



media release

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

December 8, 2010

For Immediate Release

Huron Women's Shelter needs your help this holiday season

Goderich, ON – Huron Women's Shelter, Second Stage Housing and Counselling Services is counting on the support of local businesses, friends, and members of the community this holiday season, to help women and their children have a brighter future.

Topping the wish list this year are basic needs such as large bottles of shampoo and conditioner, new underwear for women and children, towels, blankets, comforters, winter coats, boots, pajamas and slippers. The Centres will also gratefully accept donations of non-perishable food items and more traditional gifts or gift cards 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. Any donations 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 can really help us help women as they try to re-establish their lives.”

Huron Women's Shelter is also actively seeking financial donations for a variety of special funds and projects throughout the year. Donations are accepted in any amount, by cash, cheque, or money order, and those wishing to make a contribution may do so in person at the Goderich Centre, or by mail. A donation form can also be found in the Winter 2010 issue of our newsletter, or downloaded from our website at www.huronwomensshelter.com and returned by mail.

Here are just a few of the many ways that your donation can support Huron Women's Shelter:

- **Give to the Alice Munro Fund**
The Alice Munro Fund is a benevolent fund which supports the dignity and self worth of women and children by covering the financial cost of things that may be challenging for women in crisis to afford (including dental care, participation in sports and recreational activities, etc.)
- **Give to the Roma Harris Fund**
The Roma Harris Fund provides for shelter and care of pets while women are escaping violence. Pets often become the target of abuse once a woman leaves, and the Roma Harris Fund helps to ensure the safety of these animals.



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- Help HWS purchase gift cards
Your donation can help Huron Women's Shelter to purchase gift certificates and gift cards for the children, adolescents, and women in our shelter and second stage housing facilities. These are used throughout the year as birthday presents.
- Allow HWS to direct your donation to any area of need
Your donation can simply be directed towards any area of need at Huron Women's Shelter, including providing for food, clothing, or meeting the basic needs of the women and children in our shelter and second stage housing facilities.

This is also 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. Huron Women's Shelter 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 committed to supporting women and their children as we all work together to end violence. 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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