



Women's House Serving Bruce & Grey Newsletter, Fall 2010

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Holidays – Little Efforts Make a Big Difference

Christmas can be a time of joy, excitement and love. For some of us, the holiday season can become more of a stressful event than anticipated. The women and children staying with us at the shelter during the holidays sometimes have difficulty getting into the "Christmas Spirit" as they may be focused on working through the challenges they have been faced with. The staff at Women's House works hard to try and alleviate some of the stress from these women and children, but often need some assistance from the outside community.

As we gear up for this upcoming holiday season, we wanted to highlight some of the simple ways groups, individuals and organizations can assist these abused women and their children in need in our communities. Our theme this fall is "It takes little effort to make a big difference" and we wanted to feature some of the community-minded groups and individuals who are helping Women's House make this holiday season a little less stressful for those women and children staying at the shelter.

"Since you get more joy out of giving joy to others, you should put a good deal of thought into the happiness that you are able to give." Eleanor Roosevelt



Gratefully supported by
 **United Way**
Bruce Grey

Feature Sponsor

Every newsletter we will feature one of our ongoing sponsors and list the ways they help Women's House.

The Co-Operators – Jennifer Cook

Along with the ways Jennifer helps our organization with all of our insurance needs, she also makes the extra effort to sponsor Women's House to ensure the vital services are offered to those in need in our community. Jennifer, as a representative from The Co-Operators, was a Major Corporate Sponsor at our annual "Red Carpet Celebrity Gala" and also secured The Co-Operators Foundation to become a sponsor for this event as well. Also, Jennifer hosted a Lia Sophia jewellery party and donated all of her hostess proceeds to purchase four beautiful jewellery sets that were auctioned off at the gala. On behalf of the women and children who reach out to us every day – thank you Jennifer.



A Better Place For You®

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has"
–Margaret Mead

Upcoming Events

Sisterhood of the Travelling Shoes November 15–25, 2010

November is Women Abuse Prevention Month and to honour the hundreds of women, children, friends and family in Ontario who have lost their lives due to domestic violence, we are once again hosting our "Sisterhood of the Travelling Shoes" exhibit. This year we had to add 39 more pairs of shoes to the exhibit for a total of 394 pairs, each telling the story of a victim of domestic violence.

International Women's Day Celebration – March 4, 2011 – C.A.W. Port Elgin

This year marks the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day. In order to celebrate this monumental benchmark in women's history, we booked two very talented Yuk Yuk's comedians to entertain us. These two women will make us laugh, cry and fill our hearts with joy as we celebrate 100 years of honouring the trials, tribulations and triumphs of women all over the world. Make sure to purchase your ticket early for this much anticipated event by calling (519)-396-9814 Ex. 25.



Tickets to our International Women's Day celebration would make a great stocking stuffer this Christmas!

Christmas Program at the Shelter

At Women's House Serving Bruce and Grey we believe that violence against women and children has a negative impact on everyone, and ending this violence is everyone's responsibility. With the Christmas Season upon us, Women's House is asking you to remember that it only takes a little effort to make a big difference.

As we continue to grow and offer an ever increasing range of services and programs, so does our need for support with our annual Christmas Program. This year we will be assisting women and children in need living in the community, staying in our shelter and residing in our Second Stage units. With a budget that covers just the necessities, every year we rely on our generous community support with donations of funds, gifts and essential items for these women and children. Please - help us alleviate some pain for those women and children transitioning to a violence-free life. Everyone deserves a Christmas!

Contact the shelter for more information regarding how you, your family, your business or your work group can assist with The Women's House Christmas Program. We have an updated Wish List and information on adopting a family in need. Thank you to our ongoing supporters and contributors to this program and Happy Holidays to all!

– Shelter Staff

Women's House Annual Fall Fundraiser a Glamorous Evening

Our 26th annual "Red Carpet Celebrity Gala" was an evening filled with glamour, red carpet jewellery, and a surprise visit from a Tina Turner impersonator. "Tina" entertained guests before a scrumptious dinner was served by the Best Western Governor's Inn. Laura Beisel was the winner

of our Grand Prize – a trip for 2 to Las Vegas! Thanks to all of our sponsors, local businesses and silent and live auction donors as well as the attendees, we were able to raise over \$22,000 for the shelter necessities to help those women and children in need in our community.



Little Hands = Big Heart

Annika VanVeen is a ten-year-old local student who participated in a school project to help the Women's House. This was done as part of a school program called "Who's Nobody". Throughout the school year, different students will take Nobody the doll home and help to make him into "somebody" by finding ways to contribute to their community. Annika chose to collect donations for the Women's House and gave her home made chocolate chip cookies to everyone who donated. She sat in the Tiverton Arena for 4 straight hours on October 24th and raised \$44.



“Bridging” the Path to Making a Difference

Every month our doorbell rings and on the other side of our door is a friendly, smiling face ready to give us a sandwich bag full of toonies. This generosity comes from the Kincardine Bridge Club who continues to support Women’s House each week by collecting a toonie from each member wishing to play a hand of Bridge. This fundraiser contributed \$2,846 this past year to shelter needs.

It only takes a small effort to make a big difference.



Wiarion Second Stage Opens December 1st!

Port Elgin’s Second Stage Housing Unit opened for residency on November 1, 2009 and has been at full occupancy ever since. Now that a year has passed, a new set of women have moved into the units and are quite thrilled to call this Second Stage transition building home for the next year.

Another excitement surrounding the Second Stage Housing project is the opening of the Wiarion units. These units will be ready for occupancy on December 1st and the rooms are mostly filled. For one year after their stay at the shelter, the women moving into

these units receive added security and safety as well as continue to receive counselling, support and advocacy from our trained outreach workers, all while maintaining their independence.

Women’s House is proud to serve both Bruce and Grey counties in order to reach as many women in our surrounding communities as possible. We offer individual outreach counselling in Chesley, Durham, Hanover, Kincardine, Markdale, Meaford, Owen Sound, Port Elgin, Southampton, Walkerton and Wiarion.



Wiarion Second Stage Units

Testimonials

“Women’s House helped me to keep my kids safe. They provided the essentials for me and my kids. They confirmed my faith in my own instincts”

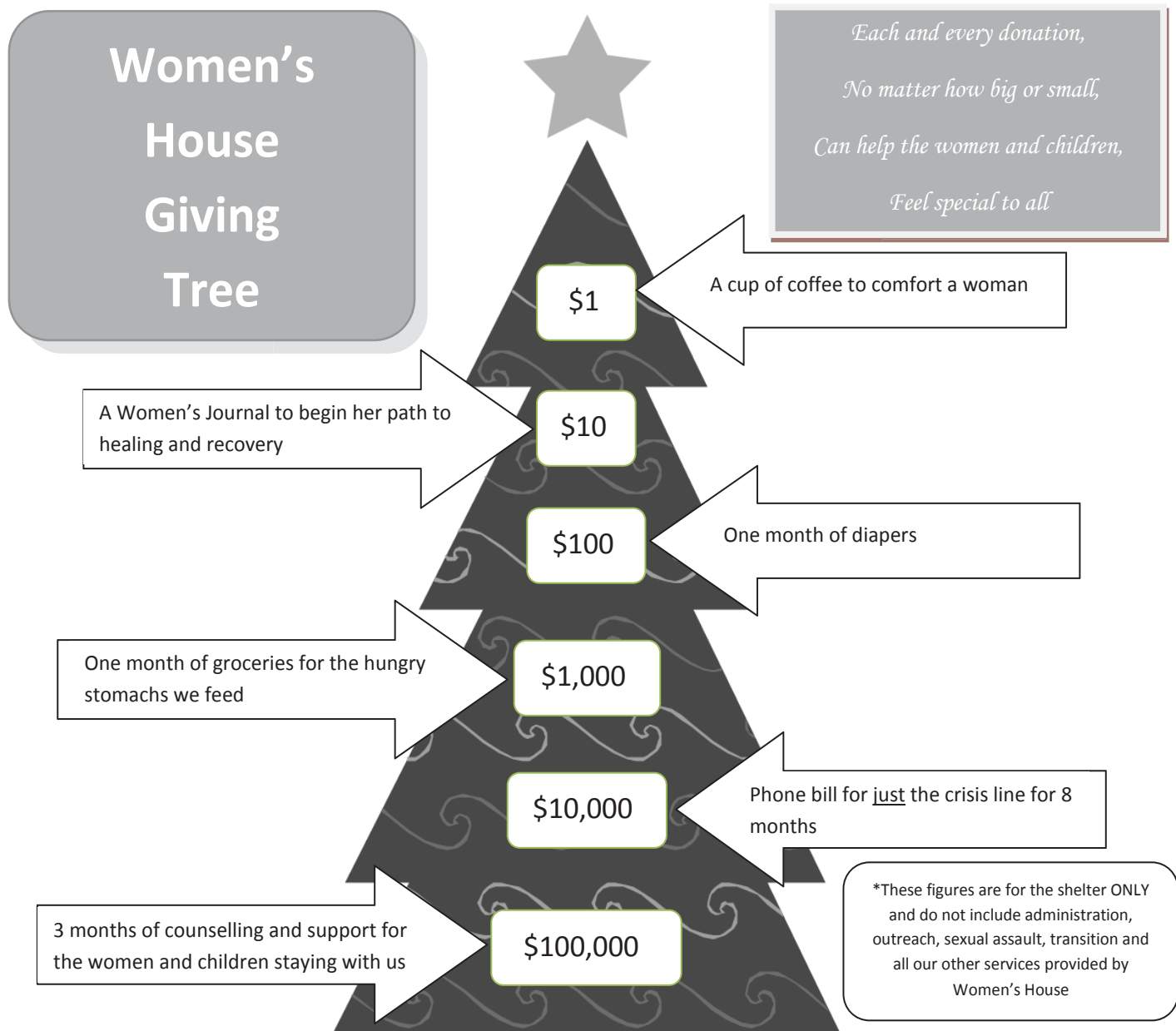
“Women’s House Team, you have every reason to believe that your work is important in making a difference in the lives of others”



“It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do a little, do what you can.”
– Sydney Smith



If you or someone you know is being abused, please call us at 1-800-265-3026



Shelter Wish List 2010

- Grocery, Pharmacy, Department Store and Gas Cards
- Bed-In-A-Bag (or Matching Comforters, Sheets and Pillowcases)
- Deodorant
- Loofas and Body Wash
- Laundry Soap
- Toilet paper
- Lunch Snack Foods
- Dinnerware
- Cookware
- Tupperware
- Baking Supplies
- Cleaning Supplies
- Paper Towels
- Cutlery