

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



Women & Children's
Shelter of Barrie

CRISIS LINE: 705-728-2544

ADMIN PHONE: 705-728-6300

WWW.BARRIESHELTER.COM



Table of Contents



Women & Children's
Shelter of Barrie

Looking Back

A Message from the Board Chair

A Message from the Executive Director

Survivor Voices

Services

Shelter & Outreach Services &

Community Partnerships

Year in Review

Impact Report

Facility Update

Events & Community Development

Revenue & Expenditures

Thank You

WELCOME

A Message From The Board Chair

Lisa Harripersad



My name is Lisa Harripersad and I am the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Shelter. I have been a member of the Board since 2020 and Chair for the past two years. It is my honor and privilege to be a part of this amazing organization. Our Board of Directors consists of 11 volunteer members who come from a variety of backgrounds - HR, finance, corporate, police, social work, education, and lived experience. The Board provides leadership and oversight to the agency and its financial health, and works in collaboration with the Executive Director. I'd like to thank all of the Board members for volunteering their time, wisdom, and experience, as well as their dedication to ensuring that the Shelter continues to meet the needs of the women and children in our region.

We also have 2 very successful transitional homes. Women and their children are able to leave the shelter and continue to receive services in a safe, welcoming and affordable home. We would also like to acknowledge and thank the community businesses who donate their time and services to helping to maintain the properties through snow removal and lawn care, and to other businesses who show up to build play structures so the kids have playgrounds in their backyards.

Building on the success of these transitional homes, we are venturing into another amazing housing project that will provide even more bed space for women and their children. The **Shelter Me Campaign** has been in full swing for just under a year and leads, Lloyd Bristow and Dino Melchior are making it happen. Through their generous donations of time, expertise and much, much more, they are also helping to spread the message and talk with their community partners to enhance interest in this project.

It was only a month ago when we gathered for Walk a Mile. It was a beautiful day and it was wonderful to see so many of you there. While we were not able to reach our goal this year, it is important to acknowledge the ongoing financial struggles of the community we live in. All non-profits are experiencing a reduction in financial and in-kind support and while we have strong relationships within the community we are seeing a decline in the amount of giving and givers. When our community struggles we do too.

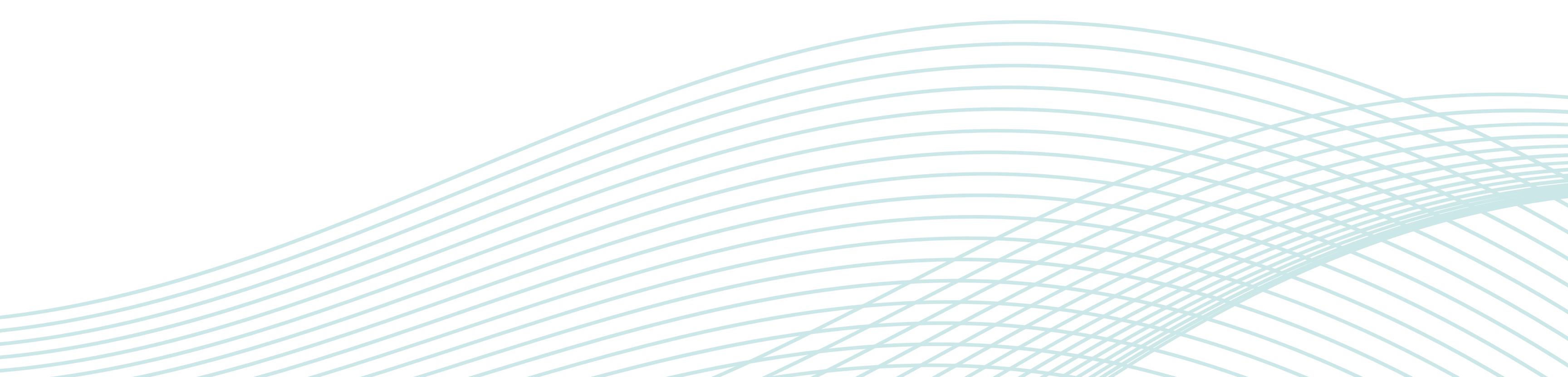
We are looking forward to International Women's Day 2026 and the recognition of women in our community. Each year's International Women's Day event surpasses the previous one in terms of impact and attendance so we can't wait to see what's on tap for 2026!

Despite the challenges of 2025 - rising costs, global unrest and uncertainty, we will continue to move forward with optimism and hope. We will work together with the innate belief that one day we will live in a world where women and their children can live without fear of violence and harm.

And finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank all of the Shelter staff for the amazing work they do in supporting the women and children, the volunteers who show up time after time to give of themselves, and I would like to say an immense thank you to Teresa, our passionate and amazing Executive Director.

Lisa Harripersad

Chair of the Board of Directors



A LOOK BACK

A Message From The Executive Director

Teresa MacLennan



Dear Friends,

This past year has been filled with great challenges, changes and opportunities as we strive to create meaningful and impactful services for women in our community. Supporting the diverse and unique needs of women who have experienced violence can be difficult and the journey to their healing can be quite long. When we learn from women & children about their experiences, we can create services that will provide the best outcomes possible.

In 2024, we continued to face over-bedding in our shelter and were stretched to meet the requests for our services. Unfortunately, we were unable to support almost 650 women and children because we had no bed space. This is an unfortunate reality for many shelters that are receiving increase crisis calls and requests for bed space. As the largest population within Simcoe County, the City of Barrie's services are stretched to capacity. As we provide more beds than we were designed to, our fundraising needs also increase to maintain and provide all the daily necessities that women and children require. Every meal, school snack, bottles of shampoo and transportation just to name a few. As the community struggles with increased costs and vicarious tariffs, these factors play a significant role in the amount of financial support we receive. We understand the difficulties faced by so many and we too are feeling the pinch. Our grocery budget has exploded and we continue to look for ways to cut costs.

Our agency operates two transitional homes where women and kids can stay following their discharge from the shelter. To continue providing as many housing options as possible, we are now campaigning to raise the funds for two more transitional homes. Our hope is to offer more transitional space for women leaving the shelter and ultimately free up space for women to access our emergency shelter. Our goal is to raise at least 1.5 million dollars and we truly appreciate all contributions to this campaign. If you would like to know more and how you can support us, please reach out to teresa@barrieshelter.com

As we look forward to the next year, I choose to focus on optimism and hope for the future. All our program staff continue to offer the best of themselves as they support traumatized women and children. I also appreciate the dedicated support of our volunteer Board of Directors who attend our events, lead our agency decisions and provide support to myself as the Executive Director. The Board of Directors have dedicated their talents and time to ensure our agency keeps moving forward. Thank you for your tireless and continued support.

Thank you to our wonderful community for walking with us, beside us and leading the way. We appreciate you!

For more information about our campaigns and other events, please visit our website at barrieshelter.com

Sincerely

Teresa MacLennan
Executive Director



Survivor Voices: Amarinder

My entire childhood, my mom tried to protect us from abuse. She shielded us with her body and with the love she had for us. 10 years+ in education learning about psychology, PTSD, and education. I sought out what I saw as a child but could not understand then. I still didn't see it. 13 years of abuse in a marriage that I carried up a hill, past every barrier. This is what loving parents do. 41 years of unlearning trauma that I was born into and a survivor of! Thank you mummy for instilling love within me. It's my anchor now.

I am a mom, daughter, and citizen of the world. You'd think that I would have known the signs, the red flags, the words to label my experiences and observations but when I was a kid I didn't have a "choices for children" and my mom didn't have an outreach team in her life. Nothing, not even first hand experience with an abusive parent prepared me to differentiate between the feelings of safety and threat.

For many years, I did not know that I was in an abusive marriage. I did not relate to the word abuse, at all! I did not know that there was violence and abuse happening directly to my kids in front of me and to myself.

I've learned that abuse often begins like tiny, unnoticeable droplets of water—subtle, almost invisible. But drop by drop, those moments accumulate until they form a pool of pain and fear. Eventually, that pool overflows, becoming a torrent of horror that spirals out of control. After all, there is only so much one can absorb. I've learned that abuse can start out like that.

From other perspectives, it may have looked as though our family was like any other family. We have beautiful pictures full of smiles to prove it. Even the bins went out every week, the grass got mowed, and snow got plowed. Of course there were some occasions where we'd be in public and other people would notice the way we were treated by the person who harmed us. They'd call him out on it and he'd take it out on me. I'd quietly shush it away even though our safety was at risk. Even though I knew it felt wrong. Strangers noticed and believed that we had value before I could. My own family noticed - as far away and distant as they were. Of course, behind closed doors, was terror.

A pure pool of terror that could drown you.

Fear consumed our lives. My children and I would hide, praying for safety, until one day, we found it — in the compassionate care of the incredible team at the Barrie Women's Shelter and through the efforts of my family. For the first time, we weren't facing the terror alone. In January of 2023, I returned to my home province of Ontario after escaping domestic violence and abuse. I had no idea what our future held. But somehow, I crossed paths with a group of extraordinary people — hardworking, kind, and selfless — who offered us their time, a safe haven, and countless moments of love and support. They gave us what we needed most: hope, dignity, and the strength to keep going.

I strive to live spiritually present, anchored in the now. Because when I drift into the past, I feel myself pulled away from the sacred life I've built with my children. Yet sometimes, the “what ifs” find their way back to me. What if my mother and I had the chance to truly understand what was happening to us while we were still in it — to heal instead of hurt. What if she had been surrounded by a community of women whose hearts stretched wider than the sky and whose kindness ran deeper than the ocean? Would she still be here?

For me and all of the brave, brilliant, loving moms that I've met, the Barrie Women's Shelter is a sanctuary. It's a place of safety, transformation, and quiet magic — where those who feel broken can rest, rebuild, and rise again in the warmth of compassion, care, and community. Through therapy, legal support, and the empowering experiences offered by the OLE program — especially the healing power of nature — I found strength alongside other families who walked paths like mine, and like my mother's. That's what made it possible for me to share this story with you today.

The women and children I've met are the bravest superheroes I've ever known. They may not wear capes, but to me, they wear crowns. Because they've faced the unimaginable, survived it, and still show up to life with open hearts — ready to love again, ready to fight for the ones they cherish most: their children, and themselves.

This ends here. I break the cycle of intergenerational trauma and replace it with intergenerational love. May future generations gain the benefit of wisdom and our love for them so greatly, that they can have improved well being, true joy and meaning in their lives. Children's rights are human rights. Thank you.

Amarinder





Services

A look at Shelter Services, Outreach Services and Community Partnerships

Over the past year, our direct service staff have been busy cultivating and sustaining numerous community partnerships that support women and children who have accessed our shelter and outreach programs. Some of these include partnerships with Ontario Works, CMHA, Nurse Practitioners and camp opportunities for the children in our shelter.

Long-term partnerships that span over two decades include Dreams Take Flight and the Barrie Canoe & Kayak Club. Dreams take Flight support our kids to travel to Disney for the day. Our partnership with the Kayak Club teaches women to paddle and enjoy a weekend camping adventure. With financial support from MCCSS and grants, we are able to provide therapeutic opportunities for our children in shelter.

The shelter's outreach services are a compilation of 4 programs that offer support to women both living in the shelter and the community. These include Family Court Support, Transitional and Housing Services, Group and Individual Counselling. Once women leave the shelter they can participate in these outreach services to continue their healing journey.

I would like to thank all of our exceptional staff who are dedicated, compassionate individuals and work tirelessly to provide outstanding supports on a daily basis to women and children who reach out to us for support. I also would like to thank all the women and children who have reached out to us this year and allowed us the opportunity to travel with you for a small part of your journey. Your courage and demonstrated resilience to foster changes in your life is an inspiration to all of us.

Warmly,

Alison Williams
Shelter Program Manager

YEAR IN REVIEW

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



Crisis Calls received



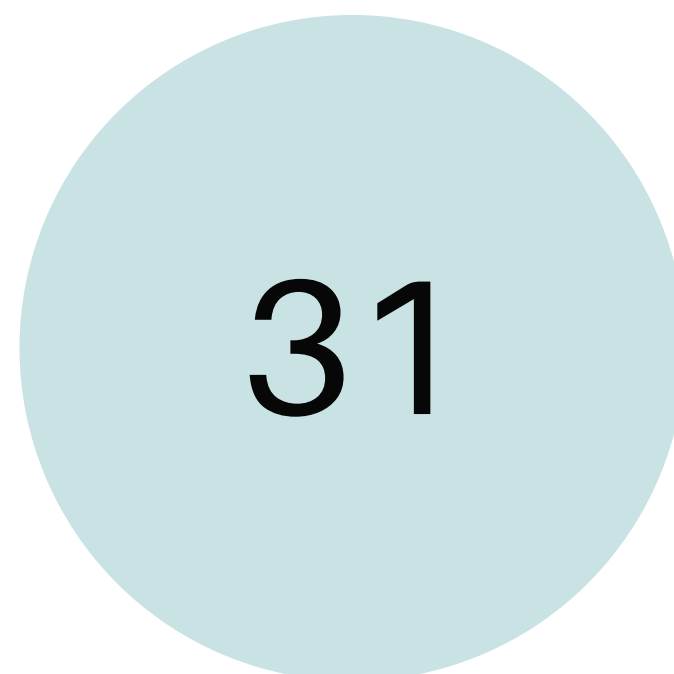
Average length of stay



Participants in Counselling groups per year.



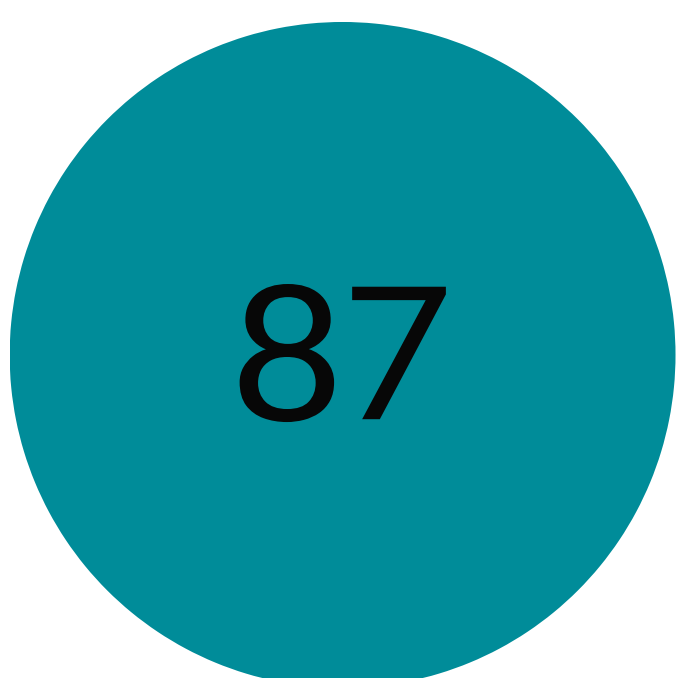
Women stayed at the shelter



Victims of Human Trafficking Supported



Eggs purchased



Children stayed at the shelter



Hours of counselling



Loads of laundry washed

YEAR IN REVIEW

Over the past year, we've made several improvements to our shelter and housing to create a safer, more welcoming environment for all women and children. We continue to build stronger community connections and advancing our mission to end 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:

- Tree Removal and maintenance
- Replace flooring at a second stage house
- RBC Spring/Fall Yard Clean-up
- IKEA Serenity garden and resource room refresh
- Plumbing / pipe repairs
- Ice storm clean-up and repairs

Community Development

Events: Walk a Mile in Her Shoes (2024); Embrace Hope / Purple scarves (2024); Shelter Me Apartments; December 6th 2024; Volunteer Days - Spring and Fall Clean-up; Trauma Informed Training Workshops; International Women's Day Luncheon (2025)

The Shelter Me Campaign is in full swing as we work toward our fundraising goal of \$1.5 million to build much-needed second-stage housing. These units will offer women and their children safe, affordable homes as they transition out of the emergency shelter—providing stability, dignity, and a fresh start. By creating this dedicated housing, we also open up vital space in our emergency shelter, allowing us to support even more women facing crisis situations.

Each week, we are moved by the generous donations and encouraging messages we receive. They remind us that we are not alone in this work—and that our community stands beside us. Thank you for being an essential part of our community and our mission to create a safer future for all.

SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures For the Year Ended March 31, 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
REVENUES		
Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (Note 8)	1,601,244	1,551,358
Donations (Note 9)	506,867	461,611
Fundraising	102,999	147,079
Rental revenue	53,744	36,399
Bingo and Nevada	27,969	30,686
Wellbeing grant	15,000	-
The Canadian Red Cross Society - streamline processes to improve service provision grant	13,440	31,360
Summer student contract	10,524	9,865
Grants - other	6,550	1,000
Women's Shelter of Canada - COVID-19 funding	-	114,550
	<u>2,338,337</u>	<u>2,383,908</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Salaries	1,264,950	1,289,176
Employee benefits	238,916	229,950
Shelter supplies	69,586	91,010
Other expenses	65,248	79,086
Utilities	44,529	41,819
Insurance	38,889	31,902
Repairs and maintenance	35,167	44,705
Professional fees	32,473	40,706
Administrative supplies (Note 10)	29,703	27,582
Fundraising expenses	25,275	5,462
Service contracts	22,902	23,598
Training and education	19,488	33,415
Communications	17,842	33,910
Advertising and promotion	16,895	13,335
Travel	16,393	14,044
Bingo and Nevada expenses	3,841	2,344
	<u>1,942,097</u>	<u>2,002,044</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES FROM OPERATIONS BEFORE UNDER NOTED ITEMS	<u>396,240</u>	<u>381,864</u>

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Royal LePage Shelter Foundation
Harry & Wilhemina Eisses

Anonymous
Bradley Pratt
Edward & Nellie Eisses
Estate of Marguerite Harwood
Patrick Priestner
Shoppers Drug Mart (Life Foundation)

Andy McNevin
Clarkson Property Services
Dino Melchior
Dr. Mokhtari Dentistry
Georgian International Ltd.
Innisfil Community Foundation
Melchior Family Foundation

Kevin Dee & Janis Grantham
CIBC Wood Gundy - CIBC Miracle Day
LiUNA Local 183
Paul Sadlon Motors Inc.
Royal LePage First Contact Realty Brokerage
The Source

Anne Smith
Anonymous
Aubree McLaren
Barrie Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
Barrie Mens Volleyball Club
Beata Matlok
Brads Tree Service Ltd
Canplas Industries Ltd.
Cocelli Doner Kebab House
CyberGrants Charities
Aid Foundation of Canada
David and Glenda Gilliland
Deep Roots Fundraising Inc.
Knights of Columbus
Lido Sales Inc
Loblaws

Melchoir Management Corp
Michael & Marion's
Nick's NoFrills
Oddfellows IOOF Seniors Home
Robert Thomson
Rock 95 Broadcasting Ltd
Rotary Club of Barrie
Sandra Nymark
Simcoe County Elementary Teachers' Federation
Sojourn
St. John Vianney Council #10370 Knights of Columbus
Team WYLDCHLD
The Waugh Family Foundation
Trinity Anglican Church
Two Men And A Truck

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Barb BAMS Marketing
Barrie Community Foundation
Barrie Stanfield
Beyond Giving- Glam It Up
Canadian Crane & Hoist Manufacturing Ltd.
Christopher, Margaret Johnson
Collier Street United Church
Cristina Macedo
Crystal Johnson
DMEJ Richardson Holdings Inc.
Eastview SS
Edward King
Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
Elevator One
First Christian Reformed Church of Barrie
First National Financial LP
Gateway Casinos Innisfil
Georgian Home Comfort Inc.
Harold Mitchell
Harrismith Holdings Inc
Huron Alarm & Fire Security
Hydro One
Janet Goldblatt
Kiwanis Club of Barrie
Laura Flynn-Northcote
Linda Hooper
MacNeil Construction
Michael Bentley
Morris Building & Contracting Limited
Northwest Barrie United Church

Nouvelle Alliance
Pavliks Foundation
Peter Cook
Point to Point Communication
Quilts Etc
RBC Barrie
RBC Wealth Management
RONA Barrie
Rowe Family Foundation
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 147
Shirley Forler
Sierrah Acres EAL/EAPD
Simcoe County Quilters Guild
Sorbara Group of Company
St. Mary's Church CWL
Submission Arts Academy
The Barrie Colts Foundation
The Body Shop
The Kage Barrie
The Tonglen Foundation
The Warriner Trust
VB Concrete & ICF Structures
Westside Evangelical Lutheran Church
Zenetec Collision Centres



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Monthly Donors

A.L Ball Medicine
Alan Ackerly
Alyssa Wright
Andrea Dickins
Ann Forget
Anne Marie Dixon
Ann-Marie Kungl
Anonymous
Beverly MacDonald
Brad Fair
Canadian Crane & Hoist
Carmen DellaValle
Chris Hiller
Christina O'Dea
Christine Spellman
Christine Wilkinson
Danielle Gaucher
David & Sandra Hannaford
Deanna Downing
Debbie Perkunder
Debbie Smith
Denicea Simpson
Doug Telek
Elham Lak
Emma Reid-Smith
Erin Harrison
Ginny Kaner
Gisele Sauve
Heather Cairns
Heather J Zaba
Hina Waheed
Hwa Lee Medicine
Jason Teal
Jamie Wilson
James Gerhart
Jennifer McAfee
John Weeknik
Joyce Ross
Judith Dyck
Judy Knight
Judy Morozuk
Julie Platt
Katherine Jane Lichtman
Karen Hayward
Karen Heisz
Kelly Douglas
Kelly Oakley
Kevin Kitching
Leah Borley
Lee Miller
Linda Larman
Lindsay Knight
Lisa Harripersad
Mahnoor Zafar
Margot Edge
Maria Andrea Jeff
Almeida Pasko
Matt Fletcher
Megan Legg
Michael Dowdall
Nicholas Bond
Patricia Guinn
Paul Griffin
Peter Kiss
Raymond Perepelycia
Reba Inglis
Rebecca Truax
Robert Kerr
Rosemarie Ruccella
Samantha Hassall
Sara Ward-Paige
Shayna Morris
Sharm Paguandas
Stephanie McRae -
REVEL Realty
Steve Hawke
Umnia Aziz
Venita Lovelace
Yvonne Linton
Carmen DellaValle
Yuri Halay

thank you



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**