

THE WOMEN & CHILDREN'S
SHELTER OF BARRIE PRESENTS



Women & Children's
Shelter of Barrie

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



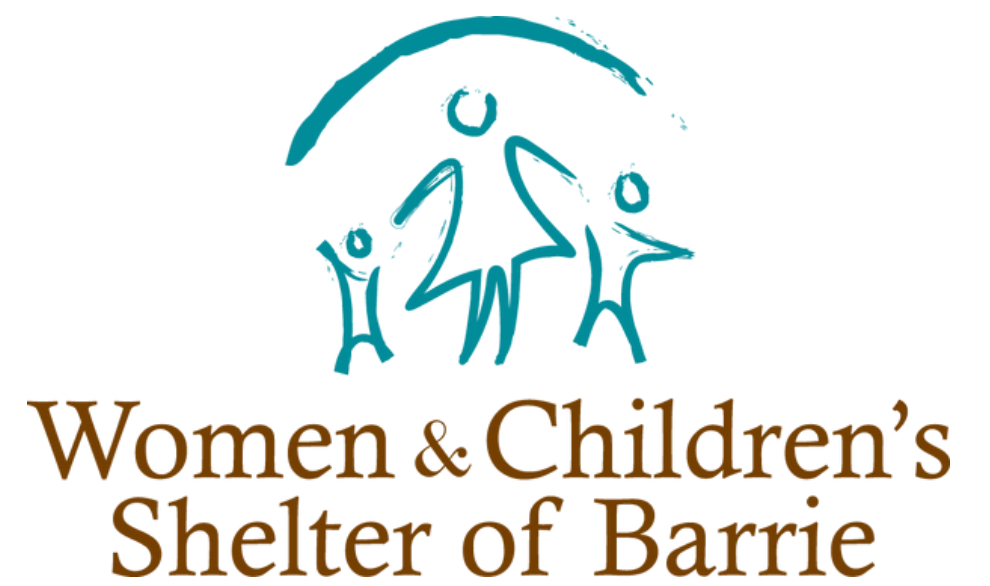
EMAIL: INFO@BARRIESHELTER.COM

WEBSITE: BARRIESHELTER.COM

TELEPHONE: 705-728-6300

CRISIS LINE: 705-728-2544

Table of Contents



Looking Back

A Message from the Board Chair

A Message from the Executive Director

A Survivor Journey

Services

Shelter

Outreach

Programs

Overview

Year in Review

Impact Report

Facility Update

Events & Community Development

Revenue & Expenditures

Thank You

WELCOME

A Message From The Board Chair

Anne Marie Dixon



It is my very great pleasure to write this on behalf of the Board of the Barrie Women and Children's Shelter. My name is Anne Marie Dixon and I am the outgoing Chair of the shelter. I joined the Board in 2015 and since then have served on the Finance Committee, as Vice- Chair and as Chair since 2021. My term as Chair has just ended and at this time, I'd like to introduce our new Chairperson, Lisa Harripersad. Lisa comes to the board with a wealth of experience in the social services sector and I know under her leadership, the Board will continue to provide an excellent resource to the shelter.

Our Board is comprised of 10 dedicated members with varied experience including banking and financial services, education, social services, police services, compliance and development.

It is my great honour to represent the Board. Under the strong and resilient leadership of our Executive Director, Teresa MacLennan, the Barrie Women and Children's Shelter continues to advance confidently, making adjustments as needed in the way they work and how women and children are supported.

In this past year, the shelter has continued to successfully operate, complete necessary shelter repairs and host fundraising initiatives such as our largest event, 'Walk a Mile in her Shoes'. We have successfully completed two full years operating our second-stage home. It was purchased in April 2021 thanks to the strategic vision of our executive director and the strong financial support the shelter received from the community. We are now actively searching for a second "second-stage" home to provide additional housing for women and their families in our community.

We thank you all for your support- whether it be financial or in-kind donations or kind messages of support.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank Teresa and her incredible team who continue to work tirelessly in a rapidly changing environment. They proactively take action to support, empower and provide critical services to women and their children.

As we go forward, I feel extremely strong, positive and optimistic for our future.
Thank you.

Anne Marie Dixon

Chair of the Board of Directors



A LOOK BACK

A Message From The Executive Director

Teresa MacLennan



The past year has been one of triumph and challenge. Even though COVID 19 has lessened its presence in our lives, the threat and worry of a resurgence looms over our heads. As our shelter is a communal living space, we are proactive in how we manage any possible risk and mitigate COVID cases when they arise. Thankfully, we have yet to experience an outbreak and continue to be very successful in supporting the pop up cases we experience.

This past year we have been able to plan and prioritize for the needs of women and children in relation to the safe and affordable housing crisis that our city is experiencing. Our plans have included the new purchase of another transitional home that supports women to have a safe and affordable home as they transition from our shelter. The plans and fundraising campaign to make this next dream a reality are well underway and we are looking forward to seeing more women in transitional housing and create more space for women to enter our emergency shelter.

This year, we have experienced donation challenges that we have not known for many years. With the cost of food and inflation, we know that finances are hard for so many in our community. For the first time in my 7 years with the shelter, we were worried about our food stock and making sure we could supply our kids with their school snacks. We also faced a shortage of toilet paper and other hygiene items which we haven't really faced in quite a while. I am happy to say that our community met the call to action and helped us in our time of most need. From our social media posts and asks for help, many groups and individuals answered the call and brought donations to sustain us for the month of September. We continue to be amazed by the generous support from our community.

We were also able to purchase a new agency van with help from our good friends The Kiwanis Club of Barrie. This new van transports our shelter children to their therapy appointments and helps families to move into their new forever homes. This year we are also looking forward to the launch of our 2024 survivor calendar. As always, our survivors are using their voice (and lovely calendar photos) to highlight the experience of abused women and the journey to healing.

As we look to the year ahead and the plans we've made, we are always reminded of all the hands that have a firm grip on our journey. Hands that lead us, hands that hold us up, hands that help, hands that give. Those hands are plentiful and strong as we rely on all of you to lift us up and continue to do our work.

Thank you to our wonderful community of volunteers, survivors, and donors that offer their time and support to our work. And, thank you to our entire agency team that continues to rally around and uphold women in their journey to healing. Your work is important and helping to create new futures for abused women and children.

Sincerely

Teresa MacLennan
Executive Director



A Survivor Journey

My name is Lisa.

I went by Lise for most of my life. My husband at the time, now my ex, used my name to demean my character and verbally abuse me. So I went back to using Lisa. I found it interesting that as he dragged me through court he did not even know what my full, given name is. Today I am here proud to be Elisabeth Anne Foy, a Victor over domestic violence and intimate partner abuse.

In the fall of 2017, I had had enough of the abuse and decided to leave my husband. I began the plan of exiting the marriage. I gathered people around me to help exit. One of those groups was the Barrie Women and Children's Shelter. I was scared and wounded but determined. I first met with the outreach program and began working with the legal advocate. I was aided in finding a lawyer and in processing all the paperwork for legal aid. I had no money to speak of and my part time job at the time was paying for activities for the children. With legal in place, I began discussing how to leave with as little disruption as possible to all of our lives. My ex had other plans.

In the spring of 2018 I was served with a motion that was meant to destroy me. I contacted the shelter immediately. I was put into a priority that was nothing short of go! I was to appear in court in a matter of 3 days and the shelter stood by me all the way. With the legal advocates help I was able to get the lawyer in gear and get set up for court. I was terrified at this point and was recommended to the counselling that was available through the outreach program.

I had met with the counselling services prior to this but had not felt I was in deep need of the services until I was hit with the motion. I knew at that point that I needed to talk with someone. I needed emotional support. And I was provided that support in spades. Speaking one-on-one with a counsellor and eventually joining the closed group were so beneficial in my emotional stability at that time I can truthfully say that the shelter staff kept me afloat mentally and I am here today because of the support I received from them. I am extremely grateful. But the story does not end there.

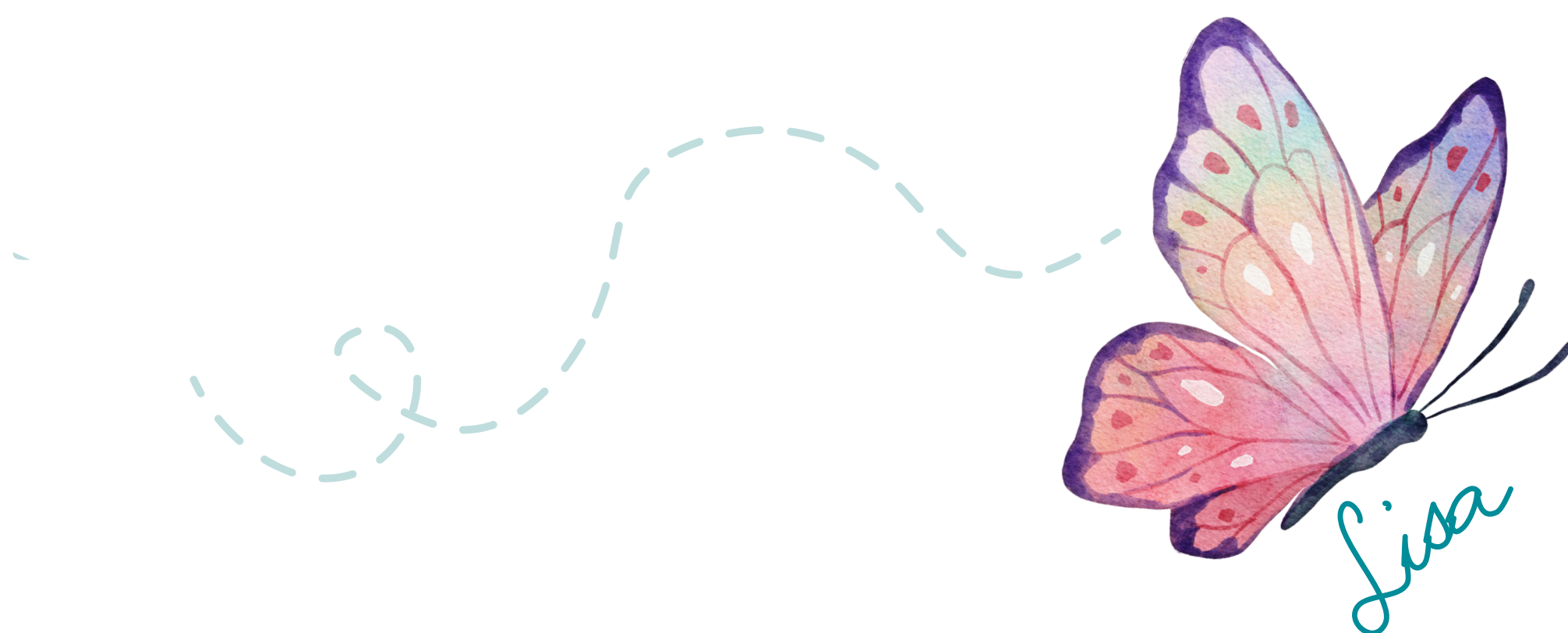
Over a five year period I was abused through the court system, gang stalked, harassed at my home, accused, finger pointed at, and served two more motions to have my children removed from my custody. Through every step of the way the shelter was with me. From the legal advocate to counselling. The only time I was in need and the shelter could not provide for me was during the nesting agreement period.

Over seven months of the first part of this process I was entered into a nesting agreement. I would spend a week in my home and then my ex-husband would spend a week there. The children remained in the home for stability. It was early in the summer of 2018 and I had no where to go when I was to leave my home and children behind again. I was exhausting friends and family and couch surfing which was quickly becoming old. I was unable to make arrangements for a place to stay. I left my home at the designated time and found myself driving around looking for somewhere to sleep for the night. Not able to find a friend to help I called the shelter in desperation. I quickly found out that the shelter was full and could not bring me in. I only needed one night, but that did not change the status of the shelter being full. I was given many suggestions as to where I could go but I was financially broke and alone. I will tell you that night I slept in my car. And swore to myself that would never happen again.

I grew strong from these moments in my life. I learned to rely on myself for the sake of my children and me. But I learned these lessons with dignity and integrity that was guided to me by the shelter. I had many days of wanting to just quit life and end the court process, give up, but the shelter was always behind me, supporting me and encouraging me to stand up one more time again and again.

So, I did stand up one more time. I got through it all and today I am on the other side of this nightmare of abuse. I grew from a victim to a survivor, to a thriver, and today I am a Victor over abuse and able to give back to the shelter that showed me how to save myself.

I am here before you a living example that it is possible to over come abuse. But it takes a community for that journey to occur. That community is all of you helping women like me get free.



Services

Our staff team is comprised of dynamic, caring, passionate and committed women, who every day act as 'agents of change' in the work to end gender based violence. The women and children who access our services teach us hourly about resilience, courage, fortitude and the ability to create positive change in one's life.

All shelter programs are free of charge and self referred.

Alison Williams
Program Manager



Shelter Services

As many of you know, our twenty-seven bed shelter supports women and their children with a safe place to live while they navigate the changes they are making in their lives. The services consist of programs for children that encourage communication about feelings, experiences and relationships. Our child support staff provide information, and advocacy with community resources that foster parenting strategies and positive communication between mom's and children. Our women's services team operate the crisis line and shelter residence, which offers twenty-four hour service to women who are experiencing intimate partner/domestic violence, human trafficking, and are in need of safety planning, access to the shelter or community referrals and resources. Mental health, housing and group supports are also provided in shelter.

Outreach Services & Programs

The outreach team provides programs to women in the community that includes; legal advocacy, transition and housing support, one on one counselling, and group support. Our second stage housing includes; a 4-bedroom house which supports a cooperative living environment, and a partnership with Redwood Communities who also provide housing units for women and children the shelter is servicing. Trauma Informed Training Workshops were held throughout the year and have also been a wonderful success.

Overview

Our emergency shelter, outreach and children's programs continue to be very active and busy providing services to our wonderful families. While the threat of Covid has diminished slightly, our real threat continues to be the violence that women experience and the increasing numbers of domestic abuse. All our services continue to meet women "where they're at," and will provide our supports with respect and dignity for all women and children.

Our dedicated team are witness to the journey and progress that women make, and we are thankful that women will trust us to journey with them to a place of healing and understanding. Even though we provide the services, we learn from the women we support and they teach us new things every day.

We thank women for allowing us to be part of that journey, for trusting us with their life story and for using their voice to help educate and advocate for other women.



YEAR IN REVIEW

Over 6,000 women and children will be sleeping in a shelter in Canada tonight. (CWF).



1,800+

Women served in shelter and outreach services.



365

Days the Human Trafficking dedicated beds were occupied.



Over
100

Participants in Counselling groups per year.



1,668

Crisis Line calls received.



Over
120

Children found a safe space at the shelter in the last year.



3,122

Laundry pods used for laundry



510

Referred to other shelters due to overcapacity and no available bed space.



92

Participants attended trauma informed training.



Over
3,000

Litres of milk consumed

YEAR IN REVIEW

Over the past year, there have been many changes to our shelter that ensure our space is safe and inviting for all women and children. We are excited to share with you as we strengthen our community ties and work towards ending violence against women.

Facility Update

From every light bulb to cleaning supplies, to paint touch ups and major repairs, we are always needing to keep ahead of future issues and immediate needs. Thank you to our wonderful community for your ongoing support. Here are some projects completed during this period:

- Deck resurfacing
- New computer for women & kids to access
- New playground equipment shelter and second stage
- Roof at second stage
- Driveway paving at shelter
- Living Room renovation at shelter

Community Development

- Walk a Mile in Her Shoes 2022
- Purple Scarves and November Awareness 2022
- December 6th 2022
- International Women's Day Luncheon 2023

The donations and financial needs for our agency continue to expand and increase. With more women and children receiving service, the daily food and overall needs have also increased. We provide everything from all meals and school snacks to hygiene and transportation. Every amount of financial support, big or small, means everything to us and we are truly thankful. We receive words and notes of encouragement and incredibly generous donations that sustain us week by week. We could not do our work without the support of our community. Thank you!

SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT



Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Year Ending March 31, 2023

REVENUE

Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services	\$ 1,437,873
Fundraising and Donations	819,269
Ontario Trillium Foundation – VP Program grant	166,542
Family Court Support Program	90,530
Women and Gender Equality Advocacy Grant	53,936
Women's Shelter Canada Covid Relief Funding	38,485
Bingo and Nevada	27,346
Second Harvest Food Grant	25,000
Rental Revenue	22,208
Summer Student Contract	9,561
Grants- Other	4,633

TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 2,695,383
----------------------	---------------------

EXPENDITURES

Salaries	\$ 1,305,578
Employee Benefits	229,124
Shelter Supplies	97,155
Other expenses	72,282
Administrative Supplies	60,542
Professional Fees	54,110
Client and Employee Travel	38,243
Repairs and maintenance	36,947
Communications	33,247
Utilities	30,628
Insurance	28,220
Advertising and Promotion	18,819
Service Contracts	14,986
Training and Education	7,697
Bingo and Nevada Expenses	6,560
Fundraising Expenses	2,850

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 2,036,988
---------------------------	---------------------

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Shoppers Drug Mart (Life Foundation)
Kempfenfelt Rotary Club
Royal LePage Shelter Foundation
Kiwanis Club of Barrie
Estate Of Jean Carruthers

Kyeong Nan Park
Elizabeth McGavin
Nancy Laube
Anonymous Donor

Blue Sky Foundation
Georgian Chevrolet Buick GMC
Lady Lime Foundation
Dino Melchior
The Rotary Club of Barrie, Huronia

Eisses Bros. Excavating
ClubLink
Ontario Realtors Care Foundation
Vann Brothers Construction
1 Church Street Bar & Grill
Harry Eisses
RBC Foundation
Alectra Utilities Corporation
Cedar Valley Rec.Ltd, Golf Club
Georgian College HR Consulting Team

Karma Foundation
May Court Club of Barrie
Prime Pools & Landscaping Ltd.
Sandra Nymark
SC Elementary Teachers' Federation
St. John Vianney CWL
TD Canada Trust
The Tonglen Foundation
The Waugh Family Foundation
Unilock Ltd.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Isabel Piesley

The Barrie Colts Foundation

Edward King

Unilock Ltd.

Sandy Cove Residents Who Care

Crystal Johnson

Barrie Metro Glass

David and Glenda Gilliland

Deep Roots Fundraising Inc.

E.Lawton Investments Inc.

The Rotary Club of Barrie, Huronia

First Christian Reformed Church of Barrie

Canadian Crane & Hoist Mfg.Ltd.

MRA Group Ltd.

The Rotary Club of Barrie, Huronia

Barrie Stanfield

Knights of Columbus #1626

Manitoulin Group of Companies

Barrie Community Foundation

PayPal Charitable Giving Fund

Barrie Chrysler / LME

Centrecorp Management Services Ltd.,

ITF Park Place Co-Ownership

Ms. Susan Boddington The Stonecrop Foundation

Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario

Rock 95 / Kool FM

Gateway Casinos Innisfil

Starbucks Canada Charitable Foundation

Wallwin Electric

State & Main

Dr. Jason Gomes Dentistry

GroupHEALTH Benefits

Dawn Mucci

Mortgage Wellness

Keller Williams Experience Realty

YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

Julia Stubbs

Ali Khonsari

DMEJ Richardson Holdings Inc.

Wolf Steel Ltd.

Gateway Casinos Innisfil

Giant Tiger Stores

Mrs. Janet Goldblatt and Robert Holmes

Ottawa Coalition to End VAW

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 147

Tina and Carl Eisses

Barrie Food Bank

Costco



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Monthly Donors

Alan Ackerly
Alexander Glassier
Alyssa Wright
Andrea Dickins
Ann Forget
Anne Brennan
Anne Marie Dixon
Ann-Marie Kungl
Anonymous
Ashley Simpson
Beverly MacDonald
Brad Fair
Carmen DellaValle
Chris Hiller
Christina O'Dea
Christine Spellman
Christine Wilkinson
Danielle Gaucher
David & Sandra Hannaford
Dean Bell
Deanne McCallum
Debbie Perkunder
Debbie Smith
Deirdre Maloney
Doug Telek
Elham Lak
Emily Lemen

Emma Reid-Smith
Francis Light
Gary Gerbrandt
Ginny Kaner
Gisele Sauve
Heather Cairns
Heather J Zaba
Hina Waheed
Hwa Hwa Lee Medicine
Professional Corporation
Jacquelyn Chapman
James Gerhart
John Weenink
Karen Hayward
Katherine Lichtman
Kelly Oakley
Kerri and Rob Graham
Kevin Kitching
Lacey Smith
Lee Miller
Linda Larman
Lindsay Knight
Lisa Harripersad
Lisa Malcolm
Margot Edge
Maria Andrea Jeff Almeida Pasko

Matt Fletcher
Megan Legg
Nicole Shave
Patricia Guinn
Paul Griffin
Peter Kiss
Raymond Perepelycia
Rebecca and David
McNamara Truax
Richard Pearson
Samantha Hassall
Sara Ward-Paige
Sharm Paguandas
Sharon Turcott
Shayna Morris
Stephanie McRae REVEL
Realty Inc. Brokerage
Steve Hawke
Venita Lovelace
Yvonne Linton

Thank You.

We aim to provide services to women that help them heal and recover from the abuse they've experienced. Your support helps us to provide those quality services to women and their children.

Thank you for helping us to help the women in our community and put an end to Violence Against Women.



**Women & Children's
Shelter of Barrie**