



# media release

Women's Shelter, Second Stage Housing and Counselling Services of Huron

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December 10, 2008

For Immediate Release

## Daily necessities top the wish list at the Women's Shelter of Huron

Goderich, ON – There are some basic needs on the wish list of the staff and residents of the Women's Shelter, Second Stage Housing and Counselling Services of Huron this Christmas. The Centres in Goderich, Clinton and Exeter are hoping that some simple gifts from the community will help women and their children have a better holiday and new year.

Topping the list are basic needs such as large bottles of shampoo and conditioner, new underwear for women and children, towels, blankets, comforters, pajamas, and slippers. The Centres will also gratefully accept donations of non-perishable food items and more traditional gifts which women and children (girls and boys up to age 16) may want to find under the tree. The gifts are also used throughout the year as birthday presents. For those wishing to make a more sizeable donation, there is a need for winter coats and boots for women and children. Any donation, including money, can be dropped off at the Goderich Centre, 376 Huron Road, near the M&M Meat Shop.

“We know that many people want to reach out and help others at this time of year,” says Michele Hansen, Executive Director of the organization. “Sometimes, even the smallest or simplest of gifts, like a bottle of shampoo or a pair of slippers, can really help us help women as they try to re-establish their lives. We are committed to supporting women and their children as we all work together to end violence.”

Hansen also stresses that this is an important time of year for family, friends and neighbours to be extra supportive of women and their children who may be in abusive situations. She urges community members to reach out with information about their 24-hour helpline (1-800-265-5506) and for community members to know that the Centres are ready to help women and their children at any time – holidays or otherwise.

“We are resolved to end violence against women and their children. We are here to help and to provide counselling, housing and shelter. No woman or her child should stay in a dangerous environment at Christmas or any other time of the year,” says Hansen.

- 30 -

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