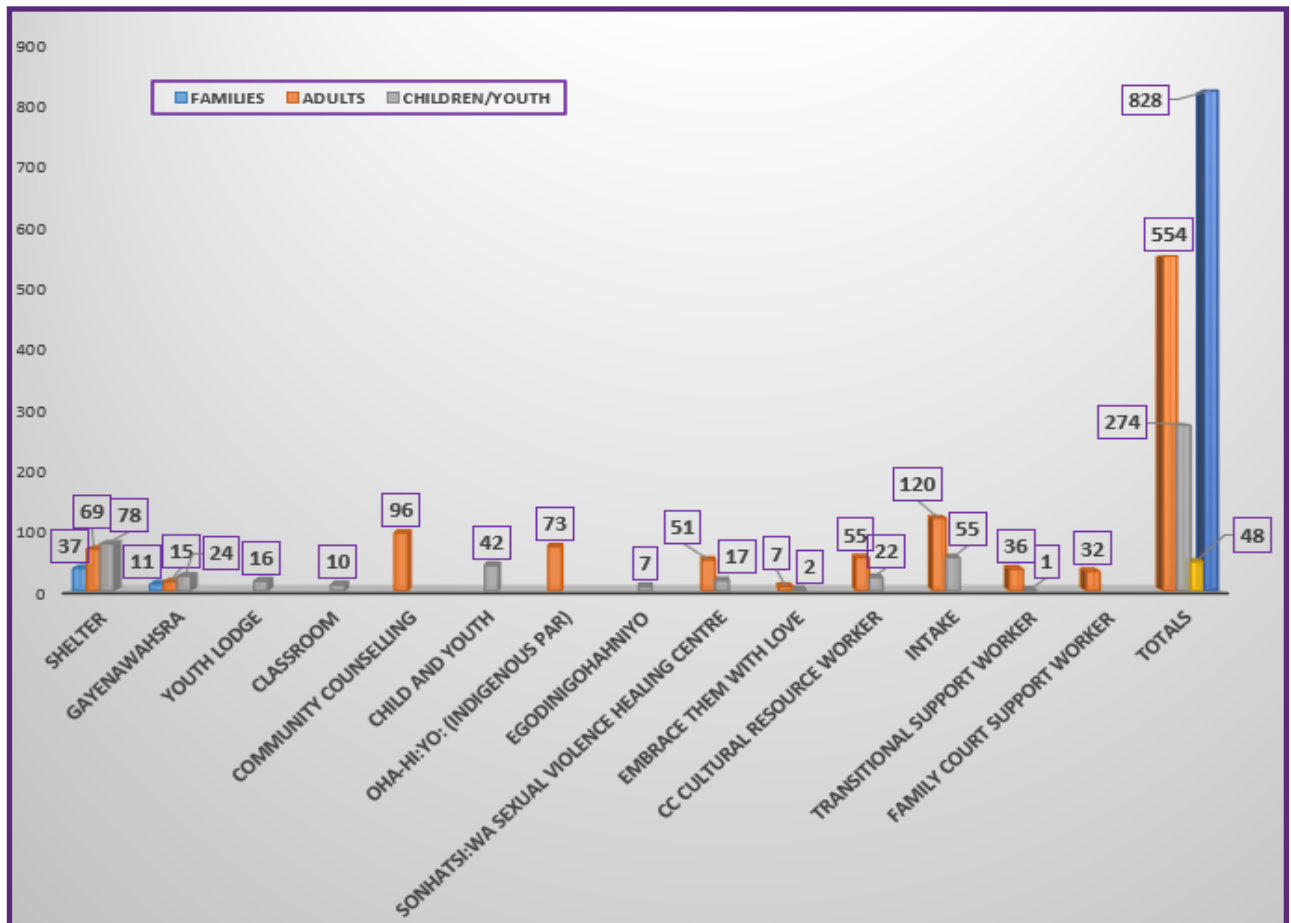
- Provincial
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Fundraising & Other
- Federal—Other
- Deferred Revenue, Beginning of Year



- Brief Services
- Adults
- Children & Youth

Total Revenue:	\$6,328,190.00
Total Expenses	\$6,262,464.00
Excess of Rev over Exp	\$65,726.00
General Surplus, beginning of year	\$558,457.00
Surplus	\$624,183.00

2019–2020 PROGRAM STATISTICS



WATHERENHA:WIH “THEY CARRY BASKETS” KNOWLEDGE HOLDERS



Ganqkwásra⁷ considers our Knowledge Holders to be one of our most cherished assets. They are the Wisdom keepers and History Holders who have set the path for the future, making invaluable contributions to our organization.

Retirement, which should be seen as a life stage and not as an ending, can be a very intimidating process for some. A group of dedicated and knowledgeable, long tenured Ganqkwásra⁷ staff members worked together to create a Gradual Retirement and Mentoring process.

The Policy change was approved by the Ganqkwásra⁷ Board of Directors in February 2020.

The group was gifted with a Mohawk phrase, Watherenha:wih which means “they carry baskets”.

The concept of mentoring is widely accepted and consistent with Ganqkwásra⁷ values, as well as Haudenosaunee values. The Watherenha:wih are more than willing to share with the younger generations. The mentoring that is provided by the retiree will ensure that the quality of service at Ganqkwásra⁷ continues, and that our values are passed on (Our Vales are found on page 10)

The process, which is unique to Ganqkwásra⁷, will create a more streamlined process for new

GANQHKWÁSRA⁷ STAFF WELLNESS DAY 2019



Once a year, Ganqkwásra⁷ staff members are treated to a day of fun and relaxation. A variety of themes and activities are offered, and an attempt is made to alter the experience each year. Due to the nature of the job and the need to reduce stress, the 2019 event was deemed a Wellness Day.

Staff members were offered a choice of treatment, such as Massage Therapy, Reflexology or Reiki. There were also some unique group sessions provided, such as Mandala Making, where once creates their Mandala to help boost creativity, memory, provide stress relief and self-expression. Another engaging group activity was a Sound Session, which focuses on the ability of harmonics to create vibrational changes. The employees thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity to relax, recharge and know that they are valued.

ETIYATAKENHAS (SHELTER)



The Shelter is fondly referred to as Etiyatenhas, which is an Oneida phrase that means “We are helping them”.

The Etiyatenhas (Shelter) was fortunate enough to receive several enhancements during the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Along with the funding from Jordan’s Principle that greatly improved the Youth Lodge staff compliment, the Etiyatenhas (Shelter) was also able to secure some new positions. An **Etiyatenhas Child and Youth Mental Health Counsellor** and a Part-Time **Etiyatenhas Cultural Resource Worker** have enhanced Etiyatenhas (Shelter) Programming by adding additional support and providing culturally relevant knowledge to residents.

UPDATED SHELTER SPACES

The Etiyatenhas (Shelter) Supervisor submitted an application to Women’s Shelters Canada and Ikea Canada, where they partnered together to update shelter common spaces. As the winners of the application, the living room and playroom were updated.

The living room has become a more inviting group program/gathering room for the residents. The play room was updated and refreshed, with an added youth “hang out” area. The group programming room, has been named Edwadewayesta, which is a Cayuga phrase meaning “We will all learn”. A plaque has been placed on the door with this name. The feedback from residents regarding the updated spaces have been very positive.



Due to relationship building, the Etiyatenhas (Shelter) Supervisor received a call from IKEA Kitchener to inform her of the store closure. Ikea Kitchener generously donated their Floor Model items to Ganohkwarsa⁷. An abundance of a variety of items, from dishes to framed art to desks and furniture, were distributed throughout the agency. Thanks to this extremely thoughtful donation, four Etiyatenhas (Shelter) bedrooms now have a Queen Bed with a Single Bed in the room.



ETIYATAKENHAS (SHELTER)

The outdoor playground, which was located on the fenced in yard, was outdated and in need of repair. Because it was rarely utilized, rather than replacing it, a customized play structure was placed in the courtyard for children to enjoy. The courtyard is accessible from the residents' room at any time, and is a completely safe space for the children to play and get some fresh air.

At Gan̄kwásra⁷, we strive to promote the Haudenosaunee languages as often as possible. "Ganigohi:yo", a Cayuga word that means "A Good Mind" was chosen for this new, one of a kind play apparatus. The children absolutely love the new play structure, and use it every chance they get.



RECIPIENT OF THE SIX NATIONS OF THE GRAND RIVER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION 2019 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT



**SIX NATIONS
OF THE GRAND RIVER**
**ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
TRUST**

The Six Nations of the Grand River Development Corporation kindly provided a very generous contribution towards the renovation of Gan̄kwásra⁷'s "My Home on Turtle Island" Youth Lodge. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the project start date was delayed but will be completed by the end of the 2020 calendar year as planned.

We look forward to the completed renovations which will provide many of our youth with their own separate bedroom space, additional programming space, office space and living space for the youth. Niawen:kowa to the Six Nations of the Grand River Development Corporation for your support!

TRAININGS OFFERED BY GAN̄KWÁSRA⁷

In April of 2019 Sandra Montour, Executive Director and Julia Bomberry, Manager of Therapeutic Services attended a North American Center for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response Conference in Banff, Alberta. They were accompanied by Brody Thomas from Six Nations Mental Health and Addictions. They contributed a presentation "Development of a High Risk Committee in First Nation Territory: Overcoming Challenges" to over 400 people.

A Violence Threat Risk Assessment Level 1 session was provided to Gan̄kwásra⁷ employees, along with staff from other community organizations in January 2020. As Gan̄kwásra⁷ now has staff members who are qualified to provide VTRA training, this session was facilitated by Sandra Montour, Alana McDonald the Manager of Residential Services and Brody Thomas from Six Nations Mental Health and Addictions.

TRAININGS OFFERED BY GANQHKWÁSRA⁷

GANQHKWÁSRA⁷ 30 HOUR FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION TRAINING

Traditionally, Family Violence Prevention Training (FVPT) was held in April. In 2019 FVPT occurred in November during “Partner Abuse Prevention Month”. 27 participants took the in-depth training, which provides an opportunity for community members and front-line workers to gain useful knowledge in the area of family violence prevention from a Haudenosaunee perspective.

FVPT Training Topics include: Introduction to Ganohkwasra and History of Family Violence in First Nations Communities; Dynamics of Family Violence; Children Exposed to Family Violence; Youth Exposed to Family Violence; Sexual Abuse Awareness; Elder Abuse; Relationship of Substance Abuse and Family Violence; Revitalizing the Family; Honouring our Women; Honouring Our Men

and Honouring Community.

Prior to the group’s celebration activity, they were able to hear from a guest panel made up of speakers from Six Nations Band Representation, Ogwadeni:deo and Six Nations Police. The guests each shared how their organizations work to support families experiencing family or intimate partner violence.

CULTURAL SENSITIVITY TRAINING

Cultural Sensitivity Training is a one day training facilitated by the Management Team at Ganqhkwasra⁷ Family Assault Support Services from a Haudenosaunee perspective. Areas explored include the impact of multi-generational traumas experienced by Ogwehoweh (Original People) and our resiliency.

VIOLENCE RISK THREAT ASSESSMENT (VTRA) TRAINING

Ganqhkwasra⁷ is very pleased to have coordinated VTRA training sessions in collaboration with six Nations Health Services. This highly coveted training was facilitated by individuals from the North American Center for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response Inc. VTRA identifies individuals and groups moving toward committing serious violence. It decreases the number of community threats and the level of violence.

MEN’S TRADITIONAL SINGING GROUP: EDWA ENAGA:DA:T (WE WILL RAISE THE SONG)

This group, consisting of men, male youth and children, was designed to enhance healthy relationships amongst men, create a stronger respect for women by learning traditional songs sung specifically to honour women, and learn traditional teachings related to Haudenosaunee traditional songs and dance. The traditional teaching of adults teaching children and youth knowledge, respect, how to use a good mind, demonstrate healthy forms of socializing as well as give words of encouragement was used to bring the participants together to formulate a safe and fun space.

Participants were gifted a Horn Rattle and Water Drum which are significant musical instruments used for traditional singing. Ganqhkwasra⁷s Cultural Resource Worker provided teachings of how the social songs we sing today have become a part of our culture. For example, the Haudenosaunee historically traded, and songs were part of our trading with other Nations.

The group hosted their own Traditional Social and invited their families and the community at large to participate. This was an honour for the group to share this time with everyone as it brings families together, promotes good health, socializing, fun, sharing a meal and filling their hearts with the social songs. 90 people participated in the Traditional Social. The group had “lead dancers” to model the different dances to the participants as a form of encouragement to actively participate.

For more information about trainings, contact communityeducation@ganohkwasra.com.

OUR VALUES

LOVE AMONG US

Ganohkwásra⁷
(Cayuga Language)

Kanonhkwátshera
(Mohawk Language)

SOFT KIND SUPPORTIVE WORDS

Awə́nhaóde:
(Cayuga Language)

Iowennáinetska
(Mohawk Language)

A GOOD MIND

Ganigghíyo:
(Cayuga Language)

Káinikonhrí:io
(Mohawk Language)

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Gahsgyaó:nyo⁷
(Cayuga Language)

Kahretsá:ron
(Mohawk Language)

STRENGTH IN THE MIND

Gahsháhsdehsra⁷
(Cayuga Language)

Káisasténsera
(Mohawk Language)

A GOOD ROAD

Ohahí:yo:
(Cayuga Language)

Iohahi:io tsi sonnhéties
(Mohawk Language)

INTEGRITY

Odrihwagwaihsó:
(Cayuga Language)

Ioterihwakwaríhsion
(Mohawk Language)

FAMILY AND RELATIONSHIP

**Sənadedwadre:nyo
gahwajiyagéhoh**
(Cayuga Language)

**Tsi náitetewatere kahwa tsi
rakéron**
(Mohawk Language)

GIVING AND RECEIVING

Etsatgá⁷, Esysé:ná: hní⁷
(Cayuga Language)

**Entehsátkaítkaíwe táhnon
entehshé:na**
(Mohawk Language)

SAFETY

Esadatnígha:k
(Cayuga Language)

Ensatateinikonrárake
(Mohawk Language)

DIVERSITY

Dewáhdihahnoh
(Cayuga Language)

Tewattihá:nion
(Mohawk Language)

RESPONSIBILITY

Ogwadrihwá:de⁷
(Cayuga Language)

Ionkwatéri:wate
(Mohawk Language)

We honour that there is goodness in everyone.
Éyentigonyóhs séh agwe:góh heyehá: oya:nré⁷ ganigghí:yo:.
Eniethihretsáron akwékon káinikonhríio enhatiháwake.



PROGRAMS

& SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL

MAIN EMERGENCY SHELTER

Etiya'takenhas
Sounds like 'A tea ya da gen haus'
We Are Helping Them
(Oneida word)

YOUTH LODGE

Tsi Tionkwatention
A'non:wara Rason:ne
Sounds like: 'Gee djo gwa den jdo a
nu wa la la soon nay'
My Home On Turtle Island
(Mohawk Word)

NEXT STEP PROGRAM

Gayenawahsra'
Sounds Like 'Guy yen a wa sra'
"Helping Ourselves"
(Cayuga Word)



To access any
of our services,
please contact an
Intake Worker
at our 24 hour
phone line:
(519)445-4324

COUNSELLING

WOMEN'S PROGRAM

Ahsehsawa:doh
Sounds like 'A seh sa wa doh'
New Beginning
(Onondaga Word)

MEN'S PROGRAM

Saho'nikonri:io'ne
Sounds like 'Sa ho nee go lee yo nay'
His Mind, Body, & Spirit
Has Been Healed
(Mohawk Word)

CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM

Gaodwiya:noh
Sounds like 'Gao dwee ya na no'
"They Take Care of Children"
(Cayuga Word)

SONHATSI:WA

Sounds like 'soon ha gee wa'
"Your True Self"
Sexual Violence Healing Centre
(Mohawk Word)

OHA'HI:YO:

Sounds like 'Oh ha hee yo'
"The Good Road"
Indigenous Partner Assault
Response Program
(Cayuga Word)

EGODINIGOHAHNIYOH

Sounds like 'en go dee nee kwa ni yoh'
"They Will Have Strong Minds"
Youth Family Violence
Prevention Group
(Cayuga Word)

OUTREACH

TRANSITIONAL & COURT SUPPORT

Geheegoyena:wa's
Sounds like 'gay hay eh go yeh n awes'
"Helping You to Straighten
Out Your Life"
(Onondaga Word)

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Agwadehnye:sdahnih
Sounds like 'Ag gwa day yes dah nih'
"We're teaching them"
(Seneca Word)

ALTERNATIVE CLASSROOM

Ratiweintehta's
Sounds like 'La dee way yen deh dus'
"They Are Learning"
(Mohawk Word)



**Ganohkwasa
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NOA 1M0**

WEBSITE: www.ganohkwasa.com

FACEBOOK
Ganohkwasa Family
Assault Support Services



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