

Community Partnership Highlight

Women's Place Welland ~ Court Support Program Working With Victim Witness Assistance Program

Women's Place Welland's/Court Support Program and Victim Witness Assistance Program work together in assisting abused women whose partners have been charged with domestic violence. VWAP assists abused women through the criminal court process and WPW/CSP assists the women through the family court process. On occasion, both programs may provide accompaniment at criminal court – WPW/CSP to provide emotional support and VWAP to provide emotional and practical support.

Both programs work collectively to implement safety measures for abused women by providing referrals and assisting women with Domestic Violence Emergency Response Systems, relocating, and obtaining protection orders, as well as seeking each other's support and assistance in advocating for appropriate police response in cases of domestic violence.

VWAP and WPW/CSP both attend regularly scheduled Domestic Assault Meetings. If WPW/CSP is not available to attend, VWAP will distribute the CSP information packages to the victims.

A protocol was also developed between VWAP and WPSN to ensure best practices are always adhered to for our clients. This strategic alliance helps to empower women and assist them in obtaining a safe life, free from domestic violence.

What does the CSP do for our communities?

Our legal advocates provide the following services to residents, ex-residents and out reach members in our communities:

- Offer basic legal information and referrals, including referrals to lawyers.
- Information and safety planning about leaving an abusive partner.
- Assistance in applying for custody, access and child/spousal support.
- Accompaniments to court and other legal appointments.
- Assistance in applying for a peace bond or restraining order.
- Assistance in completing legal documents such as family court applications and financial statements.



Cheryl, Court Support Worker at Welland Shelter

LINKS

Legal Line

www.LegalLine.ca

Ontario Women's Justice Network

www.owin.org

Lawyer Referral Service

www.lsuc.on.ca

Legal Aid Ontario

www.legalaid.on.ca

Ministry of the Attorney General

www.attorneygeneral.jus.on.ca

Nova House Volunteer Profile ~ Meet Lynne

Lynne has been a volunteer at Nova House for many, many years! Most Monday mornings around 8:00am, Lynne calls the shelter to let us know to expect her. When Lynne arrives at Nova she will help with various tasks, from shoveling the walkways to painting, from making beds and minor repairs around the house to vacuuming and pruning bushes. Lynne is a multi-talented woman and self motivated; she always finds something to do around the shelter. Not only is she caring and friendly to all our clients and staff, but her kindness and generosity inspires others.

Now retired, Lynne enjoys canoeing, golfing and absolutely loves traveling and spending time with her grandchildren. She is also an avid curler. In April of 2005, Lynne's team won the National Masters Women's Title in Brandon Manitoba. Most recently, Lynne was presented with a certificate of appreciation from MP Rob Nicholson for her achievements and continued support of Nova House.

Her specialty project at Nova House is our donation room. Thanks to the many supporters and members in our communities, our donation room is often full of items for children, toiletries and clothing for example. "Lynne always maintains our donation room to ensure organization of these residential needs", states Michele, the House Manager at Nova. Lynne also helps out at our events when she is able, and every year Lynne is guaranteed to assist at our Book Riot for Nova House and with the Christmas toy tables for the children during the holidays.

On behalf of Michele, Nova House and all our clients, we would like to thank Lynne for her dedication to Nova House and send our sincere appreciation for the wonderful job she does! Congratulations on all your successes and future endeavours. We couldn't do it without you! **THANKS LYNNE!**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

During the 2004/ 2005 school term, WPSN in partnership with the Niagara District School Board, delivered a violence prevention program to grades 1, 3, 5 and 8 at Heximer Street School in Niagara Falls. The program is SECOND STEP" and is designed to assist in the development of skills for anger management, problem solving and social skills.

THANK YOU!

In April, the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario held their annual Dinner & Silent Auction in support of WPSN and other community agencies. The dinner & auction raised thousands of dollars with nearly \$2,000 supporting our shelters. **THANKS TO ALL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

RED AND PURPLE EVERYWHERE! On Sunday, April 24th the Ruby Slippers Welland Red Hat Ladies Society held a fundraiser in support of WPSN. The show attracted over 100 Red Hat Ladies and groups from all over the Southern Ontario and raised \$576 for our Welland Shelter.

JUNE 4TH A BUSY DAY FOR WPSN!

1. THE WELLAND PROFESSIONAL

FIREMEN hosted their 2nd Annual Fire Truck Car Wash and BBQ at Walmart. Our firemen friends washed and cooked, great food might we add, in support of WPSN Welland. Thanks to Guy Wilson and friends for your continued support and hard work at this event, and to Walmart and our sponsors! **WE LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER YEAR AT THE BBQ!**

2. GATFIELD'S TAVERN hosted their 2nd Annual Charity Diamond Bike Run on one of the most beautiful days of summer and raised over \$1,000 for WPSN Welland. Rob Repovs and our friends at Gatfields, as well as all their sponsors, continue to be ambassadors for our shelter and the hundreds of children we help each year!

CLUB ITALIA & N.F. FIREFIGHTERS HOST 1ST ANNUAL LADIES NIGHT!

Fashion show, singing and delicious food were all part of the 1st Annual Club Italia Ladies Night. Funds raised supported the Nova House Campaign and the shelter directly. Thank you to Lina Rizzo and Sarah Ventresca-Vasquez for their continued support.

RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT! DUNKED?

On Aug. 13th Ripley's and their dynamic, enthusiastic and WET staff hosted a dunk tank event at the top of Clifton Hill. This event was in support of their partnership with Nova House, to raise awareness of the initiative to end violence everywhere and to raise funds for our shelters.

AWESOME JOB TO EVERYONE!