

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS Community Connection

Message from the Executive Director

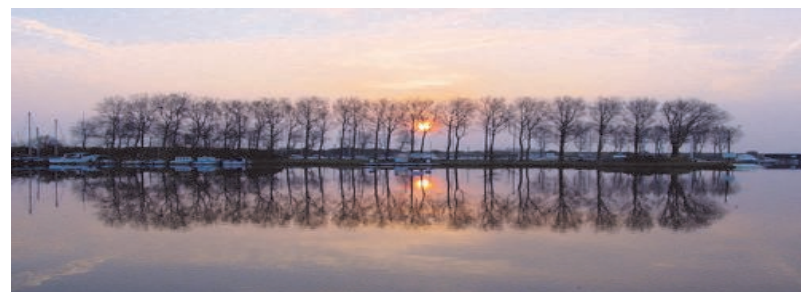


On a cold February day I walked from the administration section of the Women & Children's Shelter of Barrie where I work into the living area and encountered a wall of noise. Twenty children were residing with us at that time and although they may not have all been present, those who were there were boisterous and the sound of their voices, cries & laughter rang throughout.

At a time like this I'm reminded of why I do this work and why I love it so much. I'm very fortunate to be surrounded by a group of passionate and dedicated staff who extend beyond their hours of work to advocate on behalf of women and children and 'get the word' out to the community about gender-based violence. We are frequently touched and moved emotionally. Sometimes there are those wonderful moments when we hear back from a woman about how well she's doing and how much the support of the agency and the staff meant to her. We are also faced with the sobering reality most of our women deal with when one of them returns because she was unable to manage on her own financially and had to go back to her abuser. And there are those tough moments when we watch as a woman's child is taken from her because her abuser got to court before her and applied for custody. Through all of these experiences we continue to share a profound belief in the resiliency of the human spirit.

With the help of our shelter and outreach services, many women and their families are able to rebuild their lives and strengthen their self-esteem and self-confidence. We help them navigate through the maze of social services and help decode some of the language and confusing protocol that defines our systems. We provide a bridge to connect them with other agencies and services that will help sustain them as they re-establish themselves in their community. We speak out on their behalf when their voices are not heard. We assist them in developing the tools and skills that they'll need as they continue their journey. It's a journey we are privileged to share.

Lynda Muir



SPRING 2011

Shelter Wish List

To help us provide needed items for the women and children who use our services you can donate the following:

- Children's lunch items (fruit bars, cereal bars, fruit cups, puddings, juice boxes, cookies)
- Non perishable food items (canned vegetables, canned mushrooms, pasta, pasta sauces, canned tomatoes, hot and cold cereals, condiments...ketchup, mustard, barbecue sauce ... miracle whip, cheese whiz, jam, peanut butter)
- Baby products (diapers – sizes 4-6, pull ups, baby wipes, baby powder, shampoo, rash cream, baby oil, crib sheets, baby monitors, baby toys)
- Feminine hygiene products
- Laundry soap, dish soap, laundry fabric sheets, bleach
- Pajamas, house coats, slippers, underwear (bras and panties) in ALL sizes...for moms, male teens, female teens, children, toddlers and babies
- Kitchen items (toasters, kettles, coffee makers, can openers, silverware, glasses, dishes, pots and pans, utensils, brooms, mops, garbage bags, clocks, wash cloths, oven mitts, bake ware, extra big frying pans, and cookware)
- Bathroom items, shower curtains, shower curtain hooks, towels, bath mats, wash cloths
- Bedroom items (single sheets, bedspreads, crib linen, pillows, mirrors, lamps clocks, bed rails, toddler beds)
- Conditioners, shampoos, tooth brushes, tooth paste, deodorant, razors, makeup, hair spray, mousse, self care products, hair dyes, NEW hair brushes
- Store and Mall Gift Certificates

Thank you for thinking of us. It's the kindness of people in our community who through their generous support of the Women & Children's Shelter make it possible for us to continue to offer our services to abused women and children in Simcoe County. We are truly grateful.

Donation Form

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

My donation is enclosed for \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 Other Amount \$ _____

I authorize the Women & Children's Shelter of Barrie to process a pre-authorized monthly donation in the amount of \$ _____ from my bank account or charged to my credit card

Authorizing Signature _____

My donation is payable by Cheque VISA MasterCard or Electronic Debit from Bank Account*

Credit Card Number _____ Expiry _____

Signature _____

*If donating monthly by Electronic Debit from your bank account, PAP paperwork will follow

Make cheques payable to THE WOMEN & CHILDREN'S SHELTER OF BARRIE

We are a registered charity #12995 1588 RR0001



We would like to commend and thank four local lawyers who have spent countless hours volunteering their legal expertise, valuable time and personal commitment at the Women & Children's Shelter of Barrie.

Their advice, guidance and diligence was most valuable and very much appreciated by everyone.

We offer our sincere gratitude and appreciation to **Paul DuBuono, Paul Dusome, Carolyn Noordegraff and Kemi Ogunmefun**, dedicated volunteers committed to providing pro bono legal services to abused women.

Their dedicated service has been invaluable to the residents and outreach clients to whom we provide service. On behalf of residents, clients and staff we'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank each and every one of them.

STRIVING TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.....

While on vacation this winter I had the privilege of visiting the Family Support Network in Tortola, in the British Virgin Islands. It is an outreach office that provides service to women and children who are affected by domestic violence on the island. At the moment they do not have the resources to have a residential facility. However they offer women and their children a 3 night's hotel stay to begin to "sort life out." It runs much like the outreach office of our shelter. When the counselor explained the struggles they encounter, I was surprised to find they were very similar to the same issues our women face when they leave abusive relationships here at home. She was astonished that in Canada we would deal with many of the same barriers such as charges not being laid against the abuser, immigration issues, lack of affordable housing and inadequate financial assistance. Sometimes I think we have moved so far ahead and other time it is a humbling experience to realize we have only begun to fight the battle. It was encouraging, however, to discover that although we are thousands of miles apart, we are promoting the same message and striving to end violence against women.

Dorothy
Transitional & Housing Support Worker



We are on Facebook, keep up-to-date with our community events!

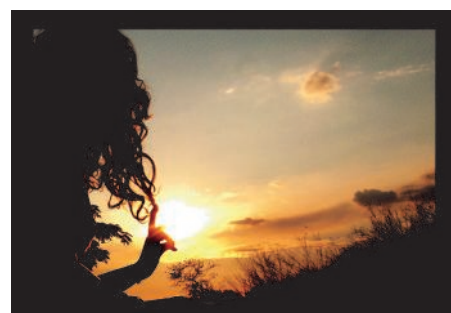
REFLECTIONS FROM A CLIENT.....

With help from the Women & Children's Shelter of Barrie my children and I are able to be called survivors. We are survivors of abuse. Although we never had to reside in the shelter due to having family support, we have used various supports thru the outreach services program. Women need to know that there are services for them in our community that are willing to help them.

Now finally free from the abuse we still have a lot of things to deal with. First the legal system. Bev who is our Legal Advocate has helped me with this process, she is very knowledgeable and passionate, always advocating and trying to make the system better for women. I feel so blessed that I have been given the opportunity to meet Linda and Dorothy. Linda is an Outreach Worker, Dorothy a Transitional and Housing Support Worker. To me they both deserve halos. They have both been by my side guiding me through my tough journey. I have struggled and they have both kept me grounded. Without them I'm not sure where I would be today. They have given me hope when I felt that there wasn't any and strength to continue on with my life.

I have done some individual work with Linda as well as attended groups, open and closed, with Linda and Dorothy facilitating. I have laughed and cried many times with them. They are two of the strongest, passionate women I know, making changes for women who have been or are being abused in relationships by their partners. I have been able to access support for my children through a program called Choices for Children. My children have learned that violence is not okay and have been able to express their thoughts and feelings without judgment. We have all learned coping skills and have safety plans in place. My children have learned how to cope with some of the effects of domestic violence. Thank you Alyson you are a very special person. If you are in an abusive relationship with your partner please put out your hand for help. These women are phenomenal. As a community we need to continue to raise awareness and help women who are in abusive relationships.

Marlene



SAVE THE DATE!!

JUNE 21

Annual General Meeting
South Shore Community Centre

An update from our Shelter Coordinator

The side entrance to the shelter is now wheelchair accessible. We have automatic doors coming into the side entrance and accessible doors going into the shelter from the vestibule. These renovations are almost completed. We also have started renovations in the accessible bathroom. These renovations were possible because of government funding.



Visit us at
www.barrieshelter.com



International Women's Day

March 8, 2011

This was the second year in a row that the Women & Children's Shelter of Barrie and Colibri: Centre des femmes francophones du comté de Simcoe co-hosted the International Women's Day event in Barrie. 2011 marked the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day (IWD). The first International Women's Day was held on March 19, 1911, with rallies in Germany, Denmark, Austria and Switzerland and came after two years of women's labour unrest in Europe and North America. More than one million women and men attended. Our IWD event featured a number of local performers and a keynote speech by Barrie's own, Norah Busby, showcased local agencies and women vendors, and offered a variety of 'taste delights' courtesy of area restaurants. It was great to see so many people in attendance and so many smiling faces. This really is a day to celebrate women, their achievements and strengths.



Photos by Tess Buchanan

The Stay Alert...Stay Safe Bullying Quiz

Try to choose the correct answer for each of the following questions. With this multiple choice quiz you can test your knowledge on how to not be a victim...or a bully.

- Bullying is a problem that affects...**
 - Victims
 - Bullies
 - Communities
 - All of the above
- By definition, bullies are...**
 - Generally aggressive toward their classmates, teacher, parents, siblings and others
 - Happy children who just like to tease
 - Well-liked and highly popular amongst their classmates
 - Caring, sensitive people
- If you are being bullied, you should...**
 - Start crying
 - Fight back
 - Ignore the bully and walk away
 - Laugh at the bully
- Victims of bullying are generally known to...**
 - Deserve what they get
 - Be funny looking
 - Be unpopular at school
 - None of the above
- You are in the schoolyard and a kid four inches taller and much stronger than you approaches. With his fist in the air, he screams, "You pushed me in line at lunch today. What are you going to do about it? Answer quick or I'll break your face" Your immediate response should be...**
 - "Leave me alone" ...then walk away
 - Threaten to break his face too
 - Give a clever or funny response such as "Thanks, but I like my face just the way it is"
 - a or c
- Bullies tend to pick on:**
 - kids who are older and bigger than they are
 - kids who are alone
 - kids who play together in a group
 - kids who play close to the teacher
- The following behaviour may prevent you from becoming a victim of a bully...**
 - becoming a bully yourself
 - walking tall and with confidence
 - taking up kickboxing
 - playing by yourself at recess
- Bullying comes in many forms. It can be...**
 - Physical (hitting, punching, kicking)
 - Verbal (name calling, sarcasm, threats, teasing)
 - Emotional (tormenting, ridiculing or humiliating another person)
 - All of the above



If you answered more than 7 questions correctly chances are you can outsmart a bully!

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

We don't do this alone. We depend on the support of our community partners and neighbors. And the Barrie community has been generous and responsive to the needs of our families and has supported the Women & Children's Shelter of Barrie for 30 years. With the endorsement of the community we have been able to offer hope and optimism to thousands of women and their families and will continue the work as long as there is a need. This year, 2011, marks the 30th anniversary of the agency and we would like to extend a big THANK YOU to everyone who has been a supporter throughout the years.

It Takes Courage by Author Unknown

It takes strength to be firm,
It takes courage to be gentle.

It takes strength to conquer,
It takes courage to surrender.

It takes strength to be certain,
It takes courage to have doubt.

It takes strength to fit in,
It takes courage to stand out.

It takes strength to feel a friend's pain,
It takes courage to feel your own pain.

It takes strength to endure abuse,
It takes courage to stop it.

It takes strength to stand alone,
It takes courage to lean on another.

It takes strength to love,
It takes courage to be loved.

It takes strength to survive,
It takes courage to live.



DECEMBER 6, 2010



Each year on December 6 the Women & Children's Shelter of Barrie and Colibri: Centre des femmes francophones du comte de Simcoe commemorate the 14 women murdered by a lone gunman at Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal in 1989 as well as all the women and children who have been murdered in Ontario during the past year by their partners or fathers. Last December we held the event at the Barrie Native Friendship Centre which signified the collaboration of three distinct communities in Barrie (Francophone, Aboriginal, and English-speaking). Together, in solidarity, we recognized this tragic day in Canada's history.



Photos by Tess Buchanan

THANK YOU

Recent Third Party, Fundraising & Community Events on Behalf of WCS

- ♦ Mapleview Community Church spa day for WCS clients—Dec 13
- ♦ Barrie Womens' Show – Jan 8/9
- ♦ BNI visitor day – Feb 9
- ♦ RMA Karate food sale – March 12
- ♦ Beauty Supply Outlet hosted a Princess Day on March 16th
- ♦ Chef's Table (Moxie's) – April 7
- ♦ An Musical Evening for April Showers – April 9
- ♦ Body, Heart and Soul Show hosted by Barrie Advance – April 9

Recent Community Fundraising Drives

- ♦ Roaring Women toy drive
- ♦ Sarjeant Insurance gift drive
- ♦ CitiFinancial gift drive
- ♦ No Frills food drive
- ♦ Life 100.3 toy drive
- ♦ Roberta Place gift and toy drive
- ♦ Do or Die Hair Salon toiletry item drive
- ♦ Pampered Chef kitchenware and jewelry drive



MARK YOUR
CALENDAR

Upcoming Third Party Events on Behalf of WCS

- ♦ Sister's Closet – May 1
- ♦ Royal LePage National Garage Sale – May 14
- ♦ Women for Women Golf Tournament – June 10
- ♦ Barrie Realtors Association Golf Classic – June 16
- ♦ Warrior Dash – July 9
- ♦ Moxie's Golf Tournament – July 19

BEST WISHES TO AN IMPORTANT TEAM MEMBER....PEG

As spring approaches and the winter blues disappear, everyone is starting to get outside more to enjoy the nicer weather. Often with the sunshine and warmer days, we all seem more optimistic. After a long and cold, and yes, snowy winter we all welcome the sunshine! The shelter continues to remain busy, and the days go by quickly. Our staff continues to strive to make the lives of women better in their continued commitment to end violence against women.

A Special Dedication To A Special Staff As She Retires

As spring approaches our Children's Program will be kept busy with outdoor activities involving the children. While many of us will be celebrating the warmer weather, one of our long term staff from Children's Services will be celebrating her retirement after 22 years of dedicated service. From all the staff at the shelter we extend our sincere and best wishes to Peg in her well-deserved retirement. Peg has made such a difference in the lives of so many children over the years with her smiles and friendly personality. She will be missed by those who have worked with her over the years as she has brought a "special something" into every encounter she has had with each child.

Thank you for the laughter, sweat, tears, joy, cookie crumbs, runny noses, story times, counseling support, craft time, bingo night, trips to the playground and for your diligent commitment to end violence against women and their children.

Best Wishes from your team!



How To Get Involved Volunteer Program

Purpose:

Our volunteers are critical links to the women we serve, they are the people who do art with children, drive clients to appointments, go camping and canoeing with women & their children, and provide the quiet presence behind the scenes who help with essential tasks throughout the agency. The Women & Children's Shelter of Barrie always needs committed, experienced and passionate volunteers to help in our shelter and outreach locations, with events, or on our Board of Directors.

Interests:

Administration

Events

Donations

Fundraising

Transportation

Outdoor Maintenance

Childcare

Craft/Skills Sharing

The benefits of our volunteers' time are truly immeasurable. One act of kindness can make all the difference in someone's life. The staff at the Women & Children's Shelter of Barrie also rely on the input of volunteers to run programs smoothly and successfully. It's hard to encapsulate the full value of all that volunteers do.

If you would like more information, please call:

Heather at **705 728 6300 ext. 229** or email heather@barrieshelter.com or

Darlene at **705-728-6300 ext. 224** or email darlene@barrieshelter.com



Upcoming Community Events

Sister's Closet

Sunday, May 1, 2011
1pm to 5pm
24 Maple Ave, 2nd Floor

Women & Children's Shelter of Barrie

Spend an afternoon with the girls raiding your sister's closet. With your girlfriends and sisters, you know you'll always have unconditional support. With this event, we want to give the same support to the women of our community and to show them that they are not alone.

We ask you to bring a non-perishable, hygiene product or a toonie for our sisters in need. All proceeds benefit the Women & Children's Shelter of Barrie

Clothing donations will be accepted at 3 Morrow Road from 9am to 4:30 pm until Thursday April 28, 2011.

See us on Facebook at 'Sisters Closet' or 'Women & Children's Shelter of Barrie'. For more information contact (705) 878-7776 or regis7201@yahoo.com

The Annual Women for Women Golf Tournament will be a fun, non-competitive golf tournament for women benefiting the Women & Children's Shelter (Barrie). It will be 9 holes of fun and laughter for a great cause.

Friday, June 10, 2011
Registration: 11:30 a.m. | Lunch: 12:00 p.m.
Shotgun Start: 1:00 p.m. | Reception/Silent Auction: 4:30 p.m.
Innisbrook Golf Course | 2957 Lockhart Rd., Barrie, ON L4N 9G7

Cost: \$75 per person/\$300 per foursome if registered by April 30th, \$85 per person/\$340 per foursome if registered after May 1st.

The tournament cost will include lunch, nine holes (including special treats at each hole), and hors d'oeuvres after the tournament. We ask that you also bring one or more items from the attached list of "most needed items" for the shelter. For more information, please visit www.women4women.ca

To register, please fill in the attached form and either fax it to Mary Anne Denny-Lusk at (705) 722-6588 or mail it to Mary Anne Denny-Lusk, BDO Canada LLP, 300 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 300, Barrie, ON L4N 0B4 with your cheque.

If you would like to volunteer for this event, please visit www.women4women.ca

ABOUT THE WOMEN & CHILDREN'S SHELTER

The tournament will benefit the Women and Children's Shelter (Barrie). The Women & Children's Shelter is a registered non-profit charity governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and staffed by trained professionals. All services are free of charge and confidential.

Partial funding for this 21-bed facility comes from the Ministry of Community & Social Services, with the balance generated through fundraising events and private donations.

The shelter offers comfort, security, support and an opportunity for change. We provide counseling, compassion and encouragement as women attempt to make life altering decisions for themselves and their children. For more information about the Women & Children's Shelter Barrie, please visit: www.barrieshelter.com

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- Children's lunch items (fruit bars, cereal bars, hot cups, puddings, juice boxes, cookies, etc.)
- Non-perishable food items
- Diapers, pull ups, baby wipes, baby powder, baby shampoo, rash cream, baby oil, baby monitors
- Pads, tampons, party liners
- Laundry soap, dish soap, fabric sheets, bleach
- Pajamas, house coats, slippers, underwear, for women, teenagers, children, toddlers and babies, plus slippers of all sizes
- Toasters, kettles, coffee makers, can openers, silverware, glasses, dishes, pots and pans, denture, brooms, mops, garbage bags, clocks, oven mitts, bake ware, extra big frying pans and cook ware
- Shower curtains, shower curtain hooks, towels, bath mats, wash cloths
- Single sheets, bedspreads, crib linen, pillows, mirrors, lamps, clocks, bed rails, toddler beds
- Conditioner, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, razors, makeup, hair spray, mousse, self-care products, hair dyes
- Any kind of gift certificates
- Bus passes or tickets
- Life jackets for children, sleeping bags, tennis rackets, badminton rackets
- Toys, board games, sports items, make-up
- Toilets, DVD's, CD'S
- Towels and face cloths, tea towels
- Tickets to summer events in and around Barrie.

"When we do the best we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life or in the life of another."
- Helen Keller

Let's Put Abuse Out Of Commission!

Join us for a day of family fun and bargain hunting!

Saturday, May 14, 2011

A charity garage sale in support of the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation held at a Royal LePage Office in your neighbourhood.

Great Deals for A Great Cause
Support the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation
www.royallepage.ca/shelter

Together, we help more than 30,000 women and children each year.

Royal LePage REALTORS® and their clients are helping to break the cycle of violence and restore hope to women and children across Canada. By donating a portion of their commission and through local fundraising events, our agents, brokers and staff have raised more than \$10 million to support women's shelters and violence prevention and education programs. All administrative costs are covered by Royal LePage so 100% of every dollar raised helps create safer homes and communities.

Helping you is what we do.

ROYAL L E PAG E

50 Plus Social Club
 Aanchal Khan
 Adam Smith
 Affinity Electronics of Canada
 Al Beacock
 Al Raftis
 Aldo Manias
 Alex & Heather Hill
 Alisha Hogan
 Allan Zaba
 Allen Cowan
 Allison Groves
 Amanda Taylor
 Amelia Furtado
 Amie McGarrity
 Anne Graham
 Anza Micweli
 Association of Administrative Assistants
 Bananabaskets.com
 Barrie Rotary Club
 Barb DesRochers
 Barb Stranks
 Barbara Munroe
 Barrie Welding & Machine
 Barry Hall
 Bev King
 Bill Francis
 BMO Employee Charitable Foundation
 BNI
 Bob Greenlees
 Boston Pizza Foundation
 Brandon Pahl
 Brenda Savo
 Bruce MacKereth
 Bryan Underhill
 Canadian Revenue Agency
 Canadian Tire
 Carmela Runco
 Carole Pawsey - Ciraco
 Central United Church Finance Committee
 CEP Local 714-M
 Charlene DesRochers
 Chris Giorshev & Jo-Ann Giorshev
 Christina Dasilva
 Christina Hull
 Claire
 Claire Powell and Ken Gordon
 ClubLink
 Coffee Club of Bayshore Landing
 Colleen Morrison
 Collier Street United
 Comet Chemical Company LTD
 Cory Blom
 Craig Hamilton
 Crown Hill Womens Institute
 Dan Sobering
 Darien Jacob
 Daryl Eogtowicz
 David Oades
 Deacons First CRC
 Deborah Ouellet
 Delyth or Mark Amos
 Discovery Child Care Centre
 Donna Fay MacDonald
 Dora Green
 Doris Moore
 Doug Ferguson
 Dr. Bradley J Dibble
 Ed Smits
 Edie Bible
 Elementary teachers federation of ontario

Ellie Taylor
 Erich Jacoby-Hawkins
 Essa Presbyterian
 Fastteks
 First Baptist Church
 Free Wheelers
 G. Gauthier
 Gary Price
 Gary Wong
 George T Moore
 Georgian College
 Greg Crossman
 H. McFadyen
 Hannah Investments Inc.
 Heather Ford
 Heidi Haupt
 Huronia L.S Group
 Hydro One
 IWD
 Jack LeSage
 Jacquie Ottene
 James Conners
 Janine Hutchinson
 Jean Eden
 Jeremy Jevons
 Jerry Hay
 Joe Pearson
 Joe Pirrello
 Joey Rampton Medicine
 Josh Crawford
 Josie Vadori
 Judy Watson
 Julie and John Fitzgerald
 K McCleave
 Karen Braden
 Karen Hammond
 Karen Peacock
 Katie Cain
 Kiwanis Club of Barrie
 Larry Hoover
 Lions Club of Barrie
 Liz Simmons
 Leslie Hamilton
 Louise Gordon
 Maran Mciver
 Marcia & George D'Antimo
 Margaret Cater
 Mark Tottenham
 Marlene Smith
 Martin & Barbara Graham
 Melissa Ciraco
 Michael or Barbara Burrows
 Mike Middel
 Mr & Mrs Fudge
 Mr Lee Davis
 Ms Margaret L Tallon
 Nancy Clark
 Nancy Laube
 Natasha Vadori
 Nathalie Brazeau
 Nicky Stashick
 Northern Lights of Canada
 Norma Blackwell
 Northern Welding College
 NorthWest Barrie United
 Oatly Vigmond
 Ontario Power Generations Inc.
 Optimist Club of Barrie Inc
 Party Packagers
 Patricia Wadland
 Patrick MacMillan
 Peggy Finch
 Peter & Heidi Pass
 Peter Frueh

Peter Hristovski
 Phillip Beer
 Princess Auto
 Priya Manohar
 Rayanna Parkin
 Remax Chay Realty Inc
 Robert & Karen Johnston
 Robert Cassell
 Robert Johnson
 Roger or Fredda French
 Ron Hamilton
 Rooted
 Rosalind Hesser
 Rose Gentile
 Royal LePage Shelter Foundation
 Rumley & Associates
 Running Shoe
 Ruth Millar
 Ruth Sissons
 Ryan Leslie
 S.Simpson
 Sally & Barry Kaweck
 Sandy Shield
 Sandy Taylor
 Sara Gibson- McDermott
 Sarah Ackland
 Sarah VanVolkingburgh
 Savierio Di Mondo
 Scott & Brenda Feeney
 Scott Hook
 Sean Kelly
 Sean Murray
 Shannon Causey
 Shel-Save Wiping Supplies Inc.
 Shoppers Drug Mart (Main Branch)
 Shoppers Drug Mart*
 South Springwater Fire Fighters Assoc.
 St John's Anglican Church Women
 St. Elizabeth Health Care
 St. James U.C.W
 Stephanie Crawford
 Steve & Marilyn Philpott
 Steven French
 Stroud Presbyterian Church
 Susan Bogardis
 Susan Brauweiler
 Susan Charlebois
 Susie Karabas
 Tanya French
 Tara Nicholls
 Tarra Scott
 Taylor Payne
 Telus Communications Co
 Terry Arnold
 Terry Smith
 The Brumara Foundation
 The Co-operators
 The Future of the Web
 Three Wishes Bed and Breakfast
 Tim & Lara Hunter
 Todd Guergis
 Tom Gilchrist
 Tony Mendicino
 Tri-Truck Centre Inc.
 United Way of Oakville
 United Way Toronto
 Walmart Canada Corp
 Walton Financial Group
 WMI Corporate Charity Committee
 Women's Association Essa Road
 Word for the World Bible School
 Yvonne Metcalfe

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR



We value our community connections tremendously. Being a part of this community means that we should be out in the community as much as possible and also that we must bring the community in to know what it is exactly that we do, what our hopes are for the future and that together we can break down the social stigma that often keeps women from asking for help. Our 30th anniversary involves casting a vision for our future and to have our community fully participate in that vision.

We would like to thank our many community partners and donors for supporting both families staying at the shelter and those who access our services but remain in the community. We have been truly inspired by the toy, gift and food drives that both individuals and organizations have held on our behalf. Thank You!

We are actively recruiting a volunteer base that is interested in opportunities in administration, events, fundraising, donations, cooking/baking meals, outdoor maintenance and more. Our events committee is planning 'Walk a Mile in Her Shoes' for October 16, 2011; last year we had 250 people out to the event. This year our events committee is aiming for 1000 walkers! Posters and pledge forms are heading out into the community this weekend! This event was originally organized by Frank Baird, who is head of The White Ribbon Campaign, 'Men working to end Men's violence against women. Gender violence does not just affect women. It affects the men who care about them, their families, friends and their communities. Someone you know, someone you care about, has, or will become the victim of gendered violence.

Are YOU man enough to walk the walk? We encourage men, women and their children to walk the walk with us. Posters and pledge forms are available online at www.barrieshelter.com/events-2/walk_a_mile It's not easy walking in these shoes, but it's fun and it gets the community to talk about something that's really difficult to talk about. Please join us!

We are implementing 2 other committees within the next 2 months: a Fundraising committee and a Community Relations committee. If you would like to be part of either of these committees, please give us a call! Our Fundraising committee will plan and organize different drives or fundraising initiatives involving the community. Ideas might be donation boxes in the community, a recipe book, food/toy or gift drives at various times throughout the year and connecting with businesses or organizations or researching funding opportunities.

A community relations committee will direct our vision cast for the future, develop and initiate a communications plan, and identify multi – agency strategic partnerships. They will assist in the creation of our vision for the future, provide guidance and evaluate the success of past actions. If you would like to be involved with either of these 2 committees or in another volunteer capacity with the shelter, please call me at 705 794 1150.

Heather Croft