

Women's Habitat Area

# ANNUAL REPORT

2012/2013





“I love that Women’s Habitat is a pro-active agency. It not only provides shelter to women and children fleeing abuse, it also provides a place for them to re-build their lives and outreach to the community. Everyday, it is also hard at work promoting women’s equality.”

DEBORAH TEMPLER, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## OUR MISSION

To provide a safe refuge, counselling, support and advocacy for women and their children who are fleeing violence; while also working towards a more equal society where the inherent value of all women is acknowledged and celebrated.

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## OUR VISION

All women have choice and opportunity to live their lives in dignity, with equal access to economic and social opportunities, and freedom from violence.



OUR ADDRESS:  
140 Islington Avenue  
Etobicoke, ON M8V 3B6

CRISIS LINE AT THE SHELTER  
416-252-5829

TTY 416-252-0361

ADMINISTRATION AND  
OUTREACH  
416-252-7949

[www.womens-habitat.ca](http://www.womens-habitat.ca)

[habitat@womens-habitat.ca](mailto:habitat@womens-habitat.ca)

[www.facebook.com/  
WomensHabitat](https://www.facebook.com/WomensHabitat)

Charitable Donation Number: 12912 2065 RR0001



# LETTER FROM PRESIDENT, DEBORAH TEMPLER



Deborah Templer

Dear Women's Habitat Supporter,

Women's Habitat was one of the first shelters for abused women in the Greater Toronto Area. At the time, the founders knew women faced untold violence – not from strangers, but from husbands and boyfriends. It took many forms. There was physical abuse such as hitting, punching, kicking, spitting and assault with a weapon. It encompassed humiliation, threats, insults, kidnapping, unlawful imprisonment, harassment and stalking. Now, as then, it is paralyzing. It is pervasive. And it's devastating for both women and children.

The shelter was opened to be a safe place for women and children. Our mission has not changed. The organization that was held together by a wish and a prayer in 1978 now receives core funding from the provincial government, the United Way and the many hundreds of private supporters who help keep the shelter going with their financial support. This year, our donors contributed \$173,725, almost 10% of our revenue, an increase of about 10% over 2012.

In the past year, on any given day, there were 10 families housed at Women's Habitat – 10 stories of violence and despair and 15 stories from children who have witnessed more than we would ever want them to. We were at 100% capacity all year. At the shelter, women find safety, solace and the support they needed to build a new life for themselves and their children. The children find out they are not alone and that they have someone to help them cope with what they've been through.

But Women's Habitat has always known there are women outside the shelter who need help. In 2002, after community consultation, we opened the Outreach Centre at 140 Islington and offered one-to-one counseling, housing, transitional and parent support, abused women's groups in English and in Spanish, art therapy, social, education and housing drop-ins, Girlz Space after-school programming, and a Community Garden and Good Food Market.

We are constantly responding to demonstrated needs in the Outreach Program and have this year, thanks to support from The Toronto Calcutta Foundation, added the Incredible Years Program, a parent group for moms with children ages 2 to 6 and the STAR Program, an interactive learning group for children ages 7 to 12.

The Outreach Centre provided services to more than 800 women and 400 children in the local community – women children and teenagers in 2012/13. Each person has her own story. Each one has a new life to live.

The 2012/2013 year also found us responding to changing needs throughout the organization. The situation of many women is increasingly complex with substance abuse issues, mental health challenges, precarious immigration status and an increasingly impenetrable justice system.

The job of Women's Habitat is to make sure every woman; every child and every youth who comes to us for help make some progress towards a new life, a life that's free from violence and full of promise. It is our common purpose.

I want to thank all our staff, volunteers, funders and donors for supporting that purpose.

Sincerely,

Deborah Templer  
President, Board of Directors

## BOARD MEMBERS

Deborah Templer, President  
Alex Correia,  
Vice President  
Martha Beaumont,  
Treasurer

Gia DeJulio, Secretary  
Paulette den Elzen  
Kathy Howie  
Barbara Hume-Wright  
Nora Murrant  
Lee Robock

# LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SILVIA SAMSA

Dear Women's Habitat Supporter,

This year, the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers for the Status of Women called violence against women in Canada "a serious, pervasive problem that crosses every social boundary and affects communities across the country."

"It remains a significant barrier to women's equality and has devastating impacts on the lives of women, children, families and Canadian society as a whole," they went on to say in their report *Measuring Violence Against Women: Statistical Trends* released in February 2013. This was the first statistical report released on violence against women in Canada since 2006.

Their key findings showed that:

- Police-reported data show just over 173,600 women aged 15 and older were victims of violent crime in 2011. This is slightly higher than the rate of all violent crime against men.
- The actual incidence of violent acts against women and girls is estimated to be much higher than official police-reported statistics suggest, as a large percentage of this violence goes unreported.
- Both self-reported and police-reported data indicate that younger women are most at risk of violence.

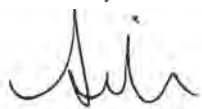
For 35 years, Women's Habitat has been a refuge for women fleeing violence. In the pages of this Annual Report, you will learn how we offer shelter and the support women need in order to do what they need to build a new life for themselves and their children. You'll be able to read about the programs offered through the Outreach Office where women get help with housing, the court system and their children. You can check out the Incredible Year's Program and the STAR Program on page eight or our annual statistics on page five.

I want to thank our terrific staff who are passionate about their work, our Board of Directors who provide unwavering leadership, our volunteers who help us through each day. And, of course, our funders and our donors, who literally help keep a roof over our head and food on the table.

As an organization set up to help women who've experienced violence, we understand the women who come through our doors are the lucky ones. They will be safe and have help.

There is much work left to do. We are so glad you are by our side.

Sincerely,



Silvia Samsa  
Executive Director



Silvia Samsa

## OUR STAFF TEAM

*Working towards a common goal*

### ADMINISTRATION

#### Executive Director

Silvia Samsa

#### Financial Manager

Shorna James

#### Office Systems Manager

Lina Almanzan

#### Community Relations

Ursula Krubnik

#### Front Desk Support Worker

Elizabeth Brett

### SHELTER

#### Program Manager, Julia Fiddes

#### Counsellors

Ishraq Abu-Ali

Keena Caranci

Mariela Chipoco

Pauline Richards-Gordon

Felicia Obakin

#### Child and Family Advocates

Caltha Richards

Carla Rocha

“I would like to thank all the outstanding women who work hard to help other women who find themselves in crisis. Thank you for your support, understanding, advice and connecting to the right people in the community. Thank you for helping other people to break the silence on violence against women. With your help it is much easier to go through the process of transition. With love, Gina and Svetlana.”

**Overnight workers**

Faisa Jama  
Victoria Roth

**Food Coordinator**

Natalia Luzardo

**OUTREACH**

Program Manager, Rosa Lopes-Iraheta

**Counsellors**

Cecilia Nunez  
Munice Wright

**Transitional Worker**

Jennifer Oliverrie

**Housing Worker**

Mahbooba Hashimi

**Young Woman's Counsellor**

Michelle Fraser

**Parent Support Worker**

Naedja Truffi

We would like to welcome Elizabeth Brett to the Front Desk Support Worker position and to thank Caroline Stevens, Administrative Assistant through the Investing in Neighbourhoods program for her work in 2012/2013.

**Women served in the shelter: 40**

**Children served in the shelter: 75**

**Number of women and children who took part in the Outreach Program: 576**

**Number of languages spoken by staff: 18**

**Number of crisis calls: 797**

**Number of women we had to turn away: 546**

**Percentage of time at capacity: 100%**

## Report from CUPE – Carla Rocha, President, Local 3877

We would like to welcome Felicia Obakin to the Part Time Front Line Crisis Counsellor, her starting date October 12, 2012.

Also, we welcome the Investing in Neighbourhoods positions Carla Antonio to the Child Minding position and Suzanne Fraser to the Food Assistant position.

The union looks forward to continuing to work together to provide the best service possible to the women and children who depend on our agency.

Staff Milestone: Victoria Roth – 20 Years

Staff Milestone: Keena Caranci – 5 Years



## SHELTER AND SUPPORT FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Women's Habitat is an agency that supports women and their children fleeing violence. We have a 25-bed shelter where women typically stay four to six months. Last year 40 families passed through the shelter: 40 women and 75 children. At the shelter, both women and children receive counselling and support. Women's Habitat also includes the Outreach Centre where women living in the community come for a variety of support from help leaving an abusive relationship to parenting support to afterschool program for at-risk girls. All in all, 576 women, children, and youth were served through the Outreach Program 2012/2013.



### SHELTER FROM THE STORM

*"My two children and I have been living in the shelter for nine months and it has been an unforgettable period. The experience at Women's Habitat is more than living in a shelter. I remember being lost in a feeling of desperation and sadness when I first arrived here; but as we are leaving today, I feel happy and more confident about our future. I'm excited about moving into our new home, yet at the same time, I know I'll miss the people who we have shared many memorable moments that are like blessings from God, a gift that makes me stronger, and a light that illuminates my life."*

When a woman leaves a violent situation with her children, she is stepping into a void. She is not sure where she will land and worried about how disrupting the home life – no matter what kind of home life it is – of her children.

"The first job of Women's Habitat is to offer that woman and her children a safe place to live, a place where they will secure and have their personal needs looked after," says Shelter Manager, Julia Fiddes.

"We then supply the tools she will need to start a new life – help with housing, legal matters, childcare, employment and immigration. The list goes on. Some women have to interact with a dozen different organizations and government departments before they can move on. Shelter staff are here 24/7 to offer emotional support and counselling to help women and children understand the impact of violence on their lives and how they can overcome that. And, of course, when women have the opportunity to share with each other, it invariably helps them all feel a little stronger."

“Girlz Space is amazing,” says Tisha, a regular at the program. “I love coming here. The people are great. It’s like a second home!”

## Reaching out to the community: Outreach program highlight

### KEEPING AN EYE ON OUR GIRLS

Girlz Space @ 140 is an after-school program for girls in grades 6 to 8 who are at that awkward stage in life where they are too old for daycare, but still require a safe place to be. It’s a vulnerable time, when they want more independence but still need support. Between the time school ends and dinner time is a part of the day when they don’t generally have supervision -- or support. Many of the girls who come to Girlz Space are from low-income, women-led families who are survivors of violence.

The Girlz Space program aims to help girls develop the tools necessary for the healthy socialization such as cooperation, team-building, and conflict resolution.

“We also help girls improve their academic achievement through homework help and address issues pertinent to the lives of the girls, such as anti-bullying, youth justice, healthy relationships, and violence in the home,” says Rosa Lopes-Iraheta, Outreach Program Manager.

“The girls come here regularly and form relationships with staff. They can discuss personal issues such as violence at home, in school, with peers and with the opposite sex. We talk about this in a group format and individually. It’s almost like a second family for some. And our location

provides an important access point of safety for the young women who live in south Etobicoke.”

Violence against women is an under reported crime. Many women and children do not seek help immediately. Women’s Habitat maintains that Girlz Space is another way to reach out for help. Many women have accessed services as a direct result of their daughters attending the Girlz Space Program. Girls leaving the program often want to come back to do their high school community service hours.



“I don’t know where I’d be if I couldn’t come here! In trouble, probably.”



## BREAKING NEWS



Women's Habitat believes that to have happy and healthy children, you need healthy and happy mothers. Part of our plan is to alleviate as much stress from the women that we work with as possible.

Over the past four years, we have been working to build support systems for mothers that allow them to be the best parents possible. This year, two new programs have been added to our Parent Support Program, thanks to the support of the Toronto Calcutta Foundation.

**INCREDIBLE YEARS PROGRAM:** This program for moms with children ages 2 to 6 is co-facilitated with the City of Toronto. Parents learn how to play, praise, set limits, problem-solve and deal with behavioural issues. Healthy food and childcare provided.

**STAR (STRIVING TOWARDS A POSITIVE RESULT) PROGRAM:** This is an interactive learning group for children ages 7 to 12 to build safe, healthy relationships, build their self-esteem, learn about bullying, make new friends and much more. Healthy food and childcare provided. From fundraising money, we send the women on trips that they could not afford to take on their own.



## A TRIBUTE TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that ...”

MARTIN LUTHER KING

Throughout the year Women’s Habitat relies on the dedicated work of numerous volunteers who who donate many hours of their time to Women’s Habitat. They share the desire to help women and children who are escaping abusive relationships and each contribute in their own way. They assist with programs, services, and special events so they function optimally. They bring their energy to:

- Making Girls’ Night Out an evening of great fun
- Spreading the holiday spirit through the Holiday Hamper
- Tending our vegetable garden, keeping it weed-free and ready for planting
- Helping maintain our facilities: painting, hoisting, patching
- Providing childcare
- Answering incoming calls during weekly shelter meetings.

They do all this and so much more, helping us to empower women to live free from violence. All in all, our volunteers are integral to our success, and we gratefully appreciate their support.



## OUR DONORS AND MAJOR FUNDERS

A huge thank-you to our many supporters in the community. Your contributions mean a great deal to us and the women and children that we serve.

### MAJOR FUNDERS

Ministry of Community and Social Services  
United Way of Greater Toronto

### OTHER GOVERNMENT FUNDERS

City of Toronto

### COMMUNITY

Backpack 101 Project  
Basketeers  
Bloordale United  
Church Women  
Bosnian Islamic Centre  
Broadview Produce  
Canadian Federation of University  
Women Etobicoke  
Crescent Town  
Community Church  
Etobicoke Guardian  
Etobicoke School of the Arts  
Heritage Rugcrafters of Etobicoke  
Homesense  
Humber Valley Art Club  
Humbervale United  
Church Women  
Isabelle Kelly  
Islington Golf Club,  
John Howard Society of Toronto  
Just Checking  
Resources  
Kingsway/Lambton  
United Church  
Women  
Kiwanis Club  
Knights of Columbus  
Council 3401  
Kubic  
Mimico Presbyterian Church  
Moneris  
Norack Motors  
Porritt Real Estate Inc.  
Rhythmic Rainbow  
Richview Collegiate  
Institute  
Richview United  
Church Women  
Rotary Club  
Shoppers Drug Mart

SIR Corp. Jack Astor's  
Airport  
Snap Newspaper  
Sons and Daughters  
Sorooptimist Club  
St. George's Golf and  
Country Club  
St. Michael's Ukrainian  
Catholic Church  
Storage Mart  
Sunnybrook and Women's  
College Health Sciences  
Centre  
The Everyday Fundraising  
Group  
The Meeting House  
Church Family  
The Old Mill  
Toronto Police Service  
Toronto Professional Fire  
Fighters' Association  
Toronto Toy Tea Junior  
League  
Ukrainian Women's  
Organization of Canada /  
Toronto Branch  
United Church of  
Canada  
Vintage Doll Club  
Winners  
Women Aide  
1422980 Ontario Limited  
CHSI

### CORPORATE

AstraZeneca Canada Inc.  
Blandford Construction  
Services Inc.  
Broadview Produce  
Company Inc.  
Campbell Company of  
Canada  
CAW Local 1459  
Women's Committee  
Crucial Interactive  
Diageo  
Fresh Co. Families  
Goodyear Canada Inc.  
Great Lakes Brewery  
Herne Company  
Limited  
IKEA Etobicoke  
Joanne M. Sellitto, RDH  
Liberty Group  
Lowe's Companies  
Canada ULC  
Lytwyn Resources Inc.

Mathews Dinsdale LLP  
National Silicates Ltd.  
Novelis  
Ontario Power  
Generation Employees' &  
Pensioners' Trust  
Pizza Pizza  
Porter Airlines  
Royal LePage Shelter  
Foundation  
Southport Management  
Limited  
The Central Group  
Toronto Dominion Bank  
Via Rail

### FOUNDATION

C. Dennis Flynn  
Foundation  
Canadian Tire Jumpstart  
Charities  
Canadian Women's  
Foundation  
CHUM Charitable  
Foundation  
John and Deborah Harris  
Family Foundation  
RBC Foundation  
Royal LePage Shelter  
Foundation  
The Toronto Calcutta  
Foundation  
The Trillium Foundation  
Toronto Community  
Foundation  
Tzu Chi Foundation  
Canada's West Toronto  
Office

### INDIVIDUALS

Afsaneh Asayesh  
Agnes Kussinger  
Alec Monro  
Alexandra Correia  
Alice Feldman  
Ana Mirela Neculai  
Angela Manuel  
Anna Kennedy  
Anne Foerster  
anonymous  
Anthony D. Wilkinson  
Arshad Pathare  
Audrey Verge  
Barbara A. Ott  
Barbara Drake-Land  
Barbara Hickson  
Barbara Hume-Wright

Bonnie Egan  
Carol Norsworthy  
Caroline Cho  
Chad McChesney  
Cheryl L. Green  
Medicine Professional  
Corporation  
Cheryl Mary Davidson  
Christie Scheibelhut  
Christine and Walter  
Kudryk  
Christine Bromstein  
Colin L. Stark  
Con Bourgeois  
Cynthia L. Moore  
David William  
Dawn Allaby  
Deborah Barrett  
Deborah Templer  
Debra Boland  
Denise Dickin  
Diana R. Pronay  
Dina and Rick Spooner  
Donna R. Bailey  
Dorothy Winner  
Elizabeth Duran  
Ellen Dice  
Eva Jokay  
Feiona Jaffer  
Florence Walker  
Frances Wilkinson  
Francine Barrett  
G.L.. Sanford  
Gail Dice  
Gia DeJulio  
Gita Anand  
Guy C. Thomas  
H. Bishay  
Heather McComack  
Heather Pearce  
Ingie Fowlie  
J. M. Nitchie  
Jackie McRobert  
Janet Smith  
Janet Walker  
Janice Marshall  
Janie K. Fedosoff  
Jean Tetiuk  
Jill Burnie  
Joan T. Boyd  
Jonna Smith  
Joy Johns  
Joyce Feinberg  
Judy Verseggy  
Julie Peloquin  
June Passmore  
Katharine Gallant

Katherine Harkness  
Kathleen Howes  
Katy Anderson  
Kim Dart  
Leah M. Casselman  
Lee Perkins  
Lee Robock  
Lewis Tilman  
Linda and Tom Murtha  
Lorrie Hagen  
Louise Leite  
Louise Lu  
Maggie Likavec  
Margaret Buhlman  
Margaret Clark Margaret  
Early  
Margaret Smith  
Maria Casano  
Marilyn Peacock  
Marilyn Turner  
Mark J. Quigley  
Mary Ellen Pugliese  
Matthew Gichuru  
Miriam Kaufman  
Monika Matescaux  
Nancy A. Krigas  
Nora Murrant  
Norman Abbott  
Pamela Gough  
Patricia Thompson  
Paula Rusak  
Pauline Brady  
R. Murray Seeley  
Rae Yates  
Rajaie Matuk  
Richard Steinecke  
Robert Bingham  
Robin Sirutis  
Rosemary E. Norrie Ross  
Vickers  
Ruth Crammond  
Ruth Mulford  
Sabrina Mancini  
Sandra Downey  
Sheena Simons  
Shorna James  
Stan Stapor  
Stanley Macdonald  
Stew Graydon  
Stuart Rudner  
Susan Lui  
Vincent Almeida  
Wendy Boyd  
William E. Wilson



## FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Financial Position  
as at March 31, 2013

	2013	2012
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and other current assets	\$ 1,287,346	\$ 1,313,377
Capital assets	851,748	876,878
	<u>\$ 2,139,094</u>	<u>\$ 2,190,255</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable & accruals	\$ 75,279	\$ 72,113
Deferred revenue	15,347	12,196
Mortgage payable	323,154	333,955
	<u>413,780</u>	<u>418,264</u>
<b>Fund balances</b>		
Capital assets	528,594	542,923
Externally restricted	91,877	90,882
Internally restricted	654,843	688,186
Unrestricted	450,000	450,000
	<u>1,725,314</u>	<u>1,771,991</u>
	<u>\$ 2,139,094</u>	<u>\$ 2,190,255</u>

Statement of Revenues & Expenses  
for the year ended March 31, 2013

	2013	2012
<b>Revenue</b>		
Government grants	\$ 1,358,848	\$ 1,306,101
United Way of Greater Toronto	359,876	365,275
Fundraising & foundations	173,725	157,731
Other income	15,878	25,102
	<u>1,908,327</u>	<u>1,854,209</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Staffing cost	1,608,514	1,428,099
Purchased services	41,464	70,618
Clients' needs	71,260	64,897
Building and occupancy cost	116,560	152,178
Office & administration	72,606	71,873
Amortization	25,130	25,131
Fundraising expenses	19,470	20,120
	<u>1,955,004</u>	<u>1,832,916</u>
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of revenue over expenses</b>	<u>\$ (46,667)</u>	<u>\$ 21,293</u>

\*Derived from the complete financial statement of Women's Habitat of Etobicoke for the year ended March 31, 2013 on which auditor Lynne D. Remigio, Chartered Accountant issues an opinion in her auditor's report dated July 30, 2013.



[www.womens-habitat.ca](http://www.womens-habitat.ca)



**United Way**  
Member Agency