

## **AGENCY BACKGROUND**

Women's Place of South Niagara Inc. began as two sister organizations; one in Niagara Falls and the other in Welland. Both shelters operated independently before joining forces in 1997.

Nova House, our Niagara Falls shelter, began with the group Niagara Women in Crisis, which purchased and opened Nova House in 1983. In 2006, the Nova House Capital Campaign came to completion and the new 20 bed shelter opened.

Serenity Place, our Welland shelter, has its roots in Women's Place Welland & District Inc. This group purchased land for and built the shelter now known as Serenity Place after operating another shelter in Welland for about 15 years. Renovations were recently completed to the administrative section and the residential quarters to better service clients at Serenity Place.

## **WOMEN'S PLACE OF SOUTH NIAGARA INC. STATISTICS 2008/2009**

- Emergency shelter service provided a safe haven for 311 women and children at Nova House in Niagara Falls and Serenity Place in Welland.
- Legal Services were provided to 348 clients through our outreach services.
- 2,753 crisis calls were received on our 24-hour Crisis Line, allowing us to provide immediate crisis and support counselling by telephone.
- 11,869 volunteer hours were donated in our shelter and in the community.
- 280 Transitional Support Clients serviced in the community.
- Due to lack of space in our shelters, we referred 128 women and children elsewhere.

## **FACTS ABOUT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

- In a one-year period spanning 2003/2004, more than 58,000 women and almost 37,000 children sought refuge at shelters in Canada.
- On any given day, about 300 women and children will be referred elsewhere because their local shelter is full.
- One out of every two women in Canada has been physically or sexually assaulted at least once.
- Twenty-one per cent of women are assaulted while pregnant.
- The average number of female victims of spousal homicide in Ontario each year is 25.
- More than 1 million children in Canada have witnessed violence in their own homes.
- Children who witness violence at home are more likely to grow up to be perpetrators of violence or victims themselves.

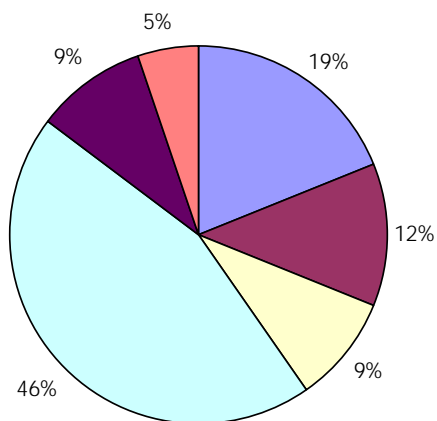
## FUNDRAISING FACTS

Women's Place South Niagara Inc is a not-for-profit organization with 75% of annual operating revenues funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The remainder over \$422,000 is funded through donations, bequests, sponsorship, special events and other fundraising initiatives.

## PARTNERSHIP PHILOSOPHY

*Women's Place of South Niagara Inc. partners with companies that support our mission and believe in our vision. The best partnerships are with those that jointly communicate their needs and make every effort to reach the needs of our organization.*

### Fundraising 2009-2010



- Fundraising Events
- United Way
- Municipal Grants
- Donations
- Fort Erie Bingo
- Fort Erie Special

- Women's Place of South Niagara's fundraising goal for 2009/10 is \$422,800.
- Each of our 3 signature events are governed by a volunteer committee, usually between 8-12 individuals.
- We have more than 300 volunteers working with us throughout the year, dedicating almost 12,000 hours – that's the equivalent of 6 additional full-time employees.
- Our peak periods are winter (holiday season) and spring.
- Women's Place of South Niagara has relationships with other non-profit agencies to ensure the needs of our clients/residents are met.
- WPSN produces a newsletter that is distributed to all donors in our database twice a year, spring and fall.