



Women's House *Serving Bruce & Grey*

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MUNICIPALITY OF BROCKTON

Municipality of Brockton
100 Scott Street, Box 68
Walkerton, ON N0G 2V0

Thursday, October 24, 2019

Dear Members of Council and Friends of Women's House:

On behalf of Women's House Serving Bruce & Grey, I wanted to thank you and your council for all of the successes you have had over the past year. I also wanted to provide you and your council with some information regarding Women's House services and programs, and our successes within the last year.

Women's House Serving Bruce & Grey has a fundraising budget of \$193,592 this year to maintain our quality and delivery of services. In order to provide the vital programs and services we offer to the women and children in need in our community, we rely on fundraising efforts to bridge the gap between government funding and operating costs. This includes keeping open extra beds for when the shelter is full, funding programs with waitlists, and funding programs not covered by Ministry funding, such as Second Stage Housing. The Child Witness Program has a waitlist as soon as the school year starts and unfortunately maintains this high demand. This year, both our Outreach Counselling and Sexual Assault Counselling programs have seen waitlists created on the statistics reporting software, yet the Counsellors do not turn away clients. With an increase in awareness about our services, the need for our services is ever increasing. When you support Women's House, you support the following under-funded programs and services for women and children that have experienced abuse:

- **Shelter:** A safe, secure, and supportive environment which houses up to thirteen (13) women and children. A Crisis Counsellor is on duty 24 hours per day, 365 days a year.
- **Transition and Housing Support:** Transition Workers assist women in developing a transition plan. The worker acts as an advocate on the women's behalf by seeking assistance in the areas of housing, education, job training, income support, legal aid, transportation, and/or childcare.
- **Outreach Counselling:** Individual outreach counselling is available in Chesley, Durham, Hanover, Kincardine, Markdale, Owen Sound, Port Elgin, Walkerton, and Wiarton.
- **Child Witness:** We provide support to mothers and their children who have witnessed or experienced violence. Child Witness workers attend schools within Bruce and Grey Counties to provide support in individual and group settings.
- **Sexual Assault Counselling:** Confidential support for women who have been sexually assaulted recently or in the past.
- **Second Stage Housing:** Protected independent apartments are located in Kincardine, Port Elgin, and Wiarton. These units provide one year of safe and affordable housing for women and their children. On-site individual and group counselling is made available to participants.

Our fundraising not only covers cost for the above under-funded services and programs, but without those fundraising efforts, Women's House would not be capable of delivering services not covered by our government funding such as emergency transportation, group supplies, extra staffing and client necessities.

Impact

During the last fiscal year (2017/18), Women's House Serving Bruce and Grey:

- Served 810 individual women;
- Served 219 individual children; and
- Responded to 8,649 crisis, support, and advocacy calls

Women and children fleeing abusive relationships can depend on Women's House Serving Bruce & Grey to be their safe haven in their moments of crisis. We rely on fundraising and donors throughout Bruce & Grey Counties to help us meet our shortfall in government funding. We appreciate the support you have given us in the past and hope you can continue to help us provide these essential services, as the demand is on the rise.

It is our mission at Women's House to work towards the awareness and elimination of violence against women. In order to meet our mission and provide these vital services and programs within our community, we rely on the generosity of individuals and organizations for support. Without the support of community-minded organizations, we would not be able to serve those in need in our community and surrounding communities each year. In order to help alleviate these costs, we are asking you to consider supporting Women's House Serving Bruce & Grey in your 2020 budget.

I would be pleased to visit the Municipality of Brockton to discuss Women's House programs and services. This year marks 35 years that we have been in operation. That means we have served over 67,500 crisis, support and advocacy calls; over 18,010 women; and over 2,669 children. If you would like to schedule a presentation time to learn more about Women's House and what we do, or have any questions or concerns about Women's House, please do not hesitate to contact me at (519) 396-9814 Ext. 225 or by email at mlamont@whsbg.on.ca.

Thank you for taking the time to review this request. Together we can work towards the elimination of violence against women and children.

Sincerely,



Michelle Lamont

Women's House Serving Bruce & Grey

Community and Fund Development Coordinator

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