



Spring 2024

NEWSLETTER

Stepping Forward: Advocating for Gender Equity

Moving into springtime always feels like such a season of hope. After a year that saw an increased number of femicides in Ontario - more than one occurring every week - and a news cycle that can seem very heavy, it feels positive to look back on the last several months and recognize that we are taking steps toward a different future.

YWCA Peterborough Haliburton led and participated in several key initiatives in our sector since last fall. Among the most significant, and one I'm so proud of, is our successful delegations to councils in Peterborough city and county resulting in declarations that gender-based violence is indeed an epidemic in our communities.

We also took our message directly to the community by joining the Peterborough Domestic Abuse Network in hosting a free event called "It Happens Here," aiming to pull back the curtain and show the prevalence of violence against women and the wide-ranging impacts on survivors and their families.

As members of the global YWCA movement, we joined our national team in standing up for the rights of trans and non-binary people, especially in schools and health care. We also united with our sister agencies across the province as the YWCA Ontario Coalition, to advocate for gender equity in government decisions and budget considerations.



Progress is slow. But with the help and support of community members like you, we can effect real change in the lives of women, girls, and gender-diverse people.

Yours in gratitude,
Kim
Kim Dolan
Executive Director

Thanks to you, our Holiday Giving Campaign was a huge success!



We are grateful and humbled to share that our 2023 Holiday Giving Campaign raised over \$170,000 in support of YWCA programs and services for the women, children, and gender-diverse people we serve!

Over the holiday season, we invited our community to help shine a light in the darkness for those who need it most. And our community responded.

We would like to thank every single person who donated over

the holiday season - every dollar makes such a difference. We also thank our generous campaign sponsors for matching gifts from hundreds of our community members:

- Linz Hunt, Royal LePage Frank Real Estate Electric City, Brokerage
- GM Financial
- Ontario Insurance Network
- HTM Insurance
- Baker Tilly KDN
- Olivia and Gord James
- Alena Heitlinger and David Morrison

Helping Women Thrive | Hazel Education Bursary Open for 2024 Applications

YWCA Peterborough Haliburton Education Awards Committee welcomes applications for the 2024 Hazel Education Bursary.

YWCA's Hazel Education Bursary is intended to help women who have experienced gender-based violence reach their goals through education or training.

Our Board of Directors, through the Education Awards Committee, and with the generosity of donors in our community, offers two bursaries of \$1,500 and two bursaries of \$2,500 to women who:

- have experienced barriers related to the impact of violence and abuse;

- have a dream to strengthen their economic security;
- are a resident of Peterborough City/County or Haliburton County;
- seek to further their formal or informal education, or develop skills.

Women from rural areas will be given special consideration for this award, in honour of Hazel's request.

Since 1998, the YWCA has honoured Hazel's vision of helping women pursue their dreams and overcoming barriers related to their experiences of violence and abuse. Hazel was a

consumer, advisor, and volunteer of several community services. Hazel passed away in 1996, after a long struggle with breast cancer. Soon afterwards an education fund was created by friends and admirers to honour this very special woman.

Applications are reviewed by the Education Awards Committee. All personal information is kept confidential.

To learn more about the Hazel Education Bursary or to apply, please visit our website at ywcapeterborough.org or contact Emily Jensen, by phone at 705-743-3526 ext. 120 or by email at ejensen@ywcapeterborough.org.

Feeding Community | Empty Bowls Returns to Fill Our Bellies and Our Hearts



Thanks to the support and generosity of our community, the 20th annual YWCA Empty Bowls event raised just under \$20,000 in support of our Nourish Food Program. With the funds raised this year, supporters of Empty Bowls have now helped raise over \$210,000 for the YWCA over the event's 20-year history.

Close to 200 guests attended Empty Bowls on Friday, February 23 at The Venue in downtown Peterborough and enjoyed a wide variety of delicious food options provided by 15 local restaurants.

The handcrafted ceramic and wooden bowls created and donated by community artisans were a big hit with participants, many of whom purchased extra bowls to take home.

"This year, more than ever, I'm encouraged and humbled by the number of people who support Empty Bowls with their generosity. The time devoted to making this event a success holds true this year more than ever," says YWCA Executive Director Kim Dolan.

"20 years is a remarkable milestone, especially given the challenges in recent years. It is a testament to the dedication of our community members who fired up their kilns, sharpened

their chisels, showed up, donated, sponsored, volunteered, and continued the legacy of Empty Bowls in Peterborough."

Proceeds from Empty Bowls will support our Nourish Food Program, which offers monthly food boxes, community gardening, and a weekly market at Curve Lake First Nation, bringing high quality produce from local farms to the community at affordable prices.

YWCA Peterborough Haliburton is grateful to our 2024 Empty Bowls sponsors:

- Cornerstone Family Dentistry
- The Venue
- KawarthaNOW
- Kawartha Potters Guild
- Kawartha Woodturners Guild.

We also thank all the local restaurants who prepared and served a wonderful array of dishes representing Peterborough's food scene.

The YWCA's START Program (**Support Team for Abuse Response Today**) is a service hub for women who have experienced gender-based violence and who want help planning their next steps. We help women quickly gather reliable information from as many as 12 local agencies at one central location. Once they're

equipped with the right resources and support, women can make better-informed decisions based on their personal situations. START also helps ease the chaos women and children experience in the aftermath of a separation by connecting mothers with income supports, housing information and counselling services right away.

- police report
- Children's Aid support/advice
- Applying for social assistance

START partner agencies include Community Counselling & Resource Centre, Elizabeth Fry Society, Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society, Victim Witness Assistance Program, PRHC Women's Health Care Centre, Legal Aid Ontario, Ontario Works, Ontario Provincial Police, and Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre.

The program is available for drop-ins on Mondays, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm, at the YWCA's Administrative Office. For more information, call our office at 705-743-3526 or text 705-991-1591.

Our free, confidential services include:

- Safety Planning
- Transition & Family Court Support
- Nursing assessment
- Counselling
- Admission to Crossroads Shelter or HERS (Haliburton Emergency Rural SafeSpace)
- Information about making a



Celebrating Your Support | Morton Family Foundation Continues Tradition of Generosity

The Morton Family Foundation has continued a tradition of generosity by donating \$50,000 to support the YWCA's services for women and children experiencing gender-based violence in Haliburton County.

We are incredibly grateful for the continued leadership shown by the Morton Family Foundation. Patricia and David's ongoing generosity is a testament to their commitment to supporting our efforts to serve the rural women and children in Haliburton County, providing them with the resources and support they need to feel safe again.

Access to safe and reliable resources in rural communities is an ongoing problem. Rural women in Haliburton County have reported far more serious and complex abuse since 2020. Like women's organizations across the province, the YWCA faces heightened demand and increasing costs.

"David and I feel very fortunate to be able to continue to support the wonderful work of the YWCA Peterborough Haliburton, because this work continues to be so essential to so many area women and children," says Patricia Morton on behalf of the Morton Family Foundation.

"And it is important to remember that both under Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms and under the United Nations Charter, violence against women and children is a major and criminal violation of human rights.

"However, shockingly this violence is actually on the increase throughout Canada especially against rural women, just as it is here and now against isolated rural women in Haliburton County, and likely in neighbouring rural counties as well. Thank goodness the YWCA Peterborough Haliburton is here to provide these women and their children with safe shelter at HERS

and with vital services, to help these victims of violence move forward past the trauma and suffering, to strive to rebuild their lives and become brave survivors."



Thank You to our Sponsors!

Empty Bowls 20th Anniversary



Holiday Giving Campaign



Anonymous
Olivia and Gord James
Alena Heitlinger and David Morrison

Stay tuned for the return of a classic...

WALK A MILE IN THEIR SHOES



Save the date for Friday, May 24, 2024
Registration information will be shared soon!



We're here for women and the people who love them. If you or someone you know needs help, contact us day or night.

24 Hour Support & Crisis Line:
CALL 1-800-461-7656
TEXT 705-991-0110

YWCA Administrative Office
216 Simcoe St, Peterborough, ON | 705-743-3526
info@ywcapeterborough.org

YWCA Women's Centre of Haliburton County
11 Bobcaygeon Rd, Minden, ON | 705-286-1942
ywcahal@ywcapeterborough.org

Office Hours | Monday-Friday, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Charitable Registration # 12981 9819 RR0001

www.ywcapeterborough.org