

**THE WOMEN & CHILDREN'S  
SHELTER OF BARRIE PRESENTS**



# **ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

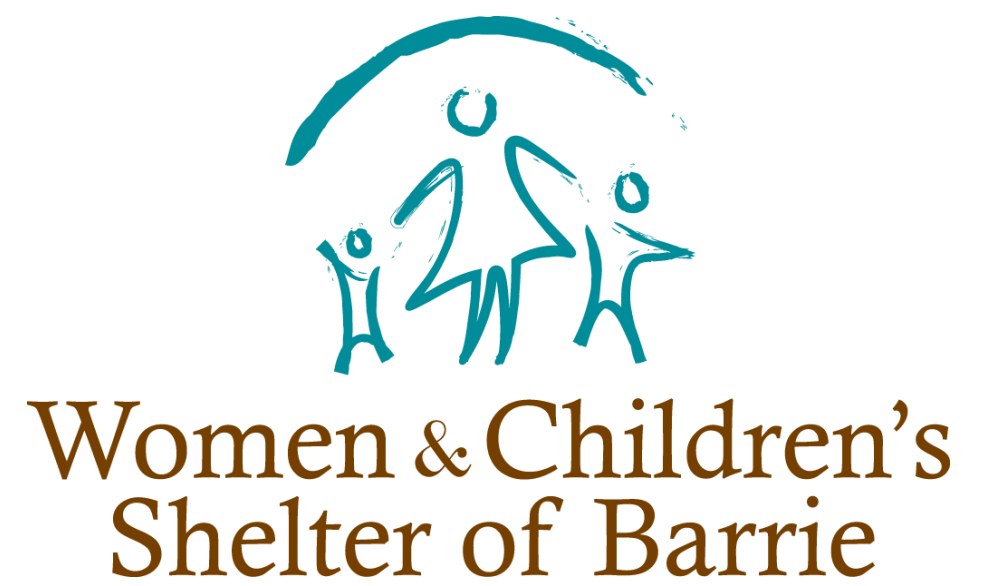


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# *Table of Contents*



## *Looking Back*

---

A Message from the Board Chair

A Message from the Executive Director

Hina's Story

## *Services*

---

Shelter

Outreach

Programs

Revenue & Expenditures

Impact Report

## *Year in Review*

---

Facility Update

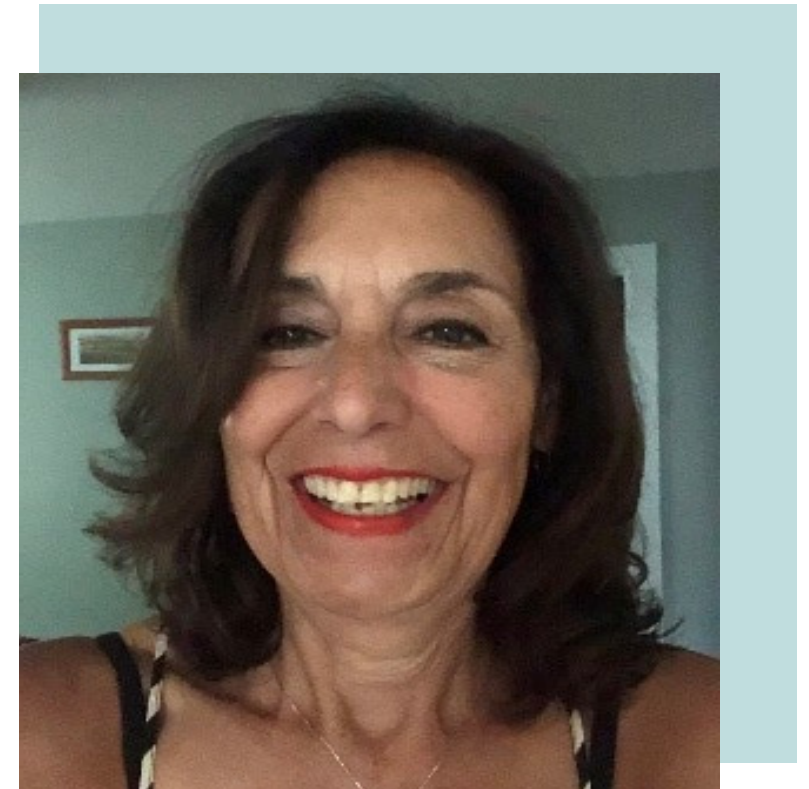
Events

Thank You

# LOOKING BACK

## A Message From The Board Chair

**Anne Marie Dixon**



My name is Anne Marie Dixon and I am the in- coming Board Chairperson of the shelter. I joined the board in 2015 and since then have served on the Finance Committee and as Vice- Chair.

The board is comprised of 12 members with varied experience including banking and financial services, legal, education, social services, police services, compliance and development and Human Resources.

The board is welcoming three new members: Ira Stevanovic, who is representing social services; Sameera Hassan, who is representing finance and accounting and Aaron Geertsema who is representing police services. We are also extending our very sincere thanks to two board members who are leaving: Chad Townsend and Jane McPherson. Chad is a CPA and has served on the board since 2015 representing financial services and accounting. Jane is our departing board chair and has served on the board since 2016 representing Human Resources. We sincerely appreciate the strong contributions made by both Chad and Jane during their board tenures.

It is my great honour to represent the board and participate in our September 2021 AGM. When we hosted our first virtual AGM in 2020, we didn't realize the ongoing effects of the pandemic and that virtual get-together would become such a part of our lives. COVID-19 continues to affect our community and our lives but the shelter under the strong and resilient leadership of our executive director, Teresa MacLennan, continues to advance confidently, making adjustments as needed in the way they work and how women and children are supported.

In this past challenging year, the shelter has continued to successfully operate, complete necessary shelter repairs and host fundraising initiatives. However one of the most significant events in the past year has been the purchase of a home that will provide second- stage housing for women. This was accomplished in April 2021 due to the strategic vision of our executive director and the strong financial support the shelter received from the community. We appreciate the support of all of our donors whether it be financial or in- kind donations or kind messages of support.

On behalf of the board of directors, I would like to acknowledge and thank Teresa MacLennan and her incredible team who 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 strong and positive in our future.

*Anne Marie Dixon*



# LOOKING BACK

## A Message From The Executive Director

**Teresa MacLennan**



This year the Women & Children's Shelter (Barrie) celebrates our 40th Anniversary. The founding members of our agency created a pillar in the community that continues to support abused women and their children. While we celebrate the work and the success of the women that come through our doors, we would find greater success and celebration if our services were no longer needed. Hopefully we won't be needed for another 40 years!

The past year has been a milestone in many ways. We have successfully navigated COVID 19 and worked diligently to keep our environment healthy and free of Covid 19. To report that we have had ZERO Covid 19 cases is incredible. Everyone in our workplace has done their piece and maintained a cleaning and screening regiment that was unrelenting. That diligence has truly paid off and kept us all safe and healthy.

The movement and gains for our women and children over the past year is also something to truly celebrate. We updated our shelter environment and completed some much needed repairs and maintenance. We also created three new bathrooms in existing bedrooms to allow us to open up those spaces and reduce the risks of COVID 19. We also embarked on a new and exciting venture as we purchased our first transition home. We were excited to welcome our first residents to this location in September. Our expertise is supporting women on this journey and transitional housing is in line with that expertise. We were incredibly humbled to receive the financial support from the community to make our dream of transitional housing a reality. That dream is now offering women leaving the shelter, a safe and supportive environment to continue rebuilding their lives.



So where do we go from here? When it seems that we have achieved so much and need to rest from this work, we know there is still lots to do. Working to end violence against women will never cease. Continuing to educate on prevention and identifying abuse is an ongoing, needed conversation to have. Helping our youth to understand abuse, power and control and healthy relationships is a large part of our work that will be never-ending. We also know that the need for affordable, safe housing is key to the success for women needing our services. The opportunities for growth of our programs and services are endless.

With the responsive funding to move these opportunities forward, we can do it. Our community of donors and supporters will help us get there. We truly cannot do it without that support. What has remained over the past 40 years is an incredible group of donors who rally behind our work. Our future looks great as those partnerships and supporters remain with us and committed to helping abused women and their children. Truly, we are partners in our goals and dreams to live in our community where everyone is safe and worry free of violence. We are in that TOGETHER.

*Teresa MacLennan*





# My Story

## *By Hina*

I would like to share my story - why I celebrate the death of my marriage and how divorce came as a blessing in disguise. I was a woman born and raised in Pakistan and got married to a stranger, that's how mostly arranged marriages look like. Leaving back home and coming to a first world country can be anybody's dream because of better life, better opportunities but for me this dream became a nightmare when I was treated as an unpaid servant by my ex. In my abusive relationship I have seen poverty, fear, and hatred. I never had to experience these sentiments in Pakistan.

Divorce brings bad emotions for people, however for me divorce was a death of a life I was living in poverty, it was a death of my fears, cultural restrictions, society pressure and above all abuse. I was free from abuse. Divorce came as a blessing in my life, it gave me voice, freedom, choices and much more. It is my ticket to happiness; I had no voice or identity in that relationship. We always see death as a loss, yet sometimes it can be a gain. The real person in me died in my abusive marriage, people can be dead at any age and buried when they stop breathing. Its just a matter of time and choice. I was living in a desperately sad circumstance. I was scared of my life and fear gave me courage to leave him. I had no hope or future. I wasn't aware that if I will leave him, I will get help. I thought I will be alone on the roadside with my children, I was far from my family and my culture. Canada gave me my right of being a woman and being human. I have such good memories of shelter, first time in my life after my eight years of abusive marriage, I was treated as a human being and not an object. It felt good and strange. I was respected, I felt honored and privileged.

Constant abuse and poverty took all my self confidence away from me and I was left with tears, fears, and insecurities. All the agencies were ready to help me, they treated me as if I was a part of them. Barrie police made sure that I was safe in the city, Ontario works made sure that I had enough money for groceries and to pay my bills. Shelter made sure I was getting all what I needed for myself and my children. The love and respect I have received from this community is hard to explain in words. Now I look at life and see possibilities are endless for me, I was chained into something that was toxic for my kids and myself. I push myself now, I challenge myself. I feel great to see growth and promising future I am creating for myself and my children. I have learned that relationships which don't appreciate your self worth are not worth keeping.

My marriage was dead from the day one and every day I had to bring it back to life for the sake of my children, my culture, and my parents back home. The struggles I saw in my married life have taught me that men can be bad, and life can be difficult. After years of abusive marriage, I started meeting right people in my life, people who made me feel important, people who listened to me, respected me and above all treated me and my children like humans because that's what I was looking for in my marriage.



As a survivor, I want to encourage women to come forward and ask for help if they need it, because there will never be a perfect moment, right now is the perfect moment and don't be afraid of change and risks. I am not afraid to take risks anymore, there will always be a risk involve in everything you do. Crossing a road can be risky if you don't pay attention, be always mindful and let your heart explore a little bit. Expand your horizon, be the limited edition of wisdom and knowledge, don't be the victim of the current life circumstances, change them, because only you have the power to change you, nobody will do it for you. Why limit your boundaries when you are capable of more?

There are some reminders I give to myself everyday, only I can save myself, protect myself, heal myself, and be the boss of my own life story, I am working on it so that I can make better choices in life. Life is once why wait for second chance or wait for someone to fix it for me. My decisions and choices are dependent on my knowledge and exposure. The pain of abuse was bad, but that pain gave me courage to come out of it gracefully. Life has given me a chance to turn my trauma into triumph! Any woman who chooses to leave abuse can turn her trauma into triumphs or challenges into cheers.

Circumstances will always make us who we are, we can change who we want to be. It's deep and meaningful but its worth giving a thought. I look at things from multiple perspective now and see which is my best option. I strongly believe women don't deserve to live in the victim mode for the rest of their lives. Sometimes we have to be our own audience, our own counselor. I have started calling that girl back, the girl who loved living and laughing. I look for beautiful moments to experience because I deserve it.

In the end, I am very happy to say that my kids are growing up in a community where men and women come together to help women who need support in leaving abusive relationships. My life would not have been same without this beautiful City of Barrie, Barrie police and Barrie women and children shelter. I call myself a very lucky woman because it is not easy for a women from my culture to leave an abusive relationship and be her own boss.

Hina



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# Services

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***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

The shelter operates numerous services for women and their children through in-shelter and outreach programs. Services can be accessed through our crisis line, which supports women seven days a week who are fleeing intimate partner violence, human trafficking and domestic abuse. This support is available anytime of the day or night. Through our Women's Services and Child Support programs, women and their children who access residential services are provided with counselling, housing, support groups, recreational activities and community advocacy and referrals.



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# Outreach Services & Programs

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Our outreach team consists of four staff members who support women living in the community and the shelter. Our Transitional Housing and Support Program (THSP) has two staff. This program supports women with transitioning out of their abusive situation and into safe, affordable housing. Recently the shelter added a second stage housing service to our THSP program, with the purchase of a four-bedroom house. The Family Court Support Worker assists women to navigate legal issues such as custody, access and restraining orders. Advocacy for legal aid and lawyers, attending court proceedings and lawyer appointments are a few key supports available. Counselling and group support are offered through the Outreach Counsellor. Short term, solution based counselling and support groups for women who have experienced abuse are available.

Over the past year, our Violence Prevention Program (VPP) was able to provide numerous presentations in area schools. The VPP presentations support the development of healthy relationships, by challenging and educating about attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate discrimination and violence. Our VPP staff worked tirelessly to build partnership with the Simcoe County District School Board, in an effort to offer opportunities for youth to participate in interactive presentations, which challenge societal norms that foster discrimination and gender based violence. Presentations were provided synchronously through media platforms that supported all students to be able participate.

The Women's Advocacy Council continues to advocate for advancement, increase opportunities, equality and freedoms for all women and girls through social movement, awareness, partnerships and democratic activism. The Council continues to lead and develop initiatives and activities to address the gender gaps of women and girls in the Barrie and surrounding areas. The Council continues to develop partnership and initiatives in particular to the barriers facing diverse groups such as Indigenous Women and Girls; those with disabilities; newcomer and migrant women and girls; and people from the LGBTQS and non-conforming communities. The Council continues to advocate for measurable, sustainable and positive changes in the status of women in Ontario in the areas of Economic security; Women's Health; Education and Training; Women's Leadership and Democratic Participation and Women's Personal Security.





# SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

## WOMEN & CHILDREN'S SHELTER OF BARRIE

### Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Year Ended

March 31, 2021

REVENUE	2021
Services	1,417,816
Donations (includes estate donation of \$580,000 for second stage housing)	933,762
COVID-19 funding	99,553
Fundraising	121,327
Ministry of Attorney General	97,500
Ontario Trillium Foundation - violence prevention grant	89,140
Ministry for the Department for Women and Gender Equality advocacy grant	56,375
Food mentorship grants	29,187
Bingo and Nevada	24,626
Interest income	7,563
Summer student contract	4,420
	<hr/>
	2,881,269
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EXPENDITURES	
Salaries	1,112,274
Employee benefits	207,793
Ministry of Attorney General	97,499
Shelter supplies	74,791
Lodging	58,200
Communications	49,509
Repairs and maintenance	47,827
Administrative supplies	29,005
Utilities	26,592
Other expenses	23,193
Professional fees	21,312
Insurance	21,009
Advertising and promotion	14,456
Training and education	13,270
Service contracts	13,047
Travel	12,477
Bingo and Nevada expenses	9,907
Fundraising expenses	3,042
Rent	1,712
	<hr/>
	1,836,915
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EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES FROM OPERATIONS BEFORE UNDER NOTED ITEMS	1,044,354
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OTHER EXPENSES (INCOME)	65,404
Amortization of capital assets	
Amortization of deferred contributions related to capital assets	(41,621)
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Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social	
	<hr/>
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	1,020,571



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# YEAR IN REVIEW

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*In 2020 due to isolation at home, more women reported that their partner was going to kill them.*



145

Women & children found  
refuge in our shelter last year.



200+

Clients received  
family court support.



150

Women supported  
with Outreach  
Counselling.



1100+

Crisis Line calls  
received.



13

The average number of  
children that sleep in our  
shelter every night.



0

Cases of Covid-19 Virus  
in our Shelter.



500+

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



29

The average number of  
women that sleep in our  
shelter every night.



Almost  
300

Women & children  
accessed transitional  
housing support.



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# YEAR IN REVIEW

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Over the past year, there have been many changes to our shelter that we are excited to share with you as we strengthen our community ties and work towards ending violence against women.

## Facility Update

- New Gazebo / Outdoor Weather Shelter
- New Windows
- Second Stage Housing
- Bathroom Renovations

## Events

- Walk a Mile in Her Shoes 2020 – Virtual
- Wrapped In Courage 2020
- December 6th 2020 – Virtual
- International Women's Day 2021 – Virtual



# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

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The Nymark Foundation  
Shoppers Drug Mart (Life Foundation)  
Tim & Isabel Piesley

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First Christian Reformed Church of Barrie  
Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee Charitable Property Program  
The RBC Foundation  
Georgian Chevrolet Buick GMC  
Lady Lime Foundation

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Kempfenfelt Rotary Club  
Dino Melchior  
McDonald Family Charitable Foundation  
Wendy Burgess and Jennifer Mason  
Unilock Ltd.  
Barrie Rotary Club  
Crystal Johnson  
Guys That Give  
Sandra Nymark  
Tru Earth Environmental Products Inc.  
Kevin Dee  
E.Lawton Investments Inc.  
Karma Foundation  
May Court Club of Barrie  
Royal LePage First Contact Realty Brokerage

# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

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National Money Mart

St. Joan of Arc High School

Barrie Community Foundation

Medi Pharm Labs

Edward and Carolyn King

Royal LePage Shelter Foundation

The Bank of Nova Scotia

Shoebox Project for Shelters

Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association

Janet Goldblatt and Robert Homes

JD Northcote Engineering Inc.

Society of United Professionals

Barrie Stanfield

The AlBarrie Foundation

Knights of Columbus

Centrecorp Management Services Limited, ITF Park Place Co-Ownership

David and Glenda Gilliland

Park Place Co-Ownership

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# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

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## Monthly Donors

Adam Farley  
Alan Ackerly  
Alison Houston  
Alyssa Wright  
Andrea Dickins  
Brad Fair  
Brittany Dattoli  
Carmen DellaValle  
Carolina Belmares  
Chris Hiller  
Christina O'Dea  
Christine Spellman  
Christine Wilkinson  
Claudine Finch  
David & Sandra Hannaford  
Debbie Perkunder  
Debbie Smith  
Doug Telek  
Elham Lak  
Emily Lemen  
Francis Light

Gail Noel  
Gary Gerbrandt  
Ginny Kaner  
Gloria Gilbert  
Heather Zaba  
Hilda Hoffer  
House of Prayer -  
Outreach Ministries  
James & Catherine Gerhart  
Jeffery Cole  
Jennifer McAfee  
Jessica Lewis  
Julie Woolsey  
Karin Glueckler  
Kelly Oakley  
Kerri & Rob Graham  
Lacey Smith  
Lee Miller  
Linda Larman  
Lisa Harnipersad  
Margot Edge

Maria, Andrea, Jeff,  
Aimeida Pasko  
Matt Fletcher  
Melody More  
Micah Cooper  
Michael Dowdall  
Patricia & Ralph Guinn  
Patricia Steele  
Paul Griffin  
Peter Kiss  
Raymond Perepelycia  
Rebecca and David  
McNamara Truax  
Richard Pearson  
Sara Ward-Paige  
Shayna Morris  
Stephanie McRae



# 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.*

