In May 2010, the University of Guelph’s Central Student Association created the Student Help and Advocacy Centre (SHAC), an amalgamation of the former Legal Resource Room, Financial Resource Room, and Human Rights Office. SHAC was created to better serve students by overcoming some of the issues with legitimacy, consistent office hours, and a larger client base faced by the three former groups. The mandate of SHAC is to provide resources, advocacy, and support for students in the areas of tenancy, legal, financial, academic, and human rights. A key component of SHAC is our partnership with the Legal Clinic of Guelph and Wellington County. Many students are not aware of their rights as a tenant in addition to the legal responsibilities of their landlord, and are often overwhelmed when tenancy-related issues arise. In situations that SHAC staff members are unable to appropriately assist students, students are referred to the lawyer’s satellite hours. This is a healthy partnership that allows SHAC to provide reliable information for students dealing with minor tenancy issues, while enabling the lawyer from the Legal Clinic of Guelph and Wellington County to handle more serious cases.

In the four months that SHAC has been in operation, the office has completed 27 formal cases and has had 74 casual client visits. SHAC coordinators and volunteers completed 19 cases in the fall semester and the lawyer completed 8 cases. The above graphs illustrate some of the case breakdown.

"GREAT OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP OTHERS Seldom come, but small ones surround us every day.
-SALLY KOCH"