

Thank You to our Sponsors

Walk a Mile Sponsors:



Holiday Giving Campaign



7606311
Canada Inc.

Thank you again to Olivia and Gord James for generously matching donations up to **\$60,000**.

*YWCA Peterborough Haliburton would also like to thank Sweet Dreams for the kind donation of pajamas for the women and children we serve. For 15 years, Sweet Dreams has been providing care and comfort to our clients, and we are forever grateful to the immense community support that has been shown over the years.

Additionally, we would like to thank the students of Memorial House at Lakefield College School for generously raising an amazing \$1,705 for our clients. We strongly believe in the power of youth engagement, and the students of Memorial House continuously demonstrate the care and generosity of the future generation when they work to make positive change.

Spring 2026

NEWSLETTER

A Message from the Executive Director

As we look forward to the new growth of spring, this Anais Nin quote comes to mind, "And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom."

The courage it takes to leave an unpredictable and dangerous situation means imagining that something better waits on the horizon. It means acknowledging that things might be more difficult, for a while, and that accepting help along the way is especially important during challenging times. That's where we (yes, that means you too!) come in.

Every day our uniquely skilled teams show up for the women we serve, knowing that the

journey takes courage and a belief that there is more. Supporting each woman through her Journey of Care is a beautiful balance of deep listening, holding space, navigating complex systems, nurturing hope, breathing through fear, and believing in the power of a determined woman to realize her dreams. Your care and support make it possible.

Sadly, it has been impossible to avoid media reports of people and systems that blame women for the violence they experience. Imagine how changing minds and policies might prevent violence against women, remove obstacles to equity and justice, and change the story away from 'she deserved it.'

Thank you for helping us help women in Peterborough and Haliburton who turn to our YWCA during difficult times.

Together, let's imagine how we can create a shared horizon where all lives are peacefully and joyfully lived.

Yours in gratitude,
Kim Kim Dolan
Executive Director



Stay tuned for an exciting event...

WALK A MILE IN THEIR SHOES

Save the date for Friday, May 22, 2026
For registration information, visit:

WalkaMilePeterborough.com



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

We are grateful and humbled to share that our 2025 Holiday Giving Campaign raised a total of \$206,902.35 in support of our programs and services for the women, children, and gender-diverse people we serve!

These funds would not have



been possible without the generous support and kindness of our community. To all who donated charitable funds, gifts, resources, and time this past giving season, you have helped us continue to create a network of care. On behalf of the women and children we serve, **we thank you for helping to make positive ongoing change.**

These funds would also not have been possible without our matching donors. Thank you to Olivia and Gord James who very generously matched donations during the campaign up to

\$60,000. Olivia--previously a long-time YWCA board member--and Gord, are deeply committed to the mission of helping women and children in need, and we are forever thankful for their support.

These most recent holiday funds will go towards supporting the life-changing programs and services in HER Journey of Care. This holistic, wrap-around care model provides clients with everything from supportive counselling, to safe shelter, court support and more. Look to this year's Annual Report for more information on the positive change that these funds help bring.



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

Women Helping Women | WBN of Peterborough Feeds Seeds of Change

Since before 1995, the Women's Business Network (WBN) of Peterborough has supported YWCA Peterborough Haliburton's vision, with a distinct focus on cultivating community action.

An organization of strong women leaders from throughout the community, the WBN was first established in 1961 with the specific goal of women uniting their voices and sharing knowledge.

This past December, WBN members, community partners, and the public joined together for an annual Holiday Gala, raising an incredible \$4,410 for YWCA Peterborough Haliburton's HER Journey of Care.

Here, guests gathered at The Venue, where they were invited to "shine bright" and participate in the season of giving.

Throughout the night, guests further participated in the chance to win a multitude of prizes, including an extensive raffle with items generously donated by local businesses, and a "Magical Mini Festival of Trees" raffle. Guests were also able to purchase gift items, including WBN hand-crafted ornaments, and roses that were able to be gifted back to a special member of their choice.

Those in attendance also generously donated an abundance of non-

perishable food items to help get Centennial Crescents new Food Cupboard, Cheryl's Sharing Shelf, up and running.

At YWCA Peterborough Haliburton, we strongly believe in the power of community relationships, and we are extremely grateful to the WBN for helping to create such a powerful network of care!

For more information about the WBN, visit: <https://wbnpbto.ca/>



Healing From Home | Centennial Crescent – A Hub for Continued Connection

Centennial Crescent Housing Community continues to serve as YWCA Peterborough Haliburton's rent-geared-to-income housing location.

As the only Special Priority Program Housing Community in Peterborough, Centennial Crescent includes 40 townhouse sites, featuring between one and four bedroom units.

More than just a safe space where women and their families can continue individualized journeys of healing from the effects of gender-based violence, Centennial Crescent staff work to aid clients through a community-centric, team-oriented approach, all based in a women-led neighbourhood.

Alongside living in independent spaces, Centennial Crescent also works to foster community skills and relationships, with residents having the opportunity to interact and participate in activities, such as community gardening, beautification of communal spaces, and celebrating special occasions.

And, recent to this mission of cultivating a foundation of women helping and connecting with one another, Centennial Crescent residents and staff have collaborated with community members to create a Community Food Cupboard, Cheryl's Sharing Shelf. This Sharing Shelf was created to honour a cherished, long-standing member of Centennial Crescent whose generous spirit continues to inspire.

Generously stocked for the first time by participants of WBN's Holiday Gala, Cheryl's Sharing Shelf operates on a simple and empowering principle:

Take what you need. Give what you can.

It is grounded in dignity, mutual support, and the belief that everyone both contributes to, and benefits from a caring community. In a time when rising living costs often outpace incomes, this initiative strengthens food access while also fostering belonging and shared responsibility.



From Practice to Power | Thrive Hive – Strengthening Self-Efficacy

The Thrive Hive Program supports women and children by providing programming aimed at strengthening self-efficacy through weekly capacity building sessions with a Family Support Worker, other community agencies, and peer support.

Here, programs are framed in models of peer training, EDI (equity, diversity, and inclusion), life skills, literacy, and technology sufficiency.

Additionally, programming includes conflict resolution sessions, budgeting, creative arts, social events, and community-building activities, with special events like therapy dog visits, end-of-school BBQs, and field trips with Dreams and Wishes.

Thrive Hive is supported through charitable funding from donors and community members made to

HER Journey of Care. And, while at times, limited organizational capacity and funding can restrict program offerings, Thrive Hive Support Workers work hard to offer programming geared to the needs and interests of our clients.

Susan's Story:

When Susan fled escalating abuse to protect herself and her son, safety was only the first step. True healing began at YWCA Peterborough Haliburton's **Thrive Hive** program.

With stable housing at Centennial Crescent as a foundation, Thrive Hive's trauma-informed team walked alongside her--not rushing, not judging, but building safety, trust, and confidence step by step. What started with low-pressure art workshops to gently restore connection, grew into

financial literacy training, healthy relationship education, parenting support, and employment preparation. Through this holistic, strengths-based approach, Susan rebuilt her independence, completed her Early Childhood Educator certification, secured full-time employment, and began planning for long-term financial stability.

And, as she strengthened, her son thrived alongside her, gaining emotional regulation, confidence, and a renewed sense of security. Susan's journey is a powerful reminder that Thrive Hive is more than a program: it is a rehabilitative pathway where safety becomes stability, and survival becomes lasting change.

"Having stable housing gave me safety, but Thrive Hive gave me the tools needed to rebuild my life."

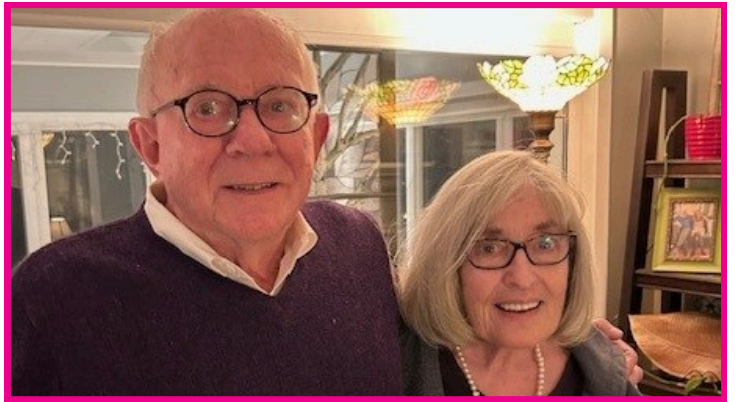
Susan, Thrive Hive Participant

Celebrating Your Support | Major Donor Thank You

Our Community Leaders are those who have recently made gifts of \$5,000 or more to provide generous and committed support for YWCA and our programs:

Thank you for serving as active agents for community change and for standing alongside YWCA Peterborough Haliburton and its vision of an end to gender-based violence.

- Lorna and William Anderson
- Dr. Neera Jeyabalan and Dr. Greg Bishop
- The Barron Cowan Foundation
- The David and Patricia Morton Family Foundation
- Remembering Otto & Marie Pick Foundation
- Royal LePage Shelter Foundation – Linz Hunt
- Royal LePage Shelter Foundation – Mark Sokolski
- Shoppers Drug Mart Life Foundation
- The Lloyd Carr-Harris Foundation
- Dr. Donald Foster and Mrs. Bev Foster
- The Arscott Family Fund
- J.D. Wright Fund
- Val and John McRae
- Shirley and Clare Trussler



YWCA Peterborough Haliburton, a funded Partner Agency, gratefully acknowledges the partnership with the United Way and the financial support received.

